

---

# TAILWINDS

---

## Spring Hangar Hop



Our May chapter meeting was our annual spring hangar hop on May 13. We hopped to three hangars and then to a lovely picnic lunch in the shade.

Our first stop was to Dennis Gerow's hangar to view his Osprey GP-4. Dennis decided to build a plane in the 1990s and eventually purchased his project. At the time of the purchase, the fuselage was covered and the woodwork was done. The engine was on a stand, but did not have any connections. Dennis has been working on weekends only since 2002 to complete the project and now, after being inspected last year and receiving its airworthiness certificate, the plane is ready for its first flight. Dennis has a test pilot lined up and, at the hangar hop, indicated that he hoped to fly before the end of May. I hope he will stop by a future meeting to give us an update on the flight. Dennis had a lovely way of describing the symbiotic way building a plane fit in with his professional life. He described how during the week, he is able to think about his project and what he is going to work on during the upcoming weekend and while he is at the hangar on weekends, he can plan his

upcoming work week. It's nice how two time consuming parts of life - work and an airplane project - can work together.

The second stop was the view a Pipistrel Virus Motor Glider owned by Shane Mitchell. Pipistrel is a Slovenian company and the word "pipistrel" is Slovenian for "bat." Shane and his wife visited the factory in Slovenia to see the build process and then his airplane arrived in the US in a container. He had to mount and bolt the wings and then it was ready to fly. The Pipistrel has a 17:1 glide ratio and is technically a glider, even though it has a Rotax 912i5



Members gather around while Shane Mitchell discusses the characteristics of his Pipistrel.

he is starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. The metal work is done and he's done an engine run. He's planned the paint job and has a really neat logo designed. We can't wait to see the painted airplane.

After the hangar hop, we enjoyed a picnic featuring Rob's pulled pork as the main dish. Many people brought delicious soups, sides, and desserts. It was a great opportunity to relax and socialize.



Dennis Gerow describes his Osprey GP-4.

engine. The FAA has registered the plane as an experimental glider and thus it can be flown by a pilot with a glider license.

Our final stop was to John "Beej" Nunn's hangar to view his Skybolt project. Beej has been working on his project for 12 years and, while he just thought it would take four years, he is hoping to be ready to paint this fall. Beej has over 7000 hours in his project and feels like



Beej Nunn talks about this Skybolt project while other members take a close look.



Gus the Celestial Explorer enjoys the shade by the wings of the Skybolt.



Members gather around for the delicious picnic spread.

## June Chapter Meeting

The June meeting will begin at 10 AM on May 13. Dr. Larry James, senior AME will present 3rd class medicals update and Q&A. It would be helpful to familiarize yourself with [FAA AC 68-1](#) before the presentation.

Early bird breakfast will start at 9:15 AM. If you are available to help with set-up. Please come early at 8:30.

## Rockdale Young Eagles Rally

Rockdale Tiger Flight held a Young Eagles rally on May 20 and flew 31 Young Eagles. Fun was had by all and it was a great success!



## Tango Flight Takes Flight

Last Friday, May 25th the student built RV-12, N217TF, took to the air for the first time. There were no significant issues and in the last week the team has completed the required flight test program. Yesterday, Thursday, June 1st, just one week after the unveiling, [Dan Weyant](#) gave the first student builder a ride in the airplane.

In the next few weeks Dan will be giving rides to all the students who helped build this airplane. In late July a group of students and



Dan will take the airplane to the world's largest airshow in Oshkosh, Wisconsin where it will be displayed as a student built aircraft.

These flights mark the successful culmination of the extraordinary efforts of so many who helped make this dream a reality. We have achieved this program's objective; to have GISD students build a flying airplane. Congratulations to everyone!



## Upcoming Events

### Rockdale Tiger Flight: Help us Build an RV-6!

Rockdale Tiger Flight is a group organized by several EAA 187 members in Rockdale, TX. The group is focused on teaching mid- and high-schoolers airplane building skills. Our current projects are an RV-6 and a Zenith CH-601. We get together **every Saturday at 10 AM**, and focus on building those airplanes. We also offer **weekly Young Eagles rides** to kids, subject to weather and aircraft availability.

This weekly event is free to participants, and we are looking for help! Both kids and adults are welcome! For more information, log on to [rockdaletigerflight.org](http://rockdaletigerflight.org).



**Chapter Officers**

President - Haruko Reese  
Vice President - Pete Christensen  
Secretary - Valerie Barker  
Treasurer - Rob Reese

**Young Eagles Coordinators**

Jimmy Cox  
Fi Dot Fomichev

**Chapter Flight Advisor**

Deene Ogden

**Chapter Technology Counselors**

Seth Hancock  
William Bennett  
Deene Ogden

**Webmaster**

Fedor "Fidot" Fomichev

**Newsletter**

Valerie Barker  
Send submissions to:  
valeriebarker@mac.com

**Tool Chest**

Gary Hamilton

**Chapter Board Members**

John Nunn (2015-2016)  
Deene Ogden (2016-2017)

**Meetings**

Georgetown Municipal Airport (KGTU)  
Terminal  
2nd Saturday each mont at 10 AM

[eaa187.org](http://eaa187.org)