



EAA Chapter 478  
***COCKPIT CHATTER***  
Lexington Park, MD April 2024  
**A Bronze EAA Chapter**



**EAA Chapter 478 Monthly Gathering**  
**April 16, 2024, 6-6:30 PM Social Time**  
**Program 6:30PM – FAAST Program Brief**  
**2W6 Terminal Building Conference Room**

**In this edition of Cockpit Chatter**

**From The Top** – Flying Weather is getting better  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes** – 2 April 2024  
**Treasurer Report** – Current Status  
**Young Eagles Corner** – YE Update  
**The Homebuilder's Corner** - Challenger II Update  
**The Flying/Maintenance Corner** –  
**For Sale** – Vacuum Pump, Artificial Horizon

**2024 Chapter Dues are Due - \$20.00**

**FROM THE TOP**

Darryl Crawford, President EAA Chapter 478

We are getting into the good flying weather season and the number of Chapter events is expanding. The planning for the Build and Fly Workshop is coming together well thanks to several members efforts. The number of Young Eagle events we will hold is still uncertain, more on this is in the Young Eagles section of the Newsletter.

Please share with anyone on the chapter board any aviation events, fly-ins/outs, airport restaurants, or aviation related charities you may know of. One of our goals is the maintain a comprehensive list of local events for our calendar and to partake in experiences together.

Remember Chapter Dues are due. Your dues help to pay for the cost of the Chapter cost to EAA which is over \$400 per year, thanks for your support of the Chapter.

Time to get in the shop and work on your projects now that the weather is warmer.

Be safe, and see you soon.

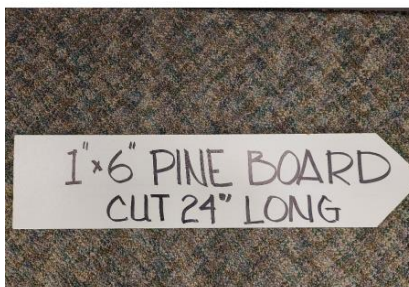
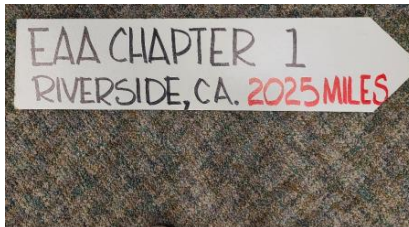
Donation QR Code for EAA Chapter 478



## EAA Chapter Directional Sign

Submitted by Bernie Wunder

I would like to challenge our EAA chapter to come up with a Chapter Directional Sign we can take to Oshkosh this summer. Maybe we could vote on the best sign at a future chapter gathering before AirVenture 2024. Here are the specifications:



Over the years, chapters have become more creative. Here are a couple more photos as to what a chapter directional sign looks like, along with the one I saw hung last summer.



May the whittling begin!

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Chapter Gathering – 16 April 2024 – 2W6  
VMC Club & Mini Young Eagle Rally – 20 April 2024 – 2W6  
AMA Fun Fly Event – 27 April 2024, 1:00 PM @ Greenwell State Park,  
Pax Aero Modelers Field  
May Board Meeting – 7 May 2024  
VMC & Mini Young Eagle Rally – 15 May 2024  
May Chapter Gathering – 21 May 2024  
See Calendar of events at the end of the Newsletter

## **EAA CHAPTER 478 MEETING MINUTES**

### **EAA Chapter 478 Board Minutes**

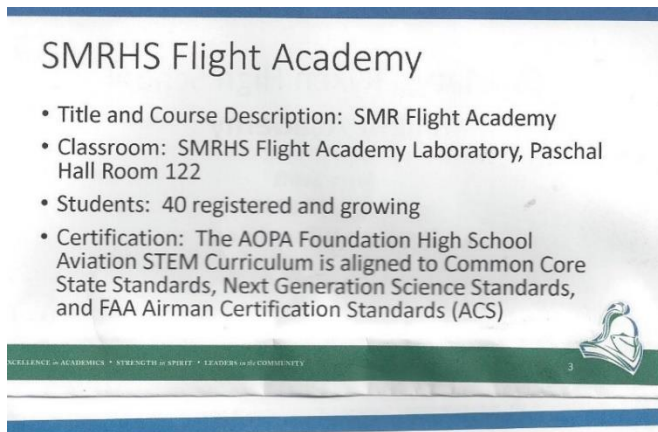
**Date/Location:** 2 April 2024/1830 at 2W6 Terminal Bldg

#### **Attending:**

Darryl Crawford-President	X
Paul Gambacorta-VP	X
Bernie Wunder-Secretary	X
Don Byrne-Treasurer	X
Tom Weiss-Past President	
Sid Wood BOD 2024-235	X
Chris Moody BOD 2023-24	
Bill Englehart BOD 2023-24	
John Attebury BOD 2023-24	X
John Reinert BOD 2023-24	X
Greg Stevens BPD 2023-24	X
Keith King BOD 2023-24	X

#### **Agenda Items:**

1. **Jerry Swift from St Mary's Ryken High School** presented to the board the flight academy program being set up at Ryken starting in the fall of 2024. The curriculum is based on the AOPA Aviation STEM Curriculum. He is also coordinating the Summer Academy camps this summer.

