



CHAPTER 81

SKY WRITER

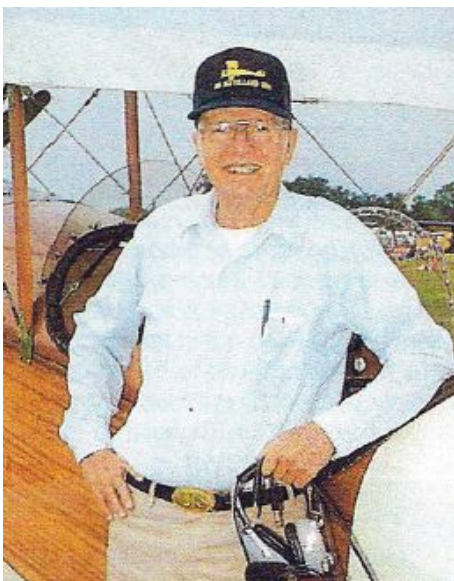
September 2009 Newsletter

Meeting Notice!

Next Chapter 81 Meeting is a project meeting at Neil Cubbon's home on 19 September to view progress on his RV-9A (Map on last page)

Chapter Notes

Captain Roy McCaldin passed away in August.



The Chapter made a donation to a charity identified by the family, and we received this thank-you note from Dede, Roy's widow.



*Each of you at EAA81
were wonderful to give
us such a generous gift, and
I thank you, with all my
heart for your gift, for your
prayers, & for being Roy's
friends. He greatly enjoyed
each one of you for
many years, and often
talked of the pleasure
of being with you.*

*Hugs, & Love
Dede*

The following material is an extraction from a collection of historical information from various sources (internet searches and copies of various flying publications and on-line articles).

Roy flew B-17 bombers over Europe, and to one aviation writer summed up his wartime experiences with a single, telling anecdote. "I have the dubious distinction of flying one of the first B-17s shot down by a German Me-262 twin-jet fighter. It was an experience I would never want to repeat."

From the book "Texas Aggies go to war", While making a solo run on the rail yards at Berlin, a German ME-262 jet fighter came in so close to Capt. Roy McCaldin's bomber that "if I'd had a brick I could have hit him", McCaldin recalled. (McCaldin said that he was one of those Aggies who enrolled at Texas A&M in September 1941, and finished eight years later.) Missing on the first attempt, the enemy jet came back for another run and blew off the right stabilizer of McCaldin's plane, shot up the right wing, and knocked out number three and four engines. Pilot McCaldin told the crew to "hang on" until they could reach the Russian lines east of the Oder River. They did – but barely. McCaldin was the last one to parachute out as the aircraft descended. McCaldin made it to the ground, got out of his parachute, and walked to a nearby road, where he found his radio operator sitting in a Russian's car. In time, McCaldin and several other Americans traveling with him arrived at the American embassy in Moscow.

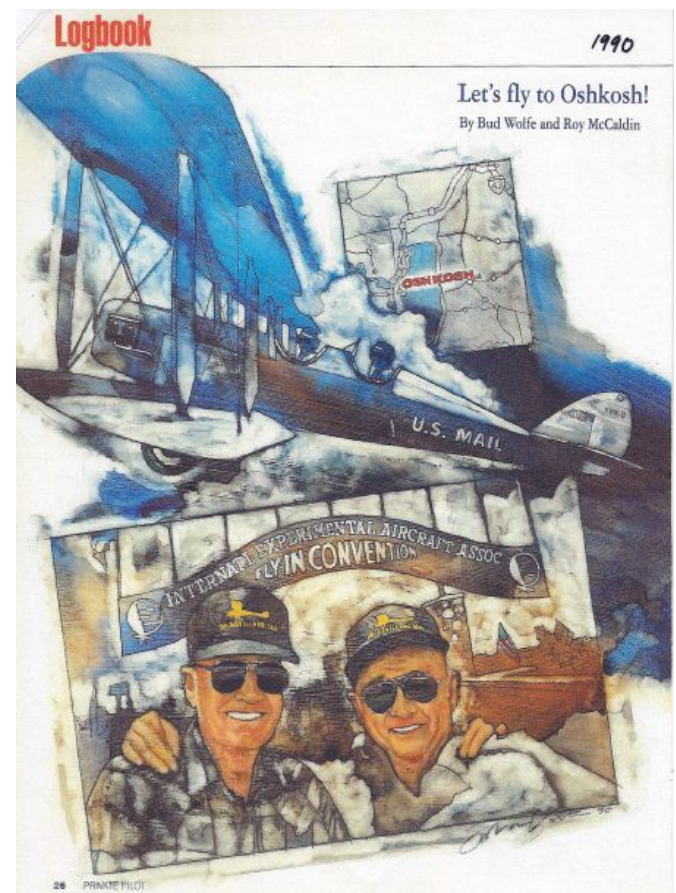
After the war, Roy earned a PhD and worked for the Public Health Service. A simple search found the following scientific articles for which Roy was an author:

