

EAA 493
Minutes of October 16, 2018 Monthly Meeting

The October 16, 2018 monthly meeting of EAA Chapter 493 was called to order by President Bob Reece at 7pm in the renovated conference room of the Terminal building, Mathis Field, San Angelo, Texas, on a cold rainy fall evening. Present were 19 members and 1 guest. The guest is Omer D Price, a long time resident of San Angelo, and a frequent flyer from his hangar at Ducote Air Park.

Bob Reece first addressed procedural matters. Upon voice vote, the Minutes of the September 2018 meeting of the Chapter were approved as published on the Chapter Reflector. Treasurer Andy Spinks gave the Treasurer's report (current balance of \$1,797.72 based on the most recent statement, plus additional sums for calendar sales), which was also approved by voice vote.

Old Business.

Bob Reece reported that he was working on the arrangements for the Chapter Christmas party, but the arrangements are not yet finalized. Bob will continue to follow this and report when the plans are all set. The Chapter Christmas party will constitute the Chapter's December monthly meeting, so there will be no meeting on December 18, 2018. Bob also reminded the membership to be thinking of officer elections. Typically the Chapter has elected officers for the ensuing year at the annual Christmas party. Treasurer Andy Spinks reminded the membership that he has agreed to remain on as Treasurer for the foreseeable future.

Next, Bob notified the membership that EAA National is preparing a manual intended to transition a newly completed homebuilt aircraft and its owner through the preparation for and completion of first flight and the 40 hour fly-off period/requirements.

Bob next opened the floor for announcements. Young Eagles chair Don Treadwell reported that he has new brochures for the Young Eagles Program. Also that anyone needing an application should contact him. Vice-President Ron Lentz reported that he had dropped off Young Eagles materials at several local high schools but has not yet received any further inquiries.

LeRoy Anderson reported that EAA and the FAA have been discussing raising the maximum weight limit for the Light Sport category to #3,600 pounds.

Tom Dufresne reported that the FAA has restarted the reimbursement program for qualified ADS-B installations. The program will run for 1 year or until the \$5,000,000 allotted funds are all disbursed (if less than a year). The rebate program, like the previous one, gives \$500 rebates to owners for installation of new ADS-B transponders or compliant ADS-B equipment. The rebate only applies to qualified installation of certified approved ADS-B equipment, and if the qualifications are met the rebate is available for installation in either Certified or Experimental Aircraft. See Tom if anyone has any questions.

There being no further New Business, president Bob Reece opened the floor for "old" Business. Whereupon, Nancy York pointed out that we are honoring a local airman, Omer D Price, who just turned 90 !! (which certainly qualifies as "old" business). Nancy led the Chapter in singing a rousing Happy Birthday! chorus to Omer D. Honoring Omer D is actually the main part of tonight's program. But prior to starting this portion of the meeting, the membership was invited to partake in the refreshments provided this month by Vice-President Ron Lentz. Don Treadwell

“emceed” the doings. Omer D stood and introduced himself, and with prompting from Don Treadwell, related his early flying experiences. Omer D started flying lessons in a J-3 cub in 1961. Back then the cost was \$7.50 an hour for the airplane (“wet”) and something like \$5 an hour for the instructor. It was not long before Omer D had his first airplane, a lightly used Piper Tri-Pacer. Omer told a few stories about his early flying years, including a memorable trip from west Texas to Florida and back. His next planes were a 1959 Piper Comanche 180, 5 years later a Piper Comanche 260, 5 years later a Piper Seneca I (twin), followed 5 years later by a Piper Seneca II (twin), which he kept for 20 years. Omer D (with help from his friend Larry Vetterman, a name we all know - Larry produced the exhaust systems on most of the flying Vans RV aircraft) built two Glassair aircraft, one with fixed gear and one retractable. The Glassair portion of his flying ended some time later when the aircraft was damaged on an emergency landing with a sputtering engine shortly after take-off. Turns out the fuel the fbo fueled the airplane with was contaminated with water. Later airplanes included several Mooney Rockets (he still has one) and a Vans RV-6 (which he also still has). Omer D continued his stories and flight experiences to a rapt audience. He is still an active pilot. When he sat down, Don Smucker recounted that some years ago Omer D had volunteered and flown his Mooney rocket with Don to Indiana in the middle of the winter to retrieve Don’s father in Indiana, who was recovering from heart surgery. Gerry Hatch also recounted another flight he was lucky enough to share with Omer D. Don pointed out that even at 90, Omer D is a fixture at Ducote Air Park, and flies more regularly than anyone else. Such aviation pioneers need to be congratulated, emulated, honored, and remembered!

Finally, the program was concluded with a showing of the October 2018 EAA Chapter Video Magazine. The video was entertaining and informative. As part of the video, the EAA announced that the Ray Foundation of Naples, Florida has provided \$1 million to fund the Ray Aviation Scholarship Fund. This new program will provide a scholarship of up to \$10,000 each for an initial class of 90 to 100 young people who are pursuing flight training. The scholarship program will be managed by EAA and administered through its chapter network. EAA chapters will be responsible for identifying youths for the Ray Aviation Scholars program and mentoring them through flight training.

Upon conclusion of the EAA video, the meeting was adjourned.

The next monthly EAA Chapter 493 meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, November 20 at 7pm at the renovated conference room of the Terminal building, Mathis Field, San Angelo, Texas.