

A Home for EAA Chapter 983

From Dave Moore

Back in the early 90's I was a member of EAA 34 in Arlington, a long commute from Pecan. There was a growing airpark community here and enough interest in homebuilding that we decided to form a local chapter. I am proud to say that I am a founding member and with the help of more than a dozen resident EAA'ers, chapter 983 was born. Over time it has grown and become one of the most successful chapters in the country.

We were very fortunate from the outset when Ken Houseman offered his hangar as a place to meet. It was convenient, a good location, and had access to some parking (the fire station used to be where Planeview Park now stands). We were further blessed when Jean Houseman permitted us to continue to use her hangar when we lost Ken. During my service as Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, and President there was a concern with what happens if we lose our meeting place? That concern continues today and has become urgent as it now appears the time for us to move is rapidly approaching.

I have been involved with 3 chapters and have attended many chapter officer meetings at Oshkosh. One factor stands out with successful chapters: they have a single place to meet. Chapters that do not, look to find that place and often struggle. I can't emphasize enough how important it is to have a place we can call our "home". The chapter is faced with a huge challenge vacating the Houseman hangar, what are we to do? It is possible to use our member's hangers on a rotating basis however, this is a logistical challenge as where do we store the tables, chairs, and equipment in-between meetings? How many of us are willing to vacate our hangers, in any weather, to make room for the meeting? Where is there room to park 2 dozen automobiles and just as many golf carts? How do we communicate ever changing meeting locations, remembering that many of our members do not live on the airpark or even Pecan?

Our current chapter officers and directors assessed this problem and proposed a solution that they think is best for the long-term viability of our chapter. It involves building a meeting place in the Planeview Park site. This would be a mixed use facility [*ed., Based on community feedback in mid-2016, "mixed use" has been replaced with an "Airpark Users Terminal" concept. And, alternative sites near but not exactly at the existing Planeview Park location have been suggested. In addition, Sam Butler proposed a private hangar partnership in January 2017.*] in partnership with the Pecan Plantation Homeowners Association (PPOA) with the majority capital cost (the PPOA portion to be decided) provided by the chapter and all future operating expenses, utilities and maintenance provided by PPOA.

We have PPOA Board support and must now determine if we the chapter members also support the concept. Chapter President Doug Crumrine says that if everyone in the chapter committed on average \$1000 to the project, we can get it done. If we want to have a much needed place to call our own, now is the time for us to show our commitment.

I am asking you to make a pledge to support our new chapter home. At this time it is only a pledge and no money will be collected until we have approved plans and are ready to build. Without your commitment, we are nowhere. I am pledging \$1000 for our new home and ask you to consider the same. As the chapter is a 501(c)3 organization, it is my understanding that your contribution, when collected, is tax deductible and may be made from IRA funds without tax consequences.

Please help support the building of our new chapter home by relating your pledge to: Doug Crumrine ftflyboy@gmail.com or 817.559.4665.