

# The Flypaper

Promoting Sport Aviation in Central Illinois for More Than 58 Years

## EAA sets landmark of 250,000 members

**December 1, 2021** – EAA, the recreational aviation organization that began in 1953 as a group of individuals dedicated to grassroots aviation, has surpassed 250,000 members for the first time.

“EAA’s founder, Paul Poberezny, created a culture nearly 70 years ago where anyone who wished to enjoy the freedom of flight was welcome to participate, and our mission of growing participation in aviation has thrived under that vision,” said Jack J. Pelton, EAA CEO/Chairman. “The dedication of EAA’s members, chapters, and staff had made it possible to grow the organization to new levels. I thank every EAA member who has contributed through the years and found value in being a member, as EAA began as a small group of builders and

restorers but quickly grew into an organization that engages everyone who enjoys the world of flight.”

Pelton added that EAA continues to grow its offerings to its core of builders, restorers, and pilots,

**Reaching 250,000 members marks a membership growth of 25 percent in the past five years**

while also meeting the challenges to aviation’s future that range from regulatory matters to increasing the number of young people engaged in aviation. EAA’s chapter network has also received increased support and resources as the home of grassroots aviation in hundreds of communities throughout the nation.

Reaching 250,000 members marks a membership growth of 25 percent in the past five years, including through a pandemic period that found a significant number of people look to flight training and aircraft building as the fulfillment of a personal dream. EAA’s total of individual members and Lifetime members have also reached new highs in the past five years.

“General aviation has grown increasingly complex over the past 70 years, but EAA’s goal has been to find ways to break down the hurdles in as many places possible to nurture that dream that has been always been a part of human imagination — the desire to fly,” Pelton said.

- See EAA 250,000 Page 3

## You Have Information December!

### No December Membership Meeting

**Wishing all our Chapter 129 members and friends a joyous Holiday Season**

**~ EAA Chapter 129 Board**



## A Good Year

We entered 2021 with a lot of uncertainty regarding what we would be able to accomplish from our plans for the year. Those plans included bringing the Ford Tri Motor in, Young Eagle Rallies, STEM workshops, an Oshkosh gathering and our chapter meeting events.

EAA HQ had already announced their intentions to host AirVenture 2021 and in April we were informed that the first Ford Tri-Motor stop would be at BMI. Yes, we had to scramble to make the event happen, but we managed with the support of BNAA and Synergy.

We hosted two Young Eagle events at BMI and supported YE events at our sister chapter 29 at CMI. It was great to provide events in support of our mission of getting people enthused about The Spirit of Aviation. Thanks to Rachel Henderson, our YE Coordinator for providing

her organization and leadership for these events

And our members travelled more this year, with destinations opening up. AirVenture 2021 was a huge success, Chapter 129 had a good turnout at Oshkosh and at the annual 129 Oshkosh cookout hosted by Keith Doornbos. And Bill Thacker hosted the Chapter to a fly-in at Thacker field in September as part of his retirement celebration.



In spite of all the trials we encountered in 2020 and 2021, GA grew during that timeframe. Our neighbors at Crosswinds Flying Club saw a 63% growth in membership in 2021 with similar results seen across the GA community.

129 Planning has begun for 2022 with hopes for adding more growth and activities. And another good year!

~Charlie



## EAA Chapter Members Support Bloomington/Normal American Legion Color Guard

In April of 2021, Mike Herrin, member of the Bloomington/Normal American Legion Honor Guard contacted members of the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 129 asking if any members could arrange a flyover of the funeral for Thomas Dittmer, a past air traffic controller from the Central Illinois Regional Airport. EAA Chapter 129 members Doug Reeves, Charles Bates and Paul Krueger reserved aircraft and provided a three-plane flyover of the funeral service for Mr. Dittmer.



The American Legion Honor Guard was very pleased with our support. Our team offered to provide additional flyovers for subsequent veteran funerals and discussed the new opportunity the following Saturday morning at EAA Chapter 129's Pancake and Sausage breakfast with the other pilots in attendance.

