

# EAA CHAPTER 534

Newsletter

April 2015

## Press Release 4/18/2015

### Members of EAA Busy Building Aircraft at Leesburg International Airport

by Ted Luebbbers

The members of Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 534 keep very busy building aircraft in their hangar at the Leesburg International Airport in Leesburg, Florida.

There is a large sign on the outside of the hangar so they are easy to locate. This is the base for their activities. You are apt to find members there anytime during the week working on a project but the best time is on a Thursday mornings when a large work party turns out to work on one of the three aircraft that reside in the hangar.

Currently there are three planes under construction. One is a replica of a 1929 Pietenpol open cockpit, high wing aircraft that is being built from plans originally drawn by Bernard Pietenpol eighty six years ago. At that time the most available engine was from a Ford Model-A car so most of the early planes that were built utilized it .Because it is a water- cooled engine it required a standard size radiator which most often was placed on the fuselage just forward of the wind screen. Pilots had to sort of peek around it to see where they were going. It was not the most convenient place to put it but that is where it worked best. There have been thousands of these planes built in garages, basements and hangars in succeeding years and many are still flying around today. This particular Pietenpol belongs to one of the members, Lou Larson, who gets a lot of help finishing his plane from other members of the chapter.

*Lou Larson's 1929 Pietenpol replica nears completion in the hangar at the Leesburg International Airport in Leesburg, Florida.*



The second airplane building project is similar to the above mentioned Pietenpol but is another model called the GN-1 Air Camper. It was also designed by Pietenpol but later modified by John Grega. These planes are constructed basically of wood and fabric because in 1929 these materials were readily available and cheap.



*The fuselage of the 1929 Pietenpol Air Camper takes shape. It is constructed of spruce and mahogany wood*

When you look back in aviation history the majority of small single engine aircraft utilized these same materials. The Air Camper is strictly a Chapter 534 project. Its fuselage, and wings are made of spruce wood or mahogany using modern epoxy glue and small nails. This airplane is also being built from plans drawn in 1929.

The third airplane project is a low-wing TM-5 which was recently donated to the chapter and is about 90% complete. This plane was designed by Terry Miller and was built from plans.

These three projects keep the members who are interested in building aircraft busy. Some members have a lot of experience with homebuilt planes and are very willing to pass on their knowledge to those members just getting started. If someone has ever had the desire to build an airplane of their own this is a good place to learn some of the skills they will need to do so.



*The TM-5 aircraft was built from plans drawn by designer Terry Miller. This plane is about 90% completed.*

This chapter is also very active in the Young Eagles program and their volunteer pilots often lend their time and planes to give young people in the area their first experience flying in a single engine general aviation aircraft. This activity often sparks a lifelong interest in aviation and they may later go on to get their private pilot license or seek careers in aviation.

Chapter 534 invites other chapters to fly in for breakfast or lunch which they serve up from their chuck wagon at various times of the year. These are called FLY-INS and provide fun times when pilots from all over the Florida area can get together and swap stories about flying in general and show off their airplanes. The chapter members set up tables and chairs in the hangar and may have a program related to flying.

These are just a few of the activities Chapter 534 offers. Currently they have about 90 members but are always ready to sign up more. If you have an interest in staying in contact with the local flying community or learn some aircraft building skills come join us.

## EAA

The EAA is a national organization for pilots and aviation enthusiasts to further their interest in all things aviation. The organization membership is not only open to pilots but also folks who have a keen interest in aviation, want to learn more about flying in general, or the construction of airplanes, either from kits or plans. You will also see their pilot's active with Young Eagles flights in the community acquainting young people 8 to 17 with the wonders of flight by giving them their first ride in a single engine general aviation airplane. They maintain a fleet of vintage planes that fly around the country giving rides in their B-17 or Ford Trimotor.

The EAA keeps the spirit of the Wright Brothers alive by helping its members develop the skills necessary to build experimental aircraft. They do this by teaching courses about such things as how to weld the metal frames for a fuselage or how to cover a wing with fabric just to name a few. Many of these instructive courses are available on line for the membership or they can get hands on instruction at aviation shows at Oshkosh, Wisconsin or Sun and Fun at Lakeland, Florida. Because of their efforts since their beginning in 1953 tens of thousands of FAA certified experimental planes are flying safely today.

## Local Chapters

EAA has allowed the formation of local chapters to promote their aims at many of the local airports in the U.S. as well as some foreign lands. These chapters provide the fun and comradery that people have while they put together their homebuilt aircraft, plan fly-ins to visit with other chapters, or run construction seminars at the local level. Some chapters develop interest in specific types of planes such as World War II Warbirds or Vintage aircraft.

