

# THE WINDSOCK

January 2025

Writer: PingPing He | Editor: PingPing He

Hi everyone! I hope everyone had a happy new year and are having a good start to 2025! I (PingPing) will be writing the newsletters going forward. I give two big 'Thank-yous' to Frank and Deb Huber for publishing all the wonderful newsletters over the past four (plus) years!

## The Presidents Flight Deck

Happy New Year! Our January gathering will be held Monday, January 27th, beginning with our dinner/social hour at 6:00 PM. We will enjoy chili with all the fixings. As usual, some kitchen prep and final clean-up help will be appreciated! We will provide a Chapter update at 7:00 PM. At 8:00 PM, Al Patchin will talk about the loss of power incident of his helicopter. As you may know, Al survived the incident, but the helicopter did not.

A lot has happened in our Chapter since our newsletter was published last September. We have a new newsletter publishing team consisting of Josh Welter and PingPing He. They are looking for new subject matter and invite input from members. The newsletter is a public-facing recruiting tool for our Chapter, it is up to all of us to make it the best it can be. Please offer article ideas to Josh and PingPing, they will write the articles for you.

Dave Peterson has done a fabulous job setting up and managing the flight simulator. However, Dave would like to relinquish this role, and we are looking for a new manager. This should be a relatively easy position to manage, and Dave will provide training for the new manager. Please reach out to Dave if you are interested in this position.

We are also looking for a membership coordinator. This position is responsible for updating member records and adding new members.

We have chosen June 28, 2025, for our annual fly-in breakfast. A planning session request will be sent soon, and we are looking for help in planning this event. We hope to make the event larger than last year and are open to ideas for improvement.

I hope to see you at the Chapter meeting!  
Kevin



### YOUR CHAPTER BOARD OFFICERS

Kevin Sislo, President  
Kim Kuck, Secretary  
Charles Jasicki, Director

Robert Henkes, Vice President  
Mark Heule, Treasurer  
Michael Grzincich, Director

Contact the Board at: [board@eaa237.org](mailto:board@eaa237.org)



## Membership Dues

Chapter members, about 1/3 of members have not renewed their memberships. Memberships are annual and are requested to be paid by the end of last year. The memberships can be renewed via our website, mailed check, or our preferred method of in- person at the next Chapter meeting via cash or credit card on our Square app. Dues have not increased for 2025, they are still \$30 for an individual, and \$50 for a family. Membership in EAA National is required. Please help our membership committee by getting your dues up to date ASAP.

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## Chapter Award Recipients

Each year we honor those members that lead our various committees, have made significant contributions to our organization, or have achieved an aviation milestone. Here are our award recipients for 2024. Please thank them for their contributions.

President – Kevin Sislo

Vice President – Bob Henkes

Treasurer – Mark Heule

Secretary – Kim Kuck

Board member – Chuck Jasicki

Board member – Michael Grzincich

Young Eagle Coordinator – Michael Grzincich

Eagle Flight Leader – Bob Heavirland

Membership Coordinator – Don Huettl

Newsletter Editor – Frank Huber

Web Editor – Dave Peterson

Scholarship Coordinator – Frank Huber

Technical Counselor – Gary Laurich

VMC/IMC Coordinator – Chris Baye

VMC/IMC Coordinator – Don Huettl

Flight Advisor – Frank Huber

Chapter MVP – Mark and Peggy Sandman

Wally Swanson Outstanding Service – Jack Smith

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## Holiday Party

We hosted our annual Holiday party and awards banquet on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Weather cooperated and we had a great turnout for the event. The variety of members dishes perfectly complemented the Chapter supplied ham. The highlight of the evening was the aviation trivia contest with the prizes being the table decorations.



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## Air Academy's Explore Camp

EAA 237 has reserved two spots in Session 4 (ages 16-18) – July 25<sup>th</sup> – August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 for the Air Academy Explore Camp. We need to supply the names of the students to EAA very soon. If you know of any interested kids that would like to attend this camp, please reach out to Mark Heule. Below is a short description of the Air Academy experience. More details can be found on EAA's website: <https://www.eaa.org/education/air-academy>.