EAA Chapter 129 member and former Marine fighter pilot, John Rettick, offered to help us train for proper flight procedures when flying in a multi-plane group. John is owner a vintage Stearman and asked to join our group. He said he had a couple of Stearman pilot friends who would be interested as well. David Burroughs of El Paso Illinois, John Hodgson of Glenbrook Nevada and Carey Harding from Starkville Mississippi, all Stearman pilots, have joined our EAA group periodically in 2021 to honor fallen veterans.

John worked with us to develop a precise preflight planning brief, a coordinated communication plan and a precise post flight debriefing to review best practices.

-see American Legion Page 4

## Tidbits and Winter Reading



The Midwest Flyer magazine has gone to an all digital format. To view the December/January edition, go to: <https://midwestflyer.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/MFM-Dec2021Jan2022-WEB->

### EAA 250,000 from Page 1

"We are eagerly anticipating where that dream takes us in the years to come, whether it's through EAA chapters and programs, through the innovations of our members, or with partners who bring a combined strength that allow us to accomplish more than we could individually."

- EAA News and Publications



There are a number of EAA Webinars in December and January at: [https://www.eaa.org/eaanews-and-publications/eaawebinars?](https://www.eaa.org/eaanews-and-publications/eaawebinars?mkt_tok=OTEwLVNFVS0wNzMAAAGBEK1QcShEKKi2Tn48gCDmjo24wTs3ehZrKkq9F-281N1VycZKaUCpDd_9J3Pm8uhGWjpKatfgKYUZQk8UleuAUUS1AnL_1smgGD3oPT0el4k)

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Get EAA HQ insights from Jack Pelton and Charlie Becker in their monthly Chapter Video Magazine editions. Find them at: [http://www.eaa.org/brightcovegallery.com/chapters?](http://www.eaa.org/brightcovegallery.com/chapters?mkt_tok=OTEwLVNFVS0wNzMAAAGBFUS6sb8YGoiPTiKNw6Dc8gwKQj1OjAVtW4v3lG1B9HSr4R4vEI6IMA6QHKqVKUVi0gxYEnD9n5V5EWaPhtKJ9bDP9AldkA1QV5s-xiDytAs)

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### American Legion from Page 1

He used his military training to help our team plan and execute our flights safely.

Since our beginning in April of 2021, our EAA team has flown for the Bloomington/Normal American Legion Honor Guard at over 15 veteran funerals and memorial services and we have received a number of thank you notes from the families. Depending on availability of pilots and aircraft, flights have been with a single airplane or as many as six.

The EAA members have been adopted by the B/N American Legion Honor Guard and are



affectionately known as the American Legion 635 Air Force.



It has been an honor to have provided a unique salute to the veterans who have served from the McLean County area and assisted the American Legion Honor Guard in their services. The B/N American Legion Honor Guard provides military rites to over 100 fallen McLean County veterans each year.

~ story by Doug Reeves

## 2022 Annual Dues

Yep, it's that time of year again. Our chapter relies on our dues to pay for our EAA corporate insurance and fees. Please get your annual \$30 fee to me at your convenience.

## Wanted

Your stories, events, travel adventures, builder updates for our next issue of **The Flypaper**.

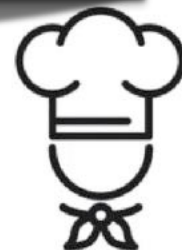
Email them to:  
cmbates50@gmail.com

Join us at the EAA Chapter 129 hangar for our Gathering of Eagles breakfasts Saturday mornings 7:00 am to 9:00 am for some great food and some hangar flying at its best.



## Cooks Needed!

Chapter 129 Members, Please sign up to help with our Saturday breakfasts. The sign up sheet is on the counter.



### Chapter 129 Officers

Charlie Bates-President, Treas  
Jason Jording-VP  
Josh Andracki-Sec'y, Social Media  
Ben Schneider-Board Member  
Don O'Neill-Board Member  
David Pfister-Board Member  
Rachel Henderson-Young Eagles Coord  
George Wilts-Tech. Counselor  
Mike Todd-Web Editor

