



First Flight for Vern Williams' Zenith CH-601HD TD

By Marvin Brott

Our Chapter 168 has been watching Vern build this airplane for a some time and we all knew the first flight was approaching. After several delays with such things as the Class B shut-down at



Aero Country, Vern saw his seven year project take off for the first time on November 4th. Randy Smith was at the controls. This was a smart move in letting someone with a lot of experience make the first flight. On November 17th at about eleven in the morning Vern made his first 20 minute flight with everything going just great. Check the grin on his face after that first flight (see photo). At our chapter meeting on the 13th, Sam Cooper presented to Vern his First Flight Plaque (see photo).

As I met with Vern to get more photos and details for this article, he mentioned that, "I have never had this much attention before". Well Vern, welcome to the euphoria of getting an airplane that you have built into the air and congratulations from Chapter 168. Just check with Jim Walters and Ben Johnson who made first flights in recent months about their sense of accomplishment.

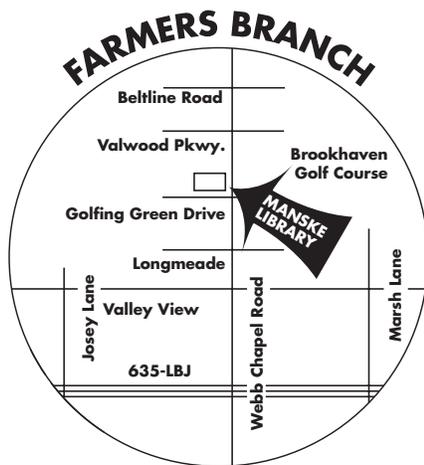
The story leading to this Zenith starts with Vern building custom cars in California but always looking up at the airplanes flying overhead. Finally in June of 1988 he started taking flying lessons at one of Southern California's most famous airports, Meadowlark air field. Meadowlark was a hot bed for sports aviation with its 2300 foot strip. But like most of the small airports near big cities it was closed down for houses in the summer of 1989.



Continued on page 6

Dec. 4th Chapter Meeting

Our December 4th Monthly Chapter Meeting will be held at the Farmers Branch Library, located on the northwest corner of Webb Chapel and Golfing Green Dr. The meeting will be held in the auditorium and will begin at 6:00 P.M. and finish by 10:00.



This is our annual Christmas Party and white elephant gift exchange. We will start a little earlier so we can begin eating around 6:30. The Library has also extended their hours so we can have an extra hour to enjoy each other's company. Ann Asberry has included more information on the Christmas party elsewhere in this issue of the Hangar Echoes.

Upcoming National Events

- April 7 - 13, 2002 - Sun-N-Fun
- July 23 - 29 - Airventure 2002

Upcoming Local Events

- Dec. 8th—Fly-in to Lancaster
- Dec. 8th—Air Salvage of Dallas Annual Sale.
- Dec. 7—MIDLAND, TX—Confederate Air Force Headquarters sponsored Open House at the American Airpower Heritage Museum
- Dec. 8—MIDLAND, TX - Confederate Air Force Headquarters & American Airpower Heritage Museum sponsored "10 Years in the Permian Basin,"
- Dec. 14, 7 pm, Frontiers of Flight Museum, "The 10 Most Significant Aircraft of All Time." Seats Limited. Call for reservation. www.flightmuseum.com

Dec. 8th Chapter Fly In

Our Chapter Fly-in this month will be to Lancaster Airport on Saturday Dec. 8th. This will coincide with the annual sale at Air Salvage of Dallas, which is about a block down the road from the airport. The sale begins at 8am and continues through 5pm. We will plan on eating lunch from around 11am–1 pm at the restaurant on the field, but you may arrive and leave as your wish to take advantage of the deals at ASOD. More information about the sale at ASOD is included in the issue.

Dec. 11th Directors Meeting

The December 11th BOD meeting will be held at the Farmers Branch Library meeting room starting at 7:00 p.m. The minutes from the November BOD meeting (recorded by Steve Genotte) are as follows:

Attendees: Michael Stephan, David Cheek, Steve Genotte, Steve Palstring, Sam Cooper, Bill Barret, Pat Johnson, Jerry Mrazek, Jim Quinn, Mel Asberry, Ann Asberry and Monroe McDonald.

The annual Chapter Christmas Party is December 4th, from 6:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Donations to the Collin County women's shelter program "Hope's Door" will be accepted during the evening.

The December fly-in will be on the 8th, at Lancaster airport, coinciding with the annual Air Salvage annual sale.

