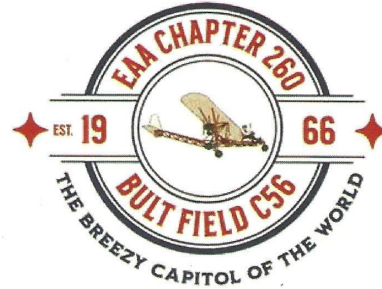


EAA CHAPTER 260

FALL 2023

A Chapter Of The EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION Bult Field (C56) – Monee, Illinois



UPCOMING CHAPTER 2023 MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Monday, November 13 th	IMC Club Meeting 6:00 P.M. Bult Field
Saturday, November 18 th	Chapter Meeting 10:00 A.M. Bult Field
Monday, November 20 th	VMC Club Meeting 6:00 P.M. Bult Field
Friday, December 1 st	Chapter Christmas Holiday Party 6:00 P.M. See page 2

Meetings and Events for 2024 will be announced soon!

In 2024, to make these activities successful, volunteers are needed..support your Chapter!

In this Newsletter...these items and more!

- Rob Unger's Presidents Message
- September Young Eagles Rally Re-Cap
- September Pancake Breakfast Re-Cap
- Tim Bryan's Retirement from Southwest Airlines
- Al Jacome's Ray Scholarship Flight Training Progress
- Trivia Night *and* Toys for Tots Kick-Off
- RV project Update-Joe Cirelli
- Travel Air Project Update-Jay Vieaux
- Duane Seitz Master Pilot Award
- IMC and VMC Clubs updates
- Chapter Board Nominations and upcoming Election

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PARTY



Friday-December 1st, 2023

TIME: 6PM-10PM LOCATION: C56 BULT FIELD.

COST: \$25.00 per person*

BUFFET (AYCE): Catered by Jimboo's Catering, Thornton, IL

*Do not send any payments to Bult Field. Bring payment to the November 18th meeting and give it to Steve, or mail check payable to: EAA Chapter 260 and send to: Steve Sikorski 123 Highland Street Calumet City, IL 60409

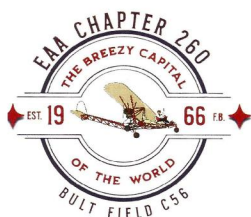
Yes....it is only October. *HOWEVER*, the Christmas holiday season is fast approaching! So, it is time to mark your calendars and plan to attend. This year's Party is being planned to be an evening of fellowship and will get everyone into the holiday spirit.

The "cutoff date" for making a reservation (which is preferred) is by paying in advance will be Friday November 24th.

Note: Paying at the door on December 1st may not assure seating at the party.

Steve Sikorski: 708.602.3086
steve4877@att.net

TOYS FOR TOTS



**EAA CHAPTER 260
TOY DRIVE**

**OCTOBER 14 -
DECEMBER 2ND**

**DONATE A NEW, UNWRAPPED TOY
BULT FIELD IN THE TERMINAL!**



HANSON
Engineering | Planning | Allied Services



TOYS FOR TOTS



U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE

The "kickoff" for donations occurred at the October 14th Trivia Night, see page 8.

CHAPTER 260 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members of EAA Chapter 260,

As we close out 2023, we have learned many things as a Chapter and will use this knowledge going forward. I am proud of the direction we are going and look forward in the years to come. Having said that, going forward will bring changes that will only advance and serve us well.

One thing for sure, is that you will see a vast improvement in our ability to communicate, especially when changes occur.

We have a talented group of Board Members who are committed to getting things right. There is nothing we can't do.

In closing, I wish everyone well, a safe Holiday season and good health so we can continue what started in 1966.

Thank you all,
President
Rob Unger



WE ARE GOLDEN!!

