



## March 2020 Newsletter

*Have you paid 2020 dues? Please send a \$20.00 check made out to EAA 334 via US Postal Service to Dave Sellins, 20 Old Colony Rd, N. Stonington, CT 06359*

In this issue: We have articles about the world's biggest aircraft as measured by wingspread, and probably the smallest one you could fit into. Also a remarkable story about a 172 that lost part a wing to a guy wire and landed safely,

We have moved our meeting place back to Groton Airport and will meet at the Mystic Jet Center in the pilot's lounge on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM. Next meeting is on February 8, 2020. Dave Sellins, the new president will be talking about the birth of the EAA, 50 years ago. We are planning to have great speakers at our meetings.

Our "name that airport" contest continues: Last month's tease's hint was: "not close by, but well known: it was KOSH. No winners again. Watsamatta? \$20.00 for the first correct answer for this month's, below. Same hint. Send answers "to [tedjgordon@gmail.com](mailto:tedjgordon@gmail.com).



**January 16, 2020** from eHotline, Jan 16, 2020



EAA is concerned that the FAA's proposed rule on Remote Identification (RID) of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) could have a severe detrimental impact on traditional model aviation, and is preparing comments for the FAA. The rule would require most UAS, no matter whether they are "drones" or traditional model aircraft, to carry equipment that identifies the device and broadcasts its location. Additionally, many would be required to be equipped with "geofencing" systems that autonomously contain the craft within a defined altitude and lateral boundary.

While EAA is primarily an organization that fosters and supports passion for manned flight, it recognizes modeling as an important pathway into aviation. In fact, last year EAA launched the Young Eagles Build and Fly Program, for building an electric RC model, which could be flown with a local Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) club. ...., we are concerned that regulatory overreach in the modeling world could easily set a precedent for future action against general aviation

# *President's Message*

As the newly elected President of EAA Chapter #334, I opened our first meeting of 2020 at the Mystic Jet Center in KGON, Groton / New London Airport on January the 11th. It was with a great and warm welcome to be attended by nineteen members, guests, and friends. It was also great to be back at the Mystic Jet Center again in order to more centrally locate the meetings for our active membership. We now have three active members from Old Lyme and East Lyme. Hopefully, our relocation will lessen the burden of travel for them. Thank you so much, Stacey Ritchotte for welcoming us back to the Mystic Jet Center. I thank everyone for your support and membership to help keep the Chapter Viable.

The January meeting was made very special because our guest speaker was Ted Gordon, who edits our great monthly Newsletter. Ted spoke and showed pictures of building a kit plane with his son Michael some years ago. What greater family experience could there possibly be, than building a father and son airplane. A wonderful story and thanks so much Ted.

In November of 2019, we received a beautiful Wall Plaque and a 3' x 10' Blue and gold lettered Banner for the fifty-year anniversary of EAA Chapter #334. No one knew or realized the Chapter was so historic. We all looked at one another and instantly gained a whole new attitude for the future of the Chapter. We are now super inspired to develop a strong membership drive and increase our strength of the Chapters activities.

I would like to welcome new members; Ivan and Susan Luke, and Erielle Garrestagui to EAA Chapter #334. Thank you for your support!

I look forward to seeing you all next month, February the 8th, at 10 AM in the Mystic Jet Center.

Blue skies and tail winds, Dave



# 385 Feet of Crazy: The Most Audacious Flying Machine

Exert from an article By Steven Levy, Wired, December 30, 2019



This past December I traveled to the Mojave Air and Space Port, a desert city of giant industrial structures in Southern California, where *Stratolaunch* was built. The plane's facility on the eastern edge of the port stands out among the other structures. After walking through some drab offices, I was escorted into the approximately 100,000-square-foot hangar. The gleaming white *Stratolaunch* didn't just fill the expanse; it reached into every corner of it. There was no way to take in the monster with a single glance. Starting near its tail, I walked through and around it, craning my neck and stretching on my tiptoes to gather mental snapshots of the two fuselages and the white drag strip of a wing and stitch them together into one panoramic picture.

