



# North San Diego County Vernon Payne Chapter 286

*President: Bob Wilson Vice President :Mike Talmadge Secretary: Dave Leedom Treasure: George Pruitte*

## **Next Meeting**

Thursday, December 6, 2007 at 7:00 PM The meeting will be held in the Palomar Airport Administration Building Conference Room.

Our Next speaker will be Terry Simpkins President/CEO of **Fly-It Systems**

## **Minutes from the November 1, 2007 Meeting.**

The meeting was called to order at 20:00 by President Bob Wilson.

Three guests were present. Steve Ranch of Escondido, working on a Zenith 640. John Stenzel, American Airlines co-piloting an MB80. Neil Graham, designing an amphibian ground effect craft.

Minutes from the October meeting were approved.

## **Officer's Reports**

Alan Purdy certified Ariel's RV, finding the work almost perfect. Alan also certified the conversion of three ultralights to light sport category.

Treasurer George Pruitte reported a balance of approximately \$ 1,400.00 remaining following the purchase of a wireless microphone.

Gregg Buttler called for participants who wish to participate in the project tour.

## **New Business**

1. A historical presentation will be held at Flaybob Airport on November 10, 2007.

2. AOPA is putting on a safety seminar: What Every Pilot Should Know, November 10, 2007 at the Holliday Inn on Murphy Canyon Road, Mission Valley.

3. Cirrus craft will be on demonstration at French Valley Airport on November 9 & 10<sup>th</sup> 2007.

4. Greg Butler described the use of Panel Builder, a computer program for the design of instrument panels. He illustrated the broad inventory of avionics that could be generated and demonstrated how these could be assembled on screen and printed out as full scale templates for the control panel cut-outs.

## **Speaker**

The speaker for the evening was Ronald M. DeBaets, CDR-USN-Ret., a genuine old bold pilot, never defeated in combat. Both Ronald and his identical twin brother Donald served in the navy at the same time and married within a week of each other.

Ronald's tale is a remarkable journey That began in 1944. His first duty station was in Livermore, where he learned the fundamentals of aircraft maintenance. Then it was a stint at Cal-Poly for the fundamentals of English and math. Navy preflight school was at Iowa City. Ronald soloed at Norman Oklahoma in an N2F at about the time the A-bomb debuted in Japan. Later Ronald trained in an SNJ, doing carrier landings. That was followed by advance to the F 6F Bearcat. Ronald was then transferred to the 6th Pacific Fleet VF12 Fighter Squadron with whom he toured the world and finally home ported in Jacksonville, Florida.

Ronald performed 212 carrier landings, 22 at night. He walked away from his only

mishap, a wire snag at landing 38. Ronald later became a maintenance officer on the west coast and oversaw the battle-readiness of his Squadron.

After retirement from the military, Ronald spent 35 years in the insurance industry, catering to the special needs of military personnel.

A lively discussion period followed as members reminisced the fine points of naval aviation history.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:57