

THE PYLON



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF EAA CHAPTER 252 OSHKOSH WISCONSIN

President's Report— David Leiting, Jr.



September is upon us, and in my opinion, it is the best month for aviation activities! The temperature is just about perfect for flying, there is still enough daylight for early morning flights, the fall colors are just starting to change, and it's always a busy month for EAA Chapter 252!

The chapter's annual corn roast will take place during the typical chapter gathering (Thursday, September 14) at the chapter hangar. Jim Casper will once again be leading the corn cooking efforts. Jim has been handling this duty for decades and is ready to pass the baton (or corn cob) on to the next willing volunteer. If this job interests you, please let Jim know at the event and he will help get you up to speed on these duties.

As many of you know, the annual corn roast used to be a fly-in event at Munsil Williams' airstrip. The event has since moved to the chapter hangar, but we are trying to bring that fly-in spirit back to the event. Therefore, members are encouraged to fly in or taxi over for the event. In addition to the social aspect of the evening, we will also present some of the annual chapter awards including the Spirit of Elo award. The first recipient of this award was Munsil Williams. You can read about the history of that award [here](#).

Saturday, September 16 will be the fall Fly-In Pancake Breakfast and Young Eagles Rally. This is one of the chapter's marquee events each year, so I hope you can attend! Not only is this event a great opportunity to enjoy aviation fellowship and share aviation with our local community, but it is also one of the chapter's primary fundraisers. As with all the chapter's events, it requires an army of volunteers to put on. If you are able to volunteer, we would greatly appreciate your time. You can view the schedule and sign-up [HERE](#).

On an unrelated note, I wanted to give a HUGE shout-out to Fred Stadler. Fred has been a committed Young Eagles volunteer pilot at Pioneer Airport for over two decades. Fred is there every day, regardless of the flight demand. His dedication is unparalleled. In late August, Fred flew his 10,000th Young Eagle! Fred is the first volunteer pilot to reach this milestone. If you see him later this month, be sure to say congratulations and thank him for all he has done for EAA.

Enjoy the month and we'll see you at an upcoming EAA Chapter 252 event!

Tailwinds,

David Leiting, EAA Lifetime 579157

September 14 Chapter Gathering

**Corn Roast And
Chapter Awards**

**Dinner: 6:30PM
Meeting: 7:00 PM**

*PLEASE BRING
A SIDE DISH OR
DESSERT*

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October Chapter Gathering

Chapter 252 will hold our annual Corn Roast this month at the chapter hangar. The chapter will provide our usual corn and lots of butter, but we will need side dishes and deserts so please bring one with you when attending. Dinner starts at 6:30 and out program will begin at 7:00. We will also present long-delayed chapter awards including the Spirit of Elo Award. Who will the recipient be? You'll have to join us to find out.

Our September gathering is also our traditional time to display member aircraft. Please plan on flying in or taxiing your aircraft over to the chapter hangar so members can view it.



August Chapter Gathering Report



Chapter members enjoyed a look at the EAA aircraft fleet at the organization's Weeks Hangar. As always there was a plethora of interesting airplanes present ranging from EAA's B-17 Aluminum Overcast (currently undergoing restoration) to an electric powered Pipistrel. At least 55 people attended, and we gained about a dozen new members at the meeting!



Ray Scholar Ike Langkau Passes Checkride

Chapter 252 Ray Scholar Ike Langkau passed his private pilot checkride on August 26. As some of you know Ike was originally scheduled to take his checkride before AirVenture. Ike

passed the ground portion with flying colors and was doing the same for the flight component when the flight had to be terminated due to a mechanical problem. It took a while to

reschedule, but once everything aligned Ike completed the remaining tasks with ease. Ike's instructor was Chapter 252 Member and CFI Doug Osterberg. Congratulations Ike!



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Chapter Member Fred Stadler Sets Record Flying 10,000 Young Eagles!

(Fred is a longtime member of Chapter 252 and serves as Treasurer. He has volunteered at most every chapter event for many years. We weren't surprised to learn that he set a record for flying Young Eagles. Thanks for all you do, Fred!)

From EAA:

Fred Stadler, a longtime EAA volunteer both year-round and at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, has become the first individual to fly 10,000 kids free of charge as part of our Young Eagles program. Stadler, EAA 37882, who began flying young people as part of the program in 2000, reached the milestone on August 26 with a flight at the EAA Aviation Museum's Pioneer Airport.

The EAA Young Eagles program began in 1992 with EAA-member pilots volunteering their time to fly kids ages 8-17 to introduce them to the world of flight. Since the first flights at the 1992 EAA fly-in convention, more than 50,000 volunteer pilots have flown in excess of 2.3 million young people.

"Fred's remarkable accomplishment is indicative of the dedication of our Young Eagles volunteers to make a difference and build the future of flight," said Jack J. Pelton, EAA CEO and Chairman of the Board. "There are so many young pilots today who got their start when an EAA-member pilot provided that first flight, igniting a spark that became a career for many. Fred and all those EAA members have earned our congratulations and sincere thanks for their efforts,



along with a call for other aviators to join us in flying Young Eagles."

