

THE OBSERVER



Chapter 1041

NOTAMS:

- **September 8th**
9:00—10:30 IMC/
VMC Club G'Burg
Regional Airport
- **September 10th**
7:00 PM Regular
Chapter Meeting
G'Burg Regional
Airport
- **September 15th Fly**
-Out Destination
TBD
- **September 29th &**
30th Pancake
Breakfast
- **October 1st 7:00**
PM Regular Chap-
ter Meeting G'Burg
Regional Airport
- **October 13th**
9:00—10:30 IMC/
VMC Club G'Burg
Regional Airport
- **October 20th**
Chapter Fly-Out
Destination TBD
- **November 5th 7:00**
PM Regular Chap-
ter Meeting G'Burg
Regional Airport
- **November 17th**
Chapter Fly-Out
Destination TBD
- **December 11th**
Chapter Christmas
Party Dutch Coun-
try Restaurant

Gettysburg Barnstormers—EAA Chapter 1041

Henry's Hangar

By Henry Hartman

The Annual Picnic in August was a wonderful afternoon of fun, fellowship, and great eating! About 40 people attended and 2 aircraft flew in for the afternoon. Our special thanks go to Kathy & Gary Mathna for again hosting this very popular event. We want to also thank everyone who brought food – those who did the shopping for the group and to all who brought such a wonderful variety of tasty treats. Gary served as our cook and made all the burgers and dogs, which was a very nice treat for our members. Thanks to Homer Stambaugh for once again supplying the tasty sweet corn that we all enjoyed. And if you missed Phil Roth's delicious peaches, you don't have any idea of how wonderful they were!

This being September, we will have our second Breakfast event of the year on the last weekend of the month. Please publicize the breakfast wherever you can, we need a good crowd of hungry people. Your help is very important to the success of the weekend, so please make plans to come out, have some fun, and help your fellow Barnstormers pull this one off.

And also, this being September of an "even" year (2018), the September meeting will be your last opportunity to nominate someone (or be nominated!) to serve as an Officer or Director of the Chapter. The ballot will be finalized at the September 10th meeting and voting will take place during the October meeting.

The September meeting will feature a program by some folks from the Lancaster area, with Liberty Warbirds. They will tell us about the Vietnam-veteran Huey helicopter

they are restoring to flying condition and how they are connecting with the human veterans that served and flew in those iconic aircraft during the Vietnam years. If you know any Vietnam Vets, please bring them along to this special program.

For those of you who missed the annual picnic, we learned about some challenges that are coming to the Gettysburg Airport. Our Chapter will be greatly affected by the proposed changes and we need to work together to find a solution to our future. Please be sure to attend upcoming meetings as we move into a new phase of the life of the Barnstormers.

Our group will celebrate the 25th anniversary of being chartered as an official EAA Chapter in 2019, and we need your input to plan how we want to commemorate that milestone. Please give it some thought and bring your ideas to the meetings.

Henry



Volunteer to be part of Barnstormer leadership. All offices are up for election for the 2019-2020 term.

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Editor's Notes

If you have read an interesting aviation related book let me know and I will include it in a future edition of The Observer

Have an aviation related link? I'll include that in a future edition also.

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September meeting is Monday September 10th and will highlight the restoration work on a UH-1 that served in Vietnam

The Liberty Warbirds have informed us that the aircraft has been cleared for “lift off” and has hovered at the Lancaster Airport. More details at the meeting.

Election of officers and The Board of Directors will be held at the October Meeting.

Nominations are still being accepted

Chapter Election Preview

2019—2020 sleight of officers follows:

President.....Henry Hartman
Vice-President.....Sam Kistler
Secretary.....Wendi Clark
Treasurer.....Herb Bartell
Membership.....Andy Toussaint
Newsletter Editor
& Webmaster.....Bob Howe
Young Eagle Coordinator.....Savy Maranto

Board of Directors

Savy Maranto
John Hart
Randy Kalp
Art Shaw
Paul Selmer
Jeff Beard

www.eaa.org

www.aopa.org

www.1041.eaachapter.org

www.intrepidmuseum.org

www.york-aviation.com

www.airfactsjournal.com

www.jerryandersonart.com

<https://www.airportcourtesycars.com>

<https://airandspace.si.edu/events/great-british-fly-in>

Name Tags for the following members can be picked up in the airport meeting room.