*Welcome to Air Academy's Explore Camp, where the thrill of flight meets the excitement of hands-on STEM exploration! Explore Camp offers a unique and exhilarating summer experience for young aviation enthusiasts aged 14 to 18. Nestled in the heart of sport aviation, our camp offers an unforgettable experience for campers eager to delve into the world of aviation.*

*Get ready to immerse yourself in a dynamic blend of activities designed to ignite your curiosity and inspire your imagination. Step into our state-of-the-art flight simulators and experience the exhilaration of piloting aircraft through the virtual sky. Engage in interactive workshop projects where you'll design and build your own aviation-inspired creations under the guidance of our experienced staff.*

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## Emeraude Project

This project came back to life this fall as the work on the Zenith wound down. The motor was hung on the recently completed motor mount, and firewall forward planning is proceeding. Final control surface cables are being installed. An extra inspection port is being installed on the fuselage and flying surface fillets are being designed. The work is being accomplished on Monday and Wednesday mornings in Mark Heule's hangar. If you are interested in the project, please reach out to Kevin Sislo or Mark Heule.



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## Rotax Donation

We have received a generous engine donation and instrumentation from Dick Pugh! He has donated a Rotax 914 engine, an Airmaster controllable propeller with controls, a Xcom VHF transceiver, trim servos, an oil sender, a Microair transponder, and a Dynon 18. The equipment is available for purchase from the Chapter. If interested, please let Kevin know and we can supply details. Thank you, Dick!

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The Chapter held another successful Young Eagles event on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at Atlantic Aviation. Although a cloudy overcast day, that did not prevent four Young Eagle pilots from providing ride to thirty Young Eagles! There were seven young women and twenty-three young men, who received rides. We also had over half a dozen group volunteers handling the check in process, the record keeping, aircraft marshaling and moving the kids and their families safely to and from their aircraft on the busy flight line.

Our next Chapter 237 Young Eagles event will be held on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, from 9 AM to 2 PM at Atlantic Aviation. As always, all chapter members are invited to come out to support our effort to provide a safe, fun and memorable experience for these young people, who share our interest in aviation. It's always fun to watch the smiling faces after they return from their flights!

Register at <https://Events.EAAChapters.org> and/or contact Michael Grzincich ([Michael.Grzincich@EAA237.org](mailto:Michael.Grzincich@EAA237.org)) if interested.



The Aviation Explorers worked on their Velocity Electronics project early December. They are worked on adding real-time graphs to the micropi display and then wrapped the year up with a wonderful holiday party on December 20<sup>th</sup>. The aviation Explorers are still on holiday break but are gearing up for the new year.



The next meeting will be held January 17<sup>th</sup> from 7 PM-8:30 PM.



A \$12,000 Ray Aviation Scholarship is open for applications **until Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**. Applications will then be reviewed, candidates will be interviewed, with the scholarship then being awarded. Applicants must be at least 15 years old to apply and be between 16 and 19 to receive the private pilot scholarship (15 to 19 for glider pilot). Any members who know of potential candidates are encouraged to forward these details!

Please visit the chapter website (<https://chapters.eaa.org/ea237/chapter-programs/ray-aviation-scholarship>) to learn more about the scholarship and to view the application form.

# Welcome to a new year of VMC/IMC club at EAA 237



Here is the 2025 VMC/IMC Club Schedule:

**3rd Tuesday of the month**

VMC Club starts at 6:30 PM

IMC Club starts at 7:30 PM



Pilots and non-pilots are welcome to attend either or both parts of the meeting.

January 21	July, No Meeting - AirVenture
February 18	August 19
March 18	September 16
April 15	October 21
May 20	November 18
June 17	December, No Meeting - Holidays

Wings Knowledge Activity credits are available to VMC/IMC Club participants that sign in with the email address they registered on faasafety.gov.

Wings Flight Activity credits can be earned by scheduling a lesson with your CFI. During the winter months, Chris recommends Flight Activity A100125-07: Airport operations. During this activity you and your CFI should plan a short cross-country to take off and land at both a towered and non-towered airports where you can demonstrate, radio frequency selection, standard phraseology, position reporting. Traffic pattern entry and departure, situation awareness and spacing. You will also discuss signage, lighting, taxi procedures, emergency procedures and ATC resources. Chris will be at the meeting to answer any questions you may have about the FAA Wings Program.

Happy flying in 2025!

Don Huettl and Chris Baye, Chapter 237 IMC/VMC Club Coordinators.

