

EAA Chapter 96

# PENINSULA FLYER

South Bay

SoCal

March 2014

## Editors Corner

*Jim Lobue*

I'm always looking for member written and submitted articles for **your** newsletter. Please email me with articles, suggestions, and/or comments. Thanks.

[jimandmandy@yahoo.com](mailto:jimandmandy@yahoo.com)



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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## President's Forum

*Merrill Eastcott*

March Madness is almost upon us. In addition to referring to the annual intercollegiate basketball national championship, more importantly I am referring to a frenzy of activities involving Chapter 96 that usually occur in the spring of each year – membership drive, planning for the annual model expo and aircraft fly-in that will occur on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> this year, planning for new and interesting programs and activities for the rest of the year, filling our vacant hangar and tie down spaces, and finally organizing the nominating committee as we will have three board members' terms open for nominations. Expect to be asked to participate in one or more of these important activities.

My most important concern for this month is to recruit new or previous pilots who own or have access to an airplane to join or rejoin our Young Eagles (YE) activities. Our YE director says that the pool of available pilots is dwindling for a number of reasons. Young Eagles is the longest standing and most important community activity that we do as a chapter. Young Eagles is by far the most influential national program that the aviation community has on youth ages 8 to 17. So if you have access to an airplane, please step up to the plate and volunteer your services when we schedule Young Eagles activities. Our next YE activity is at Compton on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

We have an unusually exciting and entertaining program for our general membership meeting this month. Please read about it elsewhere in this newsletter. Hope to see you then.

*Editor's note:*

There will also be a Young Eagles on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, which will be a combined Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum event and a CPM Open House supported by American Airports.

## **DAR's in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area**

*Gus Gustavson*

I am a builder of a GlaStar in Torrance and I am finding it very difficult to get my plane inspected for its airworthiness certificate. I have been getting a lot of leads, including the FAA, other DARs, the EAA and many friends, all leading to dead ends...except for one DAR. A fellow builder is also having the same difficulty that I am having. The FAA used to do the inspections for free but they no longer do the inspections and leave it up to the EAA and their DARS. DARs must have a FAA Function 46 to inspect amateur built experimental aircraft. Since EAA and the FAA came to an agreement that the EAA would handle the DAR process for our aircraft. The FAA used to be free, but they had difficulty with this process with mixing inspection regulations with type certificated aircraft versus Experimental Amateur Built Aircraft All DARs are listed in the FAA DAR directory which is updated monthly and available on-line.

For me, I found the following:

- 1: The FAA will not inspect Experimental Amateur Built Aircraft any more.
2. There are very few Function Code 46 DARs in the Los Angeles Area.
3. EAA's list is poorly outdated with DARs still listed that have quit or left the area.
4. There are two types of EAA DARs. The DARs sponsored by EAA will inspect for free except for expenses. The other charges a flat reasonable rate and possibly expenses.
5. DARs not sponsored or approved by EAA charge a much higher rate or a prohibitive hourly rate.
6. Several DARs refuse to travel to the airport where the plane is kept.
7. There are no EAA sponsored or approved DARs in the metropolitan Los Angeles area.
8. I have only found one DAR that is willing to inspect my plane at Torrance for a large fee.

I believe the EAA should be promoting getting new DARs for Function 46, Experimental Amateur Built Aircraft. Since EAA also agreed to take over the DAR work for our aircraft, I also believe that they should sponsor the initial training in Oklahoma and any follow up training to maintain the Function 46. I myself would be willing to do this, once my plane has completed its phase 1 test.

## **General Meeting Program – Guest Speaker**

*Rhon Williams*

WINGS credit is available, please sign up online. The program will begin with a discussion on the need for transition training.

The speaker will then present "The X-15 Rocket Plane, Flying the First Wings into Space" which tells the enthralling yet little-known story of the hypersonic X-15, the winged rocket ship that opened the way into human-controlled spaceflight. Literally pushing the boundaries of air and space technology to heights and speeds which had proven fatal to others before, the X-15 and its pilots expanded flight to nearly Mach 7 in speed and more than 67 miles in altitude. They were able to safely guide an aircraft manually through reentry from suborbital space to a pinpoint landing, making the later success of the Space Shuttle a reality.

Michelle Evans puts a human face on the feats of science and engineering that went into the X-15 program, and introduces us to the largely unsung pilots of the X-15. By the time of the Apollo 11 moon landing, thirty-one American astronauts had flown into space—eight of them astronaut-pilots of the X-15. The X-15 Rocket Plane restores these pioneers, and the others who made it happen, to their rightful place in the history of spaceflight.

Michelle Evans is the founder of Mach 25 Media and is an aerospace writer, photographer, and education specialist. She served in the U.S. Air Force working on nuclear missiles, is the producer of several documentaries about space exploration, and is a contributor to Space Daily, Space.com, and Ad Astra.

