

March Meeting Notes:

This was a well-attended meeting. We had 10 members in attendance, including a brand new member who flew in with Paul Salmon, one of our several intrepid Magni flyers. Our newest member is Mark Sprigg, and from all intents, it appears the gyro bug has bitten him! Something was said about mortgaging a house to buy a gyro? Have any of us heard that phrase before? Hey, Mark, welcome to the club!

Paul wasn't the only one who flew in, Bob Heimberger also showed up in his machine. Both of these pilots have big cross-country flights planned. Bob is flying to Bensen days, and rumor has it Darren may be accompanying him in his machine. Paul, and one of his students, is flying to Torrance, CA, leaving on the 21st. There is quite a bit of conversation about this flight on the Rotary Forum. If you're not a member, you're missing a good source of info about gyro flying. I'm sure there will be pictures, and stories about both flights, in later issues of the newsletter.

Carl Schneider, part of the Iowa contingent, attended the meeting. I think he wins the award for travelling the longest distance for this one.

Bob told a story about an attack eagle he and Darren encountered on one of their buddy flights. Instead of flying away from the Magni, the eagle actually attacked them, and almost went through the rotor blades and prop! Bob wanted everyone to know that they can be aggressive, as they are a very territorial animal. So be careful when encountering them, and give them some distance. There was some discussion about zoom climb no-no's, and Bob, Greg, and Carl gave some good pointers about staying safe while exiting climbs. There also were tips about how to avoid flapping blades on takeoff, and what to do if it happens to you.

For those of you who have been club members long enough to remember Charlie Mara, Greg brought a photo album with quite a few old pictures of Charlie and various early club members. Thanks, Greg, for bringing the photos, and reminding us of good times we had with Charlie.

The discussion turned to fly-ins for the season. The next one will be the April 5th club meeting, which will be held at the Centralia airport. Larry Miller and crew are hosting this meeting, and word is the food will be outstanding. Make sure to attend, one for the gyros, weather permitting, and one for the food! Follow your nose to their hangar!

May 3rd's meeting will be held at Greenville again. June 7th, the meeting will be hosted by Bob and Darren at Smartt field, outside of St. Louis. That's a pretty active airport, so in addition to gyros, you can see a number of other aircraft flying. It's always entertaining to be at the Smartt fly-in, don't miss this one, either.

We will skip the July 5th meeting, since that's a big holiday weekend. Bill Perkins is supposed to be checking with the Mt. Vernon airport to see if our club is welcome at their facility for that weekend. Stay tuned for details.

September 6th is the tentative date for the club's annual Shelbyville fly-in. We do need someone to step up and volunteer to coordinate this fly-in, as after two years of doing so, I'm stepping away from it. Plus, if all goes well, I'm flying in instead of trailering in, and that makes it difficult to bring all the things needed as the coordinator. Also, Cathy and I are moving south in early 2009, so it's time to break in a new coordinator. Let's hear it from someone who wants to take over the reins. I'll give you all the contacts, and talk you through what needs to be done.

Forgot to mention the Parks Fly-in Open house, which gladly welcomes the gyro community. That's on May 24th. If you fly in, you may not be able to do fly-bys like we do at club meetings and gyro fly-ins, but they do provide an area for us to congregate together.

If anyone has any flying stories they'd like to contribute, please contact me. Even if you don't want to do a full story, even pictures of your machine being built, or flying, would be a nice addition to the newsletter.

I've had a couple of requests to provide the club member's contact info to all members of the club, to facilitate contact outside the club meetings. I'm hesitant to do so, but if you don't mind if your phone number, or your email address is given out, let me know. That way, if one member contacts me regarding someone else, I'll know which specific info it's ok to give to the requesting member. Otherwise, it's probably best to keep the list private, which it is. Let me know your thoughts on this.

Recently had a conversation with a gentleman in our area who has finished a Sparrowhawk II, and is finishing his lessons to signoff. His intentions are to continue to become a CFI for gyros, which would be good news for this area. Until I have his permission to post more information, that's all I can tell you right now. I do know he has been attending Shelbyville fly-ins for quite a number of years!

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