The next Board meeting will be at 7 p.m., Dec. 11th, in the Farmers Branch Public Library.

The December newsletter assembly will be at the home of Mel and Ann Asberry on Thursday, Dec. 27, starting at 7 p.m.

Chapter officer elections: President – Sam Cooper, Vice President – David Cheek, Secretary – Pat Johnson.

Chapter Finances: The Chapter has completely switched over to the Wells Fargo account. Michael Stephan will have signature authority along with Sam Cooper. All deposits are up to date.

Dec. 27th Newsletter Assembly

The January issue of Hangar Echoes will be assembled at the home of Ann and Mel Asberry on **Thursday Dec. 27th** starting at 7:00 PM. Since our usual day happens to be Christmas, we decided to move the assembly to the following Thursday. The address is 2464 CR655, Farmersville, TX. For directions call Ann or Mel at 972-784-7544.

Mel and Ann are hosting our December folding/Christmas/New Year's Party. The food is always delicious and the work is quick. We always have a good time, so mark your calendar and plan to attend.

A Message from our Chapter President

As we enter this year's holiday season, I want to extend a happy season's greetings to my fellow members. I hope that you and your family will enjoy a wonderful and safe holiday season.

I want to personally congratulate Vern Williams on the recent first flight of his plans built Zenair CH601. This airplane uses a Subaru EA81 with belt reduction drive as its engine. Vern has done an excellent job over seven years of building an airplane the 'hard way'. Congratulations Vern!

We had a good turnout for our November fly-in at Northwest Regional Airport. A good variety of Chapter member airplanes were flown in: Ann and Mel Asberry's RV-6; Ann and Bo Bauereis' Glasair III; Jerry Mrazek's Rans S-14; Klaus Truemper's Zenith 601 HDS; and Richard Robbins' TB20 Trinidad. Our host, Mike Hodge, is building a Glasair III, which is currently at his house. We all enjoyed several hours of seeing and talking about airplanes on a very nice November day. I want to especially thank our hosts, Mike and Bebe Hodge, who along with their daughter, were extremely generous and gracious hosts.

Our November meeting featured Chapter member Robert Chambers (a.k.a. Robrucha in *Kitplanes* magazine) talking about his aviation cartoons. We all enjoyed his presentation about how he makes the cartoons and the stories behind the inspirations. Since Bob makes a point of crediting his source of inspiration, you no doubt have recognized some 168 'characters' in the cartoons. Thanks Bob, we all enjoyed the presentation.

The many activities and services our Chapter is able to provide its members are due to numerous volunteers generously and ably providing of their time. I want to recognize and thank those volunteers for their efforts this past year. First, my fellow elected officers: David Cheek, Vice President; Steve Genotte, Secretary; and Ted Fontelieu followed by Michael Stephan, Treasurer. They are indispensable in arranging our Meeting programs and handling the administrative details of the Chapter. Second, we have been aided and assisted by our Board of Directors: Jeff Anderson; Bill Barrett; Don Christiansen; Scott Christensen; Monroe McDonald; Jerry Mrazek; Stephen Palstring; John Peyton; Jim Quinn; Michael Stephan; and John Williams.

Our excellent newsletter, *Hangar Echoes*, is primarily due to the efforts of our editors Michael Stephan and Marvin Brott. Tom Davies has also provided assistance during the year, and is becoming more involved (he did the layout of our November issue). And a thank all to of our authors who con-



tributed articles during the year.

A critical element of the Chapter 168 builder/restorer support network is our Technical Counselors and Flight Advisors. Our Technical Counselors were: Mel Asberry; Owen Bruce; Don Christiansen; Steve Marchand; and Brownie Seals. Our Flight Advisors were: Mel Asberry; Mike Hoye; and Gene Spaulding. Thanks gentlemen for freely providing of your time and expertise in this very important area.

We also have a number of volunteer officers who serve in a variety of capacities providing critical elements of our Chapter services, or functions. These volunteers were: Bo Bauereis, advertising; Jerry Mrazek, membership database; Michael Stephan, librarian; Vern Williams, tool custodian; Chuck Farry, fly-in ground control; Mel Asberry, safety officer; Jim and Jane Quinn, website editors; Jim Quinn, Young Eagles coordinator; and Michael Stephan and Don Christiansen, membership. Our meeting refreshments have been handled first by Alex Hsia, and then by Eileen Genotte and Pat Johnson. Thank you for providing your time and energy to support our activities.

I am looking forward to seeing a number of you at our annual Christmas Party and gift exchange on December 4th. We will also be collecting some goods for donation to a local shelter for women. Look for details elsewhere in this issue.

