



THE INVERTED FLYER

NEWS of the BOULDER AEROMODELING SOCIETY
AMA Charter # 906

September 2011 Edition

Ken Miller Editor #38

The Eaglerock Has Landed...

To most of us, Longmont's Vance Brand Airport represents a typical municipal airfield with its paved runway and rows of aircraft hangars. In the early 1900s, however, the term "flying field" depicted something far different.

On weekends, many cow pastures throughout the country became airfields. Such a field lay on the outskirts of Longmont in the 1920s. Townsfolk referred to it as the Blackwell Farm Airfield, although it was probably nothing more than a grass landing strip on Clyde Blackwell's farm. Its exact whereabouts remains unknown.

Clyde Blackwell became intrigued with flight during World War I when the United States used Curtiss JN-4 "Jenny" biplanes to train its military aviators. It would be almost another decade before Charles Lindbergh's heroic flight across the Atlantic refueled Clyde's passion to fly.

When the war ended in 1918, the government sold its surplus Jennys, which had originally cost about \$5,000 each, to the private sector for \$200 apiece. When ex-military pilots bought many of them, a new phenomenon called "barnstorming" was born. These daring aerial circuses quickly became the most popular form of public entertainment in America.

The Alexander Aircraft Company's Eaglerock biplane was a favorite of these early daredevils. It was the plane that Clyde Blackwell wanted to own. He ordered an Eaglerock A-3 from Alexander Aircraft's Colorado Springs plant and took delivery in 1929.

On Sunday afternoons, both the curious and the daring lined up at the Blackwell Farm Airfield to purchase rides or to watch others take to the air. With Clyde at the controls in the rear cockpit, customers climbed into the front seat for a thirty minute ride above the farms and onlookers below. The cost of their adventure was a penny per pound of body weight.

Tragically, Clyde's flying enterprise came to an abrupt end in October 1930, when he and his sister Winifred plummeted to their deaths as their mother and sister looked on in horror.

Today, the oldest known surviving Alexander Eaglerock is on display at the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum in Denver, and another hangs at the west end of Denver International Airport's Concourse B. In 2000, aviator Mary Smith Senft Hanson began building a replica of an Alexander Bullet at the Longmont airport. It was completed in Arizona but crashed before it could be certified as an experimental aircraft.

Submitted by Anne Dyni ~

PRESIDENT— David Goodnow called meeting to order at 6:30 pm with 18 members present. David asked for a motion to accept last months meeting minutes as they appeared in the last newsletter. Motion made by Al Coelho with a second by Dean Ehn to accept the minutes. Motion voted and passed.

TREASURE REPORT--Treasure Dean Ehn gave a detailed report of the clubs finances.

1st VICE PRESIDENT REPORT-- 1ST Vice President Augie Bruno stated the club has 2 new members. Steve VanArken and Bowdie Ormsbee. Welcome Steve and Bowdie. The club now has a total of 94 members of which 19 are also in the float fly group.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT REPORT-- 2nd Vice President Joe Sherran reported no new safety concerns.

OLD BUSINESS. David reported the field still has the flying restrictions in place. The club picnic was discussed. Al Coelho will head up the swap shop prior to the picnic. He will be setting up tables Saturday at 9:00 am. Lunch will be at noon. No planned events fun flying all day. Rudy Glick will display and run some model engines to supplement your dining pleasure. Mal Meador youth program is still on hold Rich Anderson stated he is going to have some of the program equipment used in the past in the swap shop for sale.

NEW BUSINESS-- David Goodnow has secured permission to use Beaver Lake for a future float fly. This lake is located past the Boy Scout camp near Ward Co. The date can be the 19th or the 24th of August. After a discussion it was decided to go on the 24th. Starting time will be 9:00 am. All members welcome. The next meeting will be September 14 at Hobby Town USA. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Rich Anderson with second by David Goodnow. Motion voted and passed.

Respectfully Submitted Rudy Glick

Members September 2011 Birthdays

Rudy Glick

Bill Engelking

Charles Bowen

Darrell Adams

Boris Sergeev

BAS Meeting, September 14th
6:30 PM at Hobby Town USA

See Web Page for Event Listings
www.boulderaero.org

FOR SALE

The fowling items are from the Jim Thomas Estate donated to BAS through Rich Anderson, FOR SALE to club members. All the money from the sale will go to the BAS club. It is a make offer type of sale to be regulated by Rich. If you are interested in any of the items, you can contact by E-Mail or Phone.

E-Mail anderson.rich@comcast.net

Phone **303-652-2224**

- #1 Pasche Model D500 Airbrush Compressor.
- #2 Dremel Model MS400 XPR Multisaw.
- #3 Dremel Model 270 Single speed Moto Tool.
- #4 Dremel Model 800 Lithium-Ion Cordless Tool.
- #5 Two Charging stations for the Dremel Cordless .
- #6 Two small boxes of miscellaneous Dremel sanding, Grinding and buffing discs.
- #7 Futaba 4YF Skysport 4-Channel FM/4 Radio new in the box. Includes transmitter, receiver. servos, battery, and charger.