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# JUST PLANE NEWS . . .

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EAA Chapter 1236 Newsletter    December 2023

## SAVE THE DATES

DECEMBER 9TH (Saturday)  
Chapter Mtg: 9:00 donuts/coffee  
10:00 mtg: Carlile's hangar  
15720 SE 175th ST Weirsdale

NO December VMC/IMC mtg

JANUARY 13TH (Saturday).  
Chapter mtg. 9:00 donuts/coffee;  
10:00 mtg. Carlile's hangar

JANUARY 20th Chapter 1236  
Membership Appreciation Party.  
Details coming...

## Chapter 1236 Officers

Pres. John Carlile  
VP Bruce Cynamon  
Treasurer Tricia Angell  
Secretary Ana Kircher  
Membership Janette Carlile

## Supporting Board Members

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Tech Support: Don Bartlett  
Young Eagles - Bob Kircher  
Chap. Website: Bob Rolfe  
Newsletter: Janette Carlile

## KEEP IN TOUCH

EMAIL:  
[eaachapter1236@gmail.com](mailto:eaachapter1236@gmail.com)  
WEBSITE:  
[chapters.eaa.org/ea1236](http://chapters.eaa.org/ea1236)

## Not to be Missed December 9th Chapter mtg: Guest speaker, Fred Geier...Presidential Marine 1 Pilot & much more

Our upcoming guest speaker, Fred Geier, joined the Marines in 1971 with the goal to fly fixed wing planes, but instead, he ended up flying helicopters. As he will share with us, he got assigned to the HMX-1 Marine Corps Presidential Squadron serving under President Reagan and President Clinton. Fred served 27 years in the Marine Corps. He and his wife have lived in The Villages since 2002. The Chapter meeting starts at 9:00 with donuts/coffee and the meeting starts at 10:00.

## "WINGS OVER WEIRSDALE" Chapter FLY IN a GREAT SUCCESS. . .

### THE FLY IN BY THE NUMBERS:

120+ aircraft including 5+ helicopters  
60 cars from Convertible & Corvette Clubs  
200+ cars parked  
432 lunch tickets sold  
550+ attendees (estimate)  
80+ volunteers (many doing more than one job)  
\$500+ 50/50 donation went to the Chapter  
\$4982.80 cleared after expenses  
16 dozen donuts  
40 pork butts (335 lbs) in smoker  
28 containers of potato salad (140 lbs)  
36 boxes of cornbread mix  
432 cornbread muffins  
100's & 100's of homemade desserts  
2 new Chapter members joined at Fly In.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST CHAPTER MEMBERS

NOVEMBER 2023:

Paul Erickson & Roz Alford  
Jonathan & Rachel Culbreath



2024 CHAPTER DUES TO  
BE COLLECTED AT  
JANUARY 13th mtg

NO DUES WILL BE COLLECTED  
AT THE DECEMBER 9th MTG

NOTE: If you joined the Chapter during  
July-Dec. 2023, you will not need to  
pay. 2024 dues...

\$15 for individual, \$20 for Family  
80+ years young? Honorary member  
FREE

**CAN'T MAKE THE MEETING TO  
PAY?** Please make your check out to  
"EAA Chapter 1236" and mail to  
Tricia Angell  
17921 SE 158th Ct. Weirsdale, FL  
32195

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR "FRIENDS OF THE CHAPTER"

In addition to our 80+ Chapter volunteers, this recent Fly In was a success directly because of our special "**Friends of the Chapter**" businesses.

**Heather Oaks Farm:** Bob & Maria Tracy brought their custom made smoker and cooked 40 pork butts for 12+ hrs overnight next to the hangar. They are the reason so many visitors come back to our Fly In - the pulled pork is legendary.

**Signature Homes:** They provided the much appreciated porta potties for the event.

**Brad Winkler & Battery Boys:** Brad & his team provided golf cart shuttles for the pilots to/from aircraft & for visitors wanting to see the airplanes at the viewing area and flight line. They ran a top notch shuttle service!

**Lima Bravo Aviation Insurance:** In addition to a cash donation to help with Fly In operating expenses, Lee Blankenship set up an informational table and donated giveaway gifts for the visitors.

**Bob Rolfe's Lifestyle Reflections:** Maintained Chapter website to promote the Fly In. In addition, Bob, a freelance photographer, took many photos to document this event.



