

45° North



Gaylord, MI

EAA Chapter 1095 — www.eaa1095.org September 2008

President's Corner

by Vic Briley

Hello fellow flyers:

We now have building materials for our deck to be built at the entrance to our chapter hangar.

Wally McCoy and Ken Schlemmer picked up the materials and plan on setting the footings and support posts in place so we will be ready to build on our volunteer weekend (date to be determined). We will schedule a work party at our next meeting. Our hangar is really shaping up thanks to your hard work and dedication.

Wally McCoy and I are scheduled for a leadership academy at Oshkosh on September 12th thru the 14th. We will meet with other chapter leaders from all over the country and share our ideas and experiences. We are looking forward to the event and hope to bring back lots of new ideas to share with everyone. Most of our meetings, lately, have been all business. We need to plan some fun things to do to keep everyone interested. We are always open to suggestions and like to make it a family event when possible. We did not have a corn roast this year because of other distractions. Are you ready for another party or is it too soon? December is

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In This Issue

by Phil Curtiss

On Page 3 there is a report (or rant) by Jim Campbell, the Editor-in-Chief of the Aero-Net News, www.aero-net.net. This

tells of a bumbling TSA inspector who took on additional duties that damaged nine American Eagle jets at O'Hare.

The worst part is that the TSA would like to "secure" General Aviation. Would you want this guy inspected your airplane?

Other than the photos by Vic all photos in this issue courtesy of Bob Burns, my photo friend at Oshkosh.



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Next Meeting September 10, 2008

**At the Airport
Board at 6:30pm
Chapter at 7:00pm**

45° North, Chapter 1095 Newsletter

www.eaa1095.org

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45° North is being sent by both the U.S. Post Office and by email. Those of you that agreed to the email version will not receive a paper copy. You will be sent an email telling you where to find the newsletter.

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Coming Events

- Sep. 10** **Board Meeting 6:30 pm**
Regular Meeting 7:30 pm
at the Airport.

- Oct. 8** **Board Meeting 6:30 pm**
Regular Meeting 7:30 pm
at the Airport.

- Nov. 12** **Board Meeting 6:30 pm**
Regular Meeting 7:30 pm
at the Airport.

- Dec. ?** **Christmas Party**
No meeting



Commuter Flights Grounded Thanks To Bumbling TSA Inspector

A rant by Jim Campbell, EIC Aero Net News

Reprinted from Aero-News Net

[Reprinted with permission]

Wed, 20 Aug '08

Damaged TAT Probes On Nine Jets While Conducting 'Security Checks'

They're the government... and remember, they're here to help. A bumbling inspector with the Transportation Safety Administration apparently has some explaining to do, after nine American Eagle regional jets were grounded at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport on Tuesday.

Citing sources within the aviation industry, ABC News reports an overzealous TSA employee attempted to gain access to the parked aircraft by climbing up the fuselage... reportedly using the Total Air Temperature (TAT) probes mounted to the planes' noses as handholds.

"The brilliant employees used an instrument located just below the cockpit window that is critical to the operation of the onboard computers," one pilot wrote on an American Eagle internet forum. "They decided this instrument, the TAT probe, would be adequate to use as a ladder."

Officials with American Eagle confirmed to ANN the problem was discovered by maintenance personnel, who inspected the planes Tuesday morning... and questioned why the TAT probes all gave similar error indications.

One Eagle pilot says had the pilots not been so attentive, the damaged probes could have caused problems in-flight. TSA agents "are now doing things to our aircraft that may put our lives, and the lives of our passengers at risk," the pilot wrote on the forum.

Grounding the planes to replace the TAT probes affected about 40 flights, according to American Airlines spokeswoman Mary Frances. "We think it's an unfortunate situation," she told ABCNews.com.

TSA conducts routine spot inspections of aircraft parked at commercial airports, according to agency spokesman Elio Montenegro. "Our inspector was following routine procedure for securing the aircraft that were on the tarmac," Montenegro said, adding the inspector was attempting to determine whether someone could break into the parked planes.

Pilots respond that agents are only allowed to check for unlocked cabin doors... a clear security risk, that could indeed compromise security. Indeed, regional airline Mesa Air Group notes "48 percent of all TSA investigations involving Mesa Air Group involve a failure to maintain area/aircraft security."

