

01-Mar-2024

EAA Harbor Springs Chapter 1087 Update



A note from Pete:

It has been a super busy and productive start to the new year! I hope you find this newsletter very informative as there is a LOT of new information. There is also a LOT of planning necessary going forward for this year and we'll discuss these activities at our next few breakfast meetings.

I personally haven't been very active flying much this winter due to travel and weather conditions, but our chapter has been very active with some great successes, so let's start:

EAA Ray Scholarship approved!

We have been awarded a full RAY Aviation Scholarship for our chapter! This is great news! Many thanks to Gus, Dan and Ron for their help in putting together our application. We now have a few decisions to make and much work to do. The EAA has a goal of over 80% success for students to receive their private pilot certificate within 12 months. Here's a quick summary of our actions required with the detailed presentation attached to the email along with this newsletter:

- Appoint a Scholarship Coordinator – to be discussed at our next meeting
- Solicit applications and select a scholar - to be discussed at our next meeting
- Support the scholar during the entire process.
- Manage the funds as appropriate.

EAA Leadership Academy at Oshkosh

I was able to attend the EAA Leadership Academy at Oshkosh from January 26-28. It is open to chapter officers and held at the lodge, a beautiful building on the field at KOSH. Free too!

There were many interesting topics covered and some actions below:

- Young Eagles Program – we are doing well here!
- Online roster management – considering using this for our chapter.
- Online presence – web, facebook – I have no interest in facebook. However, our website has been updated and includes the entire history of our newsletters. I will also be adding some background information about our chapter. Here's the link: [Chapter 1087 \(eaa.org\)](http://Chapter 1087 (eaa.org)).
- Working with the local media – I learned a lot, including how to say “No comment” without using those words and instead using 100's of others 😊
- Insurance and risk management – takeaway is that we need to submit insurance for every event we hold in addition to our Young Eagle events

- Non-profit status – for only \$275 we can become tax-exempt in the event a wealthy donor decides to give us a hangar (ha!)
- Aero-Educate program – a badge/award system for youth, similar to scout programs



Here's a pic of the attendees, I'm in the back row, 4th from the right.

EAA Chapter Survey results

Last November, the EAA sent out a survey for chapter members to provide feedback for chapter leadership. I recently received this feedback from the EAA and the good news is that we're nearly 100% happy with our chapter and activities. However we only had 9 respondents to the survey, a disappointing number. Hopefully many non-responders are equally happy with our chapter. Feel free to let Rod, Bill or I know any feedback you may have.

Some takeaways for the survey:

- Important activities for our chapter are: Young Eagles, VMC/IMC, Fly-outs and connecting with other aviation enthusiasts.
- Less important thoughts were for Fly-ins/Pancake breakfast, chapter building projects, RC modeling and a tool crib
- Good support for improving youth programs
- Request for guest speakers! Perhaps we could add this to our VMC/IMC meetings.
- Try to keep voices down a bit at breakfast – it gets LOUD! This could be tough with a group of mostly older men.

Our Chapter history and the Charlevoix Flying Club

With the help of Bill and Craig, I've begun to collect information on the history of our chapter and the flying club. We have already put together a short article and submitted it to the EAA Chapter manager for possible inclusion in a future edition of Sport Aviation.

Young Eagles Credit

Our successful Young Eagles events last year have resulted in a \$980 credit. It has been proposed that we donate these funds to the Char-Em aviation program at KPLN. We'll discuss this at the next breakfast meeting. Other ideas are also requested.

Scheduled Upcoming Events

- Regular breakfast meeting Saturday, March 2nd 8 am and every two weeks after that, Southwoods restaurant, Petoskey
- Our monthly IMC/VMC Club Wednesday, March 20th at the KMGH terminal

To-Be scheduled Event Planning

- Young Eagle events – Harbor Springs, Boyne City, Pellston, Mackinac Island
- Summer Chapter Picnic
- Fly-out to Detroit Metro – 2nd group
- Fly-out to the Air Zoo at Kalamazoo
- Fly-out to North Fox 6Y3
- EAA Oshkosh Airventure – July 22-28

Member Profile – Bill Meyer

I was not born into an aviation family like many others. I had a grandfather from Grand Rapids who was interested and would take me to the airport on a Saturday to watch planes come and go (in the 40's) at Kent County airport. My next interest was building model airplanes – starting with rubber band, then balsa wood and then finally RC planes.

A friend used to come into a restaurant who flew the mail to Beaver Island every day. He invited me to come along one day in a tail dragger. We eventually did this every couple of days. This expanded to other rides and I'd tag along whenever I could. This built my interest as you can imagine.

My father would have been happy that I became a pilot, but he sadly didn't get to see it. A friend of my dad's would fly us places including St. Ignace, family events and more.

My daughter, while in High school, had a teacher for me to meet. It was as an adult education, and with Harris Stevens, I completed my ground school. He was a motivator for the RC airplane hobby. He was also a CFII. He owned a 150 and I was able to get instruction in it. He led me to the Charlevoix flying club. He signed me up 42 years ago. Once there I flew the Cherokee quite a bit and I got my PPL.

