





**May 2024**




Chapter 579  
Young Eagles Flown:

# 20,187



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Follow [EAA Chapter 579](#) on Facebook to get the latest updates on all of our events and activities.



**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 May 19th we kicked off our 2024 Young Eagles season by flying 121 very happy Young Eagles. There is no telling how many of these kids will someday look back on this experience as the spark that lit the flame of a lifetime passion or even career in aviation, but it's safe to say that they all have been changed having experienced the magic of flight. These rallies would not happen without the dedication of our dozens of volunteers both in the air and on the ground. We truly could not do it without them. We are also very grateful for the care and attention we get from the professionals in the Aurora Control Tower. A small sample of the smiling faces from our May rally can be found on pages 4 and 5 of this issue. To see all of the happy flyers, be sure to check out the [photo album](#) on our Facebook page. Our next Young Eagle's rally is only a few weeks away. See page 2 for the full schedule of our remaining 2024 rallies

On May 23rd our monthly Chapter Gathering featured a first day screening of the new Amazon MGM Studios documentary - The Blue Angels. Filmed for IMAX the movie took us inside the cockpit with the Navy's elite flight demonstration team for a firsthand view of the Blue Angels precision flying as well as the behind the scenes work it takes to prepare for and execute a grueling eight-month show season. It's a beautifully filmed, eye opening experience and one that every aviation enthusiast should put on their must see list.

I hope to see everyone at one of our June events!

Blue Skies,

Mike



# CHAPTER 579

## 2024 YOUNG EAGLE RALLY SCHEDULE



May 19  
 Jun 23  
 Aug 25  
 Sep 22  
 Oct 13



ONLINE  
 REGISTRATION

We will once again be using Online Registration for our Young Eagle Rallies. Registration will open up at 8:00 a.m. ten days before each rally. Be sure to follow our [Facebook](#) page for details!



**EAA Chapter 579**  
 Aurora, IL

**20,000**  
 Young Eagles Flown  
 September 2023

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. **On September 24, 2023, Chapter 579 became the first EAA Chapter worldwide to have flown 20,000 Young Eagles!**

- 1 Young Eagles Flight
- 2 EAA Student Membership
- 3 Sporty's Learn to Fly Course
- 4 First Flight Lesson
- 5 Scholarships

The EAA Flight Plan  
 Your route from Young Eagle to licensed pilot.

Send your Young Eagles Questions to  
[mikebaer150@gmail.com](mailto:mikebaer150@gmail.com)

# CHAPTER 579 2024 MONTHLY CHAPTER GATHERING SCHEDULE

January 25

February 15

March 28

April 25

May 23

June 27



Gone to Oshkosh

August 22

September 26

October 24

November 21

December 19\*

(\* Tentative)

## AVIATION NEWS



### Attention History Buffs! The Library Is Now Open

General Aviation News recently announced that all of their print issues dating back to 1959 are now available online!

Today, the name of this publication is *General Aviation News*. Prior names included *General Aviation News & Flyer*, *Western Flyer*, *Northwest Flyer*, and *The Northwest Flyer*.

If you point your web browser to: <https://generalaviationnews.com/digital-archives> you will see a grid of images of newspaper covers. They are broken down by decade. Each decade gallery can be expanded and contracted.

If any Chapter 579 historians would like to author a piece or better yet a monthly article looking back on what was making Aviation news this week 25 or 50 years ago (see page 12), I think it would be a fascinating monthly addition to Propwash.

(Looking for volunteers).





# 579 Young Eagles Rally

May 19, 2024

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





# 579 Young Eagles Rally

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# Know Your Chapter Members

~  
Chris Thomsen



1. Where were you born & raised  
**Oshkosh, Wisconsin (Heard of it?)**
2. What is your (non-aviation) background?  
**I own two companies – one is a chauffeured transportation management company that provides everything from simple airport transfers to full corporate transportation program management, group events, etc. If it has wheels, we can take care of it. The other company is Plane Perfect, an aviation detail supply company that makes cleaning supplies for aviation but are superior on every vehicle in your stable.**



3. What is one thing you would like to accomplish in the next year?  
**I'd like to fly more than 50 hours this year! It's been a busy few years digging out of the COVID hole that was created, moving kids around and growing both businesses. We have our Cessna 195 club convention in West Yellowstone this year so looking forward to flying out west and putting some hours on.**
4. What would you do if you won the lottery?  
**Good question; never thought about it.  
Guess it depends how much.**
5. What is your dream vacation spot(s)?  
**Been lucky enough to travel to some beautiful spots on earth but luckily I love what I do so I don't "crave" vacations like some do. The current goal for me right now is to travel the US by motorhome like I did as a kid. Would like to share that with my family before they grow up and leave the nest.**





## Know Your Chapter Members

~  
Chris Thomsen



6. Do you have any hobbies (other than aviation)?

I used to be a top ranked Skeet shooter (before that trap) but haven't shot regularly for years. Currently I collect smoking pipes and tobaccos (yes, like your grandpa had lol). I'm also very interested in different businesses and always looking to pivot into something new. I trade high grade watches and jewelry from time to time as well.

