



July 2024 Newsletter

From the President

I'm sort of getting into the rhythm of "monthly", writing in the last day of the month, 6/30! Interestingly, exactly three weeks from today many of us will be at or perhaps en route to Oshkosh, for Airventure 2024. Camping, hoteling, single day, whatever your fancy is, the one truth is that there is far too much for one person to do, regardless of how long you are there. I've started to make my list of things to do or see, and suggest you do the same.



One task I took on when I was the membership coordinator was to ask all of you attending Airventure to send me your days of attendance, where you might be (i.e. camping, hotel, etc.), where and when you might be volunteering, what and where you intend to spend your time, and, importantly, your cell number. Send them to me at this email, and I will, as in the past, summarize them and return to all who intend to go, so you can communicate while there.

Typically there is an informal meeting/gathering at the Wednesday or the Saturday airshow, and having phone numbers will help people who wish to gather on the flightline at that time.

So everyone knows, my Airventure volunteering is focused on chapter activities, which center around the Blue Barn. My current schedule to be there during Airventure is Monday afternoon (12:30 - 4:30), and Thursday morning (8:30- 12:30). I strongly suggest that those of you interested in Young Eagles, and particularly those interested in expanding the program for Chapter 414 beyond our current scope, and perhaps as far as supporting a Ray scholarship winner, come to the Blue Barn to learn about Young Eagles Build and Fly and Workshops programs, along with the AeroEducate program. Forum-like presentations on many of the topics will be presented at the Blue Barn. Check the schedules to find days and times.

And a final piece about the Blue Barn. Those of you who have visited may remember two very obvious things that make the Blue Barn an interesting place, perhaps to rest your weary feet. First are all the Adirondack chairs, made and decorated by individual chapters. Perhaps you have seen the one made by our neighbors at Galt, Chapter 932, with their chapter symbol on the chair. Stands out. Could we do that?

Next are all the directional signs surrounding the Blue Barn, pointing toward a chapter's location, with its number (414), location (Lake County, IL) and the distance (according to ForeFlight, 98 nm). To my knowledge, we have never done this! I wandered around the first year I worked in the Barn, and couldn't find us anywhere!! So, is someone sort of handy doing simple woodworking? You'll need a 1 x 6 pine board, about 24 inches long, with one end cut to look like a point of an arrow. And the information above, lettered in a clear and contrasting color. If you can do this, we can take it to the Blue Barn during Airventure, and they will attach it to the appropriate pole in a small ceremony. Pull up 2 "Blue Barn" on your computer or phone, and you'll see a picture of the building, surrounded by poles with these directional signs, to give you an idea.

Meetings & Activities

Our June 13th gathering was arranged and led by Margie Freeman – United Captain, accompanied by Kirk Mies – corporate pilot for Abbvie, and Shannon Buckley – UPS pilot. All discussed their training, the slow beginnings (particularly in pay) and of course the widely varied experiences in becoming professional pilots in their chosen fields. Perhaps the only downside was the relatively small turnout. Only 17 individuals signed in, so all took home some pizza!

As an aside, people have wondered why we have sign-ins. There are two reasons. One, obviously, is to get some fundamental information about any new people who visit us and are interested in becoming members. And there is another reason, why current members should sign in. Some of you may remember, at our last end-of-year party, that we were handing out lengths of numbered tickets to certain individuals. The number of tickets was determined by how many chapter activities one had attended (and signed in to) in the prior year. Tickets were drawn, and prizes were given out. One's chances increased with the number of tickets, driven by attendance. What seemed to not have happened was broad announcement and understanding of this, as many of those with lots of tickets were board members or in charge of something significant. So this year, I want everyone to be aware that we are asking you to sign in at every event, and that the most active people in the year will be recognized and rewarded in some way, to be determined.

Our pre-Airventure July meeting, Thursday, July 11th, will focus on individuals' ideas of what are the most interesting, or useful, or fun things at Oshkosh. I have a few notes already, and expect that those who have submitted (and others) will be interested in telling us in just a few moments about what they think are their favorites, and why. We'll again be at Margie's hangar at KUGN, 2860 Plane Rest Drive, now officially our new home. Come, SIGN IN, and talk for a few moments about your favorite thing at Airventure. Just let me know beforehand, PLEASE.

Saturday, June 15th was our second Young Eagles event of the year, a return to Kenosha Regional Airport, KENW, after several years away. We seem to have this activity down to a science. Eight pilots provided rides for 45 kids. Thanks go to the total of 25 volunteers who made this a successful and safe event for all involved. Given so much attention goes towards Oshkosh in July, our next Young Eagles event will be August 10th, again at KUGN and Stick & Rudder Flying Club.

Somehow our first IMC/VMC event occurred on June 12th, a week early, on Zoom, led by Jeff Schreiber. Nine experienced instrument-trained participants made for a very deep level of conversation. Thanks to Sam Battaglia for putting this together. Be on the lookout for the next scheduled event.

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 (duh). 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 a commitment of five to ten minutes of your time, no later than the end of the first week of July (please!). If you can't present, fine; but recruit a friend or co-conspirator to present your favorite! Or be a group! 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 (apparently the Frecci Tricolori aren't coming); 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 or a piece of jewelry for your co-pilot; etc.; etc.; etc.; Send your favorite to my email at the end of this letter.

Beyond Airventure (July 22 – 28), our tentative schedule still includes an August Saturday AM presentation on gyrocopters by Dan Feldman, movie night on September 12, a to-be-determined builder presentation in October, a probable tower visit in November, and our holiday party in December. There are some other possibilities. As mentioned last time, a possibility is a fly-in/drive in to utilize the EAA's simulator lab with instructors; if interested, let Sam or me know. And, yes, we are always interested in any activities that any of you have interest in. Speak to any board member, and volunteer to make your favorite a reality.

Venues, hangars, banners, etc.

As mentioned last month, we are still asking for a short response with your name and airport, to add to the roster, as some have changed, and we have had no overall listing of airports as it was only recently added to our roster application. Next, the changes in meeting locations and such means we also still 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.

Banners? What? Why?

Two Saturdays ago, my local postal worker walked up to my front door with a substantial cardboard cylinder that came from EAA. After getting a stapled end cap off (tools required), a smaller banner came out, our recognition for how well we have done versus the requirements that win us points. For several years we have been a Bronze chapter, 7 out of the 11 criteria met. I unrolled the banner. IT'S SILVER!! We've grown, and improved, with 8 criteria met! Congrats to all who worked so very hard in 2023. Let's make it even better, shoot for the gold in 2024!

Membership

We are maintaining our size of membership, currently at 83 paid members, including (I believe) 5 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, supporting and assisting Arkady, our Membership Coordinator. 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 imc-vmc@ea414.org



Epilogue

As seemingly always happens, this is longer than I anticipated. And, there is always more.

So, please respond to my requests: your favorite Airventure activity and a few minutes at the gathering to talk about it, where your plane is (if you have one), and your willingness and availability to help us consolidate all the chapter's "stuff." Of course, 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 07/11, 7pm

Young Eagles

Sat 08/10, 10am

Board of directors meeting

Thu 07/01, 7:30pm

From the Web

[Military Jet Arrival to Oshkosh Airventure](#). "A trip of a lifetime! Cockpit view of a L-39 Albatross military trainer arrival to Airventure/Oshkosh 2015."



DUES & MEMBERSHIP

Send dues to

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Make checks payable to

Lake County Chapter, EAA 414