



Above it All

February 2022

EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 327 - DUBUQUE IA USA

www.327eaachapter.org www.facebook.com/EAA327/

From The Desk of the President



Lots going on in the last month considering the cold and windy weather.

I have heard from reliable sources that Marty McNamer and Jeff Spahn passed their instrument check rides after taking a brief but intense flying refresher and test prep course just before the check ride. Congratulations to them!

I spoke with CFII Mike Nickeson recently about starting up the IMC Club again now that Covid is less of a threat. Let's plan a meeting for instrument pilots or those in training, or even just interested, for the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Airport Terminal Conference Room where we have great projection equipment.

Carl Rigdon was a very active member of our EAA Chapter in the 1970's, 80's and 90's until poor health slowed him down. He passed away a week ago Thursday morning and was buried after visitation and a Navy memorial service on the following Wednesday. Many of our long time members, Lyle Hefel, Bill Fitch, Dean Wollaston and Nick Hirsch remember him well. Carl's son Willy recently joined us, and sent an email describing how important EAA was to his Dad and how the flying hobby led to his career of flying cargo in Boeing 747's. Willy recently restored his Dad's 1940's Taylorcraft. Please see the article he wrote commemorating his Dad and photos of them and Willy's partner and EAA member Erin Kennedy working on the plane restoration.

Carl was able to fly in this new/old plane last November. Though he walked with difficulty, he got into the Taylorcraft for a last ride around the patch. Thanks to Willy and Erin for making that happen. Sorry for your loss, Willy. I trust your Dad is in a better place and that we'll be able to be together with the ones we love again someday.

Treasurer Brett Pearce has completed the transition of our financial record keeping system to QuickBooks online. He sent out invoices to those who owe dues for 2022, so please respond if you wish to remain a

member. We hope to continue providing programing and fellowship for fellow pilots and those interested in aviation. Please join us in the fun and companionship again this year and try to make time for even a few of the activities. Thanks to Brett for his efforts.

There was a fantastic and energetic program in January by Hannah Sickles of the Kelch Museum in Broadhead, WI on the "Golden Age" of aviation featuring the aircraft in the museum collection. Joe and Linda Weber prepared a feast and there was lively conversation before and after the program. Our program for February will feature a video on air safety subject with the usual fine fellowship.

Good news on the RV-12is youth build project. I delivered and have picked up all the fiberglass parts from the paint shop. The painted parts are on display in the EAA hanger waiting for reassembly. We are making plans to take the wings up, and then fuselage and canopy for painting. The color is a bright white with grey interior and a black spinner. We're planning some sort of colorful ribbon or pinstriping in vinyl for an accent. Then will come an effort to form a flying club, or to sell it to support youth pilot training.

Oh, if you recall how I was limping around in December and after an MRI told I needed a hip replacement, everything has changed. It took three weeks to get an appointment to discuss the surgery, and in that time, things began to improve. The surgeon said to forget surgery and continue to swim. I'm to come back only if I can't walk. First time I have been aware of avascular necrosis of hip reversing itself. I'm grateful!

Fair skies and tailwinds, everyone.

Chuck Weber,
EAA Chapter 375 President



January Meeting Program



Tribute to Carl Rigdon



How does one pay tribute to someone that has given them so much? That answer will be varied for everyone mulling this around as they read this. But one answer for me was to get Dad back in the air in the Taylorcraft that is a huge part of his life and for that fact a huge part of mine as well.

Dad purchased the aircraft in April of 69 telling everyone that asked “how he could afford an airplane “that was easy.... I just quit smoking”. That is where it began with one addiction leading to another! The airplane just had a fresh recover job done a few years prior and Dad says it sat long enough in its hangar in Richland Center that they had to cut down a small tree first to get it out. The late and great Bill Hanley taught Dad and so the legacy began.

Since Dad bought me in 1966 and the airplane a few years later(which one is the better deal is still to be determined) I grew up in this incredible community and have so many lifelong memories the people and the travels deriving from this endeavor. The airplane spent it first few months at DBQ until Dad and Charlie Jenkins could build a hangar on the home property and establish Rigdon International Airport-WI84. Once moved there Charlie also built his hangar where he made home for a 41Tcraft followed by a Champ and also a Tri-Pacer. Needless to say I grew up in the air a lot. Almost every Saturday and Sunday were spent heading back up to Richland County-Sextonville, for breakfast and/or lunch....like a Lab us Rigdon's are highly food driven! When food wasn't a priority it would be to bounce around to see Charlie Russel, Joe Weber, Hal Heller, and anyone else that had a runway and a story to tell. His favorite flying is just to be flying particularly in the calm summer's evening just before the sunsets.



