



THE LEADING EDGE

NEWSLETTER OF MUROC EAA CHAPTER 1000

Voted to Top Ten Newsletters, 1997, 1998 McKillop Award Competition

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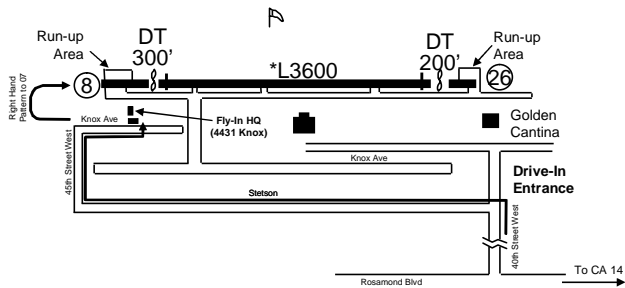
Chapter 1000 meets monthly on the third Tuesday of the month in the USAF Test Pilot School Scobee Auditorium, Edwards AFB, CA at 1700 or 5:00 PM, whichever you prefer. Any changes of meeting venue will be announced in the newsletter. Offer void where prohibited. Your mileage may vary. Open to military and civilian alike.

This Month's Meeting:



Twentieth Annual Project Police Airport Barbecue

Saturday, 21 May 2011
 High Cay Partyhaus
 4431 Knox
 Rosamond, CA



For the twentieth year in a row, the *Project Police* are fabricating a reason to party.

Last year's event was marked by pre-event activities including a performance by the Precision Work Bench Relocation Marching Drill Team, the One-Armed Banner Hangers, and the Scottish Banquet Chair and Table Corps. There was an actual sighting of a flying Bearhawk. The Spot Landing contest and People's Choice

airplane judging continued to be eliminated which was met with a large round of apathy from the assembled participants who didn't even notice since there were no awards presented.

The best part will remain—there will be food! Expect food to be available around 1000.

The big event will still happen at the **High Cay Partyhaus** on **Rosamond Skypark**, so you can still fly in if you so choose. Rumor has it that **Opie's Glasair II-S FT** will be in the position of honor this year. That's the benefit of being the host aircraft. The scuttlebutt is if you twist his arm gently he may take you flying. Of course, you can always try that on **Gary Aldrich** with the **Fighting Skywagon II**, or **Russ Erb** with the **Combat Bearhawk** (cancel that—it looks like the *Combat Bearhawk* will still be in condition inspection disassemblage at that time). If you ask **Dave Vanhoy**, be prepared to fly upside down.

Other reports suggest the possible attendance of one **Project Police Officer** who is a long-time *PPO* but has never attended the May (non) Fly-In.

As always, you can get there by flying, driving, walking, bicycling, or any other form of transportation you deem appropriate.

Last Month's Meeting

EAA Chapter 1000
 High Cay Partyhaus
 Rosamond, CA
 19 April 2011
Stormy Weathers, Presiding

The April meeting was our semi-annual shindig at **High Cay** where the *PPOs* of EAA Chapter 1000 host the visiting cadets from the USAF Academy's **Aeronautical Engineering 456** class for burgers, beer, and the combustible antics of the **Grillmeisters**.

Many chapter members were in attendance, though several were conspicuous by their absence. **Kommandant Aldrich** was missing, but not concerned as **Vice Kommandant "Stormy" Weathers** did an outstanding simulation of the Kommandant's well known leadership style of standing around holding a beer, watching things happen and wondering "What happened?". Such outstanding leadership doesn't come cheap or unnoticed.

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Also missing was **Kent "Cobra" Troxel** who probably figured he couldn't come up with another clever way to write about what tends to be the same event again. The fact that he was in the South Pacific (Guam) making sure that **Nina** wasn't studying how to "Wash That Man Right Out Of My Hair" probably had nothing to do with it.

Noticeably absent from the critical position of "Generally in charge of a lot of things" was **Gail Dodson** who was TDY at the request of her employer. Pressed into service (impressed?) was **Satoka "Tuki" Hanaoka**, who did such a good job of keeping the serving platter full and cleaning up afterwards that **Opie** started looking around the house wondering if **Gail** had come home early.

Following the unexplained disappearance of copious amounts of ruminated ruminants and "**Tukinator**" potato salad ("Best I've Ever Had" -- **George Fischer**), and after the appropriate waiting period for the call from **NORAD** about an unexplained missile launch (or charcoal fire lighting), **Victory!** was declared.

