

**EAA CHAPTER**

**80**  
**NEBRASKA IOWA**



**News!**

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

**June 2015**

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## Working the Bugs Out

*From our V.P., Chris Halfman*

I'm beginning to learn about owning a home built aircraft. Just a little. For instance: I thought once the plane was built and running, it would get easier. Well, it has..... but.....

I had been experiencing rough run-up on one mag (E-mag) on my RV-7A once in a while. I assumed it was me not leaning on the ground and getting the plugs wet. It seemed if I ran it lean for a bit, things cleared up. After my last trip back to my parents, I did an in-flight test of the mags. Wow. That got my attention. Something was not right. On the left mag, the engine would intermittently spit and sputter and scare the heck out of me. On the ground at Millard, I did an extensive run-up and decided I had no idea what was happening. I installed new plugs and nothing seemed to change. I was grounded.

After several run-ups, followed by discussions with the vendor on their way to Sun-n-Fun, I pulled the mag and sent it in for repair. They didn't find anything, sent it back with new plug wires. Ran differently, but not correct. This time I swapped mags and isolated the problem to the mag and not the wiring or anything else. After sending them back a second time, they replaced the coil. Supposedly they couldn't find anything wrong again, but replaced the coil and sent a circuit board back in the box in the event the coil was not the issue. It ran GREAT! I have only ran it up prior to rain rolling in and then have had two short flights, but it is nice to be back in the air after 3 weeks of going around with the vendor. It appears everything is being taken care of under warranty.

So..... Hopefully there aren't too many bugs left. There's 113 hours on the Hobbs, but the work is worth it!

Tom Mann had an excellent presentation on fiberglass construction and various methods for getting a light-weight yet strong layup. I always find it always enlightening to watch how someone who knows what they're doing completes a project after I've already made random attempts myself. Now, to make my go-fast sub-cowl out of fiberglass.....

The month of June Dr. Jon Vanderhoof will be talking to us about aerobatics at the membership meeting. The builder's meeting is hosted by Dale Botkin, June 27, 0900, at his house at 16624 Elm St. in Omaha. He is working on the fuselage on his RV-7. Please contact him ([dale@botkin.org](mailto:dale@botkin.org)) if you plan to attend. On June 20 we have a Young Eagles rally at Millard, 0800.

The July meeting presenter will be Mark Parry. He will give a brief overview of the aircraft services he provides and then a presentation on experience at Lockheed's Skunkworks.

Till next time!

Chris Halfman

# May Meeting Minutes

The general membership meeting was held on May 11, 2015 at Oracle Aviation. Meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Jerry Ronk.

**Guests:** Denny Daniels

**New members:** Chris Beran, Bob Alf, Shawn Farewell, John Lindinger and Jonathan Fant

**Minutes:** A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the April meeting.

**Treasurer:** Absent the treasurer, there was no treasurer's report.

**Membership:** We currently have 93 paid members. We'd like to get at least 100 this year.

**Young Eagles:** Some discussion was had regarding YE and Chapter 80 support for an all-day event, to be held at CBF in late August for the Red Tails group. There was not a lot of support expressed. Dale made materials available specifying pilot requirements and the 2015 YE schedule. Dale and Kathy Callahan each shared some YE success stories and a plea for more pilots to fly Young Eagles.

Lester is in Nebraska Skilled Nursing, stop by and see him if you can. A motion was made, seconded and approved to send some flowers to Lester.

**Tech Counselor:** Nothing to report.

**Flyouts:** Flyout to Orange City, IA (ORC) for a pancake breakfast on 5/16. It was observed that the date conflicted with a YE rally.

**Social Coordinator:** Chris reported on upcoming Builders Meetings and a brief description of the presentations for the next couple of meetings.

