

# Cockpit Clutter



Chapter 45 Newsletter

Experimental Aircraft Association

APRIL 2017

EAA Chapter 45 web site <http://45.eaachapter.org>

## Next Board of Director's Meeting, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Next General Membership Meeting, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 PM, Chapter Hangar

Hey gang, at the upcoming Westmoreland County Latrobe Airshow, your Chapter 45 is sponsoring a booth so that we can hope to interest new folks to get interested in the EAA. This is very important not only to the growth of the chapter but also for new interesting, active members.... And the airshow is the place to get them interested. We plan to have several displays and also members to man the booth....

But we will also be rotating members around to man some sale booths as we have done in the past; this is one of the best ways for our chapter to make money and keeps us from needing to have heavy work projects like pancake breakfasts and prize ticket raffle sales (who wants to do that?)

**We need your help**, so make plans to spend some time at the airshow. You also get free admission to see the Blue Angels! June 24 & 25

A promotional banner for the Westmoreland County Airshow 2017. The background is a blue sky with white clouds. At the top, the text 'INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF AVIATORS.' is written in large, bold, yellow letters. Below this, on the left, are logos for 'Presenting Sponsor Xcoal ENERGY &amp; RESOURCES' and 'FOX 53 WPGH-TV PITTSBURGH'. In the center, the text reads 'SHOP'n SAVE WESTMORELAND COUNTY AIRSHOW 2017' with an image of a jet airplane. Below that, it says 'JUNE 24 &amp; 25 ARNOLD PALMER REGIONAL AIRPORT LATROBE, PA' and 'the VIPPASS Visit the PalmerAirport.com for tickets &amp; more'. On the right, there is a circular portrait of a man, Arnold Palmer, with the text 'A TRIBUTE TO ARNOLD PALMER 1929 - 2016' around the edge. Below the portrait, it says 'Get your Commemorative Arnold Palmer Coin at the show!'.

<https://www.facebook.com/WestmorelandCountyAirshow/>

<http://www.palmerairport.com/>

**SHOP'n SAVE**  
WESTMORELAND COUNTY  
**AIRSHOW**  
2017  
JUNE 24 & 25  
LATROBE, PA

PRESENTING SPONSOR  
**Xcoal**  
ENERGY & RESOURCES

**NEW!**  
GET YOUR TICKETS  
TO THE VIP EXPERIENCE!

A Tribute to  
*Arnold Palmer*

**SHOP'n SAVE**

**FOX 53**  
WPEN-TV PITTSBURGH

**CBS RADIO**

Special Salute to  
Arnold Palmer  
www.schnitzairshow.com  
1996 Air Ops since 1984

Join us at the  
Latrobe  
Westmoreland  
County Airshow -  
FREE Admission for  
Chapter 45  
participants !!



Chapter VP, John Warren is also our web site manager. He is interested in listing upcoming local (or within a short drive or fly) Fly-ins, pancake breakfasts and other aviation interests.

If you receive a flyer or hear of an interesting gathering coming up, send him an e-mail or give him a call so that he can list it on the web site. 412-818-9818 [airsnoopy @ comcast.net](mailto:airsnoopy@comcast.net)

I am sorry to announce that a long time EAA Chapter 45 member, **Merle Mankey** passed away last October 30, 2016. He was 91

'Mankey' as he wanted to be called, was a veteran and a member from the early days of the EAA. He flew many early homebuilt airplanes for other people and really loved flying tailwheel airplanes, with the Aeronca Champ being his favorite. He was also an early adopter of ultralight aviation in the 1980's and was a partner in the ownership of a few of these craft. He also was one of the group of members who met once a week to work on and finish the chapter project, a Volksplane, but then was stymied when the member who allowed it to be built in his basement, would not allow anyone to fly it, due to the risk of his potential liability. It saddened him to see the airplane eventually disassembled and sold for parts.

Mankey was also an accomplished musician, a base guitarist and played almost up to the time of his passing. The picture included here was from 2012 when his local musician federation was honored for their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I asked Mankey once, since he was from Washington, PA, if he had ever performed with Bobby Vinton, a famous local and national song writer and musician. He answered, "Played with Bobby? Nope. I played in *his dad's* band (Stan Vinton Orchestra) when Bobby was still playing with toy cars on the floor of their home!"

Mankey was an avid tinkerer, control-line airplane builder and motorcycle rider. He had many long trips on his motorcycles and even rode all the way to Florida at least once. He spent winters in Florida for many years, driving school bus and had to pretend he was a Florida resident because at the time, they would not allow Snowbird residents to drive school bus.

