
CAA Chapter 32 News

The official publication of Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 32 - St. Louis, MO (Jim Bower, Editor)

January, 2025



Another great holiday party facilitated by Bob and Patty Murray. Many thanks to these tireless folks for providing us with a great evening.

Newsletter Contributions and Deadlines

Anyone wishing to submit articles, advertisements, rants, etc. to the newsletter should send them to your friendly editor on or before the Tuesday ahead of the scheduled meeting. Send contributions to newsletter@caa32.org.

November Meeting Minutes

Dave Deweese



November's meeting began with the Pledge, Bill Doherty presiding.

Visitors: Matt Lombard, who's involved with helicopters and has attended some of our Young Eagles event prior to this meeting.

Bob T checking, savings, PayPal, and Ray Foundation account balances. At the Open House we made \$2872 gross, 1730 profit from food sales: better than in the last two years. We have some leftover frozen hotdogs and some boxes of chips we'll sell at cost.

Bill reports that the pancakes sold well.

October YE: we flew 57 including a number of "frequent flyers" (or "repeat offenders"). Our Explorers and Ray Scholars are regular volunteers.

Ray scholars: Marco's preparing for his mock check ride. Anna is fighting a requirement at Elite for a 90% score on a practice test before they'll let her take the written. Lauren's in college and will finish in May.

Explorer Scouts: thanks Bill D. for arranging a meeting space at Signature. At the last meeting around 50 attended, next event was Dave's walkaround, after that a Gulfstream event. The scouts got to sit in a \$100,000 seat that will go in a new jet. They also heard stories of painting and repainting custom schemes, and learned how they keep personalizing information, like N numbers, off until right before the customer picks up their plane. Libby arranged a visit to the Bonne Terre space museum. She's impressed by the additions to the Grissom center since the last time she visited. Earl had invited us to visit as a chapter and is willing to visit a meeting - he has an unassembled hang glider that Jim invited him to bring along. Next Wednesday they'll be at IH0 to visit the Gateway Youth hangar. Volunteer advisors are always welcome.

New Business:

Holiday banquet 12/7, starting at 4:30 at Creve Coeur like last year. Cathy Babbis will be there to talk about her flying tour around Australia. Let Bob know if you'll be attending.

Lee Lawson has a box of notebooks from his working day including information about airplane design, another is a NASA report on handling qualities of light airplanes.

If you're interested, let him know. Lee asks if Ray scholars need an instructor for written exams.

A meeting on the 20-year plan for the airport took place last week. The state and county are planning for future state and possible expansion - infrastructure, flood control, possible grass strip, fuel farm with jet-A, water and sewer. The last time this happened was in 2002. One issue is lack of awareness of the airport, even though it's 15-20 minutes from 370 and 94. They discussed an event where airport organizations would invite people from the parks department. Jeff: if you're a hangar tenant here please respond to the survey you received. Discussing expansion, they mentioned buying property to the south of the airport where the ground is higher, so new hangars could go there. The plan could take over a year to develop. Bill mentioned access to/by firefighters - this would be a bigger issue with a bigger airport. Spirit has a dedicated vehicle for this that lives on the airport.

Should we be providing numbers to the parks department around Young Eagles we fly and merit badge participants?

Non-aviation events at the airport: Cannot shut down the runways - FAA will take issue.

Question for next year: YE restarts in April, monthly with some private events. Is our volunteer base happy with this? Do we want to expand or contract, or do more outreach events?

Ken: work party 2 weeks ago. We recognized the crew who got the metal up on the west wall. Bob Clarks did the welding. Because everything is palletized now it took 20 minutes to get equipment moved away from the wall. Late February/early March we'll have another work party to clean out the attic. Spring is better for a yard sale so that's a better time to get rid of saleable items. The additional space can be used to store our library for future floods.

Question: have we ever invited Zenith to the Fall Open House?

Elections: President (Jim Hall), Secretary (Jennifer Skikas). Jim emphasizes succession management. 1 Class II director (Doug Killibrew). Note typo in by-laws around even/odd years. Dave Doherty notes long tenures of some of our officers. Note that outgoing president becomes a Class II director. We voted by a show of hands, elected both. We will have a vacancy for vice president - Ken Derks as interim VP? The board approves.

