

# Experimental Aircraft Association 1643 Inc. Newsletter

## February 1, 2022

Hello everyone!

You will notice a slightly different voice for this Newsletter. I (Ellie) am helping out this month! Stick it out to the end for our Member Biography and a special article posted about the B-25 visit!

### February Chapter Gathering

The February Chapter Gathering will be held on February 12, 2022 at 3:00 pm at the Jet Air boardroom/hanger. After our brief business meeting, Michael Madura, Chief Pilot of OSF Aviation, will be presenting on their OSF Life Flight helicopter operations. Of course, Mike's attendance will be subject to circumstances which might require his presence elsewhere, however, he is looking forward to visiting with us.

On the note of monthly Gatherings. We have been discussing a temporary location change. We have been so fortunate for Jet Air's hospitality in the boardroom and hangar, but for those of you who haven't been out to the airport lately, Jet Air is undergoing an office renovation. Some employees have been using the boardroom as an office and we would prefer not to put them out if they need the space. The same can be said for airplanes in the hangar. During winter months, hangar space is at a premium and we can't expect that space to be available to us.

Until EAA 1643 has a home of it's own, we will obviously be reliant on the generosity of others for our space. But, if anyone has any connections or ideas for a temporary (or possibly more permanent for the foreseeable future), please reach out to Matt Jern, Aaron, Bill or me! We will be looking for some possibilities.

### February Board of Directors Meeting

The February 2022 Board of Directors meeting will be held Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 4:00 pm in the boardroom at Jet Air. Members are always welcome to attend.

### Membership Dues

A reminder that 2022 dues are, as you would say, Due! Dues remain unchanged at \$20.00 for an individual membership and \$35.00 for a family membership. Please make checks out to EAA 1643 and bring them to the next Gathering or mail to Ellie Repp, 989 Knox Hwy 20, Maquon, IL 61458. Cash is also accepted at Gatherings.

### Chapter Name Tags/T-Shirts

For those of you who ordered name tags or t-shirts, they will be available at the February Gathering! For those of you who did not order t-shirts, but would like one, we will have the stock on hand available, as well!

### Chapter Organization/March Gathering

The March Gathering is the Annual Meeting of the Chapter where elections of Officers and Directors will be held. A quorum of active members is required to conduct elections, so please consider attending the Annual Gathering. This year we have on the ballot:

- 2 Board Seats currently held by:

- Ellie Repp
- Bill Hurley

- 2 Officer Positions currently held by:

- Vice President - Aaron Repp
- Secretary - Bill Hurley

Any chapter member in good standing is eligible to be elected as a Director or an Officer of the Chapter. Members can self-nominate for either or both offices or can be nominated by other members. If you have any nominations, please express that to any sitting Board Member or Officer. We welcome all interest in furthering the future of our Chapter!

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

### Young Eagles Update

Our Young Eagles Committee has decided that the first Rally of the year will be June 11! This will coincide with National Young Eagles Day and our normal June Gathering date. Any and all volunteers interested in flying or helping on the ground should reach out to Matt Pankau. The plan is to open up registration to youth in the community, so having pilots commit early will really affect the number of kids we can accept! Matt will give an update at the Feb. Gathering.

## **B-25 Article**

Member Cal Ruderman shared the attached article with us written by his daughter, Lillian, about her ride on the B-25! "Lifetime Plane Ride" was published in the winter edition of GirlStory Magazine. Be sure to click on the attachment to read it! Super cool!

## **Member Biography**

Aviation in the Lives of Nancy and David Wilson

David and Nancy met in 1971 while attending graduate school at Northern Illinois University. They married in 1973. Nancy was an elementary school teacher and David was an orthopedic surgeon's assistant. One Saturday morning David got the bug to buy a new car. His hole infested, rust bucket yellow Rambler was a mismatch to David's profession, so he surmised. The young couple paid a visit to the local Ford dealer and examined a new Pinto. It wasn't more than a minute after the car salesman announced the car price that Nancy took David aside and popped the question, "Wouldn't you rather spend that amount from our savings on something fun.....like taking flying lessons?" Twenty minutes later we arrived at DeKalb Airport.

Fifteen months after the Pinto encounter David and Nancy were certified private pilots, having completed their adventure within two weeks of each other. Nancy preferred the Piper Cherokee 140 while David made friends with the Cessna 150. Their first ride together as pilots put Nancy in the left seat of the Cherokee and David on the right as co-pilot. Bad idea!!! It would have been wiser for David to assume the role of "passenger" rather than as co-aviator during that first ride. Know your limitations, David. Be quiet. Nancy is pilot in command today. That being established, it was off to Morris for their first fly-out lunch together.

Fast forward. It's 1975 and the two pilots were having more fun than they could have imagined when they were student pilots. They had purchased a 1946 Cessna 120 for \$2,600. And they were flying the pants off. In fact, it didn't even have any wheel pants! After literally wringing every ounce of energy out of the little airplane for nearly a year it was time for the annual. And the "list" presented to them by the Galesburg Aviation shop turned out to be very long indeed. It was pages long. The airplane was sold, without an annual, and ferried to Colorado, never to be seen again.

In 1977 along came a beautifully restored 1948 Cessna 140. And shortly after that, along came little Scott, their first child. Well, yes, of course, then came a 1961 Skyhawk. And all was good. Then came little Diane. And then it was chaos during the preflights around the hangar, forgetting stuff, and finally.... the decision. "Let's set this aside for a while and focus on these kids." The feeling was mutual and that's what they did.

In 1993 David and Nancy returned to the sky, this time in a brand new American General Tiger. The kids were teenagers. David had found the perfect platform to pursue his instrument rating. Once that rating was secured virtually every flight away from KGBG was filed as an instrument flight plan.

Job changes and multiple twists and turns in priorities resulted in the sale of the Tiger and in 1998 building the first RV-8 began. Nancy was focused on her professional photography business and David had morphed into an addicted builder. The rest is history.

Ellie Repp  
Treasurer, EAA Chapter 1643  
Galesburg, IL