

CHAPTER 153



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 2023

Hello EAA 153 members and friends,

Thanks once again to Bob Meyers, for the excellent October presentation on his flight out to California and back. He took the long way and saw some great sights. We appreciated the pictures and then taking us all along with him afterwards. Maybe he'll take us to the Bahamas soon!

The November 10th 7:30 presentation (come earlier) is planned for Aeromotive aircraft electrical wiring company. You will learn a lot about safely wiring your plane or you can have them build your wiring harness. They are a local company. You may have seen them at OSH. It will be in person on the lower level at Schaumburg Airport and also on Zoom with the link. Then we will hold our elections, before building reports/flying stories/show and tell etc... As we know, the Covid and Flu inside season is back with us, so please wear a mask if you choose. We have hand sanitizer to use and ask that we all give each other a little more space and social distance as able...

December 8th at 6:30 is planned for our EAA 153 Holiday Pot Luck dinner (Bring Family and Friends-come hungry to the lower level meeting room). Please show off your fabulous cooking skills and share your favorite dish. We will supply drinks, plates, napkins, utensils, coffee etc...

January will be our famous Chili Cook Off at 6:30pm and an aircraft presentation.

We hope you are staying informed and having fun! There are so many learning opportunities, it is amazing our heads are big enough to hold all our knowledge!

We have some openings on easy group committees if you are able to participate a little more (we will post a sign up list). Our elections are at the November meeting and we need you!!! If you want to serve on the board (please let Bob Meyers or Glenn or I know). Many positions are open and need to be filled-like President, Vice-President, Treasurer and some Directors. Ask yourself if it is your time to give back to our Chapter and EAA.

I hope you enjoy Dan Couillard's finely written article about building his RV12, in this months newsletter. He is looking for a hangar at a local airport, if anyone knows of one.

Please submit any ideas you have for future topics, social gatherings and please write an interesting story or helpful airplane tips to put in the newsletter. You can even write a funny airplane story and be published!

Also if you have your airplane photo and you would like it showcased on our website, then send Glenn or me a nice picture of it. Thank you Glenn, for building up and maintaining the growing website. Check it out!!

The Chapter has some handy airplane tools to loan out to our paid members.

You may notice a few changes to our membership enrollment form this year. We ask that all of us use the new form to provide us with all the required latest information, so that we can keep our records current and so we can migrate to a new EAA database system smoothly. We found it necessary to increase the dues to \$30 for 2024, due to unforeseen expenses and a lower than desired bank balance.

Many of our members and their families are facing health and other challenges. Know that you are not alone in this and please let's all reach out, stay in touch and offer support for our friends as needed.

Thank you all for your ideas, support and for being part of our EAA Chapter 153!

See you soon, have fun and stay safe.

Bob Brandt

EAA 153 President

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OCTOBER MEETING PHOTO



The NEW membership form is attached for you to fill out and mail, or you can bring it and pay for 2023 and 2024 dues at an upcoming meeting.



CHAPTER 153

DAN'S STORY!

It all started chasing a girl in the summer of 2002.

The summer before my (first) senior year in college I met a girl, in a bar no less. I'll never forget that night. It quite literally changed my life. I soon realized that I needed to find an excuse to stick around for a fifth year, as this girl, being a year younger, was absolutely worth sticking around for.

I had a few acquaintances who were in the aviation program at the University of Illinois, but I had never really considered it as an option for me. As a child, I was fascinated with flight, especially planes that went fast. And, as boys did back then, I would write school reports, create art projects about them and build model airplanes. But as what seems to be a common entrance experience into aviation for others, I never had a parent or anyone else significant in my life who was a pilot who took me on that first flight or gave me a reason to believe that aviation could be part of my life.

But for whatever reason that summer, I thought to go ask one of those aviation kids I knew if there was a way for me to fly a plane as a last ditch excuse to stall becoming an 'adult' for one more year, and to see about this girl. As my mom would say at the time, I couldn't rub two nickels together, and the bank of mom and dad had cut me off. So, I asked around on how to start without any money and sure enough, dot an I, cross a T, go into a little debt – and I was off and flying.

I had no idea what to expect that first flight in a prop plane, I had flown commercially as a kid a few times, but rarely. I probably don't need to spend too much time romanticizing aviation to my fellow enthusiasts but humor me just a little. To me, it is one of the ultimate expressions of creative human potential. Not much beats it. That day, that feeling was burned into my being.

I soloed on 4/24/03 in a Piper Archer, 4144K, at Willard Airport. Another moment I would imagine is a familiar memory to most of you, one that I won't ever forget. I successfully completed my training soon after and received my private pilot license.

Soon after, I graduated college in debt, which used to be a relatively less common thing I think, about to enter an economy that was on the back side of the dot com bust while I was 'figuring it out'. So, I ceremoniously put my license in a safe, put all of my aviation books in a milk crate, and made a promise to my future self that I intended to keep.

...~20 years later....

I found my milk crate at the back of the top shelf in my garage during the shutdown of the early pandemic. This was after building a deck railing, painting every inch of wall and ceiling in my house, cleaning out our basement and building a shed. One might say I was looking for something, anything, constructive to do to keep myself occupied and useful.