7. How did you get interested in aviation?

Growing up in Oshkosh we used to rent a room in the house during EAA to pilots. Back in the day there were two flightlines – one you had to have pilot credentials to access. They used to get us these tickets and my mom would take me to the field. When I was 9 she took me to the sea base and there was an old guy with a Piper Cub on straight floats, no electrics, giving rides for \$20. There I took my first ride with the door open. I can still remember looking down at the base from the sky as I flew over my mom at about 200 feet. He let me steer left and right, etc. I never forgot that flight. This is why Young Eagles is so powerful!

8. What is your favorite aviation memory?

I've enjoyed flying with my friends and family through the years. Been to some really neat places and met really cool people all over the country (and some from around the world, it is the "International" 195 Club after all). I think the highlight for me is returning to Oshkosh in our Cessna 195 each year with my son. The whole experience of planning, packing, flying the approach and landing never get old. There's something about pulling into our Vintage parking area with my arm out the window and the big radial loping as everyone waves, takes pics and records. We always take a picture together as soon as we get out. Those are the memories I'll never forget.



9. If you could fly any aircraft what would it be?

I would've loved to have taken a ride on the Concorde when it flew in Oshkosh in the late 80's. I remember when they built 18/36 long enough for Concorde to get in and out. They had \$1000 tickets for a 1 hour "champagne brunch" – they would depart KOSH, fly to Canada, go supersonic and then return all in an hour while you sipped champagne. That would've been one heck of a ride. I still remember watching it take off and land...what a sight!

10. If you could have dinner with any aviator past or present who would it be?

Bob Hoover. He was a guest speaker at our Cessna 195 convention in California well before my time. I had the pleasure of meeting Bob at Oshkosh but never got to talk to him. Guys like that have a special mind that is fun to explore when you have the right setting.

# Chapter Member Adventures

## First Fly-Out Breakfast of the Season

Dave Montgomery

The first fly-out breakfast of the year was held at Cottonwood Airport- 1C8- just north of Rockford, on Saturday May 4. This was the 50th year of the Pancake Breakfast. It all started in 1974.



Ed's amphibian



View Overflying Cottonwood Airport

Ed Bonifas' amphibian took off right after me from Aurora airport. I don't know if Ed was flying, but the controller asked him if there was a fly-in somewhere because he was the 4th plane departing VFR north-west that morning.

What a great Pancake Breakfast! The organizers believe this was the biggest breakfast at Cottonwood Airport. They served over 300 people!

As usual for a fly-in, there was a lot of eye candy....





# Chapter Member Adventures

## First Fly-Out Breakfast of the Season

Dave Montgomery

I'm partial to Cessna Cardinals myself. Here is a photo of a male and a female Cardinal nesting in the grass. Males are identifiable by their bright red colors. Females have more demure coloring. The female here is CardiB, who my children refer to as my second, but favorite, daughter.



Pilots who have flown in to Cottonwood in the past have joked about splitting the goalposts on the football field at the high school across the street from the airport. John Robbins asked me afterward if I'd split the goal posts. I replied that I landed on runway 18, so not on landing. But taking off on runway 18, I had the kickers view! From 2700 feet away, I barely cleared the crossbar!

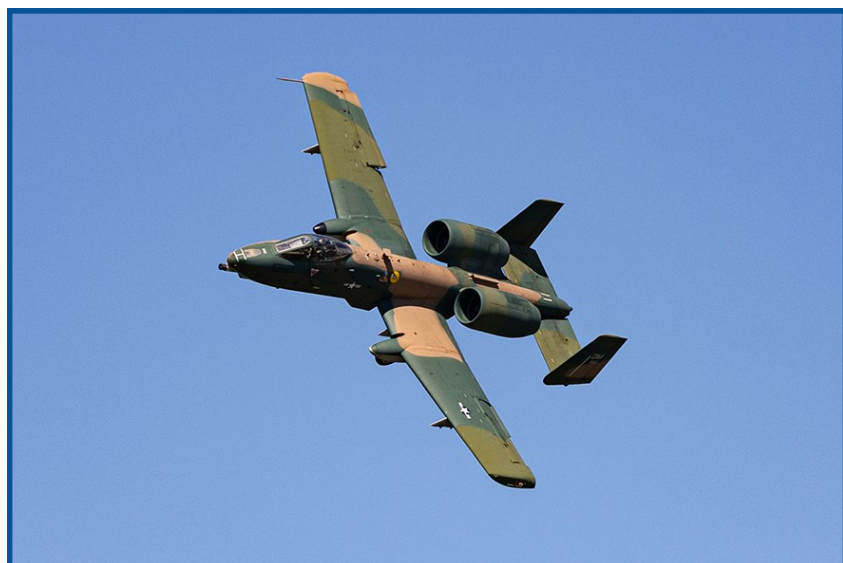
Some future events at this chapter at Cottonwood:

