

# EAA 297 – KITTYHAWKERS NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 56

JANUARY 2024

NUMBER 1

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SATURDAY JANUARY 6th at 9:00 AM

### PRESIDENT'S PROPWASH

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Welcome to 2024!

Our December meeting and Christmas party was a grand success! The hallmark of Kittyhawker functions are laughter, great stories, fellowship, and food! We enjoyed all, and I am happy that so many were able to attend.



Our January meeting will also have some celebrating involved. First, EAA National has shipped service Awards and Pins which will be presented at the meeting. Second, it is Chapter 297's BIRTHDAY MONTH! On January 15th, 1968 eleven members chartered our Chapter in Wilmington NC. Today, December 18th, 2023, I renewed our Chapter membership with National EAA starting our 56th year as a Chapter in 2024. This is a testament to our original Charter Members, and to all our subsequent membership. Our continued enthusiasm and persistence have ensured that newer generations are introduced to the spirit and wonders of aviation. There will be a Birthday Cake to commemorate this milestone!

I look forward to seeing everyone at our monthly meeting, January 6th, 2024 in the No Whining Saloon at 10:00 AM!

Patrick Doyle

Proud member of EAA Chapter 297

"The Kittyhawkers"

Owner Bird of Play

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Our enthusiastic President Pat Doyle has asked that we hold a **Board of Directors meeting on Saturday January 6th at 9:00 AM**. This meeting will proceed our monthly chapter meeting and is open to all Chapter Members.

The topics to be discussed include:

- Review and finalize our 2024 events calendar.
- Changing our Sams Club membership card from "Standard" to "Business." This will allow our members access to the store in the early morning. This will alleviate buying inappropriate amounts of supplies for our fly-in's the day before.
- A possible increase in our Chapter membership dues. Our Treasurer is concerned about our chapter's solvency.
- Any other topic that Board Members or Chapter Members would like to discuss.

### CHRISTMAS CLUBHOUSE DECORATING

The No Whining Saloon, NC

On Sunday November 26th, Billy Hughes drug her husband Glenn into the clubhouse and started the project of decorating for the upcoming Christmas Party. They worked hard and accomplished most of the project.

## EAA CHAPTER 297

87 AVIATOR LANE, BURGAW, NC 28425

WEBSITE - <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea297>

FACEBOOK - EAA Chapter 297

PRESIDENT – PATRICK DOYLE	(910) 787-0545	doylepatrick1965@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT – SEAN SHEEHAN	(910) 431-6702	cptnchia@gmail.com
SECRETARY – JON PAYNE	(336) 263-4956	payneja@protonmail.com
TREASURER – BOB MCGOWAN	(910) 367-2963	rmcgowan681@gmail.com
YOUNG EAGLES – RON HERRSCHAFT	(610) 585-5094	ronherrschaft@gmail.com
SAFETY OFFICER – PHIL ELLISON	(910) 352-5704	idellpge@gmail.com
WEB EDITOR – WADE HANCHEY	(910) 297-7830	whanchey@gmail.com
NEWSLETTER – MARK THOMAN	(910) 577-5446	mchawkthoman@outlook.com
MASTER CHEF – KEN MCGEE	(910) 200-1878	ken@mcgee-cadd.com



As requested by Ella Rhodes, the rest of the working party arrived on Monday morning. When we arrived, Billy was already hard at work, but by then most of the project was complete. She was finishing the final touches to the table decorations. Ella's Granddaughter Jessie arrived a short time later and happily decorated the Christmas Tree. It is a project that she loves to perform and she did a beautiful job. Pat Doyle and Mark Thoman were left to the tasks of vacuuming the deck and scrubbing the bathrooms.

By the time we were finished the clubhouse sparkled and was declared ready for our Christmas celebration.



### CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY

The No Whining Saloon, NC - Mark Thoman

It was dark, damp, and rainy, but that did not dampen our spirits as we gathered to celebrate our annual Christmas Party. The volume grew as the gang gathered in the clubhouse, and we enjoyed our refreshments. While our members greeted each other the table of delicious dishes grew. Phil Ellison brought a quart jar of moonshine to share and I unsealed a bottle of Proper Irish Whiskey. There were lots of grins as we sampled the potent liquid.