Note: dues are due (\$40).

We'll have a quick break, then Matt will talk about helicopters.

As you just read in the minutes, Jennifer Skikas has succeeded Dave Dewese as our chapter secretary.

Here are Dave and Jennifer demonstrating the proper secretarial uniform.



Announcement: EAA Chapter Leadership Training - Boot Camp will be co-hosted by Greater St. Louis

The EAA Chapter Leadership Training Boot Camp is coming to St. Louis on March 8th, 2025. EAA Chapters 32 and 1675 will co-host the event which will be held at the Wings of Hope Facility at Spirit of St. Louis Airport. EAA Chapters 64, 864 & 1387 have also expressed interest in helping to partner for the EAA training event.

After discussions with EAA's Christopher Gauger (Chapter Field Representative) and local STL chapters, March 8th, 2025 is the best fit for the greater St. Louis area EAA Chapters to have a Leadership Boot camp. In addition, EAA Director of Chapters, Charlie Becker, is a native of St. Louis and will be available to attend the boot camp on this date.

Thanks to John Heilmann, President of Chapter 1675, who confirmed that we can use the Wings of Hope facility at the Spirit of St. Louis Airport for the Saturday leadership boot camp. We'll likely have a catered dinner and speaker on Friday night in the Wings of Hope facility.

EAA Chapters 32, 64, 864, 1387 & 1675 have let us know that there are no other scheduling conflicts on that date. Thanks for working with us to select the best date. We're all looking forward to the leadership camp!

Homebuilders Week – Online Event Starts January 27th

30 online sessions to expand your knowledge of building your own aircraft

By Charlie Becker, EAA Homebuilt Community Manager

Homebuilders Week is an online opportunity to carry on the founding mission of EAA by sharing as much knowledge and information about building your own aircraft as possible in five days. We start on Monday, January 27th, 2025, and end on Friday, January 31st, 2025. Each day, we offer six live webinars running back-to-back, starting at 11:30 am central time and running every hour and a half until the last session at 7pm central. The sessions are live and allow time for questions. To sign up for the sessions, visit www.EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek

The topics cover something for everyone, whether you are just considering the idea of building an aircraft, are knee deep in a project or getting ready for test flying. We even have EAA president Jack Pelton lined up on, January 30th, to talk about EAA's Advocacy efforts on behalf of the homebuilt members.

EAA Homebuilders Week follows immediately after the anniversary of the founding of the Experimental Aircraft Association on January 26th, 1953. I can't think of a better way to recognize our organization's founding than to spend 5 straight days learning about homebuilding.

EAA Homebuilders Week is made possible through the generous sponsorships of Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Co., Dynon, Scheme Designers, and Van's Aircraft.

Visit www.EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek to sign up.

Ultralight/Light Sport Symposium

Thanks to Paul Smith for the information. This event is going to be on February 22, and here is the website for further information.

