

# ***EAA Smilin 'Jack Chapter 866 Newsletter***



***October 2025***

## ***President's Podium***



**1 October 2025**

**Chapter Members,**

**I trust everyone is in good health and high spirits. Last month's meeting was visited by Justin Hopman of the Airport Authority and the subject of reserving some land for the new EAA Chapter 866 Club House came up. Justin invited the Chapter over to his office to look at possible sites. I would like to do that this month (October) and would like to take up to three (maybe four) members with me. The only requirement would be that those interested have a hangar at and/or are flying out of Arthur Dunn Airport.**

**Occasionally, members will approach me with ideas of things that they would like to see or do. Recently, someone expressed a desire for a project that they could work on but in the past the idea of a chapter project was shot down. The idea occurred to me that members with active projects might invite other members to work on their**

project. A non-project member could be allowed to tighten a bolt (under supervision of course) and maybe go so far as to install a cotter pin or safety wire. If you are interested in this, let people know.

I was made aware that there is some confusion over the relationship between Rescue 1 (the fire truck) and EAA Chapter 866. This confusion was caused by assumptions being made without going directly to the owner of Rescue 1. Well, I'm here to tell you there is no relationship between Rescue 1 and EAA Chapter 866. That should clear up any confusion.

This month's topic videos will be about over-the-counter medications and take off speeds.

Take care all,

Come Fly with Me

Chris Fauver, President

### *September Chapter Meeting*

At this meeting we were fortunate to have Justin Hopman, Deputy Director of Titusville and County Airports update us on our airports.

Happening at KTIK – Runways 18/36 repaving job expected to wrap up and be open again by the end of October.

New control tower is now under construction.

Happening at X21 – will be getting a fuel farm that will be operated by the Airport Authority by July (2026 or 2027) and the runways 15/33 to be moved over 75 feet to the East, someday.

I think it is very considerate of Justin to attend a meeting of ours once and a while to keep us updated on our airports.

*Larry* nsltr ed

### Sept 6th 2025 breakfast



For a very humid, warm day, we had a nice group of 121 diners and approximately 36 or 37 airplanes. Several people commented on how nice our breakfasts are.

Becky and Herman



# ***Flying Tango to Breakfast: A Three-Plane Adventure***

A Morning Journey with Friends in the Skies

There's something uniquely exhilarating about combining the fun of flight with the simple joy of sharing breakfast with friends. On a typical summer morning in central Florida, off to the East, dissipating thunderstorms rolling inshore and disappearing as they hit the shore. Three planes, Carlos and his RV8, Mario with his Cherokee, and us in Tango (C172) prepared for takeoff, each piloted by our chapter members eager to enjoy both the journey and the destination. This time we're headed for Deland, only 42 miles northwest of our airport. Another simple breakfast adventure made possible by a trio of aircraft and a group of close friends.

One by one, we taxied to runway 33. After the takeoff we don't try to maintain visual contact, we use the Smilin Jack formation format and this formation is defined as, any time there are two or more airplanes from our airport going in the same direction on the same day! Below, mostly swamp and a few trees here and there and a few houses and fields, and we use the air-to-air freq. and give position reports while under way.

The weather was perfect—clear skies and gentle winds. Along the way, a smooth flight over and a lot of bumps on the way home with a few small showers in sight most of the time. The shared experience made the journey more meaningful than the meal itself.

So, this destination, Deland, decided to institute landing fines a few months ago and part of the agreement is that if you only make one landing there to patronize some entity on the field, The fines do not apply! So, we called the FBO and gave them the registration numbers of our planes and they are to inform the fining company who bill pilots from our ADSB reports who land there not to bill us. We'll see if that works! Over pancakes, eggs, and hot coffee, stories were swapped, and the camaraderie was great!

The return flight was leisurely, each pilot reflecting on the morning's adventure. Flying to breakfast with friends in three planes was more than just a meal—it was a celebration of friendship, freedom, and the love of aviation. For those who have experienced it, it's a tradition worth repeating; for those who haven't, it's a story to inspire future journeys.

When we got back we pushed the old C172 back in the barn and I noticed some oil leaking from under the cowl again and it looked like the same pesky leak that we thought we'd solved a couple of weeks ago. With the help of a lot of eyeballs of friends who hang out at our place the leak was narrowed down to the starter assembly and after a few days of working to get parts, we finally got what we needed and made the fix. Now it's back to flying again hopefully.

Oil leaks really bother me and I know that they rarely heal themselves, instead they usually get worse and if you run out of oil you might be landing at an undesirable place...

*Larry*

### **Editor's Note**

Every year when we hold the December meeting, sort of like an afterthought, we decide to hold the election of officers for the coming year. Does anyone else think that maybe we should do some planning before the December meeting which is only two meetings away concerning the selection of new officers? At one time there was a nominating committee for this. Maybe some discussion is in order about this. Eh?



**Anyone recognize this Smilin Jack chapter 866 member?**



**Remember this one? Eight of these folks have either moved away or passed away, pic from about 10 yrs ago**

### *Not Much News*

**This month I didn't solicit any stories from the membership of our chapter and consequently there are no stories this month.**

**I know Deborah will probably be starting to make arrangements for the upcoming Winter Party in January 2026. In December we'll probably be having elections for chapter offices and other than that I don't know of anything to write about.**

**Our monthly meeting is this Wednesday Oct.1, and the monthly breakfast will be this coming Saturday Oct. 4 see ya then.**

*Larry*

**EAA Chpt. 866 Chapter Officers**

**President Chris Fauver – 909 573 6030**

**Vice president Ottmar Thiele – 614 404 7588**

**Secretary Don White – 321 266 7410**

Treasurer Herman Nagel

Newsletter Larry Gilbert – 321 747 8576 [larryglbrt@gmail.com](mailto:larryglbrt@gmail.com)

## **Monthly Breakfast**

**8:00 am Saturday Oct. 4, 2025**

**Dunn Airpark (X21)**

**Titusville, FL**

## **Monthly Meeting**

**7:00 pm Wednesday Oct 1, 2025**

**Dunn Airpark (X21)**

**Titusville, FL**