Our Master Chef Ken McGee was carving his baked turkey while Wade Hanchey was "pulling" his barbecued pork. Aided by Sean Sheehan, I sliced my slow cooked brisket. (Sean was happy to help so that he could sample some of the tender beef. He determined, with a smile, that it was, "fit for consumption.")





We had guests join us in our celebration. Justin May brought his Grandfather Milton to join the festivities. He served our country as a US Marine during the Korean war, and he survived the battle of the Chosin Reservoir. Over a toast of Irish Whiskey, he told us of some of his adventures.



Wes McPhee, and his daughter Rebecca, joined us from Jacksonville. Wes is also a Marine, but more importantly, he is in the final stages of completing his RV-4 after many years of construction. He learned about our chapter and wanted to join in the fun. We are all very interested in hearing his stories and helping him to complete his goal.

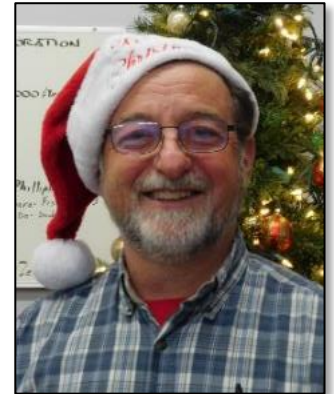


With the dishes ready to serve Ken McGee gave the feast a beautiful blessing and then dinner was served. Our ladies certainly out did themselves again this year. I witnessed several guests with plates that were overflowing with samples of most everything on the serving table. We enjoyed the food along with the conversations. The dinner was outdone by the selection of delectable deserts, that were disappearing rapidly.

Following dinner, our illustrious President Pat Doyle held the formal meeting part of the evening. He thanked our members who decorated the clubhouse and all those who contributed to the delicious feast. He then

announced the slate of chapter officers for the upcoming year. He recognized the new officers and noted that they will look pretty familiar. And that is because all our current officers have agreed to serve in their present capacities for another year. Thank you all for your continued service.

And a special note of appreciation must be made to our current and future President Pat Doyle. He has ably led our chapter for the last year with humor and enthusiasm. We have all enjoyed his infectious spirit and he has made our chapter a fun and lively organization! Thank you, Pat!



Pat then introduced the emcee for the evening and the White Elephant Gift Exchange got underway. The rules of the exchange were reviewed and the amendment encouraging bribes was clarified. The first card was drawn and the exchange got underway. There were several memorable gifts that were unwrapped. Ben LeFever and Bob McGowan both selected Piper Cub ball caps that were embroidered with "Grandma" on the back. Sean Sheehan opened a detailed metal model of a motorcycle that was over two feet long. (I am not sure where that will be displayed in the Sheehan home, but I am sure that there was an interesting conversation when Sean brought it home.) A decorative wooden propeller made the rounds. Sean opened it first and then it was stolen by Ben, and then Gary Henderson. Finally, Natalia stole it back for Ben. (The judge was bribed several times in there.) And finally, Don

Rhodes won the coveted "Horses Ass" trophy. This treasured gift has made the rounds for several years since it was first unwrapped by Billy Johnson. Don can proudly display it for this year and then look forward to rewrapping it next year. And we will all enjoy the surprise and chagrin of the unsuspecting recipient.

Our Christmas Party was a resounding success and it put a memorable cap on an active year for EAA Chapter 297. As our President says often, we are a fun and active chapter. We gather an extraordinary collection of flying experience and mechanical expertise. And we have lots of fun along the way. Thank you all for your participation!

#### **NEW/OLD CHAPTER OFFICERS**

Stag Air Park, NC - Here is the roster of chapter leadership for 2024.

President	Patrick Doyle
Vice President	Sean Sheehan
Secretary	Jon Payne
Treasurer	Bob McGowan
Young Eagles Coordinator	Ron Herrschaft
Safety Officer	Phil Ellison
Web Editor	Wade Hanchey
Newsletter Editor	Mark Thoman
Master Chef	Ken McGee

Chapter Board of Directors: Along with the Chapter Officers, the following additional members constitute the Board of Directors.

John Wood  
Tom Goodwin  
Eric Staton  
Hensen Benn

A hearty THANK YOU to all who have served our chapter in a leadership position.

