

# The Flypaper

Promoting Sport Aviation in Central Illinois for More Than 60 Years



## May Chapter Gathering and Pancake Breakfast Fly-In at 11LL

Our May chapter gathering was moved to Friday May 19 at Thacker Airport in Chenoa (11LL). we had outstanding weather for the two day event which started with our monthly gathering which included grilled burgers and brats, and side dishes provided by members followed by a Saturday morning fly-in, drive-in Pancake and Sausage breakfast. Boy Scout troop 22 members attended and assisted with the set up, serving food and parking planes. The scouts camped out Friday night along with a number of fly-in attendees.

Thanks to Bill Thacker and his wife Janis for opening their hanger and surrounding grounds for this fun event.

There were 50 members and guests attending the Friday chapter gathering with lots of discussions on member's builds and achievements, including recognition of Jackson Zimmerman who recently graduated from SIU and completed his CFI.



Our program for the evening involved a discussion over the 96th anniversary of Charles Lindbergh's trans-Atlantic flight on May 20-21, 1927. Saturday morning would be the anniversary of his departure from New York for his 33 hour flight to Le Bourget Field, Paris. We watched the movie titled "Spirit of St. Louis" starring Jimmy Stewart, commenting that flight. (Awesome movie, highly recommended).



~See Gathering Page 3



## June Gathering Thursday June 15

### We are Grillin' Burgers and Brats - eat at 6:00 pm

**Program at 7:00** - Our Speakers this month will be Andy Peterson and George Eales from the **McLean County Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol**. The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Cadet programs are designed to develop young adults into tomorrow's leaders. CAP Cadets learn about leadership and aviation; while having fun earning rank, responsibility, position and privilege. They accomplish this through a highly structured curriculum provided by the National Headquarters of the Civil Air Patrol and administered by qualified, trained, and screened adults (Seniors).



6:00 - 6:30 Meal and Discussion  
6:30 - 6:45 Cleanup  
6:45 - Visitor intros, chapter milestones, discussion  
7:00 - 8:00 Speaker

**Members  
Bring a dish  
to share**

## Chapter 129 VMC Club - June 17

This month, Chapter 129 will host its monthly VMC Club meeting on June 17 at 9:30 a.m. following our Gathering of Eagles event.

**Real world scenarios** will be presented and discussed to determine the best solution from the conditions presented.

Non-instrument rated pilots who want to improve their proficiency have an excellent resource through EAA's Visual Meteorological Conditions (VMC) Clubs. The purpose of EAA VMC Clubs is to build proficiency when flying under visual flight rule conditions.

EAA VMC Clubs are extensions to local EAA chapters and offer monthly meetings in which pilots can network and share knowledge and experience. The meetings use real-world scenarios to engage members, and allow a free exchange of information that improves awareness and skills. The intent is to create a community of pilots willing to share information, provide recognition, foster communications, promote safety, and build proficiency. Through the EAA VMC club programs, visual flight rule pilots have improved their proficiency, and they love it.



- **June 17 0930**
- Complimentary 6 month EAA memberships available
- Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit!
- Come early for breakfast

**June Question of the Month:** What do the large print blue numerals on a sectional chart represent?

## EAA Ford Tri-Motor Returns to BMI July 6 to 9

Chapter 129 will host the 1929 Ford Tri-Motor at BMI July 6 to 9. Recently restored, it will make a 3 stop tour before returning to Oshkosh to prepare for AirVenture.

**Mark your calendars and watch for opportunities to volunteer** and get up close to this icon that started trans continental air travel in the US.





# May Chapter Gathering and Pancake Breakfast Fly-In at 11LL

## ~From Gathering Page 1

Saturday morning, 6 am, time to set up for the pancake breakfast. We were greeted with 43 degree temperatures and a breeze from the North - right down the runway. Our fly-in guests began arriving by 8 and continued through the morning. Flying became a precedent with STOL demonstrations and a number of Young Eagle flights.

Thanks to all the event volunteers and the members who helped Bill and Janis prep their hanger and property for the weekend event.



