

THE PYLON



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF EAA CHAPTER 252 OSHKOSH WISCONSIN

President's Report— David Leiting, Jr.



As fall begins to fade to winter, and Thanksgiving upon us, I feel as though it is only appropriate to give thanks to all those individuals that have supported EAA Chapter 252 this year.

The Ray Aviation Scholarship has been more successful than ever, thanks to the dedication of our scholarship recipients and their CFI, Doug Osterberg. At the same time, the chapter RV-12 teen build continues to motor along very nicely. I cannot say thank you enough to the teen build volunteers, the dedicated youth, and the supportive parents that make this program possible. The energy this project has brought to the chapter is evident at each chapter gathering, when you get to meet the participants and hear about the build.

There has also been an infusion of new volunteers that have assisted with the pancake breakfasts,

Young Eagles rallies, Eagle Flights, and tasks associated with the monthly gatherings. Thank you for your efforts, no matter how you support the chapter's on-going efforts.

To recognize the efforts of the volunteers, I am excited to announce that the annual chapter banquet is scheduled for Thursday, January 11 at The Roxy Supper Club in downtown Oshkosh. The doors will open at 6pm, and we will order dinner at 6:45. The event will be held in the backroom at the Roxy. Space is limited, so we are asking that any members that plan to attend RSVP in advance. You can RSVP at [this link](#).

To close the year, the chapter board will also be hosting a special strategy session to set the direction for the chapter over the next 5 years. Topics to be discussed include further hangar expansion and plans for the RV-12 Teen Build aircraft. If you have any suggestions or thoughts for the future of the chapter, please let me know! You can email me at ea252@gmail.com.

Thanks again for your support of the chapter. I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming EAA Chapter 252 event!

Tailwinds,

David Leiting, EAA Lifetime 579157

November 9 Chapter Gathering

Presenter:
Aviation Artist
Brian Liddle
Dinner: 6:30PM
Meeting: 7:00 PM

**PLEASE BRING CHILI
OR A SIDE DISH OR
DESSERT TO PASS**

**EAA Chapter 252 Annual
Banquet at The Roxy
Supper Club.**

**Thursday, January 11
6:00 P.M.**

**Join us for an evening of
celebration as we recog-
nize the accomplishments
of EAA Chapter 252 over
the course of 2023.**

**RSVP required as
space is limited.
Email ea252@gmail.com
with any questions.**

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

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November Chapter Gathering

Aviation artist Brian Liddle will present on his work and how he creates it. Brian is known for his attention to aircraft detail and has done work for a number of aviation organizations and causes.

November's dinner will be chili... please feel free to make a batch of your favorite and share it at the meeting (no word at press time if Charlie Becker will be bringing any of his infamous "JET A" chili...). If chili isn't your specialty, please bring a different dish or dessert to pass. As always dinner is at 6:30 with our program to start at 7:00 PM.



October Chapter Gathering Report

Members enjoyed chapter member and EAA Communities Director Charlie Becker's presentation on the proposed MOSAIC rules that will enlarge current light sport regulations to cover larger and faster aircraft as well as improve and streamline the construction and flight testing process for amateur built (homebuilt) aircraft.



Jim Casper to Receive Henry Kimberly Spirit of Leadership Award

Chapter member Jim Casper is the recipient of this year's Henry Kimberly Spirit of Leadership Award from EAA.

The Henry Kimberly Award was created in 2000, when EAA President's Council member, Don Jones, made a donation to honor the spirit and volunteerism of Henry Kimberly, who was a major Oshkosh business leader and early EAA supporter to bring both the fly-in and EAA headquarters to Oshkosh. The award shows the importance of local, year-round volunteers to the vitality of EAA.

We will have more coverage of the award next month (it will be presented to Jim right after this newsletter goes out) but for now here is what chapter member (and longtime volunteer himself) Fred Stadler wrote about Jim in his nomination.

"Jim Casper has been an enthusiastic and hard-working EAA volunteer for almost fifty years. He is well known and respected within the AirVenture volunteer community for his leadership of the Flight Line Operations group and also serves EAA year-round.

A lifelong resident of Oshkosh and aviation enthusiast, Jim first volunteered at EAA's Annual Convention in 1975. He began by assisting with the

parking of transient aircraft and his role grew over the years as the North Forty Aircraft Parking group merged with the Aircraft Traffic volunteers to form Oshkosh Flight Line Operations. For several decades Jim was the chairman of this volunteer group and in 1997 his work was honored with an EAA President's Award.

