



# CHAPTER 81

## SKY WRITER

August 2009 Newsletter

### ***Meeting Notice!***

*Next Chapter 81 Meeting is at the  
Ryan Field Administration Building  
Saturday, 15 August at 10:00 AM*

### ***Chapter Notes***

This is an abbreviated newsletter as there was no chapter meeting in July.

We are saddened to pass along information regarding the passing of two chapter members in July, Gene Gaddis and Bill Paul.



Eugene Harold Gaddis age 65, passed away July 3, 2009, suddenly at his home in Tucson. Gene was born in Sioux Falls, SD, graduated from South Dakota State University in 1967, served in the US Air Force as a fighter pilot and retired in 1992 as a Lt. Col. He was a Vietnam Veteran having flown over 3000 hours in the F-100, F-104, A-7, F-5, A-10 and F-

106 airplanes during his 25 year career. He volunteered in many community outreach programs helping the less fortunate. In November 2001 he completed construction of and continued to fly his

RV-8 experimental single engine airplane and was instrumental in the construction and restoration of several aircraft projects, offering his time and talents expecting nothing in return. He is survived by his wife, Carol; children, Bethany Gaddis of Denver, CO, Timothy Gaddis of Tucson; stepchildren, Sandra Butler of Los Angeles, CA, Jesse Butler of Tucson; sister, Eileen (Dale) Heemstra of Dolton, SD; brothers, Dick Gaddis of Sioux Falls, SD, Don (Debbie) Gaddis of Crooks, SD, Dave Gaddis of Garretson, SD, and Wayne (Cindy) Gaddis of Madison, SD. Graveside Services will be held Thursday, July 9, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., at Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Sierra Vista. A Memorial Mass will be held Thursday, July 9, 2009 at 1:00 p.m., at St. Pius X Catholic Church, 1800 N. Camino Pio Decimo in Tucson. The family requests that in lieu of flowers donations be made to St. Pius X Catholic Church. Arrangements entrusted to BRING'S BROADWAY CHAPEL, 6910 E. Broadway. (Obituary From the Arizona Daily Star)

Here is a note from Rick Paul, regarding Bill's passing..... "As you have probably heard, my father passed away on July 9th. I can tell you he really enjoyed his time with the EAA. Please let the entire group know the whole family appreciates the group accepting my father into the organization." Arrangements for Bill were private.

## Highlights from Oshkosh 2009







## **Aviation Humor** (Send your favorite material to the editor)

While taxiing at London's Gatwick Airport, the crew of a US Air flight departing for Ft. Lauderdale made a wrong turn and came nose to nose with a United 727. An irate female ground controller lashed out at the US Air crew, screaming: "US Air 2771, where the hell are you going? I told you to turn right onto Charlie taxiway! You turned right on Delta! Stop right there. I know it's difficult for you to tell the difference between C and D, but get it right!"

Continuing her rage to the embarrassed crew, she was now shouting hysterically: "God! Now you've screwed everything up! It'll take forever to sort this out! You stay right there and don't move till I tell you to! You can expect progressive taxi instructions in about half an hour, and I want you to go exactly where I tell you, when I tell you, and how I tell you! You got that, US Air 2771?"

"Yes, ma'am," the humbled crew responded.

Naturally, the ground control communications frequency fell terribly silent after the verbal bashing of US Air 2771. Nobody wanted to chance engaging

the irate ground controller in her current state of mind. Tension in every cockpit out around Gatwick was definitely running high. Just then an unknown pilot broke the silence and keyed his microphone, asking: "Wasn't I married to you once?"

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## CLASSIFIEDS

(Note: Classified will run for two months unless specifically renewed)

(None at this time)

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**Check out the Chapter Website at**  
**<http://WWW.EAA81.ORG/>**

That's all for now.

**Erik Fjerstad, Newsletter Editor**

Note: Please send items of interest, classifieds,  
(<mailto:newsletter81@eaa81.org>)  
or to Erik's address on front page.

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## PERSONALITIES and their PROJECTS

### Mel Jordan and his RV6A



Mel is another long time citizen of Tucson. In spite of the fact that he was born in Daytona Beach, Florida he has lived in Tucson since 1954. He attended Catalina High School and went on to Ls Salle University and received his graduate degree at Arizona State. After college he went to work for Texas Instruments and is now Marketing Analog Manager for that Company. Mel got his start flying while still in college when he sold his prized Sunbeam Tiger so that he could afford flying lessons, training at Mercury Aviation at what is now TIA, and soloed on Christmas eve 1970. Shortly after he got married he felt compelled to take time off for about 15 years while he raised a family, but has since logged over 650 hours flying time. He started his RV6 from a "quick build" kit and devoted some 2000 hours to it's completion. He installed a Lycoming J-360A1A and has since added fuel injection. In his instrument panel he has a Dynon solid state artificial horizon of which he is very proud. Mel had his plane painted by Frying Kolors in Riverside, California. He designed the distinctive graphics himself. His first flight was October 31, 2002 and says he has had very little trouble since. Although he enjoys a little aerobatics, he usually limits his flying to occasional formation breakfast flights and some family fun. He flies almost every weekend, and since finishing his RV he adds about 200+ hours per year to his log book. Mel has two sons both of whom fly.



**Note: Profile Text and Photos by Joe Seibold.**

We will feature a new profile each month. Please contact Joe to have your project profiled!  
<mailto:seiboldj@aol.com> (520) 818-0603)