



EAA Chapter 478
COCKPIT CHATTER
Lexington Park, MD December 2024
A Silver EAA Chapter



EAA Chapter 478 Monthly Gathering **February 18, 2025**

Program: AOPA Photo Shoot Experience – Jeremy DeBons
2W6 Terminal Building Conference Room
6:00-6:30 PM Social
6:30 PM Program Begins

In this edition of Cockpit Chatter

From The Top – Kicking off a cold new year, Remembering Frank Drefs
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – 4 February 2025
Treasurer Report – Current Status
Young Eagles Corner – End of 2024 YE Total
The Homebuilder's Corner - EAA Ultralight Days week begins 18 February
The Flying/Maintenance Corner –
For Sale – Items donated to the Chapter

FROM THE TOP

Darryl Crawford, President EAA Chapter 478

As we begin 2025, the Board is working on planning several events for the year including a Build and Fly program, Young Eagles and some Fly Outs. Please convey your ideas for a Chapter Event this year to either myself or one of the Board members. The list of Chapter Officers and Board Members is at the end of this Newsletter.

The Chapter remembers long term Chapter member Frank Drefs who passed away early this month. Please read the remembrance below. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Frank's family and friends.

EAA Ultralight Week begins on Tuesday, February 18th. Go to EAA.org to see the schedule of events. There are 5 webinars scheduled each day for 3 days.

The program this month will be very interesting as Jeremy DeBons shares with us his experience flying his Cessna 120 for a photo shoot with the AOPA staff. It will be interesting to hear what safety protocols AOPA has in place when they are gathering content for the Magazine. See the February AOPA pilot magazine to see Jeremy's airplane on the cover. There is also an AOPA video of this flyoff event on YouTube.

Chapter dues are due, still a bargain at \$20 for the year. There is a Paypal link on the Chapter website if you want to use that, you can also pay the Treasurer at one of our Chapter events.



QR Code to donate to the Chapter

Frank Drefs - EAA Chapter 478 Member Gone West

Submitted by Bernie Wunder

Frank and I met at a Chapter EAA 478 meeting around the late 1990s after he had moved down from Washington DC and bought a home on the Chesapeake Ranch Airport. The way I got to know more about Frank is when he was building his hangar at the MD50 airport. Frank was always a big thinker and his hangar design was a two story affair with a 50 ft cupola/observation tower above the second deck. He ran into trouble with the HOA on what they would let him build. Frank would never back down and unfortunately his hangar was never finished. {Because of Frank I wound up buying a lot at the airport and building a house/hangar in 2005}.

Many of us could compile a book of "Frank Stories". My first one was when I was eating breakfast before church on a Sunday morning and I got a call from Frank that he needed help right away unloading trusses for his hangar because the truck driver was going back that night, one way or another, whether the trusses were unloaded or not. So, at 7am I drove over to Frank's hangar and my job was to wrap a log chain around the trusses so that the truck driver could swing them over with a crane to the second deck of the hangar where Frank and a helper would position them in place. Needless to say, there were a ton of trusses and the time to unload them took longer than Frank planned. It became nighttime and here I am up on the truck bed, standing on trusses, in the dark, trying to catch a swinging log chain coming back to the truck for the next truss. All I could think about was that I was going to get killed or that Frank would fall off the second floor and he gets killed. But we persevered and the trusses were unloaded.

Over the next several years, Frank worked on his hangar trying to meet the HOA requirements but never finished his hangar. He did buy a couple of airplanes and he was bound and determined to finish building them....but like the hangar, the dream never came true.

Everybody knew Frank and from conversations with him, he was friends with the Rutan brothers. Maybe that is why he bought a Variez and was going to finish building that. Just to demonstrate that he knew a lot of people, when he was in the nursing home in Prince Frederick, word came out that his house at CRE was going to be sold at a Sheriff's auction because he had not paid the real estate taxes for several years. He called the county treasurer, and she made a personal trip to the nursing home to pick up his check. I told Frank that there was no way a County Treasurer would make a personal trip to pick up your taxes, so how did he do it. He told me that he always paid his taxes in person and, if you knew Frank and women, he would introduce himself and ask them if they liked to do the wobble dance. Evidently, it made a lasting impression on the County Treasurer.

