



Chapter 1298
Hernando County, Fl.

The Hernando Flyer

May 4th, 2005

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The May 4th Chapter meeting will be held on the first **Wednesday** of the month, and will be continued on that day for the foreseeable future. Meetings are open to anyone with an interest in building, restoring, and flying airplanes. The meeting will be held at the CAP Building on Air Commerce Rd., starting at 7:00 PM. There should be ample parking in front of the of the CAP building.

President's Corner:

Greetings Chapter members.

The past month has been a busy one for Chapter 1298. During the month we flew Young Eagles then we hosted the Hernando Beach Yacht Club for a "Bald Eagles" day. Eight pilots and their planes supported the effort. Of the eight, three pilots and their planes came from other chapters to fly our guests. Great support, if we can reciprocate to the other chapters we need to do so as a sign of support and thanks.

EAA headquarters supported our effort by providing the guidelines that allowed the chapter to accept donations for orientation plane rides. Let me tell you, working with Jim Doan and John Johnson at the check in desk was similar to working at Southwest Airlines. When people showed up, they came as a group. It was a pretty busy time until everyone got checked in and was assigned a pilot. To enhance the mood for our passengers, we provided small bags of pretzels. After each flight, passengers walked to lunch with big smiles on their faces. Greg Frey did double duty in that he flew once than ran back to the hanger and started to cook the turkeys for our guests. Edgar served as the grill mister and turned out his Brats along with hamburgers. We had enough food for all and with a little left over.

As people were leaving, they were saying that they looked forward to next year's event.

Overall, the day was a success. Jim Doan, our treasurer will give us the amount that we netted from the event at the next meeting.

Hope to see you all at our next meeting.

Bernie

Chapter Meeting Minutes:

Our President, Bernie Berger, started our meeting at 7:20 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance; Jim Doan gave the Treasurer's Report. As of last month we had a balance of \$1191.92 in the Kitty. We collected member fees from six members, and received \$6.00 from the 50/50 fund. Jim paid out \$35.87 for the Newsletter and \$ 60.00 for 6 months rent. The current balance is \$1222.05.

Following that report Edgar gave the Secretary's Report, both reports were accepted as read.

After approval by the members, Bernie introduced our guest, John Zseleszky. Several pilots then gave updates on the progress they are making on their planes.

Al Cox started the Engine on his Osprey after spending 23 years in the building process. His plane is hangared in Dunnelin. Jim Doan now has the mufflers welded on his plane. Last month there was a storm at the airport that damaged 2 Ultra Lights and Frank Dyshard's 172.

Next on the agenda was the update on the scheduled Bald Eagles flight that is to be held on April 9, 2005. Following the pilot's briefing at 10:00 a.m., the flying will begin at 10:30a.m, and lunch will begin at 12:00p.m. Twenty-eight people have signed up, and twenty-seven have paid. Four more people signed up at tonight's meeting. We also briefly discussed the Sun & Fun Fly-In.

The 50/50 prize of \$8.00, was won by Al Cox.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00p.m.

Edgar Flaig, Secretary

SunNFun Impressions:

Compared to previous years, this year's attendance at SunNFun seemed to be much smaller. The crowds appeared to be less dense. I mentioned this to various people I spoke to and they all agreed the crowds were smaller. The crowds in the vendors booths were also reduced, you could actually talk to the vendors this year. It was usually possible to get a seat on the trams this year. Tram conductors also commented on the light turnout. The number of home builts displayed was down from last year. I later read the attendance was 160,000 persons. I seemed to remember past attendance was 500 to 600 thousand. Compared that to Oshkosh's 700 thousand.

The PartMart is another function, which is much smaller than in years past. The tent used is much smaller than the former building that housed the PartsMart. Even then, it was not very crowded. It didn't seem to have as many items as formerly. They did have a good supply of wracked aircraft available, courtesy of Florida's hurricanes last year. One good feature of this year's PartsMart is that I sold my old Garmin 195 GPS.

One area, which was really crowded, was in the Camping Area. It seemed that the traditional area was completely filled up the day before SunNFun started. Tom Hall had to locate his mobile home trailer in the Over-flow area. This area was a cow and horse pasture the day before he arrived. Campers were parked with no order and some lanes were later blocked. This led to some confusion. When you walked around you had to watch out for meadow muffins, which were all over the place. Management obviously didn't expect so many campers. On Tuesday night, a storm came through the area and by morning there was a small lake in the center of the area. In spite of the shortcomings of the Over-flow area, most people enjoyed their stay on the farm.

On the other hand, members of Chapter 791 picked out the camp area well in advance of the start of SunNFun. In their area they set up their home away from home. It soon became famous as the new site of Martha Stewart's home. It had, and displayed, a large variety of cooking utensils and cook stoves. All stainless steel and displayed on racks. Bruce Waters is now World famous for his good taste in cooking equipment.

All was not bad at this year's SunNFun. The management tried to locate similar function together, which was a good idea. Some tram routes were revised which made them more useful. The

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Air Museum is being enlarged and other buildings are being built. The one “improvement” which didn’t work, was placing the forums next to the ultra lights runway. The continuous roar of the lawn mower engines made it very difficult to hear the speakers.

I enjoyed my stay at SunNFun, but the question is, “Will I spend \$25 per day to see the exact same thing next year?”