



EAA Chapter 827  
March 2009

[www.eaa827.org](http://www.eaa827.org)

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## Presidents Column

Chapter 827 was well represented at the Maine Aviation Forum on February 28. There were about 60 people there, representing about any aspect of aviation in Maine that you can imagine. Jim Jordan outlined the activities of the CAP in Maine and John Miller spoke on behalf of the Maine Air Museum in Bangor. I gave a brief overview of our Chapter activities. Probably the most entertaining presentation was the Powered Parachute Association. They had a slide show of their eleven day trip (cruise 26 mph, range 2 hr) delivering the Maine State flag to Kitty Hawk. Allan Tubbs rode down with me and we had a great day.

That evening our Chapter celebrated another year with the annual pot luck and get together at the Hampden Snowmobile Club. The food was terrific, as usual, and the entertainment was wonderful. Michelle did a great job with the setup and especially orchestrating the silent auction. The auction raised \$262 for the upgrade project at the clubhouse.

We will meet at the clubhouse Saturday morning at nine for breakfast. Remember how cold it was there at our December meeting? Tim has assured me that this Saturday will be much warmer. Spring is here, right? We need to spend a few minutes with event planning. Young Eagles, Fly-outs and meeting programs. With Tim's leadership I hope we can begin to prioritize the different aspects of the renovation and schedule the first of the work.

Dan has some very legitimate concerns relating to our legal and financial position. These questions should be discussed by the Directors. I will leave it to the Directors in attendance Saturday morning if they want to continue with a Board meeting or meet later in the month.

Jim Corliss

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

**Chapter Meeting -** This month's meeting will be held at Miller's field on Saturday the 21st at 9:00am.

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

## **Mid-Winter Banquet:**

This year's mid-winter banquet was attended by approximately 2 dozen members and guests. A lot of good food and conversation was had by all. This year a special thanks goes to Heidi Corliss, Clayton W. Smith and Sarah Flagg for performing for us after dinner. All three of them were able to showcase their exceptional musical talents. Thanks to Jim for asking them to come out and perform. It was a very nice way to end the evening.

## **Special Thank You:**

The Banquet acquisition, setup, and cleanup committee, would like to extend a special Thank-you to Michelle and Alan Tubbs for their help in setting up the hall and cleaning up afterwards. It made a big difference and was most appreciated.

I would also like to single Michelle and Alan out for their efforts to pull off the silent auction and the 50/50 raffle. Combined, these two events brought in over \$262 dollars for the chapter. Well done!

## **Last Month for Dues:**

This month I will be editing my mailing list to only include paid-up members. If you have not paid your dues yet and would like to do so, please send \$20 to Dan Coffey. Include you National EAA member number so that he can include it in our records.

## **Other EAA Members in our Area:**

Dan Coffey has recently come into possession of a list of all the EAA members in our area. According to Dan, there are a number of people in and around the greater Bangor area that are members of EAA but are not in our club. We might want to consider how to try and reach out to these individuals at our next chapter meeting.

## **Chapter Clubhouse and Hangar Fund:**

Don't forget that we are working on a fund to improve our chapter's newly acquired hangar and clubhouse. Any donations of time, materials, or money would be very appreciated and are greatly needed. The renovations we would like to make will ultimately result in home for our chapter that would serve our existing members as well as attract new members. Please consider donating. Chapter dues and Saturday morning breakfasts are not enough to cover our operating expenses much less any desired renovations.

## Winter Flying:

This month I thought I would include some photos John Miller took while flying to Sebago lake and landing on the ice runway they have. The weather looked to be perfect for doing some winter flying.



Above: Flying over Sebago lake. The ice runway is in the distance.

Below: Some of the airplanes out on the “ramp”



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

### **User Fees Proposed Starting 2011, Opponents Rally Forces**

(from AOPA online)

A segment in President Obama's budget proposal has opponents of general aviation user fees sounding the alarm. Page 129 of the budget "proposes repealing some aviation excise taxes and replacing these taxes with direct user charges." The charges, generally a synonym for fees to use specific FAA services—including air traffic control—are said to total some \$7 billion in 2011, which is about half of the total FAA budget. Critics of user fees claim that the current system of airline ticket taxes and general aviation fuel taxes is the most equitable method for exacting payment for government services rendered. Critics also maintain that establishing an infrastructure for billing and collecting the user fees would be difficult and unnecessary. The ticket and fuel tax mechanism is already in place. One apparent ally in Congress is Rep. James Oberstar (D- Minn) who serves as chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. His FAA funding bill H.R. 915 includes FAA financing via the current system. AOPA President Craig Fuller said, "We have been working constructively with the Obama administration and Congress about moving forward with air traffic control modernization and airport development. However, the warning light went on with the budget briefing documents and the plan for imposing billions in user fees on the aviation community."

### **Last dealer-sold Bonanza delivered to Cutter**

(from AOPA online)

Cutter Aviation accepted delivery recently of the last dealer-sold Bonanza from Hawker Beechcraft. The manufacturer said it decided to end its dealer network of what it calls the Executive Beechcraft line (Bonanza, Baron, and King Air C90) in order to maintain more control of the process. The Bonanza delivery marked the end of a 63-year relationship between the FBO chain and Beechcraft. Hawker Beechcraft will continue to sell Bonanzas, Barons, and King Airs through the company's sales representatives.

### **One-Size-Fits-All LASP Proposal Roundly Condemned**

(from AOPA online)

The TSA's Large Aircraft Security Program (LASP) reached the end of its comment period last week to a fresh round of raspberries—not only from the aviation peanut gallery but also from the state legislature of Alaska. State Senator Gene Therriault and Representative Mike Kelly proposed anti-LASP resolutions in their respective chambers. National Air Transportation Association President James Coyne called the LASP proposal "a troubling lack of knowledge and understanding of the general aviation community by the TSA." NATA has proposed that LASP be withdrawn. Echoing the sentiment that LASP profoundly fails to differentiate private from commercial aviation, AOPA calls the proposal "as unwise as it is unpopular."



## Wagabond Builder's Group

This month work continues on the fuselage sheet metal. The boot cowl is nearing completion as well as other miscellaneous covers etc.

Below: The boot cowl as viewed from the top and from inside the cockpit.