Thanks to the persistent efforts of our Chapter President Rob Unger, our Chapter received GOLD STATUS. This is the highest status to be awarded to an EAA Chapter. Of course, all of our Chapter Members played a part in EAA '260 attaining this status...**well done!**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Recently joining Chapter 260 are:

Russell	Pavlock	Kurt	Piescinski
Mark	Kirchman	Jody	Stieg
Michael	Sullivan	Corey	Patrick
John	Stites	Anthony	Hernandez

2023 RAY SCHOLAR UPDATE

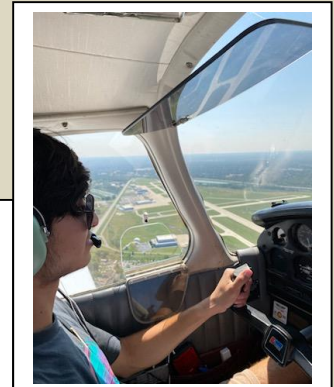


Al Jacome, our 2023 Ray Scholar continues to make progress towards taking his Private Pilot check ride. He is taking his flight instruction at the Griffith-Merrillville Airport (05C).

The latest update as the writing of this newsletter, Al was scheduled to take his check ride about a week ago, but it did not occur due to weather. He is re-scheduling to take it soon.



Al with his flight instructor.



THE RAY SCHOLARSHIP

In 2022, Isabella Smith was our first Ray Scholarship Recipient who successfully earned her Private Pilot License. As indicated above, Al Jacome is underway to achieve the same accomplishment.

Chapter 260 will be seeking out individuals for consideration as 2024 applicants. If you know of someone who might qualify, contact Jerry Pearson or Dan Simanaitis for further information.

THE SEPTEMBER PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Chapter's second pancake breakfast of this year was held on Saturday September 23rd. Some photo highlights are below.



Thanks to all who helped at the breakfast...your efforts are appreciated!

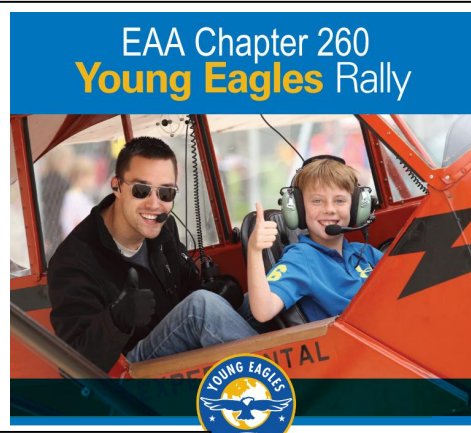


FLYING YOUNG EAGLES

Our latest Young Eagles Rally was held on Saturday September 9th. THE WEATHER COOPERATED and another successful Rally occurred.



Dave Vancina gives a thorough pilot briefing.



The check in table was kept busy...



The following volunteer pilots flew Young Eagles

- Frank Barchi
- Butch Benja
- Garry Chelette
- Chris Demopoulos
- Victor Frankiewicz
- John Limbach
- Anderson Manly
- Robert Meyers
- John Spehar
- David Vancina
- James Vieaux



See page 6 for more Rally photos.

MORE YOUNG EAGLES HIGHLIGHTS



A brief summary:

11 pilots flew 66 Young Eagles in 33 flights.
Numerous Chapter Members assisted on the ground with registration, escorting, and helping on the ramp. **Thanks to all!**

Thanks to Steve Preslin a friend of Jerry Pearson for taking some of the photos at the Rally.



The Crete American Legion served the hot dogs.

THE BREEZYS AT THE "RALLY"

At the September 9th Young Eagles Rally, there was not just one, but two Breezys on the ramp. John Limbach who is based at Morris (C09) flew his Breezy over to help give young Eagle rides.

Backstory: John's Breezy was the second one built from the *original* Breezy plans.



Breezy pilot John Limbach gets ready to fly a Young Eagle.



Nose wheel to nose wheel, the two Breezys-Johns and Rob Ungers.

TIM BRYAN RETIRES

After a wonderful 17 year career at Southwest Airlines, Chapter Member **Tim Bryan** retired from line-flying on September 14th. Below are photos from Tim's final flight ending at Midway. **Patty**, brother **Bob**, brother in law **John Morris**, and nephew **First Officer Bob Bryan** (Air Wisconsin) accompanied him on his last trip, which was very special to Tim. Tim is continuing at Southwest as a part-time instructor, and will commute to the Dallas training center. Tim will continue to seek possible part-time flying opportunities, and will of course continue to fly his beloved biplane, call-sign "Mickey" out of C56.



Tim on final and touching down for the last time.



The traditional water cannon salute for a final flight well done!



Congratulations Tim for a successful career!