Frank's last couple of years were pretty rough. His health was continually getting worse, but he was bound and determined to keep on doing the things he loved: being around airplane people, eating seafood, and traveling. He had a bad fall at the end of 2023 and wound up in the Calvert Hospital, then eventually getting into the Veterans Home at Charolette Hall. He found a contractor who became a pretty good friend and, to the end, he was working on his house and hangar to get them ready to come home and be around his airplane friends. He died from health complications on February 5th. He is now probably trying to convince the Almighty that he needs a bigger hangar for his airplane that he will be flying shortly! Rest in peace Frank.



Frank, Sid and I last summer at our last seafood luncheon at the Foxy Fish.



Picture of Sid and Frank attaching wings on his Variez at his CRE hangar in 2019. The N number of his Lighting airplane can be seen in the background (there is another story on how this airplane got transported to his hangar!)

UPCOMING EVENTS

February Gathering – 18 February
March Board Meeting – 4 March
March Gathering – 18 March
Sun-N-Fun – 1-6 April

EAA CHAPTER 478 MEETING MINUTES

EAA Chapter 478 Board of Directors Meeting (Virtual) February 4, 2025 – 6:30 PM

Attendees: John Attebury, Darryl Crawford, Tom Weiss, Don Byrne (phone), Rich Byrnes, Paul Gambacorta, Sid Wood, Gerry Swift

Discussion:

1. February Gathering program will be Jeremy Debonis experience working with AOPA for flying for the magazine article.
2. Museum needs the A-1 video that was with the display of the A-1. Don may have a copy
3. Possible future program on Wilkerson Tire Recycler and an update on the airport future.
4. Do we want to support STEAM Day at the Museum, 10-3 on March 8? We need EAA insurance and what to do to showcase the Chapter. Need 5 members. Discussion on what is the purpose for the Chapter. Sid and Bernie will need help, members will assist them as needed. Decided not to support as a Chapter.
5. Mini YE Rally's start after VMC meetings starting in April.
6. If your Young Eagles Child Protection status has not been reported back to you by EAA, check your Profile on the EAA website to see if the dates have been updated.
7. 2025 major events:
 - a. YE Rally on June 7th @ 2W6
 - b. Labor Day Weekend Saturday @ 2W6
 - c. Chapter Fly-Out to Massey
 - d. Open Hangar June 17th
 - e. Also Ryken and BJ Hall's group
 - f. Cambridge Wags, Wings and Wheels, 9 August.
 - g. September Picnic
 - h. Chapter Fly-Out to Gettysburg for Pancake Breakfast
8. Build and Fly program has not been determined for this year, still being discussed.
9. Need to merge Newsletter Email Distro list, membership roster and treasurers list.
10. Membership Dues are due for 2025
11. Ryken kids could use EAA members to be mentors.
12. Old versions of the Young Eagle's sign up sheet are not accepted by HQ.
13. Need Insurance for YE rally's after VMC Meetings.
14. Do we want to send flowers to Donna Miller's memorial service or place the name on the EAA wall. Check with Rich Miller for suggestions.
15. We have tires at Fredrick and Tappahanic.
16. We may be a "Gold" Chapter this year, waiting for confirmation from EAA HQ.

- 17. The Chapter can not have a key or gate fob for the Terminal building.
 - 18. Discussion on a Chapter Club House/Hangar, how to do it. 2W6 is a hard place to do this.
- Adjourned: 8:08 PM

TREASURER’S REPORT

Submitted by Don Byrne

Note from Treasurer:

It’s that time of year to pay Chapter dues! The amount hasn’t changed, still the low low price of \$20.00 . There’s three ways to pay;

- 1) See the Chapter Treasurer at a meeting (VMC, Board meeting, Chapter meeting or Attebury party) and slip him cash or a check
- 2) Send a check to; Don Byrne
 12108 Double Tree lane
 Lusby, MD 20657
- 3) use the PayPal link on our Chapter Website (<https://chapters.eaa.org/ea478>)

I will repeat this request in the March newsletter then start sending emails reminding people of dues delinquencies.

