





**July 2024**





Chapter 579  
Young Eagles Flown:


# 20,187





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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**



AirVenture 2024 is in the books and this year's event was another spectacular celebration of aviation drawing hundreds of thousands to aviation's promised land, Oshkosh Wisconsin. The week-long event showcased an incredible array of historic, modern and experimental aircraft, jaw-dropping aerial performances, and hundreds of educational workshops and forums providing opportunities to learn from aviation experts. This was my 19th AirVenture and, as with every year before, I experienced aircraft that I had never seen like the Avro Lancaster and the Aermacchi MB-339 of the Freccce Tricolori Italian Air Force demonstration team (see cover photo above). I chatted with vendors, attended countless forums, and listened with awe to aviation legends like Burt Rutan and Mike Gulian. I spent time with old friends, and met some new ones, I sampled some delicious new dishes (like cheese curd bratwurst tacos) and enjoyed diverse flying demonstrations from paramotors to supersonic fighters, from World War II warbirds to prototype futuristic aircraft that may one day revolutionize general aviation. Overall, AirVenture 2024 solidified its reputation as the world's greatest aviation celebration, and I have already marked my calendar for July 21-27, 2025 for next year's gathering. As you may already have guessed, this month's issue of Propwash is dedicated to AirVenture 2024. In the following pages, you will see images from our chapter members and highlights from the event. I hope you made it to AirVenture this year, but if you did not, it's never too early to start planning for next year.

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



### NFL's Jimmy Graham named chairman of Young Eagles

During AirVenture 2024, Jimmy Graham, an NFL All-Pro tight end and pilot, was named chairman of the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles Program.

The Young Eagles Program has introduced more than 2.3 million young people to aviation since 1992 through free introductory flights. Over 20,000 of which were introduced by our own Chapter 579!

Graham succeeds air show legend Sean D. Tucker, who served as Young Eagles chairman since 2013. As he moves into the full chairman role, Graham is the seventh person to hold that position, joining Cliff Robertson, Gen. Chuck Yeager, Harrison Ford, Sully Sullenberger, Jeff Skiles, and Tucker.

"Jimmy Graham has been dedicated to aviation and especially introducing others to flight over the past several years, including as Young Eagles co-chair," said Jack J. Pelton, EAA CEO and Chairman of the Board. "We are very appreciative that Jimmy accepted our invitation to lead Young Eagles and bring his inspiring story to young people as an example of focus and achievement."

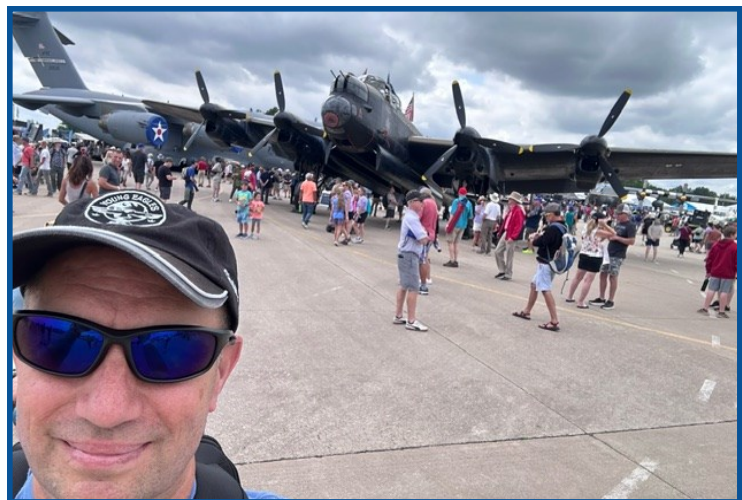
"There is so much in aviation that can serve as inspiration and motivation for everyone, and especially young people," said Graham, who flies a variety of airplanes and his own Huey helicopter. "I've seen it in the faces of kids I've flown, as they understand perhaps for the first time that these dreams are possible for them. Young Eagles is a superb platform to bring that message to even more young people, and I'm eager to continue."

"While my passion for bringing people into aviation will continue, Jimmy is the perfect person to advance the legacy established by 30 years of Young Eagles chairmen," Tucker said. "He has discovered, as I did, the absolute magic in taking a young person up for a flight and seeing that sense of discovery."





# 579ers at AirVenture 2024





# 579ers at AirVenture 2024



# AirVenture 2024 News

## AirVenture 2024 By The Numbers



**1,600**

FORUMS & WORKSHOPS

**686,000**

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

**861**

EXHIBITORS

**23.9M**

REACHED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

**6,000**

VOLUNTEERS

**10,000+**

AIRCRAFT

ECONOMIC IMPACT FOR OSHKOSH REGION:

**\$170,000,000**



**INSPIRING THE FUTURE OF AVIATION**

# AirVenture 2024 News

## Chambliss Recipient of 2024 Bill Barber Award for Showmanship

There is no surprise that Kirby Chambliss was named the recipient of the 2024 Bill Barber Award for Showmanship. The only surprise is that it took him so long to receive it.

Kirby, one of the top aerobatic pilots in the world, was crowned U.S. National Aerobatic Champion five times, and as a member of the U.S. National Aerobatic Team, he won 13 medals at multiple World Aerobatic Championships. He also was the Red Bull Air Race World Champion in 2004 and 2006, and flew in every Red Bull air race from 2003 to 2019.



Throughout his air racing and aerobatic competition careers, Kirby also has flown air shows across the nation in his Red Bull Edge 540.

Kirby said he was honored to receive the award, presented by World Airshow News and the friends and family of the late Bill Barber, particularly since the recipient is chosen by past award winners.

“It’s always a surprise to receive awards like this,” he said. “I had no idea I won until I got the phone call.”