Chief Pilot Captain **Nick Caulfield** congratulates Tim. Also, fellow Southwest Captain **Rob Unger** met Tim and his family at the gate and was there in the crew lounge to participate in the celebration.



Tim's family celebrates with him.



A post-flight banjo blue-grass one man "jam".

A RE-CAP of the FALL AVIATION TRIVIA NIGHT

Another fun filled Trivia Night took place. All in attendance had a great time!



Krystel and Pamela review the scores.

EAA Chapter 260 2023 Fall Trivia Night

TOYS FOR TOTS Kick-off



October 14, 2023

Bult Field

Monee, Illinois



In conjunction with Trivia Night, the Toys for Tots "Kick-off" took place. Some of the toys collected below.



CELEBRATING SIX IN A ROW!
Rob Unger congratulates Krystel McKean on her efforts for organizing this evening's Trivia Night. This is the sixth one!
THANKS KRYSTEL!



In the kitchen: Rob with Pamela and Krystel. *Thanks Pamela for the corn dogs and cookies!*



Steve's a Winner! A drawing was held at Trivia Night for those who brought a toy or gave a cash donation for Toys for Tots. Steve Sikorski won a Sporty's Gift Certificate!



The **"Wicked Witches"** Team consisted of Dawn and Rob Unger, Dan and Sue Simanaitis.



The **"Tail Draggers"** Team consisted of Jim Orange, and Joe Cirelli along with Anderson Manly and his son.



It was close, but the **"Fly-By-Night"** team were the top point earners. Marge Babiak, Jim "Wags" Wagner, Jay Vieux, Wayne Babiak.



The **"4 Horsemen"** Team consisted of Karl Henning, Steve Westlund, Jerry Pearson, Steve Sikorski.

MASTER PILOT AWARD

At the July 15th Chapter Meeting, Chapter Member Duane Seitz was presented with the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award.

This recognition is given to a pilot who has at least 50 years of aviation flight experience, distinguished professionalism, and steadfast commitment to aviation safety. **CONGRATULATIONS DUANE!**



Duane and James Lobash of the Chicago FSDO who presented the Award.



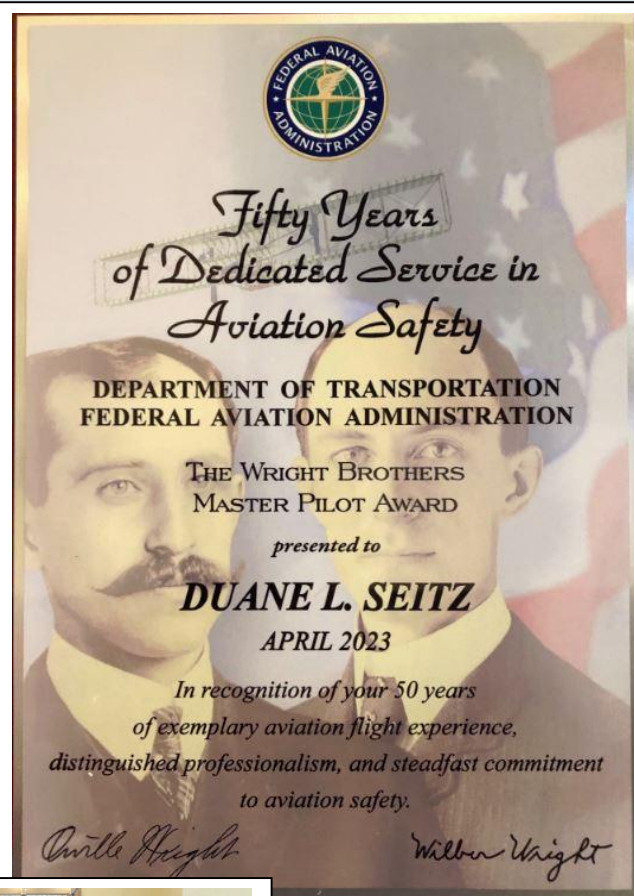
Bill Hasse, Duane's flying partner.



Duane's grandson, and his sons.



"Generations"...Al Jacome chats with Duane.



THE FRED BOOS MEMORIAL TOOL CRIB

The tool crib has been established in the Chapter hangar at Bult Field. Chapter Board Member Joe Cirelli is the coordinator.