Help support our Chapter,
 Don Byrne
 EAA 478 Treasurer

| <u>EAA Chapter 478 Financial Report</u> | |
|--|---------------|
| Through 31 December 2024 | |
| Fund | Amount |
| Petty Cash | \$24.40 |
| Savings | \$439.00 |
| Checking | \$24,890.72 |
| Total | \$25,354.12 |

YOUNG EAGLES CORNER

Young Eagle Coordinators – Greg Stevens, BJ Hall, Paul Gambacorta

Editor's Note: I am posting an email that many of us should have received on changes to the Young Eagle website, please note the information about passwords and the section I highlighted. There were some issues at the last mini Young Eagle Rally with the website, it appears there is still a transition phase taking place trying to get to the new website. Stay tuned, more to come as it is received.

I am thrilled to announce that the new version of Young Eagles online registration is now live! The new tool, EAA Chapter Events, can be found at EAAChapters.org.

As a current user of YEDay.org, your profile has been migrated to the new tool. The new online software is directly integrated with your EAA.org account. Therefore, your credentials are as follows:

- Email: (Email)
- Password: EAA.org Password.

If you have forgotten your password, you can reset it by clicking "Forgot Password." This will reset your password for EAAChapters.org and EAA.org as your profiles are now one and the same.

Once you have logged into the new tool, please click your name in the upper right-hand corner to review your profile for accuracy. You will notice that you can now list multiple EAA chapters that you are affiliated with.

Although the new tool is now live, EAA is already working on Phase 2 development. This next phase includes the following:

- Additional event types (Flying Start, Young Eagles Build and Fly, Young Eagles Workshop)
- Non-EAA member access to the tool
- Optional function to reserve seats for first-time fliers
- Cleaning up reporting functions
- Many more enhancements for the user experience suggested to EAA during beta testing

With the go-live of the new tool, I'd also like to update you on the shutdown timeline for YEDay.org.

- October 1 – Chapters cannot add new events to YEDay.org
- December 31 – YEDay.org will be decommissioned
 - YEDay.org will redirect to the new site
 - EAA will work with chapters with any existing events scheduled for January 1 or later

If your chapter has any events scheduled in [YEDay](http://YEDay.org) between now and the end of 2024, you may finish those events out on YEDay.org.

I appreciate all your patience during this transition period. Make no mistake, there will be hiccups, but the Young Eagles team is committed to developing a high-quality tool that will make your life easier as a Young Eagles volunteer.

EAA Digital Signature App – Important Note

During this transition period, your login credentials for the digital signature app will not change. They will remain the same as your YEDay.org login. When YEDay.org is shuttered, the login credentials will transition to match the EAA Chapter Events tool.

Young Eagles Flown by Pilot in 2024

| Pilots | 6/8 | 6/8 | 6/20 | 6/21 | 7/19 | 8/10 | 9/7 | Oct-Nov | Other | 12/7 | Total |
|--------------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|---------|-------|------|-------|
| Joe Arvai | | | | | | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| John Attebury | | | | 4 | | 5 | | 4 | | 1 | 14 |
| Robert Bray | 5 | | 2 | | | 4 | | | 1 | | 12 |
| Don Byrne | 3 | 1 | 1 | | 4 | 5 | 4 | | | | 18 |
| Dan Byrnes | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Richard Byrnes | 3 | | | | | 4 | | | | | 7 |
| Ken Cahill | | | | | | | 4 | | | | 4 |
| Darryl Crawford | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Michael D'Errico | 2 | 1 | | 3 | | 2 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 20 |
| Egon Frech | 5 | | 2 | | | | 5 | | | | 12 |
| Paul Gambacorta | 4 | 1 | | | 6 | 2 | 7 | | 3 | | 23 |
| Don Gates | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Grant Miller | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Chris Moody | | | 2 | | | | 5 | 4 | | | 11 |
| John Nelson | | | | | | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| Robert Jake Piercy | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Charles Quandt | | | | | | 4 | | | | | 4 |
| David Rivera | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Guy Sappah | | | | 2 | 4 | | | 1 | | | 7 |
| Marc Slavin | | | | | | 4 | | | | | 4 |
| James Spencer | 4 | 2 | | | | | | | | 2 | 8 |
| Richard Van Natta | 2 | 1 | | 8 | | | | | | | 11 |
| Brian White | | | | | | 5 | | | | | 5 |
| Benard Wunder | 6 | | 2 | | | 3 | | 4 | | 2 | 17 |
| Total | 34 | 6 | 9 | 17 | 14 | 43 | 31 | 17 | 5 | 8 | 184 |

