
ROTOR GAZETTE

St. Louis Rotorcraft Club – PRA Chapter 35 – January 7, 2006

Next Club meeting is February 4, 2006, at the Litchfield, Il. Airport.
Fun starts at 11am, be there, or miss all the fun!

The January club meeting was held at Darren's hangar on the 7th. It was a good day for flying, a high of 55 degrees, and sunny. There was lots of aviation activity at the airport, with a good turnout of about 20 people, and three flying gyros in attendance.

Greg Gremminger gave a short presentation for the new future pilots on the steps necessary to progress from taxiing with their new machines, to the first pattern flight. Greg emphasized the need for safety at each step, from taxiing without rotors, taxiing with rotors, balancing on the mains, crow hopping, to actual flight. Greg talked about tire size, the various kinds of brakes, air foils, horizontal stabilizers and how to place them for the most effective use. Although Greg's presentations are always interesting, the highlights of the afternoon were Jen Twellman's chili and potato soup, Dave O' Kayser's brats, and the rides given by Darren and Gerry in their respective machines.

The weather wimps rode in Gerry's Sparrowhawk, which has a striking paint job. The weather warriors rode in Darren's Magni, which is an open machine. Austin Twellman treated anyone who was interested to a tour in his dune buggy. I personally was treated to a levee run with Darren in his Magni, which is exactly the type of flying I enjoy most. We hope everyone enjoyed the opportunity for free rides in the different machines. And speaking of weather warriors, Dave Hermann made the 30-minute flight to Darren's in his Bensen.

We had two new gyro owners at the meeting. Steve White is working on his KB-2, and Bob Heimberger, who is purchasing a new Magni. FYI, the Gremminger's sold their first machine, and have already purchased another one for training. Bob and the Gremminger's new machines are sharing the same crate during shipping. Both Bob and Greg are going to have a busy spring building, building, building.

It was decided to hold the February 4th meeting at the Litchfield airport, and the March 4th meeting at the Greenville airport. Food was a big hit at this meeting, so the group decided to try it again at Litchfield. Fly-in dates, and responsibilities, will be discussed at the February meeting. Typically, those who are not in attendance are assigned the least desired duties, so make sure you attend.

Weather permitting, bring your gyro. Dave O Kayser brought his horizontal stabilizer for discussion, and his go-no-go example of the best types of tires for gyros. We are encouraging others to bring components of their machines, or their partially assembled machines, for review/discussion.

Mark Greene will be bringing sloppy joes & buns for the Litchfield meeting. I believe there will also be brats coming, so if someone close has a small grill they can bring, please contact Mark Greene. His home phone number is 309-527-5344, or email at cgmng@elpaso.net.

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On the left, Darren preparing for his next flight. On the right, two PPC's, a Sportcopter under cover, Dave's Bensen, and Gerry's Sparrowhawk.

Weather permitting, let's try to have more machines flying in to the Litchfield meeting. Having more machines to see up close and personal is a great learning experience for the newer members, and an incentive for those members who have been in the club for a while, but not yet airborne.

Also, membership dues need to be paid, or your newsletters will end. I found out at the January meeting there were a few members missed on the December mailing. If you are one of those, people, or know someone who is not getting their newsletters, please contact me. You can always view the latest newsletter on the club's website.