Our Dinner Chefs



Chenoa Boy Scout Troop



That YE Grin



Calibrating the pancake griddle on a chilly morning



A Mooney Amongst the Cubs



## Destinations - Under 2 hours

**Lake of the Ozarks.** Grand Glaize - Osage Beach K15. Quick sub 2 hour flight. Some great sushi at Backwater jacks restaurant and a relaxing way to spend the Memorial Day weekend on the water - *Jason Kieser*



**Put In Bay 3W2** For anyone wanting to experience Key West without flying over 1016 miles to get there I would recommend Put In Bay 3W2 just north of Port Clinton Ohio in Lake Erie. From BMI it is only 285 miles and can be done as a day trip there and back. The airport can set you up with a golf cart which seems to be the main mode of transportation to get you around on the island to see all of the sites it has to offer. There are many restaurants, bars, wineries, shops to stop in at and you can even have a drink on a fire truck if you like. There is a monument that honors Oliver Hazard Perry from the Battle of Lake Erie War of

1812 on the approach to RWY21 that you have to watch out for and also the restricted area just southwest of the island that the military shoots off shells from a tank into Lake Erie that needs to be avoided, but other than that it is easily doable and you are not over the water for more than 4 or 5 miles - *Paul Krueger*



*~See more Destinations Page 5*





## Aviation on-the-go!



**Kirk Sampson**

**Aviation on-the-go!** A monthly dose of some of my favorite digital aviation content, books and podcasts.

Kirk Sampson ([kirksampson@me.com](mailto:kirksampson@me.com))

Who hasn't heard the phrase - there are old pilots and there are bold pilots, but very few old and bold pilots? Pilots manage risk as they plan, prepare, fly, and hopefully evaluate what went well and what adjustments may need to be made for the next flight. An unavoidable risk that every pilot faces is aging.

Max Trescott hosts a fantastic podcast called Aviation NewsTalk that covers recent aviation related news and in some podcasts a focused discussion. <https://www.aviationnewstalk.com>

In episode 257 Max talks with Dr. Victor Vogel (who is an oncologist, CFI, and has flown for 40 years) about challenges pilots face as they get older. These include deteriorating vision and hearing, memory loss and declining strength, endurance, and proficiency. But there are strategies pilots can use to counter declining proficiency. These include frequent flying, training, and scaling back on more challenging flight conditions.



I'll be honest, I thought about many of you while listening to this podcast - it is the reality of the demographics of the broader pilot population. Dr. Vogel provides some practical approaches that you can use to evaluate your situation and think about what you can do to mitigate the risk of flying as an older pilot.



## Destinations - Under 2 hours

**EAA Aviation Museum, Oshkosh, WI.** An easy day trip - 211 nm - great aviation history and EAA beginnings. Free admission for EAA members!





# GEORGE AND JANICE WILTS

## THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers make EAA AirVenture Oshkosh — and just about everything else EAA does — possible. This space in *EAA Sport Aviation* is dedicated to thanking and shining the spotlight on volunteers from the community. Sadly, it cannot capture all of the thousands of volunteers who give so much to the community every year. So, next time you see a volunteer at AirVenture or elsewhere, however they are pitching in to make EAA better, be sure to thank them for it. It's the least we can do.

Do you know a volunteer you'd like to nominate for Volunteer Spotlight? Visit [EAA.org/Submissions](https://www.eaa.org/submissions).

"PEOPLE MAKE FUN OF me because I get a \$318 haircut," George said. "I have a personal barber up here." George, EAA 37947, and Janice Wilts, EAA 1282004, may joke and be modest about why they keep coming to Oshkosh. But their contributions as EAA volunteers are no joke. They have worked in a variety of areas on the AirVenture campus: Vintage, Chapters and Homebuilding, and South Maintenance. George first came to the convention in 1974 when a friend was planning to fly a Waco biplane to Oshkosh. "I really didn't know anything about it at that time," he said. "So, I went home, asked permission, and packed my bags, and we flew up here in the Waco." George has only missed one or two conventions since 1974.

Janice, who is ready for an airplane excursion at a moment's notice, would follow him in the late '80s. "He just pulled me in!" she said.

"Aviation is my life. I'm on my seventh airplane," George said. In addition to building and restoring airplanes, he also helped start two EAA chapters, is a member of five EAA chapters, has flown 175 Young Eagles, and works as a flight instructor. "EAA has been very good to us," he said.

