



Fourth Quarter 2018  
Volume 11, Issue 4  
December 2018



## Letter from the Editor:

Hi folks,

Just like the last issue, this one is late, but even more so. I just did not have time to work on the newsletter. Almost like last time, but this semester I was teaching two on campus courses and one online course for The Florida Institute of Technology in the College of Aeronautics. I was also the Chief Judge for the National Intercollegiate Flying Association Region 9 competition in the South East US. This competition was in Jacksonville from November 5 – 9. Everything went very well and I will have more about it later on in the newsletter. Next year the competition will be in Lakeland, FL hosted by Polk State College.

The homecoming was really nice. The weather not so much, but we had a good time anyway. I drove the 700 plus miles because the weather was just bad. Oh yes, I'm getting too old to be driving for 11 to 12 hours straight. Only one person was able to fly in and he came in from the North out of Pennsylvania. And no, the demonstrator plane isn't finished just yet, but it keeps moving along and I expect to see a first flight any time now. I expect everyone will be seeing a flying demonstrator at Sun 'n Fun.

The picture on the right is Ed and Caelie Skalniak's beautiful Lightning that was there for some maintenance. I wish they had been able to attend. They are both wonderful folks and a lot of fun.

So, next semester will be a bit lighter. The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter newsletter should be on time. I plan to attend the U.S. Sport Aviation Expo in Sebring, FL. It will be in January from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see you there.

Blue Skies,  
Dennis W. Wilt  
[dwwilt@aol.com](mailto:dwwilt@aol.com)

## Inside This Issue:

<b>Lightning Homecoming 2018</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>News from the Factory</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>News from the Dealers</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Current Lightning Dealers</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>News from Builders and Owners</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>For Sale</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Lightning of the Quarter and Pilot Spotlight Questions</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Final Thoughts</b>	<b>14</b>



Ed and Caelie's Jet

# Lightning Homecoming 2018 (Shelbyville, TN)

Article by Dennis W. Wilt



Having a Meal with Friends

As I mentioned in my opening, the weather getting to Shelbyville this year (coming from the South or South West) was terrible. Most of us drove and for me that is a very long drive. But, I will do it again, but I may break it up into two days eventually. Only a few of the normal gang showed up for the Homecoming. Buz is always there, Paul "Bear" Bryant drove in as did I. Joe Cooper made it in his Lightning, but the Texas twins Joe and Dick didn't make it. I am sure the weather kept them home.

We did the normal things we usually do at the Homecoming, but the air race was flown by Nick in his RV-6 and Mark in his RV-9. I can't remember who won, but they were pretty close anyway. Buz will likely send me a note telling me who won the race. We played some Giant Jenga with the Otterback kids and they had a lot of fun going flying with Nick in the RV-6. All 4 kids love to fly.

I got to fly with Nick, too. He told me, "You look bored, let's go fly." He didn't have to ask twice. So,

I finally got a ride in his RV-6 and it is a sweet flying airplane. The ceilings were low (about 3200 ft), so we did a couple aileron rolls under the clouds until Nick found a hole. He pointed the plane nearly vertical and up we went to just on top at 4500 ft. I flew, he flew, we had fun and then we went back down another hole and found out we were over the same place we went vertical. That will never happen again in a million years.

So, on the next page, I have a few pictures taken on and around the Arion hangar. We went to Bell Buckle for dinner on Saturday evening and enjoyed the company and the food. If you are ever there, you should visit the Bell Buckle Café.

I hope the weather is better next year and more people get to come have fun with us. We always enjoy the company and hanging out at Arion Aircraft. So, try to make the trip either by air or by land. You will not regret the trip and will get to have a lot of fun with people that are interested in aviation. You can't do much better than that.





Nick's RV-6



Joe Cooper's Jet



An RV-10 That Was Built at Arion



LS-1 at the Factory for the Mk-2 Tail



Nick Giving a Demo Ride



A DC-3 Taxiing By

## News from the Factory

I always like seeing the Arion Aircraft hangar busy. Nick and crew are just nice folks and it is great that he has been able to make a living doing what he really loves to do. I know that is not always easy. To get my information, I take a jog down the Facebook trail and gather as much information as I can. Mostly Nick has been working on customer projects or doing maintenance on existing airplanes.



I Just Love These Shots of the Arion Hangar

Above is one of the pictures from the Homecoming. I really like these evening shots with the Hangar full of airplanes. The flag is hung properly and I think it is really pretty. But then, I'm an airplane nut. Certifiable crazy about airplanes. Just ask anyone.



The Demonstrator's Panel and a Beautiful Sunset Flight

Above is the panel all fired up and running for the Demo airplane. It's pretty, too. And Nick gets to fly once in a while. The picture on the right came from one of his flights at the end of a hard day's work. These are the reasons that many of us fly. Pretty days and the freedom of being able to maneuver in 3 dimensions. Fun flying is what I do.





