



**July / August 2023**







Chapter 579  
Young Eagles Flown:

# 19,911



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

Check out our chapter website at  
[chapters.eaa.org/ea579](http://chapters.eaa.org/ea579)  
for Chapter information

**CHAPTER OFFICERS**

President, Newsletter Editor & Young Eagles Coordinator:

Mike Baer

Vice President, Scholarship Chair, VMC Club Coordinator & Web Editor:

Chuck Newell

Secretary:

Ed Ramos

Treasurer:

Dave Montgomery

**CHAPTER DIRECTORS**

Bill Cameron  
Tim Green  
Mariano Rosales  
Nathan Stonehocker

**Baer → Mail**



On July 22nd we lost a dear friend and Chapter Member in a tragic auto accident with a drunk driver. Jon Couch, pictured above, was a very positive yet private man who was always full of energy and loved to share the magic of aviation with Young Eagles. Last Thursday a *Celebration of Life* gathering was held in Jon's honor at the Aurora Airport. The event was attended by family members who flew in for the memorial, chapter members from both Chapters 579 and 461, co-workers from UPS and countless friends. The event closed with a missing man formation which included Jon's beloved Cessna 150 - "Pokey". There wasn't a dry eye on the field.

Memorial bricks in Jon's honor will be placed at the Aurora Airport (memorializing his impact on EAA Chapter 579), at Clow Airport in Bolingbrook (where he was also a member of Chapter 461) and at Wittman Field in Oshkosh WI (the heart of aviation). These bricks will serve as permanent reminders of the impact Jon made on the aviation community and all of those fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to know him.

On Sunday 8/27, we held our August Young Eagle rally. 35 Chapter volunteers came together to provide memories that will last a lifetime to 142 kids and their families. A sampling of some of the smiling faces are included on pages 4 and 5, and all 142 can be found on our Facebook Page - "EAA Chapter 579". As you can see by the counter in the upper right corner of this page, Chapter 579 is quickly approaching the milestone flight of our 20,000th Young Eagle. This is not only a milestone for our Chapter but for the EAA as well as Chapter 579 will be the first Chapter worldwide to have given 20,000 Young Eagle flights! Weather permitting, we should reach this milestone next month. Please mark your calendars for September 24th and help us make history.

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



### What Is Reauthorization and Why Is It Important?



Every five years, Congress must pass a bill to reauthorize funding for the FAA. The reauthorization also outlines the next steps Congress wants the FAA to take to “promote the growth and safety of U.S. aviation.”

Congressman Sam Graves (R-Missouri) led a general aviation Town Hall discussion during EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2023 with executives from several of GA’s advocacy groups. Graves, who is an avid pilot and aircraft owner, noted the Town Hall came on the heels of the passage of FAA reauthorization in the U.S. House of Representatives.

H.R. 3935, known as the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation (SGRLAA) Act, is a five-year reauthorization of the FAA and aviation safety and infrastructure programs. It was “overwhelmingly approved” by the House by a vote of 351 to 69, noted Graves, who is

chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Graves told the crowd that he worked to ensure that the SGRLAA Act included the first-ever title in an FAA bill dedicated specifically to GA. “It was absolutely vital to me to include the first GA title in this FAA bill, because the success of our aviation system is built upon a strong GA foundation,” Graves said. “If GA in the U.S. isn’t successful, then aviation in the U.S. will not be successful.”

As of the publication date of this month’s Propwash, The Senate has not yet passed its own version of an FAA reauthorization bill. Stay tuned!

# 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](mailto:mikebaer150@gmail.com)



# 579 Young Eagles Rally

August 27, 2023

Please see the full photo album on our [Facebook Page](#)





# 579 Young Eagles Rally

August 27, 2023

Please see the full photo album on our [Facebook Page](#)





# Know Your Chapter Members



## Pam Toleikis



1. Where were you born & raised?  
**Born in Oak Park, raised in Chicago and Cicero IL.**
2. What is your (non-aviation) background?  
**Worked in sales and marketing for a Fortune 50 company. (leader in apparel manufacturing) . Left the corporate world in 2009 to open my own business offering marketing services for small independent businesses.**
3. What is one goal you have for this year?  
**Spend more time traveling to friends in other states.**
4. What would you do if you won the lottery?  
**Pay off the mortgages of immediate family members, then go on a very cool vacation.**
5. What is your dream vacation spot?  
**Anywhere there is water and natural landscapes.**
6. Do you have any hobbies (other than aviation)?  
**Gardening, cooking, paddling (canoe & kayak).**
7. How did you get interested in aviation?  
**My husband Phil. He has always been fascinated in aviation and it's been fun to learn from him.**
8. What is your favorite aviation memory?  
**My first airshow in Oshkosh in the early 80's. It made the air and water show in Chicago seem like a small town effort.**
9. If you could fly any aircraft what would it be?  
**Any Cessna. Cessna was the first general aviation aircraft that I flew in and it was mesmerizing! Love the high wing and how you can see everything from inside the cabin. For me it is not about speed but experiencing being in the sky.**
10. If you could have dinner with any aviator past or present who would it be?  
**Paul Poberezny.**





**AURORA**  
MUNICIPAL AIRPORT  
NEWS



**ARR Tower Pilot Outreach  
August Newsletter**



**Crosswind Turns**

ATC WILL SOMETIMES CLEAR YOUR AIRCRAFT FOR TAKEOFF AND INSTRUCT YOU TO FOLLOW TRAFFIC IN THE UPWIND OR INSTRUCT PILOTS TO TURN OUTSIDE OF ANOTHER AIRCRAFT.

