



Illinois Valley Beacon

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Chapter 563 Chartered in 1976

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Army National Guard Unit
Company A, 1st Battalion, 106th Aviation Regiment

E-mail From Jim

12-12-2003

"For those of you who have not heard, my Army National Guard unit, Co A, 1st Battalion, 106th Aviation Regiment, has been mobilized for active duty in Iraq. We report for duty on December 15th for what will be a minimum of 12 months in country. We will fly the Blackhawk helicopters to Ft. Campbell, Kentucky for final training in various ground tasks like putting on your gas mask in 10 seconds and convoy ops. After we are validated in those tasks by the active Army, we will fly the aircraft to the designated port for embarkation onboard ship. Pilots will return to Ft. Campbell to join up with the rest of the Battalion personnel for a chartered airline flight to Kuwait where we will await arrival of our aircraft. After some training in desert flight operations in Kuwait, we will fly into the "box" and the game begins. Our staff personnel, including my son, Kurt, will take our vehicles on a three day convoy from Kuwait city to our location north of

Baghdad. They can't move after dark so they will be spending two nights in bad guy country providing their own force protection. I can't disclose the timetable or our exact location at this time as it would compromise our mission. I will have email once we are in place and will look forward to the monthly newsletter and will try to feed Morrie some info. Don't worry about me, hovering over Sam Sisk's airstrip and flying formation on Ric Woldow's Stearman has been good training.

I would like to thank the Chapter for offering to forgive my hanger rent while I am gone. The gesture means a lot to me and it will mean one less thing for Kathy to worry about while husband and son are away.

Again, thank you all !

Jim Hannemann *(Jim is in the back row, fourth from the right. Kurt is in the Headquarters Company of the same Battalion)*

CHEERS OF THE SEASON

Although there was no official meeting, and thus no need for minutes, your secretary would like to report that our annual Holiday Luncheon on Saturday, December 6 drew nearly sixty members and guests.

In a room with a great view at Wildlife Prairie State Park, we gathered for enjoying a tasty meal and the exchange of holiday greetings. Many thanks to host Bill Rutherford, and to chairman Dave Cook for another fine job!

After eating, we were favored with a double-barreled entertainment program: First, we enjoyed listening to a lively feminine vocal trio, Nine to Five, who presented an array of nostalgic and seasonal favorites.

To satisfy the flying buffs, we heard from Captain Charles Cafaro of Southwest Airlines. Charlie grew up locally and got his aviation start with Mac and Jean McLaughlin. In remarks on his experiences in commercial aviation he answered some hard questions from the audience.

The point that impressed most of us was that, although Southwest is known as a no-frills carrier, he attributes much of their success to treating everybody, both customers and employees, with kindness and respect. The other major carriers have corporate cultures and work rules which inhibit the kind of team spirit so successful at Southwest.

While the others have been bleeding red ink, Southwest has remained in the black. In spite of difficulties in the industry, Charlie encourages young people to check out a career in aviation.

MINUTES - DEC. 11, 2003

Our meeting was called to order on a chilly evening at the Chapter hangar by President Jerry Pilon.

The group was small, in that our Holiday Luncheon was held just days before, and in that we seldom hold a December meeting.

Minutes of the November meeting were ap-

proved as printed in the Beacon. (A rough draft was inadvertently printed, but there were no substantive differences. New procedure will avoid this in the future).

Treasurer-elect Joe Ernst has picked up the reins from Jim Hooker. The banking and reporting paperwork are taken care of, and you may send your 2004 dues to Joe.

Dave Cook reported on the Holiday Luncheon. The cost was slightly subsidized by the chapter, but 7 no-shows added to the deficit. A motion was approved to reimburse Dave for his expenses. There was general approval of the program presented, but there was a sentiment that for this one time of the year, the program ought to be appealing mainly to our spouses.

Morrie Caudill noted that the Chapter Website is nearly ready to use. Morrie, as Young Eagle coordinator, said that the chapter has flown a total of over 1200 kids. EAA H.Q. says the YE program will continue, even though over one million kids have been flown overall.

Regarding projects, Ken Gresham estimates his Europa airframe is about 30% complete. Also, Jerry reports progress on the wiring and brakes for his Kitfox.