Let's keep building, restoring and using our flying machines.

Sam Cooper

Chapter Recognition



By Marvin Brott
At our last chapter meeting each of our officers were recognized for their great work. The first picture shows Dave Cheek presenting to Sam Cooper a certificate of appreciation. The same picture could also show Sam presenting to Dave

a certificate. Either way these two have done a great job this year.

Owen Bruce, Mel Asberry, and Don Christiansen were recognized for their efforts a Technical Counselors and in addition Mel for Flight Advisor.

One person that also received a certificate of appreciation was Michael Stephan for his service on the Chapter Newsletter and now as your Treasurer. I failed to get a good picture of Michael for this newsletter.



Newsletter folding

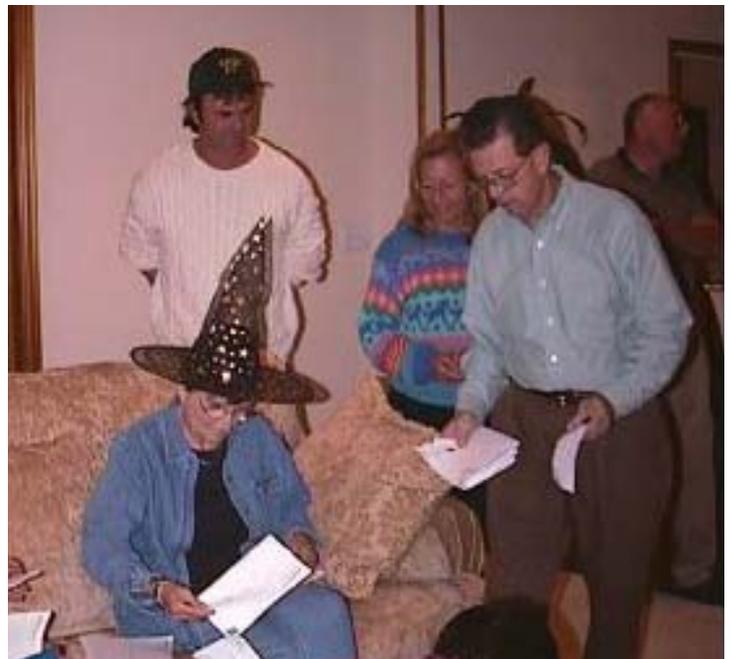
by Michael Stephan

Last month's newsletter folding was hosted Pat and Marvin Brott, who have hosted many assemblies in the past. But, this one was very unique. first, Marvin did not have a Project in the garage. And second, this was a completely different house than what we are used to. Back in August, Marvin and Pat sold their home in Richardson and moved to McKinney. Even though there was no airplane project to look at, we spent our time touring their new home. One of the nicest features Marvin pointed out was that he is now only a few minutes from his airplane. On a whim, he can go to his hangar at Aerocountry and just hang out. Now that is the "life of Riley".



After the tour, we did spend about 15 minutes assembling the newsletter. All that folding, labeling and stamping generated quite an appetite for our gang, but Pat fixed for us some very delicious snacks. We munched and talked airplane for the rest of the evening. It was an excellent opportunity for those of us with projects to get a few questions answered. These newsletter assemblies are great fun and also a valuable resource.

In December we travel to Mel and Ann Asberry's place and see if Mel has anything cooking in the hangar. Since Christmas occurs on our usual night we have changed the date to the following Thursday Dec. 27th. See you there.



Fly-in to Northwest Regional

By Michael Stephan

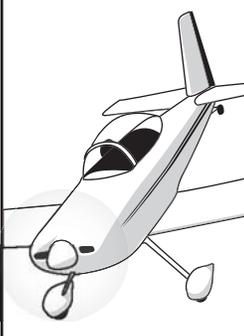
The November fly-in was to Northwest Regional airport. Unpredictable winter weather makes fly-ins a crapshoot, and last month's fly-in had some questionable weather. But, there were several who made it out to Mike Hodge's

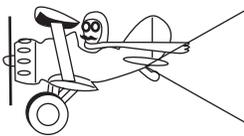


hangar at Northwest Regional. Those who attended had a great time talking airplanes and looking at each other's aircraft. Northwest regional airport is a very large private airport, so there is usually plenty of activity to see. After lunch the sun came out and made it a very nice day. It was a very enjoyable November afternoon.

On behalf of the chapter and especially those who attended we appreciate and thank Mike, his wife BeBe, and their entire family for their very generous hospitality. They have a very nice place, and we thoroughly enjoyed our visit.