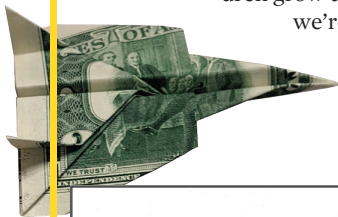
The Wilts have become staples on the AirVenture campgrounds over the years, making new friends that span generations. Those who have been attending AirVenture since they were kids may know George as "Popcorn George," an endearing nickname he earned by making popcorn at their campsite every night. "We've camped in the same spot for like 20 years and watched people's children grow up," he said. "Now we're watching their grandchildren grow up. We're still friends with the same people."

It's amazing." Others may know George for his talent for creating airplanes on a much smaller scale. "Another one of my hobbies that I do is put a smile on someone's face for two dollars," he said (see photo). The Wilts' generosity with their time and variety of talents are part of what makes AirVenture special.

But their influence as volunteers doesn't stop at AirVenture. For George and Janice, a pilgrimage to Oshkosh once a year is simply not enough. The Wilts drive to Oshkosh from Streator, Illinois, for weeklong stretches during the year. During the fall and winter months, Janice volunteers in EAA's Print/Mail Center, and when he's not getting his \$318 haircut, George does everything from building rivet kits for seminars to working on airplanes in the Weeks Hangar. "I was one of the 14 builders of the AirCam that was built over in Weeks Hangar," he said. "I helped restore the B-25. I've done all kinds of work over there, [including] working on the Tri-Motor over the years."

As for advice for future volunteers, George and Janice are eager to share that EAA needs all kinds of people for the behind-the-scenes work that goes into AirVenture. "Everybody can do something," George said. Janice added, "Whether it's painting or cleaning or just whatever. There are jobs out there for everybody."

EAA



EAA CHAPTER 129  
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL, ILLINOIS



Reprinted with permission from the June, 2023 issue  
of *EAA Sport Aviation* magazine



## David's Cessna 195

June 1st was a special day. My dream of having a four-seat traveling airplane at my own strip came to be once again. I have been fortunate enough to have had them in the past. First a Cessna 182, then a 210 but they had moved on and had been eventually replaced by a partnership in a Champ. It is fun to fly and I was able to teach my son Gabriel to fly in it but Holly and I wanted a four seat to be able to travel. Crosswinds Flying Club has been able to fill the gap and we have made some great trips in the last couple of years. But I had room in the hangar that I can see from my kitchen table for a bigger airplane. I had considered another 182 or older 210 but had really dreamed of owning a 195 someday.

Two years ago I was finally able to fly a 195 just to see if I really wanted one. I did but had to wait until I had the means to own one. Last summer, I was able to have Holly sit in a 195, thanks to Bill Thacker, just to get her approval. Now, I was still working on the "means" late last year and got a nudge from Bill on one he had heard was for sale. It would have been a good airplane but my dad was failing in health and it just wasn't the right time. However, during his final weeks, I had shown him a couple of photos of it and another one and he encouraged me to get one.

After he passed away in February,

I decided that I was going to get a 195 because if I didn't do it now, I might never do it and regret it later.



After looking at three airplanes and talking in depth to sellers of three more, I decided on N127GM. It had been rebuilt from a ground loop by Butterfly Aviation five years ago. All new paint, interior and panel. Once again, Bill was very helpful and happened to know another 195 owner/mechanic friend right on the same field that know the airplane! We looked at the airplane and maintenance records and I knew pretty quickly that this was the one. It needed an annual and Bill's friend helped oversee to make sure everything checked out A-OK.

June 1 came and Paul Krueger, Bill Thacker and I headed for Port Clinton, OH. We ate lunch at the airport restaurant as they finished a couple of last details on the airplane. Paul brought the Crosswinds Dakota back and Bill

and I headed for my strip. What a thrill to be in the left seat of my very own 195! There were thunderstorms in the area so we landed and put it in the hangar, not taking the time to practice any landings. Since then, I have gotten more comfortable with it on grass and am ready to move to hard surface landings.