ARR TOWER CONTROLLERS HAVE SEEN AN INCREASE IN PILOTS NOT FOLLOWING THESE INSTRUCTIONS AND TURNING INTO THE TRAFFIC THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO FOLLOW/PASS BEHIND.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS AND FOLLOW ATC INSTRUCTIONS.

IF YOU ARE UNSURE IF IT IS OK TO TURN, PLEASE ASK ATC BEFORE YOU DO.

**Issuing Traffic on Departure**

ATC MAY CLEAR YOU FOR TAKEOFF AND ISSUE TRAFFIC ON FINAL/IN THE PATTERN TO YOU.

EX: "N12345, RUNWAY 27 CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF, TRAFFIC, SKYHAWK 2 MILE FINAL."

ATC ISSUES TRAFFIC SO PILOTS HAVE BETTER SITUATIONAL AWARENESS OF OTHER AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA.

IF ATC ISSUES TRAFFIC THAT'S LANDING BEHIND YOU, ATC EXPECTS THAT PILOTS WON'T DELAY ON THE RUNWAY.

**Runway 18/36**

READBACK OF HOLD SHORT INSTRUCTIONS AND CROSSING INSTRUCTIONS ARE STILL REQUIRED FOR RUNWAY 18/36 OR ANY OTHER NOTAM CLOSED RUNWAY.

**Runway/Taxiway Painting**

DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS ARR AIRPORT MAINTENANCE WILL BE WORKING ON REPAINTING MOST OF THE MOVEMENT AREAS INCLUDING RUNWAY 9/27 AND 15/33.

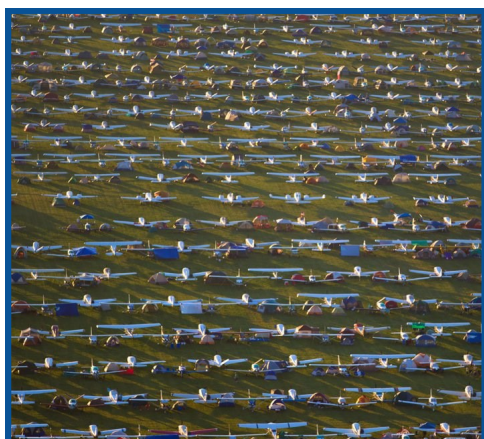
THE PAINTING WILL CAUSE TEMPORARY BUT SOMETIMES LENGTHY CLOSURES OF SURFACES TO ALLOW AIRPORT MAINTENANCE TO PAINT AS EFFICIENTLY AS POSSIBLE.

**Contact Information and Tours**

FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS PLEASE CONTACT  
[KARRSAFETY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KARRSAFETY@GMAIL.COM)



# News From HQ



## EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2023 Facts and Figures

This year's annual convention turned out to be another record-setting year.

"There was so much going on during the week that encompassed the entire world of flight, from the presence of the U.S. Air Force Training Command and NASA, to magnificent aircraft restorations and exciting new flying technology," said EAA Chairman and CEO Jack J. Pelton. "Oshkosh was again the place that brought the aviation world together."

This year's attendance was approximately 677,000, up from the previous record of 650,000 last year. But attendance numbers weren't the only record.

"We had record-setting totals of campers, exhibitors, volunteers, and more," said Jack. "It was also a challenging year at times with weather, logistics, and other factors, which makes me even more proud of the efforts by our volunteers and staff to organize an outstanding event."

Here are some additional details from this year's fly-in:

**Total aircraft:** More than 10,000 aircraft arrived at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh and other airports in east-central Wisconsin. At Wittman alone, there were 21,883 aircraft operations in the 11-day period from July 20-30, which is an average of approximately 148 takeoffs/landings per hour when the airport is open.

**Total show planes:** 3,365 including a record 1,497 registered in vintage aircraft parking, plus 1,067 homebuilt aircraft, 380 warbirds (up 3 percent from 2022), 194 ultralights, 134 seaplanes and amphibians, 52 aerobatic aircraft, and 41 rotorcraft.

**Camping:** More than 13,000 sites in aircraft and drive-in camping accounted for an estimated 40,000 visitors.

**Volunteers:** More than 5,500 contributing in excess of 250,000 hours.

**Commercial exhibitors:** 848 (another record number).

**Forums, Workshops, and Presentations:** More than 1,400 sessions hosted throughout the week.

**Social media, internet, and mobile:** More than 18.3 million people were reached by EAA's social media channels during AirVenture (up 78 percent over 2022), with engagement of 1.9 million; More than 189,000 hours of viewing EAA video clips online also occurred during the event (more than double the 2022 total).

