



EAA Chapter 827  
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[www.eaa827.org](http://www.eaa827.org)

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## Presidents Column

We have a beautiful old wood prop hanging over the pass through in our new meeting area. Here is the story of how it came to be there.

An old friend, Ed Lahikainen, recently moved to an apartment in Gardner, MA, where he grew up and spent most of his adult life. Cleaning out the barn in Monroe he realized there was no room for that old prop in his apartment, so asked me if I could find a use for it. I sure could.

Ed got into the training stream fairly late in WWII, trained in B-24's, then transitioned to B-29's and was on the way to the South Pacific when the war ended. He did his multi engine training in the UC-78, the old "Bamboo Bomber". The Air Corps had recently taken wooden props off the UC-78 and replaced them with metal ones. They had hundreds of the old wooden ones to give away and Ed went and got one. He had it shipped home to Gardner by the old Railway Express. (His mother wrote to say she hoped he wasn't going to send the rest of the airplane!) When he got home for a short leave six months later he found that during the time it was making its way from Texas to Massachusetts someone had removed the brass leading edges of the prop, leaving a series of holes. Over the years of handling the tips got a little ragged as well.

Bob Day took the prop home in October and brought it back in November. He filled the holes in the leading edge and painted it to simulate the original brass. The tips are sanded and everything painted. Probably looks better than it did when it was first bolted onto a UC-78. Now all it needs is a Hamilton Standard decal. Anybody got one?

If Saturday is anything like today it will be a real test for our insulated meeting room and the new heater. See you for breakfast.

Jim Corliss

### Monthly Chapter Meeting Dates, Times and Locations:

**Chapter Meeting -** This month's meeting will be at Millers Field on Saturday the 19th at the usual 9:00am starting time.

**Wagabond Builder's Group -** Most Wednesdays nights from 6:00 to approximately 9:30. Call Don Hansen for more info.

## Club House Decoration:

Below is the refinished propeller hanging over the window back to the kitchen. It really adds a nice touch to the décor.



## **In the News ...**

### **Solar-powered Aircraft Makes First Flight**

(from Flying eNesletter)

Solar Impulse, a Swiss-designed aircraft, made its first flight last week. Its developers hope to eventually fly the Solar Impulse around the world, but for now are satisfied with a "flea hop" of around 1,150 feet at an altitude of about three feet. Still, their first flight traveled almost 10 times as far as the first flight by the Wright Brothers, 106 years ago next week.

### **SpaceShipTwo Christened VSS Enterprise at Mojave event**

(from EAA eHotline)

Private commercial spaceflight inched closer to reality Monday as Virgin Galactic took the wraps off SpaceShipTwo, the VSS Enterprise, during a special unveiling event at the Mojave Air and Spaceport in California. More than 800 guests and media from around the world were on hand as Virgin Galactic Founder Sir Richard Branson and Scaled Composites Founder Burt Rutan pulled the wraps off the sleek space liner that will be the first vehicle to offer commercial suborbital space flights to the paying public.

### **Drowned 'Cat Raised From the Deep**

(from EAA eHotline)

Navy warbird reclaimed after 65 years in Lake Michigan

Another warbird from World War II has been plucked from the waters of Lake Michigan near Chicago after being submerged for decades. On Monday, November 30, a salvage company raised a mostly intact Grumman F6F-3 Hellcat from a depth of about 250 feet near Waukegan, just north of the city. The airplane sank in 1945 during a training flight for carrier landings.

According to a report by WLS in Chicago, the pilot was Lieutenant Walter Elcock, who is still alive and living in Atlanta, Georgia. His grandson was on hand when the Hellcat emerged from the water Monday and was given the honor of sitting in the cockpit.

### **Calling All ZODIAC 601XL/650 OWNERS**

(from EAA eHotline)

Earlier this month, the FAA halted the issuance of new airworthiness certificates to Zodiac 601XL and 650 aircraft because of its concerns regarding in-flight structural failures. EAA is continuing to work with FAA on solutions for builders, owners, and operators of these airplanes, and joins Zenith Aircraft in urging owners of the 601XL or 650 to make the recommended modifications to their aircraft.

To make sure any future solutions or recommendations include input from those who build or fly the aircraft, EAA has developed a short survey for owners of these airplanes. Zenith Aircraft will also carry this survey in an effort to reach as many owners of these airplanes as possible.



## Wagabond Builder's Group

Nothing seems to create major visual progress like the covering process. Suddenly where there was once only welded tubes and riveted aluminum there are now parts that look most decidedly like aircraft parts. We've started with the smaller surfaces to gain experience and knowledge of the processes involved before tackling the wings and fuselage. The covering materials being used come from Poly Fiber.



Top: Don and Lin work on adhering the fabric on the rudder with Poly-Tac.



Bottom: Don shows everyone how to properly rib-stitch. Not terribly difficult but not intuitive either. It is definitely a skill that requires practice to become proficient.