

Jan 2017

## A Venerable Old Bird leaves Its EAA Nest At the Leesburg Airport

*by Ted Leubbers*

The 1929 replica of the Pietenpol aircraft that graced the EAA Chapter 534 hangar at the Leesburg International Airport in Leesburg, Florida was hauled away by an aircraft mover on January 4, 2017. The plane's over the road destination will be Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome Museum in Rhinebeck, New York.

This aircraft was originally owned by chapter member Lou Larson of Tavares, Florida who passed away last year and never was able to see his home-built project fly. He had been working on it for about 15 years and started it in his garage in Tavares. For the last 4 years, he continued to work on it with the help of the members of the EAA Chapter 534. The plane had become a cause- celeb for the membership to get this plane in the air for Lou who was well into his 80s and was having trouble continuing construction on his own.

The Pietenpol is a 1929 reproduction, with open cockpit and parasol wing design built from plans that were originally drawn by Bernard Pietenpol 88 years ago. At that time, the most common engine available for home built aircraft was the Ford Model A four cylinder, cast Iron block motor. Therefore, this plane had one also. Because the engine is water cooled it required a standard size Model A car radiator which was placed on the fuselage forward of the wind screen. The radiator made it difficult for the pilot to see what was ahead as he or she had to look either side of it to see where they were going. Despite this problem, hundreds of plans built Pietenpols were constructed over the years, and they flew very well.

Many of the chapter members had a chance to work on this plane under the tutelage of Lou

The plane was recently sold as an "as is project" by Lou's estate. It was about 95 percent completed. It will be missed by the membership as they enjoyed working on it and it was used many times for "show and tell" when the chapter ran Merit Badge Courses in their hangar for the Boy Scouts of America.

On this day about a dozen members of the chapter showed up to help the mover load the plane in the back of an eighteen-wheeler trailer truck. The wings, vertical and horizontal stabilizer and propeller were removed and all was gently loaded through the side of the trailer.

It was like the end of an era and members had lumps in their throats as they watched the truck pull away from the hangar.



## Aviation Explorers take to the sky

By TED LUEBBERS

[EAA Chapter 534](#) Aviation Explorers got to fly in airplanes on Jan. 21, 2017, at the Leesburg International Airport in Leesburg, Florida.

Chapter 534 of the Experimental Aircraft Association, the sponsor of the Aviation Explorer Post 534, provided two fixed wing aircraft and pilots to conduct Young Eagles orientation flights for the Explorers.

They were also given more intense instruction on compass and situational awareness, as well as the proper approach procedures to the airport prior to their flight.

They then had a better understanding where they were while flying and how to return to the airport properly. While in the air each had an opportunity to take control of the plane under the watchful eye of the EAA pilot.

This is the second year that EAA Chapter 534 has sponsored an Aviation Explorer Post. The post has grown to eight members. The chapter has been conducting a ground school course for the young people, and they periodically get to fly with the chapter's pilots.

The majority of the young Explorers have indicated their desire to one day become licensed private pilots and the members of EAA Chapter 534 say they are doing all they can to help them realize that dream.



**EAA Chapter 534 pilot Joel Hargis shows Aviation Explorers Rebekah Spradlin and Chris McDaniel how to check the plane's fuel during the pre-flight.**





**EAA Chapter 534-member John Vizsaly and Aviation Explorer Post 534 member William Griffin are about to take off.**



**Aviation Explorers Chris McDaniel and Rebekah Spradlin are shown how to check the planes oil by EAA pilot Joel Hargis.**

## **Mooney Aircraft Owners Flock to Leesburg Airport**

Mooney Aircraft Pilots from Florida and as far away as Georgia congregated at the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 534 hangar for their annual Mooney Lunch at the Leesburg International Airport in Leesburg, Florida on Saturday, January 14, 2017.

This was the third consecutive year that chapter 534 hosted the Mooney Lunch Group. Several of their members own Mooney planes so it turns out to be a good fit.

It was a great flying day with clear skies and warm temperature. Many of the attendees took advantage of these conditions and arrived by plane. At one point 11 Mooney Airplanes were lined up on the ramp near the EAA hangar. Some of the more local Mooney owners chose to drive.

The Mooney Lunch Group fly to a Florida airport on the second Saturday of each month to talk about flying and show off their planes. This tradition has been going on for 12 years.

Chapter members put on a barbecue style lunch of hotdogs and hamburgers with all the fixings. Tables were set up in the hangar to accommodate everyone.

Ten members of Chapter 534 turned out to set up the tables and produce a hearty meal for the 24 Mooney folks.

If you would like more information about EAA Chapter 534 you may go to the following web site. < [www.534.eaachapter.org](http://www.534.eaachapter.org) >



## **Alternative Pilot Physical Examination and Education Requirements**

[AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration \(FAA\), Department of Transportation \(DOT\).](#)

[ACTION: Final rule.](#)

## EAA ARTICLES

EAA Celebrates 25 Years Of Young Eagles Several Events To Be Held During The Year

## AGTalk

Spectacular Oshkosh 2016 Photos

## Upcoming Events

- *02/11/17 Young Eagles*
- **02/25/17** Field trip to Kimball's Zellwood, FL
- **Mar & Apr** still open
- April 1st and 2nd, 2017 at Tavares Seaplane Base in Tavares, FL, airport identifier: FA1
- **May 27<sup>th</sup>** Speaker from Melbourne all about weather.

Good Afternoon,

Many tenants have questioned lease language regarding *no aircraft washing* in hangars and/or on property. Although LEE does not have an approved wet-wash facility, nor immediate plans to construct one, there are alternative methods for keeping your aircraft clean and shined. Attached is a brochure for FlightServicePro. This company utilizes a dry-wash technique and also offers various detailing services.

Please contact FlightServicePro directly for appointments, cost estimates, and product information.

I hope this proves to be beneficial for all!

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[Aircraft Washing Brochure](#)

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