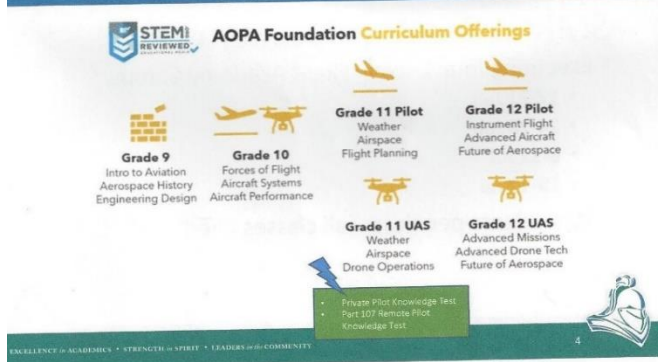


**SMRHS Flight Academy**

- Title and Course Description: SMR Flight Academy
- Classroom: SMRHS Flight Academy Laboratory, Paschal Hall Room 122
- Students: 40 registered and growing
- Certification: The AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum is aligned to Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, and FAA Airman Certification Standards (ACS)

EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS • STRENGTH IN SPIRIT • LEADERSHIP IN COMMUNITY

There will be four camps and he inquired as to supporting the camps with YE rides like we did for one of the camps last summer. The consensus of the board was that tying YE rides to a schedule in the camp is very difficult and a better way to offer the kids an airplane ride would be thru our YE rallies at 2W6. The idea of providing mentors for the kids was discussed and was favorably received by all.



**AOPA Foundation Curriculum Offerings**

Grade	Course Title	Topics
Grade 9	Intro to Aviation	Aerospace History, Engineering Design
Grade 10	Forces of Flight	Aircraft Systems, Aircraft Performance
Grade 11 Pilot	Weather, Airspace, Flight Planning	
Grade 11 UAS	Weather, Airspace, Drone Operations	
Grade 12 Pilot	Instrument Flight, Advanced Aircraft	Future of Aerospace
Grade 12 UAS	Advanced Missions, Advanced Drone Tech	Future of Aerospace

Private Pilot Knowledge Test, Part 107 Remote Pilot Knowledge Test

EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS • STRENGTH IN SPIRIT • LEADERSHIP IN COMMUNITY

## 2. **Aero Educate -Build and Fly** (Bernie)

- a. The first two YE workshops were conducted in February (6 youths) and March (9 youths). Lot of positive feedback received from both kids and parents.
- b. April/May - 3rd Saturday will be a YE mini rally (flying) with a RC simulator project/workshop conducted simultaneously with Patuxent Aeromodelers support.
- c. Work continues on construction of a second model kit which will be the prototype for the summer camp's build and fly model. (John R/Don/Charlie)



- d. Youth identified during the workshops and others known to be serious about aviation will be invited to the camp versus having an open registration.
  - e. Our summer open hangar night gathering and the YE Build & Fly summer camp are both in the same week. Do we deconflict?
3. **2024 YE Schedule Review** (Keith)
    - a. All YE supplies needed have been received.
    - b. EAA will be transitioning to a new website in June.



- c. A YE summary report about additional YE events/rallies to conduct beyond our regular rallies (see attached at the end of these minutes) with the results/comments of those who responded to the survey was discussed.
  - d. The consensus of the board was to support a YE rally at Cambridge this year beyond our regular rallies in June/September at 2W6 and the mini rallies after the VMC meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.
4. **Reserving 2W6 terminal building** for chapter events (Bernie): Special Event Permit request was submitted to airport manager for monthly Chapter Board and monthly membership gatherings to be held at the Airport Terminal building; an approved request was received from the airport manager.
5. **2024 membership dues** (Don)
- a. 48 paid.
  - b. The treasurer will send emails out to the individuals who have not paid.
6. **Membership Meetings/Gatherings/Programs**
- a. Future program suggestions
    - i. April meeting: Patuxent Aeromodelers club will hold a potluck/club flying day on April 27 and chapter members are invited. An invitation has been extended to present a program about the AMA/Patuxent Aeromodelers at a chapter gathering in the near future and now waiting for a response.
    - ii. Sid received a letter from the FAAST team about expiring wings credits and wondered what that was all about. It became apparent that a brief on the wings program would be beneficial for chapter members. Jim Alexander will be contacted to see if he can present a brief at the April chapter gathering.
  - b. Working to coordinate a meeting at the AMA RC Flying Field in mid-July with a joint member cookout and RC flying demonstration.
7. PPL Ground School (John A): The individual who coordinates this event has severe health issues and the ground school is still on hold.
8. Newsletter Editor - inputs due by around the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**Other items discussed:**

