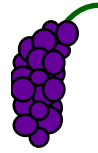


# THE GRAPEVINE



*There is a very fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness."*

EAA Chapter 663 Livermore, California

Vol. XXVII, No. 9, September, 2008

## OFFICERS

PRESIDENT RALPH CLOUD	449-1048
VICE PRES DON SMITH	785-5824
TREASURER MARK PALAJAC	454-0627
SECRETARY BRUCE CRUIKSHANK	510-886-6897
PROGRAM CO-ORD DON SMITH	785-5824
TECH COUNSELOR DAVE DENT	447-8055
TECH COUNSELOR GORDON JONES	447-1549
TECH COUNSELOR BOB SINCLAIR	935-7465
NEWS LETTER EMERITUS JOHN MEYER	
INTERIM NEWS LETTER EDITOR RALPH CLOUD	
FLIGHT ADVISOR BARRY WEBER	454-0627
FLIGHT ADVISOR BOB FARNAM	449-1513
YOUNG EAGLES ERIC HELMS	373-0137
LIBRARIAN ALAN THAYER	582-7274
WEB EDITOR BRAD OLSON	866-9289

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SCOTT ALAIR	321-1723
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DAVE DENT	447-8055
BOB FARNAM	449-1513
DICK JENNINGS	862-2345
BOB COWAN	373 0555

## SEPTEMBER MEETING AND PROGRAM

Our September meeting will take place at 7:30 P.M. on the 4th of September in the Terminal Building at the Livermore Airport. Our program for the night will consist of a short business meeting followed by a presentation by Max Trescott, 2008 National CFI of the Year & FAAST Team member will present his outstanding talk on "Night Flying Safety". [Night accidents](#) account for over 50% of all fatal accidents in the immediate S.F. Bay area, which is 2.5 times the national rate. [VFR into IMC](#) is involved with one third of all fatal accidents in the S.F. Bay, which is six times the national rate!

## Gone West ...

### *John DaCosta Meyer, Jr ...*

Livermore resident John DaCosta Meyer, Jr. died peacefully August 8, 2008 after a brief illness. He was born April 28, 1929 in Pittsburgh, PA to John DaCosta Meyer and Margaret Spraggon, John D. Meyer grew up in Edgewood, PA He attended the University of CO in Boulder, where he studied Physics until he joined the US Navy during the Korean War. After the war he returned to Boulder, where he completed a Bachelors degree in Physics, and met Barbara Lewis. They were married in 1956, and celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2006.

John and Bobbie lived briefly in Los Angeles before moving to Palo Alto in 1957, where John was hired as a Microwave Engineer by Lockheed Missiles and Space. John spent his entire career with Lockheed, retiring in 1996. For many years, he managed a satellite test facility in Pleasanton.

John and Bobbie have two sons, Stuart and Brian, whom they raised in Danville, CA. In 1978 they moved to Livermore, where they have lived for 30 years.

John's love of planes and flying began with building model airplanes as a child and grew as a Navy pilot, flying F6Fs and F9Fs in the Korean War and S2F's in the Naval Reserve squadron VS872, retiring as a Captain in 1989. He built a Long-EZ that took its first flight in January 2008, and was active in the Livermore Experimental Aircraft Association, #663 where he composed the chapter newsletter for over 20 years.

John was an expert skier before there were chairlifts, a dedicated runner before jogging was popular, an enthusiastic tennis player before metal rackets, and an avid bicyclist before spandex.

He is survived by his wife Barbara Lewis Meyer of Livermore and children Stuart D. Meyer of Ashland, OR, and Brian A Meyer of Greenwich, CT. He was a playful grandfather to Christopher, Tyler and Jamie Meyer and Kathryn and Derek

Reynolds. He is also survived by two sisters, Lucile Hutchins of Bothell, WA, and Jean White of Springfield, TN, and a brother, George William Meyer of Elk River, MN. He was preceded in death by a sister, Elisabeth Trowbridge Meyer.

The family will hold a celebration of his life in September.

(Details will be announced when available.)

## LIVERMORE AIRPORT OPEN HOUSE

Livermore Airport will host its annual Open House, Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, from 10 – 4. The Chapter will host a booth to tell the public about our EAA Chapter, homebuilt aviation activities and sign up more for the Young Eagles Program. At our September meeting, we will be looking for volunteers to work the booth. You can sign-up at the meeting or by email to: [president@eaa663.org](mailto:president@eaa663.org).

