

LOBO *news*



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From the President

jeff edwards

Happy New Year and welcome to the first edition of your LOBO e-magazine. Inside this and future LOBO e-zines you will find useful information about building, flying, maintaining and safely enjoying your Lancair.

We're Working for You

Our small band of volunteers has been busy these past few months, addressing many of the issues that concern us as Lancair owners and pilots. First, our number one priority: We have initiated contact with FAA personnel regarding the Lancair safety record. They are as concerned as we are about the current situation, and seem eager to work with us in addressing the challenges. Bill Harrelson and Bob Pastusek are heading that effort with some assistance from others on our Aviation Safety Committee.

On the insurance side, Claudette Colwell and I have been in touch with insurance industry representatives regarding coverage for our fleet. As many of you know the losses in the past year have hurt our ability to get and keep insurance coverage at affordable rates. There is interest within the insurance industry in the Lancair fleet if we can show a plan to reduce losses.

To that end, LOBO sponsored a Lancair Instructor Pilot Standardization seminar December 13 and 14 in St. Louis, MO. The LOBO LIPS was

attended by Larry Eversmeyer, Rudy Haug, Mike Newman, Mark Sletten and me. We made great progress toward the goal of developing a standardized, FAA-approved and insurance industry-accepted flight and ground training program for the Lancair fleet. See the **LOBO Training** section below for more information.

Next, Bob Pastusek heard many great things about Don Barnes' successful west-coast maintenance clinic. So many, in fact, he decided to sponsor one himself. For those interested in learning about Lancair maintenance from the experts, plan on joining Bob and his wrench monkeys this spring in the Washington DC area. Read the **Maintenance Issues** section below for more information.

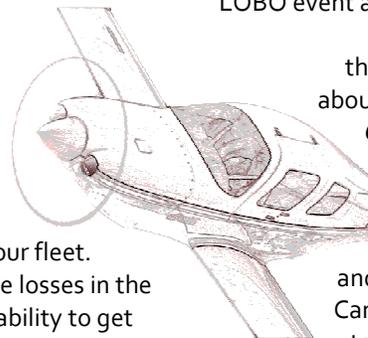
All of the efforts I've talked about so far are in direct support of LOBO's stated mission to promote the safe enjoyment of our aircraft, but that's not all we're doing. On the social side, Claudette Colwell is busy putting together a LOBO event at the upcoming EAA

Airventure in Oshkosh this summer. Read more about it in the **Social Occasions** section below – a good time is sure to be had by all!

Finally, Mark Sletten and LOBO volunteer Cameron Byrd are working to improve our website.

Read about their efforts in the **LOBO Upgrades** section.

If you have any time to help our fledgling organization take flight we sure could use your help. There is truly power in numbers. It is amazing what a handful of Lancair owners can do with



an idea and the dedication to "git 'er done!"

Membership Information

With our total membership approaching 100 – representing 10% of Lancair flying fleet and about 4% of the total Lancairs sold – we are growing rapidly! But now is not the time to rest on our laurels. If you're reading this and you're a member, pass this newsletter along to someone else and recruit a friend to join. If you are reading this and are not a member, please fill out a membership application and send it in.

Phil Boyer once told a friend of mine that about 70% of the target market will join – half will join on their own; the other half will join if asked. So please ask! Phil knows what he speaks of – he grew AOPA to over 400,000 members from a base of 600,000 U.S pilots!

LOBO Training

jeff edwards

As promised, LOBO is developing a ground and flight training program. To that end, we have two near-term goals: 1) So our members can find one or more competent, available flight instructors in their neck of the woods who know the Lancair product line, and 2) LOBO members can be confident that all LOBO instructors teach using the same standardized training program, a program which meets FAA-Industry Training Standards (FITS) and one that meets the approval of insurance companies for initial and recurrent training.

Happily, we expect to partially meet goal number two within the next few weeks as we await a response from the FAA. Following that, we'll begin standardization and evaluation (Stan/Eval for you Air Force types) training with interested instructors.

LOBO will endorse instructors who successfully complete the Stan/Eval program, and this will help us meet goal number one, availability. We intend to maintain a list of LOBO instructors on our website allowing members to contact them directly for training.

Our initial contacts with agents of the aviation insurance industry have been encouraging; several have expressed interest in our approach to focus training on the highest at-risk segment of our flying population. Obviously, any promises regarding how things will eventually work out are premature, but if we continue growing our membership and working toward our mission of **safely** enjoying our aircraft, we stand a good chance to garner acceptance of LOBO-endorsed training for insurance purposes.

If you are a CFI who is interested in becoming a LOBO instructor, contact Rudy Haug at (636) 346-0415 or me at (314) 308-6719.