- On June 20-23, Chapter 22 will be hosting the B-25 at Rockford Airport for ground tours and rides.
- Next fly-in at Cottonwood Airport is Aug 10 Corn Boil.

## Canada's SkyHawks & the USAF A-10 Demo Team Confirmed for Oshkosh

Two big additions to the EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2024 lineup were confirmed in the past week, as the Canadian Armed Forces SkyHawks skydiving team and the U.S. Air Force A-10 Demo Team committed to performances during The World's Greatest Aviation Celebration.

The SkyHawks will attend as part of the 100th anniversary commemoration for the Royal Canadian Air Force. The SkyHawks are Canada's only military parachute demonstration team, comprised of 13 jumpers from the Canadian Army, the Royal Canadian Navy, and the Royal Canadian Air Force. This includes both Regular Force and Reserve members with diverse professional backgrounds. They will perform during the afternoon air shows at Oshkosh.

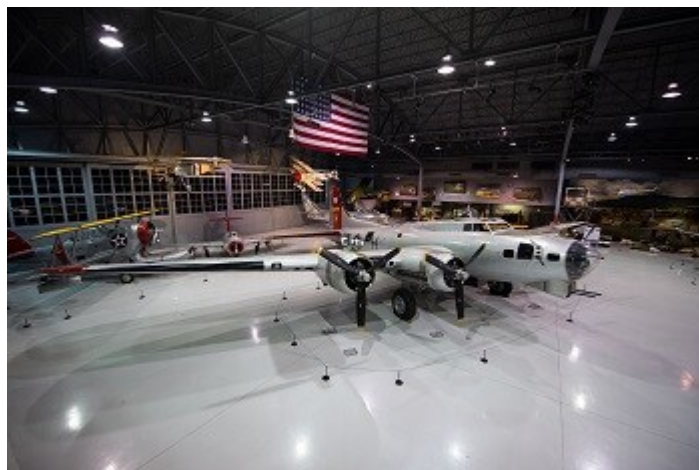


Meanwhile, the U.S. Air Force's A-10 Demo Team — marking its final season of air show performances — will be at Oshkosh on July 22-25. The Republic A-10 Thunderbolt II, affectionately known as the Warthog, has long been a favorite on the air show circuit. The demo team is based at Davis-Monthan AFB and commanded by Maj. Lindsay "MAD" Johnson, who flies the aircraft at air shows throughout the country.

## B-17 Aluminum Overcast now on public display at EAA Aviation Museum's Eagle Hangar

The EAA Aviation Museum's Eagle Hangar received a significant addition on Thursday May 23, as the B-17 *Aluminum Overcast* was brought in to be displayed for the first time in 30 years, as plans for its future preservation and restoration are finalized.

"The B-17 *Aluminum Overcast* has one of the most enthusiastic fan bases of any aircraft in EAA's collection," said Chris Henry, EAA Aviation Museum Manager. "Bringing the airplane to the Eagle Hangar offers an opportunity for everyone to enjoy the airplane while we explore all the options available for the airplane's future."



Measuring more than 74 feet in length and weighing more than 36,000 pounds, the B-17 is a true heavyweight amongst World War II aircraft. The B-17 was primarily used as a bomber in World War II but also served other uses including transport, antisubmarine, and search-and-rescue. More than 12,000 were made, with only a handful remaining on display or airworthy.

EAA's B-17 *Aluminum Overcast* was delivered to the U.S. Army Air Corps on May 18, 1945. The airplane was sold as surplus the following year and served many uses including as a cargo hauler, aerial mapping platform, and in pest control and forest dusting applications. In 1978, *Aluminum Overcast* was sold to a group of investors known as "B-17s Around the World" who sought to return the airplane to its military roots. The economic challenges of owning a vintage bomber led the group to donate the airplane to EAA in 1983. The airplane was on display in the EAA Aviation Museum until 1993 when it was moved to start preparation for its first national tour in 1994. *Aluminum Overcast* carries the colors of the 398th Bomb Group of World War II, which flew hundreds of missions over Nazi-held territory during the war. Veterans of the 398th helped finance the B-17's restoration.