When I became of age to get ready for solo Dad is the one whom showed me the ways of making the Taylorcraft work out of 1000' and Bill Hanley gave me my first endorsement for solo. Followed by Lyle Hefel recommending me for my checkride.

The airplane was getting to the point it needed to come apart and be recovered and had not been annual for a few years prior to me taking the wings off in early 2000.



Fast forwarding to 2019 Dad signed the registration over to me and Erin Kennedy and myself began the process of a complete restoration. Mice had used the spars as a chewing board so Erin and I completely dismantled the wings, installed new spars, reprimed all the metal parts and reassembled. The same held true for the fuselage as well.

When it came to recovering the incredible talents of Erin shown once more! She read the book, watched the video, personally watch one pass of a needle by Ryan Johnson and she was a master!!! So Erin recovered and stitched the Ailerons, rudder, elevators, and horizontal stabilizers. Because of time I hired the Johnson brothers to recover the wings and fuselage.

The airplane first took flight on October 18,2021 and Dad was finally able to soar in it again on November13, 2021.

This endeavor is not only a tribute to Dad, preserve the aircraft, but also a tribute to Erin's grandfather Robert Kennedy . Mr Kennedy was an instructor in the Army Air Corps in 1917 flying a Curtiss Jenny, served as a Air Mail pilot, was a stuntman in a Houdini movie -“The Grim Game”- where he was involved in a midair collision between two Jenny's while he was hanging on a rope. His calling card was “The Aerial Tramp” and I proudly honor him on the rudder tab!

The EAA and this chapter was such a huge part in Dads life for all the above reasons and many more. It's very telling of the quality of people involved in this organization and to the addiction we have to these planes to give us such great memories.



Ray Scholar Report



Hi, my name is Alana Duggan, I am the current Ray Scholar for Chapter 327. My sister Ahna and I are both RV- 12 build participants. She just finished her private pilot checkride. I am a senior at Wahlert Catholic High school where I am working on getting the FAA written portion done for my private pilot license.

My life is busy. I recently won the girls state wrestling championship in my weight class. I am working through the Kings ground school course, and most often when I have questions I will call my sister for explanations and help.

Every other day from 9:45- 11:00am I am given quiet library time to study and work through my chapters. I am currently working my way through chapter three and will take my FAA written test in the spring at the end of the semester.

Come summer I plan to start my actual flight training and work 3-4 day a week in the air until my checkride.
- Alana Duggan

Hanger Locks and Heat

One of the members texted me that he found the EAA Chapter hanger unlocked and the heat on recently. I have personally come into the hanger and found heat on three times in the last month. I may have left it on myself on one of those occasions. Our security cameras show people coming and going in the hanger from early morning to late at night, even up to midnight. I am so glad it is being utilized and that the sim is getting so much use.

However. . . Treasurer Brett was talking with the airport book keeper, Cheryl Sheldon recently, and she noted a \$700 gas and utility bill for the last month. Brett mentioned that gas prices have nearly doubled this year over last in our defense. Cheryl said we ran a \$500 deficit last year, and it was determined we as a chapter provided that much service to the airport. They would like us to break even, I am sure, with expenses and our rent netting out.

Please be aware of and responsible for turning off the lights and especially the heat when you leave the building. The arrangement we have with the airport is that we, the EAA Chapter members, promote aviation, volunteer for airport activities, encourage new pilots, and fill hangers and sell aviation fuel. In return they provide us with a place to meet at very attractive rates. We are on a month to month lease, and I hope not to jeopardize our relationship with the airport. In the past I have spoken with the airport manager and commission members, and they have been really pleased with our activities and say to just continue doing what we are doing.

Before our lease was signed, I heard from a past tenant that they had a heating bill of \$1,500 for one cold month in the winter. I was afraid that kind of expense would be impossible for our Chapter to absorb. The airport has included utilities in our very reasonable rent, but we don't want to make them reconsider. The thermometers should be set at 50 when we leave so we hopefully never have frozen pipes.

When in the hanger, if for the sim, just heat the sim room. If group activities are in the hanger, moving the heat up to 60 is OK for a few hours. If heating bills seem excessive, we may have to lock the thermostats at 50, or raise dues to cover the bill.

Thankfully, in summer months there is nearly no gas bill, so it averages out, but still, please be attentive to reasonable utility use. The airport has agreed to plug the leaks they can identify around the hanger doors. Thanks to everyone for your understanding and cooperation.
- Chuck Weber, President

Chunkie Chocks Travels



For those of you who remember Flat Stanley and Flat Stella (they were drawings of a flat boy and girl, and school projects involved sending them around the country and world for photos, to be returned to the sender for presentation at school, I thought you would enjoy this little story and photos.

