



March 2023



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Chapter 579
Sharing the Magic of Aviation
Aurora, IL - Home Airport: Aurora Municipal (KARR)

Check out our chapter website at
EAA579.org
for Chapter information

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Baer → Mail



We are only a month away from our first Young Eagles Rally of 2023 and as I had mentioned in January's Propwash, 2023 will be a landmark year for Chapter 579 as we will fly our 20,000th Young Eagle! We are dubbing this year "Y20K" (Year 20,000) to mark this incredible milestone. According to EAA HQ's records we currently stand at 19,660 Young Eagles flown. Since we average about 100 Young Eagles at each rallies we should hit the milestone during our August or September rally. If you are among the 146 pilots or the hundreds of ground volunteers that have been a part of EAA 579's Young Eagles program over the last 30 years, I want to personally thank you for donating your time and money to provide the experience of a lifetime to so many kids to promote the future of aviation. If you have not volunteered in the past please consider doing so during our historic Y20K season. We are always looking for friendly volunteers to help at our rallies. There are positions for everyone and you do not need to be a pilot, aviation enthusiast or even a chapter member to help out.

During our April Chapter Gathering on the 27th, we will cover all of the exciting 579 jobs available this year from pilots and ramp crew to registration, dispatch and hospitality. We even have a few new positions we are looking to fill like Videographer, Social Media Coordinator and Media Relations Director. If you are interested in helping us out this year, even if it is only for one of our five scheduled rallies, please try to attend the meeting on 4/27.

I look forward to seeing everyone in April.

Blue Skies

Mike



CHAPTER 579 2023 MONTHLY CHAPTER GATHERING SCHEDULE

January 26

February 23

March 23

April 27

May 25

June 22



Gone to Oshkosh

August 24

September 28

October 26

November 16

December 21*

(* Tentative)

AVIATION NEWS



Drone Safety Day returns in April



Drones are the fastest growing segment of aviation in the United States. As of January 2023, there were over 871,000 drones registered with the FAA, and over 307,000 certified Remote Pilots. These numbers are projected to continue to grow and we want everyone who operates drones to have fun and be safe!

Drone Safety Day (DSD) is an annual campaign dedicated to educating the drone community of the importance of flying safely. DSD will highlight the societal, economic, and safety benefits of safe drone operations with in-person, virtual, and hybrid events in focus areas such as **Education, Economics, Equity, Environment, and Emergencies.**

Download the [2023 Drone Safety Day Playbook](#) and [2023 Drone Safety Day Flyer](#) to learn more on how you can participate. These materials will give you an outline of what Drone Safety Day is all about and ideas for how to put together a DSD event.

The one-day event, slated for April 29, 2023, encourages drone pilots and recreational flyers to “Fly RIGHT” by focusing on five safety elements:

- Register your drone – DroneZone
- Interact with others
- Gain knowledge
- Have a safety plan
- TRUST and Train

Source: FAA.gov

CHAPTER 579 - "Y20K"

2023 YOUNG EAGLE RALLY SCHEDULE



May 21
 Jun 25
 Aug 27
 Sep 24
 Oct 15



**ONLINE
 REGISTRATION**

We will once again be using Online Registration for our Young Eagle Rallies. Registration will open up approximately ten days before each rally. Be sure to follow our Facebook page for details!



**EAA Chapter 579's
 18,000th Young Eagle**



Launched in 1992, the Young Eagles program has dedicated 30 years to giving youth ages 8–17 their first free flight in an airplane. It's the only program of its kind, with the sole mission to introduce and inspire kids in the world of aviation. Today, nearly 2.3 million young people have enjoyed a free introductory flight through the Young Eagles program. ***This Year Chapter 579 will be the first EAA Chapter worldwide to reach the 20,000 flight milestone! Join us and become part of EAA aviation history!***

Send your Young Eagles Questions to
mikebaer150@gmail.com



Know Your Chapter Members



Stephen Latchford



Steve has been an active Chapter member since 1947 and loves flying Young Eagles, when he is not pursuing his other passion— Wingsuit flying!

Steve is an active member of the United Flying Octogenarians (UFOs) as well as the Batavia Kiwanis Club.