I have plans to add an autopilot, IFR GPS and a Heater this winter. Most 195's have had the heater removed but there are updated gasoline fired heaters that now work well. I want to be able to fly the airplane most of the year and this is a must!

I'm looking forward to giving rides and Young Eagle flights along with other trips. I hope to bring it down some Saturday morning to breakfast in the near future!

**~More photos Page 8**



**A very happy new owner**



# Honor Flights - Supporting our American Legion

On May 29th EAA Chapter 129 and Crosswinds Flying Club pilots provided a military salute fly-over to support the American Legion Post 635 in their Memorial Day program. The American Legion Honor

Guard Normal Post 635 and Bloomington Post 56 did the Military Rites to honor those U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.



~David's 195 from Page 5

'After looking at three airplanes and talking in depth to sellers of three more, I decided on N127GM'





## Builders Updates

**Jim Hazen's** Legal Eagle XL is getting it's first coats of paint. Four coats on the left wing and ailerons. Looking like an Illini color scheme in the works.



**The Schneider family**, Cohen (16), Noah (15), and Claire (13) RV 12is project is taking shape since the delivery of the first crate in February. Have about one evening left of work on the tail section, and are waiting on more kits. The wing kit and fuselage kit are scheduled to be delivered on the 13th of this month. So the timing is perfect. 'When we get back from vaca, we will tear into it and hopefully get some real good progress before Oshkosh. Then get the kids up there again and get them fired up to come back home and really get hammering (err, riveting) on it.'



**EAA CHAPTER 129**  
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL, ILLINOIS





## Builders Updates

**Dean Olson** is completing the first wing for his **Wag Aero** build. The wing is ready for me to seal all the wood. "Because I am learning, the hard way, I am working slowly on the wing. I didn't seal the ribs before I placed them on the spars. They will need to be sealed after everything is where it needs to be. I'll probably put my paint booth back up and spray the ribs in place after I seal the spars. lots of new things for me here. I pre-shaped the wood tip bows that come from WagAero needing re-worked to fit properly. I am making all the hardware for both wings now so the right wing should go a lot faster."



Tank mounts are made for both front and rear spar for both



The wing with everything where it should be



Fuselage is next to the ceiling with the right side down



Tip bow is ready to be mounted



EAA AIRVENTURE  
**OSHKOSH**  
2023  
**NOTICE**



[Click here for  
AirVenture  
2023 NOTAM](#)

Flying yourself into EAA AirVenture Oshkosh is a rite of passage for some pilots, a bucket list item for many others, and an annual must-do for still others. Whichever category you're in, arriving at Oshkosh is only difficult if you're not prepared. Read the NOTAM

If the headline for this story was "One Tip for Flying in to AirVenture," this would be it. Some NOTAMS are one or two sentences — ours is 32 pages, and it's an absolutely mandatory read before you fly in. Wittman Field in Oshkosh becomes the busiest airport in the world during the week of AirVenture, and that only works because people follow the rules in the NOTAM. It's available as a [download](#) or you can [order a printed copy](#) and we'll send it to you for free, as long as you promise to read it.



Here are [ten tips](#) to make sure you're ready when the time comes.



# Young Eagles 2023



**Dustin Davis**  
Young Eagles Coordinator

Moving our May Rally from the 20th to the 27th was a huge success. We went from 2 pilots to 11. Ten of which flew and we asked number eleven to be a ground escort as we only had 2 with escort badges. **Our 10 pilots flew 68 kids, 43 were**

**first timers.** While that is exciting, I am more excited that of the 25 returning kids 9 of them were ground crew volunteers at this event. I hope to get the volunteer Young Eagle Kids more involved filling most of the roles at the rallies with us older eagles as the backup and support.

Badged escorts are currently the weak link as the majority of those with badges fill the pilot roles. We want to have escorts walk with the pilot and kids to the planes so the parents can come take pictures and have an escort back off the ramp. So if you have a badge and can be an escort that would be most helpful.

The Tailwind Waymakers Giveaway Plane was on display for parents and kids to do up close walk arounds while waiting for their flights.

