



Corben Courier

February 2012

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Letter from the President Rob Tweed

Ground Hogs and Gadgets...

Happy early spring to everyone! At least that was last week's news from our local furry ground hog friends. Notice I said local; Punxsutawney Phil doesn't know what he is talking about! Let's hope these guys are spot-on with their high tech weather prediction abilities. As winters go, I think many of you will join me in signing up for another one of these seasons next year so let's get our orders in early.

Speaking of high tech weather devices, while these new amazing flight planning applications available on mobile devices such as smart phones, iPads, etc. may not be able to see their shadow and let us know where we stand with Spring's arrival, I never cease to be amazed at just how useful these gadgets and their wide variety of aviation related applications can be. Within seconds it is now possible to create a route with multiple waypoints, check current and forecast weather, manage fuel requirements, check weight and balance, check TFRs, file a flight plan and log the flight in a virtual log book. Other applications or "apps", in iPhone parlance, can double as handy back up flight instruments. Artificial horizons, airspeed indicators, heads-up displays and G-meters are just a click away. The capabilities of just one of these apps that cost less than five dollars would probably sell for a thousand dollars or more less than 10 years ago. So if you haven't yet jumped on board with a new smart phone or iPad you might want to go online and snoop around the aviation apps in the iTunes store. Prepare to be amazed! I can't wait to see what new cool high tech stuff is around the corner. Fun times, indeed!

I also want to take a moment in this article to say thanks to Skot Weidemann for his enthusiasm and leadership that he is providing to our new Chapter 93 initiative that we launched last month. Skot's first order of business was to create a name for all this fun and he didn't disappoint. Going forward, we will be creating **Corben Cadets** with each mission that is flown. I had the wonderful privilege of helping Lowell Zirbel earn his Corben Cadet wings on February 4. We had a great flight along the Wisconsin River and then we enjoyed lunch together at the Lone Rock Airport Café. Lowell did a great job flying 96RJ out to LNR and I think he would say he enjoyed himself. What he doesn't know is that I was the one that came away from the experience with the better side of the deal. This flight with Lowell enabled me to get to know Lowell at a personal level and learn about his family, career and his wife, Ruth Ann. As we sat there in the café enjoying our lunch Lowell looked at me, changed the subject and said "I don't know what I did to deserve my wonderful wife...she is just perfect". Tears welled up in his eyes as he said this and I knew I was sitting across from a man with a profound sense of love and dedication for his wife and her special needs as she copes with Parkinson's disease. I was in awe. So, Chapter 93 pilots, be advised that you are in for a special ride with each of these flights, every bit as exciting as it is for the Corben Cadet sitting next to you!

Treasurer's Note Jim Lins

At the Chapter's board meeting on February 2nd, I asked the board members what the benefits are in being a chapter member. They identified intangible benefits such as friendship and sharing of aviation and related information. Since we could not think of any tangible benefits and since the Chapter is a 501(c) (3) organization, I think that the amount of our membership dues are tax deductible to the full limits of the tax laws as a charitable contribution. I have tried to acknowledge with a letter to each paid member and other monetary contributors any dues or donations given to the Chapter in calendar year 2011. If I have missed anyone, please let me know immediately so I can give you a letter. My address is James Lins, 6321 Shoreham Drive, Madison WI 53711-2427 and my e-mail address is jwlins@facstaff.wisc.edu.

Board Meeting Earl Martin

02-02-12

Jim L. updated the board members on the Aviation Explorer Post activities and that the group has grown to 12 young people. The Explorer Post has started the Officer nominating procedures and is electing Officers. Jim L. gave the Chapter financial overview. The board talked about the general chapter meeting format and possible upcoming speakers. Skot Weidemann informed the board that he was suggesting the name of his initiative of active pilots flying non pilots as Corben Cadets. The entire board liked that name and it was decided that the weather looked like it would be favorable to start the weekend of Feb. 5-6. People would be emailed or called if they would be available for a flight. The Board talked about the annual calendar and it lead to deciding that the next Young Eagle activity would be set for March 10th with a rain date of March 17th. Earl M. would get in contact with Dayton Sederquist at Sun Prairie High School to let him know about the dates and see if there would be an interest for some of his students to become Young Eagles. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.



Corben Cadets Skot

With consensus from the board we have picked the "Corben Cadets" name for the program & the participants. This program and name is not age specific and makes a good reference to our historic chapter. As you know, the Chapter is quite mature (old...50 years?) and has a lot of history, especially with reference to the name Corben. Every time you pass through the Dane County Airport (Truax Field) in Madison, you will be reminded of our presence by the great full scale replica of the Corben Junior Ace suspended from the south mall ceiling.

We also discussed the likelihood of holding flying events at an airport other than 87Y (Cottage Grove, where our Chapter Clubhouse is). We intend to hold the next Young Eagles events on Saturday March 10 at C29, Middleton Municipal Morey Field with a rain date the following weekend on March 17 at Morey's. Middleton has longer runways in great condition with no obstructions. It also is easy to find, has facilities such as parking, lobby, bathrooms, a conference room, weather information, an outdoors picnic & observation area with plenty of seating (compliments of the City & EAA Chapter 1389) plus a helpful and friendly staff at Morey Airplane Company.

This past weekend (Feb 4 & 5) we flew our first set of Corben Cadets. Sunday Don Ripp (in his Citabria) and Skot Weidemann (Luscombe) flew Jonie Fobes & Fred Leidel from Middleton Municipal Morey Field down to the restaurant in Janesville as a "flight of two". We were met by Rob Tweed and his passenger Al. On Saturday Rob flew Lowel Zirbel in his Lancair (I believe out of Madison).