- 1. The food ordered from Bird Dog Bistro (BDB) went well at the second YE Build and Fly workshop in March.
- 2. Discussed tire collection bin to be located at St Mary's airport. Jorge Dominguez has almost completed building the bin (~4'x4'x4') Still need signs on it. As to where it will be located on the airport is still up in the air. John A took action to discuss with airport FB0.
- 3. Darryl volunteered to make the chapter directional sign to hang on the post outside the Blue Barn at Oshkosh. Will need transport to get the Adirondack chair to Oshkosh.
- 4. Greg announced that the Archelogy Day open house is scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup> at Jefferson Park in Calvert County,
- 5. State personal property tax for the chapter needs to be signed by President and submitted by April 15 to maintain the chapter incorporation.
- 6. The chapter was at Silver status last year....maybe even Gold.!

The meeting adjourned approximately 2000.  
Submitted by Bernie (Secretary)

# **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Submitted by Don Byrne

<u>EAA Chapter 478 Financial Report</u> Through 31 March 2024	
<b>Fund</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Petty Cash</b>	\$64.40
<b>Savings</b>	\$439.00
<b>Checking</b>	\$22,730.67
<b>Total</b>	\$23,234.07

## **YOUNG EAGLES CORNER**

Young Eagle Coordinators – Keith King, Paul Gambacorta, Greg Stevens

### April 2024 Input

Just a reminder that our first Young Eagle Mini-Rally is this upcoming Saturday, April 20th immediately following the VMC meeting, from 10:30 to 12:30. This is a low-key event compared to our full-up spring and fall rallies. We have plenty of ground volunteers, but we could use a few more pilots. Please register on YEDay.org, or let Paul, Greg or Keith know if you will be able to attend. Please remember, to fly Young Eagles you will need to confirm that your EAA Membership is up-to-date, and that your Youth Protection Training and Background check are current.

We will also be hosting a second Young Eagle Mini-Rally immediately following the May 18th VMC meeting, from 10:30 to 12:30. In addition, please mark your calendars, our Spring Young Eagle Rally is scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup> at the 2W6 Terminal, from 9 am - 1 pm.

For more information on the Young Eagles program visit **EAA.org/YoungEagles**. Or if you would like more information about our EAA Chapter 478 events, please contact Keith King, Paul Gambacorta and Greg Stevens.

## Build and Fly Workshop #2 Summary

On Saturday morning, 16 March 2024, EAA Chapter 478 had the Second Build & Fly Mini Workshop at the St. Mary's County Airport, 2W6. We had 9 participants with a lot of member help. Paul Gambacorta coordinated the sign-in process and Don Byrne, the ring master, directed & ran the event. There were three different stations for the participants: Electrical Circuits by Sid Wood & Greg Stevens, Wing Rib Construction by John Reinert & Charlie Fox7, and Flight Simulators by Joe Allen & Chuck Jones. The pictures from the event will be posted to the chapter google drive and a link placed on the home page sometime over the next few day. There were a lot of positive comments from the participants and their parents.



											EAA Chapter 478 Young Eagles Total												
											Year	Flights	Year	Flights									
											1992	6	2012	242									
											1993	54	2013	79									
											1994	44	2014	127									
											1995	79	2015	248									
											1996	89	2016	206									
											1997	90	2017	205									
											1998	47	2018	209									
											1999	23	2019	112									
											2000	113	2020	2									
											2001	94	2021	65									
											2002	90	2022	269									
											2003	101	2023	164									
											2004	66	2024										
											2005	138	2025										
											2006	97	2026										
											2007	122	2027										
											2008	51	2028										
											2009	113	2029										
											2010	156	2030										
											2011	187	2031										
											Total	1760	Total	1928									
Total											12	67	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	13
Grand Total															3688								

# **THE HOMEBUILDER'S CORNER**

## **Challenger II Builder Report – April 2024**

Submitted by Sid Wood

Progress over the winter has been somewhat slow, mainly due to the lack of heat in the hangar. I am dependent on the afternoon sun to warm the hangar. If it is cloudy, no heat at all.

