



# The CHAPTER 221 FLYER

Proudly Serving the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 221 in Kalamazoo, Michigan

[www.EAA221.org](http://www.EAA221.org)

(new site <https://chapters.eaa.org/eqa221>)

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November 2021

## President's Message



Hello Everyone.

The Fall colors were beautiful and nice to look at but now the leaves are mostly brown and falling like rain.

We had a very nice November meeting held in the "greenhouse" of the AirZoo's Restoration Center. It was a time for celebration as we honored one of our own, Bill Walbeck, who was presented with the Wright Brothers MASTER PILOT AWARD by representatives of the FAA FASTeam, members Sam Heiter and Tim Sokol.

The award is given to individuals who have accumulated 50 or more years of piloting experience. Our chapter presented Bill with an even more impressive award. Since he soloed in December of 1945, we gave him an award for flying over 75 years, which includes over 25 years flying in the Vans RV-6 that he and his wife Judy completed last century (1995).

After Bill recalled many of the amazing stories that occurred during so many years we finally got around to the business part of our meeting and held an

election of officers for next year. The results are:

Bob Aardema – President

Kevin Mazer – Vice President

Ron Ryan – Secretary

Bill Wilson – Treasurer

Also, Dan DeVillers accepted an appointment as Webmaster and Ginger DeVillers agreed to continue her work as director of our Young Eagles events. These six EAA Chapter 221 members will also serve as the Board of Directors of the chapter for the year 2022.

**Upcoming Events: Next meeting will be at the AirZoo, 7:00pm, Wednesday Dec 8.**

**Not Dec 1.** We have to break from our tradition of always meeting on the first Wednesday of the month due to another event already scheduled at the AirZoo.

Also – Save the Date – We will have our annual Holiday Season dinner meeting on Saturday, January 15 at the Main Street Pub in Vicksburg.

Happy Holidays,

Bob Aardema, EAA Chapter 221 President

## Next meeting:

Wednesday Dec 8

7:00 PM

🔔 **Not Dec 1** 🔔

**AIR-ZOO** Like No Place Else on Earth!

AirZoo Flight Discovery Center

[3101 E. Milham Rd.](http://3101 E. Milham Rd.)

Kalamazoo, MI 49002

Doors open at 6:30

## Coming up:

January 15, 2022

Annual Holiday Season Dinner

Main Street Pub

[208 E Prairie St](http://208 E Prairie St)

Vicksburg, Michigan 49097

5:30 'till 9:00 pm

Unless otherwise specified, our chapter meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Airzoo Flight Center Classroom on the west side of the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek International Airport.

## Photos from our Last Meeting

Master pilot award for Bill Walbeck.



**Congratulations Bill!**



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## **Ray Scholarship update**

### **First SOLO!**

Gavin Johnson is our newest Ray Scholarship recipient. Gavin started his aviation journey in the 6th grade in-school program with Ginger DeVillers, CEO of Plainwell Aviation and STEM Academy (PASA)

He has continued with his aviation interest, and on Tuesday November 11, 2021 completed his first SOLO. His flight instructor, Ryan Epps, is a graduate of Purdue University, but we try not to hold that against him. Ryan says that Gavin has a lot of background knowledge and absorbs everything like a sponge but it is sometimes hard to tell if Gavin is excited or not. Gavin is very low key.

This summer Gavin was able to fly with a former PASA classmate, Luke Edgerly, who is currently a senior at the Air Force Academy and flies with their collegiate team. The flight was a great experience for both of them.

Gavin is a senior this year and will graduate in May. He is not sure of his exact long-term plans but knows that they will include flying. Gavin attends Plainwell Community Schools.



Gavin is the student in the striped shirt in this photo from the 2014 Aviation Camp at the Plainwell Airport.

### **Almost Time to Take that Checkride...**

Our other Ray Scholarship student Sara Velderman is scheduled for her check ride once again - weather has not been her friend. Her check ride has been rescheduled three times now. Sara started her aviation interest at PASA as well. She drove 2 hours each week for two years to start her aviation journey. At the time she was working three part-time jobs, attending school, and had a 3.8 GPA. She is a real go-getter and takes initiative to make sure she meets her personal goals, which are set high.



She and her mother volunteered at Air Venture last summer for the whole week. She is currently flying with L'Avion Air out of Ottawa Executive as that is much closer to her home.


Sara is also a senior this year. She has an internship set up with Duncan Aviation. Her long-term goals are to get her A&P certification.


Chapter 221  
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 (new site <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea221> )

Supporting the recreational builder/flyer with technical, social, and political news to promote flying safety and enjoyment:

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