Battery Boys

Lee Blankenship &  
Lima Bravo Aviation  
Insurance

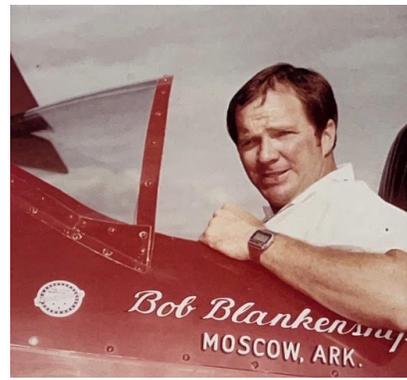


# IT'S A CHAPTER PARTY! SAVE THE DATE January 20, 2024 (Saturday)

SAVE THE DATE and join us at the annual Chapter Membership Appreciation Party on January 20, 2024. (5:30 arrival, 6:00 dinner) at John & Julie's Hangar located at Loves Landing. There will be an Italian dinner from Little Joey's and special entertainment is "in the works" for all of you. This party is for all Chapter 1236 members and our Friends of the Chapter guests. There is no cost BUT we will require an RSVP when the official invitation goes out around January 2nd. More party info and location directions in that email. Put the date in your new 2024 calendars!



View from our January 2023 Membership Party. . .

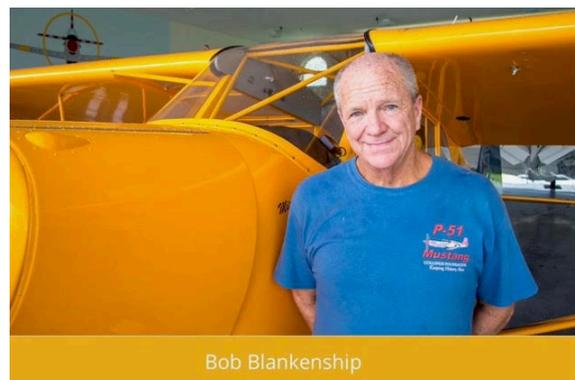


## Bob Blankenship, Honored and Inducted into Arkansas Aviation Historical Society Hall of Fame

Our own Chapter 1236 member, Bob Blankenship, was inducted into the Arkansas Aviation Hall of Fame on November 16, 2023 in Little Rock, Arkansas. His aviation background and career was as varied as it was exciting. He spent a number of years crop dusting in Pine Bluff, AR and was well known for performing on the airshow circuit. In one particular stunt, he would land his J-3 Cub on a modified rack on a pickup truck that was moving down the runway. Bob would also showcase aerobatics in his modified Stearman called "Ol' Red".

Bob moved on to an illustrious career at Southwest Airlines and retired a few years ago. He continues to fly professionally in a corporate Dassault Falcon Jet. Bob has ratings that include (but not limited to) the Douglas A-26 Avenger, C-47, Vought Corsair, P-51 Mustang, and Grumman TBM Avenger. He has over 40,000 flying hours.

We congratulate Bob in achieving this honor.



Bob Blankenship

# "WINGS OVER WEIRSDALE" Fly In Memories



Friday's prep of the 40 pork butts - a lotta butt rubbing going on that day!



A number of folks kept the Tracy's company through the night while the pork butts were smoking away...



Dozens of volunteers made desserts. A friend of the Carlile's from The Villages, surprised us all by making over 260+ desserts for our fly in!



Setting up the pop ups! It takes a "village". . .



Invited Convertible & Corvette Clubs say this is one of their favorite day trips of the year!

50/50 Winners were:  
\$200 Judy Gorman  
Convertible Club.

\$200 Jim Metzgar  
Waterman Village

\$100 Patti Stahr  
Chapter 1236 member  
& Love's Landing  
resident



Sharon Peterson & Judie Betz  
gearing up to sell 50/50!



Sue, Sharon & Billie ready for the donut & coffee crowd.



© Bob Rolfe 2023



Ana Kircher set up a Chapter Boutique selling our teshirts and specialty mugs. She sold quite a bit!



Sharon Peterson did a stint of holding up landing scores the tower area gave to arriving aircraft.