If you have an aircraft for display or want to volunteer to help with the set-up of the event, contact the Livermore Airport Staff at the terminal building at the airport.

### MINUTES: GENERAL MEETING, EAA CHAPTER 663, 7/3/2008, 7:31 PM, TERMINAL BUILDING KLVK

Chapter president Ralph Cloud called the meeting to order.

Two guests, Floyd F. and Mike H., introduced themselves.

The minutes for the June meetings were approved as printed in "The Grapevine".

Treasurer Mark Palajac reported 81 paid members and \$5427 in chapter funds.

Business: Ralph made a case for purchasing a hard case for the chapter digital projector. During the following discussion prices from \$125-500 were mentioned. It was moved by John Youngblood and seconded by Bruce Cruikshank to spend up to \$300 for an appropriate case; motion passed on voice vote. After more chit-chat Harry Crosby moved and Chuck Ray seconded a motion to purchase a spare bulb for the projector; motion passed on a voice vote.

Tool man Bob Farnam reported on a purpose built aircraft trailer that will soon be available to the chapter for \$800. It was built to transport a Tri-Q-200 that is being parted out. More details will be obtained.

The July Young Eagle Rally is still on for the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Ralph welcomed all to the July 4 chapter barbeque.

The hangar end room situation has caught up with Bob Buckthal and Hangar 114 the site of chapter barbeques and the location of many of the chapter's assets (bead blaster/compressor, scales, tools, and library). The end room adjoining 114 will soon be part that hangar. There was much discussion about the chapter picking up the tab for space, which will be about \$175 per month. Various plans were advanced from several of the members coughing up the necessary funds, to increasing the dues for all members 20-30 dollars per year. Several issues are involved. The end room wall will come down; should some kind of barrier replace it to secure Bob's stuff? What about member access, who gets in and when. There is a separate end room door. The issue was tabled for further research and discussion.

Member's Forum: Newsletter editor John Meyer complained about members not keeping their address information (both street and e-mail) current ☹

Break and then Program: Don Smith introduced chapter member Dave Dent who gave us a presentation of the Raptor and Talon remote piloted vehicle projects. Large high altitude drones designed and built by Scaled Composites in Mojave to carry anti ballistic missiles. Dave also showed some video of the Pathfinder and Centarus high altitude solar powered aircraft he was involved with. Thank you Dave.

### MINUTES: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 7/17/08, ~7:30 PM, RALPH'S PLACE.

Ralph Cloud, Dick Jennings, Mark Palajac, Bruce Cruikshank, Scott Alair, and Bob Cowan were present.

Treasurer Mark reported \$5,128 in chapter funds and 82 paid members.

Business: The Bob Buckthal end room issue has been resolved. Ken Coe is going to "share" the space with Bob.

The next chapter barbeque will be August 16<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM.

A spare bulb and carrying case for the chapter's digital projector have been ordered.

Allen Thayer is hosting a "tandem wing" fly in at his hangar (#262) on 8/22. The trailer that Bob Farnam mentioned at the general meeting should be there for our evaluation.

Don Smith relayed to Ralph that he is planning on Barry Weber giving his annual Oshkosh slide show for the August meeting.

Announcements: The next meeting will be August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Around the table: There was a discussion of increasing the directors' speeding limit for purchases from \$100. The current limit may date from the time the chapter was formed in the early 1980's. A motion will be presented to the membership at the August meeting to raise the limit to \$300. Treasurer Mark Palajac offered to come up with a budget for the coming year; its value was debated and determined to not be necessary.

Meeting adjourned for pie.

Respectfully submitted, Bruce Cruikshank, Secretary.

**MINUTES: GENERAL MEETING EAA CHAPTER 663,  
8/7/08, 7:30 PM,  
TERMINAL BUILDING KLVK.**

Chapter president Ralph Cloud called the meeting to order.

Lance Smith, our only guest, introduced himself.

There was no newsletter this month; the minutes for the July meetings are yet to be published.

Treasurer Mark Palajac reported \$4,666.66 in chapter funds after speeding \$181 for a case and \$274 for a spare bulb for the chapter's digital projector. Paid membership stands at 87 members.

**BUSINESS:** Bob Farnam reported our newsletter editor John Meyer has become very ill, but knew few details. (The reason for no newsletter)

The purchase of a hard case and spare bulb for the chapter digital projector approved in July has been completed.

