

EAA CHAPTER 129
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL, ILLINOIS



The Flypaper

Promoting Sport Aviation in Central Illinois for More Than 58 Years

Young Eagles Rally returns to BMI!



June 12 is International Young Eagles day and Chapter 129 will be hosting a Young Eagles Rally from 2 to 4 PM. Chapter 29 in Champaign will be holding their event from 10 to 12 that morning.

Launched in 1992, the Young Eagles program has dedicated more than 25 years to giving youth ages 8–17 their first free ride in an airplane.

It's the only program of its kind, with the sole mission to introduce and inspire kids in the world of aviation.

Today, more than 2 million young people have enjoyed a free introductory flight through the Young Eagles program. These flights are made possible through the generosity of EAA member volunteers.

Go to YEDAY.ORG to volunteer for our event.

Trip to Midwest Aero

Members of Chapter 29 and 129 traveled to KDNV to get a guided tour of Mike VadeBonCouer's aircraft restoration shop on June 3. Well known for his high quality P51 restorations, Mike was contacted by a previous customer who asked him to find and restore a ME-109 for him. A plane was found in Munich and brought to DNV.

In 1990, this 109 was retrieved from a 30 ft deep lake where it was shot down on the Eastern Front in January, 1944. After visits around the world to various collectors and museums, the 109 made its way to DNV in 2012 and is projected to start test flights this Fall.

See *Midwest Aero* on Page 4



You Have Information June!

June 17 Membership Meeting

We are breaking out the grill again for the June meeting. Thanks to Chef Paul for cooking again last month! Burgers, brats and hot dogs will be provided by the chapter. Please bring a dish to pass. We will eat at 6 PM.

Our speaker this month has not been determined at this time.



Supporting our American Legion

A number of our members are working with Butch Ekstam, coordinator for the local Bloomington/Normal American Legion Honor Guard to provide an aviation salute to fallen veterans.

Our volunteers have used single planes, three planes in single file and have been coordinating with three local Stearman pilots who also provide flyovers for veteran funerals in support of the American Legion.



The group has recently performed flyovers for the Thomas Ditmer funeral, a flyover at Carmody Flynn funeral home, a flyover at the Heyworth Township cemetery for a vet who died in July but hadn't had a military rites because of COVID, the Memorial Day flyover for 3 veterans and the last one for the Normal Memorial Day ceremony at the ARC center. All of these are no risk taking flights complying with all FAA regulations and coordinated with local ATC.



Just seven weeks to AirVenture! The 2021 NOTAM is out at: <https://www.eaa.org/-/media/Files/AirVenture/FlyingIn/NOTAM/2021/2021-NOTAM.ashx>

Overheard on ATC enroute to Sun-n-Fun in 2019:
ATC: Nxxxx, you are flying into an active MOA, turn right to 270, where you headed?
Pilot: (enthusiastically) We're going to Sun-n-Fun
ATC: Did you read the NOTAM?
Pilot: Umm, I glanced at it

Don't be that guy!



May Meeting BBQ

Thanks to everyone who brought dishes to pass and chef Paul for grilling up some burgers, brats and hot dogs for our May meeting.

Rachel Henderson, our chapter Young Eagles Coordinator presented our plans for YE rallies this year. The first event is June 12 at 2:00 PM on International Young Eagles day. Contact her for opportunities to volunteer.



Wanted

Your stories, events, travel adventures, builder updates for our next issue of **The Flypaper**.

Email them to: cmbates50@gmail.com

Chapter 129's YE Notes



Our first young eagle event in a couple of years at BMI is upon us and I can't say thank you enough for all the volunteers that have stepped forward.

Did you know you can host a young eagle flight without waiting for a group rally? All you need is a little paperwork and some kids ages 8-17. I challenge our pilots in an attempt to further promote youth in aviation and continue the support of our chapter to fly 2 young eagles on their own time during the months of June, July, or August. We will receive double credits for all kids age 8-17 that receive a flight during those 3 months with the proper paperwork submitted. I am happy to help each of you accomplish this.

As for our upcoming event, we have close to 30 participants registered so far with a few days of registration remaining. Please arrive in time to start working or listen to a safety briefing starting at 1:30pm. Currently, the weather looks like it will cooperate but as we know it's too early to say for sure. See you soon!

Rachel Henderson

YE Coordinator, Chapters 29 & 129



Our first Ray Aviation Scholar completes his PPL



The EAA Aviation Scholarship Fund is a scholarship program that is supported by the Ray Foundation, managed by EAA, and administered through the EAA Chapter network. Through the generous support of the Ray Foundation, EAA provides up to \$10,000 to deserving youths to cover their flight training expenses, totaling \$1,200,000 in scholarships annually.

