



## The Flyer

### *February 2009*

**Officers:** President: Gary Fox; Vice President: vacant; Secretary: Jan Handley; Treasurer: Terrie Jo Fox; **Directors:** Ralph Schmude, Al St. Germain, Frank Taylor, Penrod Turk, Jeanné Willerth and Past Presidents. **Chairpersons:** Wings Program : open; Safety: Chris St. Germain; Membership: open; Meeting Arrangements: Terrie Jo Fox; **Editor:** Al St. Germain

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE** - Terrie Jo tells me there is just no living with me since I think I have become a celebrity. On Friday, Jan 30th, I had the pleasure of breakfast with my new friend, Craig Fuller, the new AOPA President and CEO. Craig was on a mid-west tour, and Paula Derks (our Jan speaker) set up the meeting at their AEA headquarters in Lee's Summit along with LXT manager, John Ohrazda, and assistant manager, Abe Forney. It was a very relaxed and informal meeting giving us the ability to talk one on one - including time to swap stories about my Tri-Pacer and his Bonanza that he's able to fly for business. \*\*\* A new FAA funding bill was introduced Feb. 9th, authorizing nearly \$70 billion for the agency for four years "without" creating new aviation user fees. It does come with some increased fuel charges to private aircraft, but is far better than what we have been facing for the past two years. \*\*\* We still have members who are not renewing their MPA membership in a timely manner - if your name is on the list for deletion or potential deletion - please renew now - and do not forget to add your non-pilot spouse - this helps to add numbers to our declining membership. \*\*\* Remember - the only time you can have too much fuel is when you're on fire. **Gary Fox**

**JANUARY SPEAKER SUMMARY**- Your editor was unable to attend the January meeting, but Terrie Jo graciously agreed to tape Paula Derks' talk. I am personally pleased that she did as I learned so much about avionics and electronic systems in GA aircraft. She is the Executive Director of the Aircraft Electronics Association, a world-wide organization. With her credentials, most of us would have begun the talk with an extensive bio, but Paula took that time to explain the organization's purpose and goals with a Power Point presentation. It was started in 1957 by 12 small avionics repair shop owners, and now represents 1,300 Government Certified Repair Stations in Europe, South America, South Pacific and Canada. Aviation technicians install, repair, trouble shoot, and design schematics in 900 certified repair stations that average nine employees with 17 years experience. Aviation technicians don't hold licenses as do A & Ps, but must work for a Certified Repair Station. Membership also includes Aviation Instrument

Management and Engineering Technicians as well as Universities and Technical Schools. Some benefits include representing members before FAA, providing surveys of competition, conducting training mandated by FAA, publishing Avionics News, and Pilots Guide to Avionics. Paula mentioned the move to a 12,000 square foot building with a large training class for 100 students near LXT, and that she lives in Lakewood. She added that she loves the sound of airplanes overhead bringing a loud round of applause. When the new AOPA President and CEO, Craig L. Fuller, came to our area, she insisted he land at LXT which also brought enthusiastic audience approval. In this regard, AEA is working on standards, avionics curriculum, and certified testing leading to an Electronic Technician Certificate. Future Challenges include shortage of skilled technicians, especially females. Delay in product certification by FAA requiring more skilled inspectors. New products require more training. Manufacturers are requiring repairs done by them as opposed to field repairs. The rise in fuel prices leads to less flying. Trends include the complete system integration of electronic equipment. Technicians need to know software for installation and trouble shooting with a lap top in the aircraft or on the bench. What's Ahead? FAA has announced a next generation performance based system that puts more info in the hands of the pilot in the cockpit to enhance communication with the controller, in-cockpit weather information, all tied to the electronics and instrument systems. The Future looks to upgrading the U C M (CMS) curriculum. Paula is a UCM alum and serves on the Aviation Advisory Board helping to restore the avionics program. She is also a trustee on the Aviation Accreditation Board International which certifies university programs. She also is a member of the Missouri Central Development Board developing Innovative Park at Sky Haven. There is great potential since there is no competition within 100-150 miles, and the time is ripe. In response to a question on scholarships, Paula replied that the AEA Foundation gives out \$100,000 a year to help students earn degrees in maintenance and aviation engineering. These go to Europe, South Pacific, Canada and the US. She urged any of us who have children or grandchildren interested in that field to apply. Info available at AEA.. net. There was even more detail than this, and you may borrow the tape. Great program, the third in a row conducted by a woman! **Editor**

