

CATFISH SQUADRON

EAA CHAPTER 797



Live Oak, Florida



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President: Dave Holmes
817-308-9752

Vice President: Shaun Freeman
386-647-6477

EAA Mailing Address: 13344 80 Terrace Live Oak, FL 32060

Secretary: Ronda Holmes
817-308-9752

Treasurer: Dan Calabrese
386-362-6655

Web Site Editor: Timmy Lee

Newsletter Editor: David Poirier

Mailing Address: 22015 117th Dr.
386-479-4107 O'Brien, FL 32071

Web Site www.eaa797.net

Chapter 797 Meeting

Saturday May, 20th

The monthly meeting will be held at the Suwannee County Airport at our EAA Chapter Building at approx. **10:30AM**. Pot Luck Brunch will be at 10:00AM. All of our members are asked to bring a dish to share.



Front Page of *The Suwannee Democrat*
May 3, 2017

EAA 797 Morning Fly-In

The LAST Saturday of the month
(Almost)

May 20, 2017

8:00-10:00 AM

Wings Over Suwannee 2017

We may very well have started something here. The weather was hot. It was very hot, but they came. The public showed up in droves for our second installment of what may turn out to be EAA Chapter 797's flagship annual event. I hope we can secure another good chairman for the next year because our debriefing revealed many areas needing some improvement, along with opportunities to expand our event and area influence.

The fifty year anniversary celebration we held in 2016 was a good introduction to the civic organizations that can ally with us to help build a great event, and WOS 2017 seems to have built upon and cemented those allegiances.

The community opinion is showing up in the newspaper lending more credibility to our efforts. Thomas Lynn reported: "The event was hosted by the Suwannee County Airport and Greg Scott, parks and recreation director, said it went off very well. "We had a very good crowd show up. It was around 3,000 people or more throughout the day," Scott said. "The coolest thing for me is the expression on the kids' faces when they come out of those planes. Their excitement and thrill is just amazing.""

According to Allen Rice, WOS 2017 Chairman, the food vendors were very impressed with the potential and have asked to return next year. It

seems they all sold out... Being able to establish the viability of the business opportunity will only further solidify our negotiating position for future events with the possibility of expanding our culinary choices.

It was estimated that over 3,000 people attended WOS 2017. If they each tell two friends, we will surely have our abilities and talents put to the test. I see this as quite possibly a pivotal moment for Chapter 797. With a growing history of successful and interesting events occurring at Suwannee County Municipal Airport, we are being noticed as leaders within our community. We are being noticed in both the local scene as well as the aviation community. This is evidenced by the city of Carrabelle requesting our help with their event, the cooperative effort undertaken with Cross City and the trust clearly extended by local civic leaders.

I am proud of us all for having the organization and drive to get this far. I extend my sincere appreciation for all the help and assistance provided by our member volunteers. I expect good things for our chapter's future.

Editor

Naylor's Instrument Service, Inc.
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Young Eagles Report

WOS was a great platform from which to introduce kids to flying through our chapter's Young Eagles Program. It was advertised and appears to have been a draw to the event. The preliminary count was off just a little. We flew a total of 194 Young Eagles and 2 Eagles flights.

The break down follows:

Bill Lagoni	54	Larry Bothof	40
Alex Melia	25	Tucker Rice	24
David Nickels	23	Rick Gilbride	12
Jeremy Williams	11	Dennis Wolcott	3
Dave Holmes	2		


Bill and Tucker flew one eagle each.

Including the 50th anniversary back in 2016, we have flown 394 Young Eagles and 23 Eagles in a little over a year.

Bill Lagoni reports that he has been recognized as having flown over 100 Young Eagles by EAA national. They have requested materials from him, and I assume that he will be recognized with a certificate and possibly a shirt and hat pin. Bill has flown 124 kids in our chapter events since March, 2016. His participation and dedication has been apparent to those of us working with him. I want to thank him for being an example to us all.