At the July board of directors meeting it was decided to propose an amendment to the chapter by-laws to increase the amount of the spending limit of the directors from \$100 to \$300 month. Harry Crosby moved and John Goldsmith seconded such an amendment. It passed on a voice vote. The affected sentence will now read: "The board of directors shall be empowered to withdraw and use up to Three Hundred Dollars (\$300) without prior consent/approval of the general membership any calendar month."

Chapter tools: Tool man Bob Farnam reported that are some promising reasonably priced video type bore scope devices on

the market and will gather more details. Dick Jennings suggested that the chapter get some extended crows foot adapters for torquing propellers.

Young Eagle coordinator Eric Helms reported that 3 eagles were flown on July 26<sup>th</sup> which cleaned up the list for those waiting for flights. The next rally scheduled for August 31 may be cancelled unless we get some eaglets. Eric purposed flying some Young Eagles during the Airport Open House. This was done several years ago and there were problems. No one else in attendance showed much support for the idea.

The next chapter barbeque will be on Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>. Starting time about 4 pm; bring something to cook and a dish to share.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Next board meeting will be 8/21, 7:30 at Ralph's place. Next general meeting will be Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>. Airport Open House will be Saturday Sept 20, 10 am – 4 pm. There will be a chapter barbeque on September 27<sup>th</sup>. From the mail bag, there are fly-ins at Eugene, OR 8/13, Red Bluff 9/13. Chapter member Allan Thayer is hosting a Tandem Wing Fly-in here at Livermore August 22 and 23. It was mentioned that the recently restored Boeing Model 40 that has been news lately will be at Hayward Airport Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>.

**BREAK and then PROGRAM:** Don Smith introduced member Barry Weber who gave us his annual slide show of the recent Oshkosh Fly-in, hundreds of beautiful pictures of the fly-in. A BIG THANKYOU from those of us who did not make the trip.

**MINUTES: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING,  
EAA CHAPTER 663, 8/21/08, 7:40,  
RALPH'S PLACE**

Ralph Cloud, Bob Cowan, Dick Jennings, Mark Palajac, Bob Farnam, Bruce Cruikshank, Scott Alair and Don Smith were eventually present.

Treasurer Mark reported \$4,607.00 in chapter funds. There was a discussion of the budget for the coming year. Paid membership stands at 82.

**BUSINESS:** Ralph told of the passing, August 8<sup>th</sup>, of our newsletter editor and life member John Meyer. Bobbie his wife let it be known that a celebration of his life will be held at a time and place to be decided. Ralph offered to take on the newsletter for the immediate future until a new editor can be found.

The end room of Bob Buckthal's hangar will be taken over by Ron Labby. Ralph suggested we consider renting some of that space from Ron for chapter use, more to follow.

The LVK Open House is coming up on Sept 20<sup>th</sup> hours 10am-4pm. Volunteers will be requested at our next meeting.

Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> is the date of our next chapter barbeque. The only supply needed is ice.

Don mentioned that Max Trescott, 2008 National CFI of the year and FFAST Team member, will present a program on Night Flying Safety.

2009 Chapter Dinner planning: Bob Farnam offered to be the contact for the caterer. All other elements for the January 24, 2009 event are in place.

It was mentioned that former member Larry Fish had experienced Lancair pilot Earl Hibbler do the first flight of his Lancair 360.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next meeting 9/4, Board meeting 9/18.

Respectfully submitted, Bruce Cruikshank, Secretary



EAA CHAPTER 663  
1051 Redondo Way  
Livermore, CA 94550  
President@eaa663.org  
eaa663.org

## AVIATION RELATED JOB OPPORTUNITY...

**Be your own boss. Manage all available resources. Be in command of your destiny. Be EAA Chapter 663's newsletter editor.**

**Submit your application and resume or just your name to Chapter President Ralph Cloud, *please!***  
You may email to: [president@eaa663.org](mailto:president@eaa663.org)

## PLEA FOR RELIEF

**If you now receive your copy of the chapter newsletter by way of the US Postal Service, you are costing the Chapter more in operating expenses.**

**To reduce the consumption of paper, ink, labor and postage, please convert to electronic delivery.**

**Advantages: It will make the life of whoever is doing the newsletter a lot easier. Use fewer materials. You will receive your newsletter earlier than those who wait for the postal service. Benefit from color images, and much more.**

**When you make the correct decision to receive your newsletter electronically, send an email to:**  
**[president@eaa663.org](mailto:president@eaa663.org)**