

MARCH 85



EAA
ULTRALIGHT
CHAPTER
44

NEWSLETTER

EAA UL CHAPTER #44
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MARCH 1985 NEWSLETTER

The March meeting will be held Thursday evening, the 7th, at 7:30pm at the Washington Gas Light Co. Center. See "General Information" page for directions.

John Ballantyne, formerly in charge of the AOPA's Air Safety Foundation's Ultralight Program and now administrating those programs thru a new ultralight (only) association, the U.S. ULTRALIGHT FOUNDATION, will be our guest speaker at this months meeting. John is an Ultralight pilot, has been a dealer and trained many people to fly in UL's, developing the first UL simulator. He probably has the best "crystal ball" for predicting the future course of Ultralighting.

Last month Steve Brown of AOPA gave us an interesting talk on the current state of affairs on Ultralights and AOPA. The talk was more from his own feeling on UL's than AOPA's official position concerning UL's, and very interesting. Contrary to what was said here last month, Steve says that AOPA PILOT MAGAZINE will feature Ultralights in one or two issues each year (like they had been doing before starting their UL Division).

Also last month the attending membership voted to increase the chapter dues to \$12.00 per year, beginning this year (1985). An application / renewal form should be included with the newsletter for your convenience. Please update as appropriate to your experience, ownership, etc. This info is voluntary and will not be released outside of the chapter. If you have already sent in a check for \$5.00, please do not forget to send in the remainder along with your updated form. The forms are used to update the computer AND print our mailing labels.

Several of our members are planing on attending the EAA FLY-IN at Lakeland, Florida later this month. While the SUN 'n FUN fly-in is much smaller than Oshkosh, it has become THE spring showcase Ultralight fly-in, with the leading UL manufacturers showing off their latest UL's & improvements. And each year it delights us with new UL designs too. It's still not too late to lose your mind and decide to go.

Leesburg Airport is having an open house / trade show Saturday, March 9th. They would like several Ultralights to attend. If you would be interested in participating, please call Dick Jones at 379-4539.

The NTSB held a press conference and released the results of its accident investigation. Their recommendations are enclosed on a separate sheet. Interestingly, the final report was not produced, and could not be studied by those present. It is to be released later. Several people I have talked to who had access to the unreleased study stated that they did not feel that the study supported the recommendations. Never the less, the mass media used the findings as is, and in some cases grossly exaggerated them, with statements to the effect that the NTSB would now "regulate Ultralights". In truth, the NTSB only recommended that the FAA regulate Ultralights more; it's still up to the FAA to do it.

Tony Anger, "Show Plane Pilot" and chapter vice-president, has informed

us that the Flying Circus at Bealeton, Va. is planning to have another Ultralight Festival / Competition this spring. The dates now planned are May 25-26, Memorial weekend. A hanger party is planned Sat. evening, and Chris Jones will be coordinating it. The Circus will be depending on our chapter members to help out both days. Contact Tony at 978-1666. Tony's almost UL, a Pober Pixie, is apart again, this time for a quick paint job (red with iron crosses, of course).

Dave Maitland, chapter treasurer, brought his Starlight kit fuselage to chapter #186's meeting last week. The Starlite goes together very much like a plastic model plane kit, going together so easily and is so prefinished that Burt Rutan may have to relinquish his aircraft kits name "varieze". The Starlight is sort of a one place, poor mans Glasair. We thought about asking Dave to bring it back for our meeting, but with a kit price of \$8000, this 120mph cruise, 230lb. AIRPLANE might make too many of our UL owners nervous (envious?). Dave, however, does own two UL's, a Vector 610 & Phantom, and would LOVE to sell ONE of them.

The chapter officers held a board meeting (!) this month and many items were discussed. One thing under consideration would be to hold one of our summer meetings on a weekend day and make it a combination meeting / picnic / fly-in, probably somewhere near Nokesville. Talk to Kirk Wicker if you have ideas / suggestions (703/361-5877).

John Massar has very graciously lent us (his wife's) photo copier for use in printing the chapter newsletter. He even threw in a bunch of paper and toner. This donation, along with our dues increase, should finally put our chapter over the financial hump and free up a little seed money for some future fun chapter projects! THANK YOU Nancy and John!

The National Air & Space Museum is refurbishing the 1903 Wright Flyer. Starting this month, they will be working on it right in the main museum area, behind a plexiglass wall. A once in a life time chance to check out the actual construction and guts of the worlds first successful airplane.

*** CALENDAR ***

MARCH:

- 7 ***EAA UL #44 MEETING, 7:30pm, WGL CENTER, SPRINGFIELD
- 9 Leesburg, Va. Aviation Trade Show, 10am-4pm, Leesburg
Airport, 703/777-9252
- 11-23 SUN 'N FUN Ultralight Preview at Circle X Airport 4
mi. So. of Lakeland Airport, Wings of Freedom, Inc. 813/531-7196,
UL's, camping, UL rentals, parties !?
- 17-23 SUN 'N FUN 11th ANNUAL FLY-IN, Lakeland, Fla.
813/644-2431 Lots of Ultralights & sun!
- 28 EAA #186 meeting, 8:00pm, WGL Center, Springfield

APRIL:

- 4 ***EAA #44 UL MEETING, 7:30pm, WGL CENTER, Springfield
- 13-14 National Air & Space Museum, Garber Restoration Facility
Tour, contact Margaret Scesa 301/345-3164
- 26-28 3rd. Annual Wilbur Wright Fly-In, Kill Devil Hills, N.C.
First Flight Airport 919/473-2111
- 27-28 NASM Garber Open House, Suitland, Md. 10am-3pm.