



The Flypaper

Promoting Sport Aviation in Central Illinois for More Than 58 Years



EAA's Ford Tri-Motor to visit Bloomington again April 29 to May 2

As part of our Chapter 129 initiatives for 2021 to introduce aviation to the local community, we requested a return visit of the EAA Ford Tri-Motor which was a big hit here in 2018. We were notified last week that BMI would be the first stop on this summer's tour of the US.

Our Chapter 129 member and United Airlines Captain, Bill Thacker, will bring the plane in on April 28 and will be our pilot during its stay from April 29 to May 2.

Synergy Flight Center has offered to hangar the Tri-Motor at their big hangar behind the Prairie

Aviation Museum and we will hold our event there also.

Thursday, April 29 will be VIP and Press day, offering tours and rides from 2 to 3 pm. Tickets for the general public will be available from 3 to 5 that day. Friday through Sunday we will offer rides from 9 to 5. Ticket sales will be available online at <https://www.eaa.org/shop/Flights/FlyTheFord.aspx>.

Volunteers - Watch for opportunities to work the various functions of the event. We will be sending out a signup sheet for passenger briefing, escorting, security and cleanup at the end of the day.

Please get this important event on your calendars and watch for updates.

You Have Information April

April 15 Membership Meeting

The third Thursday comes early in April and we are breaking out the grill. Burgers and hot dogs will be provided by the chapter. Please bring a dish to pass. We will eat at 6 PM.

At 7:00 Keith Walljasper will speak about his aviation experiences, building and flying his Seawind and his hangar garage sale. Afterwards, we will walk down to Keith's hangar and check out his sale items. *More on this on Page 2.*



Keith Walljasper's Big Sale!

Keith has decided to purge his hangar on F-row from years of accumulation of tools, instruments and parts. He built the hangar originally to assemble his Seawind 3000 which has won many awards through the years. All sales items have been organized on tables in his hangar and Keith has generously agreed to have all proceeds from the sale to go to Chapter 129.

Keith will be our speaker at our April 15 meeting after which we will walk down to his hangar to start the sale. He will also open his hangar on Saturday, April 17 to liquidate any remaining items.



Chapter 129's YE Coordinator



Welcome new member Rachel Henderson as our 2021 Young Eagles Coordinator. Rachel has been volunteering for the Young Eagles program since 2015. In December 2016, she became a Young Eagles coordinator for Ch. 29 and helped our 129 chapter in 2019 with our YE rallies. After much

involvement in and around aviation, Rachel began working on obtaining her private pilot license which she acquired in 2019. Joining the Commemorative Air Force Missouri Wing in 2020, Rachel was given many more aviation opportunities including attending air shows, acting as flight deck spotter during airshow demonstrations, and showcasing a B-25 Mitchell. When Rachel is not aviating, you can find her in the classroom teaching mathematics to high school students. Welcome Rachel!



Chapter 129 Web Page

Rebuilding

For many years, our chapter web page has been hosted on an EAA supported web portal at webs.com. In 2019, EAA moved to another provider and we had to start the process of rebuilding on the new site.

Member Mike Todd has taken on the task of putting our new site together. You can find it at: <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea129>. Mike is just getting started organizing and populating the site, adding content as we work through the details.

We want to add a section highlighting our member's planes. Please send your photos to: eachapter129@gmail.com.

Also, please send your input on additional information you would like to see on our site.

Thanks Mike for all your efforts!

Putting Pieces in Place

Our charter as an EAA Chapter is to share our aviation interests, enthusiasm and knowledge with others and build awareness in the community. Over the years, Chapter 129 has worked to support our builders and pilots and brought aviation to our community through many activities on the field.

There are many moving parts involved with pulling this all together. As we gear up for 2021 activities, we begin to recognize the critical pieces that must be in place.

Some of these extend outside of our membership and are built through relationships. We asked the EAA Tours Group for

consideration to bring the Ford Tri-Motor back to BMI this year and were surprised to get a quick response. The surprise was that we would be the first stop on the tour to begin April 29. That was March 30.

With little planning time, we contacted the BMI airport authority and they jumped on putting a plan together. Next up, Synergy Flight Center - we need a hangar and a site for the event. They were on board. We discovered some important pieces of the puzzle to make this work.

The Young Eagles program requires planning and leadership. We are happy to have Rachel on board to lead those events. Our web site has to be rebuilt from scratch and Mike Todd offered to own that. Bill Thacker has been instrumental in getting the Tri-Motor event organized, bringing in

his team to manage the logistics of the event.

Keith Doornbos plans to host our annual Airventure dinner again this year, and let's not forget our Saturday morning cooks and folks who have helped with our hangar clean up and operations.

When we hosted the Tri-Motor in 2018, our folks showed up in droves to fill the many volunteer spots.

And thanks to the board members who have offered to help guide our chapter along. I know I am missing names and pieces here but there are many pieces to this puzzle and we can't function with any of them missing.



2021 Chapter 129 Dues

Thanks to all the members who sent in their annual chapter 129 dues! If you haven't already done so, please send in your \$30 membership fee for 2021 to help us with those early year expenses. Please mail your checks to:

EAA Chapter 129
2825 E Empire St
Bloomington, IL 61704



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



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

