



This issue:

Tornado!

EAA CHAPTER 983

April 2011

DUCK 'N RUN 2011



It was just another Florida storm, or so participants thought. Cameras rolled while the rain came in sheets; then, something else happened. Suddenly, the wind intensified and furniture, trash cans and assorted loose objects took flight. A tornado had been spawned by the storm, and tore a path of destruction through the Lakeland airshow. Planes were tossed like toys, the most memorable of which is shown above in this now-famous David Hirschman photo. Chapter members Lana Kraeszig and Bonnie Lewis were in a large tent with several Women's Air Service Pilots and more than 60 other people when it collapsed on them. They were safely evacuated to a nearby hangar. Initially, the media reported that a hangar had collapsed; but, they were referring to the tent. In all, fifteen people suffered minor injuries, seven of which merited a trip to the hospital.

More photos on pages 5 and 6.

Congratulations, John!



John Kleber's Lancair was more than 10 years in the making, but finally won its airworthiness certification March 20th. Three days later, Larry Henney took the controls for the plane's maiden flight. A brief clip of Larry's first landing, and celebratory "pilot wash" is [here](#), courtesy of *Airpark Neighbors'* YouTube site. Below, Larry describes the stellar first flight, flanked by Don Saint, Tom Lewis and John Kleber.



Konnie Sasser Takes Young Eagle Helm

Chapter member [Konnie Sasser](#) is taking over as Young Eagles coordinator from outgoing coordinator Karen Tucker. The chapter has a thriving relationship with Emerson White's aviation program at Granbury High, and members frequently log Young Eagle flights whenever they carry youth in their aircraft.

Adjunct to the Young Eagles program, the chapter sends a student each year to Oshkosh for the EAA Air Academy, where the recipient spends a week rubbing shoulders with other aspiring pilots, participating in workshops, and doing some flying.

This year, Madison Northcutt is attending the academy. Madison is a junior at Granbury High, excels in pole vaulting. Now that he's mastered flinging his body into the air without an aircraft, he'll learn the art of achieving greater heights with the aid of a machine.



Chapter Alumni Soar

Alumni of the Air Academy who have been sponsored by Chapter 983 are enjoying success, as they pursue their chosen careers. Chris King (upper) prepares to throw special operations forces out of his Casa 212 from Flight Level 280. Chris Webb (below) is studying meteorology at Oklahoma State University.

FLASH!

Chris King is a newly-minted ATP and is now rated as Captain on the Casa 212





Motorists captured this photo of the tornado, working its way to the airshow. AP Photo



A bad day for Zenith aircraft: STOL models prove the worst off, when the winds accelerate, for obvious reasons. EAA Photo



This lovely Minnesota-based Air Cam landed atop another aircraft during the onslaught. EAA Photo



Don't mess with "*lady pilots!*" our gals crawled to safety, did an extensive Happy Hour debrief; thankfully, the only crushed items that day were a truckload of California grapes. EAA Photo

See Amateur Footage From *Inside* The Tornado [HERE](#)

Editor's Note:

With my 20th issue slated for distribution at the end of the summer, I'm putting out a call to talented members in our midst to take the newsletter-writing baton and have a turn at this rewarding task. So, if you've always wanted to write badly, now you can! The life of a Chapter 983 Newsletter Writer is one of glamor and excitement. While everyone sits idle at meetings, the writer is absorbed in a colorful world of creativity and expression. Perks include all the cookies you can eat and bottomless coffee. Enjoy intimate communications with staff elites, unbridled admiration of fellow members, and awed whispers of invited guests. Whether you possess a Mac or a PC, you too can craft a monthly chapter newsletter. Simply submit a brief sample of your writing skill, and our judges will do the rest. The most recent winning entry: "Okay, *okay*, I'll do it." Andy Shane is taking applications at ndshane@gmail.com



Seen near Commanche Peak: The Department of Homeland Security is abuzz with reports of two suspicious-looking characters in an odd craft performing low-altitude maneuvering near a local nuke plant. On news that the perps are *airline pilots*, it was **lock and load!** Talk about frigid...

Classified Ads

For Sale By Members



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| UPCOMING EVENTS | | |
|-----------------|---|-------------------------|
| April 9 | Sheetmetal Basics Chapter member Shawn Scott talks metal. | Pecan Plantation (OTX1) |
| May 21 | Brady Fly-in | Brady, TX (KBBD) |
| May 27-29 | Ranger Fly-in | Ranger, TX (F23) |
| August 13 | How To Earn A Seaplane Rating Andy Shane | Pecan Plantation (OTX1) |
| Oct 8 | Bear Aircraft Radial, 360hp, tandem warbird for the modern era. Wear your old flightsuit for this one! | Pecan Plantation (OTX1) |



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| <u>President</u> | John McComas | 817-736-0320 |
| <u>Vice President</u> | Doug Crumrine | 817-573-1220 |
| <u>Secretary /Treasurer</u> | Pam Fisher | 903-617-9920 |
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| | <u>Dick Keyt</u> | 817-279-7590 |
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| <u>Advertising Manager</u> | OPEN | |
| <u>Librarian/Photos</u> | Marcia Walker | 817-578-3369 |

Chapter Projects

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Dick Keyt | Polen Special and a Thorp T-18 |
| Don Saint | Kitfox Super Sport |
| Sid Tucker | DeHavilland DH-82A "Tiger Moth". |
| Dwight Hill | Murphy Rebel |
| Greg Walker | RV-8A |
| Dave & Wendy Moore | RV-10 |
| Rick and Monica Richardson | RV-7A |
| Ron Schuster | 1986 Bushby Mustang II |
| Damon Berry | 1939 T-Craft |
| Larry Henney | Lancair IV |
| Charles Williams | GP4 Rebuild |
| Gary Green | Wag-Aero Cuby |
| Shawn Scott | RV-4 |
| Don Doubleday | Thorp T-18CW |
| Jerry Althouse | Challenger II Rebuild |
| John Kleber | Lancair Legacy |
| Bob & Pam Fisher | RV-7A |

(Send additions and corrections to webguy@eaa983.org)

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Updates Needed

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