

# The Outer Marker

## Gateway EAA Chapter 1401

Volume 16 Issue 12

Bonnie Gottschalk - Editor





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2020

## “Important Dates”

### **General Meeting**

**December 12th**

**11:30 AM**

**Gateway EAA Chapter 1401**

**Merced Regional Airport**

**HANGAR 10**

### **Board Meeting**

**February 4th**

**Mike Bodine**

**2519 Sea Breeze Ct.**

**Merced, CA**

# Merry Christmas!



**Bonnie Gottschalk**  
**Editor**

## Hello Flight Enthusiasts!

We got to fly to Arizona for Thanksgiving! It was so wonderful being able to see my son, his lovely wife and my two grandsons again. We went to a wonderful restaurant for the actual day where they brought a massive variety of meats and sides to our table to choose from. We played games and visited and had our Christmas present

opening since we will not be able to fly there at that time. We are hoping to fly back in June to bring the boys here for a visit with their cousins. God willing and the weather cooperates.

January's board and general meetings are cancelled due to the cold January temperatures and COVID-19. However, the planes should still be brought out for display to receive credit. I will still be emailing out a newsletter though.

The toys you bring will be donated to The Christmas Store this year.

Bonnie G.



# ANNUAL *Christmas* STORE

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**WE ARE ABOUT EMPOWERING. SO WE DO NOT DO HAND OUTS**

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**DONATE A NEW CHRISTMAS GIFT AND WE WILL HAVE STORES IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY CENTERS WHERE FAMILIES CAN COME AND PURCHASE A GIFT FOR THEIR CHILD / CHILDREN AT AN 80% DISCOUNTED RATE. THAT MEANS A \$20 WILL COST ONLY \$4 AND WILL BE REINVESTED INTO COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES!**

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## **YOU MIGHT ASK WHY?**

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- **EVEN UNDER-RESOURCED PARENTS CAN PURCHASE A GIFT FOR THEIR CHILD AND/OR CHILDREN**
- **THE GIFTS COME FROM PARENTS AND NOT STRANGERS**
- **FAMILIES TAKE OWNERSHIP & ARE EMPOWERED**
- **EVERYONE IS BLESSED!**



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# President's Proclamation



**Mike Bodine**

## **Gateway EAA Chapter 1401 Christmas Party Dec 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30AM at the EAA hangar.**

Thank you for confirming your reservation to our EAA Christmas Party. Sorry for the Covid-19 inconvenience, tables and seating for those confirmed will be spaced to maintain proper separation.

All toys brought to the Christmas party will be donated to the **Christmas Store** for distribution.

As a safety precaution, please wear face masks and maintain separation.

## **Discussion of Upcoming EAA General Meetings**

The January General Meeting is canceled because Covid-19 and cold temperatures.

Aircraft displays will still be available for those interested.

All, future EAA General Meetings, are scheduled for the EAA Hangar.

Mike Bodine

# 2020 Gateway EAA Meeting Schedule

Board Meetings	General Meetings	Meeting Location	Meeting Agenda and Activity
Dec 3	Dec 12	Hangar 10	Chapter Christmas party

# 2021 Gateway EAA Tentative Meeting Schedule

Board Meetings	General Meetings	Meeting Location	Meeting Agenda and Activity
Cancelled January	Cancelled January		Aircraft Display Still Relevant
Feb 4	Feb 13	EAA Hangar 10	Aircraft Display and Social
Mar 4	Mar 13	EAA Hangar 10	Aircraft Display and Social
Apr 1	Apr 10	EAA Hangar 10	Aircraft Display and Social
Apr 29	May 8	EAA Hangar 10	Aircraft Display and Social
Jun 3	Jun 12	EAA Hangar 10	Aircraft Display and Social
Jul 1	Jul 10	EAA Hangar 10	Aircraft Display and Social
Aug 5	Aug 14	EAA Hangar 10	Aircraft Display and Social
Sep 2	Sep 11	EAA Hangar 10	Aircraft Display and Social
Sep 30	Oct 9	EAA Hangar 10	Aircraft Display and Social
Nov 4	Nov 13	EAA Hangar 10	Aircraft Display and Social
Dec 2	Dec 11	EAA Hangar 10	Chapter Christmas party