<https://www.aerocareers.org/ss.htm>



Homebuilders Week Schedule

January 27 - 31, 2025

To sign up: EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek

Time CST	Monday 1/27/25	Tuesday 1/28/25	Wednesday 1/29/25	Thursday 1/30/25	Friday 1/31/25
11:30-12:45	Building an Aircraft: What You Need to Know - Charlie Becker	Wiring Basics - Dick Koehler	Flight Testing 101 - Paul Dye	EAA Advocacy Update: Top Homebuilding Issues and the Impact of MOSAIC - Sean Elliott, Rob Hackman, & Jack J. Pelton	Staying Alive: Analysis of Homebuilt Fatal Accidents - Dave Nelson
1:00-2:15	Sheet Metal Basics - Mike Dooley	TIG Welding - Charlie Becker & Shaun Walker	Composite Construction - Mark Forss	Amateur-Built Aircraft Certification Process - Joe Norris	Liability of Selling Your Homebuilt - Kathy Yodice
2:30-3:45	Fabric-Covering Basics - Nate Hammond	Getting Your Project Finished and Flying - Vic Syracuse	Buying a Used Homebuilt - Vic Syracuse	Sonex Highwing Update - Mark Schaible	Zenith Aircraft Kits & Plans - Sebastien Heintz & Roger Dubbert
4:00-5:15	The Need for Speed: Kitbuilt Options - Dave Forster	Hardware for Homebuilts - John Cox	Advanced Flight Systems - Rob Hickman	Garmin Experimental Avionics Solutions - Brad Breensing	Weight and Balance - Joe Norris
5:30-6:45	Panel Planning and Wiring - Marc Ausman	Dynon Avionics - Michael Schofield	Engine Selection Basics - Dick Koehler	Gas Welding - Budd Davisson	Working With Wood 101 - John Egan
7:00-8:15	Rotax 9 Series Installation & Operation - Phil Lockwood	Designing the Perfect Paint Scheme and Its Impact on Budget - Craig Barnett	Data-Driven Diagnosis of Engine Issues - Mike Busch	Van's RV Aircraft Kits - Greg Hughes	Common Builder & Maintenance Errors - Vic Syracuse

Sponsored by



Learners as We Go

“Wrapping up the Last Days of 2024

And Saying

Happy New Year to 2025”

mr. bill

The EAA 32 Holiday Party was a great evening of fellowship with our special guest speaker, Cathy Babis who talked about becoming the first woman to circumnavigate mainland Australia in an Icon seaplane. WOW! But first, who IS this woman?

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=AcxmuV4TcbQ&feature=shared>

With 490# payload in the seaplane, Ms. Cathy shared how she traveled with 17 pounds of clothes for the trip. Here is the mighty ICON A5 LSA Seaplane



Also, that evening the torch was passed from outgoing President Bill D to James Hall. Though Bill was looking for the EXIT sign in the building after this handshake, we are thankful for his great work in front of the group and ALL THE WORK behind the scenes of EAA 32 and with the Aviation Explorer Post 9032 members to have their meeting at the Signature Aviation Building at Spirit Airport, Chesterfield, MO, where Bill manages the FBO ramp.

Another “end of the year” item was my trip up to Iowa to take my “new to me” hot air balloon for its annual inspection. The Ma & Pa shop owners I visited are the leaders in the balloon industry, and I wanted to meet these fine people and have my balloon inspected by them. These people had me literally INSIDE the balloon checking every fabric panel (all 12



Transition of leadership at the Holiday Party

of them) to check for cuts, burns, unusual wear patterns and chafing.



This is how to check in ‘inside’ of the balloon

The good news is the Annual inspection on the Hot Air fabric went well with a few patches sewn onto the worn areas of the balloon. Fairly normal.

Another “end of the year” project was the Condition Inspection of my Evans Volksplane 1 flying machine.

This beauty is a 1972 plans-built Volksplane 1 that needed some TLC and a few updates to the fuel system. Because it was based at a southern Louisiana airport that is known for mud daubers in the area, it needed a thorough inspection. And WHY class do we do a thorough inspections???



aft left side of the cockpit. When I touched both posts with the wrench a **little spark** arched across the posts! **WOW!** Still a little electricity in that battery from 2010 according to the markings on the battery.

The ELT battery had the same 2010 date on its case and when I went to test the operation of this device it too actually worked and sent out a weak signal. That is the fun thing about EXPERIMENTAL aircraft, you just never know WHAT you might find, and WHERE you are going to find it in the aircraft. And HECK, it still may work!