Showmanship is key to the award. Kirby said the type of flying he does is very aggressive, even explosive. “If I can have people say they haven’t seen that before, I’ve done my job, and I always try to do my job.”

Besides flying aerobatics, Kirby flies races and competitions, and is a Southwest Airlines pilot. He said the three types of flying are just different. “But I’m pretty causal about everything. When I close my canopy, I always do the best I possibly can.”

Kirby said he prefers flying as a team with the Red Bull Air Force rather than as a solo act. “We’re very unique when we put all three disciplines together,” he said. “People really enjoy it,” Kirby acknowledged that his flying has changed somewhat over the years. “I find it easier because I’ve done it for so long,” he said. “The airplane is an extension of my arms, and I know it like the back of my hand.”

A private pilot at 17, Kirby became Southwest Airlines’ youngest captain by 28. But his interest in aviation began as a young boy as he helped rivet on his dad’s Davis DA-2 homebuilt in their garage. “I’ve always wanted to be a pilot,” he said. “There was nothing else I ever wanted to do. I just had to figure out how to do it.”

He certainly figured it out.

# Images From AirVenture

By  
Mike Baer





# Images From AirVenture

By  
579ers



Greg Stonehocker



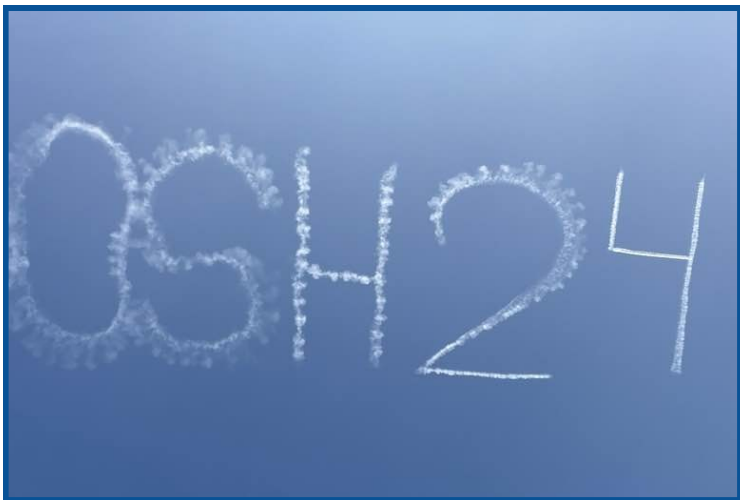
Tad Pierski



Jim White



Mike Baer



John Robbins



Mitch Moore

# 579 Member Moments & Milestones



## Tad Earns His Instrument Rating!

From 579 Young Eagle to Private Pilot to Young Eagles Pilot and now to Instrument Rated Pilot, Tad Pierski has had a remarkable aviation journey. Tad had to miss the first half of AirVenture to prepare for and then crush his Instrument Pilot practical test and flight exam. With college on the horizon we can't wait to see what's next for our intrepid aviator.

Congratulations Tad!!!



# Blast from the Past



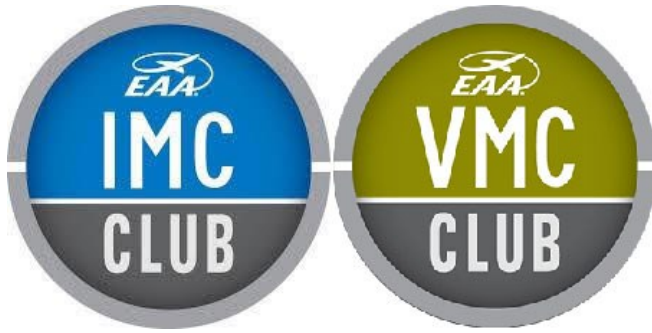
The Experimental Aircraft Association's Fly-In Convention, now known as EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, has been in existence nearly as long as the association itself.

The first gathering was in September 1953 as a small part of the Milwaukee Air Pageant. That original EAA fly-in at Curtiss-Wright (now Timmerman) Field was attended by 21 airplanes, mostly homebuilt and modified aircraft and fewer than 150 visitors. The larger Milwaukee Air Pageant has faded away but the EAA gathering has become the world's premier aviation event.

EAA's fly-in grew quickly in its first few years and by the late 1950s it had outgrown the area of the Milwaukee airport it was allowed to use. In 1959, the event moved to the Rockford Municipal Airport, where it would stay for the next decade.

The "Rockford Years" were where the EAA Fly-In Convention established both its prominence as a homebuilders' event and its friendly feeling that is retained to this day. During these years, such diverse aviation interests as Warbirds, antiques and aerobatic performers became part of the EAA event.

The EAA fly-in has since grown into the world's largest aeronautical exhibition, EAA AirVenture Oshkosh. The event is held at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh, which has the acreage and runway layout to accommodate the large number of aircraft, vehicles, and tents that attend. In 2024, the event attracted 686,000 people.



## IMC / VMC Club Meeting

Mark you calendar for our next meeting:

August 8, 2024

6:30 pm at REVV Aviation Training Room  
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  
Nate Johns (beaconslash@gmail)

### 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	



Chapter 22 - 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Cottonwood



# Corn Boil & Open House



## *Saturday*

### *August 10*

11 am – 2 pm

**Delicious  
Sweet Corn**

**Drive-in  
Fly-in**

**Adults- \$10 Kids under 12- \$5**

**Bratwurst, Hot Dogs, Chips &  
all the fresh Sweet Corn you can eat.**

Free Airplane Rides for Kids ages 8-17

Registration required info @ [www.eaa22.org](http://www.eaa22.org) or

See EAA 22 Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/111156462236936>

## **Cottonwood Airport (1C8)**

5105 Auburn St. Rockford, IL



[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!



**Use offer code EAA579 at checkout  
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:  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		