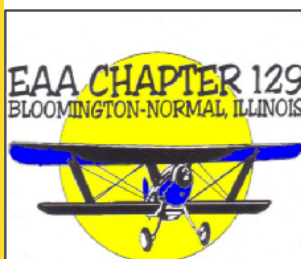
We also made a change to the June schedule. We had a request from a summer camp to do a private event on June 22nd. This is a Thursday 9-11am. I texted our regulars and found enough volunteers to make it happen and because of pushing the May event back a week and adding this private event on the 22nd, we eliminated the June 17th event. This would have been 3 Rallies in 26 days and I don't want to burn out our volunteers.

AS ALWAYS, A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORT TO MAKE THESE EVENTS POSSIBLE!

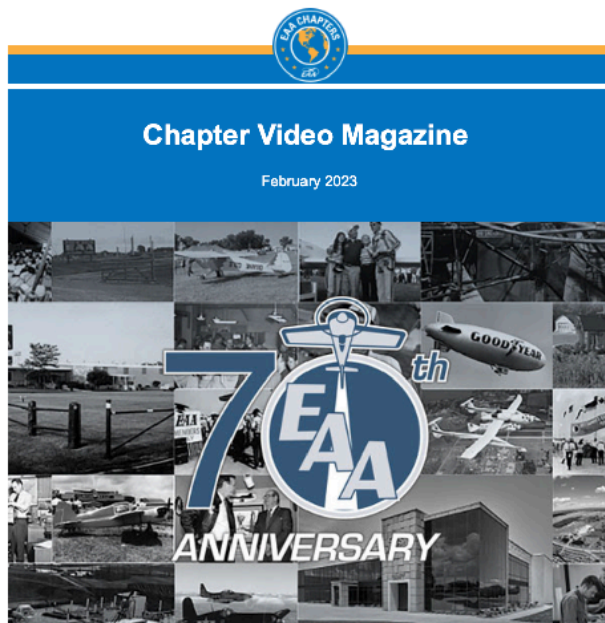
~Dustin



June 22 - YE Rally Champaign  
July 15 - YE Rally Bloomington  
August 5 - YE Rally Rantoul  
August 26 - YE Rally Mattoon



## Webinars, Podcasts, Videos!



Find EAA's Chapter Videos at:  
<http://eaa.brightcovegallery.com/chapters/detail/videos>



Click here to access EAA Webinars



Be sure to check out the June/July edition of Midwest Flyer Magazine

**Click here for link to website!**

## Wanted

Do you have an aviation story to share? Send your pictures, stories, events, travel adventures, builder updates for our next issue of **The Flypaper**.

Email them to: [cmbates50@gmail.com](mailto:cmbates50@gmail.com)

EAA CHAPTER 129  
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL, ILLINOIS





## 2023 Calendar of Events

June 15- Chapter 129 Monthly Gathering

June 17 - Chapter 129 VMC Meeting 0930

July 6 to 9 - EAA Ford Tri-Motor at BMI

July 15 - YE Rally Bloomington

July 24 to July 30 - AirVenture

July 26 -Chapter 129 Monthly Gathering at AirVenture

August 5 - YE Rally Rantoul

August 17 - Chapter 129 Monthly Gathering

August 19 - Chapter 129 VMC Meeting 0930

August 26 - YE Rally Mattoon

September 21 - Chapter 129 Monthly Gathering

September 23 - Chapter 129 VMC Meeting 0930

October 19 - Chapter 129 Monthly Gathering

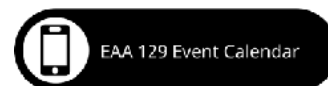
October 21 - Chapter 129 VMC Meeting 0930

**Every Saturday 7 to 9 AM** - Gathering of Eagles at EAA  
Chapter 129 hangar F-15



### • June 17 0930

- Complimentary 6 month EAA memberships available
- Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit!
- Come early for breakfast



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 great food and some hangar flying at its best.



### Chapter 129

Charlie Bates-President, Treas  
Jason Jording-VP  
Doug Reeves -Secretary  
Dustin Davis - YE Coordinator  
Wayne Aldrich - STEM Coordinator  
George Wilts-Tech. Counselor  
Kirk Sampson - Media & Web Editor  
Bill Thacker - Advisor

Web - <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea129>  
fb - EAA Chapter 129