

THE PYLON



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

President's Report— Carrie Forster



I'm reaching out to our members because the board is exploring the possibility of starting a teen build project. This project would provide the opportunity for about 12 - 15 teens between the ages of 14 - 18 to build an actual airplane. We may have access to a donated kit (RV-12) and engine; however, before we can pursue this opportunity further, we need to determine if we have enough volunteers and participants to make this happen.

There are a number of chapters who have undertaken successful teen build projects. We've been reaching out to learn more about other chapters' experiences and learn from their successes.

John and I have volunteered to be the project leaders. **The crucial next step is finding 4 - 6 additional chapter members to join us as mentors for this project.** Mentors would commit to being at build sessions (we are looking at Saturdays from 9 am - 3 pm from September thru June to follow the school schedule; if the board decides to proceed with the project, we would hope to start this winter in late January or February). Mentors also need to complete the pilot protection certification for EAA. (If you're a Young Eagle pilot, you've already done this. Anyone working with youth is required to complete the pilot protection program. It involves a background check and completion of an online course taking about 30 minutes.)

If you are interested in volunteering, or might be interested but would like further information, please contact me at eee252@gmail.com or 920-540-6432.

We will also be looking for teens to join the project. They need to be between the ages of 14 - 18 and be ready to commit to attending build sessions regularly. No aviation or building experience is required. They need not be chapter members, so if you know of a teen that you think might be interested, please pass along the information. I'll send out more information about how teens can apply once we get a bit further in this process. Teens are welcome to email me if they're interested (eee252@gmail.com) and I'll reach when I have more information.

This is a really fantastic opportunity for our chapter and we're hoping it is something we can move forward with.

See you at the gathering on Thursday!

Blue Skies,

Carrie

December 9 Chapter Gathering

Guest Speaker: Dick Knapinski, Director of Communications, EAA

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

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

PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESSEERT (CHAPTER WILL BE PROVIDING SLOPPY JOES)

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December Chapter Gathering

EAA Director of Communications Dick Knapinski will be our guest speaker this month. Dick will give us a recap on AirVenture 2021 and give us a look ahead into AirVenture 2022. He will also talk about the museum expansion that is underway and what is planned for the future.

Dinner starts at 6:30 PM; program starts at 7:00 PM. Chapter will provide Sloppy Joes for dinner; please bring a dessert or side dish.



November Chapter Gathering Report

Christopher Gauger

Chapter 252's monthly gathering was held on Thursday, November 11. Around 40 members attended, in-

cluding the chapter's three Ray Aviation Scholars: Sonja Karner (on a short break home from UND), Forrest Drews, and Jarrett Scheidemeyer. The dinner served was chili: six pots

of homemade chili*, giving attendees a great opportunity to sample different recipes from our members. It was an appropriate meal for a cold autumn day.



Dinner was followed by a presentation from Radek Wyrzykowski, EAA's Flight Proficiency Manager, about IMC/VMC Clubs. Radek explained why he established these clubs and how they help pilots fly more safely and effectively in IFR and VFR conditions. He described his own pilot experiences that inspired him to set up these clubs, including a flight shortly after receiving his Instrument Rating

where he encountered unexpected hazardous weather. After explaining what the IMC/VMC Clubs do and what resources they offer, Radek then hosted an abbreviated IMC Club session with the chapter members. He presented an IMC scenario (based on a real-life incident) and challenged the pilots at our gathering to figure out how they would handle the situation.

In addition, Chapter 252 will be re-starting its IMC/VMC Club, and Radek has agreed to lead our club.

Thank you to Radek for a great and insightful presentation!

Chapter 252 Winter Party

Saturday, January 22, 2022

Our chapter Winter Party is back! We hope you can join us on Saturday, January 22 for our annual Winter Party. We have booked a private dining room at the Oshkosh Elks Club. We are looking forward to once again enjoying this social event and we hope you can come. Guests are more than welcome.

Oshkosh Elks Club (map link [HERE](#))

175 W. Fernau Ave.

Oshkosh, WI 54901

Cost: \$25.00 per person (payable by cash or check to EAA Chapter 252)

Menu: buffet style meal with broasted chicken, ham, mashed potatoes

Cash Bar

Private Dining Room

Cocktails at 6:00

Dinner at 7:00

Awards at 8:00

Members and their guests welcome.

RSVP [HERE](#) or email ea252@gmail.com.

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BY MICHAEL AND STEFAN STRASSER

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

Chapter 252 VMC/IMC Club Meeting

VMC/IMC

Wednesday, Jan 19, 2022

Leadership classroom -
EAA

18:00 Local (6 PM)



Longtime Wittman Airport Operations and Maintenance Manager Retires

Longtime Wittman Regional Airport Operations and Maintenance Manager Pete Rausch retired November 12. Airport Director Jim Schell congratulated Pete for a job well done.

Pete is a lifelong resident of Winnebago County and has dedicated the majority of his career to service at multiple departments within the county. Upon completion of vocational training in metal fabrication, hydraulic system, and automotive repair, Pete began working at Advance Lifting Systems and Island Excavating. His experiences with commercial construction and manufacturing have aided him greatly throughout his tenure in both the public and private sectors.

Pete began his career with Winnebago County in 1991 as a mechanic and equipment operator at the Highway Department. He also spent time working on multiple projects in the paving division of that department. Pete brought his strong work ethic to Wittman Regional Airport in 1995. For more than 20 years, Pete has worked and progressively taken on additional responsibilities at the airport, earning a promotion to his current position in 2016. Pete oversaw the Operations & Maintenance Department at the Airport, being directly responsible for various



capital improvement projects and the day-to-day operations of the airport.