This Young Eagles event allowed us to rise to yet another challenge. Someone was overheard saying that they wouldn't give a ride to Logan. It was a resigned consoling comment. Tina quickly asked who Logan was and the boy stepped aside to reveal his brother in a wheelchair. Without hesitation, Tina handed another form out. She said, "Not without the paperwork." Bill said he was good to go and they managed to get Logan in and out readily. Logan's brothers got to ride with him and they were all pumped up by their flight. This is why we do it.



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WOS has revealed some things that I will need to address to improve our Young Eagles program. I have pilots that want more interaction before the flight and pilots that want less. I am open to ideas of how to best serve all. I have methods to apply that will reduce postage and materials cost. I will need a group of volunteers that are ready to dedicate themselves to the program. Expanding the service into a more comprehensive experience for the participants will require more hands on a regular basis at home field events. It would be best to have volunteers that helped formulate our program and were familiar with our objectives and processes.



Rick Gilbride from Canon Creek taking another lucky kid aloft

Larry Bothof flew down from Moultrie to help lighten the load.



One of the things that makes our program work is the effort put forth by our volunteer pilots. They put

hours of concentration forth to get kids their introduction to flight. They share their resources with complete strangers in a great example of generosity. Our program would get no-where without you all. Thanks!



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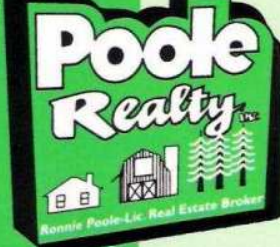
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 Entomologist
 E-mail: jeff@liveoakpest.com

386-362-3887
 call us toll-free 1-800-771-3887

17456 US HWY 129 South
 McALPIN, FL 32062-2561

News Wanted!

This is your newsletter. I am very happy to see that several people have stepped forward with their experiences to fill these pages. Let us know how your project is going or where you've been. It's your newsletter, let's make it about you.



Poole Realty, Inc.
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Vern H. Roberts
 Realtor

127 E. Howard Street
 Live Oak, FL 32064

Office: 386.463.4539
 Residence: 386.362.1982
 Cell: 386.688.1940
 Toll Free: 800.557.7478
 Fax: 386.364.4539

www.poolerealty.com
 vernr@poolerealty.com



Jeremy Williams Flew in from Canon Creek as a last minute addition. Thanks!



Suwannee Valley Flying Club News



The SVFC club fee structure is:

Flying/Pilot Membership: \$200 initiation fee,
\$40/month dues, \$40/hr airplane rental.*

Social Membership: \$10/month

The next SVFC meeting will immediately follow the EAA 797 meeting on Sat, May 20, 12PM. For the latest information on the SVFC check out Facebook/Suwannee Valley Flying Club.

*Flying/Pilot members must also belong to EAA 797 for \$15/year.

Allen Rice

Azalea Aviation LLC Happenings:

Friends,

This past Saturday Azalea Aviation held another BBQ Fly-In at 15J. Well....more like a drive-in. The weather was a bit spotty and threatening so we didn't have anybody fly in. However, that did not dampen our spirits or cool the grill! Being Mother's Day weekend the guys did all

the work. Larry provided delicious slabs of ribs while Paul brought his famous Boston Butt.



Several folks brought snacks and deserts. We were sparse but very well fed. There were lots of bones for Greg to take home to his dogs. Sorry if you missed out but don't fear. We are having another BBQ Fly-In on June 10th. If you show up early you can help out or drink some Corvair Coffee. We will be glad to have you. I'm not sure what is on the menu this next time...but its sure to be good!

Azalea Aviation LLC
170 Airport Rd.
Adel, GA 31620
(229) 834-8996
mail@azaleaaviation.com
azaleaaviation.com

Tailwind

I'm sure that I missed something or someone and I welcome healthy criticism. You can send comments, questions, ideas or articles to:

dave@davesflyin.com