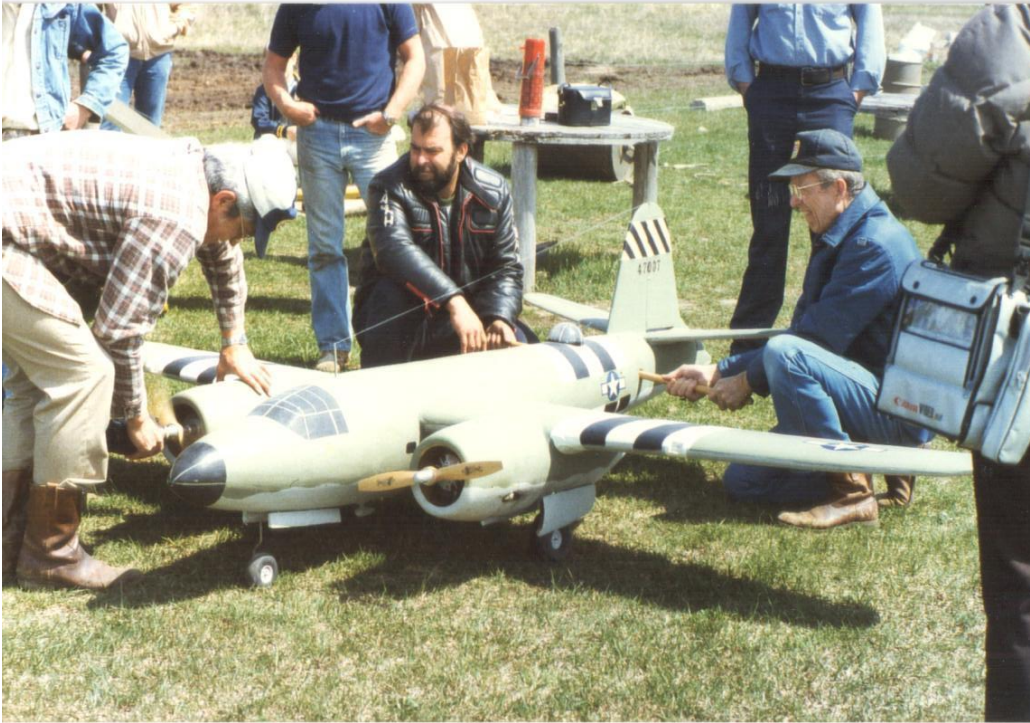
He also had a friend with a Cub on floats. I received dual in the seaplane and received my rating after only 15 hours. During the training I'd pick up the airplane on the black river. It's a wicked crooked runway for sure. Once I could master takeoffs and landings on the river, I received my rating. Eventually I did my checkride in the Cub at Traverse City on Boardman lake. I also did a 1-day course at Northwoods aviation as they signed me up for the checkride.

I joined Chapter 1087 31 years from the date when it was founded by Duane Dunshee.

I flew my first YE as an EAA member 30 years ago. I was flying the Cherokee and it was the first time I had 3 kids not related to me in the airplane. It was at KMGH and we were using RY 10. The kids were chatterboxes. I'll never forget it.

Outside of aviation, my career was as an auto mechanic. I started in 1962 and closed the shop in 2021. What a change in automotive technology over those years. It was a great experience. Another hobby is motorcycles. I've owned 6-7 different ones over the years. Over 200,000 miles on a Honda Gold Wing. Touring all over the country and Canada too. I've been in 46 of the lower 48 states on a bike. My favorite trip ever was riding A1A from Maine to Key West. I believe this qualifies for the iron butt award. The most interesting parts were Acadia national park and the causeway from homestead to Key West.

The HIGHLIGHT of my entire aviation experience is the Young Eagles program and my contribution. I also led the very first chapter to do the Eagle flights for adults.



Model airplane - B24 pic – used to drop eggs from the Bombay door



The chill thrill – on crooked lake



IMC/VMC Club for our Chapter

– Rod Cortright (IMC/VMC Club Coordinator)

Our IMC/VMC club meetings have been very successful. We typically have 10-12 members attend each meeting. Each meeting has one video scenario presented for VMC and IMC. The discussions that follow are very interesting. Seems like we never had consensus on a specific outcome but there were several possible directions one could take for each scenario.

The IMC/ VMC Club promotes visual and instrument flying, proficiency, and safety. We present two video scenarios at each meeting—one in VMC and the other in IMC. After each video, we discuss what you would do faced with a similar situation. The intent is to create a community of pilots willing to share information, provide recognition, foster communications, promote safety, and build proficiency in all aspects of flying.

We will be meeting on the third Wednesday of each month at the Harbor Springs Airport. Whether they are EAA members or not, all area pilots are welcome to attend.

2024 Chapter Dues

Please note that the 2024 dues will be collected in the Jan/Feb timeframe.

Please be prepared to give Rod your \$20 at the next available opportunity or send it to him at his home address: PO Box 435, Boyne City, MI 49712

Chapter 1087 Board Members:

- Peter Aiello, President
- Rod Cortright, Secretary/Treasurer and IMC/VMC Club Coordinator
- Bill Meyer, Young Eagles Coordinator