

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF EAA CHAPTER 252 OSHKOSH WISCONSIN
STEVE WITTMAN CHAPTER

President's Report— Carrie Forster



Things are moving along in our preparations for our Teen Build Project. We have had many volunteers come forward (there's still room for more, if you'd like to join) and had a successful informational session for prospective participants.

We do have room for a few more teens, so if you know someone else that you think might be a good fit, please have them email me at aaa252@gmail.com and I can give them more information. Our target age group is 13 - 17. No building experience necessary, just a willingness to commit to regular participation in the project, work hard, ask questions, and build relationships.

We don't have a start date set yet, but we're looking at sometime in April. We plan to have work sessions on Wednesday evenings from 6 - 9 pm and two Saturdays a month from 9:00 am to noon. As the project progresses we will add sessions from time to time, but we'll be able to work with participants to set those session times. We are hoping to complete the project in about two years.

I am also extremely excited to announce that our chapter has been chosen to receive a 2022 Ray Scholarship. We are looking for applicants between the ages of 16 - 19. Click the link [HERE](#) for scholarship eligibility requirements. The scholarship funds up to \$10,000 toward the cost of a private pilot certificate. Applicants should possess or be able to acquire a student pilot certificate (link [HERE](#)) and a third class medical (search for an FAA medical examiner using the link [HERE](#)).

Applicants should complete the Google form application [HERE](#). Finalists will be interviewed by the chapter scholarship committee. The applicant selected by the committee will then complete an application for EAA for the Ray Scholar program. That application includes an essay, a recommendation, the student pilot certificate, and the third class medical.

Any questions about the scholarship program can be directed to me at aaa252@gmail.com.

Here's hoping that spring is on the horizon and we have some good flying weather in the coming weeks.

Blue Skies,

Carrie

**March 10
Chapter Gathering**

Topic: My First Airplane Project

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

Location: Chapter 252 Hangar (see back page for address)

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March Chapter Gathering

EAA's Tom Charpentier, Government Relations Director, recently began an airplane project, his first. To learn what it is and more about the project, come to our March 10 chapter gathering! (Be sure to ask about Tom's cool 1930s vintage Delta DP 220 drill press (still going strong).

Join us at the chapter hangar! Dinner at 6:30 and meeting at 7:00 PM.



February Chapter Gathering Report

Chapter members enjoyed celebrating Chapter 252 Ray Scholar Forrest Drews' first solo. The occasion was, of course, marked with a traditional solo shirt tail cutting performed by Chapter 252 President Carrier Forster. The event was accompanied by the serving of cake, which most chapter members agreed was at least 300% sugar but was delicious. Afterwards chapter CFIs Eric Abraham and Jim Cunningham gave a presentation on

flight reviews and how instructors may approach them as well as knowledge and flight areas often covered in them.



EAA Flight Training Scholarships Available

EAA Flight Training Scholarships



Do you know someone who dreams of becoming a pilot or wants an additional rating? Tell them to apply for an EAA scholarship!

Through many generous donors, EAA awards more than \$1 million in aviation scholarship money via various programs each year.

[Learn More](#)

The scholarship deadline is June 1, 2022.

CHICKEN WINGS®

BY MICHAEL AND STEFAN STRASSER



Courtesy of Mike and Stephan at <https://www.chickenwingscomics.com/>

Ray Scholars Update

Unfortunately there's not much to report from either of our two Ray Scholars this month due to weather and various regulatory delays. Forrest Drews has only had one opportunity to fly since his first solo. A combination of instructor and flight school issues have, along with winter weather, kept him on the ground. We anticipate that these issues should be resolved in the

near future, however, and look forward to hearing about Forrest's continuing progress.

Jarrett Schiedemeyer, meanwhile, is pretty much ready to solo but his progress is on hold due to continuing issues in obtaining his 3rd Class medical certificate, which has unfortunately been stalled for several months now. We are looking into various avenues

to get the situation resolved so Jarrett can proceed with his flight training. Hopefully we will have some good news in the near future.

As Carrie reported in her column this month, Chapter 252 has been selected for another Ray Scholarship. See her report for additional information including how applicants age 16-19 may apply.

Chapter Members Meet in Florida

A number of Chapter 252 members escaped the Oshkosh winter by visiting warmer climates, some for extended durations! Gary Geisler managed to escape for a few weeks and caught up with longtime chapter members Jim and Evie Kress, who are staying in the Lakeland area, home of Sun N' Fun.



Member Plane Profile: Gary Geisler's SportCruiser

Jim Cunningham
Newsletter Editor

Almost two decades after the creation of the Sport Pilot license, many of the best aircraft for that rating continue to come from overseas where they were designed for similar European categories. One of the most popular models hails from the Czech Republic company Cruiser Aircraft, whose SportCruiser continues to roll out of the factory.