It's unclear whether that duty also allows an inspector to paw around an aircraft, however.

E-I-C Note: This was an extraordinarily dangerous incident, folks. The TSA has neither the mandate nor the knowledge to inspect any aircraft for any reason. The stupidity of this matter is nearly unbelievable... until you hear that the TSA is involved... then it becomes understandable, though still tragic. And I can not tell you how frustrating it is, to see them continue to hurt an industry that they were created to protect.

The TSA has NO BUSINESS putting untrained personnel in a position to damage aircraft. Their bizarre games, in the

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Commuter Flights Grounded Thanks To Bumbling TSA Inspector

A rant by Jim Campbell, EIC Aero Net News—continued

(Continued from page 3)

name of security, do NOTHING to enhance security and do much to inhibit safety. Aviation personnel -- pilots, A&P's, ground personnel -- are all either licensed or supervised by licensed personnel and this kind of tampering, had it been accomplished by anyone else, would have subjected that person to criminal charges.

In this case, ANN strongly recommends and encourages the criminal prosecution of this so-called inspector and his immediate supervisors... it is a matter of time before one of these morons does something stupid and gets someone killed... and with the way these incidents are occurring, we believe it is a virtual certainty that a TSA "Inspector" will hurt or kill someone in such a manner. No kidding.

A few other notes.. ANN spoke directly to the TSA PAO in this story, Elio Montenegro... a man who desperately needs to get his stories straight. When ANN talked to him early Tuesday evening, Montenegro first stated that no aircraft were tampered with, and thereafter attempted to minimize the issue by stating that a TSA Inspector "may have touched" the aircraft... which American Eagle "sorta" objected to. He claimed that there was no attempt to enter the aircraft, and when he was asked if TSA was, in fact, authorized to attempt such an entry -- out of the sight/knowledge/supervision of American Eagle personnel -- he said that he thought that I had asked a good question, did not know the answer, and promised to get back to me... in direct conflict with other reported statements. TSA can not keep their stories straight... and lying to the media... especially that part of the media that actually knows a thing or two about airplanes, was

just plain foolish... if not a deliberate attempt to mislead.

Mind you, this is the same agency that now wants to step up supervision and surveillance of the GA world. Would you trust these kind of folks around your airplane?

I sure do not, and will not -- and the first time that I see a TSA person attempt any interaction with any aircraft under my control, I will call the cops and do my utmost to see that person charged with a crime... TSA can not be trusted around Air Transport airplanes... hell, TSA can not be trusted around GA... and TSA has shown us little or no reason why they should be trusted, in any way, with the security of the traveling public.

We're fed up with the incompetence of this organization... and while it was simply 'annoying' when they were sniffing our shoes or trying to rip off our laptops, it gets downright threatening when they start tampering with our airplanes.

Yes... this is quite the rant and I admit to no end of frustration with this organization... but I have to tell you, it's time to scrap the TSA and failing that, it is WAY past time that they be SEVERELY curtailed in their ability to harm others. Simply put, it's time to reign in the TSA... before they kill someone... if they haven't already.

Rant over... for now. -- *Jim Campbell, ANN E-I-C.*

President's Corner—continued

should make reservations early so we can have the date that we want. Give this some thought. We will ask for your input at the meeting.

A bunch of us went to the “Wings over Alpena” air show and talked to one of the organizers of that event. We hope to use some of the ideas in planning for our next “Gaylord Air Fair”. Wally McCoy will keep us informed of matters concerning the Air Fair and our involvement as he is on the Airport Advisory Committee. We are well on the way to becoming a 501C organization thanks to the help of Jeff Ratcliffe who has experience in this area. I have

just around the corner and we will have our annual Christmas party again. We When we get our summer projects out of the way, we will begin planning our community meal volunteer night. We would also like to host a MDOT seminar at Gaylord sometime this winter. We have not made any progress in planning these events because we have been so busy with other projects. Summer is almost over now and we will have more time to devote to volunteer work.

Keep the blue side up!

Alpena Air Show - Photos by Vic



Lancair



A-10 Warthog



KC-135



Piper Cub

P-38 Glacier Girl



Cirrus Jet

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