This month we are getting to know Stephen a little better by asking him 10 questions:

1. Where were you born & raised
Chicken Bristle, Illinois (~ 30m E. of Decatur).
2. What is your (non-aviation) background?
CPA and Alaskan Crab Fisherman (outside of tax season).
3. What is one thing you would like to accomplish in the next year?
I'd love to start making TikTok videos... I'm a pretty good dancer!
4. What would you do if you won the lottery?
Buy a pony.
5. What is your dream vacation spot?
It's been a few years but I'd love to race in the Dakar Rally again.
6. Do you have any hobbies (other than aviation)?
Fishing, MMA, Stamp Collecting and Base Jumping
7. How did you get interested in aviation?
As a boy I got a ride with a barnstormer and I was hooked.
8. What is your favorite aviation memory?
In 1964 I got the opportunity to fly my J-3 Cub in formation with the USAF Thunderbirds – That's and experience I'll never forget!
9. If you could fly any aircraft what would it be?
I've always loved twin engine aircraft so I guess it would have to be the Cri-Cri.
10. If you could have dinner with any aviator past or present who would it be?
Lieutenant Nick "Goose" Bradshaw—he left us way too soon.



April Fools... Stephen Latchford was actually a United States diplomat and head of the State Department's early aviation committees. He was the aviation specialist during Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman administrations and unfortunately was never a member of Chapter 579.



News From HQ

EAA Announces Inaugural Learn to Fly Week – May 15 to 20

Aspiring aviators will have the opportunity to discover multiple pathways to becoming a pilot as EAA presents its inaugural Learn to Fly Week on May 15-20.



Beginning May 15th, expert flight instructors and representatives from various aviation organizations will present free, interactive webinars. These webinars will cover topics from starting flight training, saving time and money in flight training, preparing for the FAA written exam, to passing the checkride, and so much more. While the live showing of these presentations will be open to the public, the recordings will be archived for EAA members to view at their convenience.

Learn to Fly Week will conclude on Saturday, May 20, with Flying Start events hosted at chapters across the country. EAA's Flying Start program allows EAA chapters to welcome, encourage, and educate new aviation enthusiasts about the fun, freedom, and accessibility of personal aviation in their local area. Following a short presentation about learning to fly, attendees will be offered a free introductory Eagle Flight to experience the spirit of aviation firsthand.

"Becoming a pilot is a dream for many, but few know where to start their journey. Learn to Fly Week was created to help encourage aspiring pilots to take action and begin the pilot training process," said David Leiting, EAA Eagles Program Manager. "Our goal is to show attendees how accessible achieving their dream actually is." Leiting also added that inspiration from this event stemmed from packed forums at the Learn to Fly Center at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2022, as well as the success of other EAA virtual events like Homebuilders Week and Virtual Ultralight Days.

Combining the educational forums from the Learn to Fly Center and the connections and inspiration found at Flying Start events, EAA Learn to Fly Week is the latest effort in the ongoing effort to help aspiring pilots achieve their dream of flight.

Sporty's Pilot Shop is the presenting sponsor of Learn to Fly Week. Sporty's will be participating in multiple webinars and offering product discounts during the week.

Full webinar schedule and more details on Learn to Fly Week can be found at EAA.org/LTFWeek.





Phil Washington Withdraws from FAA Administrator Consideration



Phil Washington, the CEO of Denver International Airport and embattled nominee to become the next FAA Administrator, has withdrawn from consideration, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg confirmed on Saturday evening. Buttigieg released a statement on Twitter saying, “The FAA needs a confirmed Administrator, and Phil Washington’s transportation and military experience made him an excellent nominee. The partisan attacks and procedural obstruction he has faced are undeserved but I respect his decision to withdraw and am grateful for his service.”

The White House initially nominated Washington to the post in July. At the time, he had been CEO of the airport for six months but brought years of transportation experience as the CEO of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and of the Denver Regional Transportation District. He also spent 24 years in the U.S. Army and led Biden’s transportation transition team after he won the presidential election.

However, Republicans in both the Senate and the House raised objections over his experience, saying the FAA is facing numerous challenges that required a person with a strong aviation background. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), the ranking Republican on the Senate Commerce Committee, led the objections calling him the wrong person for the job.

Also clouding the nomination was a corruption probe ongoing stemming from Washington’s time as CEO of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. The California Attorney General’s office confirmed to Cruz that Washington was a “material” part of this probe.

