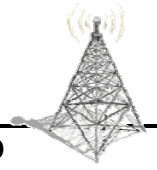




# The Outer Marker

June 2007



[www.gatewayeaa.com](http://www.gatewayeaa.com)

Gateway EAA Chapter 1401 Inc., Merced Municipal Airport, Merced, CA 95340

## Flying Season Begins with a "B"

By Scott Chastain



Our favorite restaurant owner, Rosie Vargas, got the ride of a lifetime on Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, when the Commemorative Air Force's B-17, *Sentimental Journey*, departed Macready Field for its next stop in Modesto. The

free ride was donated to Rosie out of the generosity of Tom Lopes, the local FBO operator, who purchased the ticket for our Hangar Café hostess. According to Rosie, the ride was an absolute thrill. Unlike the *Fuddy Duddy* experience two years ago, the crew allowed chosen passengers to sit in the bombardier's station at the nose of the aircraft during takeoffs and landings. Rosie got to sit there during the landing at Modesto, and it



was the only time she really felt nervous during the ride. The flight of the B-17 with Rosie as the bombardier capped a three-day visit of the nostalgic warbird to Merced. A strong lobby is already being made to bring EAA's B-17, *Aluminum Overcast*, to Merced in 2008. Let's keep our fingers crossed and congratulate Rosie for an experience she will remember for many years to come.



Our chapter Barbeque took place the following day at the residence of Ed Banks. We had a great turnout with the vast majority of the membership enjoying hamburgers right off the grill, a tasty array of salads and desserts, and the introduction of two new members to our chapter: Joe Horta and Alex Porter. We want to thank Ed and Daria for their gracious hospitality, and we welcome

our new members as we head into what promises to be an adventurous flying year.

Breakfast on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, meant flying up to Columbia with Ray Esau in *Little Lady* to get a taste of the Continental Luscombe Association gathering that takes place there each year. Weather was superb, and after walking the length of the grass strip admiring a host of beautiful Luscombes and other neo-classic taildraggers, Ray and I walked into town for some morning victuals. Ray let me fly *Little Lady* back to Merced after takeoff out of Columbia. It was a great way to get into



the flying groove for the summer of 2007.

**BYOB** has a new meaning in aviation:

**Bring your own Body.** Those of us who volunteer at fly-ins will testify that the experience is both rewarding and enjoyable. Watsonville rocked this year! The Watsonville Fly-In and Airshow has become a real tradition for me since the Ramp Boss, who owns a cherry Ercoupe, lets me sleep in his hangar on a couch each night. There come special moments each year at Watsonville, but this time around, giving the cranking order to a line of T-6's and P-51's and Yaks literally put tears in my eyes. Launching them into the run-up area felt both surreal and humbling. After three days of parking and launching airplanes of all kinds, I always come home feeling better educated and, indeed, inspired to enter the summer flying season with renewed vigor. Best wishes to all for the 2007 flying season!



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## From the Pilot in Command

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By Mike Bodine



I wish to take this opportunity to personally thank Ed Banks for his hospitality hosting a fantastic chapter BBQ for members and guests May 12<sup>th</sup>. The event was a huge success. Ed barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs and members brought an excellent selection of salads and desserts. No

one went away hungry. It was a pleasure meeting the spouses and friends of our members. We are already planning future social and fly-out events.

This newsletter will arrive after the 50<sup>th</sup> Merced Antique Fly-In scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Gateway EAA is sponsoring the Bede Trophy for the outstanding homebuilt aircraft. Russell Banks, John Mitchell, and Scott Chastain will be judging the aircraft on Saturday.

The following Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, is the Gateway EAA Chapter 1401 regular meeting and Young Eagles Rally. The regular meeting will start at the Hangar Café at 0800. Setup for the Young Eagles Event will immediately follow at "Fuzzy's" hangar. Members will be needed to provide pre-flight inspections, to direct traffic and fly aircraft. We are expecting 50 Young Eagles to take advantage of EAA's free Young Eagle flights. We are holding this event in conjunction with EAA's National Young Eagles Event.

My Mooney is getting closer to completing its annual. Thanks to the help of Scott Chastain we removed the propeller and loaded it in my pickup for transport for AD compliance to perform an eddy-current inspection. New hubs, to eliminate the recurrent inspections, are 45 to 60 days out in delivery. I have ordered the hub, but opted for the eddy-current inspection to get the airplane back in the air. Eric Struve, owner of Golden State Propellers, Inc., of San Luis Obispo completed the eddy-current inspection in less than 20 minutes. This was a great way to start a Memorial Day vacation.

I again continue to appreciate your support of Gateway EAA Chapter 1401 and all of its events. We have gained two new members, Alex Porter and Joe Horta. Welcome! Be sure to give these new members a warm Gateway welcome.

See everyone June 9<sup>th</sup> at our general meeting and Young Eagles gathering.

—Mike

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## Fly the Airplane

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By Ray Beverly



This past week, I was lucky enough to have been asked by Grace Anderson to be her commissioning officer for her graduation from the United States Air Force Academy. What a great experience!