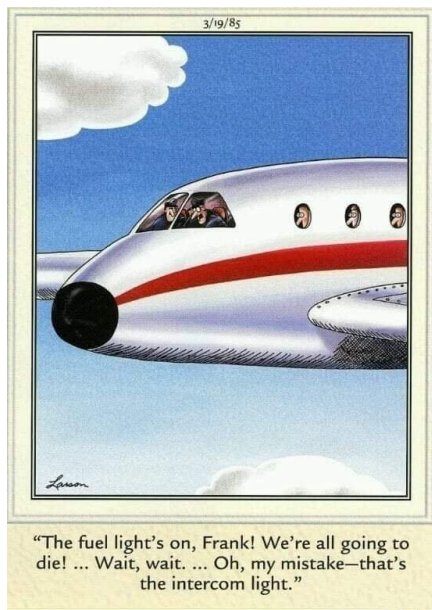
## Chapter 237 Coming Events

- \* Explorer Post 237 - Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM.
- \* IMC/VMC meetings - Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> - **VMC** 6:30 PM -7:30 PM/**IMC** 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM
- \* Chapter 237 Meeting - Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> - Dinner starting 6:00 PM & Meeting at 7:00 PM
- \* Chapter Breakfast Social - Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> - 7:30 AM - 11:00 AM
- \* Explorer Post 237 - Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM.
- \* Young Eagles Flight Event - Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Atlantic Aviation
- \* IMC/VMC meetings - Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> - **VMC** 6:30 PM-7:30 PM/**IMC** 7:30-8:30 PM
- \* Chapter 237 Meeting - Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> - Dinner starting 6:00 PM & Meeting at 7:00 PM

## The Lighter Side



"THIS?! THIS is the incredible deal that you found on the Internet?!"



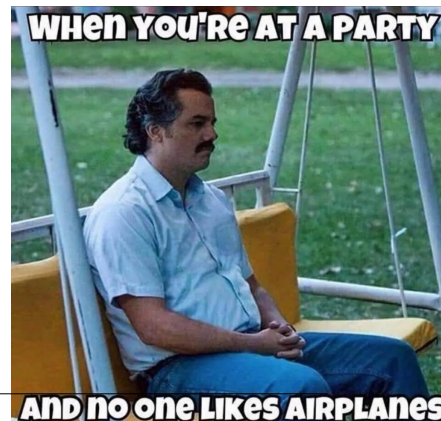
"The fuel light's on, Frank! We're all going to die! ... Wait, wait. ... Oh, my mistake—that's the intercom light."



ATC: cleared to land 25... winds uhh... variable.



me outside a hobby store knowing damn well I have a huge **unbuilt** stack of models at home



## Turning a broken snowblower into an aircraft tug



Jeff Mullin's snowblower's auger gear stripped out and it was too old to fix.

The motor and drive wheels still worked so he thought this setback would be a good opportunity to convert the snowblower to an aircraft tug.

This conversion made it much easier to get his Pegazair into the hangar. Especially in winter when the ice ridge forms in front of the hangar door.

The lever that was used to engage the auger drive now opens and closes the tug forks. The auger safety interlock switch had to be bypassed so the engine would run with the tug forks closed.

Other than those minor adjustments, it was mostly a bolt on operation to convert the snowblower to a tug once all the auger parts had been removed.

Lots of geometry was required for the linkages but things were made much easier by using a CAD drafting tool to work out linkage locations.

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We always love to showcase the aircraft that our members are building, restoring, and flying. We also love seeing what other projects and adventures our members are taking on. If you have anything you would like to share, please email me with the aircraft you are building, have completed building, are restoring, have purchased and are flying, or just have something fun you would like to share. I will follow up with you to provide a questionnaire and will come out to take pictures to include with your article.

If you have a story or photo you would like to see in our newsletter, contact

PingPing He | [pingpinghe08@gmail.com](mailto:pingpinghe08@gmail.com) | 651-468-8484

To view past issues of The Windsock, visit [www.eaa237.org](http://www.eaa237.org) and select newsletters.

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# I Buy Used Avionics!

Do you have something to sell?

I am a student pilot, and I fund my flight lessons by selling used avionics, and other aircraft parts. Let's help each other!

Please contact me! (Text or email preferred.)

**JC's Aviation Sales** jcroft0001@gmail.com  
Minneapolis, MN 763-561-8945



Donald Huettl  
Custom3D LLC  
Cell: 763-634-1349  
DAHUETTL@GMAIL.COM

Oil cap more than "finger-tight" – mine was!



## FLIGHT INSTRUCTION

Ground Instruction  
Flight Instruction



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## EAA Chapter 237

1st AirVenture Chapter Grand Champion

**Gary Laurich**

EAA Tech Counselor/Flight Advisor



**Chapter Hangar**

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www.eaa237.org

**Chapter Meetings:**

4th Monday of the month

Dinner Social: 6:00 pm

Meeting Starts: 7:00 pm

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