Herb Bartell
Conrad Brown
Richard Brown
Joe Gungel
Paul Tully
Richard Smith

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August Picnic held at Mathna Airport



Bob Howe photos

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Gettysburg Barnstormers—EAA Chapter 1041



August Picnic held at Mathna Airport



About 42 Barnstormers attended the picnic on a
beautiful Sunday

Bob Howe photos

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Gettysburg Barnstormers—EAA Chapter 1041



Attention

The September IMC/VMC Meeting will be held in the Chapter Meeting room at the Gettysburg Regional Airport. will be the 2nd Saturday, September 8th, from 9:00 to 10:30. Bob Howe will host the event.

New
Event



“ASK ATC” will be a featured topic.

Additional Information on EAA Website Here: <http://bit.ly/2DzNEaq>



Light refreshments are served prior to every meeting

A real life flying scenario will be presented for discussion.

Non-EAA members attending are granted a 6 month free membership to EAA and a subscription to Sport Pilot for the trial membership period.



Photos by Bob Howe

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Gettysburg Barnstormers—EAA Chapter 1041



The history of Gettysburg Regional Airport will be published in installments in this and future issues of ***The Observer***. Thanks to Phil Roth, Charlie Tipton, John Donmoyer and the Doersom family for their efforts in compiling this abstract.

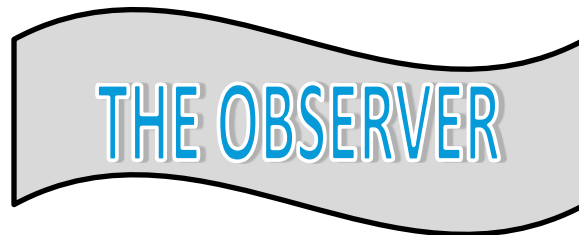


ABSTRACT

An accounting of Adams County's second and single surviving commercial airport, from an off-airport beginning in 1923 to 2018

Prepared by EAA Chapter 1041 – "Gettysburg Barnstormers"

90th Year Anniversary, 2018



Gettysburg Barnstormers—EAA Chapter 1041



Gettysburg Regional Airport - W05

90th Year Anniversary, 2018 continued from the August Edition
of *The Observer*

During WWII, all east coast private/civilian airports not involved in Army Cadet flight training were closed. Charlie put to good use his mechanical skills helping to build bombers, working for the Glenn L. Martin Aircraft Company near Baltimore MD. Off hours and weekends, he continued auto garage and aircraft repair, sold rationed highway gasoline and adapted to becoming a dairy farmer. Son Charles, Jr. was a maintenance mechanic with the Army Air Corp based in England; son Richard was a Flight Engineer on B-17s; sons Donald and John, still at home in school, were learning to be dairy farmers. Youngest son John says he and his older brothers learned to fly and developed mechanical skills at early ages.

Charlie, true to his inclinations, closed a deal with the US Army in December 1941, to allow the encampment of 50,000 WWII troops on his acreage for a few days, before moving on to other destinations. Daughter Barbara Ann recalls looking out from the Doersom house second story window into the crisp December night air, to a striking scene on the slope toward Herr's Ridge with rows of tents and camp fires burning. She remembers that the Army engineers cleared trees for access to Herr's Ridge Road. Years later, working the soil would turn up camp utensils and personal camping equipment. It is not known whether Charlie received compensation or volunteered his land; your guess.

Development

The original sod runway was gradually extended to 3,100 ft in the years following 1938. Arthur Cunningham writes about learning to fly at Doersom Airport and helping Charlie cut trees and wrestling with the removal of heavy rocks. Charlie mentored innovation in 1929 when he helped a designer build a racing airplane at Forney Field. The owner flew the airplane to Miami to enter the race but somehow disqualified and didn't race. On another occasion, he built a glider fuselage and attached rebuilt wings from a basket case Heath Parasol airplane. (*As I Remember – On Pilots, Planes & Landing Fields*)

Charlie and wife Mildred had two daughters and five sons. In 1947 third oldest son Donald (born 1929) enlisted in the Pennsylvania National Guard. He started working with a lumber company in Dillsburg and continued working with his dad in the evenings. He became a commercial pilot and licensed A&P mechanic. In 1959 Don started working at the New Cumberland Army Depot at Capital City Airport. Continuing to work evenings and weekends with his dad, Don's son David said his dad would do the fabric work on aircraft restorations while granddad Charles rebuilt the engines. Doubtless through his work at the Army Depot, Don became known in the 1970s for his expertise with radial aircraft engines. In 2000 Don was awarded the Federal Aviation Administration's Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award for lifetime accomplishments.