**Tool Report:** Tools are accounted for; Jim Beyer has the scales and Paige Hoffart will get them next.

**Builders Reports:** Dale Botkin is working on his [RV-7](#) fuselage. Ted Drefs is working on a [Zenair 750 Crusier](#). Fuselage is mostly done, tail is done, he's working on wings. TW just delivered the fuselage of his [Bearhawk Patrol](#) to a welder and is working on the wings. Rick Nordgarden is building a [Dragonfly](#) (a tandem wing composite 2-seater) from plans. Brad Safford is working on a [Zenith 601XL](#); it's on the gear but they're thinking about selling it.

**Old Business:** A vote was held to select the name of the empty seat/self-loading ballast program. "Silver Eagles" won by a fair margin.

**Announcements:** Oracle Aviation demolition is pretty much complete. They are currently operating out of a temporary office on the west end of the building. Jerry found and distributed some chapter award pins from 2012.

**Break**

**Presentation:** Tom Mann gave a very interesting presentation covering several methods of composite construction. These included vacuum bagging, vacuum infusion and membrane tubing infusion (MTI). He covered the materials and resins used as well as the tools, mold preparation and equipment needed for each. He passed around some samples of the various materials used. A copy of the presentation is [available](#) on the [EAA 80 web site](#).

## Meeting Adjourned

Dale Botkin  
Secretary



Tom Mann demonstrates vacuum bagging at the May meeting.

## Upcoming Events

**EAA chapter 17** (Ultralight) out of Omaha would like to invite EAA 80 members and guests to an upcoming event. They are hosting the Annual Nebraska Ultralight Gathering (ANUG) at the David City Nebraska airport (93Y) on July 10th, 11th and 12th. Camping is available to the north west side of the field. Fuel including 87 octane and 100LL will be available at the regular airport rate. Prizes given for furthest flown to the event and best aircraft.

**2015 NE State Fly-In:** June 5/6, Hebron Airport. Check [www.hebronairport.com](http://www.hebronairport.com) for details.

**Membership Meeting:** June 8, Oracle Aviation @ 7 PM, main hangar as always.

**YE Rally:** June 20, Millard Airport @ 8 AM. Let's hope for decent weather!

**Builders Meeting:** June 27, Dale Botkin's house (16624 Elm St.) @ 9 AM. PSE RSVP [dale@botkin.org](mailto:dale@botkin.org) so I can have coffee & donuts available.

**Oracle Aviation BBQ:** Oracle Aviation is going to have a BBQ when their new facility is complete. They are thinking the

end of July and they may need our assistance. We'll keep you posted.

## For Sale, Swap and Wanted:

**Jerry Ronk** has an inverted oil system for sale if anyone is interested. Call Jerry at 402-980-8973.

**Dale Botkin** has a couple of Bendix mags and possibly some other parts from an O-360 for sale. Call Dale at 402-896-6445.

## Builders Meeting

The May Builders Meeting was held on May 23rd at Tom Mann's hangar at Millard Airport. Your faithful newsletter editor's youngest son was getting married that day, so I wasn't there. I am told, however, that there was a good turnout.



Attendees get a good look at Tom Mann's Velocity

## Oracle Aviation Overhaul

Jack ran Hangar One for many years, providing a much needed service to Omaha area and transient pilots. As much as we may miss the comfortable, familiar old FBO, we would have to admit that things were... well... a little worn around the edges. Jack wanted to retire and the place was about due for a major overhaul. And boy, that's what it's getting now!

If you haven't heard or seen it yet, Oracle Aviation is in the middle of a complete remodel of the FBO facilities at Millard Airport. The old office and lobby area has been completely gutted, and some concrete and plumbing work was under way at the time of the May general meeting. Since then construction has been moving along briskly, with some new walls going up recently. Another notable feature will be the new fuel farm, with self-service 100LL and Jet A



after hours.

We're looking forward to seeing all the new features of Oracle when the work is completed! The FBO is temporarily operating out of the office on the west end of the main hangar building. You can see the progress of the construction on their Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/oracleaviation](http://www.facebook.com/oracleaviation)), or check their new web site at [www.oracleaviation.com](http://www.oracleaviation.com).



Out with the old at Oracle Aviation

New equipment makes meeting presentations more visible for all attending.





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