



Second Quarter 2018  
Volume 11, Issue 2  
May 2018



## Letter from the Editor:

Hi folks,

Sun-N-Fun is in the history books and I got home from there completely exhausted. Mostly from having to set up and take down the Society of Aviation and Flight Educators (SAFE) booth. I put it up by myself and because of winds coming in through Hangar C, I had to put up and repair the display again. After that, I used zip ties to connect the display to the bar going behind the display. At least I knew then everyone else's display would also come down if mine did. I did get a helping hand taking it down and loading everything in my 4Runner at the end of the show.

Sun-N-Fun was pretty busy this year. Mostly excellent weather and it was not crazy hot either. We had rain on the day the show started (Tuesday) and on the day it ended (Sunday). In between was really nice. I talked to a lot of potential Lightning owners and hopefully, we will get some new builders / owners out of those folks we talked to at Sun-N-Fun. I have been communicating with one of them this week and it looks like he may actually buy a kit and go to the factory for a build assist. I certainly hope so.

This was my second semester as an Adjunct Professor at Florida Tech and I have enjoyed the students and classes. This summer, I will be teaching an online class again.

Another metal airplane showed up at Arion Aircraft for them to help in the completion of a Rans S19. Along with the UL powered 200 HP Lightning, there is a refurbishment of a 2007 Lightning to change paint, upgrade to the Mark 2 tail and a general upgrade. Nice.

The Sun Flyer has flown!! More on that later in the Magazine, but it is great news for them. No-one has heard from Mike Lotz and the Taildragger Lightning, but we hope to see something soon.

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

## Inside This Issue:

<b>Sun-N-Fun 2018</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>News from the Factory</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>News from the Dealers</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Current Lightning Dealers</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>News from Builders and Owners</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>For Sale</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Lightning of the Quarter and Pilot Spotlight Questions</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Final Thoughts</b>	<b>15</b>



Heritage Flight Sun-N-Fun 2018

# Sun 'n Fun 2018 (Lakeland, FL)

Article by Dennis W. Wilt



Good Friends, Steve and Susan Cabiroy

The picture above was borrowed from Susan and I am sure she will not mind. Although they do not own a Lightning, they stayed at our place in Sebastian to build a Velocity, mostly at the Velocity Aircraft facility at Sebastian Municipal Airport (X26), my home base. I missed them this year at Sun 'n Fun, but they obviously were there. They flew their Velocity there from Virginia's Middle Peninsula Airport. They live in Lanexa, VA, just a little North and West of where we used to live in Williamsburg.

This year, I spent most of my time at the Society of Aviation and Flight Educator's (SAFE) booth and the Lightning booth. I did not get a chance to walk around as much as I have in the past. But I was able to get a few pictures (and steal a few from the web). The Lightning booth was busy. The XS-320 was on display as was a Jabiru and the new Gen 4 engine.

I believe there were some good prospects for buying either the LS-1 or a kit for building the airplane either at home or using the build assist. I have had one person contact me directly via e-mail to get my thoughts on the aircraft. I told him, I was biased, but he liked my input all the same. One of the most fun things I do at the shows is to talk to potential builders/owners. I hope I have been able to sway a few new Lightning owners along the way.

The first day of Sun 'n Fun was just a mess. A ton of rain and wind. The picture from the booth shows how nasty it was. However, from then until the last day, the weather was pretty nice. The show was a pretty good one overall. All of the air show performers did a great job as usual, I enjoy watching the guys that complete do their shows. They do things that airplanes are just not supposed to be able to do.

Pete Krotje was there along with Barbara, Katie, and Ben. I think Pete was the most relaxed I have ever seen him at a show. Barbara and Katie are always a pleasure to visit with and Ben is all business, like usual. Greg Hobbs made it there as well, but Crystal only came halfway and visited with family in Texas. I missed having her there, but I certainly understand why she stayed.



First Day of Sun 'n Fun



The Booth on a Nicer Day





Buz Talking to Potential Customers



Ben's Beautiful Jabiru Powered Panther



Greg, Buz, Nick, and Pete



The XS 320 in Formation with Ben's Panther



A Different View



Nick Always Takes a Selfie

Now for some pictures of Nick and Ben on their way to Sun-N-Fun. They had to dodge a little weather and fly in between some layers at one point, but they made it just fine.

More Pictures of the flight down and the XS tied down at the end of the day.



Between Layers



Some Weather on the ADS-B In Display



At the End of the Day

The next few pictures are just ones taken around the show. Always fun at Sun-N-Fun!



The Aeroshell Team



The Glider Show



Heritage Flight

The next page are just more pictures from Sun-N-Fun. Some I took, some I borrowed, but they all only give you a small taste of the things you see when you go to Sun-N-Fun.