Welcome New Members

Doug Milius Chapter Membership

Chuck Eichinger -Chuck lives in Oshkosh and is currently restoring a Mooney M20J. Chuck has his PPL with instrument rating. Welcome Chuck!

Dennis Miller-Dennis moved to Oshkosh in 1989 and started a Service-Master business. Dennis is also a member of Chapter 41 and was a member of 252 and 444 in previous years. Dennis volunteers at Air Venture every year and would like to help us with our fund raising projects. He has owned a Quicksilver, Kolb, Mariner, Titan and currently owns a Sonex. He has also been in-

involved in building 3 different hangars at Brennand Airport. Dennis also like to hunt, fish, travel and spend time on the water. Welcome back Dennis!

Member Profile: Eric Abraham



Eric earned his instrument, commercial, and CFI ratings, and recently completed a multi-engine rating... with his multi engine instructor rating being his next project.

Not content with just earning ratings, Eric decided to learn about homebuilding and perhaps build his own airplane. A coworker at Mercury Marine was building an RV-7, and Eric offered to assist to gain some experience. It worked. After assisting with construction, he offered to paint the airplane in return for splitting expenses and flying it once it was completed. With access to a faster airplane that was unimpeded by club scheduling, Eric began to take longer trips by air, including Sun 'N Fun.

When you do good work, word gets around and it wasn't long before Trace Blakely contacted Eric about assistance with his RV project. Eric agreed to help, and the lure of a climate-controlled shop and an offer to have another airplane to have access to didn't hurt. This being the second project he was involved in, it was easier and the result was impressive enough to make chapter member and DAR Joe Norris suggest they fly the result to AirVenture and get it judged. Those plans came to a halt when the XP-382 engine was recalled on a mandatory buyback and the two had to

wait to get a new, IO375 engine. Another year was lost when the pandemic canceled AirVenture 2020, but finally this year the airplane won a plaque for Kit Outstanding Workmanship.

After being involved with two RV-7 builds, Eric set his eyes on an RV-10, but his eyes were bigger than his wallet. However, when his build partner Trace began making comments about insurance and other expenses for his Twin Comanche becoming too high, Eric noted that an RV-10 would make a good replacement—it would be about as fast and much cheaper to operate. Thus began another build partnership that is ongoing... the aircraft structure is mostly complete, as is much of the avionics work. The plan is to have the airplane completed in about a year.

If all this isn't enough, Eric is a past Young Eagle Coordinator (four years) for Chapter 252, as well as a CFI for the Winnebago Flying Club. Eric says that perhaps the biggest lesson he learned from going all-in on aviation is importance of volunteering and giving back to it. He is the first to admit that without assistance and opportunities provided by others that he wouldn't be where he is today, and that he sees giving back—be it volunteering with the chapter, helping students learning to fly, or assisting builders with their projects—as an obligation. We look forward to seeing what Eric has planned next.

Despite growing up in Oshkosh and attending AirVenture for years, it wasn't until he took the controls of a Sundowner in 1998 that Eric's interest in aviation was realized. He sold his boat and started flying lessons at Valley Aviation in Cessna 150s and 152s. The school closed shortly after he finished his training, and Eric joined the Winnebago Flying Club.

By 2011 Eric had more time to devote to flying and made the decision to go "all-in" on aviation. And boy did he!

Ray Scholar Update

Forrest Drews EAA Chapter 252 Ray Scholar

Well, I'm getting closer. I have 15 hours of flight time in and 1 more ground school to complete. Currently, I have been working on pattern work and fine tuning my landings. I have a virtual meeting coming up with the Fox Valley Technical College to see what changes they have made with their program

and how it effects my position on their waiting list for my post secondary school. Lately, I have been working on researching and filling out aviation scholarships. I still really enjoying flying. Hopefully by the time you read this, I will be a few days away from my solo!



October 2021 Board Mtg Agenda
Tuesday, November 23 at 6:00 p.m.
Virtual - GoToMeeting

No meeting minutes available.

Board Meetings:

2020 Board Mtgs	Location	Confirm Date?
December 21 (TUESDAY_	virtual	DATE CHANGED FOR XMAS

Monthly Gatherings for 2022 (Special Events highlighted in yellow - dates need to be confirmed.)

2022 Chapter Gatherings	Topic/Presenter
Saturday, January 8 (date?)	Holiday Party (Roxy? Other?)
Thursday, January 13	
Thursday, February 10	
Thursday, March 10	
Thursday, April 14	
Saturday, April 2 or 9? (Sun N Fun April 5 - 10)	Pancake Breakfast and YE Rally (Wittman Terminal)
Thursday, May 12	
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 (tentative date - need to request)	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	

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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 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.

Chapter Officers & Board of Directors

President: Carrie Forster
920-540-6432
forster@new.rr.com

920-233-5660
jim.kress@att.net

920-205-3349
drmilius@sbcglobal.net

Vice-President: David Leiting, Jr.
262-914-4278
davidleiting47@hotmail.com

Past-President: Charlie Becker
920-573-3381
sonex450@gmail.com

Young Eagle Coordinator:
John Forster
ea252ye@gmail.com

Secretary: Serena Kamps
av8rharpist@gmail.com

Board Member: Wayne Daniels
920-410-0107
wedan444@sbcglobal.net

Young Eagle Coordinator:
Serena Kamps
av8rharpist@gmail.com

Treasurer: Fred Stadler
920-303-5582
stadler@att.net

Chapter Historian & Board Member:
Jim Casper
920-460-0858
jiminoshkosh@gmail.com

Eagle Flight Coordinator:
Serena Kamps
av8rharpist@gmail.com

Hangar Manager: Jim Kress

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