Our president has appointed a committee to look into updating the chapter's bylaws and to investigate getting tax-exempt status for us. Committee members Steve Bonfoey, Dave Cook, and Bill Engel will solicit input and report progress regularly at chapter meetings.

The remainder of the evening was spent discussing program possibilities for the coming year. Project visits, craft demonstrations and expert speakers were discussed. If you have an idea for a good program, please let Jerry know.

Thanks to Howard Brooksbank for bringing refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Engel, Secretary

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The text below is copied from the first page of the Chapter 563 web site. There are five information pages and four photo pages, plus links to your favorite EAA sites. Also at the bottom of each page is a Google search engine so you can zoom off to somewhere else when you finish with the news letter. Those of you that are receiving the paper version and have the ability to access the web site, please send me an email so I can take you off the paper mail list.



WHAT'S NEW ON THIS WEB SITE: NEWSLETTER (VOL.11, ISSUE 01), AND EVERY THING ELSE.

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Welcome to EAA Chapter 563

Chapter 563 serves EAA members in the Greater Peoria, IL Area

What is EAA?...

The Experimental Aircraft Association is an organization that promotes all forms of recreational aviation. It was started in 1953 by a group of individuals in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who were interested in building their own airplanes. Through the decades, the organization expanded its mission to include antique and classic aircraft, warbirds, aerobatic aircraft, ultralights, helicopters and commercially manufactured aircraft.

This organization brings people together with an interest in recreational aviation, facilitating social interaction and information sharing between aviation enthusiasts. Many of the services that EAA offers provide valuable support resources for those that wish develop and improve various skills related to aircraft construction and restoration, piloting, aviation safety, and aviation education.

EAA is a national organization with local chapters all over the world. Information is shared through various publications, chapter newsletters, websites, air shows, and numerous other programs. .

You don't have to be a pilot or aircraft owner to be a member of EAA. You can find different ways to fulfill your aviation interest, whether it's in participating in EAA's Young Eagles (that has reached a goal of giving one million kids an airplane ride) or visiting the world's premier aviation event . . . EAA AirVenture Oshkosh.

A Nice Shaggy Dog Story

By Sam Sisk

A few days before Christmas, Bill, the line guy at 3MY put a sign up showing a \$500 reward for a missing dog named Dillon, an Australian Border Collie, from the Dallas area.

The family flew in to Mt. Hawley Airport the Saturday before Christmas to visit relatives near Chillicothe. A relative was shooting off fireworks and spooked Dillon and he took off. After several days of frantic searches the owner went back to Dallas without the dog.

Two days before Christmas the owner flew back to Peoria to look for the dog. They put an ad in the local paper to help their search and also put a flyer up at the airport because the dog was known to occasionally go to the airport back in Texas.

On Christmas Eve they took off in the airplane to do an aerial search. While on this flight they spotted a dog that looked like Dillon, came back to the airport and got in their car, went to the subdivision where they spotted him and found Dillon. It was a tearful reunion for both the dog and the owner.

About 3:30 I was sitting in the lobby at the airport when the owner and Dillon arrived to prepare to fly back to Dallas. I was allowed to hold Dillon's leash while his owner did some preflight tasks. Dillon would not take his eyes off his master, even while the master went outside and fueled the aircraft. He just sat and whimpered.

Pretty soon the pilot was ready, he came and retrieved Dillon and they both walked to the Bonanza for their return flight. I went to my car and started to leave, but decided to watch them takeoff.

Just as the wheels came up and they started

their turn southwest, I became aware of a song playing on the radio. Someone was singing "I'll be Home For Christmas".

With that warm fuzzy feeling and a smile on my face, I just sat there and savored this story-book ending on Christmas Eve. I am sure it was a happy Christmas for Dillon and his master in Dallas.

Calendar of Events 2004

January 3 Chapter 563 Breakfast
8 Chapter 563 Meeting

The January Breakfast will be held next Saturday, Jan. 3, at the EAA Hanger beginning at 7:30. The food should be ready about 8:00. Come early and help set up.

The January Meeting will be held on the second Thursday, Jan. 8, at the EAA Hanger at 7:00PM. Don't be late so we can get everyone through the gate.

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