Everything about *Stratolaunch* is supersized. It has six screaming Pratt & Whitney turbofan jet engines, salvaged from three 747s. Its maximum takeoff weight is 1.3 million pounds. It's got more than 80 *miles* of wiring. Most astounding is its 385-foot wingspan, the spec that puts *Stratolaunch* in the history books. That number may not seem remarkable, but on a single airplane wing 385 feet is an eternity. It's a football field plus the end zones and a little bit more. If the Wright brothers had begun their initial Kitty Hawk flight at the tip of one *Stratolaunch* wing, they could have completed the journey and done it twice more before they reached the other end.

Though the two fuselages look identical, only the right one has a cockpit, largely preserved from one of the 747s, with a throttle, foot pedal, and even some analog displays that a commercial pilot working in the 1970s might find familiar. One of the seats is covered by a sheepskin-like cushion of the type often found in New York City taxis. Looking out the window, the second fuselage is so far away that it looks like a plane sitting on an adjacent runway.

It's hard to imagine this mammoth structure rising into the air. But the team—without Rutan, who retired in 2011—has been methodically taking it through a series of tests: bearing its own weight, firing its engines, taxiing down 2-plus miles of runway. Allen promises *Stratolaunch* will ascend as early as this fall.

# *Retired BA pilot, 70, swaps jumbo jets for the 'world's smallest plane'*

By [VICTORIA BELL FOR MAILONLINE](#)

PUBLISHED: 10:05 EST, 17 July 2019 | UPDATED: 19:24 EST, 17 July 2019



A 747 retired pilot has been captured on camera performing loops, rolls and a dramatic dive while flying the 'world's smallest' twin-jet aircraft. Bob Grimstead, 70, flew at an altitude of 5,000ft (1,524m) in the diminutive plane which has been described as a 'bubble car with wings'. At just 13ft (4m) long, 4ft (1.2m) wide and weighing a mere 180lbs, Mr Grimstead, from West Sussex, was able to reach speeds of 140mph (225kmh).

The former British Airways airline pilot used to fly 400 tonne jumbo jets and said he had no fear taking to the skies in the micro plane and said it was 'superb fun'. His wife Karen, 62, was in a regular sized light Piper Aztec aircraft next to him taking stunning pictures of her husband in the custom-made Colombon Jet Cri-Cri. The jet was built by South African engineers Sakkie Van Heerden and Davie Botes, who spent £17,000 (\$21,000) on the two year project.

The lightweight aircraft is almost entirely made of aluminium and has a wingspan of 17ft (5.1m). Mr Grimstead, a pilot with 50 years experience, travelled to Western Australia to take the controls of the tiny jet for three 40 minute flights.

He was there to carry out a 'flight test' review of the Cri-Cri for Pilot Magazine, a milestone occasion in itself as it was the 250th type of plane he had flown.

He said: 'I've flown for 50 years, working as a commercial pilot in Boeing 747s, so you can say I've flown the largest planes and now the smallest.'

# *172 Lands Safely Missing Much of a Wing*

**Russ Niles**

December 29, 2019 From AvWeb Flash, December 30, 2019



The NTSB has released its factual report on a 2018 incident that ended with the pilot of a Cessna 172 coaxing the aircraft ten miles to a safe landing missing four feet of the left wing and most of the trailing edge. The pilot was uninjured. The aircraft was on a pipeline patrol south of Abilene, Texas on Dec. 21, 2018 when it hit a tower guy wire. The pilot was able to maintain control of the plane and land at Abilene.

The aircraft was on an inspection flight from Temple, Texas to Snyder, Texas and had been in the air almost two hours when the pilot, who did not have an observer with him, felt the plane “pull to the left” according to the NTSB report. He later said he was looking down at the time, writing observation notes, when the incident occurred. He said he never saw the wire. The impact took off the section of wing just outboard of the left aileron and the trailing edge peeled inboard almost to the fuselage. The pilot reported that in the absence of a second crew member to note observations, he was making notes. (Ed: Moral: don’t fly and take notes at the same time.)

