



THE LEADING EDGE

NEWSLETTER OF MUROC EAA CHAPTER 1000

Voted to Top Ten Newsletters, 1997, 1998 McKillop Award Competition

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<http://www.eaa1000.av.org>

December 2020

Chapter 1000 meets monthly on the third Tuesday of the month in the USAF Test Pilot School Scobee Auditorium, Edwards AFB, CA at 1700 or 5:00 PM, whichever you prefer. Any changes of meeting venue will be announced in the newsletter. Offer void where prohibited. Your mileage may vary. Open to military and civilian alike.

This Month's **Asynchronous** Meeting:



Socially Distanced Festivus

You
Whenever
Your COVID-19 Defense Bunker

Tell me if you've heard this one before: <Insert 2020 Event Here> has been cancelled in response to the pandemic. Originally we had hoped that 'Rona would realize it had outstayed its welcome and departed by this time, so that we could all enjoy that holiday tradition of stressing out over what to wrap for our Festivus gifts. In case you haven't figured it out, that hasn't happened yet.

In light of the Governor's latest edict stating that in-home gatherings would be limited to no more than three family groups, your Board of Directors started putting together a lottery to decide what three chapter member family groups would be allowed to attend. However, when the **Kommandant** figured out that the event would be held in the **Kommandant's Kwarters** and that there was a very good chance that he and **Mrs. Kommandant** wouldn't make the cut, causing him to have to clear out of the house for the night, he exercised his **Kommandant's Executive Veto** authority (constitutionality under review) and put the kibosh on the whole idea. Thus, the idea of a chapter Festivus gathering was officially cancelled.

So that you don't miss out completely on the activities of the season, we recommend you buy a Festivus gift (a bottle of booze seems to be traditional), wrap it up and place it next to your Festivus pole. Do this early so you have time to forget what it was. On the day of your choosing, heat up an individual serving of frozen LaFestivusagna. After consuming, pull numbers from a

hat. When your number comes up, open the mysterious Festivus gift. Fake surprise.

Next, take a firm grasp of the Festivus pole and air your grievances about your fellow chapter members. If you choose to complain about how the **Kommandant** is doing a crappy job of running the Chapter during this pandemic, or how the **Newsletter Editor** doesn't provide enough stimulating material for you to read, remember that military protocol provides for you to assume the job duties of the position you complain about.

For this month's directed viewing, log on to YouTube and search for "Seinfeld Festivus". Watch as many video clips as you like. Express gratitude that you are not as dysfunctional as the Seinfeld characters, unless, of course, you are.

Once again, you don't need to worry about contacting **Erbman** to arrange base access because you can't get on the base anyway.

- **Erbman**
Subbing for the **Vice Kommandant**

Last Month's Meeting

EAA Chapter 1000
Your COVID-19 Defense Bunker
YouTube, USA
17 November 2020
You, Presiding

The November meeting was held asynchronously. You were directed to watch two excellent YouTube videos by **PPO Mike Machat** about vintage sailplanes and wave soaring. You did do that, didn't you? If you didn't, go do it right now. The rest of us will wait for you right here.

Weren't those excellent? I hope you left a comment for **Mike**. Now, to finish this report, write in here what you thought of the videos.

Most of this is true.

- **Russ “Erbman” Erb**

Emergency Backup Minister of Propaganda
Chapter 1000 of the Experimental Aircraft Association of
these United States of America and Occupied Territories
“We have more zeroes in our chapter than any other!”

Kommandant’s Korner

Greetings

(again) Covid-
Captives! The Panic-
demic continues
unabated and frustrated
state and local officials are
reacting with increased
restrictions...using the only tool they think they have to
defeat the dreaded disease. We common folk continue to
shrug our shoulders and acquiesce to the new
demands...OR, shake our heads and apply common sense
criteria to the issue. Oddly (not), the two courses of action
are largely split along political lines. With the political
winds favoring a change in the National leadership we can
only hope common sense, hard data, and relevant
statistical measures will prevail.