#### **LADIES DAY LUNCHEON**

Stag Air Park, NC – We will hold our annual Ladies Day Luncheon at 12:00 PM on Saturday, February 3rd. Our Master Chef will be creating another culinary surprise. We hold this luncheon to express our appreciation for the significant efforts that our ladies make to the success of our chapter. Gents, please make sure that you inform your lady, and please encourage her to attend.

Be forewarned... If she later learns of the event, and you did NOT tell her, than you will likely be back in the dog house.

#### **OIL COOLER IN THE CUB**

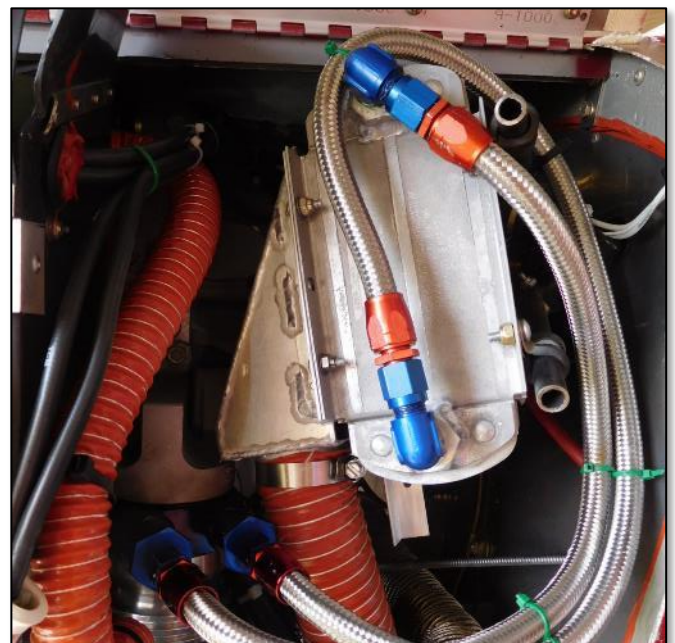
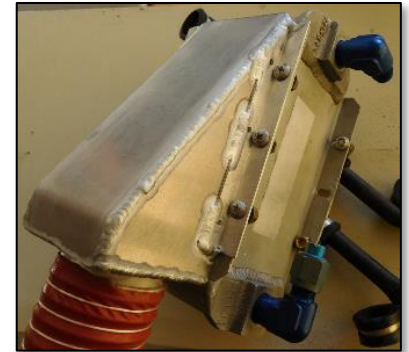
Stag Air Park, NC - Since her return to flight Grandma has been plagued with the problem of consistently high oil temperature. The list of inspections, repairs, replacements, and modifications to the engine oil system would fill a textbook. But none have solved the fundamental problem. The only successful reduction in operating oil temperature came with cooler ambient

temperatures. But we all recognized that warmer temperatures were only a few months away, and that a more permanent solution would need to be found.

Our club President, and Master Mechanic, Phil Ellison finally concluded that the only way to lower the oil temperature was to install an oil cooler. We had an oil cooler that came with one of the engines that provided the replacement crankshaft, and Phil had been quietly studying the problem for some time. Before Phil and Ron Herrschaft began the actual fabrication of the installation, they decided to pressure check the oil cooler with compressed air before installing it in the airplane. That was a brilliant decision because the replacement oil cooler leaked! Much better to leak air than later leak oil while in flight! So, installation was interrupted while a brand new oil cooler was ordered.

In the meantime, Phil attempted to fashion a plenum that would connect a round air hose to the rectangular front of the oil cooler. He bent and riveted a plenum that would have worked, but....

Al Meadowcroft studied the home made plenum and put his welding talent to work. He crafted an aluminum plenum that looks like it was ordered from an aircraft parts store. It only needs a stamped serial number.



With all the necessary parts and hoses at hand the new oil cooler was installed in the space between the fire wall and the engine baffle on the port side of the engine bay.



(That's the left side for you land lubbers.) On the Monday morning after the Christmas Party, Phil tested the new oil cooler system during a 1.8 hour flight. He was very happy to report that the oil temperature did not go above 190 degrees during the entire flight.

