

# EAA 50 NEWS

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2023



## Benjamin Gleason

**1937-2023**

Benjamin Dale Gleason, aged 86, passed away on Friday, November 17, 2023, at Amherst Manor Retirement Community, following a brief illness.

Born on March 8, 1937, in Lima, OH, Benjamin had called Vermilion home for the past five decades, having relocated from Lima. His professional journey as an insurance agent, commenced with National Life and later with American General.

A devout member of the Chapel in Sandusky, Benjamin was deeply involved with the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 50 in Huron, serving as a member and officer for an impressive 40 years, and as president for 5 years, including the past four. Engaging with his passions, he was also affiliated with the Vermilion Fish and Game and the National Rifle Association. His joys in life encompassed fishing, marksmanship, exploring on motorcycles, and the serenity of camping. However, Benjamin's unwavering devotion lay in the realm of aviation. Acquiring his pilot's license at a youthful 19, he remained an



## Remembering Ben

By: The Bores Family

Ben was instrumental in, and supportive of Hinde Field. After Bill Hinde passed away, Ben's aviation expertise helped the Bores Family continue to operate and improve the Airport. He was Hinde Field's biggest supporter. We will hold onto the memories we shared, the laughter we enjoyed, and the friendship that bound us together. Good Bye our dear friend.

ardent owner and pilot of airplanes throughout his life.

He leaves behind his beloved wife of 62 years, JoAnn (nee Gibbs) Gleason of Vermilion, along with cherished family members: favorite niece Nicole Gleason, great-niece Kennedy Hughes, and great-nephew Brett Allen Gleason, Jr.

Preceding him in passing were his parents, Donald and Vera (nee Rhodaberger) Gleason, his son Benjamin Jr., his brother Ronald Gene Gleason, and his nephew Brett Allen Gleason.

A man with unparalleled care for those in his life, Ben would want anyone who feels moved to not be a stranger. Anyone who had the fortune of knowing him is encouraged to connect and find community with one another. Let us celebrate the time we had. Fly high, wings level.

Private family services are scheduled, with the family kindly suggesting memorial contributions to [St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](https://www.stjude.org/) at 501 St Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-9959.

Expressions of condolences can be shared online at [www.riddlefuneralhome.com](http://www.riddlefuneralhome.com).





## President's Corner By: Steve Risner

I want to give our members a brief introduction of myself in case I never had the chance to formally introduce myself. I joined the chapter in the late 2000's and soon started serving as the chapter treasurer through 2015. I have been your vice president for the last few years working alongside Ben and our other chapter members. I will finish my current term as your acting president, and plan to continue serving in this role if reelected. Ben has been instrumental in driving the chapter's mission and organizing the many events we have held over the years. I look forward to the challenge it will be to fill Ben's shoes, but I am certain that the