While the Biden Administration initially nominated Washington in July, the Senate failed to act on it before that previous Congress concluded, oftentimes a sign that a nomination would whither away. Biden, however, resurrected the nomination in January when the new Congress took office.

Following the recent notam system meltdown and aircraft close calls that were making headlines, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-New York) called for action, saying: “It’s time to clear the runway for President Biden’s choice for FAA Administrator, Phil Washington.”

Senate Commerce Committee Chair Maria Cantwell (D-Washington) offered strong support citing his background in transportation and her office released numerous letters of endorsement from unions, airport groups, airlines, and from past FAA administrators—who like Washington had limited aviation experience when they stepped into the role of leading the agency.

While the Commerce Committee held a hearing in February and scheduled a vote on the nomination this past Wednesday, signs of trouble of its ultimate fate arose when Cantwell delayed that consideration at the last minute, saying there would be a “future date pending information that members have been seeking.” While she did not elaborate on what information or which members were seeking it, she also stressed, “We will have this debate in the future.”

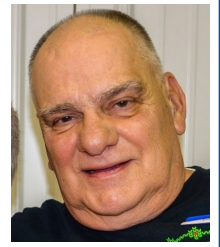
However, it had become unclear whether the votes were present to push through the nomination. In addition to Republican opposition, Senate Commerce Committee members Kyrsten Sinema (I-Arizona) and Jon Tester (D-Montana) reportedly appeared uncertain on the nomination.

Alongside the opposition in the Senate, the nomination was receiving objections in the House. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair Sam Graves (R-Missouri) had said Washington required a waiver from a provision requiring that the FAA Administrator be a civilian. Graves suggested the House would not provide such a waiver.

Meanwhile, Cruz has offered acting Administrator Billy Nolen as an alternative nominee saying such a prospect would have a “clear and easy path” to confirmation with bipartisan support.

Beat Billy

By: Bill Cameron

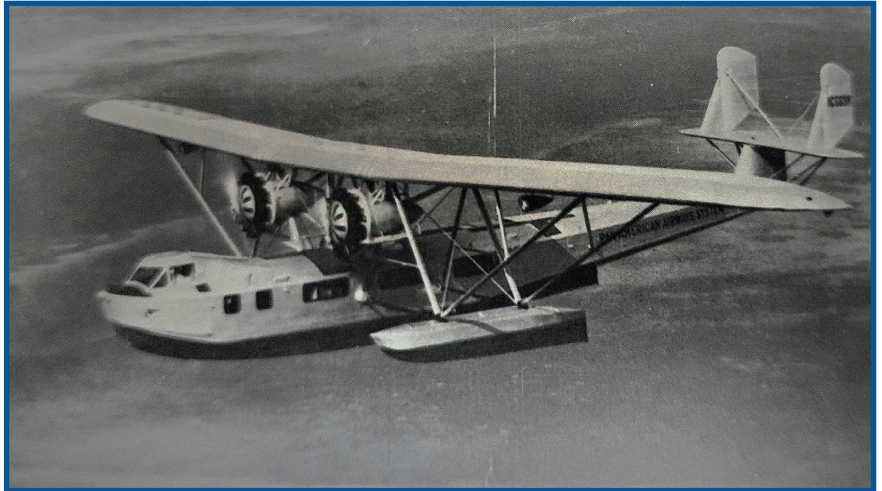


February's Question:

Here is your stumper for February, Name this plane. If you can name it, can you tell me some of what it helped to pioneer, aeronautically speaking?

February's Answer:

This large twin is none other than a 1929 Consolidated "Commodore", Model 16. The Commodore was a forerunner to the era of the large "FLYING BOAT" aircraft that were to pioneer the large cities in



Northern America with those in South America. To provide this service the New York, Rio, Buenos Aires (N.Y.R.B.A.) Air Line was launched in February 1930 with an 8900 mile route. After being Christened by Mrs. Herbert Hoover, the wife of President Hoover, the flagship of the Commodore fleet The "Buenos Aires" embarked with its first full load on July 1929. The flights left Miami bay weekly on a 7 day schedule. The 8 stage flight arrived, weather permitting, in Buenos Aires at least 11 days before the fastest steamship. Early business was very good, but due to money problems, which plagued most of the early lines the company was bought out by Pan American in September 1930. Since the Commodores were designed for long over water flights Pan American started the longest over water flights in the world in 1930 from Jamaica to Panama. The Commodores continued on until late 1935. the plane had a crew of 3 and seating for 18 to 22. They cruised at over 100 mph with a range in excess of 1000 miles, over water. These birds were the first big planes built by Consolidated Aircraft and were the direct forerunners of the PBY "Catalina" of World War II fame.