Hopefully we will have some photos to post soon on the web site. We want all members to let us know if you want to get a ride with someone in the future. This new initiative is a way to share the experience of flight with everyone in the chapter who wants to experience the privilege of flying a small plane.

I've posted the following information in a general discussion on the Chapter 93 web site:

I (we) would like to make it easy for Chapter members to read about and get in touch with us to designate interest in getting a ride. I anticipate more detailed information should be available on the web site about who has volunteered to offer rides, a little bit about their background (pilot experience, what they have flown, what they might be building, what they have available to fly in, etc.) Is there an easy and understandable way to open up communication through the web site?

If the Web is not simple to navigate, perhaps we can go back to basic email & telephone communication. David Ripp (our web site manager) has volunteered to come to a meeting to discuss how to make the best use of our chapter web site.

Aviation Explorer Post 93 Jim Lins

Twelve potential explorers and five adults attended the latest meeting on Monday, January 30th. Tina Hartlaub, a flight instructor and ATP pilot for Wisconsin Aviation, gave a very good presentation on weather. The explorers elected three officers: president, vice-president administration, and vice-president programs. The secretary and treasurer positions will be filled in the near future. The next meeting will be Monday, February 20th, and an Air National Guard military pilot will be the speaker. Ron Dorn, the main organizer of the post, is trying to schedule a Saturday tour of the Dane County air tower for the explorers. Because of Ron Dorn and Dayton Sederquist, two Chapter 93 members, the organizing of the post is proceeding smoothly and swiftly. So far, five adults have applied to be post advisors. Four of them are Chapter 93 members.

Telluride trip Jeff Plantz

I got old this year, 60. So Patty surprised me with a ski/snowboard trip to Telluride Colorado for my birthday. She talked my friend Don Smith to fly 8 of us out on his Pilatus PC 12. A 1700hp turbo prop with service ceiling of 30,000 feet and a cruise of 267 kts. This is an all-weather cruiser. We met Don at the Oshkosh Seaplane base where we volunteer in the first aid area a few years back. This is my third trip with him, usually we attend National Ski-patrol meetings in Utah or Colorado. It is pretty wild to see OAT temps between -40 - 50°C and although it is pressurized to always be aware of cabin pressure. As an emergency descent would be pretty exciting while grabbing the oxygen masks up front. The airplane is very docile on landings and the reversing Beta prop allows short ground rolls and even the ability to back up! On the trip out, we cruised low (22,000 ft.), with 72 knot headwinds. The trip back was better at 27,000 ft. and about 3 1/2 hours TEX to MSN.



Cockpit view TEX (Telluride Airport)
One way in RWY 09 with a 12 knot Tailwind



View of R/W 09/27 TEX from ski hill 10 miles away.



Flight to Telluride Co. Jan 6-10



The end of R/W 09 10 miles away a Box Canyon.....so no go rounds!

"Chatting with Chapters" Don Ripp

Hello Chapter 93 members, family, friends & guests;

Welcome to the "Chatting with Chapters" column this month on its inaugural debut in the February issue of the Corben Courier newsletter. This monthly column I hope will allow you the reader to take a step into other area Chapters to get a feel for the programs, events, sponsorships and activities of some of our neighboring Chapters. I hope to bring forward event dates worthy of notation on your home "Aviation Event Calendar" and introduce you the "Chapter 93" member to other chapters in the area.

So for this month say Hello to Chapter 93, sound familiar? It should! This is your chapter of Madison, WI. Chartered with EAA in 1962, and with a Chapter clubhouse, located at Blackhawk Airport in Cottage Grove. Monthly meetings are held typically the 3rd Thursday of the month at this clubhouse (7p.m.) See Newsletter or Website (www.93.eaachapter.org) for meeting time or location changes. The Chapter President is Mr. Rob Tweed (rob.tweed@madisonrt.com) and welcomes your thoughts.

Chapter 93 has a "rich" history of getting it done with the membership pulling together on projects such as to build and operate a number of handicap trams for EAA-Oshkosh ("before it was called Air Venture"), Build a "full scale" replica of the Corben Jr. Ace that is now on display in the passenger terminal at Dane Co. Regional Airport, many a Brat 'n Bean Fly-Ins at Blackhawk Airport, at least two Young Eagle events a year and sponsorship of the EAA B-17 or Ford Tri-Motor Aircraft on their visits to Madison. The chapter offers an annual Scholarship to " solo-student pilots" to help further their aviation education and flight training. And the sponsorship of Explorer Post 93 in which young adults can search and experience interest in aviation related carriers. A new program just initiated by member Skot Weidemann and President Tweed will give the opportunity to the non-pilot members of Chapter 93 to go for a flight with a pilot. This is called the "Corben Cadets" and has proven to be fun for those already flown.

One up and coming event will be the Chapter Banquet this Saturday the 11th of February at Rexes Innkeeper in Waunakee so plan to attend and start the Chapter 93 year off with a celebration with fellow chapter members and friends.

(For details and reservations contact Scott Nolinske at snolinsk@quarrastone.com or call him at 273-2586.

Next month's Chapter will be EAA Chapter 1177 out of Palmyra, WI.

Young Eagles Earl Martin

There are 5 steps that a Young Eagle candidate can do and they are as follows:

1. Young Eagle Flight
2. EAA Student Membership
3. Sporty's Complete Flight Training Course
4. Young Eagles First Flight Lesson
5. Flight Training Scholarships

Help me provide the first step to energize a young person to a possible career in aviation. This year's first Young Eagle Event is being planned for the 10th of March with a rain date of March 17th. I am putting a call out for volunteer pilots and ground crew. If you can help out contact Earl Martin at 608-825-3286, Cell 920-255-0094 or email earlpmartin@excite.com.

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