| 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 | 184 |
| 2005 | 138 | 2025 | |
| 2006 | 97 | 2026 | |
| 2007 | 122 | 2027 | |
| 2008 | 51 | 2028 | |
| 2009 | 113 | 2029 | |
| 2010 | 156 | 2030 | |
| 2011 | 187 | 2031 | |
| Total | 1760 | Total | 2112 |
| Grand Total | | 3872 | |

THE HOMEBUILDER'S CORNER

No Input this Month

THE FLYING/MAINTENANCE CORNER

Hello,

I am the aviation program leader and one of the lead meteorologists at the National Weather Service Baltimore/Washington Forecast Office. You are receiving this email because I believe you/your organization utilize and/or instruct others about Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs) in our area. Our office issues TAFs for BWI, CHO, DCA, IAD, MRB, and MTN.

Starting in March, we will begin using the PROB30 descriptor to indicate a low chance of thunderstorms (or other brief, hazardous precipitation) in the TAFs. We have typically used VCTS/VCSH for this purpose. In the future, those descriptors will only be utilized for more specialized situations that more closely match their definition in NWS policy.

Please see the attached one-page document for more details on this philosophy change. I encourage you to share this with anyone you think may find it useful.

Let me know if you have any questions or feedback.

Thanks,
Andrew Snyder
NWS Baltimore/Washington



TERMINAL AERODROME FORECAST PHILOSOPHY CHANGE - PROB30

NOAA/National Weather Service Baltimore-Washington Weather Forecast Office

TAFs for KBWI, KCHO, KDCA, KIAD, KMRB, KMTN

Proposed Implementation: March 1, 2025

| TAF Syntax | Weather Situations | Notes |
|--|---|---|
| Prevailing (e.g., -TSRA, SHSN, +RA) | 55-100% chance, extended duration possible | <55% chance of stratiform precip usually will not be mentioned unless it could be impactful |
| TEMPO | >50% chance of temporary fluctuations lasting less than one hour; or near-term AMD as storms develop/approach | Can be used at any forecast hour; Group can't exceed 4 hours |
| VCTS / VCSH | >50% chance of scattered convection near (5-10SM) but not over the airport | Used more sparingly than currently, and most likely several hours in advance at most |
| PROB30 | 25-50% chance of short duration precipitation | See philosophy below |
| None (mention in Area Forecast Discussion) | <25% chance and/or low confidence of occurrence | View discussion at: https://www.weather.gov/lwx/aviation |

**This is a general philosophy. Forecasters may use their discretion based on each situation.*

Background: Policy update allows PROB30 at any time of the TAF and discourages use of VCTS except for its true definition (>50% 5-10SM radius). Allows for better communication of low probability events within the first 9 hours of the TAF. We will incorporate this new paradigm locally, as outlined here.

Rationale: Response to feedback about inconsistent usage of VCTS across the NWS. Limit widespread usage of VCTS beyond its definition. Embrace probabilistic forecasting and communication (larger NWS goal). Greater consistency with the public forecast.

PROB30 Philosophy: "Low chance of impactful event," not "any time there's a 30% chance of rain"

- 6-hour maximum duration; try to limit to the shortest duration of possible thunderstorms
- Don't buffer prevailing groups with PROB30 unless there is potential for longer duration or second round of thunderstorms/impactful weather
- Try to transition to prevailing, TEMPO, or no mention (or occasionally VCTS) in first 3-6 hours
- Potential winter scenarios: snow showers/squalls, localized heavy snow band, low confidence of brief but impactful snow or freezing rain
- Proactive with amendments

Example usage: Appended to end of prevailing line (can wrap to the next line)

KDCA 021726Z 0218/0318 21008KT P6SM SCT040 PROB30 0304/0306 27020G45KT

1SM TSRA OVC012CB



FOR SALE

Our EAA Chapter received a donation of aviation supplies from Adml Steve Abbot with a request that proceeds from selling these items would be used to support our Chapter's youth programs.