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(Taylor built the Wright Brother's first aircraft engine). Don resigned his commission as major in the US Army Reserves in 1979, having been the commanding officer of the Gettysburg Artillery Unit for his last 14 years of service.

Youngest son John Doersom, said his dad decided to sell farm acreage in 1953 to finance the construction of a new concrete block hangar. More improvements followed in 1963 when the SW-NE runway was paved, just in time for the Civil War Battle of Gettysburg Centennial celebration.

But by mid-morning, Sunday July 7, 1963 tragedy struck; Charles Doersom, a heavy smoker, died suddenly from heart failure at age 62, while working at his airport. John Donmoyer, a county resident who learned to fly at Doersom Airport (his primary instructor was Arthur Cunningham) and who hangered his Piper Cruiser PA-14 at Doersom Airport, was visiting with Charlie when he was stricken.

Charlie's wife Mildred then leased the airport to Donald and Elizabeth Sullivan. The Sullivans operated Doersom Airport for the next five years. Early on, they brought energetic aviation activity to the community, promoting pilot training. An experienced mechanic and aircraft examiner, Sullivan modified a J-3 Piper Cub to twin engine status. Only one airplane was built and donated to the Piper Aircraft Museum in Lock Haven, PA. But the Sullivans could not sustain profitability, relinquishing their lease in 1968. Mildred closed the airport until 1972 when her son Donald and wife Georgia bought the airport property; 5-lock, stock and barrel.



5-year-old Donald on airplane for repair 1934
Photo: Courtesy Donald Doersom, Jr

Donald Doersom continued his full-time employment with the Army Depot at Cumberland retiring in 1984 as aircraft overhaul inspection foreman. Georgia managed airport operations weekdays by taking phone calls, providing taxi service from the airport into Gettysburg, overseeing the self-service fuel pumps, selling pilot supplies and handling airport paperwork. She earned her private pilots license in the airport's rental Aircoupe airplane. Later she became an aviation written test examiner. Donald assumed operational details during weekends, advertising Gettysburg Battlefield sight-seeing flights, flight instruction and aircraft repair services. The Gettysburg Flying Club, organized after WWII with roughly 40 members interested in aviation, elected Don President in 1972.

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On balance, the Doersom Airport in its first 90 years, leaned more to repair services than pilot training, in contrast to other community airports in south central Pennsylvania and northern Maryland.

Air Explorer Scout Post 605 for youth 14 to 21, was organized in 1971. James Sheen and Billy Wellborn were volunteer Post flight instructors and John Adams was technical advisor. By 1977 the Post had rebuilt two trainer airplanes – one airplane from scratch – and needed hangar space. Donald agreed to buy the material for two hangars if the Explorer Post covered the cost of hangar erection. The building would become airport property with free rental for the Post's two airplanes.



Don Doersom and his rental C-150, 1980s

Photo: Courtesy Donald Doersom, Jr.

With Don's health failing, in 1998 the airport was sold to Clyde Bachert, a Harrisburg entrepreneur without aviation experience or much understanding about aviation's business volatility. That same year, Hanover EAA chapter was looking for a new home and Bachert invited them to move to Gettysburg. EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) was a non-profit organization designed to support and encourage sport aviation world-wide, organized into geographic chapters. Chapter 1041 – Barnstormers – emphasized encouraging youth toward aeronautical vocations by sponsoring youth ages 12-18, to a week-long academy experience in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The chapter also organized airplane rides for youngsters of any age.



To be continued next month

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Gettysburg Barnstormers—EAA Chapter 1041



Letters from Air Academy

To EAA Chapter 1041,

I would like to thank the sponsor(s) who provided the funds for me to come to this wonderful camp. I learned a lot of things about airplanes that I had no clue about! I learned how to weld, do composites, make parts to airplane wings, and do steel working. I learned how to figure out the weight and balance of an airplane, and I honestly had no idea it even mattered!

I got to experience ground school, and I learned a lot about stability of runways, and the weather and what the different abbreviations mean. I got to see the museum and learn more in depth about the history and records set by different aircrafts.