In 2019, Chapter 129 was awarded one of the first 100 scholarships from the Ray Aviation Scholarship program and Josh Kerner was selected as our scholar. Josh is pursuing a career in aviation at the Parkland Institute of Aviation, starting in the Fall of 2019. The COVID pandemic caused the Institute to shut down flying activities, putting his training on hold and jeopardizing his final scholarship payout which required a 12 month completion of his PPL. EAA extended the deadline in 2020, and the Institute opened up allowing Josh to complete his training. The scholarship program paid chapter 129 his final payment in May. Josh attended our May meeting to receive his check.

Congratulations Josh and push on with your training.



Trip to Midwest Aero (cont)



The original 109 after being pulled from the lake



Hand-built farings from Mike's shop



Current state of rebuild



The Daimler-Benz DB605 inverted V12, 35.7L supercharged engine developing 1,455 HP

(Midwest Aero - cont from Page 1)

Mike and his customer set high standards for maintaining as much authenticity to the original design as possible. The rebuild effort was compromised by the German troops shooting up the plane before leaving it so the Russians could not use it or keep it as a souvenir.

One wing is 70% original, the remaining parts were manufactured with tooling and fixtures for the wings built in his shop. Other parts were built from tooling procured from around the world. Engine mounts were CNC machined in Australia, engine cowlings were built from tooling in Hungary, the fuselage went to Munich where two brothers had tooling to fabricate the needed parts. That took eight years. The engine had been rebuilt in Australia during the 109's visit there. A wooden prop was built in England which would break up in the event of a prop strike and save the engine.

No American hardware is used in the reassembly, they spent \$25K on the metric rivets for the wings and have fabricated many other parts in house. The many farings have been fabricated at Midwest based on dimensions from salvaged parts as well as the oil tank which sits behind the spinner. The paint booth is full of parts primed for installation as the final pieces come together on this 10 year project. I sensed some genuine relief in Mike's smile.

More at:
www.midwestaero.com



Mike VadeBonCouer in his shop at Vermillion Co Airport



Getting Out & Getting Together

I am a bit of a local-band music junkie and found it refreshing to read through all of the events opening up for the summer. There are the Bloomington Courthouse lunch concerts, live music at the Farmers Market, Normal has their 'Loungeabout the Roundabout' concerts each Wednesday and Saturday evening. Yesterday I received an email with the Castle Theater's schedule of music events.

I got together with friends for a cookout last week for the first time in more than a year. I sense a new level of excitement when I go out now as this pandemic winds down in the US; people getting out and getting together.

The folks at EAA are busy putting together plans for AirVenture 2021 in anticipation of huge crowds in July. Thousands of volunteers are preparing for a busy event. Our parking team for the South 40 area has already published their work schedules.

Closer to home, the EAA Tours Group is active again scheduling planes for events and our chapter was able to host the first Tri-Motor weekend of 2021. I was excited to see the number of people that turned out to get a ride on that historic aircraft. We even had over 100 visitors on a day when we couldn't fly due to weather.

We had a good gathering at the Chapter 29 meeting held at the Midwest Aero facility at KDNV last week. It was a great evening to fly, get together with other aviation enthusiasts and witness

history being preserved in unique aircraft. Watch for more events as the summer unfolds.

Our local chapters 29 and 129 have plans for a number of Young Eagle rallies this summer, the first of which is June 12. It is shaping up to be a busy summer for aviation get togethers.

GA flying has actually increased over the past 12 months but we have not had many opportunities to get together for events and do what pilots like to do - share flying stories. This should be a great summer for that.

~ Charlie



2021 Chapter 129 Dues

Thanks to all the members who sent in their annual chapter 129 dues! If you haven't already done so, please send in your \$30 membership fee for 2021 to help us with those early year expenses. Please mail your checks to:



EAA Chapter 129
2825 E Empire St
Bloomington, IL 61704

Join us at the EAA Chapter 129 hangar for our Gathering of Eagles breakfasts Saturday mornings 7:00 am to 9:00 am for some hangar flying at its best.



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Chapter 129 Officers

Charlie Bates-President, Treas
Jason Jording-VP
Josh Andracki-Sec'y, Social Media
Ben Schneider-Board Member
Don O'Neill-Board Member
David Pfister-Board Member
Rachel Henderson-Young Eagles Coord
George Wilts-Tech. Counselor
Mike Todd-Web Editor