In 2009, chapter member Gary Geisler was shopping for a light sport airplane after encountering issues with the FAA medical certification process, as many of us eventually do. The Remos he was renting here at Oshkosh at the time was nice but ran \$100 an hour. After learning that Piper Aircraft planned to bring the SportCruiser under their banner and that the product had their endorsement, "That was good enough for me!" he said. The airplane was purchased at AirVenture 2009. Then Gary went looking for partners to share in the cost of ownership. Originally planning to have a four-member group, after talking with his first two partners he decided to limit the group to three, with himself having half ownership. "I was fortunate to find 2 great partners, Jim Syverud and Mike Bennett, that have proven to be very conscientious pilots, too!"

In 2016, with a new SportCruiser dealer in Burlington (BUU) the partnership got an opportunity to upgrade to a new model. That also



Photo courtesy Gary Geisler

solved a chronic electrical problem that just couldn't be solved. Piper's Association with the airplane lasted only about a year, so this one, like his first, is officially a SportCruiser model, albeit with various systems upgrades (and a trouble-free electrical system). And, it came standard with a BRS parachute. "Passengers really appreciate the extra level of safety."

The SportCruiser is Rotax 912-powered, features all-metal construction, cruises at about 105 mph, and has a maximum gross weight of the light sport standard 1,320 pounds. Unlike many of its contemporaries, the cockpit is downright roomy and comfortable (this author's previous flight school where he instructed had once on leaseback and was the only trainer he ever never felt like a sardine in).

Some might think that light sport category aircraft make poor long dis-

tance traveling machines. Gary's experiences have proven otherwise. He is the first to admit that he doesn't reach his destination fast, but he rides in comfort in the roomy and comfortable cockpit and the airplane's autopilot makes flights less tiring than flying them manually.

Flight duration in any airplane is often a matter of personal physiological limitations rather than fuel endurance, with three hours being a comfortable limit, and the SportCruiser can easily exceed that specification.

Gary's travels in the airplane have taken him from Oshkosh to Baltimore, Maryland; Fredricksburg, Texas' famous Hangar Hotel; and to Steamboat Springs, Colorado over parts of the Rockies. With baggage weight and space being at a premium, Gary sometimes makes use of commercial shipping to send larger and heavier trip items to his destination ahead of

time or makes efforts to travel light.

Gary also uses the SportCruiser for fun local flights and participates in the Wisconsin airport passport program and is looking forward to trying airplane camping this summer. Gary frequently brings his airplane to chapter events such as Young Eagle rallies and is happy to show it to chapter members. If you're curious about this sleek LSA, he will be happy to show it to you.



Photo courtesy Gary Geisler

I looked back in my logbook for 2021, and here are the details:

- 113 hours PIC logged
- 39 trips or flights
- 15 flights with friends or visiting family
 - including 3 out-of-state flights to St Louis, Fredericksburg TX, and Hannibal MO
- 5 Eagle/Young Eagle flights
- 8 Wisconsin Passport or just-for-fun flights
- 6 practice/dual training flights
- 5 maintenance flights

On the Wisconsin Passport program, I have visited 89 airports. One of my goals for 2022 is to complete the program!

— Gary Geisler

Tom Helm's Onex Painted

Chapter member Tom Helm, who brought his freshly-completed Onex to our August chapter gathering and presented on his build, recently painted the airplane, according to online postings from Sonex Aircraft. It's one fine-looking bird!



Help Wanted!

Carrie Forster
Chapter President

We are looking for volunteers for our April 23 Pancake Breakfast. Sign up early by using this link [HERE](#) or email ea252@gmail.com.

We will also be looking for a few volunteers to help with Friday afternoon/evening set up.

We are also looking for an event co-chair to help with organizing and supervising the event day of. Come join us for a great day of pancakes, airplanes, community outreach, and fundraising.

Wittman Airport - Oshkosh Fly-In Drive-In

Aircraft on Display!

-S.J. Wittman Birthday Celebration-

Pancake Breakfast

April 23, 2022

7:30 – 11:00 A.M.

Wittman Airport Terminal
20th Ave. Oshkosh, WI

Sausage, Scrambled Eggs,
Milk, Juice, Coffee, and all
you can eat Pancakes!



Adults \$7.00*
Children under 10, \$3.00

* Free for pilots of homebuilt
aircraft who fly in.

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/73126>

Hosted by **EAA Chapter 252** and Wittman Regional Airport

Visit our web site at: <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea252>
or contact us through e-mail at: EAA252@gmail.com

Can You Identify This Inflated Mystery Plane...?

Jim Cunningham
Newsletter Editor

As I reported last month, I worked on producing large digital online collections in my former life as Digital Projects Librarian at Illinois State University. I'm continuing that work as a volunteer for the Vintage Aircraft Association working with about 15,000 slides taken by EAA's Jack Cox during his tenure from 1969-1999. About 99+% of the aircraft he photographed are identifiable and have histories that can be tracked down and documented, but there are a few genuine puzzlers. I have another one this month.