The Tool Crib is named to honor Fred Boos. The Tool Crib will include various tools that Chapter Members can borrow for a short period of time in order to maintain their aircraft.

Several donations to date to the Tool crib include a Tig Welder have been made so far.

The Tool Crib is looking for *additional* donations of tools! We'd like to begin assembling a cache of aircraft tools for the tool crib. We have a nice space in the Chapter 260 hangar, we just need some tools to fill it. If anyone has spare clecos, rivet sets, or anything else that they'd like to donate.. **please contact Joe at:**

joecirelli66@yahoo.com



FRED BOOS
FIRST EAA 260 CHAPTER
PRESIDENT

EAA Chapter 260 was initially formed in 1966 in Dolton, Illinois at the home of Fred Boos. Our Chapter has come a long way over the years to its present form.



OCTOBER CHAPTER MEETING RE-CAP

On Saturday October 21st Meeting the following several activities took place.



Prior to the Meeting, an "impromptu" photo shoot was held on the ramp. Here are some of the planes and their pilots.



At the Chapter Meeting, Steve Sikorski shared his military experiences in Viet Nam from back in the late 60s performing helicopter maintenance. *Thank you Steve (and other Veterans) for your Service!*

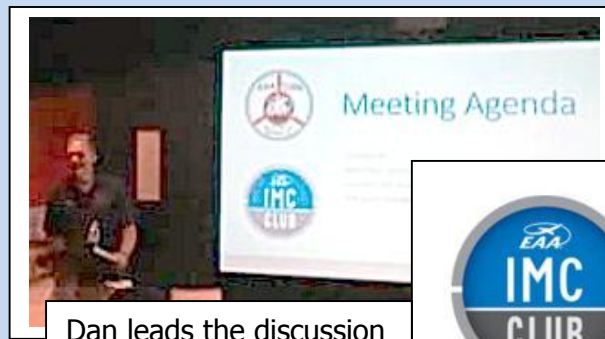


Shrimp Gumbo was served at the meeting.

CHAPTER 260 IMC CLUB

The most recent **IMC Club** meeting was held on Monday October 9th 2023. The following topics were covered during the last meeting:

- Monthly Question from EAA regarding Weather Reports (METAR)
- Discussion Scenario: Cadillac Confusion
- 2 Up 2 Down Discussion



Dan leads the discussion



Lots of good discussion took place with the scenarios regarding what would you do in that given situation. Highlighted emphasis areas to improve situational awareness and ensure pilots are prepared when flying into unfamiliar airports including – how to pick up weather when not listed on chart, etc. Previous meetings included how to prepare for a successful flight over one of the great lakes and other personal learning experiences while flying general aviation aircraft.

The next meeting is **Monday, November 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** and will follow the above format leveraging different questions, scenarios, and a teaching topic of some type. Once finalized it will be send out via email and posted to the Chapter 260 website. All current chapter members and their guests are welcome to attend regardless if you are IFR rated or not.

Please contact [Dan Simanaitis](#) if you have questions, want to be added to the email list, or have topics of interest you'd like to incorporate into a future meeting. *Fly Safely..... Dan*

CHAPTER 260 VMC CLUB

The most recent **VMC Club** meeting was held on Monday October 16th 2023. The following topics were covered during the last meeting:

- Monthly Question from EAA regarding Weather Reports (METAR)
- Discussion Scenario: Fog In The Mountains
- Airspace Discussion



Lots of good discussion with the scenarios regarding what would you do in that given situation. Highlighted emphasis areas to improve situational awareness, fuel managements, decision making, and always have a plan B option when the original plan does not pan out for whatever reason, weather, mechanical, fatigue, etc.

The airspace discussion was a good refresher for those who have not looked at it in a while including different types, equipment & weather requirements, legal ramifications, and procedures for safe operations.

The next meeting is **Monday, November 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** and will follow the above format leveraging different questions, scenarios, and a teaching topic regarding aerodynamics. Time permitted – we may also review weight & balance topics including what is it, importance, and flight characteristics of operating the aircraft when heavy and light weights. The meeting agenda once finalized it will be send out via email and posted to the Chapter 260 website. All current chapter members and their guests are welcome to attend regardless if you are VFR rated or not.