team members you elect for 2024 will make you and Ben proud. God bless

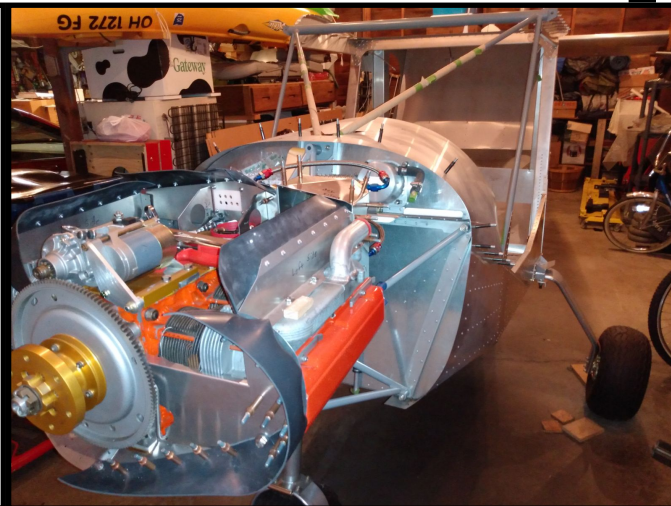
## "Energizer Benny" By: Ed Rusch

I called him Energizer Benny after the unstoppable rabbit in the TV battery commercial. He never seemed to run out of ideas and tireless motion. I met him over 35 years ago when he called me about an annual inspection on his Citabria. We hit it off right away and I saw him pretty regularly after that. We often worked on his airplanes together, or just sat and enjoyed each other's company. The day came when he decided to disassemble and recover his Citabria. I watched over the project, signing off the pre-cover inspection, etc., while he performed his usual good workmanship. Then came the evening I got a phone call from him saying he was ready to have the books signed and get his pride and joy back in the air. I believe it was a Saturday when my young daughter and I drove to Hinde Field and saw the restored Citabria sitting outside his hangar in the sun. Ben had the books sitting on his desk ready for the final entries, and I proceeded around the aircraft making sure the big parts were all firmly attached. After I got all the way around, I looked him in the eye and said, "How'd it fly?" He looked at me like a kid who'd been caught with his hand in the cookie jar. I busted out laughing and said, "Oil streaks don't run horizontally on the ground." Well, we got the bird all signed off and legal, and my kid and I put a half hour on it, complete with a couple loops for good measure. Ben and I didn't always agree, but we were always friends, and there was never a time either of us wouldn't have done anything for the other. Tailwinds Buddy! Ed Rusch

## CH 750 STOL Project Update

November 7, 2023  
by Tim Drumm

The CH 750 has progressed quite a bit since members of EAA Chapter 50 visited my garage several years ago. Back then, the wings, rudder and horizontal stabilizer were complete, and the fuselage was being constructed on the workbench. The Corvair engine had been overhauled and converted. It had been test run and



project continued converted. It had been test run and was awaiting installation.

I have since taken the engine for dynamometer testing by Roy Szarafinski. He also rebuilt the MA-3 carburetor and tuned it to the engine. The fuselage was completed and the rudder and horizontal stabilizer have been installed along with the dual sticks and control cables. The fuselage is on the gear. The rudder pedals and break lines have been installed. I have cut the holes for the instruments and radios in the instrument panel, but have not installed the instruments as of yet. Wiring and plumbing are in progress as well.

The engine mount is on the fuselage and the engine is on the mount. I am currently working on installing the baffling for cooling on the engine.

Progress has been rather slow over the last several years. When the fuselage is complete, I will bring it to 88D to attach the wings.

## An October Surprise

On October 7th, the EAA 50 annual Oktoberfest was held. All indications were that there would be a small crowd as the weather was cool, breezy, and cloudy which prevented fly ins, except for one. However as the time arrived so did the guests, which sent us scurrying to purchase more food as we planned on 60 guest due to the weather. In the end we served over 130 burgers and brats with an estimated group of over 100 guests. The food buffet was excellent and the rain held off. What a great day!



ABOVE  
CENTER

Thank  
you  
Steve  
for  
being  
our grill  
master !



## A Story from the Past

By: Ben Gleason \first published in the EAA 50 Newsletter Dec. 1997

The story you are about to read is true, only the name has been changed to protect the pride of yours truly. Plane Talk this month is like true confessions. I'm telling you like it really was, as the old cliché says "Right from the horse's mouth".

In the movie "Forest Gump" Forest makes a statement "Stupid is what stupid does". I have pondered over that statement many times. I think I now understand it. It was a cold day, a day for heavy coveralls with big legs and cuffs. The wind was out of the southwest at 15-20 gusting a little higher. The Champ was being prepared for its annual inspection and had to be done before the 1st of the month. It seemed all had been done. I had just finished going over the inspection list. All complete, let's give her a nice static run up. All Chalked up, started on the first blade, setting there chug - chug - chug.

Dam, it's cold, let's get in, taxi her away from the front of the T hanger, I don't want to fill it with debris. Whoops! move a little more, don't want to blow prop wash on Doc or Don's plane. What's that concrete mixer doing here, I'll just move around him and run up at the end of the runway. No one's around anyway. Boy does this thing sound good. O mag drop in check. Temp is coming up O. look the sun's out.

Hmmmmmm tank gauge says quarter of a tank. Nuts, let's take her around once, that will give her a good check. Clearing turn balls to the wall, away we go!! Whoops what's that miss? might be a little ice, I reach back and don't look, carb heat on, Champ is climbing 200 feet, whoops - dead engine. I establish glide, but I can't make the highway, and too much traffic. Can I turn around? No don't be stupid, I'm into the wind need to miss the big tree and land. Total time counts in seconds at 200 feet. A corn field below, standing corn slows you down quickly at 35-40 miles per hour. Good Job!!!

Two struts and a truss broken, you lucky bast....! Stupid is what stupid is. I was never going to fly. I did not pre-flight, I did not visual the fuel. I shut the fuel off accidentally. I had low fuel at the beginning, but I flew and I really was not going to. The half mile walk back to my hanger was full of thought. Three bi-annuals ago Arlo Mather gave me many hints on safety. His grandson has given me many ideas in "Pro-Points". I always prided myself as just a little better than average. Today I let myself down. I let my instructors down and most of all I let many young pilots down. For this mistake, I'm truly sorry!. The conclusion is simple. If a proper pre-flight would have been done my Champ wouldn't need repair and neither would my ego. Stupid is what stupid does. Always pre-flight. Haste makes waste. HAPPY FLYING.