Having declared Victory!, the cadets proceeded to the hangar to inspect the newly minted **Glaser II** and its hangarmate, the oil-producing **Banana Raptor**. The inspection was terminated in sufficient time to step outside the hangar and observe what was alleged to be the **International Space Station** doing a fly-by, but it could have been a fast-moving LED thrown overhead. The cadets then proceeded across the street to inspect **Stormy's** amazing progress on the RV-8, followed with a visit to see the partially disassembled **Bearhawk**. One cadet was heard to say "So that's what all of those GR (*cadet-speak for "test" or "exam"*) questions were about!"

Shortly after the inspection tour, the cadets were mustered away to their rental vehicles and whisked away back to their temporary sleeping quarters.

If you missed this extravaganza, don't worry. We'll be doing it again in November.

Portions of this are true.

- **Russ "Erbman" Erb**

Second Backup Substitute Minister of Propoganda

Kommandant's Korner

Got a "love note" from Zurg last night saying I was overdue (again) on my column submission. This came as a bit of a shock since I distinctly remember submitting a piece just last month. I also distinctly remember submitting a bunch of cool photos of the Aluminum Overcast visit...you'd think I could catch a break. Well, I guess my reward is simply more punishment at the hands of the evil taskmaster.

Speaking of the *Aluminum Overcast*, I wish to thank all who volunteered their time to help out with the visit...which was plagued by the usual heinous AV winds. Despite arriving a day late (winds: 29030G40) the crew, led by EAA Director of B-17 Ops **George Daubner**, managed to fly a very successful media flight with an



actual WWII B-17 veteran crew member as well as two revenue flights. The first full day of the visit we enjoyed mild(er) weather and a very satisfying turnout of aviation buffs. The curious and faithful lined the fence in front of the terminal as the local television channel broadcast the always-impressive start and taxi sequence of the bomber. As usual, **Tim "Carny" Brien** and his able assistant **JoAnne** managed to drain the wallets of the folks who were mesmerized by the vision of WWII history on the Fox Airfield ramp. **Miles Bowen** devoted three days of his vacation to the effort and, with five other dedicated volunteers, earned a ride in the Fortress to its next tour stop. Other faithful **Project Police** supporters included **Lyn "SweetCheeks" McNeely**, **Dave "Titan" Vanhoy**, **Russ "R<transmission error -- bad checksum>s" Erb**, **Doug "Opie" Dodson**, **George "Knife" Gennuso**, **George Fischer**, **Tony Unger**, and even **Anne "Mrs. Komm" Aldrich**. I'd also like to recognize **PPO Mike Machat** who volunteered to drive all the way from "down below" to participate. In an odd turn of events for Chapter 1000, we had sufficient staff on site so **Mike** was saved the expense of the trip by a grateful **Kommandant**.

A phalanx of **PP Aerial Assault Vehicles** was "frag'd" to retrieve the lucky B-17 sandbags from Chino. The ATO (Air Tasking Order) included the "**Fightin' Skywagon**", the "**Combat Bearhawk**", and the new "**Glamorous Glaser**". Unfortunately, weather in the target area forced the Bearhawk crew to cancel and the Glaser to be replaced by the more spacious "**F-35 Banana Raptor**". Regardless, the mission was deemed a success, having left no **PPO** behind in enemy territory. The Fortress's crew expressed deep gratitude (to be augmented by a significant donation to the Chapter coffers) for the legendary hospitality of "the chapter with the most zeros".

Now it is time to look forward to the improving flying weather and a summer full of aviation adventure. Our May meeting will be the usual low-key Chapter BBQ at the "**High Cay**" residence and June will see us back in the City of Lancaster's Skybox to cheer on the Jethawks (note the earlier date: **7 June**). July is of course, **Airventure**, with the promise of three Chapter aircraft on display. Yup, pretty busy, so mark your calendars and standby to have some aviation fun!

Fly Safe and Check 6!

- **Gary Aldrich**
Kommanding

P.S. If I missed anybody who volunteered for the B-17 visit I offer my abject apologies for my lack of short-term memory.

B-17 "Aluminum Overcast" Photographic Evidence

This week, my Experimental Aircraft Association local chapter hosted the EAA's B-17 *Aluminum Overcast* at Lancaster's airport on it's 2011 Veteran's Tour. I took a few days off work and helped with ground crew duties during the visit.



The *Aluminum Overcast* on the ramp at Lancaster.



Yours truly in the cockpit during engine run-up while the crew prepared the airplane for Wednesday's local flights.



Bob Springer, a local veteran with 600 hours combat time as a B-17 aircraft commander. In the picture he was just sticking his head through the rear door of *Aluminum Overcast*. When invited on board, his response was "The damn things tried to kill me, why would I want to get back on one?" Though he never came aboard, he was there for all three days of *Aluminum Overcast's* visit, and we managed to get him interviewed by the local media.

