



Moontown Airport News December 2010 By George Myers

New Moontown Owner

After a lot of sole searching, Shirley and I have decided to sell the Moontown Airport business to Jerry Barnett. This has been a difficult decision for us but it is clear that the time is right for this sale. Jerry has worked for us for the last two years as the Airfield Operations Manager. He is young, talented, and ambitious while Shirley and I are elderly and tired. We have operated the airport for 21 years and have not been able to leave town together for more than a week at a time.

Jerry will have his hands full. Over the years the airport has been passed on to individuals who would nurture its growth while keeping it a friendly aviation environment. Most of our customers have no idea how much effort it takes to satisfy the various government agencies as well as our customers. The effort has been rewarding for me, and probably for Shirley. Thanks to all of our customers and helpers over these many years, Moontown is still one of the finest privately owned, public use airports in the country.

Jerry will take over operations effective January 1, 2011. I have promised to stay around and help him get started, and probably will continue to help in any way I can as long as I am based at the airport. I

will continue to coordinate the fly-ins, do airplane advisories for the fly-ins, and host the annual hangar party. I jokingly told the attendees at our last hangar party that I plan to around for at least another 15 years. I hope I make it.

I have accepted the position of Chairman of the Board of EAA Chapter 190 and program coordinator for the chapter. These functions will keep me busy while also providing support to Moontown Airport aviation activities.



Figure 1: Jerry Barnett in the "Tower" during a fly-in

Jerry is a retired U.S. Air Force Major and a graduate of Mississippi State University, holding a BS in Industrial Technology. He served as Director of Flight Training Operations at the U.S. Air Force Academy,

was Chief of the Command and Control Branch, U.S. forces in Korea, was Flight Safety Officer and U-2 Instructor Pilot at Beal AFB, CA. He has flown both the B-52 Bomber and the U-2. Looking at his resume, he has done everything from picking cotton to flying the U-2 all over the world. Jerry is a member of the Huntsville Soaring Club and EAA Chapter 190 as well as a glider and commercial pilot. We contracted him to both Kim McCutcheon and Harold McMurrin to help with aircraft maintenance. I believe he is the right person to continue the development and operation of Moontown Airport. Please give him your full support.

2010 Warbird Activities

One of my favorite things to do is fly the Yak-52 in formation demonstrations at air shows. Thanks to Tom Bennett, I was able to do much more of this without going to



Figure 2: L-16 at Reform, AL with the Big Iron for the Gordo Fly-Over

Oshkosh or Sun n Fun. Tom loaned his Nanchang CJ-6A for formation flying in Waycross, GA and Scottsboro, AL. This is the first time that Alan and I could fly together in separate airplanes in mass formations.

Alan in the Yak and I in the Nanchang flew with six other Yaks and Nanchangs to escort the Flagship Detroit DC-3 to Scottsboro. We also flew together in Waycross so Alan could earn his FAST card as a flight leader. He and Jerry Barnett flew together in the Yak to win the Tactical Mission at Waycross.

Alan was busy flying for United on several weekends allowing me to participate in the Air Show at the former Halls Air Force Base in Dyersburg, TN, the Benton County, TN Veterans Memorial flyover, the Enterprise, AL Air Show, and the Darrell Berry Warbird fly-in. Alan and Jerry took the Yak and I took the L-16 to the Gordo, AL Veterans Day fly over hosted by Denny Hickman. It was a good year for Red Star and EAA Warbird events.



Figure 3: Flying Tom Bennett's CJ-6A at Scottsboro

MOONTOWN CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2010
5:30 pm until
BRING YOUR FAVORITE FOOD

Merry Christmas and many happy flying hours
from George and Shirley