

# EAA 908 HYLITES

Monthly Newsletter for Chapter 908, EAA  
Saint Lucie County, Florida



## Member in the News - By Richard Chapman

On January 4th Ed Fry began his new job as St. Lucie County Clerk of the Circuit Court. Ed has been a chapter and flying club member for 2 years. He had completed his Private Pilot rating in November 2002. Ed enjoys flying and his favorite Friday night activity is to fly to PBI, have dinner at the Aero Squadron, and return to FPR in the twilight or darkness. Ed has about 200 hours of flight time, and has also taken the club Cherokee to Key West and the Bahamas. I asked Ed what got him interested in aviation, and he said that he made a business trip from Vero Beach to Tampa in a small air-

plane (he thinks it was a Cessna 182) several years ago and thought that was a great way to travel about the area. They flew at about 2500 feet and there was so much to see at that altitude.

Ed has lived in South Florida since 1970 and Ft. Pierce since 1978. He graduated from FAU with a Bachelor of Business Administration. He has held various governmental jobs, most recently as Director of Finance for Indian River County. His new job is the result of months of campaigning, including putting up signs and taking them down for each of the storms.



Picture taken at Ed Fry's Investiture. Ed is on the left, Sgt. Donald Spivey in center and Judge Connor on the right. Sgt Spivey was at a 908 Chapter meeting last year, when he was the person in charge of the Sheriff's Aviation Section. Sgt Spivey is now in charge of security at the courthouse.

Chapter 908 is sponsoring a *FREE* aviation ground school. It will start in February and be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

### Mark Your Calendar:

- **Dec 15th Chapter meeting -- Christmas Party**
- **Jan 19th Chapter meeting**
- **Jan 22nd Pancake Breakfast**
- **March 19th Young Eagles**
- **May 21-22 Wings & Wheels Airshow**
- **Every Sat. morning — coffee and donuts at club house**

### Officers:

President	Kevin Griffin 579-6529
V. Pres.	Eddy Kemper 336-0950
Secretary	Jerry Groendyke 489-9150
Treasurer	Ron Knaggs 429-1241
Past President	Jim Wetzel 878-1973
Directors	Dr. Jerry Gordon 343-7226 Paul Fischer 464-0538 Rameo Vadnais 461-6089
Newsletter Ed.	Richard Chapman email to: cfo@cypress-und.com

## Pilot Humor?

Santa Claus, like all pilots, gets regular visits from the Federal Aviation Administration, and the FAA examiner arrived for the pre-Christmas flight check.

In preparation, Santa had the elves wash the sled and bathe all the reindeer. Santa got his log book out and made sure all his paperwork was in order. He knew they would examine all his equipment and truly put Santa's flying skills to the test.

The examiner walked slowly around the sled. He checked the reindeer harnesses, the landing gear, and even Rudolph's nose. He painstakingly re-viewed Santa's weight and balance calculations for

sled's enormous payload. Finally, they were ready for the check ride. Santa got in and fastened his seat belt and shoulder harness and checked the compass.

Then the examiner hopped in carrying, to Santa's surprise, a 12ga shotgun. "What's that for?!?" asked Santa incredulously.

The examiner winked and said, "I'm not supposed to tell you this ahead of time," as he leaned over to whisper in Santa's ear, "but you're gonna lose an engine on takeoff."

## 908 Flying Club by Richard Chapman

Bill Sherman has sold his share to a new person.

We are still filled up on shares and are still looking into the addition of another airplane.

The club still has a Narco 120 comm. and Narco 121 nav radios for sale.

Several of the gyro instruments were replaced in the last few weeks. Also the seats were repaired again, this time with extra reinforcing braces. Thanks especially to Ron Knaggs for all the help.



Richard Chapman - Editor

## Odds and Ends by Editor

The PanAm fleet seems to be all back in town. Things are back to being crowded.

Runway 14-32 is OPEN!! Taxiway Alpha extension to Delta appears complete also. Should save some taxi time and convenience for us.

Christmas dinner meeting was a success. Just about every seat was taken and everyone gained weight. The speaker was very interesting and had some great pictures to show.

