



Chapter 42 Newsletter

April 2008

Anchorage, Alaska

Calendar

Don't Forget Our April Chapter Meeting...and Second Saturday breakfasts!

April-22 Tue 7:00 PM

Sal Proganzana From The Rescue Coordination Center Morris Communications - Good info on the upcoming 406 frequency for ELT's

Next Month

May 3-4

Alaska Airmens Association State Aviation Trade Show and Conference

Remember to visit the Chapter 42 booth in the Southeast corner of the FedEx hangar. Members of the Alaska Airmen's Association also bring your postcard stub to be eligible for a prize drawing for attending.

May 27th Meeting 7 P.M.

Chuck May & his garage built RV-7A Project-2811 Leeward Circle-See you there!



A Sea Hawk makes a landing at Brichwood Airport recently.

Spring, Night, Flight

A little to the north of downtown Anchorage flying activity is bustling. Pilots at Birchwood airport stretched their wings to ward of the cobwebs that have gathered in their cockpits over the past winter.

EAA Chapter 42 members Lars Gleitsmann flying both a Cessna 172 and a Scout. Our president Tim Rittal in his Glastar, practicing landings. There were gliders, helicopters, Cubs, more Cessnas 150s, 170s 180s, 185s, a 206, Stinsons, Pacers...lots of Pacers, and even a Piper Colt all practicing touch and goes this past weekend.

It looked good for flying, and I could hardly wait to join the experience. Some friends had come down from Fairbanks to pick-up a single place Part 103 "Tundra-Trike" built by Mike Jacober. Everett was itching to fly, and I obliged.

The sky was cloudless, a bit hazy but still. "Let's go. Slip on the helmet and strap in," I told Everett.

As we climbed off of runway 19-Right a quick spy over the mid-field hangars and into the upper Knik Arm revealed it was strangely dead calm at low tide.

Continued on Page -3-

From the left hand seat...

By Tim Rittal
Chapter 42 President

Just a month ago I was writing how nice it is that Spring is upon us. Just a week ago we got 12" of snow in Anchorage and temps in the teens and twenties!! What's up with that?

It is a little discouraging except maybe for you guys on skis.

On a positive note, I spotted my first batch of geese on the downtown park strip on April 10th which is a day earlier than last year and only 2 or 3 days later than average according to my log book. I have a quirky habit of recording the 1st seagulls, 1st geese, 1st robin, ice out at Sand lake and freeze up at Sand lake. My log book goes back 22 years and if the arrival of geese is any indication, Spring is really just a few days later than normal. So put away the gun, you don't need to shoot yourself.

Since the last newsletter, we had a great meeting with guest Ernie Walker from the FAA who talked about getting your project certified

and many of the steps and procedures to keep it straight with the FAA. Ernie built his own Amateur Built Plane and got it certified just like the rest of us so he knows the subject from both sides and was able to disseminate some valuable tips and ideas. We owe Ernie a big thanks for taking the time to spend an evening with us.

In our continuing educational series, Lars Gleitsman arranged a fun and informative meeting at his place of business, E-Terra LLC. Members got some hands on flying of their flight simulators with their exquisite graphics of Alaskan landscape. The detail and sharpness was quite incredible. I am sure we will be hearing much more from E-Terra and seeing their products in the future.

Coming up soon, our April 22nd meeting will be with Sal Provenzana from the Alaska Air

National Guard Rescue Coordination Center. Look for details elsewhere in this newsletter and on our

website. Jack Brown is working with the guys at Northern Lights Avionics and expects to put on a GPS presentation on May 13th. One last bit, Matt Freeman has declared July 12th & 13th to be our Wrangell-St Elias back country strip grooming weekend. Mark your calendar. He is still working on the details with the park service which we will report when available. That's it. See you Tuesday.

Safe Landings-Tim

Chapter 42 New Members

A recent mailing of EAA national members has brought us new 18 new members. So if you see new faces at the next meeting please welcome our new or returning members. The following recently joined:

William Bassett
William Brooks
Bill Brown
Forrest Charlton
Bradley Cruz
Kerlin Gordon
Theo Heller
Brian Holl
Terry Holiday
Ray Legenza
James McCarthy
Gray Morris
Rand Price
Allen Slomenski
Francis Soltis
Myron Severson
Craig Walls
Edwin White

Welcome!

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Continued from Page 1-

Spring, Night, Flight

Not a breath of air, the arm looked like a sheet of glass reflecting the pale blue sky above it. We turned crosswind to the east—the engine was purring the air was incredible—smooth as a baby's butt.

The Chugach mountains looked strangely majestic through the spring haze as we headed north climbing toward Palmer.

Geese were flying in chevrons over the shore near Eklutna. I thought maybe Spring is finally here.

Looking down on the Eklutna Village Russian Orthodox Church and surrounding cemetery, the graves of the villagers who have passed contrasted brightly to the late snow still laying in the shadows of the spruce trees to the south.

I could smell wood smoke burning, as the air crept around the windscreen. We spied a column of chimney smoke below us from a log house. Gray puffs drifting through the birch and spruce trees—too lazy to ascend skyward.

As we say in the trike world, "The air was fat" so dense that it was holding dust and smoke low to the ground.

Flying open cockpit over Wasilla and Palmer was glorious—almost dreamlike except for the air temperature, 28 Fahrenheit at 1,500 feet.

Looking for other aircraft traffic to the west of the Mat-Su hospital a

brightly colored globe protruding from a gravel pit to the north of the Parks Highway showed itself. Everett had the control bar up in front, I could see over his helmet what looked like a hot air balloon. Eager to see it closer we edged over to see.

Ground skimming down into the gravel pit was an orange, red, and blue checkered hot air balloon. I instructed Everett to make 90 degree turns in a box above it.

As we turned we could see two people in the basket. I recognized the balloon as one flown by Jim Rogina.

Rogina and his wife Kim are trying to revive ballooning in Alaska and have proposed a world competition here in the winter months.

After an hour and a half of flying my friend was getting a bit chilled so we headed back to Birchwood.

Over the flats to the Knik River, along the eastern banks of the Knik Arm shoreline the sun was setting to the west.

Entering the pattern you could see the Knik Arm waters reflecting Susitna, beyond it the sun was setting like an orange ball. To the Northeast the almost full moon, itself a pale shade of orange was rising between two peaks.

What a sight and what a flight.

Rob Stapleton flies an Experimental Light Sport Weight Shift trike, and is slowly building a Pietenpol when he is not writing stories for this newsletter

Classified Section

Wanted:

Skis-

Landis, or Airglass 2500s
Contact: Tim Rittal-248-2249

Instruments-

Any working analog instruments, altimeter, turn-and-bank, whiskey compass, airspeed indicator, etc.

Chapter 42 2008 Officers

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Monthly Meetings 4th Tuesday of most months



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EAA Chapter 42
Monthly Breakfast
Second Saturday of every month
9:30 a.m.
PIPER'S RESTAURANT and Lounge
WEST COAST INTERNATIONAL
INN

EAA Chapter 42 Mission Statement:

Promote, encourage and facilitate recreational aviation activities that provide educational opportunities.

Have Fun!

