



**EAA CHAPTER 515**  
 Fort Collins/Loveland  
 Colorado  
 www.eaa515.org

# NEWS

Volume 30 • Issue 2 • February 2004

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<http://www.eaa515.org>

### 515 Officers

#### President

Hugh Beckham  
 586-6931  
 merryhugh@msm.com

#### Vice President

Jeff Dinius 667-0633  
 jhd3177@aol.com

#### Secretary

Larry Larkin 669-5090  
 larkinent@msn.com

#### Treasurer

Ernie Stevens 663-0829  
 3656 Catalpa Drive  
 Loveland, CO 80538

#### Young Eagles Coordinator

Britt Crowell 484-4995  
 britt@fortcollins.com

#### Newsletter Editor

Ron Grob  
 rong@rongrob.com  
 PO Box 1417, Lvlld 80539  
 offc 667-5320 / hm 667-3161  
 fax 667-5322

#### Tech Counselor,

Bob VanDalsem 667-6734  
 vanlynn2@juno.com

#### Flight Adviser/Tech Cnslr Board Member at Large

Dean Hall 226-4486  
 deandoc@verinet.com

#### Board Member at Large

Steve McClintock 221-1472  
 11FRpilot@comcast.net

## A Small Celebration

Dec. 17, 2003

By Dean Hall

This morning at 8:35 am MST, exactly 100 yrs. to the minute after the Wright Bros' first flight, I flew Hugh Beckham's Sonex for 12 seconds in honor of them. Not a big deal. No record involved, no pioneering achieved, nobody watching or recording it. It was just one flyer's way of paying his respects to the patriarchs of this wonderful legacy. This is the day of the centennial celebration of their first flight. Some were fortunate enough to be at Kitty Hawk, the birthplace of aviation, for the big celebration. For me, this was it.

Flight is a special thing to us, a special group of people who have had the thrill and privilege of enjoying it especially under the control of our own hands. A thousand mile cross-country is flight at its best, a practical and rewarding experience. Sometimes aviation exhilaration is fifteen minutes of aerobatics. Often, flight is a relaxing experience, smooth clear air, the feeling of being suspended in space and able to see forever, enjoying the fantastic beauty of the earth from a vantage point only dreamed of for a million years before the Wright Brothers brought it to us.

This day, for me, was a short burst of concentration, twelve seconds of flight



somewhat in the same parameters as Orville and Wilbur experienced it, and that was all the fulfillment that was needed. Overall, I probably covered roughly the same amount of ground that they did in their four flights on that first day. I taxied the plane back and put it in the shed. It had served me well. I had savored once more the thrill of flight even if only for a few fleeting moments courtesy of them.

Wilbur and Orville were the first homebuilders in aviation. Hugh Beckham, the builder of my magic carpet, had the pleasure of being at Kill Devil Hill for the great anniversary event. And so, he shared in the event in two ways: he was there at Kill Devil Hill, and his handiwork far away in Colorado had honored him and them with its own flight. Homebuilders share a special bond.

## EAA Chapter 515 Presents



- When:** Tuesday, February 3, 2004, 7:30 PM  
**Where:** Hair Dynamics, 6464 S. College, Ft. Collins  
**Program:** Dan Jensen will speak about the importance of custom dynamic propeller balancing. Learn how to save money on repairs to your engine, avionics, and other components simply by having your prop dynamically balanced.

## Chapter 515 December Minutes

By Larry Larkin, Jr.

President Hugh Beckham opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m., January 6, 2004, at Hair Dynamics on College Ave in Ft. Collins. Hugh reminded everyone that the Board of Directors meeting will be held on January 20 at Dean Hall's house. The meeting will be open to anyone who wants to attend. Hugh then discussed the upcoming Chapter 515 banquet. Dean Hall has been working out the details and has tentatively worked out two different venues. One venue would have the banquet at the Senior Center which would allow us to bring our own entrees and pay a room fee. The other venue would have the banquet at the Ramada Inn at I-25 and Mulberry and would cost approximately \$20.00 per person. Dean inquired as to which way the chapter would like to go. After some discussion, a motion was made and seconded to have the banquet at the Ramada Inn and to have the Chapter subsidize the meal at an amount to be determined at the January 20 Board meeting. The motion was passed. Dean will try to secure Lance Zellers as the speaker and the Chapter will pay for his airline ticket from IAD if Dean is able to book him. He will stay with Dean.

A treasurer's report was given by Ernie Stevens. The Chapter now has \$2,352.58 in the bank in addition to dues collected at the meeting. As a reminder, Chapter dues are now due, and membership with National EAA must be demonstrated. It is an EAA requirement to be a member of EAA before joining a local chapter.