The week included seeing the entire Academy Cadet Corps march in a formal parade, seeing the Falcon mascot fly, watching a fly-by of the Osprey, two F-15's, a C-17, and the Thunderbirds. During the time before the official graduation, the Thunderbirds just flew around the Academy. They just flew around! It was really odd, but *great!*

I also got to see and hear the Catholic Choir, and then actually perform the Commissioning Oath of Office for Grace. The commencement ceremony was just as impressive as any formal military function could be. The guest speaker was Secretary of Defense Gates. The throwing of the hats coincided perfectly with the start of the real Thunderbirds airshow.

Now let me tell you, if that wasn't a great way to get a pilot's heart started, that heart will not start! And now, we have the Merced Antique Fly-In. For me, *Fly the Airplane* this week has been nothing short of sensational!

FLY the AIRPLANE!

—Ray

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## Lighter Than Air

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*John Deere A-10 Riding Mower*

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**Featured Member: Cleco Chastain**

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By Scott Chastain

It was nearly nine years ago when, somewhere in Los Banos, an RV-8 horizontal stabilizer skeleton was jiggled up in a garage awaiting its aluminum skin. The builder was just getting a taste of assembling an airplane, and it didn't take long for him to realize that many lonely hours lay ahead before he could so much as think about flying it. Other than the poor lighting, the shop was missing something terribly. A trip to the local animal control shelter solved that. Still just a puppy at about nine months, the sharpei-golden lab mix was introduced to the sound of a rivet gun, the smell of primer, and a host of expletives as the tail section of the aircraft slowly took shape. Naturally, the owner named her *Cleco* after the common tool used to clamp sheet metal parts together. Cleco took her first few airplane rides in the C-172 now owned by our chapter EAA Technical Counselor, Fred Salvatori. She has been around airplanes and pilots ever since. Loyal and, although somewhat territorial, she has always been good with children and has attended nearly all of the chapter's meetings and Young Eagles rallies. When prompted, she will chase airliners flying at 32,000 feet and has a particular penchant for chasing helicopters; the mere approach of a helicopter will make her spine bristle. Since 2000, Cleco has camped in the desert with her owner each year to witness the Reno Air Races, and her familiarity with the sound of an airplane makes her a natural at any airport. This month, we recognize our chapter mascot, Cleco Chastain, the epitome of a hangar hound.



## The Two Minute Turn

By Richard Walker



The Board meeting was held at Mike's house on May 15<sup>th</sup> and got underway at 7:10 PM. In attendance were Ed, Loyd, Scott, Mike, and Richard. The first item on the agenda was the Young Eagles Rally scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup>. The discussion centered on how to

promote the event and how many Young Eagles might show up. The Key Club of Livingston High and some Boy Scout groups were mentioned. Scott was going to poll the membership for commitments of pilots and aircraft for the event.

Some activities for Young Eagles to do as they awaited their flights were mentioned. Something along the lines of a preflight of an aircraft and discussion of what would take place on the ride were brought up.

Ed set a goal of 50 Young Eagles for this event. Considering the number of pilots and aircraft that should be available, we should be able to complete this by a 12-1 o'clock time frame. We will have our meeting on June 9th and then proceed to Fuzzy's hangar for the Young Eagles Rally. Aircraft, pilots, and volunteers are always needed so come out, join the fun, and participate.

Next item was the July fly-out that had been talked about at an earlier meeting. Ed Banks suggested a flight to Half Moon Bay. Scott mentioned that Columbia might be crowded due to its use by the CDF for fire control operations especially considering the fire season coming up. Someone came up with stopping at Eagle Field in Dos Palos as a final decision point for Half Moon Bay in case of weather problems there. We can poll the membership and see if this event sounds like something they would be interested in.

We also had a short discussion on the upcoming Merced Fly-In. We will get some members together for judging for the trophy and just make it a fun day for members with everyone meeting at Fuzzy's hangar.

Ed had to leave early for a Costco run and the meeting adjourned shortly thereafter at 8:10 PM. Oh yeah we had some of those Easter cupcakes too.

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## May 12th General Meeting Highlights

This month we had our Spring Barbeque social event held at Ed Banks' residence in Atwater. There was a turnout of thirty plus EAA family and friends. The chapter supplied the hot dogs, hamburgers, and sodas. Ed threw in some beer and members and families brought salads and desserts. Everyone seemed to enjoy the event and except for an abbreviated meeting, it was strictly social. The meeting revolved around the Young Eagles event scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup> which coincides with our June general meeting.

We had two members join the Chapter at the event. We'd like to welcome Joe Horta and Alex Porter to our gaggle of aviation enthusiasts. Special thanks go out to Ed for opening his home for this event

Lastly, everyone please show up for our annual Young Eagles rally. We need people to work the tables, help give out forms, and provide aviation information for the many people who come out so their sons and daughters can experience aviation. It is a rewarding experience whether you fly or not. Pilots and their aircraft are always needed. We will find something for everyone to do.

## 2007 Chapter Officers and Directors

President/Treasurer	Mike Bodine	722-8619
Vice President	Doris Mitchell	383-4848
Secretary	Richard Walker	723-5704
Membership Director	Loyd James	383-3380
Young Eagles Director	Ed Banks	358-8149
EAA Flight Advisor	Ray Beverly	723-5789
EAA Tech Counselor	Fred Salvatori	358-1390
Webmaster	Loyd James	loyd@ultracart.com
Newsletter Editor	Scott Chastain	383-1488

## Pixture Rich



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