### About EAA Aviation Museum

The EAA Aviation Museum is located just off Interstate 41 at the Highway 44 exit in Oshkosh. The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. EAA members receive free museum admission year-round. For more information, call the EAA Aviation Museum at (920) 426-4818 or visit [www.EAA.org/museum](http://www.EAA.org/museum).

# Blast from the Past

The EAA ad below appeared in Western Flyer magazine 50 years ago this month and features Burt Rutan's VariViggen named after the Swedish fighter plane, the Saab 37 Viggen. This and the XB-70 Valkyrie inspired the design. Rutan became interested in aircraft which resisted stalls and spins, and the VariViggen was his first full scale design. He began working with the design as a student at Cal Poly in the early 1960s, and started building the prototype in his garage in 1968. After four years of work, the aircraft made its first flight in April, 1972. The legendary designer Burt Rutan will be making six presentations at AirVenture this summer. His schedule can be found [here](#).

**EAA**  
you'll like it!

What a wonderful new world in sport aviation EAA can open for you! Here's where the fun is. Where you meet people who share your aviation interests. Where dreams can become reality. Where ideas can be developed and proven as Burt Rutan did in building the original design "Vari-Viggen" pictured below.

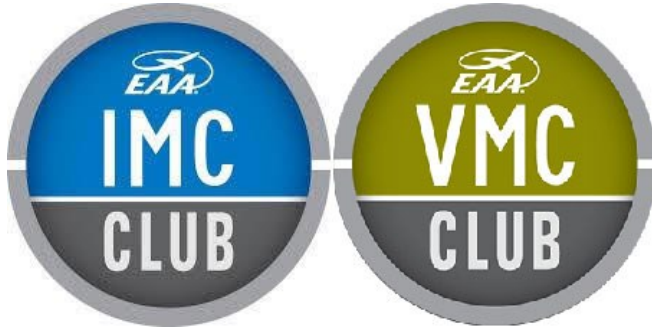
EAA puts you in the center of sport aviation activities — gets you involved — puts you in touch with people that are active in sport flying. Equally important, EAA protects the sport flyer's right to the sky by providing effective representation at local, state and federal levels of government.

Get in on the fun — join EAA — there's something here for everyone! Annual membership \$15.00. Junior \$8.00 (18 or younger). Includes monthly publication SPORT AVIATION. Info pack \$1.00. Plan to attend EAA Annual Convention — July 28 — August 3, 1974, Oshkosh, Wis.

**EAA/Sport Aviation**

EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION, INC.  
P. O. Box 229  
Hales Corners, Wisconsin 53130  
414-425-4860





## IMC / VMC Club Meeting

Mark your calendar for our next meeting:

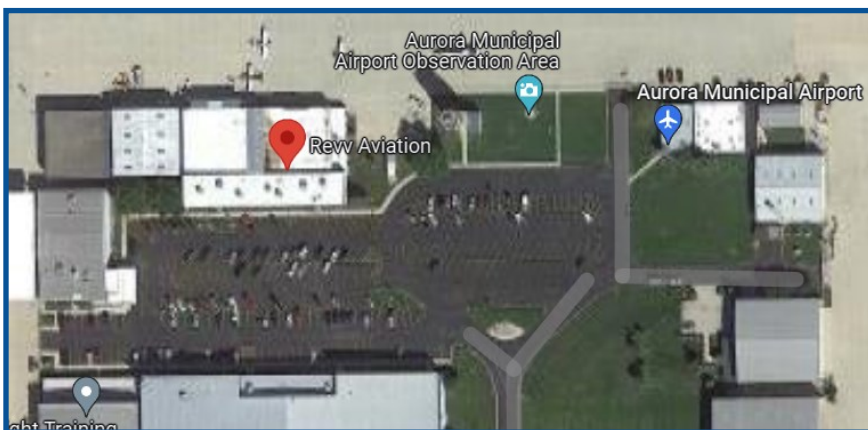
June 13, 2024

6:30 pm at REVV Aviation  
at the Aurora Municipal Airport

Our IMC/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 IMC/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 IMC/VMC Club Questions to:  
Chuck Newell (cmnewell@sbcglobal.net) and

### 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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and get 10% off your entire order!**



# EAA Chapter 579

## Membership Application/Renewal

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:
Regular (Individual)	\$20	
Regular (Family)	\$35	
Youth (Under 18)	\$12	
Life	\$400	
<p>*Annual chapter dues are due on January 1st. New members joining after June 30th receive a 50% discount for first year dues</p>		