An XS That Was Built a Few Years Ago in for Maintenance



This Beautiful Lightning is For Sale and Ted's XS in Process

Ted is building an XS and there are more pictures of the plane below. He is going to be really happy with this Lightning.



Some More Shots of Ted's Jet in Process

Below are two more pictures after his plane got back from the paint shop. Another beautiful Lightning getting built. In the background you can see the Demonstrator almost finished.



Ted's Lightning Back from Paint - Beautiful



The Jabiru Engine Seminar that was held in November

It looks like the Jabiru Engine seminar was very well attended. Jason obviously had some very attentive folks watching and listening to him go over the fine points of the Jabiru engine. I would like to attend one of these someday. It would be fun.



A Composite Rudder - An Even Stronger and Lighter Lightning?



# News from The Dealers

## From Lightning Aircraft West:

I got some interesting pictures from Greg Hobbs yesterday (on his 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary to Crystal. Happy 50<sup>th</sup> you two!!!). Greg has been working on gap seals for the Lightning. They are fiberglass layups that run the length of the wing. The pictures below show them on the wing. The top picture is the wing with the seals. The flap and aileron have not been installed. You can see that this is the bottom of the wing with the wing root to the left and the wing extension on the right already glassed on. The two pictures on the bottom of the page show the flap and aileron installed. On the left, the aileron is towards you, on the right the flap is towards you.



Wing Flap and Aileron Gap Seals in Place



Flap and Aileron Installed

## Current Lightning Dealers or Representatives



**Arion Lightning, LLC**, contact Nick Otterback, Shelbyville, TN, 931-680-1781,  
[www.flylightning.net](http://www.flylightning.net)



**Southwest: Geronimo Experimental Aircraft**, Greg Hobbs, 18750 West Avra Valley Rd, Marana,  
AZ 85635, 520-405-6868 [www.lightningaircraftwest.net](http://www.lightningaircraftwest.net)



**Russia and CIS, AVIA-NIANIA Ltd**, Moscow, Russia, Phone: + 7495518-62-75, Mobile Phone: +  
7925518-62-75, [avianiania@mail.ru](mailto:avianiania@mail.ru) or [avianiania@aol.com](mailto:avianiania@aol.com)



Meet Cindy – She is Ready to Take Parts Orders



## News from Builders and Flyers:

There was nothing this time from our builders and owners.

Please send me some updates on projects and maybe some pictures of your airplane. I really would like to add a Lightning of the Quarter or a Pilot Spotlight.



There is Me and Wyatt - I think I am Pulling a Business Card out of my Wallet



Ed and Caelie's Jet Coming Home

## For Sale:



N335CE

**\$59,900 OBO located at Arion**

2009 Light sport Compliant E-AB, 433 hrs. TT, GRT EFIS, EIS6000 EMS, Garmin SL-40, Garmin GTX-327, Autopilot, MK2 tail upgrade. (This is a great deal folks.



N214DG

Experimental – Light Sport Compliant, Located at Geronimo Experimental Aircraft, in Marana, AZ

**Asking \$87,000**



Contact Lightning West for details and more information. They also have a Jabiru aircraft for sale.

## Propellers for Sale at the Factory:

(Low Time - Used for Flight Testing at the Factory)

Sensenich W64ZK51 wood composite for Jabiru 3300, \$500

Sensenich W64ZK54 wood composite for Jabiru 3300, \$500

Sensenich W64ZK55 wood composite for Jabiru 3300, \$500

Sensenich W60ZK53G wood composite for Jabiru 3300, \$500



# Upcoming Events

US Sport Aviation Expo  
January 23 – 26, 2019



[US Sport Aviation Expo - Sebring, FL](#)  
Airport Identifier - KSEF

Buckeye Air Fair & Copper State Expo  
February 9 -10, 2019



[Buckeye Municipal Airport - KBXK](#)

Melbourne Air and Space Airshow  
March 30 – 31, 2019



[Melbourne Air and Space Show](#)  
Airport Identifier (KMLB)

Sun – N- Fun Fly-In–Lakeland, FL  
April 02-07, 2019



[Sun 'n Fun](#)  
[Airport Identifier – KLAL](#)



# Lightning of the Quarter and Pilot Spotlight

## Guidelines and Question

The following questions are to be used for your submittals of the Lightning of the Quarter and Pilot Spotlight articles. Every single Lightning out there deserves to be in the Lightning of the Quarter. Every single pilot has a story to tell. I hope you take some time and used these questions and guidelines to tell your story for the rest of us. Although similar, the stories for a Lightning of the Quarter and the Pilot Spotlight are just a bit different.

Before publishing any story, I will likely make some edits for spelling, punctuation, and clarity. So, with these guidelines, I hope I get a lot of input for future issues of Hangar Talk.

