



June 2024 Newsletter

From the President

Again, it has been quite some time since my 3rd attempt at a "monthly" newsletter.

It is Memorial Day weekend. Memorial Day is specifically meant as time to pay tribute to and reflect on those in our military who gave their lives in the service of the United States of America. As a group of aviators, we may have interests in preserving some of the many flying machines built for various conflicts in our country's history. Remember that many of those machines did not return from their missions, nor did the crews of them. These are some of the individuals, along with the lost soldiers, sailors, Marines and others, to whom Memorial Day pays tribute.



Meetings

In my last letter, the April meeting/gathering was announced as a social gathering at Brad Shafer's restaurant. The most significant activity that evening was focused on "connecting with other aviation enthusiasts." Although not as large as our first visit to "Kathy's Kitchen," the accomplishments were several smaller conversations of new people with experienced longer-term members. I sat for some time with a relatively new member who had just ordered his first airplane kit, and had perhaps a thousand questions for a longer-term member who had completed and now flies his Van's RV as a Young Eagles pilot. I also witnessed one of our longest-term members in deep conversation with one of our newest members. Mission accomplished. For that day.

At our most recent board meeting, the group seemed to come together as an ad hoc program committee, with a significant list of activities of various sorts for the coming months, some solidified, and some prospective. The details follow.

Our June 13th gathering will be led by Margie Freeman – United Captain, Kirk Mies – corporate pilot, and Shannon Buckley – UPS pilot, plus some possible others, discussing their training and experiences in becoming professional pilots. This is of interest to us all, and those younger people who may have intentions of following such a path should also be present. We'll be at Margie's hangar at KUGN, 2860 Plane Rest Drive.

Saturday, June 15th is our second Young Eagles event of the year. Be aware that this will be a return to Kenosha Regional Airport, KENW. Our headquarters will be the main terminal building at the end of the main access road. All chapter members are welcome!

Sam Battaglia is shooting for our first IMC/VMC June 19th, on Zoom, to be led by Jeff Schreiber. Our July 11th gathering, again at Margie's hangar, will be somewhat different, and will depend on pieces from several of you. July is Airventure month. And some years we have spent time and energy around understanding how to fly in. Since many of us do not fly in, and also since there are so many things to see and do at Oshkosh that one cannot really do them all, even in a week, we decided to ask the membership to tell us what your favorite things are to see and do once you are inside the gate. We have a beginning list, but want your favorites, and possibly digital photos, no later than the second week in June. If you can present, fine. If not, also fine. But get your ideas in. Some early ideas are "why and how we camp"; shopping/looking in the exhibit buildings; spending a day among the homebuilts, or the warbirds, or the vintage area (one of my favorites); hassling the builders/sellers of the airplane/avionics/gear you own, or want; participating in the simulator trainings in the new center; spending time in the Blue Barn to put your chapter flag on the map, or learn more about how to do things for the chapter (including Young Eagles); going to Forums about just about anything (subjects wanted); participating in WomanVenture; getting trained in the workshop buildings; buying a raffle ticket for the Ercoupe (this year); shopping for just the right T-shirt for you or someone else; reading all the posted "airplanes for sale" listings; going to the "Warbirds in Review" to hear the history of a plane (in front of you!) from those who flew it; going to the Seaplane Base; watching special airshows (who are the Frecci Tricolori?); learning how to actually use the avionics you just bought; perusing all the goodies in the Fly Market and Aeromart; buying an aviation challenge coin; etc.; etc.; etc.; Send your favorite to my email at the end of this letter.

Beyond Airventure (July 22 – 28), our tentative schedule includes an August Saturday presentation on gyrocopters by Dan Feldman, movie night on September 12, a to-be-determined builder presentation in October, a possible tower visit in November, and our holiday party in December. There are some other possibilities. One that keeps popping up is a fly-in/drive in to utilize the EAA's simulator lab with instructors; being researched for time and costs. And, yes, we are always interested in any activities that any of you have interest in. Speak to any board member.

Venues

You may have noticed that we have changed some of our meeting places from past years. Most of this is due to the generosity of several members, in particular Brad Shafer and Margie Freeman, who have allowed us to use facilities they own more appropriate to our current needs. In addition, a fair number of our members are near or hangared at places other than KUGN. In particular, several of us are at or have moved to KENW recently. And some are at other airports as well, such as KBUU, Campbell and others.

These changes have generated two tasks for us, which all of you can help. First, our roster has no record of which airport any of our aircraft owners call home. Along with other items I have requested, I would appreciate a response with your name and airport, to add to the roster. Next, the changes in meeting locations and such means we also have various chapter properties that need to be relocated once the proper home is determined. Some of these include our extensive library, along with chairs and such. Again, if you are willing to help, let me know in a separate message.

Membership

We are maintaining our size of membership, currently at 81 paid members, including 3 new individuals so far this year. One of the truisms of volunteer organizations such as ours is "If you're not growing, you're dying." People leave for many reasons: jobs, family needs, lack of feeling a part of the group, etc. etc. People stay, and join, because an organization adds something to their lives. In my years in EAA, I have found that inviting new potential members and helping them fill their needs and wants, to maintain or grow the size of the chapter, are universal and never-ending tasks of the entire active membership. Some will stay, and some will not. It is up to all of us to bring in interested people, build relationships and friendships with them, and thus keep our chapter growing, and healthy.

EAA 414 VMC/IMC CLUB



Chapter 414 VMC/IMC clubs are monthly meetings where real scenarios are presented followed by group discussion, with the goal of promoting safety by sharing knowledge and experience.

Meetings held **third Wednesday of the month**. All skill levels welcome. For information, visit

chapters.eaa.org/ea414/vmc-club or email Sam Battaglia jmc-vmc@ea414.org



Epilogue

As before, this is longer than I anticipated. And there is always more. So I'll stop for now. Please respond to my requests: your favorite Airventure activity (and some photos), where your plane is (if you have one), and your willingness and availability to help us consolidate all the chapter's "stuff." And comments or suggestions on anything are always welcome.

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Upcoming Events

See chapters.eaa.org/aaa414/event-calendar for event details. All are welcome at our chapter meeting and IMC/VMC Club events regardless of skill level. New or prospective chapter members are especially encouraged to attend!

Chapter meeting

Thu 06/13, 7pm

Young Eagles

Sat 06/15, 10am

IMC Club

Wed 06/19, 7:30pm

Board of directors meeting

Thu 06/27, 7:30pm

From the Web

[P-51 engine out, off-airport landing \(Air Safety Institute\)](#). "British warbird pilot, Mark Levy, was part of a 21-airplane formation in the annual airshow at Duxford, England when the P-51 he was flying had a partial engine out. Levy recorded the entire event on a pair of point-of-view video cameras, and he shared the images, as well as his lessons learned, in a candid discussion with Richard McSpadden, Executive Director of the AOPA Air Safety Institute. ."



DUES & MEMBERSHIP

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