For "On the Spot" this evening, Doug Dempsey, Bill Stevinson, and Hugh Beckham were chosen. Doug hails from North Central Kansas and earned a BS in Engineering. He

earned his pilot license at the end of college and went to work at the test track at Ford. He didn't fly again for another 10 to 12 years. After moving to Ohio, Doug started flying again and now is instrument rated with 1800 hours. He ended up buying a Mooney and has flown it many hours. Doug has always wanted to build an airplane and is currently building an RV-7. He freely admits that his main reason for doing this is because he likes to tinker with Rotary engines. He is planning to use one on the RV. Doug will talk to us about engine cooling soon.

Bill Stevinson is a retired engineer. He learned to fly after retiring and has been building a Cozy for about 14 years. I also learned after the meeting from Dean Hall that Bill flew 12 missions as a B-17 gunner in World War II.

Hugh Beckham started getting interested in airplanes about the time he was in fourth or fifth grade. He has been very involved in EAA from its grassroots beginnings. Hugh's first project was a Benson gyrocopter that after flying ended up in the hands of the Cessna Corporation for modifications and proof of concept testing. Hugh has started six different airplanes and has finished 3 of them. He now has a Sonex that he built and it flew for the first time last year. Hugh also has received an award from EAA for being the first person in the United States to develop and use a VW engine in an aircraft. Thanks to everybody who participated. (Secretary's note: I apologize for leaving out some of the details, but I start listening to the interesting stories and forget to take notes.)

After a short break, Hugh and Merry presented the evening's program, which was a power point slide show of their trip to the Centennial of Flight Celebration. They had some great pictures and stories to go along with them. Thanks to Hugh and Merry.

## Hyperbola or Hyperbole?

Contributed by Hugh Beckham

At New York's Kennedy Airport today, an individual later discovered to be a public school teacher was arrested trying to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a set square, and a calculator.

Attorney General John Ashcroft believes the man is a member of the notorious "Al Gebra" movement. He is being charged with carrying weapons of math instruction.

"Al Gebra" is a very fearsome cult, indeed. They desire average solutions by means and extremes, and sometimes go off on a tangent in a search of absolute value. They consist of quite shadowy figures, with names like "x" and "y", and, although they are frequently referred to as "unknowns", we know they really belong to a common denominator and are part of the axis of medieval with coordinates in every country.

As the great Greek philanderer Isosceles used to say, there are 3 sides to every angle, and if God had wanted us to have better weapons of math instruction, he would have given us more fingers and toes.

Therefore, I'm extremely grateful that our government has given us a sine that it is intent on protracting us from these math-dogs who are so willing to disintegrate us with calculus disregard. These statistic bastards love to inflict pain on every sphere of influence. Under the circumferences, it's time we differentiated their root, made our point, and drew the line.

These weapons of math instruction have the potential to decimal everything in their math on a scale never before seen unless we become exponents of a Higher Power and begin to factor-in random facts of vertex. As our Great Leader would say, "Read my ellipse. Here is one principle he is uncertainty of—though they continue to multiply, their days are numbered and the hypotenuse will tighten around their necks."

## Bio Lance Zellers

Like most of you who are my age, I have gone through many chapters of my Book of Life. Most of us have the traditional chapters

Aviation--flying, to be exact--has been the fun thing in my life. Hey, that's why we have EAA Chapter banquets, right? To talk, re-live and maybe remember things that never happened are the glue, which binds us flyers together.

At your Chapter banquet, I'll tell you what it was like to retrace Wiley Post's first flight around the world. My trip, in 1991--60 years after Mr. Post--had its own set of adventures for me and my five buddies. In fact, there was similarity in route only, for the world had changed mightily in those 60 years.

In one eight-day trip, we spent nearly five days covering the vastness of the Soviet Union just a few months before it came apart. I stood on top of Hitler's Berlin bunker and the next evening stood in Red Square. Neither Hitler nor Stalin ever did that! I've unlocked the morning access doors on the domestic side of Moscow's Sheremetyvo International Airport. I've been to the banks of Lake Baikal,

deepest lake in the world; crossed all of Siberia; visited the room where the KAL 007 shootdown orders were delivered; crossed the frozen Khamchatka Peninsula, viewed Sakhalin Island, and shopped in a Red Army PX in Magadan on the banks of the Sea of Okhotsk.

I just have to tell you a funny story about our ramp visit with the crew of a wide-body Ilyushin 86 in Khabarovsk. I'm the only person you will ever meet who was "detained" on a Soviet Air Force fighter base on the Arctic Circle. Who is Yacov Sabodin, and why did he join us in Eastern Siberia and fly with us back to New York? And, yes, there's more, but you'll have to wait 'til the banquet.

The last time I attended your banquet, Robin Olds was the presenter. He and I talked flying long into that night while we were guests of Dean and Ruth Hall.

