

A \$2,000 Fitzgerald Composite Experience

Clint Webster (CO) - I have been building a Long-EZ since 1994 and have found most vendors professional and helpful. I wish to relate an unfortunate experience with Fitzgerald Composites of southern WI.

In early May 1995 I sent Fitzgerald a \$500 deposit on a set of foam cores that were, allegedly, already made. In mid June I called to verify that the deposit had been received and was reassured that the cores were in stock. I made arrangements to pick them up at 8 AM Monday after the OSH convention. In late July I phoned him and reconfirmed the meeting time and availability of the cores.

I drove the 1100 miles to his shop in

a borrowed motor home only to find him not home. I waited 3-1/2 days until he finally showed up, only to find he never had a set of cores built and had not even started on them. I was assured by Mr. Fitzgerald that he could complete the order if I waited another day. I picked up the cut cores that were in many pieces and taped together in a bundle. Several pieces looked gouged and rippled. I was told his hot wire broke and damaged them but that they were easily repairable.

Unfortunately I paid the balance and went home only to discover 5 major pieces were missing. Then to my horror, I found the left wing had been built upside down!! I phoned Fitzgerald and he admitted he ran out of time and did not complete the order but accused me of being an idiot about the left wing being built upside.

I had 5 EAA chapter members inspect my cores and confirm my observations. Additionally they found the cores were all cut at the wrong sweep angle and cobbled together from many small scraps. We could not find one salvable piece. I called Fitzgerald for a refund and was assured I'd get my money back if I returned the cores in good condition at my expense.

It is now June 1996 and after paying the phone bill and shipping costs, my expenses have greatly surpassed my original \$900 loss.

This has been a \$2000 lesson I hope no other builder has to learn! Feel free to phone me if further information is needed. (303) 233-8967.

Rough River Fall Fly-in Falls Of the Rough Airport (213) October 11-13, 1996

Registration begins at noon on Friday. We will have our usual get acquainted cook-out that evening.

Saturday we plan to have the annual air race and seminars including a return visit from Bill and Carol Scott of Precision Engine. If there is an interest expressed in pre-registration we will plan a fly-out to Lexington, KY to see the thoroughbred horse races at Keeneland.

Following dinner on your own, the general meeting will start at 8 PM. Jim Voss will be the featured speaker.

Room reservations should be made as soon as possible. Call (502) 257-2311 and mention Central States. Don't wait, as the lodge fills up early.

If you need further information or assistance please feel free to contact Colby or Elise Farmer at (502) 729-2076. We hope to see you there.

Please fill out this form to help us plan for the fly-in. Mail it to the address on the bottom of the page.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of people in your group _____

Are you interested in going to Keeneland? _____

Are you interested in participating in the air race? _____

Is there a topic you would like to see a seminar on? _____

A registration fee of \$10 per adult is required to cover fly-in costs. Please pay in advance if you can to keep the cash flow under control. Make checks payable to Elise Farmer. (Refunds, if required, can be made to those cancelling no later than Oct 4) Mail to:

Elise Farmer
5731 Timberlane Dr
Philpot, KY 42366

Concerning The Future of the Fly-in at Rough River:

Every year Colby and I are besieged with phone calls stemming from the limited number of lodge rooms available at Rough River.

Approximately 100 miles to the west, Lake Barkley State Resort Park (Cadiz) offers a superior setting. They have more than 3 times as many lodge rooms and excellent facilities (*Editor note: the lodge is not within walking distance of the airstrip!*)

After consulting with several of our regular attendees who are familiar with both parks, we have made it possible for the 1997 fly-in to be held at Lake Barkley.

We solicit your comments. Please call us at 502-729-2076 or write to

Elise Farmer
5731 Timberlane Dr
Philpot, KY 42366