# A Flight to Rattlesnake Island

By: Dave Hirt

Anybody ever been to Rattlesnake Island? There are a couple of guys there that live there year around and mow the runway with a big mower that needs parts once in a while. It was late this October that they purchased parts from us but in October transportation to and from the Island is infrequent. Now I love to fly so I volunteered to take the parts over just for the experience.

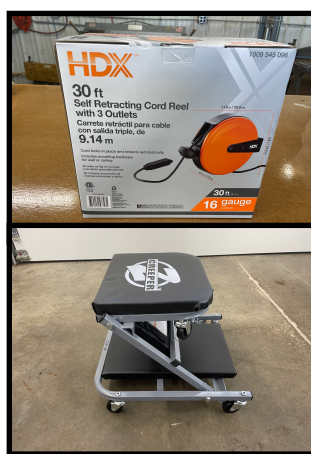
Wind was about 10 from the west and 20 minutes before sunset when wife and I set course 9 minutes away for Rattlesnake. Nice flight over, but stay on your toes going in there. It is a 1500 ft grass runway with water at each end, which is plenty of room for a C 150, just make sure you get it right.

Dropped the parts off just as the wind went from 10 to 15 mph coming right down the runway and kinda rocking the plane a little bit, such that my wife would not get out. She insistently requested to depart immediately and get back home. So after a 6 minute stay we departed just ahead of inbound weather change. Great trip and great experience



## New Items

## Donated to the EAA



1. Power cord reel ~HP printer with cartridges ~. Creeper that can be configured as a low profile mobile stool. ~ Shop Vac ~Portable air tank ~ 12 ton hydraulic press.

**Donations were anonymous. Thank you,**



Nov-Dec 2023

[www.50.eaachapter.org/](http://www.50.eaachapter.org/)

Continued



## Hinde Field Updates

- The Bores Air Parts building is complete. Scott has moved his inventory in and Hinde Field has all equipment stored.
- A new roof will be installed on hanger 20 this month, (Tim Stienbauer, Lake Buccaneer). Finally no more drips
- Dan DeCarlo has received his private pilots license. Congratulations!
- Tim Brown now has his Tri Pacer on field in his hangar
- Michael Barefoot also has arrived home at Hinde Field with his Gyro Copter.
- All tiling projects are complete. The picture below shows the need. August 24th, 7" of rain. HAHA, like there is enough tile in Erie county for this amount!



EAA50 EVENT

**CHRISTMAS WASSAIL & HORSD'OEUVRES**

FRIDAY December 1



EVENT: EAA CHRISTMAS GATHERING  
 DATE: FRIDAY **Dec. 1st**  
 WHERE: EAA 50 GATHERING ROOM @ HINDE FIELD  
 TIME: 6PM - ?

\*\*\*\*PLEASE JOIN US FOR EAA 50's NEWEST EVENT. GATHER WITH FRIENDS FOR SOME GOODIES AND CHEER. WASSAIL & SOFT DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED. PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE HORSD'OEUVRES & BYOB IF YOU WISH.



The Gathering Room scholarship fund donations continue to do well. Several new items were added last month in hopes of increasing our donations.

- Nylon hooded jacket, fleece lined
- Stocking caps
- Assorted key chains





## This and That

~Aviation

weathervane

donated By Nancy  
Glass

~Turbo Seminole  
visits

Hinde from Chicago

Nov. 13, 14, 15 for a  
stay at Kalahari

~Members, Scott &  
Nicole Bores.

Participate in  
the Memphis 1/2  
Marathon.

~A little aviation  
humor Submitted  
by Tracy Hille

**1997 Fisher  
Celebrity  
Biplane**

**\$ 17,500**

*Fun & Easy Biplane to Fly  
"Cub-like" Feel  
Ready to Go!*

- 110 hours TT
- Continental A75-8F with 110 hours SMOH
- All cylinder compression excellent
- 2-Place design - Front seat hole is there, front seat was never added, could easily be installed
- Poly fiber covering
- Fabric is in good condition
- Paint is in fair condition
- Grove landing gear mod with Matco brakes
- New tires
- Culver wood prop
- No electric
- Owned and maintained by A&P
- Owner financing available

Jeremy Colvin - (567) 228-9843  
Bellevue, OH 44811

For Sale: Jeremy Colvin 567-228-9843



Merry Christmas to all our  
members and families.