



Chapter 172

Augusta, Georgia

August 2023

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Sandy Walther

Membership Coordinator

Open

Young Eagles Coordinator

Open

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

August 12 at Noon – Member gathering at Pea Patch Aerodrome
Chapter Officers on EAA AirVenture 2023 Experience
Bring a side dish or dessert to share.

August 24 at 6:30PM – Eat Out at Rally Point Grille
4446 Washington Road, Evans, GA

September 9 at Noon – Location TBD

September 28 at 6:30PM – Eat Out Location TBD

My First Visit to EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh

by Sandy Walther

Going to Oshkosh (EAA AirVenture) had been a dream of mine, a bucket list item. Finally this year we made plans to go. Filled with tips and suggestions from various chapter members, my husband and I decided to camp in a tent for the full week. Ronna and Jim found room for us to camp near them among the Homebuilders Area volunteers, and even carried some of our gear in their RV. Our tickets arrived in the mail and off we flew commercial to Milwaukee.

People said the Oshkosh event was huge, but I didn't understand the true scope until I was there. Wow! Acres of aircraft of all designs and ages, city-block-sized exhibit areas, entire fields of outdoor classrooms, a market area bigger than downtown Augusta and a campground that would rival the size of a Disney theme park (thought definitely NOT like a theme park). And everywhere there were thousands of people walking, gathering in groups or pausing to watch aircraft fly overhead. My Fitbit recorded over 100,000 steps that week, even though I managed to catch rides on golf carts as often as possible.

EAA provided an app on my phone that gave a previous of the events and seminar schedule so I was able to pre-select ones of interest, plus it had maps that I frequently checked to help me navigate. Each afternoon had an airshow, and the week included two night airshows choreographed with music and fireworks, plus impromptu ultralight and STOL aircraft demos. I was in heaven! At least until it was time to climb into my tent and sleep. After three days in a tent on hard-packed ground that no air mattress could disguise, I vowed to buy an RV before returning next year. I also learned the hard way that camping in a tent during a thunderstorm is not fun. We had three storms that week. 'Nough said.

The best part of Oshkosh week is the airplanes, of course, but the camaraderie from thousands of pilots and aviation enthusiasts experiencing this amazing week with me was beyond compare. I talked with retired veterans, GA pilots from all walks of life (and countries), volunteers, airline and aircraft vendor personnel, and locals who came for the spectacle. In the seminars at the EAA Blue Barn, I met people from other chapters and swapped ideas. I met a couple who flew their Cessna 170 from Canada and we reunited with old friends from the International Cessna 170 organization at their welcome dinner. I even had lunch with the several Chapter 172 members and former member Alex LaFave. Somehow I missed seeing people from my former Chapter 240 and new Chapter 172 member Roger Kubeck although I did see their Facebook posts.



EAA AirVenture 2023 was an amazing experience! I have so many memories—like singing “Sweet Caroline” with thousands of spectators awaiting the fireworks show to resume, or gathering with thousands of female pilots in Boeing Square for a group photo, or watching a demo of the coolest eVTOL aircraft, or walking through the EAA museum (which had a phenomenal collection), or seeing the Guppy aircraft land while marveling at how on earth an aircraft like that could fly. And now I have a new collection of tee-shirts to commemorate that AirVenture week to wear when I return next year.

August Meeting Preview

All of our chapter officers were at Oshkosh this year, so we will share stories about our experiences and a slide show of pictures, hopefully enticing you to join us next year.



August Eat-Out

Our next eat-out will be the Rally Point Grille, 4446 Washington Road, Evans, GA (a few blocks north of Belair Road, on west side of Washington Road), on Thursday, August 24th at 6:30pm. Rally Point Grille is described as a “mellow spot decorated with military memorabilia and serving American comfort food, beer and cocktails”. If you have questions or need to confirm, please contact Sheila Connell, phone 803-279-7250.

Photos from last month's eat out at MidTown Tavern:



Free advertising

Do you have stuff in your hangar that you would like to clear out and make a few bucks? Do you have some aviation books or supplies that you will never need again? Do you want to get it advertised in next month's newsletter? Send your list of stuff WITH prices to Sandy Walther at sandywalther@yahoo.com.

Identify this Airplane

LAST MONTH



The mystery aircraft to the left is a **Maule M-9**, an American STOL aircraft developed by Maule Air of Moultrie, Georgia.

[description courtesy of Wikipedia]

THIS MONTH

Just for fun, see if you can identify the airplane pictured to the right. The answer will be revealed in the next newsletter.



EAA Museum Highlight

The EAA Museum at Oshkosh was fabulous (and it had air conditioning). In addition to their exhibit of the full line of Vans aircraft, another exhibit displayed a full-sized replica of SpaceShipOne. Each hour the tail of the aircraft folds and unfolds as a video plays of pilot Mike Melvill describing the sights and sounds of his record-breaking flight on October 4, 2004 which captured the \$10 million X Prize.



From eaa.com: The exhibit uses dramatic sound and lighting effects, as well as rare video footage - some never seen in public - to tell the story of a mission into space aboard SpaceShipOne. During this journey, SpaceShipOne demonstrates a key technological breakthrough conceived by spacecraft designer Burt Rutan, a longtime EAA member.

To safely re-enter the atmosphere without excessive heating, SpaceShipOne hinges in half, completely changing the shape of the vehicle. This amazing physical transformation, which "feathers" the spacecraft for re-entry, will occur before museum visitors' eyes every hour on the hour.

A complete set of spacecraft components were fabricated at Scaled Composites in Mojave, Calif., whose staff volunteered to complete the project under the supervision of the world's first civilian spacecraft pilot, longtime EAA member Mike Melvill.

SC Breakfast Club Schedule

Date	City	Airport Name	Unicom	Airport ID
August 6	Moncks Corner, SC	Berkeley County	123.05	KMKS
August 20	Woodruff, SC	Triple Tree	122.9	SC00
August 27	CANCELLED	Ridgeland-Claude Dean Airport	CANCELLED	3J1
September 10	Anderson, SC	Anderson Regional	123.6	KAND
September 17	Laurens, SC	Laurens County	122.8	KLUX

Other Upcoming Events

Sept 1-3 Callaway Gardens (Pine Mountain, GA) Balloon Festival
 Sept 18-24 Triple Tree Fly-In and campout
 Sept 29-Oct 7 Triple Tree "Nall in the Fall" RC event
 Oct 7-8 Atlanta Airshow, Atlanta Regional Airport-Falcon Field

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BY MICHAEL AND STEFAN STRASSER

WHERE TO FIND US:

EAA172 meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at several locations around Augusta, GA throughout the year. However, our primary meeting place is at our chapter clubhouse on Pea Patch Aerodrome (61GA) in Blythe, GA. Take Route 1 toward Blythe, turn south at the Citgo/Quik Mart station onto Bath-Edie Road. At the first intersection, turn right onto Patterson Road and follow ¼ mile. Make a left turn onto Boulineau Road (across from the Rec Center) and drive 1 mile. The entrance to Pea Patch is on your right. The clubhouse is at the end of a row of hangars next to the grass strip, just south of the windsock. Pea Patch Aerodrome CTAF is 122.80.



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