It is not necessary to be a pilot to join an EAA chapter, even though the large majority are currently rated pilots or those that have reached a point in their lives when they have had to give up their wings. The organization attracts a good number of men and women who just want to stay close to the aviation experience and bring diverse skills to the local clubs. They attract pilots, aircraft mechanics, auto mechanics, carpenters, and folks from all walks of life who all have something to contribute to the success of a local chapter.

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



*Stu Brown, Bill Howard and Charlie Schnitzlain members of EAA Chapter 534 work on Lou Larson's 1929 Pietenpol replica at the chapter hangar.*



*EAA Chapter 534 members Andre Nadeau and Stu Brown discuss how to properly attach the propeller to the nearly completed Pietenpol*

## EAA Hosts BSA at Leesburg International Airport

By Ted Luebbers

It may sound like alphabet soup but what it means is that the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 534 hosted the Boy Scouts of America Lake District at an Aviation Campout at the Leesburg International Airport in Leesburg, Florida. This started out on Friday evening March 27 and concluded on Sunday March 29, 2015.

The purpose of this event was to help local Boy Scouts pass the requirements for the Aviation Merit Badge.

Forty five scouts and twenty of their adult leaders set up tents at the airport on Friday evening under rather damp and cool weather conditions but awoke to a beautiful sunny day. A good day to go flying.

Saturday morning started with ground school presented in the EAA hangar to learn the basic physics of flight. This course was presented by Steve Barber of EAA Chapter 534, a graduate of the US Air Force Academy and a career pilot who hails from Howey-In-The-Hills, FL. After ground school they were shown how to create a paper glider from a paper plate and that unleashed a flurry of paper airplanes like a cloud of butterflies in front of the hangar.

Many of the boys were also able to take advantage of the EAA Young Eagles program which provided them with their first plane ride in a small single engine general aviation aircraft. The Young Eagles program was launched in 1992 on a national basis and to date there have been almost two million such flights.

Students signed up for their flights and were introduced to their experienced EAA pilot. They made their way out to the ramp to see the plane they would fly in and do a pre-flight of the aircraft with their pilot. Then they got strapped –in and headed for the wild blue yonder. During the flight over Lake County some of the students actually had an opportunity to take the controls under the watchful eye of the EAA pilot.

## Someone's gotta do it!



Anticide took place at the EAA Chapter 534 hangar on Thursday morning. The perps will probably be hauled before the World Insect Court in Antwerp! They wiped out an entire colony of red ants that had infested our printer. Their friends are now looking for Robert and Dale.

## Gator Field April 4th



Chapter 534 crew at Gator Field Fly-In, our traveling grill and crew served up pancakes and sausage!

After the flying was done the scouts were conducted on a tour of the control tower to see how aircraft traffic is controlled at the airport. This was followed by a tour of the Lake County Sheriff's Air Unit where they learned about helicopters and capabilities of these aircraft.

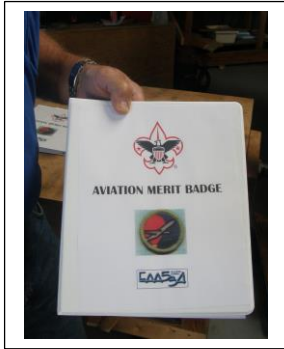
Later in the afternoon a flight simulator was set up in the hangar so that the scouts could get a little experience putting into practice some of what they had learned.

Saturday evening a projector and screen were provided in the hangar to show movies related to flying. A popcorn machine made it feel like a real theater so the scouts would have something to munch on while watching the movies.

After the movies it was back to their sleeping bags in the tent area after a very busy day with the requirements of the Aviation Merit Badge completed. Sunday would be breakfast and packing up all the camping gear.

There were ten Boy Scout Troops from Lake County represented which included Scouts from Leesburg, Eustis, Mount Dora, Howey-In-The Hills, Tavares, Umatilla, Sorrento, and Lady Lake.

The EAA chapter provided 5 fixed wing aircraft and pilots as well as several volunteers to do the paper work and help guide the scouts safely back and forth to their planes.



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## SUN-N-FUN APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup> THRU 26<sup>TH</sup>

*SLOPPY JOE'S AT PAUL'S CAMPER 5PM ON THURSDAY THE 23<sup>RD</sup>.*

## EAA CHAPTER 534 OFFICERS:

President: Joel Hargis

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<http://www.534.eaachapter.org>