

EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION



CHAPTER 99 *120 Sopwith Drive* *Vero Beach, FL 32968*



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AVIATION AWARD

Contributed by: Keith Gordon

Local resident Landis Ketner was presented with the Experimental Aircraft Association's Major Achievement Award at the September meeting of the local EAA Chapter 99. Members had been surreptitiously collecting information about Landis's aviation career for months, before submitting it to the national headquarters in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. This award is presented annually to persons who have made a significant contribution to aviation in general and particularly to EAA itself. Landis was unaware that the presentation would take place but must have wondered what was happening when his whole family entered the meeting room. Chapter 99 President, Gerd P. called on member, Jess Krall, who had accepted the Achievement Award plaque on Landis's behalf at the EAA AirVenture 2006 airshow, to present the plaque to Landis. The presentation was followed by a rousing round of applause from family, friends and members. Landis responded with an emotional thank you to his wife, Betty and family for their support and a thanks to members for nominating him for the award.

President Gerd then delivered a PowerPoint presentation of the highlights of Landis's 73 year life from the time his grandfather started taking him to the airport at the age of 5 years. After high school in Pennsylvania, Landis worked for aviation firms in that state until he moved to Ft. Lauderdale in 1957. Here he worked on modifications to surplus military aircraft converting them to cargo planes and even mosquito control bombers. In 1966 Landis moved to Vero Beach and joined the Piper Aircraft Company as one of its first draftsmen/engineers. He finally retired from Piper after 25 years as their Senior Project Engineer.

Landis had a passion for small planes, and while not at work he restored three others and built two more from scratch. Not being content with that, he became involved in building the residential airpark west of Vero Beach, known as the Indian River Aerodrome. When Landis moved to Vero Beach he found the local EAA Chapter 99 inactive. With the help of several others he brought that back to life again. Numerous other aviation projects have also occupied Landis's spare time. Even though he has had bouts of ill-health in recent years he is still the driving force in EAA Chapter 99.

LANDIS - A LIFETIME FOR AVIATION

Contributed by: Gerd P.

- 1932 - Born in Hamburg, Pennsylvania
- 1937 - Landis is on the airport with his grandfather
- 1957 - Landis moves to Ft. Lauderdale, FL, worked for Riddle Airlines and others
- 1959 - A&P License
- 1960 - Joined EAA Chapter 37 (Miami), flew the chapter's Pietyenpol
- 1961 - Got his Private Pilot (SEL)
- 1966 - Landis moved to VRB, joined Piper, and helped reinstate EAA Chapter 99
- Partner in developing the VRB aerodrome
- 1975 - Landis becomes EAA Technical Counselor #744
- Landis restored three and built two airplanes
- Reverse engineered plans for the Goodyear racer „Shoestring“
- Worked 25 years for Piper as a Senior Engineer
- 2002 - Landis is revitalizing Ch. 99 again
- 2006 - Landis receives the EAA Major Achievement Award