Many of Stadler's Young Eagles flights came as a volunteer pilot at the EAA Aviation Museum's Pioneer Airport, a seasonal operation that recreates the feel of a 1930s airfield. Young visitors can receive a free Young Eagles flight (with parental permission) when they visit the museum during the Pioneer Airport season.

In addition to his Young Eagles flying, Stadler is a dedicated EAA volunteer throughout the year. He has also flown Pioneer Airport's Travel Air and Swallow biplanes, becoming the de facto historian for those airplanes. In addition, he volunteers substantial time during AirVenture in the North 40 aircraft camping area and is highly active in EAA Chapter 252 activities in Oshkosh.

Stadler and his late wife, Carol, received EAA's Henry Kimberly Spirit of Leadership Award in 2006 for their volunteer efforts by Oshkosh-area residents.



Ray Scholar Alayna McKinnon First Solo Celebrated

Chapter 252 Ray Scholar Alayna McKinnon made her first solo back in May but with so much going on since then we weren't able to formally celebrate the accomplishment until our August chapter gathering. Congratulations Alayna!



Chapter Member Rusty Everhard First Solo Celebrated

Chapter 252 member Rusty Everhard celebrated his first solo at our August chapter gathering. Rusty is also a member of our chapter teen build RV-12 program.



Chapter Project Featured in Local News

The chapter project to build a static display version of Steve Wittman's air racer Buster caught the attention of the local media last month. Project leads and chapter members Mike Butler and

Jim Casper are pictured and Mike is quoted about the project and the airplane that inspired it. The wings have now been fitted and fabric covering work is not too far off! The article is

available online at <https://oshkoshherald.com/2023/07/25/july-26-2023-oshkosh-herald/>

Wittman's racing plane gets a winning restoration

First version of Buster coming back to life

By Dan Roherty
OSHKOSH HERALD

Restoration efforts from local EAA chapter members are reviving some of the racing legacy of aviation legend Steve Wittman, whose name graces Oshkosh's airport while his impact resonates in the world-renowned air show convention underway this week.

Mike Butler and Jim Casper took on the hopes of Wittman's racing partner Bill Brennand, whom Butler collaborated with before he died in 2017, to restore the original "Buster" that was a rebuild of Wittman's "Chief Oshkosh" from the 1930s. Buster dominated its 1947-49 years in the

National Air Races and early Goodyear/Continental Trophy competition.

"The first year he was almost unbeatable. He won the inaugural race competing against airplanes from Lockheed," said Butler, a Chapter 252 member since the mid-1970s. "Everybody was getting into it."

Wittman was one of the top air racing pilots and race plane designers of his time while playing a major role in the emergence of homebuilt aircraft. A later version of Buster, which left the racing circuit in 1954, went to the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

Butler, who has been a pilot since 1978 and an EAA member since 1976, has restored four planes - two of them 1930



Mike Butler (left) and Jim Casper stand in front of Buster, a 1940s-era racing plane built by Steve Wittman and being restored for eventual display.

SEE **Racing plane** ON PAGE 20



Aerial view of AirVenture 2023. Can you find the Chapter 252 hangar? (EAA photo)

Wittman Airport – Oshkosh EAA Chapter 252 Pancake Breakfast & Young Eagle Rally



September 16, 2023
7:30 – 11:00 A.M.

Wittman Airport Terminal
525 W. 20th Ave.,
Oshkosh, WI 54902

FREE AIRPLANE RIDES!
EAA Young Eagles

For kids ages 8 – 17
With Parent Permission
8:30 to 11:00 A.M.

Weather Permitting

Pre-register at:

<https://youngeaglesday.org/?yereq&event=87NMclqj7>

Pancakes (all you can eat),
Sausage,
Scrambled Eggs,
Milk, Juice, or Coffee

Adults: \$8.00*

Children under 10: \$4.00

* Free breakfast for pilots of
homebuilt aircraft who fly in.

Special thanks to
Wittman Regional
Airport for hosting
us in the Airport
Terminal.

Hosted by **EAA Chapter 252**
and **Wittman Regional Airport**
Oshkosh, WI

Contact us by e-mail at: EAA252@gmail.com
Visit our web site: <https://chapters.eaa.org/eea252>



Wittman Regional Airport
Oshkosh

EAA Chapter 252

August 2023 Board Meeting Agenda

August 24, 2023 at 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CST)

Attending: David Leiting, John Forster, Christopher Gauger, Fred Stadler, Carrie Forster, Jim Cunningham, Wayne Daniels, Jim Casper, Charlie Becker, Eric Abraham, Brian Langkau

Membership report – Charlie

168 current members.

Includes 30 new members, 6 of whom joined in the August meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Fred

Over \$70,000 net after expending Ray Scholarship funds.

Waiting for check from Waco for \$700.

Monthly Gatherings – David

September: Corn Roast

Help with food

Jim Casper would like someone to begin taking over the corn roaster role after his ~40 years of supervising that activity. Someone can help him this September to begin easing into the role.