Here's a list of items that the Chapter still has for sale with suggested selling prices. If you think the price is too high, make an offer. Details and purchases can be made by contacting Don Byrne (Treasurer) at byrnehangar@comcast.net or 301-602-7403. Items can be delivered to the Chapter meeting or other arrangements can be made.

Bose A20 Headset (with 6 pin lemo connector) \$250

Stratus 2S ADS-B In receiver \$200

Stratus 1 ADS-B Receiver \$50

Garmin GPS MAO 496 (with manul, antenna and charge cable) \$400

Life Raft, Survival Products Inc, 4 person \$500

Aircraft Cover for Cirrus SR20, Bruce's Custom Covers \$200

Don Byrne
EAA Chapter 478 Treasurer

CHAPTER 478 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| Date | Day | Event |
|--------|-----------|---|
| 18-Feb | Tuesday | EAA Chapter 478 Members Meeting 6-8 pm @ 2W6 Terminal |
| 4-Mar | Tuesday | EAA Chapter 478 Board Meeting 6-8 pm @ 2W6 Terminal |
| 8-Mar | Saturday | Pax Museum STEAM Day 10 am - 3 pm |
| 15-Mar | Saturday | EAA Chapter 478 VMC Meeting 9-10 am |
| 18-Mar | Tuesday | EAA Chapter 478 Members Meeting 6-8 pm @ 2W6 Terminal |
| 1-Apr | Tuesday | EAA Chapter 478 Board Meeting 6-8 pm @ 2W6 Terminal, Sun n' Fun, Lakeland FL |
| 2-Apr | Wednesday | Sun n' Fun, Lakeland FL |
| 3-Apr | Thursday | Sun n' Fun, Lakeland FL |
| 4-Apr | Friday | Sun n' Fun, Lakeland FL |
| 5-Apr | Saturday | Sun n' Fun, Lakeland FL |
| 6-Apr | Sunday | Sun n' Fun, Lakeland FL |
| 15-Apr | Tuesday | EAA Chapter 478 Members Meeting 6-8 pm @ 2W6 Terminal |
| 19-Apr | Saturday | EAA Chapter 478 VMC Meeting 9-10 am |
| 6-May | Tuesday | EAA Chapter 478 Board Meeting 6-8 pm @ 2W6 Terminal |
| 10-May | Saturday | Massey Aerodrome Chili Fiesta Fly-in 10 am - 2 pm |
| 17-May | Saturday | EAA Chapter 478 VMC Meeting 9-10 am |
| 20-May | Tuesday | EAA Chapter 478 Members Meeting 6-8 pm @ 2W6 Terminal |
| 21-May | Wednesday | US Naval Academy Graduation, Annapolis MD |
| 22-May | Thursday | US Naval Academy Graduation, Annapolis MD |
| 24-May | Saturday | Harrisburg Air Show, Harrisburg PA / Stafford Airshow, Stafford VA |
| 25-May | Sunday | Harrisburg Air Show, Harrisburg PA / Stafford Airshow, Stafford VA |
| 26-May | Monday | Memorial Day Holiday |
| 31-May | Saturday | Gettysburg EAA Chapter 1041 Spring Fly-in/Drive-in Pancake Breakfast 8- am - 12 pm |

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: *Rich Byrnes 2025-26*

Secretary:

Treasurer: *Don Byrne 2025-26*

Committee Chairs and Chapter Advisors

Social Chairman:

VMC Coordinator: *Paul Gambacorta*

Program Coordinator: *Paul Gambacorta*

Young Eagles: *Greg Stevens, BJ Hall*

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 2025-26

Jeff Panko 2025-2026

John Attebury 2023-24

BJ Hall 2025-2026

Greg Stevens 2025-26

Keith King 2025-26

John Pechon 2025-26

Past President Tom Weiss 2024-25

Chapter Web Address

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