Checking on the lubrication on the nose wheel steering bearings, I opened the gland nut on the swivel assembly. This looks like a light-weight BMX bicycle steering unit, cut and welded in place. Maximum running weight on the nose wheel is under 150 pounds. The balls in the bearings are assembled with a crimped and rolled ring to hold them in place during installation. All the ball bearings fell out when I opened the gland nut; impossible for me to reassemble, especially when I could not find all the balls.

I took what was left along with the stem post to Mike's Bikes on Great Mills Road to search for replacement bearings. After the obligatory story swapping with Mike, he pulls out this large, well-used, pasteboard storage carton containing at least one pair of any ball bearing ever used on any bicycle steering assembly (five). With a practiced eye, Mike quickly found a pair just the right size and checked them on my stem post: good to go. Mike advised to pack the bearings with Lithium grease: "Keeps the water off the bearings to prevent rust when they sit for long time between runs." I paid Mike \$5.00 cash for the pair, no sales tax, no receipt. Mike walked me to the door, grumbling all the while about people not taking responsibility for their personal actions.

Finally worked up my nerve to cut the four Dacron fabric inspection ports on the wings. These ports allow access to fasten the Lift Strut Brackets onto the wing spars: Critical safety of flight items. The cutting process is actually a melting of the Dacron fabric along with the glue, undercoat and paint, using a hot soldering iron with a wood-burning tip. The melted edge also keeps the fabric from unraveling. I made a tool to help locate the slit for the inner Lift Strut Brackets to penetrate the fabric. The hot tip cuts the Dacron fabric like butter.







**Lift Strut Attachment Brackets - Temporary Mount**



Applying Decals per FAA Requirements

## **THE FLYING/MAINTENANCE CORNER**

No Input this Month

## FOR SALE/FREE

### CHAPTER 478 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>APRIL</b>	
2-Apr	EAA Chapter 478 Board Meeting - 6-8 PM 2W6
16-Apr	EAA Chapter 478 Monthly Gathering - 6-8 PM 2W6
20-Apr	EAA Chapter 478 VMC Meeting - 9-10 AM 2W6
20-Apr	Build & Fly Workshop - 11 AM-3 PM 2W6
<b>MAY</b>	
7-May	EAA Chapter 478 Board Meeting - 6-8 PM 2W6
11-May	Fly-in at Massey Aerodrome
18-May	EAA Chapter 478 VMC Meeting - 9-10 AM 2W6
18-May	Build & Fly Workshop - 11 AM-3 PM 2W6
21-May	EAA Chapter 478 Monthly Gathering - 6-8 PM 2W6
<b>JUNE</b>	
4-Jun	EAA Chapter 478 Board Meeting - 6-8 PM 2W6
8-Jun	National Young Eagles Day Rally - 2W6 9-1
15-Jun	EAA Chapter 478 VMC Meeting - 9-10 AM 2W6
18-Jun	EAA Chapter 478 Monthly Gathering - 6-8 PM 2W6 Open Hangar?
17-21 Jun	Build* & Fly Summer Camp - 2W6 8-5

### In the Chocks

Thanks for all of the inputs this month, looking forward to seeing all of you at a Chapter event soon.

Build, Repair and Fly Safe.

Tom Weiss – Editor

*Cockpit Chatter* is published monthly by the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 478 solely for the dissemination of information and ideas to the membership. Gatherings are held on the Third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM in the Patuxent River Test and Evaluation Museum. Membership is \$20.00 per year and requires an active membership in EAA. Any opinions expressed herein are strictly those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the chapter or the Experimental Aircraft Association.

#### Chapter Officers

President: *Darryl Crawford* 2024-25

Vice President: Paul Gambacorta 2023-24

Secretary: Bernie Wunder 2024-25

Treasurer: *Don Byrne* 2023-24

#### Committee Chairs and Chapter Advisors

Social Chairman: John Reinert, Sid Wood, Bernie Wunder

Membership Chairman:

Program Coordinator: Paul Gambacorta

Young Eagles: Keith King, Paul Gambacorta, Greg Stevens

Flight Advisors: *Bill Posnett*, *Joe Arvai*

Technical Counselors: Sid Wood

Newsletter Editor: *Tom Weiss*

Web Editor: Chris Moody

Tool Crib Committee: Colin Cline

#### Board Members

*Sid Wood* 2024-25

*Chris Moody* 2023-24

*Bill Englehart* 2023-24

*John Attebury* 2023-24

*John Reinert* 2023-24

*Greg Stevens* 2023-24

*Keith King* 2023-24

*Past President Tom Weiss* 2024-25

#### Chapter Web Address

<https://chapters.eaa.org/EAA478>