



The Flypaper

Promoting Sport Aviation in Central Illinois for More Than 58 Years

President's Corner

Charlie Bates

EAA and AOPA on similar tracks

I recently read an article summarizing the discussions in an AOPA General Aviation Town Hall meeting with Mark Baker, President of AOPA (see details on Page 2). The theme of the discussion was around having a high school curriculum with airport access being key to growing GA. Mark Baker expressed the importance of bringing more people into aviation by reminding them why you fly, inviting the public to visit airports and engaging teens in aviation-related high school curriculum are three key ways to expand

the GA community.

I feel like Mark and AOPA took a page out of our strategic plan for our chapter. Our Young Eagle and STEM programs are focused on introducing youth to aviation. And bringing the Tri-Motor and other historic planes in to BMI are our opportunities for bringing aviation to the community. That is our charter as an EAA chapter and I am looking forward to an active summer making it happen.

~ Charlie



Congratulations Bruce Jackson!

Chapter member Bruce Jackson brought his 1973 Piper Challenger home from Topeka, Kansas last week. Home is now KGRD, Greenwood County airport in Greenwood, SC. In February, Bruce learned that his raffle ticket from the American Flight Museum in Topeka had been drawn and that he was the new owner of the Piper PA-28-180. The 6 hour flight home went well, and we are looking forward to seeing her up close when you bring her to BMI this summer.



Congratulations Bruce!

You Have Information March



March 18 Membership Meeting

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, our March meeting will feature traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage as a main dish. Please bring a dish to pass. We will eat at 6 PM.

At 7 we will join a live EAA Leadership Webinar from HQ titled "Resources Available to Chapters." These are really well done presentations by our leaders at HQ.



Corned Beef and Cabbage

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

Builder Update

This early Spring warm weather finds Jim Hazen back in the workshop installing the aluminum lining for his Legal Eagle XL ailerons. Jim says his progress is only limited by the number of clamps he can use at one time.



Mark Baker on Growing GA

AOPA president Mark Baker held a Town Hall meeting fielding questions during a one hour online event. Here are some excerpts from that meeting that I feel support our chapter's objectives.

'Bringing more people into aviation by reminding them why you fly, inviting the public to visit airports, and engaging teens in aviation-related high school curriculum are three key ways to expand the general aviation community.'

Baker cited AOPA's success with the You Can Fly program's Aviation High School STEM curriculum, which offers six courses in two pathways, pilot and drone pilot, for grades nine through 12. More than 200 schools in 38 states are teaching the free curriculum to more than 8,000 students; of those students, 25 percent are young women and 40 percent are minorities.

they want to be in aviation," he said. "So we are working hard to create that pathway."

Baker closed the livestream by reassuring pilots: "General aviation in and of itself is booming, it's growing, it's welcoming, and I can tell you what—it's really been the best activity we've seen in dozens and dozens of years. So, get out there and enjoy it!"



Mark Baker



"It's interesting to me that we are starting at an age where the formative years where people are starting to get an understanding of what they might want to do, might want to learn about, and I would tell you

Join us at our 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.