Well done to all who contributed to this effort! And especially to Phil Ellison for his persistence and engineering expertise that has finally solved the problem.

### NEW MICROWAVE

No Whining Saloon, NC - During the wet and rainy Veterans Day Fly-In, the microwave in the clubhouse kitchen rather unceremoniously died. No master caution light, no audible warning, no flashing indication. It just died. Master Chef and Captain of the Kitchen Ken McGee immediately recognized the desperate, and almost emergency, situation that this failure placed on our chapter's culinary success. So, a "May Day" call was issued.



Many of our chapter members responded with offers of microwave ovens. One chapter member made the offer to march out and purchase a brand new one! All of you recognized the dire straits that this mechanical failure created, and your rapid and positive responses are sincerely appreciated! Scott Gerow happened to have a brand new microwave oven. His offer was readily accepted because he lives only a few miles from the clubhouse, and transport would be very simple. Thank you, Scott for your generous gift! We wish to express a hearty *Thank You* to all our members who made timely and generous offers. When next in the kitchen take a moment to inspect our latest installation, and enjoy Ken's next gastronomic experience.

### HOMEBUILDERS WEEK – ONLINE EVENT STARTS JANUARY 22

***An online opportunity to learn about building your own aircraft***

By Charlie Becker, EAA Homebuilt Community Manager

Homebuilders Week is an online opportunity to carry on the founding mission of EAA by sharing as much knowledge and information about building your own

aircraft as possible in five days. We start on Monday, January 22nd, 2024, and end on Friday, January 26th, 2024. Each day, we offer six live webinars back-to-back, starting at 11:30 AM (CST) and running every hour and a half until the last session at 7:00 PM (CST). The sessions are live and allow time for questions. To sign up for the sessions, visit [www.EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek](http://www.EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek)

The topics cover a wide variety of areas of interest to anyone curious about building their own aircraft. We try to make sure there is something for everyone, whether you are just considering the idea of building an aircraft, are knee deep in a project or getting ready for test flying. We even have EAA president Jack Pelton lined up on our anniversary date, January 26<sup>th</sup>, to talk about EAA's Advocacy efforts on behalf of the homebuilt members.

EAA Homebuilders Week coincides with the anniversary of the founding of the Experimental Aircraft Association in 1953. We have come so far since that first EAA meeting. Back then, information on homebuilding was sparse and hard to come by. I know that if our founder, Paul Poberezny, was still with us, he would give us a big thumbs up for this effort to support the homebuilder.

EAA Homebuilders Week is made possible through the generous sponsorships of Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Co., Dynon, and Scheme Designers, Inc.

Visit [www.EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek](http://www.EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek) to sign up.

Editor's Note: The complete schedule for the Homebuilders Week is available on the above website.

### FUTURE EVENTS

CAUTION: Individual events may have been cancelled or rescheduled. Please preflight your intended destination prior to departure.

#### January 2024

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Monday 1st   | New Year's Day  |
| Saturday 6th | <b>EAA 297 - Chapter Meeting, 10:00 AM, Stag Air Park No-Whining Saloon, Lunch 12:00 PM</b> |
| Monday 15th  | Martin Luther King Jr. Day  |

#### February 2024

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Saturday 3rd   | <b>EAA 297 - Chapter Meeting, 10:00 AM, Stag Air Park, No-Whining Saloon, LADIES DAY LUNCHEON, 12:00 PM</b> |
| Wednesday 14th | Valentine's Day   |
| Sunday 18th    | South Carolina Breakfast Club, Airport, (KGMU)  |
| Monday 19th    | President's Day   |

"Success at anything will always come down to focus and effort. And we control both."

- Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson



**CLASSIFIED**

**FOR SALE – AIRCRAFT**

**JH AIRCRAFT CORSAIR ULTRALIGHT** - Verner Scarlett 3V Radial Engine. [For more information TEXT \(910\) 723-5907.](#)  
To watch the first flight and learn about the aircraft click here:

[CORSAIR ULTRALIGHT FIRST FLIGHT - YouTube](#)

**HUMOR**



I saw this statue titled, "It Happens," outside an art studio in New Mexico. It accurately captured the uncomfortable experience that we have all endured.

**2023 PHOTO GALLERY**

