



**"Rio Grande Valley" EAA Chapter 595 Incorporated
NOVEMBER 2012 ISSUE
La Feria, TX,**

Check out our super website!

<http://www.595.eaachapter.org>

PRESIDENTS' CORNER: BY DONALD SCHWANKE

Our meeting this week will be our last at our "home field" of Old Rebel Field, birthplace of the Confederate Air Force, and will be our election of officers. Please attend and cast your vote for your choice of officers, after all it is YOUR chapter and who you elect will be who you are stuck with for the next two years.

We are trying to increase our visibility in the Valley with a goal of attracting some new – and hopefully younger members, some of our efforts have paid off already. Help us spread the word, and increase our membership.

Currently with our low dues, we just barely create enough income to pay the EAA for our insurance and membership requirements. Hope to see everyone at our annual Christmas pot luck dinner!



Donald Schwanke's new garage addition has been making much progress, which will allow us a lovely place after we lose our old meetings at Old Reb, which has been purchased by new owners obtaining possession January 1, 2013. This way we get to SEE the progress and beauty of his Air Force 1 as he works on it!

MEMBER PROFILE:

By Larry Wheelock:

1946 Stinson 108 N584LW in TX and 1965 Mooney M20C in IN, both licensed and active flying airplanes. Also, a 1941 Aeronca Chief 65CA and 1946 Taylorcraft BC12D, both under restoration.



The first one is of the Stinson being weighed in my hangar at my airport, XS56, near Raymondville, after I had finished removing the original Franklin 150 hp engine and installed my newly overhauled 180 hp Lycoming engine. June 2012

The second one is of the Mooney in my rented hangar at HUF (Terre Haute International Airport) which is immediately across the highway from our Indiana home. In the Mooney photo you can barely see the disassembled wing of the Taylorcraft on a table behind the tail of the Mooney. On the wall behind the table you can see the end of the blue-green aileron of the T-Craft wing. Behind the nose of the Mooney, standing against the wall, is the blue-green Taylorcraft right wing which did not get damaged in the accident before I bought this Taylorcraft. Photo taken July, 2012.

The third photo is of our camper and campsite at Oshkosh in July 2012. We're in a private campground south of and immediately adjacent to the ultralite runway at AirVenture. They had a nice, shady spot with electricity to run the air conditioner.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EAA CHAPTER 595 on October 7th, at Old Rebel field, Mercedes, TX, at 2 pm.