And yes, those other life chapters I mentioned above have many other stories. I've been schooled at MIT and Purdue and have a degree in aeronautical engineering. The Marine Corps was my "home" for 20 years. I served nearly two years in Vietnam as an infantry officer. I've been the presi-

dent of a high-tech software engineering firm. I've done some domestic counterintelligence work for the FBI. I enjoyed more than a decade enmeshed in aviation, serving sport aviation on various national boards of directors: EAA, Soaring Society of America, Academy of Model Aeronautics, and the National Aeronautic Association. I'm proud of my Diplome from the Federation Aeronautique Internationale and EAA Major Achievement Award.

I now do personal and organizational development, mostly in the design-and-construction industry, throughout the country, on large commercial/government projects. We call it "dynamic collaboration."

I love flying. I bought my first one while in college. I'm on my fifth plane a Skyhawk, which I've twice flown coast to coast. I still hold the city-to-city speed record in class from Denver to Muncie, Indiana, in my Piper Lance.

...and if there's time left, I can tell you about certifying the first 14 world weight-to-altitude records for the USAFs C-17 heavy lift freighter, the Questair Venture's time-to-climb,  
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## EAA Chapter 515 Banquet

The details of the banquet to be held on February 13, 2004, at the Ramada Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn) in Fort Collins were worked out at the Board of Directors meeting on January 20. Those present at the meeting at Dean Hall's home were Hugh Beckham, Jeff Dinius, Ernie Stevens, Dean Hall, Steve McClintock, Britt Crowell, and Ron Grob. Lance Zellers will be the speaker at the banquet, and his airline and local bus expenses will be paid by Chapter 515. Lance was a national EAA Director and has been active in several EAA chapters. He will talk about a flying trip to Russia.

The banquet will begin with a

social hour with cash bar at 6:00 PM and the dinner will be at 7:00 PM. The cost for a member or spouse is \$10 if paid by February 9, 2004 and \$15 thereafter. However, a member must have 2004 dues paid in full to qualify for a discount (please recall that only those who are members of the national EAA are eligible to be considered Chapter 515 members). Guests and those who have not paid their 2004 dues must pay \$20 to attend the banquet. That is the actual cost to the chapter. Main course meal choices are as follows: seasonal fish, roast beef, or herb-roasted chicken. Squash and roasted red potatoes come with each meal.

## Chapter 515

### TOOLCHEST

*Here is a list of tools and equipment either owned by the chapter or available for use by members.*

**CONTACT:** Walt Ellwood, 635-3436, wellwo@aol.com

**Engine hoist**  
**Flat bed trailer (call Scott Doyle)**  
**Instrument panel hole cutter**  
**Nico press, with gauges**  
**(bolt cutter style)**

**Scales**  
**Stoves**  
**Torque wrench**

**Tools that members may loan out**  
**Lycoming Engine Overhaul Stand**  
**(Mel Callen, 587-4824)--may work with a Continental**  
**Cable Fitting Swaging Tool**  
**(Hugh McTeague, 586-5910)**

# EAA Chapter 515 Newsletter

*c/o Britt Crowell(publisher)*

*623 Lesser Dr*

*Fort Collins, CO 80524*

**<http://www.eaa515.org>**

**February 2004**

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**Lance Bio cont.**

or the record setting flight to Rome in the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister's new gold plated MD83, or...

Did I tell you that I pedaled my bicycle and towed a trailer from Maryland to Salt Lake City several

years ago? That's another story, perhaps told elsewhere and at another time.

Thank you, Dean Hall, for inviting me. I really look forward to seeing this Chapter's members again (and visiting the RV "factory.")

PS Sorry that the word "I"

appears so often, above. That's what dinner speakers are about--bringing our stories to your tables.

**2004 Chapter 515 Activities**

**February 3:** Dan Jensen speaks about the importance of dynamic propeller balancing.

**February 13:** Banquet at the Ramada Inn , speaker Lance Zellers

**March 3:** Doug Dempsey talks about engine cooling

**April 6:** To be announced

**May 4:** Dan Olsen talks about his Lancair 320 in his heated hangar at FNL.

**REMINDERS**

As of January 1, 2004, in order to be a member of Chapter 515, you must also be a member of the national EAA: P. O. Box 3086, Oshkosh, WI 54903-3086, [www.eaa.org](http://www.eaa.org), membership services at 800/843-3612.

Chapter 515 2004 dues (\$18) are now due. Our new treasurer is Ernie Stevens, 3656 Catalpa Court, Loveland, 663-0829.

If you plan to attend the banquet, Friday, February 13, please plan to attend the February meeting to sign up and pay.

**Receive Your  
Newsletter Sooner  
(and save Chapter 515 some  
money)**

If you have email, please consider having your monthly newsletter emailed to you. This saves considerable labor and postage and makes more money available from dues to pay for chapter activities. If you are willing to help us all by doing so, please call Ernie Stevens, Chapter 515 Treasurer, 663-0829, or contact Britt Crowell, 484-4995, or [britt@fortcollins.com](mailto:britt@fortcollins.com).