

LOBO NEWS

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From the President

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Welcome to this second edition of the LOBO newsletter. In the following pages you'll find articles by members on interesting things to do with your Lancair. Fly-ins, maintenance clinics, reports on the various regional fly-ins and shows, etc. California LOBO representative Susan

Brunner reports on a very successful Corona fly in where, among other things, she spent much effort towards increasing LOBO membership. Claudette Colwell reports from the Sun 'n Fun fly in where she organized a Lancair social attended by 40+ LOBO members. Bob Pastusek writes about gearing up for a Lancair maintenance clinic over on the East Coast. EAA Airventure at Oshkosh, WI is just around the corner, and we have big plans for members there. Spring is here, and with it our members' thoughts turn to flying. Whether you are building, flying or just enjoying the warm sunshine thinking about Lancair aircraft, LOBO is here to support you, the Lancair Owner and Builder.

What LOBO is Doing

We mentioned in our last newsletter that your LOBO directors have been working hard to gain FAA Industry Training Standards (FITS) approval for LOBO's initial and recurrent flight training syllabi. I'm very pleased to report, we've done it! This is the first checklist item completed as we move forward in helping reduce the Lancair

accident rate and make our membership more insurable. While not strictly required by regulation, we believe the FITS endorsement is an easy way for the FAA, potential insurers and the rest of the general aviation community to see that LOBO is serious about training its membership to be safer, more proficient Lancair pilots.

Insurance remains near the top of our priorities. We believe that to get and keep reasonable insurance rates for LOBO members, we need to address the high accident rate.

Simply getting a new insurance underwriter to offer insurance is not a solution unless we as owners and pilots take steps to make a substantial improvement in the Lancair safety record. The good news is LOBO is talking to the insurance industry, and they are showing increased interest in our programs. In fact, underwriters have begun accepting our training syllabi on a case by case basis.

We're Building... Again!

I am at Lancair this week, as I write this, going through the factory two-week builder's program. What? You thought we already had a Lancair?



Well, you were right, but my wife



Shelby and I decided to buy a new Lancair kit last fall, because... well, because I guess we just didn't get enough dust in our hair and epoxy on our fingers from the last kit we built!

If you didn't know it, Lancair has a new facility just a few blocks away from the old one, and should you decide to visit I think you'll find it very nice. Lancair Vice President for Customer Relations, Kim Lorentzen, gave us a tour of Lancair's new digs before we started work on our new project, thanks Kim!

The past few days we (Shelby and I, Kim has better things to do) have been doing layups, bending 1/4 inch tubing, etc. It brings back some fond, old memories building a IVP in my garage almost ten years ago. N619SJ – our venerable IVP has a new owner now, and LOBO has a new member in Robert "Bobaloo" Rickard. Bobaloo called me around Christmas last year looking for some information on IVPs. The rest, shall we say, is history.

Bobaloo is an Air Force reservist. That means he gets to cavort around the skies in an F-16 when he isn't working his day job as president of Rickard Consulting Group. Rickard consulting maintains offices in Phoenix and has business interests as far away as St. Louis, MO and Dayton, OH. Clearly Bobaloo has need of a fast, comfortable and efficient conveyance between home base and his many business destinations; it's no surprise his research led him to the Lancair IVP.

Let's hope a LOBO membership can help Babaloo find ways to enjoy his new IVP for uses other than work!

Babaloo's gain is our loss, as Shelby and I, sadly, are presently without a magic carpet. The good news is, as my friend and fellow LOBO director Bob Pastusek pointed out, we are now one percent complete

and 99% to go! After all, building a Lancair is just as much fun as flying one. Those of you still building, just keep repeating that...

Hope to see you all soon at Oshkosh!

LOBO Training

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The next checklist item toward improving the safety and proficiency of LOBO pilots is growing a cadre of qualified, motivated instructors. To that end, LOBO is now developing a standardized LOBO instructor training and evaluation program.

While we are extremely pleased to have obtained FITS approval for our training syllabi, we understand this only a first step – there is no magic bullet for insurance. If you read the traffic on the Lancair Mailing List (LML), you may have seen recent posts from a flight instructor stating he had received approval from an insurance underwriter to conduct Lancair-specific flight training. Further posts created hope in the Lancair community for cheaper and more available insurance. The bottom line is

rates will come down and availability will improve only after the accident rate drops significantly – and stays down. After all, the insurance industry is in business to make money, and if they are losing money on Lancairs because of accidents, guess what?

The path to lower accidents is through training. You can learn to fly these airplanes safely if you engage a skilled instructor familiar with Lancair aircraft. LOBO is trying to make that happen. If you are a CFI(I) interested in becoming a LOBO instructor, contact Rudy Haug at (636) 346-0415 or me at (314) 308-6719.

