

**Experimental Aircraft Association 1643 Inc.,
an Illinois Not for Profit Corporation
Newsletter January 4, 2024**

TO ALL MEMBERS OF CHAPTER 1643:

Hope everyone had a good and safe holiday season. The Board of Directors of Chapter 1643 is looking forward to making 2024 a fun, informative and engaging year with more speakers, Young Eagles events and other opportunities to engage in aviation activities and camaraderie with other Chapter members which, hopefully, will build on the successes of last year. Let the Board know if you have any ideas to make membership in Chapter 1643 a more fun, fulfilling and interesting opportunity to enjoy the aviation experience and enjoy it with others.

January Chapter Gathering

The January Chapter Gathering is set for January 13 at 3:00 pm in the upstairs conference room at the Stearman Community Center. For our upcoming January 13th Chapter Gathering, we are excited to welcome this month's guest speaker, Retired Air Force General and pilot, William "Robbie" Robertson! Robbie is a Peoria native and served in the 182nd Airlift Wing of the Illinois Air National Guard during his 41 years of service in the Armed Forces. Should be interesting.

Board of Directors Meeting

The January Board of Directors meeting will be held January 31, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the upstairs conference room at the Stearman Community Center.

Galesburg Airport Advisory Commission

The next Airport Advisory Commission is scheduled for January 18, 2023 at 3:00 pm in the upstairs conference room at the Stearman Community Center.

President's Report

Aaron Repp reported the Chapter has received evidence of insurance coverage being in place for Chapter Gatherings.

In regards to the Chapter elections at the March Gathering, the Board has agreed to implement the use of paper ballots in the election process. This way no Member need be concerned about casting their vote as they see fit and hopefully paper ballots will engender greater participation by Chapter members in the election process. Don't forget you must be a member in good standing to vote at in the Chapter elections or hold office as Officer or Director in the Chapter.

The following persons have received service awards from EAA National for their service and support of chapter 1643 during the year 2023. Service Awards were granted to:

Aaron Repp
President
Vice President

Ellie Repp
Web Editor
Treasurer

Young Eagle Coordinator

Jessica Vens
Young Eagle Coordinator

David Scharfenberg
Vice President

Matthew Jern
President

William Hurley
Secretary
Newsletter Editor

Technical Counselor
Eagle Flight Leader
Membership Coordinator

Stu Olmsted
Director

Matthew Pankau
Young Eagle Coordinator

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reports the current balance of funds on hand is \$7,145.80. A copy of the December Treasurer's report is attached to the end of the newsletter.

The final bill for the holiday party at Innkeepers cost \$505.00 and was well covered by the reservations received from attending chapter members. Additionally, since the venue and food at Innkeepers was well received, a reservation for the 2024 Holiday Party has already been made with Innkeepers. It will be held on the regular Gathering date, that being the second Saturday of December, December 14, 2024 starting at 5:30 pm. So, no excuse not to mark your calendar now.

The Chapter has also received from EAA National the Young Eagles reimbursement from the Chapter's Young Eagles events in 2023. The reimbursement totaled \$202.08.

Young Eagles

Jessica Vens reported she has reached out to the Calvary Church regarding a possible coordination of a Young Eagles program with members of the congregation. There are potential prospects for 20 YE participants. Further information will be forthcoming as made available.

Jessica also provided copies of the sample paperwork required for "one off" Young Eagles rides. The forms are provided by EAA National, are mandatory, and must be fully completed and signed before any Young Eagles ride is given by a Chapter member. Copies of the forms are attached to this newsletter. If you have any questions

about the forms or anticipate a “one off” Young Eagles experience, please contact Jessica directly.

Jessica also reported Young Eagles events are tentatively scheduled for April 13 or 20 and June 8. The June 8 date coincides with the national Young Eagles day. Pilots and ground volunteers will be needed to make these events a success. Watch for signup sheets. If you wish to be involved you may also reach out to Jessica directly.

Member Reports

None submitted

New Members

No report.

Chapter Gatherings

The Board is firming up a chili cook off for the February Gathering. If you have a favorite recipe you wish to share with your fellow members, your participation would be welcome. Details are being worked out but watch for signup sheets.

If Chapter Members have any other ideas or activities, seminars, or discussions they wish to see included in the monthly Chapter Gatherings please let any Board member or officer know. All such suggestions/ideas would be welcome.

March Chapter Gathering

Aaron Repp has arranged for a presentation by 182nd Airlift Wing of the Air National Guard from Peoria for the March Chapter Gathering. More details will be forthcoming.

Another reminder the March 9, 2024 Chapter Gathering includes the Chapter’s annual meeting. It is important that as many Chapter Members as possible attend this meeting as a quorum is required to conduct the meeting and hold elections.

Bill Hurley has previously announced he will not be seeking reelection to the office of Chapter Secretary or Director. Any Member in good standing (i.e., dues paid) may serve as officer or director. Members are welcome to nominate themselves, or other Members, for any office up for election. If you have any questions about what is involved in being an officer or director please do not hesitate to reach out to Aaron or Ellie Repp, Dave Scharfenberg, Stu Olmstead or Bill Hurley.

MOSAIC

The comment period on the FAA’s proposed dramatic overhaul and expansion of sport pilot privileges and light sport aircraft parameters is set to expire on January 22, 2024.

In case you are not aware of it, this proposal dramatically expands the size, weight and complexity of aircraft a sport pilot may fly and virtually eliminates the definition of "light sport aircraft", replacing it with limitations based on a maximum clean stall speed of 54 knots, resulting in an implicit aircraft gross weight limit of approximately 3,000 lbs. Thus, a host of general aviation aircraft could become available to sport pilots, including aircraft with 4 seats (but only pilot and 1 passenger permitted), constant speed props, retractable gear and multi engines that meet the clean stall speed limitation of 54 knots. Yes, a Cessna 172 probably qualifies. It is an understatement to say that as it currently stands, this is HUGE. Interested persons have an opportunity to comment on the proposal whether you agree, disagree, want modifications or whatever. This is the ONLY opportunity where your comments, complaints or laments may have a chance to influence the regulations affecting you as a pilot. Very rarely does the public have the chance to comment on the rules which affect our flying opportunities. I have submitted my comments my mail. If you google "Flying MOSAIC Study Guide" a very helpful tutorial and guide is available to read what is going on and to help formulate your comments. Comments can be as little as "I agree", "I disagree", or "I don't care". Be sure your comments reference the docket number shown below. Comments may be mailed to:

Docket Operations, M-30
U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Room W12-140
West Building Ground Floor
Washington, DC 20590-0001

RE: Docket Number FAA-20231377

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