

# LITE-WING NEWS

OCTOBER  
2008



THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION  
OF EAA ULTRALIGHT  
CHAPTER #104

President: Skip Little

Vice-President: Don McDonald

Secretary: Bucky Carter

Treasurer: Bob McComb

**...NEXT MEETING THURSDAY OCTOBER 16TH, 7:00 P.M. AT SIGNATURE AVIATION**

## From the President

The FAA recently said that the Light Sport Aircraft rules, including the FAR 1 LSA definition, were being reviewed to determine whether there are minor changes that might be made to enhance the Light Sport concept. Apparently they have received some heat in sensitive places. Yes, your deep sympathy for Friendlies will be noted, but my administration will not be sending sympathy cards.

However, a note of encouragement might be sent, as this review apparently has found that formal ultralight student pilot flight instruction has essentially ceased. Evidently, the FAA's method of having Light Sport CFI's train ultralight students is not working. Who'd a thought! Although it is possible that the Friendlies may devise a Plan B, it is unlikely that any resources will be available to implement whatever new scheme they might invent.

The key to obtaining a useful ultralight training syllabus is to determine which FAA department/people have this on their agenda. It will assuredly be at the bottom of the to-do list, which is a great opportunity for the orgs to volunteer to provide an FAA acceptable plan that will actually produce real ultralight pilot training as had been done up to last January.

Can this be done? Probably, but it will really be a low level effort by the Friendlies and likely a real man-hour absorbing effort by the volunteers. However, it is quite possible that one of the orgs has sufficient FAA contacts to initiate an informal study that will lead to a reasonably simple solution.

There is such an action already under way, but it is barely in motion at this time. However, it is moving, and with other orgs becoming involved, we may, eventually, be successful.

But this is just for training, there is absolutely no interest by the FAA in any changes in FAR 103/AC 103-7. Although the Friendlies may be willing to consider formal ultralight training, they have also made it abundantly clear that such training will be done through Light Sport, not "fat" or two-place ultralights. As those craft have all been absorbed, theoretically, into Light Sport, there is no need, nor will there be any consideration for, FAR 103 changes. It has been implied, though not stated, that a continued push for 103 changes will result in all craft being included in Light Sport, eliminating FAR 103.

So the smart course of action is to achieve reinstatement of ultralight pilot training, and monitor that effort to ensure that it is successful. With formal training reinstated, the issue of realistic training planes can be addressed, if necessary. All of which is a most optimistic agenda, one worth the effort required to achieve a worthwhile goal.

With the current FAA (and national) budget crunch, ultralight training is not a line item, which is an opportunity for a volunteer effort. That effort is being initiated, it will no doubt be prolonged, and difficult, but well worth the effort. So let's hold a good thought for success. Stay tuned.

Cordially,

*Harold "Skip" Little*

**OCTOBER MTUG MEETING AGENDA**

- ▶ Greetings and Announcements
  - Visitor Introductions
  - Project Reports
  - Member Happenings
  - Fly-in Reports
- ▶ Old Business
  - September Meeting Minutes
  - Treasurer's Report
  - Newsletter Editor's Report
- ▶ New Business
  - Christmas Party
  - MTSU Shop Tool Finding
  - Ultralight Pilot Training Status
  - Possibility of ultralight flight training support
  - Nominating Committee Report
  - EAA Calendar Availability
  - BREAK -----
- ▶ Program
  - The Estimable Mr. Donald McDonald
  - A Presentation on His Two Recent Grand Accomplishments -
    - \* The New Custom-built Super Cub
    - \* The Donald McDonald Aerospace Maintenance Hanger



PHOTO BY BOB McCOMB

MTUG Member John Sewell is either showing off the quality construction of his recently completed MiniMAX, or practicing for his new one-man wingwalking show!

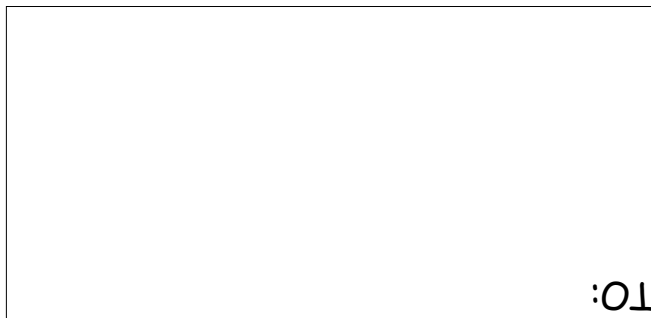
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