Maintenance Issues

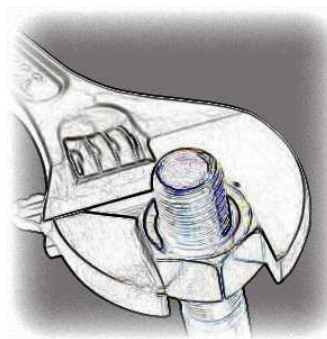
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We are working hard to help our membership deal with the increasing cost and complexity of Lancair maintenance. One of the biggest maintenance hassles, yet arguably the most important activity contributing to flight safety, is the annual Condition Inspection.

To help our members better understand the ins and outs of the annual ritual, LOBO is sponsoring a Condition Inspection Workshop (CIW) at the EAA Chapter 186 clubhouse in Manassas, VA (KHEF) on 6-7 June.

Manassas airport is located 24 nm west of Washington DC in the Washington Special Flight Rules Area. Flying to KHEF requires adherence to published SFR procedures to enter or exit the area. While it may seem daunting at first glance, EAA Chapter 186 members who fly in and

out of KHEF regularly will tell you the procedures are easy and shouldn't discourage anyone from attending. You may find information on entry/exit



procedures at AOPA’s website, or click: <http://www.aopa.org/adiz/adiz.html>.

If you plan to attend, please take the time to visit the AOPA website. On it you’ll find a link to the FAA’s online course you **MUST** complete prior to flying within 60 NM of the DCA VOR (Washington Reagan National Airport). If you would like to speak directly with someone who frequently uses these procedures call me (757-286-4802-cell) or Bill Harrelson (540-372-8738). We both are very happy to answer any questions!

Event Schedule & Topics

We’ve planned for 9-5 both Saturday and Sunday – get there early and you can enjoy some coffee and donuts. We’ll have a no-host lunch on the airport at Hoppy’s restaurant (Volo Aviation).

The workshop will focus on the annual condition inspection of Lancair composite aircraft, but is open to all LOBO members, EAA Chapter members and invited guests.

Day one is planned for engine and related systems, and day two we’ll cover composite airframes and airframe components. My IV-P – by providence, due for its first condition inspection – will serve as our “inspection sample.” We also plan to have access to Bill Harrelson’s 320 and Doug Brunner’s Legacy.

Local A&P’s Bobbi Boucher and Phil McLanahan plan to be on hand to assist and keep us honest. Both are experienced with homebuilt and general aviation aircraft maintenance, and we’re very fortunate their talent and expertise are available.

Although we considered conducting inspections on each type Lancair, we decided safety should guide our efforts at this first of what we hope will be many LOBO-sponsored events. There will be a lot going on over two days, and we want to be sure we do everything by the book. Hopefully, at

the end of the weekend, we’ll have a much better understanding to guide us in developing an agenda and procedures for future events.

Help us Help You

Bill Harrelson and I are collecting information on Lancair maintenance issues. Please help us by sharing any checklists, AD’s, deficiency reports, and/or similar documents applicable to any model of Lancair aircraft that you can provide, preferably in electronic form. Our plan is to consolidate and post member-provided material to the LOBO website. If you can get it to us soon enough, we plan to reproduce all appropriate material as handouts for this workshop. We also welcome any “advance” questions so we can research and include answers as part of this workshop.

Bonus Activities

Based on interest, we can arrange for pitot/static, altimeter and transponder system testing, as well as dynamic prop balancing on Saturday. Costs will depend on the number signed up, but should be less than the local going rate.

To date, I have only one person interested in prop balancing; none for pitot static checks. Our vendors tell us they need a minimum of three to make it worth their while. Those interested should let me know ASAP.

Event Logistics

Those driving in should park in the lot behind the tower on the west side of the airfield. If flying in, park at the base of the tower. There are no aircraft tie-downs at the base of the tower, so please bring your own chocks. If staying overnight, we’ll arrange to tie your aircraft down near the clubhouse. We have limited transportation available.

To permit planning for handouts, refreshments and vendors, please send me an email or call (703-271-8008;

upcoming events

Date: TBD

Location: TBD

LOBO LIPS Training

Interested CFIs can attend LOBO Instructor Pilot Standardization training and obtain a LOBO endorsement to begin instructing using our training syllabi. www.lancairowners.com

Date: June 6 – 7

Location: KHEF (Wash DC)

EAA Chapter 187 Clubhouse

LOBO Condition Insp Workshop

Bob Pastusek hosts a Condition Inspection “how to.” www.lancairowners.com

Date: Jul 27 – Aug 2

Location: Oshkosh, WI

Hilton Garden Inn

EAA AirVenture

Make the annual OSH pilgrimage and meet with fellow LOBO members and other Lancair enthusiasts at “The World’s Greatest Aviation Celebration.” www.airventure.org

leave a message) if you plan to attend. I need the following information:

- Flying or driving
- Pitot/static check
- Prop balance

The notification deadline is 1 June.

Although this event is LOBO-sponsored, it wouldn’t be possible had EAA Chapter 186 members’ not generously offered the use of their great facility. Because of that, we decided to open attendance to ALL EAA members. Encourage your non-

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LOBO friends to come with you, and to join LOBO!