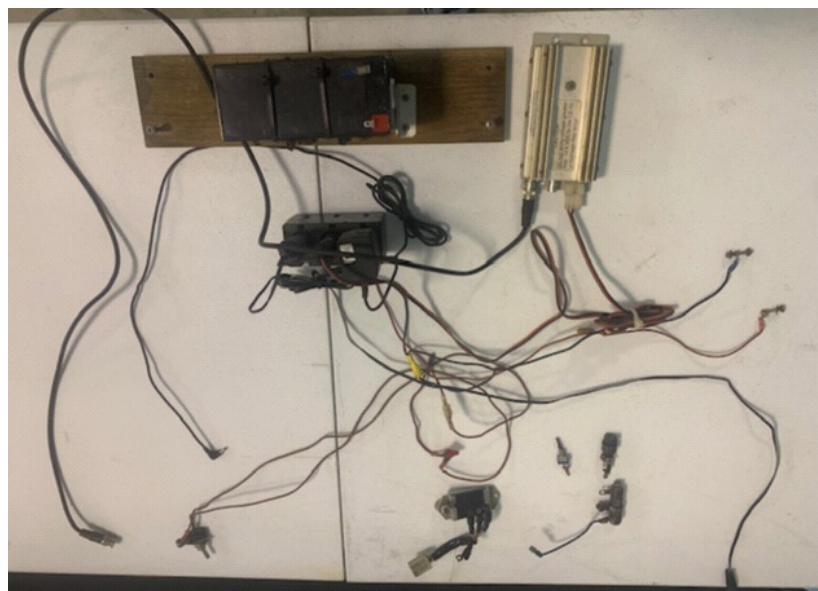
Vic Syracuse is always finding aircraft coming through his shop with SWITCHES but NO LABELS!

Though I did fly it up from the south Louisiana airport, and I did notice this little switch near the right gusset of the cockpit, **I HAD NO IDEA THAT IT WAS ATTACHED TO ALL THIS STUFF THAT WAS BEHIND THE COCKPIT SEAT, UP AGAINST THE REAR WOODEN BULKHEAD OF THIS WOODEN AIRPLANE!!**



It is an EXPERIMENTAL electrical system that is a classic 1970's set up that we had in our cars that ONLY had an AM radio.

What we have here is a black battery that is being charged by a generator armature installed around the flywheel of the type 1 Volkswagen engine. Those generator wires went to a makeshift diode, then to a potentiometer, then to the ON/OFF switch at the right side of the cockpit (top left of photo.) Then the wires traveled to a splitter that had three aux plugs. One for the radio amplifier, one to charge the black radio control (RC) battery, and one to charge the handheld radio. Now mind you, I found this out when I went to loosen up the battery charging posts: the two brass screws on the



SOME SAD NEWS

A former member of [EAA 32](#), Chuck Coleman, from the early 1990s who was an aero engineer, passed away last year. He worked for several companies, including McDonnell Douglas, Bede Jet Corporation, and Scales Composites. He test-piloted aircraft such as the BD-10, BD-12, and the ICON A5. He was the chase pilot for SpaceShipOne's first flight in 2003. Chuck also trained the actors for the Top Gun: Maverick, movie. He lost his life while flying in an airshow that was over rough terrain. The tough part in doing airshows over a non-flat surface like that it is SO difficult judging your HEIGHT above the terrain. Sadly, it was shown by using the previous day's video, that his airplane did not reach the same altitude to start the maneuver this day, causing him to not have sufficient altitude to complete the airshow maneuver.

Chuck Coleman



Coleman in 2019

AND IN BIG AIRPLANE OTHER NEWS!

The South Korean aircraft that had a bad landing heading back to the runway, LOOKS LIKE TO ME (IMHO) the crew, while flying the approach, started a **“GO AROUND”** and raised the **“FLAPS (UP)15*”**, **“POSITIVE RATE, LANDING GEAR-UP.”** At 1,000 feet above ground, **FLAPS UP!** Typical training thing to do. BUT THEN someone decided that they COULD make it to the runway and made a fast attempt to get down to that runway, ONLY TO REALIZE THAT, they were too fast for the initial approach.....so, let's turn this thing around by doing a quick 180 degree turn and LAND THE OTHER WAY!

(Hey, we did put the gear DOWN. And the FLAPS. BEFORE!....But we also did a **GO AROUND**, since. So, where are we now in this flight???)

In the training department we called flying like this **“ACTING LIKE JOHN WAYNE.”** This was a PERFECT time to continue the climb out up to altitude, and as FAA man Fred Harms would say, **“Wind your watch,”** and take the time to figure out a PLAN. Mainly figure out WHAT YOU HAVE AND DO NOT HAVE and find the checklist for the situation you are dealing with and FOLLOW THE PROCEDURE!