Greg Ramola giving a safety briefing to his airplane parking teams



Tricia & Mike Angell - food coordinator geniuses



The food line readying for the onslaught of 400+ visitors with lunch tickets!



...and they lined up all at once for lunch!



© Bob Rolfe 2023

At first, people were worried about how long it would take to actually get one's lunch. Feedback from the visitors was that they had NEVER experienced such a quick and organized food line at a fly in .... Ever! KUDOS to our volunteers!



© Bob Rolfe 2023

The hangar could seat about 150 people at one time.



© Bob Rolfe 2023

Visitors enjoyed walking the flight line to view the 120+ aircraft.



John Stahr, Air Boss for the day



Yours truly (Janette Carlile) hitched a ride with Terri Hull in her Cessna 140 to snag a few aerial pics of the fly in. . .





The end of a perfectly wonderful day at the Fly In. . .until next year!

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...and now a message from one of our Chapter members, Mike Kelley.

Fellow EAA Chapter 1236 members,

My wife and I are hoping to put together some fly-outs to the nearby islands. We are looking for pilots who either 1) Already know how to fly internationally to the Bahamas, or 2) Would be willing to learn to fly to the islands! This past year we have made two trips to various islands in the Caribbean and Bahamas. We've had such a great time that we are looking for "flying-friends" so that we can have more trips and share the experience with.

Typically after arriving at the island (~3 hr flight), we'd clear customs and probably do one of the following:

1. Check into an "Island Resort" where we could take advantage of the beautiful beaches, snorkeling, SCUBA, fishing, cycling, etc.

or

2. Rent a "bareboat" yacht (either power or sailboat) and spend the following days cruising the turquoise waters!

Flying to the islands is actually pretty easy after you've made the first trip. We're willing to help you with all the flight planning and paperwork required. Most of these trips don't require a lot of advanced planning, although having a month-or-two is helpful for the preparation.

We know that this type of traveling isn't for everyone, but we're hoping that we might find a group of people who are excited about trips like this. No experience is required, but it would be nice to find some other people who have a bareboat license, or who enjoy snorkeling, SCUBA or other water sports.

**If this is something you might be interested in, please contact me directly either by e-mail or text!**

Fly Safe!

Mike (and Deb) Kelley  
The Villages, FL  
(971) 570-1522  
[mike@kelley-group.com](mailto:mike@kelley-group.com)



## SNEAK PEAK at BOB ROLFE'S "Wings Over Weirsdale PHOTOS

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To access more of Bob Rolfe's Fly In photos, visit:  
(copy and paste if link does not work from this  
page) [www.lifestyle-reflections.com/EAA-Chapter-1236-Wings-Over-Weirsdale-2023/](http://www.lifestyle-reflections.com/EAA-Chapter-1236-Wings-Over-Weirsdale-2023/)

**ALERT! ALERT! We REALLY need your help in finding speakers for future meetings. . .**

Maybe you have been to other aviation oriented clubs & organizations? We are looking for good speakers for 20-30min(max) presentations that our membership would enjoy. OR maybe you know of someone (or yourself) who has an interesting aviation story to tell? Please email Bruce Cynamon with names and contact info:  
CynamonB@aol.com

**Working on Your Pilot's License? A New Rating? Tell us about it...**

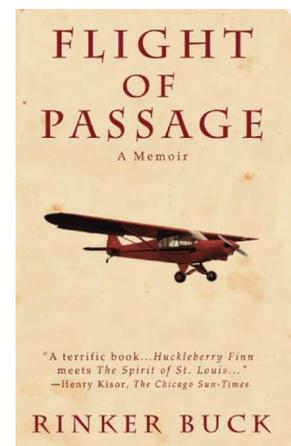
[janette.g.carlile@gmail.com](mailto:janette.g.carlile@gmail.com)

Send your info and a maybe photo of you "in action".



### Looking for Toy Box Submissions

Want to share a photo or two of the Toys ALREADY in YOUR Toy Box? (hangar) Working on a fixer upper? Ideally, you might have a pic of yourself next to your Toy. Send pics and info to [janette.g.carlile@gmail.com](mailto:janette.g.carlile@gmail.com)



Christmas present idea: Give this book to someone or yourself to read before the meeting in February - We will be meeting the author as our speaker on February 10th.

Have you tried wrapping those special aviation gifts in old charts? Makes it special. . .

