



EAA Chapter 21 **NEWSLETTER**

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The Official Newsletter of
EAA Chapter 21
Evansville IN

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Saturday
May 13th — Chapter Meeting and Hanger Party
at Skylane Airport
Read a brief review on Page 3

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Flight Following and the State of ATC

Article contributed by Earl Schroeder

On the operational side of this, I'd just like to restate that loss of radar contact during flight following ops does not trigger SAR. Loss of radar contact and com together triggers notification of the supervisor, who notifies the operations desk for the ARTCC. Initiation of SAR is discretionary and will depend upon circumstances. The operations desk here in Indy told me just yesterday that most of VFR flight following lost contact cases turn up at their destinations. To me, this implies that folks using flight following will occasionally decide to just 'screw it', squawk 1200, and change freqs. If this is indeed the case, we are our own worst enemies, and are in essence crying wolf.

VFR flight following can be initiated within radar coverage, but you can also make position reports with FSS in non-radar areas when on a VFR flight plan. Obviously, contact with the FSS must be available.

And now, what you've all been waiting for, the political hour!

ATC is short staffed and about broke. One of the solutions they came up with is to use less people when things are slow. As I understand the system, in the enroute centers each of the 4 strata of a given sector was intended to be staffed by 3 people. When things are slow, like the dead of night in the middle of nowhere, those different strata and even different sectors can be combined such that one person is covering all the positions. Hence, one bleary eyed controller might be responsible for airspace that was covered by a dozen or more people earlier in the day. To a point, this is a good procedure. Unfortunately, it got pushed too far and operational errors increased. The response was to go back to full staffing all the time, so there is now typically more likelihood of getting flight following. Of course there is a lot more overtime being made now at the broke agency. The new contract will include a 'B' scale for new people that greatly mitigates their career earning potential in an effort to cut expenditures. This isn't going to help recruitment of new controllers, and a quarter of the controllers currently on staff will be eligible to retire within the next year. The short sighted politicians have trashed the situation (starting with rolling all the discrete funding schemes into the general fund lo those many years ago), can't seem to solve it, and want to make the whole stink go away by dumping user fees / privatization on us.

Not that I have an opinion on the subject....

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May 13th — Chapter Meeting and Hanger Party

Minutes were not taken but here is an off the cuff synopsis. The meeting was held at new hangar of Steve Eberhart, Larry Helming and Sue Glisson at Skylane Airport. About 45 members and guests attended. Weather was not good for flying and only two to three planes came in that day. Helming's new RV7 was one of them. Members ate everything in sight as keeping the weight and balance under control did not seem to be the theme for the day. Hamburger and Brats were the main entrees and chocolate covered brownies the primary desert. President Keith thanked everyone for coming.

Larry Helming, secretary.

Chapter 21 Monthly Balance Sheet

May 2006

April 25, 2006 Beginning Balance \$2,892.15

Receipts

Interest May \$0.55
Dues \$175.00

Disbursements

May Newspaper print -\$51.15
May Office Rent -\$10.00
Stamps -\$7.80
West Host Inc. -\$29.85

May 25, 2006 Ending Balance \$2,968.90

Phillip Dawes, Treasurer

Note: \$40.50 in reserve for Bud Starnes Fund

Notice: Dues are now past due.
Please send your dues to

Phillip L Dawes
10505 Hillside Rd.
Evansville, Indiana 47720

You can tell if your dues are due by looking at the label and seeing the four digit number. It should be 2006 or higher.

Unfortunately we will have to discontinue your newsletter if not received by Mar. 20, 2006.

EAA Chapter 21

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Address Service Requested



Upcoming Chapter 21 Events

Wednesday

June 14th — Chapter Meeting — Bizal's Hanger

7:00 pm