## *The 2020 NASAO International Aviation Art Contest is Open*



The 2020 NASAO International Aviation Art Contest is now accepting submissions. This year's theme is "Flying Yesterday and Tomorrow." The contest is open to youths ages 6-17. All artwork submitted to state contests must be postmarked by **January 17, 2020**. States must have their winning entries submitted to NASAO by **February 24, 2020** to be entered into the National Contest. National winners will be submitted to the International Jury.

Since 1989, the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) has hosted the International Aviation Art Contest to challenge young people to illustrate the importance of aviation through art. Demonstrating the impact of aeronautics through an interactive, fun medium such as art motivates youth of all ages to become more familiar with aeronautics, engineering, and science.

For full contest details, please visit: <https://nasao.org/page/international-aviation-art-contest>.

## *AOPA Flight Training Scholarships Available*

AOPA members have access to a wide array of benefits, including [flight training scholarship awards](#). Made possible through donations to the [AOPA Foundation](#), these awards can help members reach their aviation goals. Review the available scholarship options below. Apply today or forward this email to someone who would benefit from financial assistance with flight training for a primary certificate or advanced training.

To receive priority consideration, scholarship applications must be received by Sunday, March 1, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. (EDT). The final deadline for scholarship applications is Sunday, March 15, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. (EDT).

### **AOPA High School Flight Training Scholarships**

Thanks to the generosity of the Ray Foundation, **80 exceptional high school students**, ages 15 to 18, each will

receive a \$10,000 flight training scholarship to pursue a private, sport, or recreational pilot certificate. This scholarship program is a component of the AOPA You Can Fly program, a collection of initiatives working to building a larger, more vibrant pilot community.

[Learn more >](#)

### **AOPA Teacher Flight Training Scholarships**

As part of the AOPA You Can Fly program and thanks to the generosity of the Ray Foundation, up to **20 teachers** will be awarded flight training scholarships of \$10,000 each to pursue a private, sport or recreational pilot certificate.

[Learn more >](#)

### **AOPA Primary Flight Training Scholarships**

**Current AOPA members who are at least 16 years of age** are eligible to apply for a flight training scholarship of \$2,500 to \$7,500, to be applied to training for a private pilot, sport pilot, or recreational pilot certificate.

[Learn more >](#)

### **AOPA Advanced Flight Training Scholarships**

**Current paid AOPA members with aviation career aspirations** are encouraged to apply for an advanced flight training scholarship, ranging from \$3,000 to \$10,000, to pursue one of the following ratings or certificates:

- Instrument
- MEI (Multi-Engine – Instructor)
- CFII (Certificated Flight Instructor – Instrument)
- CFI (Certificated Flight Instructor)
- Commercial

[Learn more >](#)

## *New EAA Chapter on Long Island*

*Mike Gaines tells us that he has formed a new EAA Chapter 1647 at East Hampton LI at KHTO. More information next month.*

## **2020 EVENT SCHEDULE**

***REMINDER: EAA334 meetings are scheduled on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM at Mystic Jet Center at the Groton/New London Airport (KGON) NEXT MEETING IS FEBRUARY 8, 2020 10:00AM Dave Sellins will be talking about the early days of EAA and EAA 334.***



## 'SPIRIT OF AVIATION' -- THE BIRTH OF EAA. Presentation by EAA Chapter 334.

EAA Chapter 334 is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2020. Pilots and guests invited to hear chapter president Dave Sellins tell the story of EAA's beginning years 1953-55. Dave worked for General Dynamics/Electric Boat in Nuclear and Supplier QC for 40 years. He loves aviation history and is the scratch builder of a single place "Zing" and an 'Easy Eagle' bi-plane.

### Venue

Mystic Jet Center (FBO) Lounge, 175 Tower Avenue. Morning refreshments for all.  
Groton (New Lon, CT

KGON - Groton-New London

### Contact

David Sellins  
860 535 2256

### Organization

Mystic Jet Center  
Connecticut Airport Authority  
Chapter 334 of the Experimental Aircraft Association

*You might enjoy this trailer for a new Top Gun movie scheduled for release this summer.*