Inside Hangar D



The Memphis Belle (Movie Plane)



The Twin Tail on an Ercoupe



A MIG-17



The Commuter Craft (All Carbon Fiber)



A Titan IO-340 Lightning on the Field



The Bushcat

# News from the Factory

I will re-iterate that Arion Aircraft has been appointed the Jabiru Service Center for North America. If you missed the last newsletter / magazine, this includes engine overhauls, upgrades, top-ends, Jabiru aircraft annuals, avionics upgrades, general maintenance, and anything in between! They do not sell the engines or aircraft. U.S. Sport Planes in Denton, Texas is now handling all sales for new Jabiru airplanes in the USA. Scott Severen owns U.S. Sport Planes and is a veteran in the aviation industry. Scott was at Sun-N-Fun and will be at AirVenture as well.

So, although things have changed a little, there is still many projects ongoing at Arion Aircraft. The UL520is powered airplane is really close to its first flight.



The Canadian UL520is Plane Gets its Wings

The Canadian Lightning is looking really nice, a 3-blade prop and the canopy is installed. I can't wait to hear how it performs.



Almost Ready to Fly





A Nice Lightning Refurb in the Shop After Paint



A Rand S19 Build Assist

Other folks have figured out that if you need assistance and want to get flying earlier, then Arion Aircraft is a really good way to go.



Is There a Turbo-Prop in the Future?

I suppose we will just have to wait to find out. Then someone could call it their Jet and not be wrong at all.

# News from The Dealers

## From Lightning Aircraft West:

Just a couple of pictures from Lightning Aircraft West. Jack is really close to finishing his Lightning. It will a pretty one for sure.



Jack's Jet Ready for its Wings



# 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)



7 Years Ago, I Had My Jet on the Mains for the First Time

## News from Builders and Flyers:

Below are some pictures posted on the Arion Aircraft Facebook page.

Roger from New Mexico sent us this update. His Lightning XS sees the light of day! Powered by the 180hp Titan XIO340, using a MT CS propeller.



Very Nice!

## The Sun Flyer:

Well, it has happened, the Sun Flyer has finally flown! If you go poking around the internet, you may get to see a YouTube video of the first flight.





## For Sale:



### N320XS Arion Aircraft 2014 XS Demonstrator

150 hrs. TT, 160 hp Superior XP320 Dynon Skyview, Autopilot, ADS-B, Garmin SL40, 406 ELT, Garmin 796

**\$100,000 OBO, Located at Arion**



### N335CE

2009 Light sport Compliant E-AB, 433 hrs. TT, GRT EFIS, EIS6000 EMS, Garmin SL-40, Garmin GTX-327, Autopilot, MK2 tail upgrade.

**\$84,900 OBO located at Arion**



### 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



Donna and Ryan Marking the Chord Line May 2011



## Upcoming Events

AOPA Fly-In  
June 15 - 16, 2017



# AOPA™

your freedom to *fly*

[Missoula International Airport \(KMSO\)](#)

Missoula, MT

AirVenture - Oshkosh, WI

July 23 - 29, 2018



[EAA AirVenture 2018](#)

Airport Identifier - KOSH

# 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:



Me, Donna's Dad Bill, and Donna's Mom, Virginia in Williamsburg, VA

The picture above is one of Donna's mom and dad, Virginia and Bill Forsyth, when we lived in Williamsburg and were based at the Williamsburg-Jamestown Airport (KJGG). Donna's mom passed several years ago, and her dad passed this morning as I write this. I have missed Virginia and I will certainly miss Bill. Most of all, Bill was an extremely smart man and very organized. He was polite and respectful to everyone and treated me like a son. He was an Electrical Engineer that graduated from the University of Florida in 1937. While he was there he was a starter on the UF Basketball team. Bill worked for Eastern Airlines in the instrument shop and then in the Facilities Department until he retired in 1979, right after Donna and I were married. He was hired by Eddie Rickenbacker when Rickenbacker was still running the airline. Bill passed just 4 months short of his 104<sup>th</sup> birthday. Rest in Peace.

Life is an adventure. I doubt very much that I will make it to 103, but I will enjoy every minute that I can. If anyone is interested in helping, I will be the Chief Judge for the National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA) Regional flight competition this Fall in Jacksonville and we need volunteer judges. This event is hosted by Jacksonville University. It is always a lot of fun and I have been judging since 2003. Let me know by sending me an e-mail if you may be able to help out the second week in November. A little more giving back to the aviation community.

So, again, I say have fun! Go flying!

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



Donna Checking the Elevator Down Angle - May 2011