When Hannah Shickles, our speaker from the Kelch Museum, flew in with her instructor in a Cessna 150, they asked for chocks to secure the plane against the helicopters coming and going next door. I gave them a set of Jet Center chocks and our special bright yellow chocks labelled N744AN made by Bridger after finishing the RV-12is.

When Hannah left she mistakenly threw the nice, new chocks into the 150 thinking they belonged to the airplane(it was dark). Perhaps our chocks were feeling the need to travel. The next day I couldn't find our nice new chocks, but the old Jet Center ones were there. I texted Hannah and she said yes, she took them and would get them back to us.



The following week or two after she took another cross-country flight with her instructor and dropped them off. I got them the following day and send a note thanking her. Then I got an email with several photos showing where our missing chocks had been. I laughed out loud and texted Hannah to ask if she was familiar with Flat Stanley and she said she was, so I proposed naming the RV-12 chocks Chunky Chocks. We had fun laughing together about the chocks adventures and I thought to share them with you. . . - Chuck Weber

Local Calendar of Events

For many other Aviation Related events, visit the following websites. Click on the following links. Will only list events submitted to the editor and other most local events here.

[EAA Aviation Calendar of Events](#)
[AOPA Calendar of Events](#)
[Iowa DOT Office of Aviation Calendar](#)
[Wisconsin Fly-Ins and Airshow Event Calendar](#)
[Fly-Ins.com Calendar Website](#)
[Fun Places to Fly Website](#)
[Social Flight Calendar](#)
[Midwest Flyer Magazine Calendar](#)



Tuesday, February 15, 2022 Chapter Meeting

Location: EAA Chapter Hangar 88

6:30 PM - Dinner and 7:00 meeting

Program: Aviation videos for fun & education



Chapter Website: www.327.eaachapter.org
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EAA327>

Send event information on those activities that would interest the membership. Will be delighted to include any information on aviation related activities, fly-in breakfasts, etc. e-Mail your information to Bob.Woodward312@gmail.com.

EAA CHAPTER 327 OFFICERS

(Effective January 2022)

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**EAA Chapter 327
IMC Club**

*"To promote instrument flying,
proficiency, and safety"*

Meets: 7pm, 2nd Thurs of month
 Location: Dubuque Airport Terminal
 Conference Room

For more information contact: charlesbweber@me.com

We would like to make you aware that as always, in past, present, and future, any communications issued by Experimental Aircraft Association, Chapter 327, regardless of the form, format, and/or media used, which includes, but is not limited to, "Above It All" and audio/ video recordings is presented only in the light of a clearing house of ideas, opinions, and personal experience accounts. Anyone using ideas, opinions, information, etc. does so at their own discretion and risk. Therefore, no responsibility or liability is expressed, or implied, and you are without recourse to anyone. Any event announced and/or listed herein is done so as a matter of information only and does not constitute approval.

Upcoming EAA Webinars

Go to www.eaa.org/webinars to view the schedule and to register.

| Date | Time | Title | Presenter(s) |
|---------|-------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 2/15/22 | 7 p.m. CST | Become a Better Chapter Leader – Secretary/Treasurer 2022 | John Egan and Charlie Becker |
| 3/2/22 | 7 p.m. CST | Teardown Needed? Qualifies for FAA WINGS and AMT credit. | Mike Busch |
| 3/3/22 | 12 p.m. CST | EAA Ray Aviation Scholarship Coordinator Training | Christopher Gauger |
| 3/8/22 | 7 p.m. CST | The Treasures of Pioneer Airport, Part 1 | Chris Henry and Ben Page |
| 3/9/22 | 7 p.m. CST | Shiny Side Up — Avoiding Spatial Disorientation Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit. | Prof. H. Paul Shuch |
| 3/10/22 | 7 p.m. CST | EAA Ray Aviation Scholarship Coordinator Training | Christopher Gauger |
| 3/16/22 | 7 p.m. CDT | International and Cross-Border Aircraft Transactions Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit. | Paul Herbers and Patrick Floyd |
| 3/23/22 | 7 p.m. CDT | Home Flight Simulation for Private Pilot Training and Proficiency Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit. | Evan Reiter and Phil Coyle |

Chapter 327 Flight Instructors

Here is a listing of Chapter 327 members that are flight instructors and would be willing to help with primary flight instruction, your next BFR or other. *If you are a Chapter member and a flight instructor please let me know and I will include your name in the listing. Additions/Corrections are welcome!*

| CFI / CFII | Phone | New Students | CFII | BFR | IFP | Airports | Plane |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|------|-----|-----|----------|--------------------|
| Mike Nickeson | 563/451-6246 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | DBQ | Owners, Club Plane |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

e-mail - Bob Woodward (bob.woodward312@gmail.com) to add your name to the list.