# Lift Your Spirits



# A BIT OF HISTORY

[Click blue hyperlinks to see webpages](#)

## U.S. AIR FORCE B-52 TEST PILOT

### MAJ. CHRISTIN 'SPARTA' HART

#### LAUNCHING THE FUTURE FROM A 60-YEAR-OLD BOMBER



Not all test pilots are lanky alpha males, nor is every research airplane a stiletto with wings. Meet U.S. Air Force Maj. Christin “Sparta” Hart, and her research jet: a lumbering, six-decades-old B-52H bomber. Together, brains and brawn, the pair is literally launching the U.S. Air Force into a new hypersonic age. Hart was 7 years old when she saw her first bomber, a B-2, during an Edwards Air Force Base airshow.

At 13 she decided to become an astronaut, and she began checking off the waypoint boxes: straight As and multiple extracurriculars in high school, majoring in astronautical engineering at the Air Force Academy, earning a master’s degree in aeroastro engineering at MIT, military pilot training, B-52 training, four subzero winters at Minot Air Force Base (“The best go north, don’cha know,” she jokes), selection for U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School, a follow-up master’s in flight test engineering—and, currently, captaining her specialized B-52 during test launches of new weapons. (It was at Minot that an attached frozen communications cord disintegrated when she adjusted her ejection seat, earning her Sparta callsign: Sparkle Princess Aviatrix Randomly Terrorizing Audio. “I felt so loved,” she laughs, “the crew dogs put so much thought into that!”)

Hart combines infectious energy with lethal intellectual firepower and an infinite capacity to learn; test pilot school was a natural fit. “I piloted 26 different aircraft—it was so awesome.” They included the T-6, F-15E, variable-stability F-16, gliders, Extra 300s for upset training,

NASA's behemoth Super Guppy ("a wild experience"), and four different helicopter types ("there's deliberately no training—you have to just climb in and figure them out"). She raves about the B-52: "Four MIT grads designed it. It's robust and over-engineered—gets you home safe every time, knock on wood. The B-52 looks so majestic from the ground, but flying it is exhausting. It's a sluggish monstrosity of metal, fuel, and bombs. But it's the world's most enduring bomber. You don't always need stealth—there are times when you want a very visible tactic." Hart's job is evaluating new stuff—and that's about all the Air Force lets her say. As a B-52 test pilot, she takes particular pride in carrying out weapons testing: "Who knew that a high school cheerleader from Texas would grow up loving to be a bomber pilot?" Her current assignment centers on complex missions requiring close teamwork. "It's science that protects our country," she enthuses, "and uses every skillset I've learned." The big reveal: In the Foreflight age, test cards are still on paper.

**Logbook****Who | Maj. Christin Hart, U.S. Air Force B-52 test pilot.****Certificates and ratings | ATP, CFII, multiengine instructor****Favorite aircraft | Boeing B-52H Stratofortress****Extra | Hart was a gymnast and cheerleader. Her living room holds uneven parallel bars, a balance beam, rowing machine, and powerlifting rack, along with an automated 244-gallon saltwater aquarium. She was recently spotted leading cheers and doing sideline back-handsprings at an Air Force Academy homecoming game. "I never grew up. I'm still a cheerleader at heart."**

Her eyes remain firmly focused on the astronaut corps: "I'm going to keep applying until I die, then my buddy promised to keep applying for me posthumously." Sparta's next waypoint: space. ~ Chad Slattery

*Chad Slattery is an aviation photojournalist living in Southern California.*



[Sun 'n Fun Holiday Fly-In Features STOL Livestream](#)  
[You can check out the festival on December 4 & 5 live or virtually.](#)



[Rising from Viral Ashes](#)  
[First flights after quarantine are singularly rewarding.](#)

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[Operating at the Edge of Space](#)



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so good"  
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