AND IN BETTER NEWS

[EAA 32's](#) “favorite daughter” was in town for school semester break, so she wanted to take some friends up for an airplane ride. Here is a picture of the [EAA 32](#) ARC building. How these people got in the way of the picture of the building, I do not know. I am sure you can see it in the background.



Alrighty! Let us have some fun this year and brush up on the books during this **COLD** weather spell we are having to deal with right now.

Guess who else is practicing flying right now?

<https://youtube.com/shorts/2HAVaQ0OFhY?si=iceM7vt9HLOdx5PL>

Q? What is the cost of an ICON A5 seaplane?

A: The base price for the aircraft is \$409,000

Q? How many Cirrus jets have been built since 2008?

A: 600 jets have been built AND SOLD.

Q? What is the cost of a Cirrus Vision SF50 jet?

A: Starting cost is around 6 million dollars.

Yokosuka MXY7 Ohka Model 11



In keeping with my presentations of odd weapons used in World War 2, one of the ones that captured my imagination is the Ohka ("Cherry Blossom") flying bomb. The allies dubbed it "Baka", which means "Fool" in Japanese. When I was a kid, I thought this was the only Kamikaze weapon used by the Japanese. It was actually less used than a variety of other aircraft that were loaded with explosives and sent out against allied shipping. It lacked range, so it needed to be carried to the vicinity of the targets by the slow and cumbersome "Betty" bomber.

Here's a link to a YouTube video that gives you some insight into this desperation move. I hope you enjoy this. **Jim Bower**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAWG32L0SrE>

Photo by Max Smith

Holiday Party 2024

Photos courtesy of Lisa Miano





Aviation Explorer Post 9032 Activities Update for January, 2025

Jim Hall, AE Advisor

Note: Chrissy Kujawa, the Lead Advisor of Aviation Explorers Post 9032, will be stepping down as lead post advisor at the start of summer. She has excelled in her leadership position as the AE lead advisor and will be wrapping up through July by coordinating the AirVenture AE Post 9032 attendance for all members going to the EAA event.

We are looking for someone else to be lead post advisor! This role is mostly about coordinating our existing and awesome advisor team to help officers plan events. If you are interested in this leadership role or know someone who is interested, please let me know!

It would be great to have someone in place before the start of June for an easy transition. It has been a lot of fun working with this group of advisors and students the last 3 years.”

– Chrissy Kujawa Email: ckujawa@aepost9032.org

Thanks Chrissy for all you’ve have done to lead and inspire our many aviation explorers. We all wish you the best in your future endeavors! – AE Post 9032 Advisors

2025 Proposed Schedule:

January 15	6:00 PM visit to Elite Aviation Flight School at Spirit of St Louis Airport (SUS)
February 5	Cathy Babbis - guest speaker SUS held in the Signature Aviation Meeting room
February 19	Visit to St Louis University; wind tunnel & aviation program information
February 22	Ultralight and Light Sport Safety Symposium @ SWIC Granite City – Open attendance
March 5	Visit to EAA 32 Aviation Resource Center (ARC) – proposed presentation re: Vans RV 12 aircraft upgrade project located at St. Charles County Regional Airport (Smartt Field)
March 8	9:30 AM visit to Florissant Valley Community College - Sheet Metal/Composite Programs Advanced Manufacturing Center
Date TBD	Pre-AirVenture Virtual planning meeting
March 19	TBD - Spirit of St. Louis tower tour? Or TRACON? TBD
April 2	4:45 PM Boeing Augmented/Virtual Reality Lab Tour
April 17	Gateway Youth Aviation Foundation – Simulators Creve Coeur Airport
May 3	Soar into STEM Career Fair at Wings of Hope at SUS
May 7	Speaker + AE Officers Elections (+ Aviation Jeopardy) Signature Aviation at SUS
May 21	Metro Police helicopter pilot + tour? TBD at SUS?
June 7th	Youth in Aviation Event at Creve Coeur Airport; sponsored by GYAF
June 14th	Scott Air Force Base STEM Expo being held at Scott AFB – open attendance
July 21-27	EAA AirVenture - Aviation Explorer Posts Camp

