

Experimental Aircraft Association 1643 Inc. Newsletter
January 1, 2022

TO ALL MEMBERS OF CHAPTER 1643:

Welcome to the New Year. Hopefully your holidays were fun and safe.

January Chapter Gathering

The January Chapter Gathering will be held on January 15, 2022 at 3:00 pm at the Jet Air Board Room/Hanger. Member presentations about their projects and/or suggestions about future chapter activities or opportunities are welcome.

January Board of Directors Meeting

The January 2022 Board of Directors meeting will be held Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 4:00 pm in the board room at Jet Air. Members are always welcome to attend.

Christmas Gathering

The Christmas Gathering at Prairie Street Pasta was a success with 26 members attending for good conversation and food. Thank you to Ellie Repp for helping to coordinate the event.

February Gathering

The speaker for the February Gathering will be Michael S. Madura, Chief Pilot of OSF Aviation. Mike will be speaking about helicopter operations for OSF which should be a very interesting glimpse into the world of medical aviation. Further details will be published as they become available. Of course, Mike's attendance will be subject to circumstances which might require his presence elsewhere.

Chapter T-Shirts

By now most members have picked up their new T-Shirts. Ellie will be bringing to the Gathering those shirts which haven't been picked up as well as the Chapter inventory on hand. The green model appears to be very popular. As a reminder, the Chapter inventory includes a limited selection of Chapter t-shirts for future purchase by Members or other interested parties. If you are interested, please see/contact Ellie Repp.

Chapter Name Tags

The Chapter has received 22 orders for the engraved name tags. Ellie has reached out to the manufacturer and hopes to complete the order soon. If you want an engraved name tag but haven't placed your order, please contact Ellie at your earliest opportunity.

Membership Dues

A timely reminder that membership dues for 2022 were due prior to January 1, 2022 to maintain your active membership in the Chapter. An active membership in the Chapter is a National EAA requirement for participation in Chapter activities for insurance and numerous other reasons. Dues remain unchanged at \$20.00 for an individual membership and \$35.00 for a family membership. Dues will be accepted at the Gathering if not previously paid.

Young Eagles

Being mindful that coordinating a lot of members on short notice can be a challenge, the Board is hoping to receive a report from the Young Eagles committee in the near future about possible Young Eagles activities and scheduling. With the passing of the winter solstice, lengthening days and global warming, warm weather is not that far off.

Chapter Organization

As you may recall, the March Gathering is the Annual meeting of the Chapter. Elections of Officers and Directors are held at the Annual meeting. The Chapter adopted a staggered election schedule, that being every year two director's seats and two officers positions are up for election. In the year 2022, the directors seats currently held by Ellie Repp and Bill Hurley are up for election. The offices of Vice President and Secretary, currently held by Aaron Repp and Bill Hurley respectively, are also up for election. Any chapter member in good standing is eligible to be elected as a Director or an officer of the Chapter. So please consider if you have an interest in serving as a Director or Officer of the Chapter. Members can self nominate for either or both offices or can be nominated by other members. Nominations will be opened at the Board's direction but likely commencing February 1, 2022.

A quorum of active members is required to conduct elections. Therefore even if attending Gatherings isn't regularly on your schedule, all members are encouraged to attend the March Gathering to participate in the election process. Alternatively, you can give a written and signed proxy to another active member to vote on your behalf at the Gathering. Mail in ballots are not accepted. The results of the election will be announced upon completion of voting.

The March Gathering will be held on the regular meeting day and time of Saturday March 12, 2022 at 3:00 pm.

If you have any questions about serving please feel free to reach out to Matt Jern, Ellie Repp, Aaron Repp or Bill Hurley.

Member Biography

As mentioned last month, the newsletter is going to publish one, maybe two, Member biographies every month, in an effort to let other members know a little more about each member, where they've been, how they got here and their interest in aviation. This is strictly voluntary and interested members are requested to write a short (one page or less) narrative about themselves and submit it to the chapter liaison for publication in the newsletter. I volunteered to be the first candidate and my bio follows:

Bill Hurley. My first exposure to aviation was living on the south side of Chicago, preschool age, early 1960s, watching airplanes take off and land at Meigs Field. Next were a couple fly-in fishing trips to the Boundary Waters of Canada and an EAA chapter fly-in in Crete, Illinois where mother took a ride in Carl Unger Sr.'s Breezy. Next was Campion Jesuit High School in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. PDC had a small general aviation airport with a local flying club, and my dad's support got me flying lessons in a 1968 Skyhawk. I soloed N84920 in April, 1973; however I graduated before finishing and ended earning my private certificate at Frankfort Airport that summer. I also landed a part time job as a ramp/hanger rat for the next three years gaining practical experience, especially cleaning oily airplane bellies. I first became an EAA member about this time, although the "official" archives show me joining in 1999. Starting in 1973, I attended college at Knox College in Galesburg flying C150 & 172 with Lundry Aviation and then moved to Galesburg Aviation where a young Harold Timmons checked me out in their 172 in 1976. After graduation from Knox in 1977 with a geology degree, I made a foray to the Gulf Coast as a well site geologist, changed course and started law school in 1979, in 1982 began a career as a banking/litigation attorney in Chicago, married Sheryl in 1988 and raised two boys. All this took priority over flying for 30 years, with sporadic forays into an airplane in 1986 and 2004. By then we had built a home in Abingdon, Illinois on 40 acres of quiet farm which we used for weekends and vacations. Then a trip to the ER in 2008 revealed a bad aortic valve. Open heart surgery, valve replacement and by-pass surgery followed in 2010 with complications slowing my recovery. In January, 2011 Sheryl began a job in Peoria at the Caterpillar legal department and moved to Abingdon full time. Needing motivation to stick with cardiac rehab I started thinking about flying again and found a special issuance medical could allow me to fly. So, in November 2012 I went to Blue Skies in Lake in the Hills, Illinois, for a ride to see if I still had the interest. An hour in the sky with an instructor and it was like I never left. After some hard work, I earned a special issuance in late 2012, got current in 2013 and have been flying ever since. Given the uncertainty attendant to the special issuance process I bought a tired 172M (read Inexpensive) in July 2013 and fulfilled a lifetime dream of owning my own airplane. From 2013 to 2017 I commuted to Galesburg from Chicago and back every weekend via 172, and then via 177B Cardinal after Basic Med gave me some peace of mind that my medical wasn't in jeopardy every 12 months. I figured out once that I saved about 34 days of my life flying instead of driving in Chicago traffic. I retired from the Chicago law business in March 2017, giving me time to get my instrument rating in 2018 and multi-engine rating in 2020. My wife and I have made trips to Rapid City, South Dakota; Gillette, Wyoming; Sevierville, KY; and Columbus, Ohio and others. I made a recent solo trip from Galesburg to Yakima, Washington to fly a Carbon Cub with, hopefully, many adventures yet to come.

Experimental Aircraft Association 1643 Inc Communications Liaison:

Bill Hurley
Whurleylaw@gmail.com
Cell: 312-316-6360