I sat on a bucket in the garage for hours that day flipping through my logbooks, my old training books, my notes, and reminisced on how much I loved flying. I didn't need any more of a sign. I was now thankfully happily married to that wonderful girl, two kids, and had a bit more coin in my pocket. It was time to reacquaint myself with an 'old friend' I hadn't seen in years and fulfill a promise.

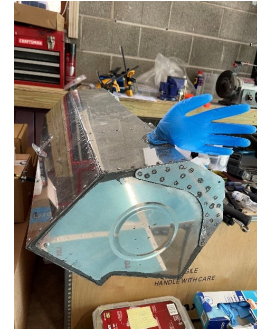
I started doing research and started to realize how far the experimental world of aviation had come. I'm not even sure I knew it existed back when I was training to be a pilot. I learned there was this organization called the EAA, seemed like something I should learn more about, so I called around and met two different groups. And, as you all know, I'm now a proud member of EAA153 with you all.

Ironically/As fate would have it, however you tend to view the world, I received my tail kit, on my 40th birthday. I spent that entire day in my basement, inventorying everything, setting up tools I didn't know how to use yet, and wondering what I had just done.

As you all know from my builder updates, I have chosen to build a Van's RV-12iS. I am about two months away from my three-year build goal. Not sure if I'll make it but regardless, I'm on my way. Building my own airplane is an experience I find incredibly hard to put into words.

Continued on next page

I'm not sure it is possible to accurately describe the range of emotions one goes through attempting something like this, at least that has been my experience. Each time I finish a part I have a little silent celebration with myself, starting in the basement, one winter in the family room, now in the garage. I remind myself frequently how incredibly blessed I am- to have the time, the means, the ability (so far), the backing of an understanding wife/family, and the support of this EAA chapter- to attempt something so demanding, so wild to most people that walk by when the garage is open and the tunes are rockin' wondering what in the world I am doing, and yet so potentially rewarding.



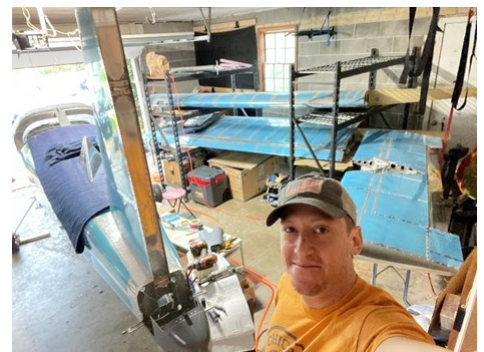
I'm not sure it is possible to accurately describe the range of emotions one goes through attempting something like this, at least that has been my experience. Each time I finish a part I have a little silent celebration with myself, starting in the basement, one winter in the family room, now in the garage. I remind myself frequently how incredibly blessed I am- to have the time, the means, the ability (so far), the backing of an understanding wife/family, and the support of this EAA chapter- to attempt something so demanding, so wild to most people that walk by when the garage is open and the tunes are rockin' wondering what in the world I am doing, and yet so potentially rewarding.

What a moment it will be when she flies.

From my experience, the aviation community I've met so far comes as advertised. The people in it couldn't be more genuine, sharing what feels like this incredible out-in-the-open secret – the wonder of flight. I cannot tell you all enough how wonderful you all are, and how incredibly fortunate I feel to be included in this part of the human experience. The support and monthly reinvigoration I get from seeing you all monthly at our EAA meetings helps urge me towards the finish line, it takes a village and all.



I've come to believe one of the better ways of living is to pursue difficult, meaningful things. To me, the world of Experimental Aviation is such a wonderful and positive expression of creation, of potential, of boundless human spirit, of freedom.



Thank you all for allowing me to be a part of this wonderful, inspiring, world of aviation.

Dan Couillard

EAA CHAPTER 153 NEWSLETTER

Schaumburg Airport
Home of EAA 153



Meetings: Every 2nd Friday

Schaumburg Airport - Lower Level
905 W Irving Park Rd
Schaumburg, IL 60193

NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 7:30 PM

Aeromotive Aircraft Electrical Wiring Company

Downstairs in the Conference Room

Meet and Greet at 7:00

Presentation at 7:30

ZOOM available

Let's recruit!

Copy the membership application page and send it to 3 pilot friends with a request to join! EAA Chapter 153 membership dues are the best bargain in Chicago Aviation!



Chapter 153

Schaumburg Illinois

Membership Application

EAA National Membership is REQUIRED for all Chapter 153 members.

Chapter 153 dues are \$30 per year payable on January 1st each year.

Quarterly prorated reductions in increments of \$5.00 are made for those joining for the first time later in the year.

Return this form to the Treasurer or President.

Date _____ [] New Member [] Update

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Prefer to be called _____ Partner's name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Your EAA Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Phone _____ E-Mail Address _____

Are you currently building/flying an aircraft? [] Yes [] No

Model _____ N-Number _____

Check areas of interest [] Young Eagles [] Antique [] Classic

or other interests: [] Ultralight [] Homebuilt [] Powered Chute

[] War Birds [] Rotorcraft [] Sky Diving

[] _____ [] _____ [] _____

Other Comments (optional):

Please return completed application to a meeting or mail with payment to address below.

Bob Brandt EAA #153 President

1933 Weston Lane

Schaumburg, IL. 60193