Completed activities, end of year 2024:

- December 18th, Wednesday Movie Night at Signature Aviation
- December 4th, Wednesday SWA Commercial Pilot Stephanie Maugham at Signature Aviation
- November 9th, Grissom Space Museum Tour; 118 E School St, Bonne Terre, MO 63628
- November 9th, Aviation Explorer Post 9032 at the Wings of Hope ‘Soar into STEM’ Career Fair
- November 6th at Gulfstream Completions Center Tour
- October 26th St. Charles County Regional Airport (Smartt Field) Open House
- October 23rd Pre-flight Check and Airplane Familiarization: first event of the year; a pre-flight check on an Piper Saratoga aircraft @ Spirit of St. Louis Airport
- **October 16th Aviation Explorer Post 9032 Kick off and Open House in the Signature Aviation FBO (Fixed Base Operator) facility at Sprit of St. louis Airport (SUS). 50 people attended!**

Aviation Explorer Post 9032 members, advisors and parents have participated in these activities this past year:

Participated in EAA Chapter 32 Young Eagles Events held at St. Charles County Regional Airport. Open Attendance Mt. Vernon, IL Midwest Aviation Expo. Aviation Explorer Camp at EAA AirVenture 2024.

2024 Spirit of St. Louis Air Show & STEM Expo. AE Launching rockets coordinated with the St. Louis Rocketry Association at Buder Park. Astrophotography (Astronomy Photography) presentation by Peter Seddon and astronomer Mr. Jim Roe. Attended Star party viewing with St. Louis Astronomical Society at Francis Park. Tour of Air Evac Helicopter Headquarters and Simulator Training Facility in O’Fallon, MO. Hosted Navy Recruiter Speakers at Boeing Prologue Auditorium (a Boeing P8 Poseidon Anti-submarine Warfare Aircraft Pilot and a U.S. Navy Nuclear Machinist’s Mate SS; Submarines). Creve Coeur Airport; Historic Aircraft Restoration Museum tour. Open Attendance IUAC Ultralight/Light Sport Symposium held at SWIC; Granite City. Polysonic Wind Tunnel Tour at Boeing. Panel discussion on flying by Pilots (Aircraft Owner/CFI/Airline Captain and Student Pilot speak on Flying). Pete Seddon of STL “Gateway” TRACON (Terminal Radar Approach Control) presentation.

(Note: see previous EAA Chapter 32 archived monthly Newsletters for detailed past AE activities)

ABOUT POST 9032

Aviation Explorer Post 9032 is an established career exploration program based in St. Louis, MO. Part of the Greater St. Louis Area Council, ‘Learning for Life’ program. AE Post 9032 is a chartered youth group with advisors and support from Chapter 32 of the Experimental Aircraft Association and additional advisors with aviation related interests. Virtual Advisor and Officer Meetings each month go over event planning.

General Meetings are held in the Signature Aviation FBO (Fixed Base Operator) facility at Sprit of St. Louis Airport (SUS) 18250 Edison Avenue; Chesterfield, MO. 63005

Additional links to AE Post activities are listed below:

<https://www.facebook.com/aePost9032/>

<https://www.instagram.com/aePost9032/>

Tentative dates for Aviation Explorer Post 9032 meetings and activities are on the website calendar:

<https://www.aePost9032.org/>

The AE post officers once again have a lot of great ideas and activities lined up for the future.