I saw a lot of my favorite airplanes, and now I want to build my own one day! It gave me a lot of motivation to pursue my future in aviation. Thank you for letting me have this amazing experience at Oshkosh!

Rebecca Anderson

THE OBSERVER

Gettysburg Barnstormers—EAA Chapter 1041



Letters from Air Academy

Dear EAA chapter 1041,

To all of you that have contributed and helped me along the way or even talked to me I would like to personally thank you for sponsoring me for this once in a lifetime opportunity to partake in the EAA advanced Flight academy. This experience I will remember for the rest of my life. The friends and people I have met along the way have made an impact on the way I look at my chapter and EAA as a whole new aviation family.

This experience has taught me countless new things about aviation and all the people that enjoy it as much as I do. Going into this camp I didn't expect it to teach me as much as it did from crafting my own spark plug holder to building my own aircraft wing! We also were in a classroom with a Boeing engineer which taught me a lot about the important physics behind flight. We also flew in a helicopter! My first flight in a helicopter with the EAA family, which were filled with great counselors that went the best in every way for their campers.

To everyone back at home that has helped me get to where I am today and wants to see me do great things and succeed, I would like to thank you again for this once and a lifetime opportunity and thank you for bringing me in as part as your chapter family and EAA family.

your friend,

Gravin. Abendschein

More letters next month

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Gettysburg Barnstormers—EAA Chapter 1041



2018 “WINGS, WHEELS & PANCAKES” FLY-IN/DRIVE-IN BREAKFAST

Gettysburg Regional Airport (W05) • Route 30 West—Gettysburg, PA

Saturday, Sept. 29 and

Sunday, Sept. 30

8:00am–Noon • Rain or Shine!

Breakfast Highlights

Pancakes, Eggs, Ham, Sausage, Homefries

Coffee, Tea, Juice

\$8.00 per person • Children Under 12 \$3.00

Portion of proceeds benefit various Aviation Programs for Youth

Antique & Classic Cars Invited
“Hangar Flying”
Fun for Everyone!!

Contacts:

Paul Selmer at 717-253-7008

Henry Hartman at

717-637-3741 or cell 717-465-5952



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Volunteer For September's Fly-In Breakfast

Friday September 28th 9:00 am to NoonHanger Clean-up

Friday September 28th 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.....Breakfast Set-up

*Saturday September 29th 7:45 am to Noon.....Cooking, Sewing,
cleaning tables, beverage service*

*Sunday September 30th 7:45 am to Noon.....Cooking, Sewing,
cleaning tables, beverage service*

Sunday September 30th Noon to 2:30 pm..... Breakfast teardown

No special skills needed (?questions^call Paul Selmer, or Bob Howe?)

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Gettysburg Barnstormers—EAA Chapter 1041



EAA Chapter 1041

The Observer Editor
140 Valley View Drive
Hanover, PA 17331
717-451-3473

ea1041webmaster@comcast.net

Fly-Out Destination

Fly-Out destination for September Will be decided at the September Meeting

Now accepting nominations for Chapter Officers and Board of Directors the 2019—2020 term. See Bob or Art. Volunteer to serve Chapter 1041.

THE EAA 1041 SKY RAIDERS

The EAA 1041 Sky-Raiders have a scheduled fly-out on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Each pilot will make their own go/no go decision. Please call Herb Bartell (717-476-2800) no later than Friday afternoon if you plan to join the flight. Herb will make restaurant reservations at the destination airport; therefore, an accurate count of participants is appreciated.

Check out our website. It has been updated!!

www.1041.eaachapter.org

2017-2018 Chapter 1041 Officers and Board of Directors

President

Henry Hartman, 717-632-0833
keystonesnowmobiler@comcast.net

Vice President

Sam Kistler, 443-695-5433
csamkistler@gmail.com

Secretary

Phil Roth, 717-334-7167
philroth223@gmail.com

Treasurer

Herb Bartell, 717-476-2800

Membership

Andy Toussaint 267-625-5167
abtcbt@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor & Web Master

Bob Howe, 717-451-3473
ea1041_webmaster@comcast.net

Young Eagle Coordinator

Savy Maranto, 443-918-8082
savym653@comcast.net

Board of Directors

Savy Maranto, 443-918-8082
John Hart, 717-359-8750
Randy Kalp, 717-339-0880
Art Shaw, 717-338-0745
Paul Selmer, 717-253-7008
Jeff Beard, 717-479-0796