Dues for 2005 are \$30. Please use the form on the back page and submit with your \$30 check. If you leave at the hanger, use the wooden mailbox inside the chapter hanger. Or mail to EAA 908, PO Box 3894, Ft Pierce, FL 34948-3894

We now have an official web address EAA 908.org. We are in the process of establishing the website content. If anyone is interested in maintaining the web site please email your offer to help to [ea908@bellsouth.net](mailto:ea908@bellsouth.net). When the web site is up and running a member benefit is that each member will have his own email address for example for Kevin [airboss@ea908.org](mailto:airboss@ea908.org).

At the January meeting Doc Gordon has promised a presentation on his long distance travel in the

Centurion. Kevin has promised a video presentation of underwater airplane salvage in Lake Michigan and a view of the National Museum of Naval Aviation. See you on the third Wednesday in January at 7:00 P.M.

Donato Martino is looking for any interested persons to form a local club and purchase an Aeronca Champ or very similiar airplane that will qualify for the new Sport Pilot Rule Please contact him at [donato\\_m@hotmail.com](mailto:donato_m@hotmail.com) or mobile phone 772-349-4633.

## Member Profile - Kevin Griffin

John Kevin Griffin was born in 1953 and raised in the Southwest Side of Chicago in Hickory Hills, Illinois the seventh of eight children in an Irish Catholic family; he graduated from Saint Patricia Grade School in 1967, attended St. Bede Academy, Peru, IL from 1967-68, then Mount Carmel High School, Los Angeles, CA from 1968-69, and then transferred to and graduated from Saint Laurence High School, on the southwest side of Chicago in 1971. He worked briefly after high school as a parts counterman for a Pontiac automobile dealership, a mill worker at a steel mill, a plumbers helper, a janitor at the Palmer House Hotel in Chicago, a millwright, a dockworker for a major trucking firm, a stage hand in Memphis, Tennessee, and as an intake officer for the Juvenile Court in Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee. He obtained his first college degree in 1979 where he pursued a liberal arts course of study which led to a Bachelor of Arts from Memphis State University.



In his senior year at Memphis he was recruited by the United States Marine Corps to become a Marine Naval Aviator. In 1980 he received his officer commission after graduation from the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia. He transferred to Naval Flight School where he was designated a Naval Aviator in 1982. His first aircraft assignment was the Boeing CH-46 helicopter. After two successful tours of sea duty Kevin opted for reserve status to train and pursue a law career. In 1989 he graduated from DePaul University College of Law in Chicago, Illinois. Following graduation he moved to Pensacola, Florida and joined the select Marine Corps Reserve as a squadron pilot at Naval Air Station New Orleans in Belle Chase, Louisiana. During this period he qualified in the Marine Corps twin engine Bell UH-1N Huey Gunship.

In 1989 following graduation from law school the National Museum of Naval Aviation commissioned him to organize and execute a salvage operation for submerged airplanes on the bottom of Lake Michigan. In October 1990 his salvage crew recovered a World War II Douglas Dauntless (SBD) dive bomber in 130 feet of water; that airplane is now fully restored and on display at the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola, Florida. The very next month on December 1, 1990 the Marines ordered him back to active flying duty for the Gulf War. Captain Griffin and a C-5 transport plane full of Marine Corps Helicopter Squadron personnel with several Huey Gunships in the cargo hold landed in the Saudi Arabian desert in the middle of the night on New Years Eve 1990. He flew missions into Kuwait and was decorated with the Air Medal. After the war he was promoted to the rank of Major and returned to Pensacola, Florida to practice law.

He is single and the proud father of two college students, Erin Colleen, and John Terence (Terry).

While living in Pensacola he was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 706, the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, the Holy Name Society, and a board member of Sacred Heart School.

He holds a commercial pilot license for both airplanes and helicopters with an instrument rating. He plans on purchasing a plane or at least an interest in one this year.

His goals as President of EAA 908 are to increase membership by 50% , complete the Ercoupe Project , Fly 150 Young Eagles in 2005 and double that number in 2006, have lively entertaining chapter meetings, build a new hangar, develop and improve upon the chapter relationship with the local community through the Young Eagles program and chapter participation in the annual air show.

**Membership Renewal:**

Attached is \$30 check for 2005 dues year.

Information on address label (below) is correct: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ N/A (email)

If No or email, please put your correct info below.

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to get newsletter via email: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

My comments to the Chapter:

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