Depending on the success of this "trial" event, LOBO hopes to schedule similar events wherever we can find volunteers willing to sponsor them.

Bill and I look forward to seeing you the first weekend in June. Mark your calendar now, and be sure to RSVP ASAP!



Social Occasions

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To better "promote the safe use and enjoyment of Lancair aircraft through education, training and fellowship," LOBO sponsored its first social gathering at Sun 'n Fun on the evening, of 23 April. I would like to thank Rob Logan without whose volunteer effort this event would have been much harder to organize.



We had a great turn out, with some 44 attendees meeting at the Oak-K farm near Lakeland Airport. The Oak-K farm is a lovely facility with a folksy atmosphere and down-home, country cooking. The large, open meeting area boasts lots of windows, oak floors, fixtures and furniture, with country-craft knick-knack and antique decorations. The staff was warm and courteous, and made us all feel welcome. All in all, it was a bit like visiting Grandma's house, including the ate-way-too-much feeling when we finally left.

After my opening remarks, Bob Pastusek took a few moments to outline the LOBO charter and our top organizational goals.

Representatives from Lancair, High Performance Aircraft Training (HPAT), and Falcon Insurance seemed very receptive to LOBO's primary goal of curbing the numbers of Lancair accidents, with spokespersons for each group expressing encouragement and support.

Neal Longwill, Lancair General Manager, provided an excellent summary of the company's current activities and expectations for the future. After a warm round of applause, Mr. Longwill endured a lengthy Q&A session fielding queries and comments from the majority of attendees.

All Lancair company representatives wore shirts bearing a "25 Years of Success" logo. As our ability to maintain and operate these magnificent aircraft depends on them, let's hope the next 25 are just as successful!

This was the first trip to Sun 'n Fun for several new Lancair owners, including Ed and Janie Smith, who won the

Sun 'n Fun Craftsmanship Award with their meticulously built IV-P, N9JE (above). Hearty congratulations to the great couple that built this gorgeous aircraft over the last nine years!

It was also a wonderful opportunity to sign up new LOBO members, and to meet builders/owners that we'd not previously known through the LML or other Lancair gatherings. Our particular thanks to those who joined the commitment to LOBO's charter of safe and enjoyable flying, and who joined LOBO during Sun 'n Fun.

We're all looking forward to our next social event at Oshkosh on July 30 at the Hilton Garden Inn adjacent to the field. This is a space-limited Lancair/LOBO event which means, unfortunately, we must ask that you



limit guests to the partner, spouse or significant other with whom you are sharing your Lancair experience.

Look for a call soon (once we get our affairs in order) asking for pre-attendance registration via email. Once we know who is coming we'll send out tickets, also via email.



Our sponsor for the upcoming Oshkosh social is Falcon Insurance Agency President, John Allen, and his team.

LOBO Talk

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Welcome, and thanks again for reading LOBO News (our second issue)! Those of you who read the first issue may be wondering what happened to all our grandiose plans for the website. Uh... I wish I knew; I can't believe it's already been almost six months!

Those of you who visit the site often may have noticed we recently upgraded (again) the 'look and feel.' Our web developer, Cameron Byrd has applied his keen talents to really add a bit of polish – I like it!

BTW, if you haven't noticed the changes you might consider clicking 'reload' on your browser. For reasons we can't yet precisely explain the new pages sometimes don't automatically load on certain browsers.

What About the Online Forum?

We are still pondering putting together an online forum with the ability for our members to post messages and share

digital media (photos and video). As we've found, though, this is quite an undertaking, and the efforts of a few private individuals in this area haven't been well received. In fact, a recent discussion of this subject on the LML disclosed at least one attempt at a Lancair forum has likely folded, and there is every indication it's because folks are generally satisfied with the level of information sharing already available.

The reality is putting together and maintaining an online forum is a lot of work – beyond what our pitiful little band of volunteers is likely able to support without spending a considerable sum of money, or getting significant help from a motivated force of volunteers. Those of you familiar with online forums know a forum moderator (the one who polices posts and makes sure everyone follows the rules) will invest a sizeable amount of time in the endeavor. Most online forums recruit a moderator for each sub-forum. Those of us who founded LOBO and continue to do the majority of the work as we climb out after take off simply don't know if the juice is worth the squeeze, so to speak.

We'd like to hear from our membership on this one. Given the popularity and undeniable effectiveness of established online information sharing services such as the Lancair Mail List, do you think establishing an online forum would be worth a sizeable investment of LOBO's resources (funds or time invested in recruiting volunteers)? Email me with your thoughts and opinions, or if you're interested in leading a volunteer effort!

Newsletter Submissions – Please!

As always, we are looking for submissions. If you have something you would like to share with your fellow LOBO members, get in touch with me. Good topics include trip reports, good places to visit or just an

idea for a topic you would like to see discussed.

Thanks again for reading, and remember to enjoy your Lancair safely!