In local flying news, the KWJF runway project is
nearly finished...Yay! I did fly from the new asphalt on my
last **VC-180** proficiency flight and I must say they did a
good job on the runway proper, though the main taxiway
was just patched and re-sealed. There are still visible
fissures, but they pose no hazard to taxi (yet). Speaking of
taxiways, other than the main parallel one, which is still
called “Alpha”, all the others have been re-designated as
“Alpha 1, Alpha2” etc., starting at the Runway 24 end. I
suspect this move was in accordance with current FAA
guidance. Don’t look for the new notation on the current
airport diagram as **NLE Zurg** informs me that the
paperwork has not caught up to reality. Sadly, with the
demise of “Taxiway Golf” I can no longer use my old joke
that the intersection of Golf and Alpha was named for me!
On a final aerodrome note, Steve-the-airport-manager
advises there will be another one or two day runway
closure to put a second coat of paint on the markings.

As for the promised update on the **Fightin’
Skywagon’s** Carbon Monoxide issue, another test flight
was accomplished in conjunction with the aforementioned
runway qualification sortie. On this flight of about an hour
duration I also intended to refill the VC-180’s cavernous
fuel tanks. To that end, I climbed to 6,500 feet MSL and
pointed the spinner at Tehachapi Municipal Airport
(KTSP) where the fuel cost was reputed to be below
\$4/gal. Unfortunately, after announcing my presence in
the Tehachapi Valley a kind soul on the CTAF transmitted,
“If you’re looking for gas we don’t have any!” This proved
once again that price loses relevance in the absence of

product. Undeterred I continued into the pattern and
executed a “stop-and-go” landing and takeoff. This aided
accomplishment of yet another sub-objective of the
flight...to reset my landing currency.

Winging southeast now I set the targeting computer
for Rosamond Intergalactic Bearhawk Port (L00). After a
flawless pattern and landing I taxied up to the fuel pump to
discover that the price per gallon was 15 cents higher than
the self-serve price at WJF! Taking my cue from aviation
legend **Jimmy Doolittle III** (who is known to be
somewhat frugal), I spun her around on the right main and
motored back to the runway for departure. After another
perfect approach and landing on Fox’s shiny new runway I
topped the tanks and settled the VC-180 into her cozy
hangar.

Oh, yeah...about that CO issue. There was nary a peep
or color change in the redundant sensors for the whole
flight, which convinced me that the previously reported
alarms were spurious in nature. I shall continue to monitor
the situation and report back with changes. Until then...

Fly Safe, Check 6, and wear your mask (outside, when
social distancing is not possible).

- **Gary Aldrich**

Kommanding

Teaser: Lois Gets A Top Overhaul

Last year’s drama included **Randy “Kanard” Kelly**
rescuing his **Cessna 182 “Lois” Skylane** after a forced
landing at Baker California. After a 5-cylinder
repositioning flight to the slightly better facilities of the
Barstow-Daggett airport, he proceeded to replace the
faulty cylinder and return **Lois** to flight. You may
remember reading that story in these pages.

To add insult to injury, during this year’s annual,
Kanard and **Bill Irvine** found a cylinder with low
compression and the sound of air escaping out the exhaust
pipe. Without giving away too much, the story ends with
all of the cylinders being rejected by LyCon and the
installation of six new cylinders.

Kanard has promised **Evil Editor Zurg** to submit a
story with all of the details in a multi-part series for this
newsletter. However, at press time **Kanard** and **Leigh** are
madly stuffing all of their worldly belongings into
cardboard boxes. It seems they’re finally realizing their
dream to open a new EAA Chapter 1000 Detachment in
Shelbyville TN. **EEZ** has uncharacteristically agreed to
let **Kanard** delay the story until after his move.

Rumor has it that **Kanard** plans to use his glider
instructor certificate, provided by your tax dollars, to serve
as a glider instructor at a local glider club, who have been
waiting for more than a year or two for him to show up.

Lois is currently in her new hangar in Shelbyville,
having been flown there by a hired gun pilot.