Proposed Agenda: Each month the usual schedule (flexible around other activities with some events being held on another day or in a different location):

1st Wednesday; 6-7pm **General Meeting in the Signature Aviation FBO (Fixed Base Operator) facility at Sprit of St. louis Airport (SUS) 18250 Edison Avenue; Chesterfield, MO. 63005**

2nd Wednesday; 6:30 & 7pm Post Officers and Advisors Virtual Online Meetings

3rd Wednesday; 6-7pm Guest Speaker or offsite Activity (day/ date subject to changes)

EAA Chapter 32 2025 Calendar of Events

Jim Hall, Chapter 32 President

January

- 18 EAA Chapter 32 gathering/ meeting will be at Smartt Field - St. Charles County Airport Terminal (Administration) building; Dennis Wiss (Airport Manager) will talk about the St. Charles County Regional Airport Master Plan

February

- 15 EAA Chapter 32 gathering/ meeting will be at Smartt Field - St. Charles County Airport Terminal (Administration) building – speaker TBD
- 22 44th Annual Ultralight & Light Sport Aviation Safety Symposium; Granite City, IL event is open to all and breakfast/ lunch is sold by EAA Chapter 64

March

- 8 EAA Chapter Leadership Boot Camp hosted by Chapters 32 & 1675 @ Spirit of STL Airport in the Wings of Hope facility (dinner banquet & speaker for Friday evening on 3/7/25)
- 15 EAA Chapter 32 gathering/ meeting will be at Smartt Field - St. Charles County Airport Terminal (Administration) building; Pete Seddon (TRACON) will be guest speaker

April

- 1-6 Sun 'n Fun; Lakeland, FL
- 12 EAA Chapter 32 Young Eagles event
- 19 EAA Chapter 32 gathering/ meeting will be at Smartt Field in the Aviation Resource Center (ARC)

May

- 10 EAA Chapter 32 Young Eagles event
- 13-18 EAA Flying Start event during EAA Learn to Fly Week
- 17 EAA Chapter 32 gathering/ meeting will be at Smartt Field in the Aviation Resource Center (ARC)

June

- 7 Gateway Youth Aeronautical Foundation event at Creve Coeur Airport – EAA Chapter 32 invited to participate
- 14 EAA Chapter 32 Young Eagles event & EAA International Young Eagles Day
- 14 Scott Air Force Base Open House & STEM expo
- 21 EAA Chapter 32 gathering/ meeting will be at Smartt Field in the Aviation Resource Center (ARC)

July

12 EAA Chapter 32 Young Eagles event

19 EAA Chapter 32 gathering/ meeting will be at Smartt Field in the Aviation Resource Center (ARC)

21-27 EAA AirVenture; Oshkosh, WI

August

9 EAA Chapter 32 Young Eagles event

16 EAA Chapter 32 gathering/ meeting will be at Smartt Field in the Aviation Resource Center (ARC)

30-31 Wings of Pride Airshow w/ Blue Angels; Branson, MO

September

4-6 17th Annual Midwest Aviation Expo; Mt. Vernon, IL

13 EAA Chapter 32 Young Eagles event

10-14 National Championship Air Races & Air Show; Roswell, New Mexico

20 EAA Chapter 32 gathering/ meeting will be at Smartt Field in the Aviation Resource Center (ARC)

27 CAF Hangar Dance; Smartt Field

October

11 EAA Chapter 32 Young Eagles event

18 EAA Chapter 32 gathering/ meeting will be at Smartt Field in the Aviation Resource Center (ARC)

25 St. Charles County Regional Airport Open House & Pumpkin Drop

- o EAA Chapter 32 Open House

November

15 EAA Chapter 32 gathering/ meeting will be at Smartt Field in the Aviation Resource Center (ARC)

December

6 EAA Chapter 32 Holiday Banquet - TBD

About “YOUR” EAA Chapter 32 and Smartt Field

- Jim Hall

The 1st three EAA Chapter 32 general gathering/ meetings are scheduled to be held in the St. Charles County Regional Airport Terminal (Administration) building for January, February & March @ 10 am on the third Saturday of each month. We’ll enjoy the auditorium setting as we think about how we want to best continue to use and enjoy the Aviation Resource Center (ARC).

On January 18, Dennis Wiss (Airport Manager) will talk about the St. Charles County Regional Airport Master Plan. We’ll have a brief business meeting following the presentation for those who want to stay a little longer.

We’re in the midst of planning a birthday party at Smartt Field – date to be decided upon. Stakeholders at the airport have exhibited an interest in celebrating the anniversary of the airport. While we’re at it, we’ll acknowledge other aviation birthdays: Records indicate that EAA Chapter 32 was formed in February, 1956 and the CAF’s B-25 recently turned 80 years old as well. It’ll be fun to celebrate this kind of longevity.