Maintenance Issues

bob pastusek

To further the training and education objectives of our new organization we are developing a format to present materials for operation, inspection and long term maintenance of our aircraft.

Before I get too far, let me emphasize we've been very fortunate the Lancair group of companies remains in business serving as a source for both information and parts. Our efforts are

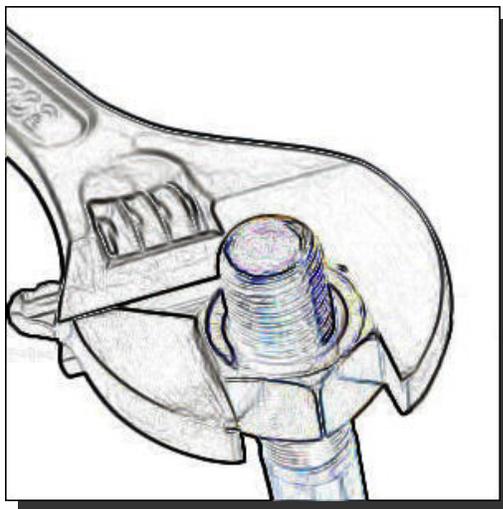
not an attempt to replace, but rather to supplement the service these companies continue to provide their customers. Although we sometimes hate to admit it, one of the reasons we still love and fly these airplanes more than 20 years after the flight of the first prototype is the dedication of these vendors.

Maintenance Data

To sustain a long-term maintenance capability for owners and builders, I'm leading a group of members gathering data from as many different individuals as possible. We are collecting operating manuals, condition inspection checklists, maintenance "best practices" and special "how to" tips for correcting common age-/use-related issues identified by our older... ahem, high-time Lancair operators. Please contact me if you have something to contribute.

All of this information will eventually become part of a central repository available to our membership online.

All of this information will, of course, be offered "observed best practices" and will not constitute mandatory or specifically recommended tools, parts or methods.



Since I own one, I expect to gather and organize the LNC4 package first. I'm looking for a LOBO volunteer to help put the LNC2 and Legacy packages together. If you have the time and

inclination to take on such a task, or you are willing to contribute labor, materials or other help, please get in

touch – my contact information is available on the website.

As Jeff mentioned above, LOBO will sponsor a Maintenance Seminar in the Washington DC area this spring based on the successful format used by Don Barnes on the west coast (we haven't set a specific time and location yet). This planned, two-day weekend event will be our "trial run" of the LNC4 maintenance package I'm currently developing.

Using what we learn from this first event in DC, we'll set up similar events around the country. Jeff Edwards has already indicated an interest in sponsoring an LNC4 seminar in the St Louis area, and we're seeking interested parties to sponsor events for all the different Lancair types.

The minimum requirements to host such an event includes one Lancair aircraft of the type being inspected, an enclosed hangar or building, ready access for those who wish to fly in or drive in and reasonable nearby overnight accommodations. We would like to see sponsors arrange for prop balancing, weight and balance verification and altimeter testing at such events. If you have more ideas or suggestions please share them!

This is one benefit of LOBO membership that we intend to make available to you in the coming year, but your contribution to the effort can certainly help make it more valuable. Keep an eye on the LOBO website for the latest information regarding upcoming events.

Social Occasions

claudette colwell

Happy New Year! We hope to have a number of social events for 2009 starting with Sun-N-Fun. While we have not firmed up specific details, at the very least we plan an informal get-together for LOBO members and their

guests sometime during the event. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

Our big event this year, of course, will be at EAA AirVenture. So far, we have tentative plans for a social at the airfield on Thursday, July 30th starting at 5:00 p.m. Last year Lancair held its banquet on Wednesday and many other events occur on the weekend.

In the meantime, the best way for everyone to get to know each other is for y'all to get together whenever you can. Take the initiative to invite any fellow Lancairians in your area over for a 3H Meeting – hamburgers, hotdogs and hangar flying!

There's not much more fun than a group of like minded pilots getting together and sharing a war story and a meal.

Happy Flying!

Enjoying your Lancair

jeff edwards

Is flying around the patch getting dull? Is the spouse unhappy with the crummy winter weather? Are you wondering what to do with your Lancair this winter?

How about a trip south to the Caymans or the Bahamas? My wife and I often thought about making such a trip but never did until last year at this time when we joined Jim and Margie Parker and twenty other flying couples for a trip to Long Island in the Bahamas.



upcoming events

Date: TBD (Q1 2009)

Location: TBD

LOBO LIPS Training

Interested CFIs can train and obtain a LOBO endorsement to begin instructing using our training syllabus. www.lancairowners.com

Date: 21 – 26 Apr

Location: Lakeland, FL

Sun-N-Fun

The organizers of the 35th annual fly-in say, "The aviation year starts here!" www.sun-n-fun.org

Date: TBD (this spring)

Location: Washington DC

LOBO Maintenance Clinic

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

Date: Jul 27 – Aug 2

Location: Oshkosh, WI

EAA AirVenture

Make the annual OSH pilgrimage and experience "The World's Greatest Aviation Celebration." www.airventure.org

We met the Parkers at Oshkosh 2007 when they were giving a seminar on flying the Caribbean. The Parkers are ex-State Department folks and have spent many years working in the Caribbean so to say they know their way around there is an understatement.