He was fascinated with just about everything mechanical and found delight in tearing stuff apart to see if he could fix it. He was very proud of his experiments to convert gas powered string line trimmer motors into powerful 1/4scale model airplane engines.

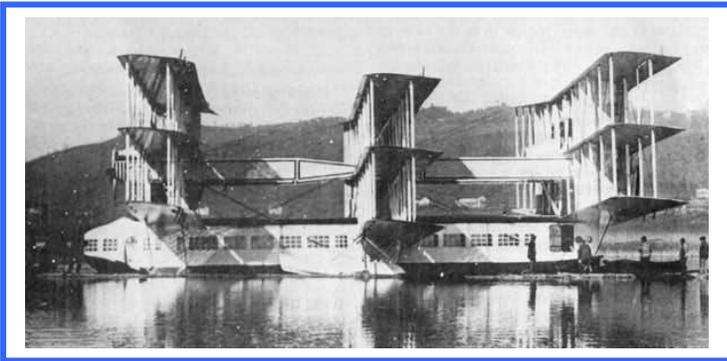
He had originally started a Sonerai II midwing homebuilt but after it languished for many years in his workshop, he sold it to member **Hank Szewczyk** who has it now and plans to finish it after he finishes the Stitts Playboy he is restoring. Mankey was the epitome of EAA spirit, with a lot of projects and a gear head interest in all things technical.

Mankey, as seen in the picture always sported black pants, a black vest and a white, long sleeve shirt.... Always ready to play the next set in the rock & roll band where he was a member. He was a fun guy and always asked a lot of questions, just because he was so inquisitive and interested in what others were doing. He is survived by the love of his life, Barbara.

Mankey, we will miss you.

*-JackD -editor*



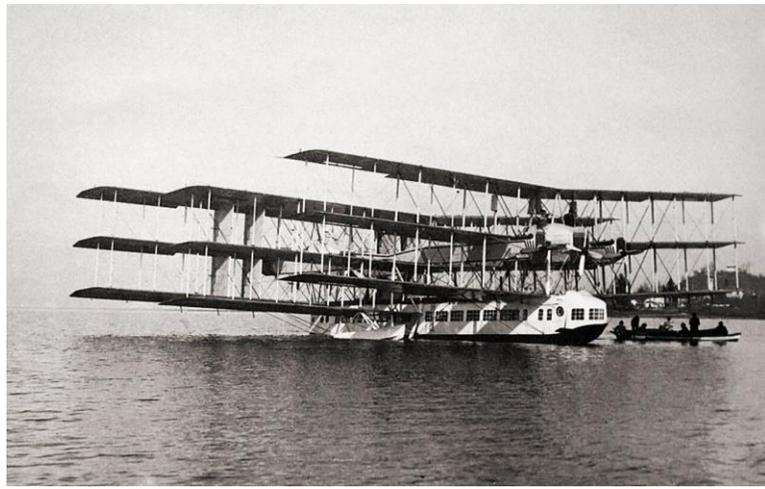


In last month's newsletter, I asked if anyone knew if this picture was real or if it was photo-shopped. Yes it is real and member **Don Fry** responded very quickly with not only another great picture of the airplane, but also the sad story of the Caproni Ca-60, built at a time when engines were still not powerful enough and structures not strong enough for an airplane to carry at least 100 people from Rome to New York!

See the video...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQBxqtP5IMw&t=12s>

or search for Caproni Ca-60  
Pathe News Reel



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### TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2017

Planning and setting of dates are typically done by your board of directors at the beginning of the year and sometimes change. Unless noted, meetings are held at the chapter hangar at Rostraver Airport. Hangar is C1

April 14<sup>th</sup> - Board Meeting 7:30 PM  
Directors and Board Meeting at  
Rostraver. All are welcome to attend our  
business meetings.

April 21<sup>st</sup> – General Meeting

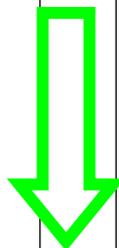
May 12<sup>th</sup> –Board Meeting

May 19<sup>th</sup> – General Meeting

Monday night workshop / build nights are  
EVERY Monday night, unless winter  
weather is bad.

check out the meeting web site for any  
important updates

<http://imapilot55.wix.com/ch45>



A



This month's picture quiz: did any of these planes actually exist? If any of them did, who was the inventor? And did it actually get off the ground?

B



C



## Builder's Corner

Here is a quick tip that I use all the time.... Need to clean out a spray can nozzle? Take a short piece of stranded copper wire and un-twist the strands. Use one to clean out the nozzle. I usually soak the nozzle in a small amount of lacquer thinner or some such paint dissolver.

Also, I never throw any nozzles away... (of course). I save them for a time when I have a nozzle that cannot be cleaned. JackD