Jim's volunteer contributions to EAA extend well beyond AirVenture. He has served in several capacities with local EAA Chapter 252, including as its president, and he is currently a Chapter board member leading a project to restore Steve Wittman's Bonzo race plane for the EAA Aviation Museum. During AirVenture 2018, Jim was honored with a Chapter Major Achievement Award.

Jim has also been an active volunteer at EAA's Pioneer Airport and later became a part-time employee in order to serve as its airport manager. He has since retired from that position and will continue as a volunteer.

Jim's commitment to EAA has grown to include his entire family. Jim's wife, Pauline, is an EAA volunteer



chairman, as are his two daughters, Carol Carona and Sandy Strobel. Jim's wedding date (at the end of July in 1969, well before EAA moved to Oshkosh) meant that each of his subsequent anniversaries have been celebrated during EAA's annual event.

Volunteering at EAA has been a major part of Jim Casper's life. He will be a very deserving recipient of the Henry Kimberly Spirit of Leadership Award."

CHICKEN WINGS®

BY MICHAEL AND STEFAN STRASSER



Chapter Youth Outreach Update

Carrie Forster

Young Eagle/Eagle Flight Coordinator

Acting as a catalyst to ignite the spark that is a young person's passion for aviation is tremendously rewarding and has been the driver of our focus on growing youth outreach in our chapter. We're excited by the progress we're making in supporting youth and their aviation interests.

Youth outreach takes various forms - from a single interaction such as a Young Eagle flight or related youth education event, to long term involvement and mentoring in the Teen Aircraft Build or mentoring student pilots. It provides many opportunities for mentorship on the part of members of our chapter.

We had seven Young Eagle rallies in 2023. Two of our rallies were associated with our chapter pancake breakfasts. We had good flying weather, enthusiastic volunteers, and eager young people ready to fly. We had a couple of volunteer pilots fly Young Eagles for the first time. At our September rally, we used pagers for the first time with excellent results. It made things much more efficient and professional. Multiple parents/guardians commented on how professional the event was with the computerized check in system, digital signatures, and pagers. In addition to those rallies, we held three rallies in June. In early June, we had a small rally for the teens involved with our Teen Aircraft Build. This took place on one of our regular Wednesday work nights, and we had gorgeous weather. We had enough volunteer pilots so that all of the teens got a 1:1 flight and they all went up at the same time. On International Young Eagles Day, we held a rally at the Wittman Terminal in conjunction with a Warbird Squadron 32 event. A little later in June we held another YE Rally that was a stand alone event.



In addition to our more typical YE Rallies, our chapter volunteered to provide flights for EAA's Girls on the Fly event in April and October. Participants had a full day of events in store for them at an event that was free to them thanks to the generosity of multiple sponsors. The April event was during the NAFI competition, but we had a plan with the tower to make our flights work. Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate with us. In place of the flights, our volunteer pilots did a cockpit crawl with aircraft in the Jack Mark Hangar. Although everyone was disappointed that we couldn't fly, the girls were very enthusiastic and engaged while exploring the aircraft with their mentor pilots. The next Girls on the Fly event was Oct. 21. Once again, we were plagued by poor weather and low ceilings. This time, our back up plan was to teach the girls about aspects of preflight. John and I taught our session at the Education Center, which is where the rest of the event took place. It wasn't as much fun as flying, but it was still a great experience.

In addition to our chapter rallies, we have many active Young Eagle pilots who provide individual flights throughout the year and who also volunteer at other chapter rallies. We are excited to provide these one time opportunities to young people who are interested in flying, but we were also looking at ways to provide mentorship and support to students on an ongoing basis. Our Teen Aircraft Build has been a great opportunity to provide that ongoing engagement with aviation. The teens in our build are all interested in various aspects of aviation. They come together each week to learn how to work together and how to build an airplane, but they also learn about flight training and aviation opportunities. They are building skills of collaboration and working on a long term goal. The older students mentor the younger ones, and the students who are flight training provide insight to their younger peers about what is entailed in pursuing a pilot's license. We currently have a waitlist for teens for this program and recently were



able to take one student from the wait-list and add her to the build group.

The teens are currently working on the fuel tank and seatback for the RV-12iS. The fuel tank has been an interesting aspect of the project because learning to work with the fuel tank sealant has involved a lot of new skills for the teens and even working with the timing of the curing of the sealant within the amount of time of our build session has been a learning experience. In addition to the fuel tank, we've been working on the cockpit and fuselage. Each week we have two or three teams working on different tasks. One of the strengths of having teens involved in this build is to learn to work on a project over time. As mentors, it is rewarding to watch the growth of these teens over time. We have great mentors who come and work with the teens each week and as I think I've said before, I really love the multi-generational interactions among the mentors and teens. You can follow our progress on the EAA Builders Log (link [HERE](#)).