History of St. Charles County Regional Airport – Smartt Field:

In January 1941, the Navy at St. Louis's Lambert Field began full primary training. Since Lambert was a very busy airport, also being used by the Army and the manufacturers, inexperienced student pilots were not allowed to solo. The Navy traveled 11 miles north and eventually purchased several hundred acres from Ruth Neubeiser. An initial \$250,000 was spent building a 2,000 ft. octagonal mat, a hangar, and barracks. Navy flight training students were organized into two units - the port and starboard wings. In the morning, one wing would fly while the other attended classes and other activities. In the afternoon, it was the opposite. Students were bused to and from Neubeiser for their solos. A considerable number of aircraft were kept at Neubeiser as well as ground crewmen who serviced the aircraft and lived there. The facility was later renamed **Smartt Field** in honor of Ensign Joseph Smartt, who was killed in the Japanese attack on NAS Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii on December 7, 1941. He was the first St. Charles County resident to be killed in the conflict.

In 1957, the federal government deeded the airport grounds, then consisting of 184 acres, to the City of St. Charles and St. Charles County. The City subsequently released their portion in 1976 to the County.

Today, the airfield is approximately 312 acres with over 1.5 million square feet of paved surface. In 2020, the airport's name was changed to St. Charles County Regional Airport – Smartt Field Airport to reflect both the [Federal Aviation Administration \(FAA\)](#)'s and the State of Missouri's designation of SCCRA as a regional airport.

Some early History of EAA Chapter 32 and the Aviation Resource Center from the archives of “EAA Chapter 32 News.

All of the excerpts are from the [Current-Archived Newsletters](#) off the EAA Chapter 32 Website. To see the photos and more good info take a look online and enjoy.

October, 2001

“The hangar keeps on getting better! Maybe next year we will be having our meetings here! Meanwhile, don't miss the October meeting on Sunday the 28th. This will very probably be the last meeting of the year at Smartt.”

Note: this newsletter includes a great photo of the steel framework of the ARC before covering.

May, 2002

“Windblown, Soggy, and Undaunted.”

“Here's a recent photo of our Aviation Resource Center (ARC - not ARK). Last month's meeting was cool and windy, and it's been raining almost in Biblical proportions, but our building keeps growing. Join us on Sunday, May 26 at 2:00 for another meeting in our new facility. Hopefully, we can leave our jackets at home!”

Note: the article shows another great photo of the ARC partially covered with siding.

March, 2003

“ARC is moving along. The steel holding tank will have to be removed and a concrete septic system will replace it. Work on the system will resume when the weather warms and the ground is not so soft. There was some discussion about creating walkways to the ramp area and from the parking lot using paving bricks and landscaping the ARC. More discussion on that when the weather cooperates.”

“B-17 COMES TO ST. LOUIS Chapter 32 will host the B-17 "Aluminum Overcast" July 3rd-6th at Spirit of St. Louis Airport in Chesterfield. Bob Rockford will be in charge of the event and as usual, volunteers will be needed. Watch the newsletter and website for further information.”

Note: no ARC photo this time, but the ‘volunteerism’ and camaraderie that is shown in these archived articles must have been just as exciting then as it is every time we get together today.

Looking at the calendar for 2025; we've got a pretty busy season coming up this year. It'll be great to spend time together as we share our common interests in aviation and having fun.

One more reminder about signing up for the **EAA Chapter Leadership Boot Camp** coming up on Saturday, March 8 (actually includes a banquet & speaker for March 7, Friday evening as well). This is a condensed version of the extended EAA chapter leadership and informational course offered in Oshkosh.

EAA Chapter 32 is co-hosting this event with EAA Chapter 1675, including participants from EAA Chapters 64, 864 & 1387. It will be held in the Wings of Hope facility at Spirit of St. Louis Airport. It's a great way to learn more about the inner workings of EAA and how they help chapters to organize themselves and the events they host.



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