And.... We have a Winner!!!

Gerry Visel of EAA Chapter 22 provided the following answer:

The February airplane of the month is a Consolidated Commodore, with Pan Am livery. It lead to the development of long range flying boats, and specifically to the famous PBY Catalina. The only known Model 16 Commodore remaining has been located in a northern Canadian lake. There is currently an ongoing project to raise and restore this airframe for display at the San Diego Air & Space Museum.





VMC Club Meeting

Mark your calendar for

April 13, 2023

SimplyFly @ 6:30 pm

Our VMC Club offers monthly meetings in which pilots and non-pilots can network and share knowledge and experience.

The meetings use real-world scenarios to engage members, and allow a free exchange of information that improves awareness and skills. The intent is to create a community of pilots willing to share information, foster communication, promote safety, and build proficiency.

The VMC Club monthly programming is developed and produced by EAA, but it does not use a lecture or presentation format. Instead, an actual scenario is presented and is followed by a group discussion – so audience participation is encouraged! Since everyone has a different experience level and different airplane capabilities, we can all benefit from the discussion.

Send your VMC Club Questions to Chuck Newell at cmnewell@sbcglobal.net

The plan is to fly direct from Ogle County Airport (C55) in Oregon, Illinois, approximately 19 miles to Rockford Cottonwood Airport (1C8) at approximately 2,500 feet on a heading of 040.



Scenario

You often take that route to Cottonwood and come close to, but do not normally enter, the Class D airspace. However, much of the route is well within the RFD TRSA optional advisory area. If there is much traffic noted in the area, you would sometimes request traffic advisories as you approached the TRSA area, but mostly trusted the ADS-B traffic shown on your iPad screen.



Scenario



CHAPTER INFORMATION

EAA Chapter 579 is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed for educational purposes and is incorporated in accordance with the State of Illinois Not For Profit Corporation Act.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Chapter meets on the fourth Thursday of the month, January through October and the third Thursday in November and December at the Aurora Municipal Airport, starting at 7:30 pm. Please check our Facebook page for schedule updates. Family members and guests are always welcome.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership dues for EAA Chapter 579 are only \$20 per year and are due on the first of January for the upcoming year.

579 Chapter members are to be current members of the EAA, Oshkosh, WI.

Individual membership to the EAA is \$40 per year. Family memberships are available for an additional \$10 per year. Both include a twelve month subscription to *Sport Aviation* magazine.

A 579 Chapter Membership Form is included as the last page of this newsletter.

ADVERTISING IN PROPWASH

If you would like to support Chapter 579's educational mission by advertising in Propwash, please contact:

mikebaer150@gmail.com

<u>Size (Page %)</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Annually</u>
10% (business card)		\$50
25%	\$10	\$110
50%	\$20	\$200
100%	\$30	\$275
Classified Ads	Free for members	



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EAA Chapter 579

Membership Application

Today's Date: ___/___/___ EAA Member #: _____ New Applicant: ___ Renewal: ___

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

Email Address: _____ Birthday (MM/DD): ___/___

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

I would be able to help in the following area(s):

Advertising ___ Chapter Meeting Presentation ___ Finance ___ Fund Raising ___

Hospitality ___ Membership ___ Newsletter ___ Photography ___ Scholarships ___

Social Media ___ Speakers ___ Videography ___ Web Site ___ Young Eagle Rallies ___

Other _____

<u>Membership Category</u>	<u>Annual Dues *</u>	Please complete this form, attach check payable to EAA Chapter 579 and mail to: EAA Chapter 579 422 Clinton Ave. Oak Park, IL 60302
Regular (Individual)	\$20	
Regular (Family)	\$35	
Youth (Under 18)	\$12	
Life	\$400	
*Annual chapter dues are due on January 1st. New members joining after June 30th receive a 50% discount for first year dues		