

CATFISH SQUADRON

EAA CHAPTER 797



Live Oak, Florida



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Chapter 797 Meeting

Tuesday January 21st, 2014

The monthly meeting (on the 3rd Tuesday) will be held at the Suwannee County Airport at our EAA Chapter Building at approx. **6:45 PM.**

Pot Luck Dinner will be at **6:00 PM.** All of our members are asked to bring a dish to share with everyone.



EAA 797 Morning Fly-In

The LAST Saturday of the month

January 25th

Free coffee and doughnuts

President's Message

Life is Like a Box of Chocolates

by Allen Rice

As I sit here pondering and struggling with writer's block, staring blankly at my keyboard, and thinking about what I could possibly write that would interest our members enough to read past the first sentence, Forest Gump and his iconic quotation "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get.", flashed into my walnut-sized T-Rex brain. I don't know about you, but Forest sure hit the nail on the head describing my life.

Which brings me back to a tan, shoeless, no-shirt kid of 11 in 1959 who had just moved from Philadelphia to Ft. Lauderdale after his father had died the previous year. Before we moved down, my uncle Joe, a Navy lifer, who loved to terrorize me, warned this northern boy about the mysterious and vicious swamp boys lurking in the badlands of western Broward County, exactly where we were headed! I was so scared that I wanted mom to stretch that 3 day trip down US 17 into 3 weeks, but there was no avoiding the inevitable. Boy, I'll tell you what, when we crossed the Florida line, I was searching behind every live oak and magnolia tree for a swamp boy, ready to bury myself on the floor underneath my brothers' and sisters' feet. This caused no small number of fights, disruptions, stops and back-handed smacks from mom as we burned up the 1400 miles over the Mason-Dixon Line at a blistering 45mph.

Alas, my mother's '59 Chevy wagon made it in record time and we found ourselves at our new house in SW Ft. Lauderdale- right on the edge of the Everglades!! Well, almost. There was a huge rockpit in our backyard, the state road 84 canal 1 block to our south, 5,000 acres of cow pasture on the other side of the rockpit and then the SWAMP.

Christmas Party

Everyone who attended our Christmas party had a great time. We all enjoyed delicious food and had some laughs during the Chinese gift exchange. BTW, who ended up with that tool box and beautiful glass bowl? They each got "exchanged" many times before the evening was over. Many thanks to Jean Calabrese, Reid Paget and daughters and Jean Wolcott for setting everything up and for seeing that everything ran smoothly.

Out-going President Reid Paget passes gavel to in-coming President Allen Rice.



Our honored guests – Vivian Leggett, Linda Isely and Dena Foster.



Dan and Fran Barnes!!!



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President's Message continued

In spite of my fear of the swamp boys and Huckleberry Finn's Injun Joe, who I was sure was still alive and had paddled down the Mississippi, along the Gulf Coast and was now hiding in the Everglades along with the blood thirsty Seminoles, I felt like I was in paradise. My rockpit and the 84 canal presented new adventures for me and my brothers, so we decided that we needed a boat to set off on our first exploration, face our fears, and find the swamp boys but hopefully not the murderin' Injun Joe.

To build a boat, we needed materials. The fact that we didn't have any money wasn't going to stop us from our first quest, so we 'borrowed' all the wood, nails, and tarpaper (don't ask about the tarpaper) that we would need from our unsuspecting neighborhood homebuilder. After a week of cutting and hammering we completed our first craft, launched it in the rockpit and it promptly sunk. We could never figure out how a wood boat could sink. That was when at the ripe old age of 11, I realized that I wasn't a naval architect.

Undaunted, I rode my Columbia cruiser down to the corner pharmacy and picked up a copy of 'Science and Mechanics' magazine. Low and behold, there inside the magazine were the plans for the most beautiful Ion boat that I'd ever seen.

After requisitioning some more materials, we completed that first vessel and enjoyed blasting all over the rockpit and up and down the canal, terrorizing everyone that lived along the New River. Always pushed along by dad's old 3hp Evinrude on the transom, at least until we didn't have an extra \$0.29 for another gallon of gas. What a summer we had exploring this strange new land swimming, fishing, and racing the rich kids in their Boston Whalers!

From that point on I knew that I was a builder and just couldn't wait to complete my current project so that I could start on the next. Just a short 54 years later, after building 6 boats, 10 cars, 100 plastic models, 40 radio control planes and an almost finished RV-9A I'm still lusting over the next challenge and occasionally wonder how this swamp boy would have turned out if we hadn't made that journey down Hwy 17. Like Forest said, it's all about the box of chocolates.

Words to live by:

....If you find it hard to taxi, try putting your gear down.

Places to Go – Jan/Feb

EAA 797 Meeting

TUESDAY January 21st at EAA Chapter Building Suwannee County Airport at approx. 6:45 PM. Dinner at 6:00 PM. Members are asked to bring a dish to share.

EAA 797 Morning Fly-In

January 25th

Free coffee and doughnuts 8:30 – 10:30

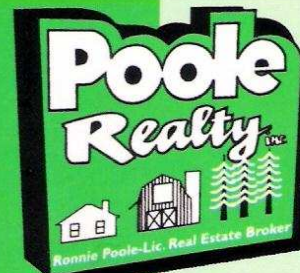
Saturday, Feb 1, 2014 – Keystone Heights, FL.

Wings of Dreams Fly-In/Cruise-In Breakfast

Breakfast Buffet to benefit the Wings of Dreams Aviation Museum - 8 am to 10:00 am. \$7/person - \$4 for kids 9 under - Complimentary breakfast for WWII and Korean War veterans. Breakfast buffet: scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, grits, biscuits, fruit, juice, coffee. "Fly into History" program - "Remembering Iwo Jima" - Presentation by Bob Gasche, WWII veteran and Iwo Jima survivor. 10:00 a.m. after fly-in - Guided tours of museum and historic space artifacts. Porsche sports cars displayed on the ramp.

SAVE THIS DATE!

Saturday, Mar 15, 2014 – Lake City, FL.
6th Annual Shamrock Fly In



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