This is some sort of inflatable hang glider that appeared at convention in 1976. There's no N number, obviously, so there's no FAA record of it.

If you know what this was, or know someone who might know what this was, please contact me at jlcunni6@yahoo.com.



February 2022 Board Mtg Minutes

EAA Chapter 252

Thu, Feb 24, 2022 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CST)

Attending: Carrie Forster (President), David Leiting (Vice-President), Fred Stadler (Treasurer), Jim Casper (Board Member, Historian), Charlie Becker (Past President), Jim Cunningham (Newsletter), John Forster (YE co-chair)

Old Business:

Teen Build/RV-12 project proposal

About 7-8 interested youth and parents attended

Next steps - Carrie and John will talk with Charlie about scheduling work sessions, the kit, etc.

Ray Aviation Scholarship

Forrest Drews (Carrie)

solo

Received next disbursement of funds from EAA

Jarrett Schiedemeyer (David)

Still working on getting medical squared away with FAA; FAA has had paperwork for over 8 months; Tom Charpentier helping with contacts to get things moving

Approved for 2022!!!

Update: YE Credits \$8215

Alayna and Karver have been accepted (funding total \$2163.75)

Ike is on a waitlist (if he gets a spot, funding \$1203.75)

Funding the campers at 75%

Contact Scott at EAA to reserve a spot for 2023

Motion by Fred Stadler, seconded by Jim Cunningham to use YE credits to purchase 2 iPads for use at rallies for digital signatures and walk up registrations (EAA is moving toward paperless registration and form completion)

Monthly Gatherings and Upcoming Events

March - Tom Charpentier (My First Airplane Project)

Meal?

April - David and Serena RV-12

Pancake Breakfast and YE Rally updates

Co-chair still needed

Great start on volunteer sign ups

David will double check on food permit; Winnebago County website says none needed for non-profits who host 3 or fewer food related events per year and we have 3 (2 pancake breakfasts and 1 Flying Hamburger Social); want to confirm that one isn't needed

Event insurance is in place

IMC/VMC club updates

Radek no longer available

Need a CFI to lead the sessions

No meetings will be held until we can find someone else to lead them

Membership Renewals

Renewal pace is picking up

Reminder emails go out with Pylon

March issue of Pylon will be last one for those who haven't renewed yet

Monthly Gatherings:

2022 Chapter Gatherings	Topic/Presenter
Thursday, March 10	Tom Charpentier: building topic (title TBD)
Thursday, April 14	David Leiting and Serena Kamps: RV-12
Saturday, April 23	Pancake Breakfast and YE Rally (Wittman Terminal)
Thursday, May 12	Chapter Appreciation Event
Saturday, May 14	Flying Start (Chapter Hangar)
Thursday, June 9	<u>Behind My Wings: Untold Stories of Vietnam Vets</u> Author/Presenter BJ Prior
Saturday, June 11	International YE Day Rally (Wittman Terminal)
Thursday, July 14	
Thursday, August 11	
Tuesday, August 16	Flying Hamburger Social (Wittman Terminal)
Thursday, September 8	Corn Roast (Chapter Hangar)
Saturday, September 10	Pancake Breakfast and YE Rally (Wittman Terminal)
Thursday, October 13	
Thursday, November 10	
Thursday, December 8	

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 Doug Milius or mailed to him at:

Doug Milius
1305 Maricopa Dr.
Oshkosh, WI 54904

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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Membership: Doug Milius

Newsletter Editor:
Jim Cunningham

Chapter Technical Counselors and Flight Advisors

Technical Counselor: Lyle Forsgren, Englewood, FL, 920-589-2060

Skills: Firewall Forward: 2-Stroke, Firewall Forward: 4-Stroke, Firewall Forward: Auto Engine, Sheet Metal - Driven Rivets, Sheet Metal - Pulled Rivets

Technical Counselor: Joseph Norris, Oshkosh, 920-279-2855

Skills: A&P Mechanic, Fabric Covering, Firewall Forward: 4-Stroke, Firewall Forward: Auto Engine, Sheet Metal - Driven Rivets, Welding, Wood, Sheet Metal - Pulled Rivets

Technical Counselor: Timothy Hoversten, Oshkosh, WI, 920-426-6846

Skills: Composite, Electrical/Avionics, Fabric Covering, Firewall Forward: 4-Stroke, Firewall Forward: Auto Engine, Sheet Metal - Driven Rivets, Welding, Wood, Sheet Metal - Pulled Rivets

Technical Counsellor: George Donaldson, Fultonville, NY 12072 518-461-6636

Skills: Firewall Forward: 4-stroke, Firewall Forward: 2-Stroke, Fireward Forward: VW engine, Fabric Covering, Woodworking, Sheet Metal - Pulled Rivets, Sheet Metal - Driven Rivets, Welding