- Comparison of Pulmonary Function and Other Parameters in Two Communities with Widely Different Air Pollution Levels
- The Quality of Housing "Before" and "After" Rehabilitation,
- Air pollution and New Orleans asthma: A preliminary report
- Observations on Tokyo-Yokohama asthma and air pollution in Japan
- Observations on air pollution aspects of Irazú Volcano, Costa Rica

After retiring from a career in the U.S. Public Health Service, McCaldin decided to try his hand at homebuilding. His first project was a Bowers Fly Baby. His second project, completed in 1982, was the S.E.5a, which he flew for 10 years, until he finished the scratch-built DH-4. He flew the DH-4 to Oshkosh with his good friend Bud Wolfe.

He has held several state records over the years,

including the soaring distance record which he accomplished in a 1-26 (Tucson to the El Paso natural gas pump - about 360 miles) and the 2-place altitude record. He still holds the state single place altitude record. He rode a standing wave over the Huachuca Mountains near Sierra Vista, AZ to 31,900 feet. Roy was inducted into the Arizona Aviation Hall of Fame in 2005.



From a 1996 Private Pilot magazine... WHEN LAST WE saw Roy McCaldin it was in the April 1994 edition of PRIVATE PILOT's Featured Flier column. Once again, 72-year-old McCaldin and the 70% replica De Havilland DH-4A he built and flies, are in the news. The pair star in a new TV documentary, Daredevils of the Sky, produced by Phoenix TV Ltd. for The Learning Channel (TLC). The historical documentary covers, among other subjects, the history of the U. S. Airmail Service between 1918 and 1928. Location filming was done last summer in the

Cheyenne, Wyoming, area, where much of the early airmail activity took place. Since DH-4s are virtually extinct, the producers contacted the EAA for information. The only DH-4 shown in the EAA files was McCaldin's replica. It should come as no



surprise that the builder snapped up the opportunity to fly for the cameras. Normally, McCaldin, a World War-II B-17 pilot from Tucson, Arizona, can find another antique or replica pilot to tag along and share experiences, but no one was available at the time the shoot was scheduled, so McCaldin made the 37 -hour round-trip to and from Wyoming alone, cruising along at 75 mph. Air-to-air photography was done from Lyle Gurley's helicopter based in Fort Collins, Colorado. The location was in the vicinity of Elk Mountain west of Laramie, Wyoming, where at least one early airmail plane had crashed. The film company used Medicine Bow airfield and Ellie Ranch and Lewis Ranch flight strips nearby for background filming. "Gurley was a first-rate photo pilot," praises McCaldin. "The Medicine Bow airfield hadn't changed much since its use as an auxiliary field for the early airmail service. There were bison and elk on the strip and gopher holes all around. Because of the rough surface, we used Medicine Bow only for ground-to-air photography with no takeoffs or landings there." Long cross-country trips over the high desert in midsummer usually have their share of weather and McCaldin's return from Cheyenne was no exception.

Goodbye, Roy!

We will all surely miss you!



***On a lighter note,
Aviation (or other) Humor
(Send your favorite material to the editor)***

LARRY'S PROVERBS

1. A day without sunshine is like night.
2. On the other hand, you have different fingers.
3. 42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot.
4. 99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
5. Remember, half the people you know are below average.
6. He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
7. Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
8. The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese in the trap.
9. Support bacteria. They're the only culture most people have.
10. A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory..
11. Change is inevitable, except from vending machines.
12. If you think nobody cares, try missing a couple of payments.
13. How many of you believe in psycho-kinesis? Raise my hand.
14. OK, so what's the speed of dark?
15. When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
16. Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now.
17. How much deeper would the ocean be without sponges?
18. Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
19. What happens if you get scared half to death, twice?
20. Why do psychics have to ask you your name?
21. Inside every older person is a younger person wondering, 'What the heck happened?'
22. Just remember -- if the world didn't suck, we would all fall off.
23. Light travels faster than sound. That's why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
24. Life isn't like a box of chocolates. It's more like a jar of jalapenos. What you do today, might burn your butt tomorrow.

CLASSIFIEDS



Roy McCaldin's DH-4 replica is for sale, with a negotiable asking price of \$45,000.

Please contact Bill McLearn, the Manager of Mobile Aire Hangars at Ryan Field.

Office phones: 520-883-5851, 520-889-6301,

Cell phone: 520-400-0522

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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Note: The August Meeting Minutes are available from the chapter website.

Next Chapter Meeting
10AM Saturday, 19 September.

Project meeting at Neil Cubbon's residence, to see his RV-9A. Here are the directions::

NEIL CUBBON
5930 South Randall Blvd 85706
Phone 746 0015
Plenty of parking inside fence!