Michelle will sign copies of her book during the event, and she recommends purchasing "The X-15 Rocket Plane" via Amazon in advance.

## **Chapter Chatter**



*Dennis Lord is our current Chapter 96 VP, executive producer of the EAA 96 Fly-In and Model Expo, and a member of the LA County Aviation Commission overseeing five County airports including Compton.*

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Last month I talked about change within the Chapter regarding membership and marketing. We struggle in both areas and need to get this cleaned up.

This past month we documented what we need to do and organized ourselves into specific categories. For example, "Chapter Support" comes in the form of 1) Volunteerism; 2) Hangar rental and, 3) Gifts and Donations. Thinking strategically, logical processes get members thinking about what benefits and what hinders the Chapter. One of the hindrances is that we are not breaking even on General Member meeting lunches. With a budget in the red every month, we simply cannot afford for any activity to not break even. The Honor system for payment for lunch isn't working. How do we fix that?

Also this month we documented our membership database needs, the information on members that we need to track both now and in the future, and created a new file. Manually operated for now, it will be automated once other systems are put into place. By the time this newsletter goes out we should be sending out invoices for 2014 membership by email and, where necessary, by USPS until we get everyone's email address.

We need all members to engage us through email. For a select few, I know that is hard to do but we must change. USPS mail is simply "old-school". Your Chapter Board will communicate through this newsletter and your Inbox. Spending \$0.49 per letter cannot continue when there are free options to the organization.

While the Board has not made this official, I would like to see April 1 as the cutoff date for membership delinquency. Most organizations do this but we have been lax in structuring our membership outreach. While invoices will go out now, we will be following up with phone calls if no response by April. Remember, hangar access and other services will be restricted if member dues are delinquent. The same is true if your national EAA membership is delinquent as EAA membership is required for Chapter membership. We just filed our annual Chapter roster and your EAA member numbers are listed on that report.

Don't forget that the Chapter has a PayPal account and even if you do not have a PayPal account, you can use your credit card to make any payment to the Chapter. Simply note in PayPal what the payment is for and we will process it.

On another note, the LA County Aviation Commission meeting was held at CPM this month. Notices were in the monthly tenant statements but EAA members do not see those. There was a notice posted in the Terminal but, again, not effective communication for EAA members. We, as an organization that should be communicating effectively to our members need to do a better job. Oh yes... how many CPM users showed up to the February meeting? **Zero**. The Commission is either doing a great job or no one cares. I will provide the schedule of meetings to our Editor in the hope they will be posted in our newsletter.

On the bright side, the following items for CPM were noted for the past month. 1) If you have a AF Fuel card, they now work at the CPM fuel pit; 2) CPM is at 98% occupancy with 19% non-aviation use; 3) fuel sales for January were +9% over a year ago, likely due to clear weather; 4) American Airports will join with Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum in a May 3 Open House at CPM. We will need Young Eagle pilots for that day!!

"Blue Skies, Smooth Landings!"

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**Dennis is easily reached at [DCLord@Hotmail.com](mailto:DCLord@Hotmail.com) or at 310.612.2751 and he looks forward to hearing from members. Comments and materials received may be used for future columns or responded to privately upon request.**

## Upcoming Events

Chapter General Meeting and BBQ  
FAA WINGS Event  
Saturday, 15 March, 10:00

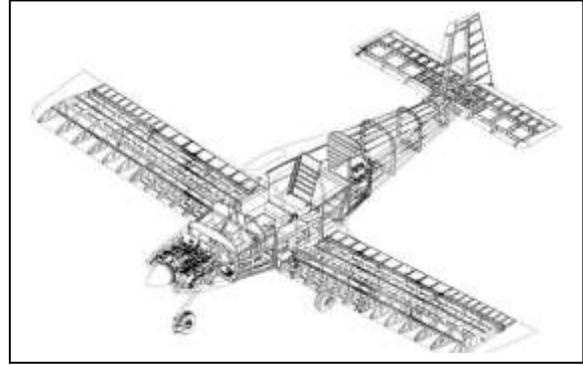
LA County Airshow featuring the Blue Angels!  
[www.lacountyairshow.com](http://www.lacountyairshow.com) Online ticket sales now!  
March 21-22 at Fox Field (Lancaster, CA)

Chapter Board of Directors Meeting  
Saturday, 5 April, 09:00

Young Eagles  
Compton Airport Admin/Terminal Building  
Saturday, 5 April, noon

Young Eagles  
CPM Open House  
Compton Airport Admin/Terminal Building  
Saturday, 3 May

Meetings are at CPM.  
1017 Alondra Blvd  
Compton, CA 90220



### NEWSLETTER IDEAS OR ARTICLES?

Send your newsletter ideas or articles to  
[jimandmandy@yahoo.com](mailto:jimandmandy@yahoo.com)

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