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Chapter Christmas Party

By Ann Asberry

Our 2001 Holiday Party is set for the December 4 Chapter meeting. Please come at 6 PM so we can begin eating shortly after 6:30. We will have access to the Library an extra hour until 10 PM that night. There will be food, a white elephant gift exchange and musical entertainment again provided by Jerry Mrazek and friends.

Bring a favorite side dish, munchies or dessert that does not require heating, as we will not be able to reheat any of the food. The chapter will provide the main course, utensils, soda, tea and coffee.

The white elephant gift exchange will use the same format as last year. We limited the trading on gifts to three trades, and that worked so well that we are doing it again. So, each person brings a \$10 or less, trash or treasure unmarked wrapped gift and join in the fun.

After the gift exchange, Jerry and his very talented friends, will play a little Bluegrass music to entertain everyone and get the Holiday Spirit going. This party is fun for all so

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Shortly thereafter Vern moved to Texas (another smart move) and finished his license at Addison. John Ivy brought Vern to a Chapter 168 meeting in the early 1990s and he was launched into the world of sports aviation. Initially Vern was interested in a wood airplane such as the Falco but his work space would not accommodate those long single piece wings. The good flying characteristic (big thick wing), the 44 inch wide cabin, and the fairly easy building process (constant cord and pop rivets) were the main attractions for selecting the Zenith Ch-601 HD.

Now this is what sets Vern's project apart from the many. This was not quick-build, it was not even a kit-build but a scratch built plane from plans. While this was the norm for the 1970s, it is almost unheard of now. Others that came to mind in our chapter that have scratch built are Les Palmer with his KR 2 and Ken Krebaum with his Skyote. Because Vern built from materials like sheet aluminum, his total cost for this Zenith is 12,000 dollars. The lion's share of that 12K was in the prop and canopy. This is outstanding since most kits let alone an entire airplane cost more than \$12K today.

Vern started this project at his home in Farmers Branch in January 1994 but quickly ran out of room for building so he moved into Klaus Truemper's hangar at Aero Country. The building continued right next to Klaus's taper wing Zenith 601 HDS and Les Palmer's KR 2. Good inspiration for keeping on the project. When you scratch build, you start with rib form blocks. First you build it in wood then in the final aluminum.

In Vern's case his one size form block was used for all ribs in the 27 foot constant-cord wing. Klaus's 23 foot taper wing would have required a number of different rib form blocks since each rib is different. For those of you not familiar with form blocks, check out the nose rib in the photo.



From the standpoint of drawings, Vern had essentially only plans for firewall back. For firewall forward Vern selected a stock 79 hp Subaru engine (EA81) which is used extensively in gyro-copters. The other Zenith aircraft in our chapter have used the Rotax engine. To me this Subaru engine looks like a high tech water cooled VW engine (see photo). Vern has a very clean and good looking installation.



Vern's biggest frustration with building this airplane came when he started building the cowl. The only real information he knew about for firewall forward was the 3 degree engine

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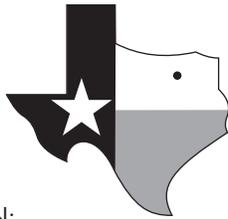
P.O. Box 8641 Greenville, TX 75404
903-455-3113

Chapter Christmas Party *Continued from page 5*

bring the spouse or significant other and the kids and join the festivities.

The board of directors decided to add something new this year. The plan is to make a charitable donation from the Chapter to a worthy organization. **“Hope’s Door”**, formerly known as Collin County Women’s Shelter, is the selected recipient. Please help if you can. Below is a list of needs for that organization.

- Cleaning supplies: Mr. Clean, Lysol, Paper towels, Mop & Glow, Cascade, Mops, Bathroom cleaner, Dishwashing liquid, Room deodorizer.
- Canned goods: Ravioli, Tuna, Soup, Fruit, Spaghetti-O’s, Kool-Aid, Juice Boxes, Peanut butter, Dried potatoes, Jelly. Individual servings: Fruit, Cookies, Apple sauce, Chips.
- **NEW** unwrapped toys
- We will also have a box for cash donations. Checks may be made out to Hope’s Door.



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Land of Enchantment

By Marvin Brott

The first annual Land of Enchantment (Las Cruces 2001) RV fly-in (follow on to the Burlington, Colorado fly-ins) originally scheduled for September 14th and rescheduled for October 26th turned out to be really great from all aspects. First the weather was absolutely super for the entire US and Red Marron and the people in Las Cruces did an absolutely outstanding job of putting on this fly-in. This is my kind of a fly-in. Forget the aerobic boredom with an announcer blasting your eardrums. It was good to see old friends and make new ones.



