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PLANE

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Lt. Col. Philip Eddy Colman
December 1, 1921 - April 28, 2011

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January, 2012

PRESIDENT'S DESK

Al Nodorft

The beginning of another year and time to look back, and forward. First I want to thank all of you that have said thanks, good job, etc. this year. Your encouragement makes the job of being president very enjoyable.

I think Freeman Newman is the only one to complete and register a new plane this year. He has a nice looking Pitts S-1. Greg Connell takes the award for the most dramatic new plane with his Pitts Model 12. Some of our other members have bought and sold planes over the year, but I have lost track of who and when - sorry.

We lost a few members again due to death. Most recent was Wootten York in the crash of his Waix. Both Phil and Dorothy Colman died this year. Phil fought in both WWII and the Korean wars and in the process became a double ace. Ray Nault was not a member, but may have become one had he lived longer. He made one visit to our club and then died 2 days prior to our next meeting where he was to make a presentation.

We have also gained some new members this year, but I will not attempt to name you all as I am sure I would miss someone. I do thank you for joining and hope your membership will prove worthwhile.

I also have made a few personal aviation firsts including flights in the Cessna Skycatcher and the Murphy APF.

Looking forward there are a few new things I'd like to do this year. I would like to go to Triple Tree for both the RC and regular plane events. I would also like to attend the Region 5 glider competition and ride along with a competition pilot. Finally I'd like a ride in Greg's Model 12. All this would make a great 2012!

Humor

"Stressed" spelled backwards is "desserts".

Many people look forward to the New Year for a new start on old habits.

May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions!

- *Joey Adams*

January Meeting

The next meeting will be on January 14th. Don Murphy volunteered to make Green Chili Stew for lunch. Joe Miles will be our guest speaker. He was a P-51 pilot during the Korean War.



Fly safe!

Al

2012



Chinese
New Year
January 23
The Year of the Dragon

Minutes of the Meeting for EAA Chapter 172

Christmas Party

December 3, 2011

Before the meeting 48 members, their families, and visitors enjoyed delicious turkey prepared by Steve Thompson and Dennis Allen. The Aerospouses set out the side dishes. Three planes flew in. We welcomed visitors Chris and Tommy Rhodes, Chuck Very, a friend of Greg Connell, as well as Essay contest winner Nico Hoernle with Kaj Hoernle. At 12:33 PM Al Newman gave the invocation and everyone ate the Christmas dinner. Club President Al Nodorft called the business meeting to order at 1:07 PM. Al thanked Dennis and Steve for preparing the turkeys. Al welcomed the visitors who flew in as well as the Boshears Essay contest winner. He also reminded members about the club dues and the possibility of purchasing EAA calendars for \$10. They should talk with Don Bush if they wanted one.



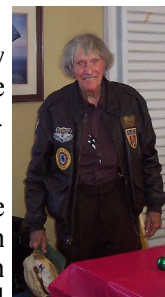
Sheila Connell and Shirley Harden setting up the Christmas table.

Old Business: Steve Thompson moved to accept the minutes for the last meeting. The motion was seconded and approved. Members brought in many gifts for the children at the Children's Medical Center.



Gifts for the MCG children.

New Business: Al Nodorft said that yesterday it was Tommy Edwards' 87th birthday and everyone wished Tommy "Happy Birthday." Tommy said that during WWII he was in a B-17 school as well as other training locations all over the country. However, he never went overseas.



Tommy Edwards

Al said that VP Sid Brown could not be here today but left a message about the meals for the next three months. For January soup was suggested at first, but Don Murphy volunteered to make his Green Chili and needs some people to help [on January 8 he said he had two]. For February we will have our annual Chili Cookoff. March has our annual fish fry.

Al Newman moved that the business meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded and the business meeting adjourned at 1:16 PM. Members then stayed to listen to founding member Al Patton talk about his exploits in World War II.



Al Patton

Program: WW II veteran Al Patton related amazing recollections about his piloting activities attacking the Japanese on Mindanao (Philippines) in a Curtiss SB2C Helldiver. He especially mentioned joining the "Caterpillar Club" after bailing out when another fighter bomber collided with his during a Stateside training exercise. He also talked about flying a Grumman F4F Wildcat and an exciting "under a bridge" adventure with a Corsair. See more about this in a separate article.

There was also a Board Meeting after the regular meeting. During that meeting the 2012 EAA 172 Calendar was approved. The calendar is in this newsletter.

DUES NOTE: IF YOU PAID THE 2012 DUES BY DECEMBER 31, THE DUES WERE ONLY \$30! AFTER THAT DATE THE DUES INCREASED TO \$40.

**MAIL YOUR DUES TO DON BUSH – ADDRESS ON THE FIRST PAGE.
MAKE CHECK OUT TO "EAA 172"**

Words of Wisdom From Aviators

Flying is a hard way to earn an easy living.

Both optimists and pessimists contribute to society.

The optimist invents the airplane; the pessimist, the parachute.

As a pilot only two bad things can happen to you and one of them will:

- One day you will walk out to the aircraft knowing that it is your last flight.
- One day you will walk out to the aircraft not knowing that it is your last flight.