That's Tom Cruise in the cockpit once again!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nz9lnIDdkMo&mkt\\_tok=eyJpIjoiWIRBeFpETXhOVGN3TmpKaSIsInQiOiJsUmRRWW9aY3VcL3RFNTZtOERPdFZmSVppXC9PRzM1SnZrVXdZM3oybFITZHVidEtZMVVHXC9rU0YxTEE3VU4wNFNpc0gzUStBNFI2WmtBY3VDRHI3OU1JR0k1eXlJdnJzbHNVeDRqUUM0VUx5K3ZMZG9CU3h5eHdUc1JVRlBFQUNUKyJ9](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nz9lnIDdkMo&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWIRBeFpETXhOVGN3TmpKaSIsInQiOiJsUmRRWW9aY3VcL3RFNTZtOERPdFZmSVppXC9PRzM1SnZrVXdZM3oybFITZHVidEtZMVVHXC9rU0YxTEE3VU4wNFNpc0gzUStBNFI2WmtBY3VDRHI3OU1JR0k1eXlJdnJzbHNVeDRqUUM0VUx5K3ZMZG9CU3h5eHdUc1JVRlBFQUNUKyJ9)

***And the EAA 334 March meeting will be at GON March 14, 10:00AM at the Mystic Jet Center where Jason Otrin, owner of On Course Drones, Drone Training and Services will give the presentation:***



## DRONE TECHNOLOGY TODAY - The 30,000 Foot View. EAA Chapter 334

Family-friendly presentation by Jason Otrin, US army veteran, private pilot and owner of On Course Drones. Learn about drone uses in different industries, how they fly and flight rules. Jason conducts drone flight training and teaches a drone course at University of Connecticut.

### Venue

Mystic Jet Center at Groton New London Airport. Come early for morning refreshments.  
Groton (New Lon, CT

KGON - Groton-New London

### Contact

David Sellins, EAA Chapter 334 President  
860 535-2256

### Organization

Mystic Jet Center  
EAA Chapter 334 celebrating 50 years!  
On Course Drones

## Other Upcoming Events

The New England Air Museum at Bradley Airport, Windsor Locks, CT says "...in 2020 we will introduce new events for adults, including a Corsair Day Brewfest, a "Danger Zone" Party and a special Historic Halloween Tour. We look forward to bringing our A-10 Thunderbolt and F-14 Tomcat back into display this year as well. Even our famous Open Cockpit events will be enhanced, with Birds of Flight in January, Drones in February and more throughout the year. Please watch our events calendar for more!

The Rhode Island Wing of the Civil Air Patrol has started a new Squadron in Westerly RI. They meet Thursday evenings from 6 - 9 pm, at the Westerly Education Center. Col. Stranahan is the CO and Lt. Col, Robert Gubala is the second in Command. Dave Sellins, President of EAA Chapter 334, has attended some of the meetings and will furnish reports in future Newsletters. At the present time they have 8-10 new Cadets from our area. Stay tuned. Anyone wishing to volunteer and

help Cadets, please attend a meeting and speak with the Colonel. They are looking for volunteer members.

***If you're looking for something to do next weekend check out [support@socialflight.com](mailto:support@socialflight.com). This site publishes interesting events on a Friday describing what you might do and where in the coming weekend, too short a time horizon for this Newsletter but certainly worth reviewing if you want some suggestions for the next few days.***

***Socialflight also has a new feature:*** "Burger Flight, which makes finding a terrific airport restaurant as easy as tapping on a screen. Burger Flight is included in SocialFlight's free app, and it shows airport restaurants as burger symbols on the map. Thousands of airport restaurants are featured on the moving map." From <https://www.flyingmag.com/burger-flight-helps-pilots-find-airport-restaurants?cmpid=ene20190411>

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**New Member Benefit: EAA Videos :** After extensive development and testing, EAA has fully integrated video content within [EAA.org](http://EAA.org). Now, when you visit the site, you can click the Videos tab at the top to access thousands of titles covering everything from aviation history to Hints for Homebuilders, and all of it is available free of charge by using your existing EAA member login. Please note that the legacy site will be retired soon, so please update your bookmarks or links.

February 8: Groton, CT - Spirit of Aviation, the Beginning Years of EAA - history presentation by EAA Chapter 334 10:00am. Mystic Jet Center at Groton New London Airport (KGON). Call Dave Sellins 860 535-2256 or email [dsellins@comcast.net](mailto:dsellins@comcast.net). Visitors invited!