We have several students who are currently in flight training. In addition to our Ray Scholars Ike, who recently completed his PPL, and Alayna, who is



getting ready to complete her cross country flights and nearing checkride prep, we have our chapter scholarship recipient Rusty who is a current student at FVTC in the pilot program and is flying with Doug Osterberg and another member of our teen build, Noah, who recently completed his first solo flight. Noah also attended EAA Advanced Flight Academy this past summer. Ike and the three student pilots are all active members of the teen build and have been involved since we started in August 2022. Our newest teen build member is only 14 but is already taking flying lessons at Discover Flight. We have several other younger teens in the build group who are also interested in learning to fly. All of the teens have commented that while they enjoy the build, they also enjoy having a place to go where they have peers who are as interested in aviation as they are. In addition to the teens expressing their appreciation for having support from peers and mentors in their aviation goals, many of the parents have also expressed their appreciation to the chapter and the mentors for being

a resource for the parents. Most of the teens in our group are first generation aviators and their parents have come to us for guidance in terms of flight training resources, post-high school planning and options, and also growing their own understanding of aviation and the aviation community so that they can support their children's interest in aviation.

One of our goals for 2024 would be to host a half day or one day workshop for teens interested in aviation. In order to do this, we would need some additional volunteers. If you are someone who would be interested in working with young people for a half day or one day event, we'd love to have you join us. The date is TBD once we make some more plans and find more volunteers.

All of this happens because of the support of our chapter. We have many fantastic volunteers - both in the air and on the ground - that help support young people in our community. We appreciate all of you!

EAA Chapter 252

October 2023 Board Meeting Agenda

October 26, 2023 at 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CST)

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

Membership report – Charlie

172 members at the moment

Treasurer's Report – Fred

Broke even in 2023

\$79,000 in bank account

\$61,000 in account

\$17,000 in CD

Matures end of January/February

\$6,700 income

Teen build expenses wiping out income

Monthly Gatherings – David

November

Speaker: Brian Liddle, talking about his aviation art

Food: Chili

Jim will add a note to the *Pylon* for members to bring chili

December

Speaker: Jakob Brouillette, talking about his Army helicopter training

Food: Taco Bar

Future events

F-35 pilot from Volk Field ANGB

Newsletter Editor

Transition from Jim Cunningham at end of the year.

He will continue to contribute written content.

Explore using Mailchimp for newsletters?

Essentials plan is \$13/month for 500 contacts and 5,000 emails/month.

Free plan is for 500 contacts and 1,000 emails/month

Consider having a backup/assistant newsletter editor in case the primary editor is unavailable. Jim Cunningham can help with this.

Newsletter needs to be sent to members by 9 AM on the second Monday each month. New editor needs to be aware of this tight schedule.

Mailchimp could let you schedule in advance.

Brief IMC Update – David

Working with EAA on monthly event at EAA PPC for chapters

Ray Aviation Scholarship/Other Scholarships - Carrie

Alayna – Written exam completed and now working towards cross country training.

Rusty – Got spot at Fox Valley Tech and preparing for the written exam.

Noah – Teen build participant just soloed!

Discussed funding for 2024 Ray Scholarships.

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

New addition to the group. She is doing fantastic!

Looking for donors to help support the project. Advanced enough in project to show off to potential donors.

Holiday Party/Banquet – David/All

Fox River Brewing Company

Possible Dates - January 11 or 12

Discover Flight

More date flexibility – Catered by LaSure's

Roxy?

Mineshaft?

Delta Restaurant?

Proposed 2024 Event Dates

Spring Pancake Breakfast

April 6 (Steve Wittman's birthday is April 5) or April 20 (Chapter Leadership Academy in Oshkosh)

Flying Start – May 18

International Young Eagles Day – June 8

Fall Pancake Breakfast – September 14

Planning Meeting - Set Five Year Priorities

Hangar Expansion, RV-12, Scholarships, Finances, Chapter Roles and Duties/succession planning

Date Options

Saturday, December 16

Invite board, Dennis Moehn, Kyle Voltz

10 am to 2 pm

Airport Board Room

Hangar

Current hangar rental rate for aircraft storage is \$185/month

Jakob and Serena Brouillette asked to store a Wittman Tailwind project in the hangar.

For Meeting

Rough Expenses for RV-12iS

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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Skills: Tailwheel