Please contact [Dan Simanaitis](#) if you have questions, want to be added to the email list, or have topics of interest you'd like to incorporate into a future meeting. *Fly Safely..... Dan*

A TRAVEL AIR UPDATE

JAY VIEAUX'S TRAVEL AIR REPLICA PROJECT:

After our August 19th Chapter Meeting, some of the attendees went to Jay's hangar to get a current update on his project. Jay indicated that he had to create pretty much from "scratch", most of the components of the aircraft since parts were not available. Jay furthermore indicates the following:

The Travel Air replica is being built with original drawings obtained from the Smithsonian. According to Jay, this is a "replica", not a restoration, unless he can obtain at least one original part.

The plane was built in 1929 for the biplane class of air racers, to fly from Portland, OR, to Cleveland, OH. It placed 4th, being flown by Harri Emery. The economic depression caused liquidation of the Travel Air company assets, and the racer was sold as a sport plane to Doug Davis, a famous flier of that era.

The wings are wood and have an NACA 23012 airfoil section, (as did many racers of that time period).



Jay intends to paint the plane white with orange stripes which is the original color scheme.



Jay gives an update of his project.



The engine is a Wright R-760, J-6-7, 240 HP and is correct for the installation.



Thanks Jay for sharing your progress with us!

THE BUILDER'S CORNER

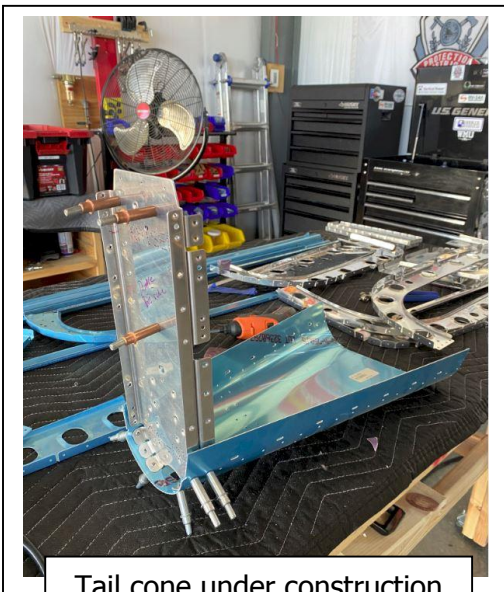
JOE'S CIRELLI'S RV PROJECT UPDATE:

The Van's build was delayed for most of the summer. In January of 2022, Vans began using lasers to cut their parts. The goal was to increase production of parts to keep up with increasing demand from kit sales. Previously, the parts were CNC punched. Switching to a laser cutting operation could increase production throughput by about 300%. Van's assured its customers that switching to laser cut parts would not degrade quality, and referenced accelerated life testing that was performed in-house. According to Van's, the expected lifespan of laser cut parts was about the same as the CNC punched parts, with airframe expected life exceeding 30,000 flight hours.

Back in the spring, as we were about to begin assembling the prepared parts of the fuel tank, I received notification from Vans that we should "pause" the build due to problems discovered with their laser cut parts. Builders had begun reporting cracking around the holes of the laser cut parts, particularly in the holes that required dimpling and riveting. Unfortunately, it's been a wait-and-see situation, as Vans awaits the results of a third-party testing firm, in-house testing, and various engineering analysis.

For my project, the worst-case scenario will be rebuilding of the wings. While this would set me back quite a few months, it wouldn't be the end of the world. In the meantime, Ed Punjak and I have begun assembling the tail cone (manufactured before the laser cut parts). When that is completed, we'll begin on the fuselage. The fuselage was delivered shortly after Oshkosh this year, with the laser cut parts removed and replaced with the traditional CNC punched parts. There is a couple of years' worth of work before we have to go back to the wings and address the issues with them.

By the time we get back to the wings, I expect that Vans will have plenty of real-world experience and direction on how to remove/replace (or not) the laser cut parts of the wing (primarily the wing ribs).



Tail cone under construction



Cracked dimple hole

AN INVITATION.....

If other Chapter Members are engaged in aircraft projects, please email information and photos to the newsletter editor.