Corn should be ready shortly after 5:00 PM, no later than 5:30 PM. Once the corn is ready, it will be easy to keep warm.

Need a volunteer to grill as well.

Hamburgers and/or brats.

Brian L. can help out.

Youth build members and their parents could also help?

Grilling starts at 5:00 PM.

David will pick up beverages beforehand.

Plan for ~60 people.

Encourage people to fly in, like with past corn roasts?

Spirit of Elo and Chapter Service Award presentations

Only time we'll be doing awards this late in the year, due to schedule conflicts earlier this year.

John Forster will present the awards since David will be out of town.

October: TBD

Pancake Breakfast Planning – Joe/Brian

Joe Sonnleitner will order supplies from Kwik Trip and Perkins tomorrow (8/25). He'll be unavailable for the day of the pancake breakfast.

Brian L. will take care of inventory and other supplies.

New banners?

Brian can get some new banners made up.

What do you want to write on them?

Simple banners are fine. Nothing elaborate. It would mention the pancake breakfast on Saturday and the times and that it's at Wittman terminal. No specific dates, so we can reuse these for future events.

New banners would be \$180 from local businesses. Can also be ordered online for cheaper prices (e.g. \$50 for a 2x4 or 3x5 banner).

VistaPrint could do a 2x8 banner for \$60.

Need more volunteers.

Send notice to recruit more volunteers in the Pylon and at the September gathering.

We have a canopy to protect the grills from rain.

Promotion

Facebook

David will request a ChapterBlast for the event.

Carrie will get our event added to the Flying Hamburger Social website.

Young Eagles – Carrie/John

September 16

17 kids pre-registered so far. 7 pilots. Several ground volunteers.

We'll order restaurant-style pagers and try those out.

Carrie will let the KOSH tower know about the rally.

Chapter insurance in place for YE rally and pancake breakfast.

Another EAA Girls on the Fly Event in October.

EAA 252 will provide YE flights for the girls.

Ray Aviation Scholarship/Other Scholarships – Carrie/David

Ike

Trying to schedule with DPE to finish last part of checkride. Hoping to finish in final week of August.

Weather has been an impediment to his recent flying.

Alyana

Accepted to UND (it was first-come, first-served for applicants, so there was stiff competition). It was her first choice.

Dual cross-country completed.

Getting ready for written exam.

Rusty

Soloed and is now flying regularly.

\$3,500 from chapter has been exhausted.

Teen Build/RV-12 updates – Carrie/John/Eric

Build sessions restarting Wednesday, August 30.

Ike, Alayna, Rusty, and all the other kids will be returning. 10 kids currently in the project, with 6-7 showing up regularly.

Several kids on waitlist. Hesitant to add more people right now since we have enough work for current participants.

Eric will be ordering miscellaneous items from Van's.

Holiday Party

Solidify Date

Saturday, December 9

Thursday, December 14 (Monthly Gathering Date)

Saturday, December 16

Begin looking at location in September/October

Hangar

99's Request – November 11 at 11 AM.

Backup for the group's monthly meeting, since their usual location will be unavailable.

One of the lines going into the thermostat, on the exterior of the building, may have been clipped. Need someone to check it out. John Forster will check it out the next time he's at the hangar, and could fix the line depending on its location.

Get a licensed electrician to wire the new lights? We have the supplies.

Charlie will check with someone who could wire the lights and get him in contact with Wayne.

3 rows of 3 fluorescent light fixtures each are currently on the hangar ceiling. Replacing with LED lights. 4 rows of 3 LEDs each were hanged already.

Strategic planning

Either during a board meeting, or set up a standalone meeting.

Monthly Gatherings:

| 2023 Chapter Gatherings | Topic/Presenter |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Thursday, September 14 | Annual Corn Roast and Chapter Awards |
| Saturday, September 16 | Pancake Breakfast & YE Rally |
| Thursday, October 12 | TBD |
| Thursday, November 9 | TBD |
| Thursday, December 14 | TBD |
| | |
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| | |
| | |

Chapter 252 Hangar

817 W 20th Ave

Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54902

Find Us Online!

www.eaa252.org

www.facebook.com/EAA252

Join the 252 Family!

Annual Membership (Calendar Year) Dues are \$20(\$10 for partial year, July - December). Student Memberships are \$10. Dues in the amount of \$20 can be given to:

Charlie Becker
3975 Sharratt Drive
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Renew your membership online from home at: <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea252/join-renew>

The Pylon is the monthly newsletter of EAA Chapter 252 and is published monthly. Digital copies are emailed to each chapter member. Hard copies are mailed upon request to those without email access. Current and past copies can be accessed from the chapter website at www.252.eaachapter.org. If you have submissions for the newsletter, please send to editor Jim Cunningham no later than the 20th of each month preceding the issue month at jlcunni6@yahoo.com. Submissions received after the 20th will be included at the editor's discretion in the next month or held for a future issue. Submissions in either Word or similar format, and photos in .jpg format are appreciated.

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