Attendees were **Don Schwanke, Byron Engle, Teresa Markle, Evelyn Urban, Gerald T. Close, Dick Smith, Beverly Klebert, Elva and Keith Michal, Patrick Haslem, Robert Carter, Phil Bowers, Merle and Shirlene Jenkins, Glenn Wied, Ed Miller Jr., and guest Sonny Miller.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Treasurer's report made.
2. **Phil Bowers** distributed nomination forms for officers for 2013.
3. **Don Schwanke** discussed we are now officially a nonprofit corporation again, after spending a day with the Texas State Comptroller going over decades of undone tax records. We have sent in a check of \$50 for payment of a fine for late filing to hopefully to be reinstated as a Texas Corporation. All this is necessary in order to continue with our working 501-C3 application. We will have another Chili's in Weslaco Meet and EAA on Sunday, October 21, 2012. Chili's will donate back to us 10% of the amount spent that day to the chapter, if the person paying presents our coupon handout at the register. Last time we probably only raised \$35, but Chili's gave us \$50! No membership in the EAA is required, and it's good for any time that day. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to eat at Chili's any time that day to help our chapter funds, and don't forget to hand them a coupon and explain that they need to show it when paying their bill.
5. By-laws will be put on our website, as suggested by **Ted Miller Jr.** Webmaster **Robert Carter** will do so as soon as he can.
6. **Don** reminded us of the Reklaw Fly-In, a mini-Oshkosh, at the Flying M Ranch in Walker, Texas, near Nacogoches. It's one fun shindig on a farm owned by Dave and Marcia Mason. Events are Friday thru Sunday, October 26-28th. It's an old turf strip that will be professionally rolled out on October the 2nd. Rooms in nearby towns available, but one may also camp out under a wing or park in the RV area. There will be lots of interesting flying and stuff going on non-stop. Variations of planes from turbine twins to amphibians will be there. (Reclaw is Walker spelled backwards). Link is <http://www.reklawflyin.com/>.
7. **Byron Engle** needs a hanger to store his Cherokee in. Anyone have any suggestions?
8. Discussed where to have future meetings since Old Rebel Field has been sold to Kilo Bravo, who will be storing his six planes there. Some suggestions are to have a fixed meeting place, or meet at different people's homes. It would be preferred if at an airport so the flyers can have an excuse to fly. We have the tables and chairs for meetings. **Don Schwanke** mentioned he is remodeling his garages to a much bigger one, and he would be happy to have the meetings in his new garage then, which should be ready by January 2013.
9. **Phil Bowers** suggested we have potlucks at someone's home every other month, and the home owner will be reimbursed from our treasury for supplying the main meat meal.
10. **Don Schwanke** mentioned that he is preparing a questionnaire to discuss various issues with our EAA meetings and activities. This will be mailed or emailed to members.
11. We'll need a place to store the folding tables and chairs, and the EAA banner to go around the table for future functions. It would be nice if they could be stored on a trailer, ready to roll for events and meetings.
12. It was suggested a meeting sign-in sheet be passed around to allow updates in phone numbers, addresses, etc.
13. Ford is a great sponsor of the EAA. At the Oshkosh AirVenture show, they handed out brochures offering an added discount for the purchase or lease of most Ford and Lincoln vehicles. Log on to www.eaa.org/ford for more information.
14. Christmas for the EAA group will be held at **Ted Miller Jr.'s** home in Edinburg. It will be further discussed at the November 4th meeting. People will contact **Ted** to see what needs to be brought to the Christmas potluck.
15. Election of officers for 2013 will be held at the November meeting. All nominations welcomed for position of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Newsletter Editor. Please email us if you would like to participate. You may also write in your own name, or someone else's name.
16. Traditionally we haven't had a business meeting in December, just our traditional Christmas potluck gathering.
17. Dues are due now, \$10 a family. If not paid by the end of the year, a Membership Committee Person will follow up in February. We realize Winter Texans may already belong to an EAA Chapter at their northern location, so we keep our dues very reasonable to entice them to join our chapter as well, as many have done. We welcome their support and interest.
18. Orders are being taken for the EAA 2013 calendar for \$10 each. Contact **Byron Engle** if you want one. The calendars are paid for when they are distributed, and since we sell them at near cost, it is a loss to the chapter if you have us order one and do not follow up with a purchase..
19. **Robert Carter** was nominated for Vice President.
20. **Teresa Markle** has been "volun-told" to be 2013's Newsletter Editor.
21. Next Meet and EAA will be at *Don Beto's* in La Feria on Sunday the 21st of November. Meet and eat starts at 1330. Address is 109 N. Main Street. Their phone number is 956 797 1000. It is difficult to park in their small parking lot off the side street, so consider parking on the street. Those who have eaten there agree you WILL be taking home a doggy box!!

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Noted that **Beverly Klebert** is doing public service announcements on the local PBS Aircraft of Harlingen.
2. SMASH may make a presentation to us of their mini-models for a meeting (webpage of their planes: <http://www.smashrc.com/Photos/SMASH%20member%20planes.htm> . **Byron Engle** is working on this.

COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE / RIO GRANDE VALLEY WING MUSEUM

956 541 8585

955 South Minnesota Avenue, Brownsville, TX 78521

Webpage: <http://www.rgvwingcaf.com/barnstormers.html>

Museum Hours: Wed through Sat 0930 to 1530.

Adults \$6, Seniors 55 years and up \$5.

The Barnstormers Lounge serves beer, wine, soft drink and snacks,
Open Mon-Fri 1400 to 1399, Sat 0900 to 0100.

MAP
Get Driving Directions
View Map

The purpose for this group is to organize to provide patriotism, educational, and civic showings to to obtain, restore and preserve in flying condition a collection of combat aircraft which were flown by all military service of the USA and other nations, for the enjoyment of Americans. Some WW-II Trainers there are the Boeing PT-13 "Stearman", and ERFCO Ercoupe 415-E (YO-55), and a De Haviulland "Moth Minor."

The museum will conduct group tours seven days in advance. Call main office at 956 541 8585, for more information.