JOIN EAA CHAPTER 260

Chapter Members who have paid their Chapter dues are considered to be in good standing and will be allowed to participate in Chapter Meetings and other Chapter events. ALSO...they may partake in the delicious lunches at our Chapter meetings. *A great deal for the price!*

CHAPTER 260 DUES STRUCTURE

One Year = \$30.00 Three Years = \$75.00 Five Years = \$120.00

Save by joining or renewing for more than one year!

Note: For new members joining the Chapter, an additional \$10.00 is required to cover the cost of an engraved plastic magnetic nametag.

Note that National Membership in EAA is also required in order to be a Member of EAA Chapter 260.

National Dues are \$48.00 per year for Individual membership; \$60.00 for Family.

Chapter membership expires in December of each year.

EAA Chapter dues are indicated above.

2024 CHAPTER DUES WILL BE DUE SOON!

Support your Chapter so programs, food and other benefits can continue to be provided.

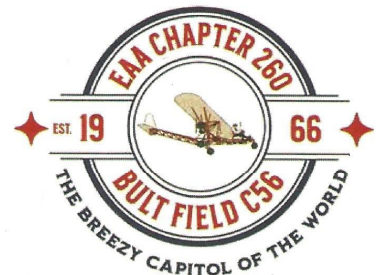
Electronic payment links: For **2024** new Chapter member dues: <https://square.link/u/TF0b9u62> Click link

For **2024** Chapter member renewals: <https://square.link/u/SHQOgNSx> Click link

Detach and submit the form below

EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION

CHAPTER 260



Membership Application

Personal Information

Full Name :

Street
Address :

City :

Zip Code :

Home
Phone :

Cell Phone :

E-Mail :

E.A.A.
National
Membership
Number :

Want to fill
form online?



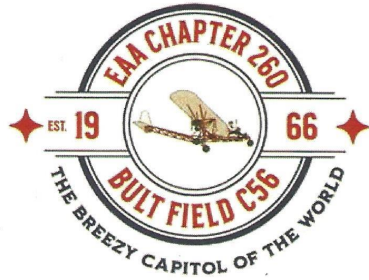
For Information about EAA Chapter 260 contact:
Rob Unger at: rubreezy@msn.com

If not already a member...consider becoming one!

E.A.A. Chapter 260
28261 S. Kedzie Ave
Monee, IL 60449

EAA CHAPTER 260

Bult Field
28261 S. Kedzie Avenue
Monee, IL 60449



EAA Chapter 260 Website: www.eaachapter260.org

EAA Chapter 260 Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/EAA260/>

EAA National Website: www.eaa.org



FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER



EAA Chapter 260 meets
generally on the third Saturday
of the month at 10:00 A.M. at
Bult Field (C56) in Monee, Illinois

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

This year, the positions on the Chapter Board for **President** and **Secretary** are due for election. Therefore, please submit the name(s) of a Chapter Member that one would want to nominate for these two positions. Submit these Nominations to Dave Vancina at: vancinad@gmail.com no later than November 11, 2023. Elections for these positions will be held at the November 18th Chapter Meeting.

Note that next year in 2024, the positions of Vice President and Treasurer will be due for election.

For further information regarding qualifications for these positions, refer to the By-Laws on the Chapter website.

2023 EAA CHAPTER 260 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President/Director:	Rob Unger	708.288.7525
Vice President/Director:	Jay Vieaux	708.465.8168
Treasurer:	Joe Cirelli	708.932.3889
Secretary:	Dave Vancina	815.715.1955
Director:	Wayne Babiak	708.989.6214
Director:	Tim Bryan	312.403.0847
Director:	Jim Orange	708.903.4947
Director:	Jerry Pearson	219.923.1938
Director:	Steve Sikorski	708.862.8722
Director:	Dan Simanaitis	630.386.0330

- If you have items for future newsletters, please let me know. These can include:
- An aviation project you are working on.
 - If you flew to somewhere of interest; know of a good restaurant, let us know.
 - Building an airplane? Share your progress!
 - Have something to sell? List it for **FREE!**
 - Write a story..share your expertise!

Contact: Wayne Babiak, Newsletter Editor:
web44aia@comcast.net

YOUNG EAGLES COORDINATORS

Jerry Pearson Dave Vancina Dan Simanaitis

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