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World's Largest Aircraft: Spruce Goose

Although current aircraft weigh more than the Hughes H-4 Hercules, more commonly known as the Spruce Goose, no other aircraft produced has a longer wing span.
300,000#, 320.1' wings

World's Smallest Aircraft: Bumble Bee II

At first glance, most engineers and professional pilots made the statement that the Bumble Bee did not have enough wing area to fly. Mr. Robert H. Starr, of Phoenix, Arizona was the only pilot to successfully fly the plane in 1949. The wing span is 5'6", length of 8'10", top speed is 190 mph, and the fuel capacity is 3 gals.

Spring Safety Updates

Andrew Walton, the LU SOA Safety Officer announced at the All Pilot's Meeting on January 15th, 2009 that a Safety Reporting System has been opened to students. "The Safety Reporting System is a way for students, instructors or mechanics to contact me with any safety concerns related to our flight operations" stated Walton. A reporting system is necessary for any flight school to inform others about what individuals have learned the hard way.

The "theme of the month" is back for the Spring and is used to emphasize issues that are relevant to the time of year. The themes that are planned include Essential Aerodynamics (spin and stall awareness) for February, Thunderstorms for March, and Wind for April.

Contest for Flight

Students and Instructors

The "See and Avoid" Competition has begun! Count how many airplanes in the Practice Areas, at uncontrolled airports, and on cross-country flights, and e-mail Andrew Walton. At the end of the semester, whoever has the most planes spotted wins a steak dinner. The goal of this contest is heighten awareness of other airplanes in the area.

Congratulations to the following students who earned certificates:

- ATP-* Jeff Smale
- CFI-* Eric Carter, Luke Vander Weile
- DPE CFI & CFII-* Tim Hahn
- Instrument-* Lance Welch, Steven Pace, Christian Traxler, Kevin Lang, Josh Merrit
- Private-* MiRae Lee, Isaac Lacey
- Solo-* Josiah Beal, Luke Hamer, Wes Devine, Anthony Sanchez
- Solo Helicopter-* Tom Vonolszewski

Dean's Comments

January was a great start to a new year and the spring semester. We enrolled a record number of 264 students in Aviation courses and even though it was unusually cold weather, we managed to launch a respectable number of training sorties. As Liberty University School

of Aeronautics (LUSOA) proceeds toward FAA certification of an Aviation Maintenance Technician School (AMTS), much effort has recently been placed on acquiring the necessary equipment to operate the program. Through a generous donation, the School of Aeronautics was able to buy a large amount of the training equipment from Piedmont Baptist College (Winston-Salem, NC) when it closed its AMTS in the fall of 2007. This month we placed an order for seven systems trainers. These trainers are state-of-the-art, complete, operating mock-ups of aircraft systems. Trainers for systems such as ice and rain control, fuel, and landing gear will be used to teach students the operation, inspection, servicing, troubleshooting and repair of these systems. They allow the student to work hands-on with actual operating systems, just like those found on many aircraft and will prepare our missionary pilots to operate and repair aircraft in remote locations. God continues to bless our program and I am convinced that 2009 will be our best year yet.

-Dave Young



Landing gear trainer



"...On wings like eagles." Isaiah 40:31
Written By: Alessandra Boardman

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