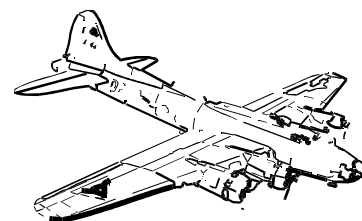


This is **Herman (Hank) Fuhrman**, recently turned 88, and is a local veteran who was a B-24 waist gunner with 40 missions. After his 40th mission, he was sent home for 30 days of R&R, and was scheduled to return to England for 10 more missions. While on R&R, he was involved in a train wreck. Though badly injured, he was one of 13 survivors out of 39 in his train car. Some other members of his B-24 crew were among those killed. He told us that while in the hospital, he was visited at his bedside by **Carmen Miranda**. His stepson likes to say that Hank was in bed with Carmen Miranda.

As compensation for our help, the chapter volunteers were invited to ride along on the relocation flight today to the Planes of Fame Museum in Chino, the next stop on the tour. During the flight each of us got a few minutes in the nose.



This is at 10,000 feet over Victorville, heading for Cajon Pass and the eastern end of the Los Angeles Basin. In the left of the photo is a Norden bombsight, and to the right is the yoke the bombardier used to guide the airplane on the bomb run.





This is **Wilbur Richardson**, who met the airplane at Chino. He had 30 missions as a B-17 tail gunner and bottom turret gunner. He said he would go in the turret right after takeoff and remain for the whole mission until right before landing. He said that occasionally they would be attacked in the pattern, and had to always be ready to defend the aircraft. He said that after one mission they counted over 400 holes in the airplane but not a single injury to the crew. One wing was so badly damaged, that it had to be replaced before the aircraft could be flown again. On his 30th mission he was hit by enemy fire. The round that hit him caused the **ONLY** damage to the aircraft on that mission! Wilbur is still actively involved in the restoration of the Chino Planes of Fame B-17. What an honor to get to talk to all of these guys who were **THERE!**

- Miles Bowen

Kommandant's B-17 Photo Gallery



The always popular start sequence. #2 first, then #1, followed by #3 and #4. Why? Because pilots can't count. If they could they would have been navigators.



Aluminum Overcast says "Whenever I'm in Lancaster I eat at Foxy's Landing. Order the B-17 and tell them I sent you."



The local news interviews Bob Springer



While we were there, this Gulfstream 2 with a goiter showed up and shot several touch-and-goes. The logos on the side say "Northrop Grumman ACS Test Bed". Our sole Northrop Grumman representative (Knife) was united with the rest of us having no idea what ACS was. A little post event Google-ing revealed that it is the Aerial Common Sensor for a US Army program. Look it up yourself for more information.



Dave Vanhoy, the world's foremost expert on B-17 combat tactics, answers questions from the masses.



Local TV News Reporter gets on-camera time with *Aluminum Overcast* in the background



"I'm sorry, Mr. President. The runway at Fox is only 7,201 feet long. I'd suggest you land Air Force One at Palmdale. That's KPMD. We'll send Erbman over to pick you up in the Screaming Yellow Zonker. Yes, he said he would put the top down. We're holding your spot on the next B-17 flight."



Engine Running Crew Change (ERCC)



B-17 takes off as a rare Micco SP26A taxis to the fuel pit.



Enter here for the 50 cent tour (which costs more now). Knife spouts wisdom on a variety of topics while Erbman is slowly being sucked into and consumed by his chair



Lyn "Sweet Cheeks" McNeely and her friend Karen
(last name withheld on account of we don't remember it)



Tim "Carny" Brien and his faithful sidekick JoAnn
scope the crowd for another sucker with money, while the B-17 tour staff wonders how he got stuck with these two crazy people.



During the tour it was revealed that the *Project Police* have their own 747. Seems a bit smaller than the President's 747.

Glamorous Glasair Rollout Party

The long-awaited public rollout of Glasair II-S FT N6940P happened at High Cay on 23 April 2011.



The assembled masses feasting on Ham/Cheeseburgers
masterfully cooked by Master Grillmeister Knife and his apprentice Tuki



The star of the show



The star of the show with hangar-mate F-35 Banana Raptor



Scott Liefeld made a long cross country from Fox Field in his Pietenpol Air Camper. He had to leave early to make it back to Fox before sunset.



Somebody in a Tri-Pacer in the pattern was called on the radio and invited to the party



A nicely restored Dodge and Plymouth came to welcome the Glasair to the airport

Project Police Aircraft Spotters Quiz



This month Evil Editor Zurg brings you another twist to the aircraft identification game. Not an aircraft, but an item seen at the March Air Reserve Base museum. Now is your chance to show your aviation knowledge chops by identifying this thing yourself.