**DINNER RESERVATION INFO** - Our next regular meeting will begin with social time at 6:00, dinner at 6:30 sharp on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 the Disabled American Veterans, 8787 Old Santa Fe Road, KCMO. Take I-435 to 87th Street exit, (Missouri !!) go east on 87th Street 1.1 miles, turn right on Old Santa Fe Road, 0.2 miles to DAV on your left. OR, west from Blue Ridge Boulevard onto 87th Street, immediate left on Old Santa Fe Road, 0.2 miles to DAV on your left. Our menu will be: Corned Beef and Cabbage, New Potatoes/Gravy, Vegetable, Salad, Bread/Butter, Dessert, Coffee/Tea. **Terrie Jo Fox**

**RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST** so please contact Terrie Jo by noon on Monday, February 23rd, 2009 by e-mail: [terrie@foxware.com](mailto:terrie@foxware.com) or 795-7233. The cost is \$12, including gratuity, and DAV reservations must be made and kept. **Terrie Jo Fox**

**FEBRUARY GUEST SPEAKER - Bob Dickens** - "A helicopter is a collection of rotating parts going round and round and reciprocating parts going up and down - all of them trying to become random in motion." We are fortunate to have Bob Dickens grace our lectern in February. Bob's experience and expertise along with his sense of humor always creates a fun evening. Bob continues to be our AOPA Regional Representative covering MO, KS and IA. He was formerly the safety program manager for the FAA Kansas City FSDO and NTSB aircraft accident

investigator. Learning to fly in high school, he later joined the US Army where he flew attack helicopters, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Bronze Star, among other honors. While employed as a helicopter pilot for the LA County Fire Department he flew "Copter 10" in the TV series "Emergency". As a Certified Flight Instructor in both aircraft and helicopters he has logged more than 14,000 flight hrs including some 8,000 in GA aircraft. We have asked Bob to talk a little AOPA and a lot about his helicopter adventures. **Terrie Jo**

**MEETING DATES FOR 2008:** Please mark your calendars now so you won't forget any meetings.

**Dec 17th** - Jumpin' Catfish Restaurant, 4342 NE Antioch Rd, KC, MO 64117 - (816) 452-3474.

**Jan 28th** - Paula Derks, President, Aircraft Electrical Associates.

**MPA CHAPTER BOARD MEETINGS** - All chapter members are invited to attend board meetings. They are normally held on the first Tuesday of the month, excluding holidays, at Executive Beechcraft, Downtown Airport, at 7 PM. We always welcome your advice and assistance, and the coffee pot is on!

**WINGS** - There's been a change to the WINGS program. Participants can go on-line, go to the Wings Pilot Proficiency Program, and select Airman Profile. There is a new block at the bottom that allows entry of Superseded Wings Phase. This is a one-time opportunity to add the Phase of Wings that an airman held in the old Wings program. The options are phase 1 thru 20. Some people were issued certificates for Phases above 20, but 20 was the official highest Phase that could be held so don't enter anything higher than 20. Once an entry is made, it can't be changed. The Phase entered will appear on the My Wings page in the Superseded Wings Program box. This is just a way of acknowledging the accomplishments of airmen who qualified for Wings in the old program. If the airman allows external review for a 3rd party, the information will be available. Likewise, it provides a record that demonstrates an airman's "positive attitude about safety" which can be helpful in some situations. \*\*\* Central Region FAA Safety Team (FAASTeam)

**NEXT KC CHAPTER BOARD MEETING - January 6th**

**MPA STATE BOARD MEETINGS** - Any MPA members may, and are invited and encouraged to, attend the state board meetings. Check the *MPA News* for meeting dates, times and locations.

**Gary Fox**

**CHAPTER FLYOUT INFORMATION** - We will be flying to only 3 or 4 close airports in 2008 due to gas prices, and to increase our flying and members' participation. (Non-flyers welcome!) With a new chairperson, we hope to provide e-mail notification the week before. Please volunteer. Info on flyouts can be obtained at [www.MidwesternPilot.com](http://www.MidwesternPilot.com), or the State News Letter at <http://www.mopilots.org/flyouts.htm> . Tell us where you want to go..

**DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR:**

MPA Coronation at New Branson Airport May 7, 8, 9.

**USEFUL WEB SITES -**

Missouri Pilots Association Web Site for all chapters: [www.mopilots.org](http://www.mopilots.org)

Kansas City FSDO: <http://www.faa.gov/about/office%5Forg/field%5Foffices/fsdo/mci/>

NASA Callback <http://asrs.arc.nasa.gov/>

Missouri 2005-2006 Airport Directory & Travel Guide. This has views of the latest airports & information updates. <http://www.modot.state.mo.us/othertransportation/airportdirectory.htm>

Missouri State Senate Web Site: <http://www.senate.state.mo.us>

This website is a pilot to pilot information exchange: [www.flykc.com](http://www.flykc.com)

Super Cub website is very popular [www.supercub.org](http://www.supercub.org)

[Return to Main Page](#)

[Return to 2009 Sub Page](#)