### Lightning of the Quarter Questions:

If you are interested in submitting your jet for the Lightning of the Quarter, just use the questions below and submit some nice pictures of your plane. A picture of the panel is also interesting, at least it is to me. Take a look at the prior Lightning of the Quarter articles and use them as guidelines when you put your story together. Your story will be great - they all are.

#### Questions for Lightning of the Quarter.

1. Do you have an online build log? If so, and would like to share it, provide the URL.
2. Where did you get your interest in aviation and what are your earliest memories of wanting to fly?
3. Does your spouse share your interest and does he/she fly as well?
4. What made you choose the Arion Lightning for your aircraft?
5. Did you build it or buy it?
6. Is it an S-LSA, E-LSA, or E-AB? If it is an experimental, does it meet Light Sport requirements?
7. If you built your plane did you build it at the factory, a dealer, or at home?
8. How was the build process?
9. What type of flying do you do with your jet?
10. Have you flown it to a major fly-in? Which ones?
11. Finally, include some (3 or 4) nice pictures of you and your plane and some captions for each picture.

### Pilot Spotlight Questions:

If you would like to be highlighted in the magazine, we do that in a Pilot Spotlight article. Each of us have unique stories about our aviation interests, careers, and/or hobbies. Each story deserves telling and they are all interesting to me.

1. Where are you from? Hometown? Current residence?
2. How did you get started in aviation? When did you begin being interested in flying? Why did you want to become a pilot?
3. What were the circumstances for your first airplane ride? Explain in detail.
4. What was the first plane you flew / soloed?
5. What is your favorite aircraft to fly?
6. Did you have to pay for your flight lessons yourself? If so, how did you do that?
7. Tell about your education. If you have a college degree, where did you go to college? What did you study? Do you have any advanced degrees?
8. Did you work in the aviation industry? If so, what was your occupation? If not, what was your occupation?
9. Did you fly commercially? Explain who you flew for, what aircraft you flew, how long did you fly commercially?
10. Were you in the military? Which service, when, how long? Did you fly in the military?
11. When did you meet your spouse? Was she/he supportive of your flying?
12. Have you owned an airplane before the Lightning? How many? What models? How long have you owned them? Which ones did you like best and why? Worst?
13. Have you ever built an airplane? What model(s)? Why did you choose that / those model(s)?
14. What are your favorite aviation events?
15. Have you attended AirVenture or Sun-N-Fun? How many times?
16. What are your other hobbies? Tell about them in some detail.

## Final Thoughts:



A DC-3 in American Airlines Livery

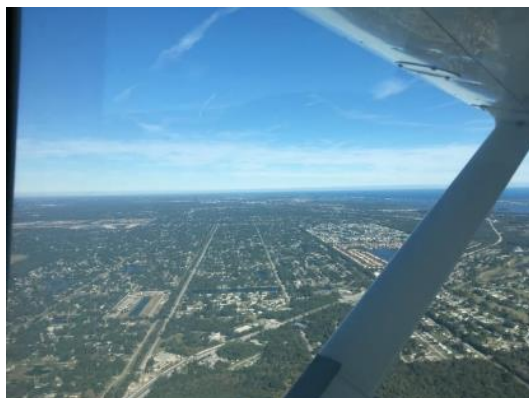
The picture above was taken at the Lightning Homecoming. This DC-3 is based there in Shelbyville, I think. It took off and when it came back for a landing, I got this picture as it was taxiing by. A beautiful plane. One day, I want to get a ride on one.

So, the adventure continues. Donna and I go flying together from time to time and once in a while I surprise myself. On Christmas Eve this year, we flew the C-152 from Sebastian (X26) to Fort Pierce (Treasure Coast International Airport - KFPR) to have breakfast at the Airport Tiki Restaurant. The sky was beautiful, the winds were pretty calm, and the company was perfect. Almost no one was up flying and especially none of the many student pilots from around the world were flying. Donna called up West Palm Approach and she did a practice approach into Fort Pierce. When we left, I flew back and Donna took the picture below on the left. She then got to do a practice approach into Sebastian. Something they nearly never let you do because of all of the student pilots flying (They file IFR flight plans even for training, so Approach has to handle them). Then, I took the plane when she went VFR and when I landed, I actually wondered if I was really on the ground. It was that smooth. Like I said, sometimes I surprise myself. It was a perfect day.

For Christmas, Donna got our business an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) or "Drone" for most of you. I have done a couple of test flights and if you are friends with me on Facebook, you may have seen a video of one of those test flights. I intend to use it for inspections and mapping of the local airport. I may be able to use it for some expert witness work. We will have to see. This should be an interesting addition-to-the capabilities of Wilt Aviation Consulting, LLC.

Have fun! Go flying!

Blue Skies,  
Dennis W. Wilt  
dwwilt@aol.com



On the way back from breakfast at Fort Pierce and our Mavic Air