**International guests:** International visitors returned in a big way in 2023, with 2,372 attendees registering the International Visitors Tent from a record-tying 93 countries outside the U.S. Adding a significant number of international visitors who do not register at the tent when they arrive, the actual total is much higher.

**Media:** 863 media representatives on-site, from six continents.



# *Gone West*



## *Jon Couch*

It was with great sorrow that we learned on July 22nd that we lost a dear friend and chapter member in a car accident.

Jon was a friend to everyone who had the great fortune of knowing him. He had a passion for aviation that he freely shared with others.



He was an active Young Eagles pilot always willing to share his time to promote aviation to the next generation.

Most of all Jon was a friend and he will be greatly missed.



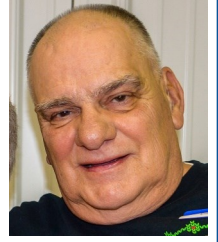
A [GoFundMe link](https://www.gofundme.com/f/jon-couch-memorial-bricks?utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet&utm_medium=copy_link_all&utm_source=customer) has been set up to purchase three memorial bricks to honor our friend. Please consider donating. One brick will be at the brown arch in Oshkosh, one will be at the Aurora airport and another brick will be at Clow (Jon was also a member of Chapter 461).

Any remaining funds will be donated to the Chapter 579 Young Eagles Fund per his family's wishes.

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/jon-couch-memorial-bricks?utm\\_campaign=p\\_cp+share-sheet&utm\\_medium=copy\\_link\\_all&utm\\_source=customer](https://www.gofundme.com/f/jon-couch-memorial-bricks?utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet&utm_medium=copy_link_all&utm_source=customer)

# Beat Billy

By: Bill Cameron



## June Answer:

It's been a bit since our last quiz, so as a reminder, the question was: What is the name of this plane out of the past and what was the biggest hurdle it had to overcome to become a big seller?

This delightful little aeronautical jewel is none other than the 55 h.p. Velie powered STAR "CAVALIER", B. The CAVALIER was assigned A.T.C. number 138 in April 1929. The plane was a rather chummy side-by-side 2-seater with good flight characteristics and ample performance for a plane of this type.



The kiss of death, if you will, was the fact that even though the CAVALIER had many desirable features and a very pleasant nature it had to compete for sales against the sky-rocketing popularity of the "MONOCOUCPE." This pixie-like bird was a sure winner and everyone loved them. Approximately 55 various versions of the type were built in a production period of 5 years but it is safe to say that the 'COUCPE killed it.

## August Question:

This month I have found another oldy but goody from aviation's golden years. Tell me what it is.

Good Luck!

Billy, out.



Send your best guesses to [mikebaer150@gmail.com](mailto:mikebaer150@gmail.com) for your opportunity to be added to our list of trivia experts who have Beat Billy.

We will reveal the correct answers in the next issue of Propwash.



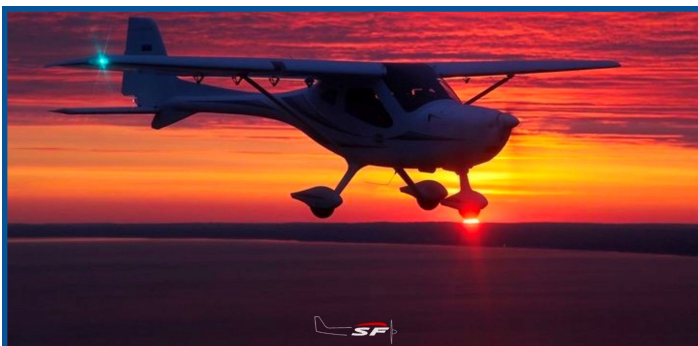
# Thank You!!!

We want to extend a huge thank you to Dave and Kathy Spano and the entire SimplyFly family for everything they have done to support EAA Chapter 579. SimplyFly has been the Chapter's home for almost a decade. They have been passionate supporters of the Ray Aviation Scholarship Program, turning 3 of our scholars into licensed pilots. They have been avid supporters of the Chapter's Young Eagles program, not only flying kids, but also making aircraft available during our rallies for other pilots to share the magic of flight, as well as providing static display aircraft and personnel to help educate our rally guests.



SimplyFly recently announced that they have opened a new facility in New Braunfels, Texas (between San Antonio and Austin) and will be ceasing operations in Aurora by the end of October.

Best of Luck in Texas on your Dave & Kathy , you will be missed.



To learn more about SimplyFly go to:

<https://www.simplyflyadventures.com/>



## VMC Club Meeting

Mark your calendar for

September 14, 2023

6:30 pm ~ Location To Be Announced

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](mailto: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](mailto: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	



[planeperfect.us](http://planeperfect.us)

At Plane Perfect we have a passion for airplanes and couldn't find products to suit our detailing needs. Everything on the market either didn't work very well or was decades old formulas that could be improved for higher polish and more durability. We created a catalog of modern, safe products that work on metal, fiberglass or fabric and provide a level of quality just not achievable with older formulas. They are superior on cars, boats and RV's too!



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and get 10% off your entire order!**



# 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		