There were a total of 101 RVs and a lot of miscellaneous, including the bony Giles, a CJ-6 and much Wichita/Pennsylvania type iron, plus some nice older planes like Swifts and Luscombes. The RV factory people were there giving rides. Chapter 168 was well represented with about ten or more airplanes and many people. Check out the photos.

The following is what Larry Pardue from Carlsbad, NM had to say about “our” Red Marron.



“His personality sort of ripples out in waves until it envelopes the entire area. His voice carries clearly and strongly over long distances with command authority. He likes people and it shows. You would not want to face this man in dealings over a used car. By the end of the dealings
Continued on page 9

shift to the left for P-factor and the point in space for the prop hub. After building the engine mount and installing the engine, he realized that the 3 degree shift was not accomplished exactly per spec. He shifted the front of the engine versus the back. After some time he was able to back himself out of the problem and move on with the building of the cowl. How many of you out there have built your own engine mount or cowl from scratch? Not me.

I asked Vern how he was going to paint his airplane. He started with saying it would be in base white which made me think of Klaus's airplane but then he went on to say it would have some kind of Firebird design on top of the white. It was at that point that I felt some of his custom car days were leaking through to this project. The Firebird will look great and should remind us of the Raven aerobatic airplane in California.



My final question for Vern was who he wanted to thank for helping him during the past seven years. He only smiled and said the list would be too long to put down. I finally squeezed out of him that Les Palmer, Klaus Truemper and Mel Asberry were big factors in getting this airplane into the air.

So what does the N259VJ number stand for? His whole family is represented in this N-number with the obvious V for Vern and J for Joyce, and the 2, 5, and 9 are the months his children were born in.



Alvin Boyanton
Manager/Vice President



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Land of Enchantment

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you would be pleading with him to please raise the price.”

At the banquet Red described his rules for this fly-in being, “the only rule is that there are no rules.” This philosophy worked very well as everything was relaxed, yet it seemed like people were being more careful than normal.



Col. Frank Borman (flew Gemini and Apollo spacecraft) added a lot of flavor too. He opened his pristine hangar to all, along with all the mementos it contains. He also favored us with some P-51 fly-bys on Sunday morning, as well as doing the aircraft judging duties. High points for some of us from



Chapter 168 came with plaques. Youngest RV pilot was Ben Johnson, Best RV 6 series was Howard Walrath, Best RV 8 series, much to my surprise was N707TX (the Brotts). The bottom line of this type of fly-in is, its all about the people.

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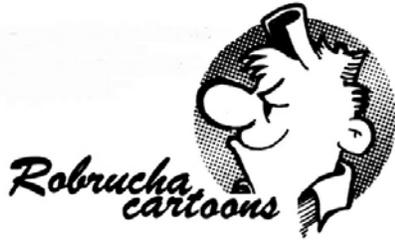
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Cartooning

Have you ever wondered who is doing all those great cartoons in Kitplanes? Have you ever wondered why some of the cartoons hit home with a reference to

Chapter 168 and in some cases specifically to Mel and Ann Ansberry? Have you ever wondered what Robrucha meant? At our last meeting that cartoonist was our speaker and revealed all the answers. Bob Chambers lives in Richardson, is a member of our chapter and Robrucha is the name he started using many years ago for his cartoons. It represents the first three letters of his name, Robert Bruce Chambers. We had a great time as he showed us how easy, at least for him, it is to draw cartoons. Check out Mel as represented on the paper. We learned a lot about cartoons and humor. Thanks Bob for a great program.

By Marvin Brott



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December 8th Sale at ASOD

By Michael Stephan

Our December Fly-in will be at Lancaster Airport and will coincide with the Annual Sale at Air Salvage of Dallas. ASOD has been a big supporter of the Chapter as an advertiser, and at several meetings Lucky was the speaker. Several of our Chapter members fly behind engine bought from ASOD. It is a neat place to look around. Below is information concerning the event and more information can be found on their website at www.asod.com.

Air Salvage of Dallas Fly-In and Sale

- December 8th, 8 A.M.–5 P.M.
- Everything on sale 10 to 50% off.
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New Website Address: www.eaa168.org

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Experimental Aircraft Association

Dallas Chapter 168
P.O. Box 168
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- Renewal
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Name _____

Copilot (spouse, friend, other) _____

Address 1 (or business name) _____

Address 2 _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____ Mapsco _____

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_____		%
_____		%