

From the Office of the President

President's Note-March 2010

by Thomas Volz



Tom Volz and Derek Wamsley rained out at Clermont County

OK the weather is starting to show a little promise so let's go fly!

This past Saturday I stopped by i69 to check on the aircraft rental scheduling and due to the weather conditions there was plenty of spare time to talk with Derek Wamsley. Derek is an A&P/IA at ECA (Eastern Cincinnati Aviation). Derek's has been with ECA over five years and is one of the individuals responsible for the ECA aircraft and others around the field. His work station is always clean and well organized. I have had the opportunity to see some of Derek's work while he was performing inspections and other maintenance type duties. If you see Derek around the field say hello, introduce yourself, and let him know you are with EAA Chapter 174. To contact ECA or Derek Wamsley call 513-735-9500.

As part of our quest to build or acquire our own chapter hangar I have been talking to other Chapters around the country about how they deal with their hangars. I had an interesting conversation with Vance Wortman from the local chapter at Manassas Regional airport VA; EAA National Capital Chapter 186. Vance explained that one of their hangars is available for builders. This hangar can be rented at a reduced rate for the final assembly of their members' aircraft; i.e... the final three months of assembly and test flights. In addition, when the project hangar is empty, they can rent the space on a daily basis to get out of the weather to work on their aircrafts. I won't mention the rates here, however, it does help to sustain the maintenance and overhead of their hangar ownership.

Recently, it has been brought to my attention two DC-3's will be coming out of service due to new regulations and since many of us grew up seeing and/or flying on the Douglas DC-3 you should find this interesting. Romeo Alpha and Papa Yankee, the last two passenger-carrying Dakotas in the UK, are being forced into retirement because of the UK's recent health and safety rules.

The DC-3 served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. For more than 70 years, the aircraft known to most of us as the Dakota. With its distinctive nose-up profile when on the ground and extraordinary capabilities in the air, it transformed passenger travel and served in just about every military conflict from World War II onward.

The Douglas DC-3 first took to the skies just over 30 years after the Wright Brothers historic first flight and has been a luxury airliner, transport plane, bomber, fighter, flying hospital and introduced millions of people to air travel. It has flown more miles, broken more records, carried more passengers and cargo, accumulated more flying time and performed more impossible feats than any other plane in history; at one point, 90% of the world's air traffic was operated by DC-3s.

More than 10,500 DC-3s have been built since the prototype was rolled out at Douglas's Santa Monica factory in 1935.

I look forward to seeing everyone Sunday March 21st at our next Chapter meeting.~Fly safe!