To whet your appetite for the upcoming story (not to
mention filling white space), we share the following
pictures with you.



Kanard points at the cylinders being delivered to LyCon at the Visalia airport



Erbman points at the new replacement cylinders loaded up at the Visalia airport several weeks later



Bill Irvine preps the cylinders for installation



Rings compressed and piston inserted into cylinder



Right side cylinders awaiting rocker arms



One left side cylinder installed

Web Site Update



Just a reminder that the EAA Chapter 1000 Web Site is hosted courtesy of Quantum Networking Solutions, Inc.

You can find out more about Qnet at <http://www.qnet.com> or at 661-538-2028.

Chapter 1000 Calendar

EAA Chapter 1000 Board of Directors Meetings are now held on an unscheduled, as needed basis. If you need to know when, you're already on the e-mail notification list. (661) 609-0942

Dec 15: CNX EAA Chapter 1000 Festivus Etc Celebration, 6:00 p.m., Kommandant's Kwarters, 42370 61st Street West, Quartz Hill CA. (661) 609-0942

Jan 19: EAA Chapter 1000 Monthly Meeting, 5:00 p.m., Edwards AFB. USAF Test Pilot School, Scobee Auditorium. (661) 609-0942

Feb 16: EAA Chapter 1000 Monthly Meeting, 5:00 p.m., Edwards AFB. USAF Test Pilot School, Scobee Auditorium. (661) 609-0942

Mar 16: EAA Chapter 1000 Monthly Meeting, 5:00 p.m., Edwards AFB. USAF Test Pilot School, Scobee Auditorium. (661) 609-0942

Apr 20: EAA Chapter 1000 Monthly Meeting, 5:00 p.m., Edwards AFB. USAF Test Pilot School, Scobee Auditorium. (661) 609-0942

May 15: EAA Chapter 1000 Annual Aviation Event, currently accepting ideas for activities. (661) 609-0942

Jun 15: EAA Chapter 1000 Monthly Meeting, 5:00 p.m., Edwards AFB. USAF Test Pilot School, Scobee Auditorium. (661) 609-0942

Jul 20: CNX EAA Chapter 1000 Monthly Meeting, Cancelled in lieu of AirVenture (we hope). (661) 609-0942

Aug TBD: EAA Chapter 1000 Baseball Meeting, 6:00 p.m., The Hangar, Lancaster CA. (661) 609-0942.

Sep 21: EAA Chapter 1000 Monthly Meeting, 5:00 p.m., Edwards AFB. USAF Test Pilot School, Scobee Auditorium. (661) 609-0942

Oct 19: EAA Chapter 1000 Monthly Meeting, 5:00 p.m., Edwards AFB. USAF Test Pilot School, Scobee Auditorium. (661) 609-0942

To join Chapter 1000, send your name, address, EAA number, and \$20 dues to: EAA Chapter 1000, George Gennuso, 3119 Lennox Ct, Palmdale CA 93551. Membership in National EAA (\$40, 1-800-843-3612) is required.

Contact our officers by e-mail:

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Inputs for the newsletter or any comments can be sent to Russ Erb, 661-754-0524, by e-mail to erbman@pobox.com

From the Project Police legal section: As you probably suspected, contents of The Leading Edge are the viewpoints of the authors. No claim is made and no liability is assumed, expressed or implied as to the technical accuracy or safety of the material presented. The viewpoints expressed are not necessarily those of Chapter 1000 or the Experimental Aircraft Association. Project Police reports are printed as they are received, with no attempt made to determine if they contain the minimum daily allowance of truth. So there!

**THE LEADING EDGE
MUROC EAA CHAPTER 1000 NEWSLETTER**

**C/O Russ Erb
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<http://www.eaa1000.av.org>**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS:
ASYNCHRONOUS FESTIVUS CELEBRATION
WRITE YOUR OWN MEETING REPORT
KOMMANDANT TROUBLESHOOTS CO ALERTS
TEASER: LOIS TOP OVERHAUL**