"Flight", a new movie coming out in November, starring Denzel Washington as a commercial pilot who saves the lives of the the people on board when it crashes, and he becomes a hero. Then it is announced that he had alcohol in his system... This movie is by the same producers of "Forrest Gump" and "Cast Away."



FOR SALE: The wings are unairworthy, but are repairable by someone who has the time, or could be used for parts. The fuel tanks come with the wings. I'll take \$250.00 for both just to get rid of them. The buyer will have to pick up as shipping/crating is price prohibitive. I'm keeping engine and the other stuff (unless someone makes me an offer I can't refuse). **Byron** 956 425 5214

CALENDAR

Sunday, November 4th EAA meeting will be held at 1400 hrs at Old Rebel Field in the hanger. Nominations and questionnaire – VIP meeting!

Sunday, November 18th, Meet and EAA at 1330. Beto's Restaurant, 109 N. Main Street, La Feria, TX. 956 797 1000. We may have to sit at separate tables of four, but that gives us a chance to talk with members on a one-to-one basis.

December: No meeting, but a Christmas potluck at **Ted Miller Jr.**'s home in Edinburg. More infor later in another email.

Thursdays at 1930 on PBS: "The Aviators" TV series, sponsored in part by EAA.

Fridays at 2200 on The Discovery Channel. "Flying Wild Alaska"- In the frigid Alaskan wilderness, Jim Tweto and his family-run airline Era Alaska as they battle the arctic elements to transport supplies and passengers to some of the most inaccessible areas on the planet.

2012 CHAPTER OFFICERS:

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|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| President: | Don Schwanke | 956 797 3282 | DonGeneda@rgv.rr.com |
| Vice President: | Jerry Gifford | 956 787 0294 | aleejay@slinkcom.net |
| Treasurer: | Byron Engle | 956 425 5214 | bengle@rgv.rr.com |
| Secretary: | Ruby Cover | 956 440 9285 | rcover38@msn.com |
| Newsletter Editor | Teresa Markle | Call or text 956 400 9007 | zingy4444@yahoo.com |



We had 11 attend our Chili's eat out, and we had another 20 to eat there in the evening.

Thank you for participating, and we're eager to see how it increases our treasury!



**SPECIAL EDITION:
BIOGRAPHY OF BOB ALLEN AND HIS SON STEVEN'S AIRPLANE LIFE!**



Bob Allen, an EAA member since 1997, was born and raised in Anadarko, OK in 1927. A man who flew a Ford Tri-motor traveled around the country selling airplane rides, and landed it in a field near his town. So at about six years old he and his older brother had their first plane ride along with about a dozen other people. This got him interested in flying.

He became a Real Estate Broker in Saginaw, Michigan. His wife was from Saginaw as well, and they were together for fifty years. They never did get used to the cold climate in Michigan. His wife Margaret died after forty-seven happy years of marriage. They had two children, Peggy Sue and Steven. Bob's older brother Merle lived in Mission, which is why he moved to the valley after retiring from the real estate business. Bob and Steven still live in McAllen, TX.

Mr. Allen has always been interested in learning to fly, but couldn't due to raising the children and the high cost of lessons. Since he was retired and single after moving to the Rio Grande Valley, he started taking lessons at McCreery's from a man named George. However, after starting the lessons when he was in his 70s, he had a heart attack, therefore no longer able to obtain a flying license. About the same time he started flying classes, he started to build an RV-6A. He was able to work on it full time, so had it done in about three years. It was quite the sight for people to see an airplane being built in his mobile home park drive way and workroom. When it was ready to put the wings on, he took it out to McCreery's. Max Cover purchased the tail dragger from him.



About a year later he got eager to build again, and says he "really enjoys the building part as it keeps the brain active."

The second one was one he designed with his son, was the "Bob Allen/Steven Special." Steven was an art major in high school and college, so was helpful with the engineering and construction of both planes. They mention that it takes a lot of measuring and patience to build. The second plane was a composite with blue Corning Styrofoam; "a sandwich construction fiberglass."

This was also built in his driveway under the awning at his park, and is still there. They took it and the wings to McCreery's, but the high wings weren't quite right, so it's back at his home. Bob still putters around with it. It may be done in a few months to finish the revised wings, depending on the weather. It has a four cylinder Volkswagen engine, and the doors are clear, so one would have quite a magnificent view from either seat.