After retiring from the State Department, Jim founded Caribbean Flying Adventures. He and Margie have a C177 that they use for escorted air tours.

Our group met up at Banyan Air Services at Fort Lauderdale Executive



where we all got a welcome aboard brief. After a comprehensive brief, the group of about twenty aircraft shoved off and flew to Long Island in the Bahamas chain. We left last and of course passed nearly everyone enroute.

Once we got to Long Island and checked in the fun began-- beautiful beaches, snorkeling, sailing and Happy hour every evening with our group. Jim and Margie are terrific hosts and you're sure to enjoy yourselves as much as we did.

Unlike other tours that charge a hefty all-inclusive fee, Jim's fee was very reasonable. In fact, the fee for the trip was paid for by the hotel discount Jim negotiated! And best of all, Jim and Margie show you how to do it yourself, so you can go back on your own with confidence.

Right now Jim and Margie have four slots for a Cayman tour February 6-10, 2009. Register by January 6 to lock in hotel discounts in the Caymans Marriott Beach Grand Cayman.

Registration per plane is only \$350 and pays for itself with hotel discounts, free



charts, free three month membership in Caribbean Flying Adventures, a free Cuban over flight permit and discounts on optional activities.

All savings are passed directly to participants. The Doubletree Key West is \$201.60 per night including taxes, internet and continental breakfast for two. The Marriott Beach Resort is an incredible \$289 (\$368 Ocean View) per night for two people inclusive of taxes, gratuities and free high speed internet access in your room. These rates are available for several nights before and after the Fly In as well.



There are a limited number of rooms so check your calendars and contact Jim or Margie Parker at 305-667-6282, or Jim@CaribbeanFlyingAdventures.com

LOBO Upgrades

mark sletten

First, thanks for taking the time to read this far – if you're as busy as me, I know your time is valuable! Without further adieu, there a few things I want to tell you about.

First, is this Newsletter you're reading. We hope to get one of these out to you as often as possible, certainly anytime there is something of merit to tell you about. Eventually, as we get more organized and develop a routine, we hope to publish quarterly to keep you abreast of LOBO happenings.

Please feel free to tell us what you think about the content, format and presentation. And by all means, if you

have something to contribute, pass it along – we love volunteers! After all, the more we include, the more likely it is all of our members will find something of interest to read about.

Second, I'd like to tell you a bit about our website. Right or wrong, getting the word out in this day and age means a web presence. Those of you who've been with us from the start know we've come a long way since our first feeble attempts at a webpage, which was exactly that – one page! If you haven't visited lately (www.lancairowners.com) you should take a minute to fire up the old confuser, ahem, computer, and take a look.

IMHO, the "look and feel" is very professional. I'd love to take credit for it, but we were lucky enough to get a huge break when Cameron Byrd volunteered to help us. Cameron works with computers for a living, and it certainly shows in the site.

I'd like to point out a couple of highlights. If you click the **About LOBO** tab on the top, then click **Biographies** on the menu bar underneath the tabs, you can read a bit about each of the people who had a hand in getting LOBO off the ground, at least preflighted up to engine start.

Click the **Contact Us** tab for a list of email addresses and phone numbers for each of the founding members.

On the **News** tab you'll find information about upcoming events and links to our Newsletters and Press Releases.

The **Safety** tab will eventually contain important safety information and links to safety articles and data of interest on other websites.

Although I'm happy with our progress so far, there is still much work to be done. One of the more useful features I hope to add to our site in the near future is an online forum. A forum is a wonderful way for our members to share useful information with each other and generally stay in touch.

Once our online forum is up and running you can go there to get your questions answered by “those who have gone before,” have a “spirited” conversation, find a storehouse of good ideas, view and share photos and perhaps access the classified section to buy/sell your treasure/junk, depending on your perspective.

The website is another area where we can use your input. If you have a suggestion to improve it, make it more useful or include something of interest to the majority of the membership, please contact me or Cameron. Better yet, if you have some web authoring skills and some time to volunteer, please let us know ASAP – we need all the help we can get!

Once again, thanks for reading the first of (hopefully) many LOBO Newsletters. We all hope you and yours had a wonderful holiday season and we’re looking forward to sharing this year with you all.

Finally, please remember to enjoy your Lancair safely – you’re part of an aviation family who cares very much about you now!