

CORBEN COURIER

Chapter Meeting January 15 at Blackhawk Airfield



Please plan to attend our next Chapter 93 monthly meeting on Thursday, January 15 at our clubhouse located at Blackhawk Airfield. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. You won't want to miss this meeting for several reasons. First, the meeting will feature a presentation by Dr. Aaron Beck, an Aviation Medical Examiner (AME). Dr. Beck will share with us his thoughts on how pilots can put their best foot forward when preparing for and undergoing a biannual flight medical exam. He will also address any questions that arise from our audience regarding aviation medicine.

Another reason for attending this meeting is the fact that this will be our last monthly meeting in our Blackhawk Airfield clubhouse. This home of ours for Chapter 93 has served us well for many years but the time has come for a change. We will be discussing the interim and longer term facility plans for Chapter 93 at this meeting as well.

Finally, there will be a number of surplus items that Chapter 93 members may take with them. These items will be staged in the hanger portion of the structure and members are encouraged to look over the items and take home ones of their choosing. The hanger will be open at 6:30 PM for this activity so plan to arrive early if you are interested in acquiring some new loot!

- Rob Tweed

Out with the Old, In with the New

From this title and our fresh start with the New Year you might be thinking I am referring to cleaning out closets, replacing bad habits or redecorating that bathroom that has lingered on the to-do list for the last 12 years. While the New Year does serve as some extra motivation to nudge us out of our natural proclivity for procrastination, I am actually referring to the replacement of the 12-volt battery in the Lancair. What's the big deal you might ask? People swap out batteries like members of the Hollywood elite change spouses. But this was a big deal for me. Read on to learn why...

Back in the mid 90's when N96RJ was pretty much just a dusty dream in the making, it was time to dig into the somewhat challenging tasks of getting that retractable landing gear swinging up and down under its own power. Time to add some hydraulic cylinders, aluminum tubing, servo valves, wiring and a power pack to provide the hydraulic pressure to make the system work. A 12-volt power source was needed to get things moving and a cheapie battery from Farm and Fleet was installed as a temporary unit to use for the many landing gear test runs up and down and seemingly endless tweaking here and there to get everything working properly.



Eventually it came time for the Farm and Fleet battery to get a much-needed break from all the monotony of driving the gear up and down. Time for a lighter, flight-worthy battery, but which one would get the nod? The year was 1997 and I was looking forward to speaking with the various battery vendors at Oshkosh to see if I could find one to meet my needs. Bill Bainbridge at B&C Specialty Products highlighted the key features of their BC100-1 battery. I have to admit I was a bit skeptical about the battery, given its small size and light weight but I decided to purchase it anyway,

somewhat expecting it to be swapped out for something more substantial down the road.

This “little battery that could” served as the power source for the countless system tests during the remaining 4 years of N96RJ's construction. It has also performed flawlessly since its first flight more than 13 years ago! Truth be told, it probably would have happily served me well for another 5 years or more. There is no need to tempt fate, I thought, so the battery was finally relieved of its duties last month. Its replacement was another BC100-1 from B&C, of course. Don't you just love it when you are surprised and delighted by a purchase that winds up exceeding your expectations by leaps and bounds? Fun stuff indeed.

Happy New Year to all of our Chapter 93 members! Let the flying fun begin in 2015!

- Rob Tweed

Chapter 93 Dues

This is a reminder to new and renewing EAA Chapter 93 members that our annual dues are being accepted by Jim Lins our treasurer. As an incentive one lucky member will fly with me or Patty to Christy's on Lake Waubesa for lunch. ONLY ONE entry per person, winner will be announced at the February meeting at Morey Airport, 3315 Delta Lane. Jeff Russel will be talking about his adventures to Idaho and many other exotic places in his Super Cub. Most of the presentation will be true.

- Jeff Plantz



Your dues payment automatically enters you for a chance to win a ride in this airplane to Lake Waubesa!

MAAC Banquet 2014

The MAAC (Midwest Antique Aircraft Club) Banquet was held on November 8th at the Holiday Inn in Fond du Lac. The meal was very good as usual consisting of rib eye steak and chicken amandine, baked potato, green beans and dessert. Jay Baeten started the awards part of the program by awarding trophies for the best restored aircraft at the Brodhead fly-in. They had an auction next which consisted of a headset, an autographed picture of, you guessed it, aircraft and some flying manuals. I believe that the head count for the evening was about 80 people. I almost forgot the door prizes and there were a lot of them. When your name was called you went over to the door prize tables and picked something of interest to you. There were tee shirts, books, videos and all kinds of aviation things to choose from. The best part is getting to visit with people that you may have not gotten to see since last year and some that you got to talk to only a couple of weeks ago. Sorry but I have to say that I enjoyed myself as usual just plain visiting and doing what is it that everyone calls it again, oh, hanger talk.

- Earl Martin

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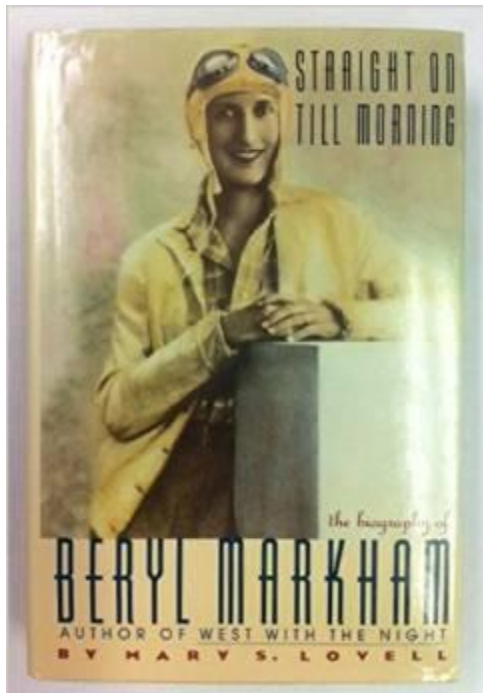
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Book Review

“Straight on Till Morning – The Life of Beryl Markham” by Mary S. Lovell, copyright 2011, W.W. Norton, N.Y., 366 p. plus 7 p. photographs, paperback.



Born in England and raised in Kenya, Beryl Markham raised and trained racehorses, and had many scandalous affairs. She was also a pioneering aviatrix. She was the first woman to cross the Atlantic from East to West, and the first person to cross the Atlantic from London to New York nonstop.

Beryl was good at many things: drinking, spending money, sleeping around. She had an affair with the Prince of Wales. Prince Henry fathered her son.

I started reading the book because it was about airplanes and pilots. I had trouble putting the book down because Beryl’s life, even the non-flying part, was so fascinating. Money was never a problem. There was always a generous male nearby.

The book I read belongs to my son, Jim. I very much recommend it as a good read.

- Fred Leidel

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