If you can't get that one, try this one. Technically it is a mock-up in the museum, but answer as though this was in an airplane. That is, assuming the sight of this doesn't send you into horrible flashbacks of a mis-spent Air Force career.



Amaze your friends and annoy EEZ by submitting a correct identification to erbman@pobox.com . If you don't know for sure, make something up! The funnier the better! You can also mail to the editor's address seen on the last page of this newsletter. Include any other information you know. Links to web sites with more info are a plus. Next month we'll tell you who (if anyone) was correct.

Web Site Update

As of 8 May 2011, the hit counter showed 137908, for a hit rate of 16 hits/day for the last month.



Just a reminder that the EAA Chapter 1000 Web Site is hosted courtesy of Quantum Networking Solutions, Inc.

You can find out more about Qnet at <http://www.qnet.com> or at 661-538-2028.

Chapter 1000 Calendar

May 17: No Third Tuesday Meeting. Go to Airport Barbecue instead.
May 21: Twentieth Annual Project Police Airport Barbecue, Rosamond Skypark (L00), Rosamond CA. (661) 609-0942
 Jun 7: **Project Police Night at Jethawks Stadium**. Watch your e-mail for details or call (661) 609-0942.
 Jun 7: EAA Chapter 49 Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m., General William J. Fox Field, Lancaster, CA. (661) 948-0646
 Jun 14: EAA Chapter 1000 Board of Directors Meeting, 5:00 p.m., High Cay, 4431 Knox Ave, Rosamond CA. (661) 609-0942
Jun 21: No EAA Chapter 1000 Monthly Meeting. You should have gone to the baseball game on Jun 7.
 Jul 5: EAA Chapter 49 Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m., General William J. Fox Field, Lancaster, CA. (661) 948-0646
 Jul 12: EAA Chapter 1000 Board of Directors Meeting, 5:00 p.m., High Cay, 4431 Knox Ave, Rosamond CA. (661) 609-0942
Jul 19: EAA Chapter 1000 Monthly Meeting, 5:00 p.m., Edwards AFB. USAF Test Pilot School, Scobee Auditorium. (661) 609-0942
 Jul 25-31: EAA Airventure Oshkosh. Multiple **Project Police** missions are currently in planning.
 Aug 2: EAA Chapter 49 Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m., General William J. Fox Field, Lancaster, CA. (661) 948-0646
 Aug 9: EAA Chapter 1000 Board of Directors Meeting, 5:00 p.m., High Cay, 4431 Knox Ave, Rosamond CA. (661) 609-0942
Aug 16: EAA Chapter 1000 Monthly Meeting, 5:00 p.m., Edwards AFB. USAF Test Pilot School, Scobee Auditorium. (661) 609-0942
 Sep 6: EAA Chapter 49 Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m., General William J. Fox Field, Lancaster, CA. (661) 948-0646
 Sep 13: EAA Chapter 1000 Board of Directors Meeting, 5:00 p.m., High Cay, 4431 Knox Ave, Rosamond CA. (661) 609-0942
Sep 20: EAA Chapter 1000 Monthly Meeting, 5:00 p.m., Edwards AFB. The Airventure Death by Powerpoint Presentation. USAF Test Pilot School, Scobee Auditorium. (661) 609-0942

To join Chapter 1000, send your name, address, EAA number, and \$20 dues to: EAA Chapter 1000, Doug Dodson, 4431 Knox Ave, Rosamond CA 93560-6428. Membership in National EAA (\$40, 1-800-843-3612) is required.

Contact our officers by e-mail:
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Inputs for the newsletter or any comments can be sent to Russ Erb, 661-256-3806, by e-mail to erbman@pobox.com

From the **Project Police** legal section: As you probably suspected, contents of The Leading Edge are the viewpoints of the authors. No claim is made and no liability is assumed, expressed or implied as to the technical accuracy or safety of the material presented. The viewpoints expressed are not necessarily those of Chapter 1000 or the Experimental Aircraft Association. **Project Police** reports are printed as they are received, with no attempt made to determine if they contain the minimum daily allowance of truth. So there!

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MUROC EAA CHAPTER 1000 NEWSLETTER

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<http://www.eaa1000.av.org>

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS:

20th AIRPORT BBQ 21 MAY @ HIGH CAY

ALUMINUM OVERCAST REPORTS

VETERANS COME OUT FOR B-17

GLASAIR ROLLOUT PARTY