EAA Chapter 327

MEMBER SIGN UP FORM

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____

NICKNAME: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____ NATIONAL EAA NUMBER: _____

LICENSES/RATINGS/SKILLS: _____

AIRCRAFT OWNED/ PROJECT/ BUILT: _____

(FOR REFERENCE AS OUR CHAPTER GROWS AND FOR EVENTS)

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN: VMC ☐ IMC ☐ CLUBS

YOUNG EAGLES: PILOT: ☐ VOLUNTEER: ☐

YOUTH PROTECTION BACKGROUND CHECK COMPLETED? (Y/N) _____

DATE COMPLETED, IF YES: _____ PASSPORT TYPE PHOTO _____

EAGLE FLIGHT: PILOT: ☐ VOLUNTEER: ☐

We'd be glad to have you as a member of our local chapter, our annual dues are: \$15.00 and can be paid in person by check or cash or mailed to us at: Brett Pearce, Treasurer, EAA Chapter 327, 16859 Thunder Hills Dr. Peosta, IA 52068(no cash via mail please)

MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE: 3RD TUESDAY EACH MONTH 6:30 PM LOCATED AT EAA HANGER 88, 11052 AIRPORT RD, DUBUQUE, IA



EAA Chapter 327

MEMBER SIGN UP FORM COMMENTS:

PAGE 2.

OUR NATIONAL EAA ORGANIZATION EXPECTS LOCAL CHAPTER MEMBERS TO JOIN THE UMBRELLA NATIONAL ORGANIZATION. THE FEE IS \$40 AND AN APPLICATION CAN BE MADE AT WWW.EAA.ORG. THEY ALSO OFFER A 6-MONTH FREE TRIAL MEMBERSHIP. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE THAT. MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES A MAGAZINE AND SUBSTANTIAL DISCOUNTS TO THE EAA AIRVENTURE AIRSHOW AT OSHKOSH EACH SUMMER. IF NEW MEMBERS WANT TO "TRY OUT" CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP FOR A FEW MONTHS BEFORE DECIDING IF IT IS FOR THEM, JUST LEAVE THE EAA NATIONAL NUMBER FIELD BLANK. ONCE YOU'VE BEEN A MEMBER SEVERAL MONTHS AND DECIDED TO STAY, PLEASE JOIN NATIONAL, AS THEY PROVIDE OUR INSURANCE AND PROGRAM MATERIALS.

AN INFORMAL PHOTO OF HEAD AND SHOULDERS WOULD BE APPRECIATED FOR OUR CHAPTER ROSTER TO HELP NEW MEMBERS LEARN NAMES OF ESTABLISHED MEMBERS AND TO BECOME KNOWN TO THE REST OF THE CHAPTER. .JPG FORMAT WORKS IF YOU CAN SEND IT YOU HAVE THE PHOTO OF YOUR CHOICE. OTHERWISE, WE WILL TRY TO SNAP A PICTURE ON OUR TELEPHONE AND USE THAT. THE ROSTER IS AVAILABLE ONLINE FOR MEMBERS AND IS FOUND AT WWW.EAACHAPTERS.ORG. USER NAME IS THE NAME YOU SIGNED UP WITH PLUS EAACHAPTER327, AS IN CHUCKWEBEREAACHAPTER327. THE INITIAL PASSWORD IS MUSTANG, AND YOU WILL ASKED TO CHANGE IT ONCE LOGGED IN. YOU WILL BE ABLE TO EDIT YOUR OWN LISTING. IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE ASK ME AT A MEETING OR GIVE A CALL/TEXT AT 563-663-3646

IF YOU ARE A PILOT AND HAVE AN INTEREST IN GIVING YOUNG EAGLE RIDES TO YOUNG PEOPLE PLEASE LET US KNOW, AND WE'LL GET YOU STARTED

YOU CAN PRINT THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM AND FILL OUT LEGIBLY, OR TYPE IN RESPONSES IF DESIRED. PLEASE SCAN AND SEND OR TAKE AN IN FOCUS PHOTO AND TEXT TO ME AT 563-663-3646. THEN INCLUDE FORM AND MEMBERSHIP FEE AND MAIL TO TREASURER BRETT PEARCE AS INDICATED ON FRONT OF PAGE.

THANKS SO MUCH. LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING AND HELPING FUFILL YOUR AVIATION GOALS.
CHUCK WEBER, EAA CHAPTER 327 PRESIDENT