March 5:, Orlando, FL 2020 Women in Aviation Conference

March 31- April 5, 2020 Sun N Fun. Lakeland, FL

July 20-July 26, 2020 EAA AirVenture; Oshkosh, Wisconsin

## CLASSIFIED SECTION

Anyone can list equipment, products, materials, and what not for sale or wanted in this classified section. Please include a description, and your contact information if applicable. Listing is free. Your input will remain active for the next few newsletter issues. EAA 334 will not be involved so if you see something of interest, just initiate the contact.

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**GOOD BOOK: Unusual Attitudes by Martha Lunken.** The author writes a column of the same title for Flying magazine. She is a crusty ex FAA examiner, a DC3 Pilot, and tells a hell of a good hangar story of friends and foibles, crashes and wonders of flying. I bought my copy through Amazon and I am thoroughly enjoying it.

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**A *FREE preflight de-icing sprayer*** is available.

Just call or email Ted Gordon 860 434 8608 or [tedjgordon@gmail.com](mailto:tedjgordon@gmail.com)

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***Anyone can recommend a person, product, or company here that they have found helpful or useful.*** You can even recommend yourself. Please include the nature of the service or product, and contact information if applicable. Listing is free. Your input will remain active for the next few newsletter issues. EAA 334 will not be involved so if you see something of interest, just initiate the contact.

**IMPORTANT: The FAA has published a list of over the counter medications that are safe to take when you are PIC. Find it here:**

<https://image.mail.aopa.org/lib/fe3615707564067d701d78/m/3/449b0481-518e-472f-b15f-7168a68f09e7.pdf>

### **A&P Mechanic with IA: Greg Prentiss**

EAA Technical Councilor 15 years

Builder of the Glassair N28P, first flight June 1999

Amateur Built Experimental and Light Sport Aircraft

Extensive experience composites, engines

If you'd like anything else, ring me up.

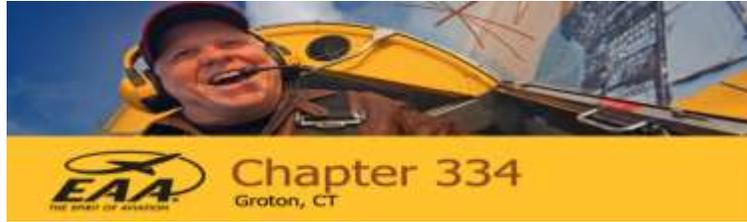
Greg Prentiss, 20 Dockerel Road, Vernon, CT 06066, [greg.prentiss@gmail.com](mailto:greg.prentiss@gmail.com)

860-872-2278 Home/Office, 860-205-7640 Cell

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**SimplexAero**, owned by Jeff Erickson of Old Saybrook, teaches tail wheel and provides sport pilot training. He also offers scratch plans for the Cloud Duster and the Zing.

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## Membership Application

### EAA 334- Fulfill your dream to build and fly.

Our club is dedicated to flying of all sorts. We exchange information and experiences. We provide help where needed in promoting safety, airplane construction, and operation. Meetings take place on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM at Mystic Jet Center, Groton/New London Airport. We invite you to join us.

To explore membership, join, or renew your membership, please complete this form.

Select membership type and duration:

- FREE 6 Months Full Membership trial
- One-year full Membership in EAA 334 \$20.00\*\*
- One-year Student Membership \$12.00 (<18)\*\* Free if you have had a Young Eagle flight
- 3 year Membership \$10.00 discount
- Family Memberships \$25 a year \*\*

\*First Name \_\_\_\_\_

\*Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

\*Address \_\_\_\_\_

\*City \_\_\_\_\_

\*State \_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Aircraft \_\_\_\_\_

\*Required information

\*\* For membership in EAA Chapter 334, send the completed form and check payable to EAA 334, to *Dave Sellins, 20 Old Colony Rd, N. Stonington, CT 06359*. Membership in the EAA National organization is also required. For more information go to: <https://www.eaa.org/en/ea/renew-ear/renew-membership>