

EAA CHAPTER

80

NEBRASKA IOWA



NEWS!

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[www.EAA80.org](http://www.EAA80.org)

January 2011

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**Are we pilots or button pushers with a view?**

I was looking through all the aviation email I receive and found a flight demo video on the new Eclipse jet. The pilot talked about how the jet has delivered on his dream of flying high and fast. However, even though there was a lot of high and fast flying on the video, there was also a lot of interacting with and viewing of fancy electronic equipment. I got the feeling that the pilot was happier playing with the electronic gadgets than he was flying the plane. In fact, he even demoed how after takeoff the autopilot could do everything else. All he had to do was turn a few dials and select some buttons and the plane would climb at a set speed to a set altitude, then level off and fly where the equipment told it to go - I mean where the pilot told it to go.

All I could think of while viewing this video was "this is not flying". This pilot could get the same thrills by buying one of those fancy flight simulators shown at Oshkosh the last few years. Of course those come with a transportation drawback - you physically end where you started.

I understand the pull to bigger, better and fancier aircraft. My flying career followed that path - Cessna 150 to jets to multi-engine bombers. Each successive aircraft had more complicated systems along with greater capability. But, that was all back in the good ole days (over 22 years ago) before GPS, glass cockpits and Cat III landing system autopilots. I will admit that today's equipment would have come in mighty handy a few times in the good ole days.

My only concern is that all this new equipment may distract some pilots to the point of forgetting that they are still "flying" an aircraft. In the video mentioned above there were several minutes where the pilot never looked outside or at how his aircraft was performing. He spent most of his time showing how to program the electronic flight system. Now, I know his job was to show the capability of the aircraft and the EFS is a big part of the sale. Also, when people buy high end aircraft they want high end equipment to make the task of flying easier and safer. But, who was flying the plane? I think all of the programming of the EFS should have been done on the ground with a simulator used to show how to change routing info in flight.

So my questions for all of you are: How familiar are you with your electronic flight equipment? Are there times in flight when you realize you have spent

more time looking at the EFS then monitoring or actually flying the aircraft? If you have a plane with all the bells and whistles, when was the last time you spent quality time with the yoke in your hands?

For those of you with just plain planes like my 1972 Cherokee 180 - disregard all of the above and let's just go have some good ole basic flying fun!

**We have a new Chapter president and vice-president.** In case you missed the listing of officers on the front page, they are;

President - Bruce Callahan  
VP - Dale McClure

They volunteered the night of the Christmas party. It is funny though that we did not get a picture of them. I think we should all thank them for taking on the task of leading our Chapter for the next year (or maybe two, but we probably should not push it).

## January Meeting Time & Location

This month's meeting is Monday January 10th at 7PM at the **New Terminal Building at Council Bluffs Airport, Iowa.** I do not remember how many seats they may have so it may be a good idea to bring your own chair.

## January Program.

Our very own Kevin Faris (also our new Secretary) will be talking about the tracking of aircraft using the APRS - Automatic Package Reporting System.

**EVENTS:** (B) - Breakfast / (L) - Lunch  
1st Sat Chapter 1055 (B) (0800-1000) York, NE  
3rd Sat Chapter 569 (B) (0800-1000) Crete, NE  
Jan 29 14th Annual Chili Fly-in Greenfield, IA

**19th Annual Nebraska Aviation Symposium** January 26-29, 2011 in Kearney. See attached flyer for all the info.

**The 2011 EAA Calendars are in - get yours today!**

### Young Eagles

We have two candidates for our Chapter Young Eagle Scholarship program to attend the Air Academy in Oshkosh, WI. Come to the meeting to find out who they are.

## EAA TO HONOR AVIATION ICON BOB HOOVER AT AIRVENTURE 2011

Saluting his iconic aerobatic career along with heroic service in World War II, EAA AirVenture 2011 will honor Robert A. "Bob" Hoover with a special day of recognition on July 26. Hoover, EAA 21285, a 1988 inductee to the National Aviation Hall of Fame, is best known for his air show performances in a Shrike Commander and P-51 Mustang and a flying career dating back to World War II. EAA's "Tribute to Bob Hoover" Day will feature an afternoon air show with many of the legendary aircraft flown by Hoover over the years, in addition to programs chronicling his experiences and achievements

## HOUSE APPROVES NINE-MONTH FAA FUNDING EXTENSION

This week the U.S. House of Representatives passed a continuing resolution (CR) extending the FAA's current funding and revenue collection through September 30, 2011. If approved as expected by the Senate, this would continue funding the FAA at the FY2009 level and line items. The nine-month CR also means that the new Republican-led House may create an entirely new Reauthorization Bill rather than continue working on the old one. The legislation is included in a larger Fiscal 2011 continuing appropriations omnibus bill, H.R.3082

### It's that time again. 2011 Dues are due.

Please send your 2011 dues, which are \$25, to our Membership Coordinator, Craig Vinopal, at the following address:

EAA Chapter 80  
c/o Craig Vinopal  
17008 Decatur St.  
Omaha, NE 68118-2838

Checks should be made out to "EAA Chapter 80".



*EAA Chapter 80*  
December 13, 2010  
*Meeting Minutes by Photographs*





Experimental Aircraft Association  
- Chapter 80 C/O Hangar One  
12916 Millard Airport Plz.  
Omaha, NE 68137-4280



Kevin Faris had no idea at the time that he would be our January speaker.

Photo by Dick Austin



The best looking table at the party. Of course I might be bias.

Photo by Dick Austin

I would like to apologize to the out going president and the new president and vice (and their families) It seems that neither Dick nor I took a photograph of their table.