



CHAPTER 613

October 2023

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Message from the Chapter President by John Fitzgerald

Greetings all!

I hope everyone is having a great foliage season. This past Sunday Chapter 613 hosted a Boy Scout Merit Badge group from Williston and Hinesburg at the Aviation Center.

One of the stations was Navigation and watching Ed Scott work with the kids made me realize how much and how fast our world, and Chapter 613, are changing. Aviation has gone from paper charts to iPad in just the past 10 years. It also made me realize how important we are as a chapter. The changes to the Aviation Center worked perfect. Watching George's Golf Cart drive by with Emma, Ian and couple of others from our youth group with their smiles checking out what was going on and Ian showing up to grab a slice of Pizza for lunch, so rewarding. Thanks again for all the support from everyone that made the day a huge success. Speaking of change it's that time again for chapter elections. George Coy treasurer, and Marge Butterfield secretary will be stepping down. Miguel and I will seek another term, but anyone interested are encouraged to run. I hope to see you at the Potluck coming up that kicks off our fall and winter season.



John FitzGerald , Chapter 613 President

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, October 28th: "Passport to Halloween" Fly-Out (See Page 5 for details)
- Sunday, October 29th: Chapter 613 Annual Potluck Lunch (See Page 3 for details)
- Saturday, November 4th: Young Eagle Flights for RC Airplane Students at MVU High School
- Thanksgiving Weekend: US Naval Academy Outreach Program (See Page 3 for details)
- September 2024: Green Mountain Field Days (See Page 13 for details)

Also in this Issue

- Recap of Boy Scout Troop 692 Aviation Merit Badge Workshop
- Minutes from the September 21st Chapter 613 Board Meeting
- Treasurer's Report and "As the Prop Turns"
- Updates from the EAA Chapter 613 Youth Aviator Program

Chapter 613 Hosts Aviation Merit Badge Event for Boy Scout Troop 692

By Marge Butterfield

We had 19 Boy Scouts arrive at the Taylor Aviation Center to work on obtaining their Aviation Merit Badges on Sunday, October 15th. They were accompanied by parents and Scout Leaders.

Chapter 613 members Tony Speranza, Ed Scott, Miguel Marin, John and Shirley Fitzgerald, Chris Chicoine and John and Marge Butterfield were there to greet them and spend the day helping them to fulfill the requirements necessary to obtain their Aviation Merit Badges. The Scouts were also given Young Eagle rides, which was a highlight of their day. The Troop 692 Scouts were all eager to learn and it was a joy to be with them.

When it was over, you could tell by their smiles that they all had a great day. (The Chapter 613 members had pretty big smiles themselves!)



Annual Chapter 613 Potluck—Sunday 10/29 by Marge Butterfield

We're hosting our annual Chapter 613 Potluck Lunch at the Taylor Aviation Center.

When: Sunday, October 29

Time: 1:00 PM.

Please bring your favorite dish (filled with food!).

As a lot of us haven't seen much of each other since our last pancake breakfast, the potluck is a nice social event to get caught up and see each other again. We look forward to seeing you then!



United States Naval Academy Outreach Program By Marge Butterfield

We were contacted by Suzanne Gruending, who is a Vermont liaison for the United States Naval Academy. Suzanne wanted to let us know that the US Naval Academy will be offer-



United States Naval Academy
Annapolis, Maryland, USA

ing an outreach program in our area during the Thanksgiving break. The goal of this outreach program is to provide interested high school students with the opportunity to learn more about the U.S. Naval Academy, and careers in the US Navy.

Suzanne is very familiar with the arduous application process and is more than happy to help anyone interested in applying to the US Naval Academy. Suzanne and Kurt's daughter, Kate, will be graduating from the US Naval Academy next Spring.

Kate Gruending is a Midshipman First Class at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. She attended Champlain Valley Union High School and graduated in 2020 and is in the USNA class of 2024. Midshipmen are active duty military and they spend four years learning skills to be officers in the Navy. Kate is the Company Commander of the 5th Company and has had many opportunities in the Navy to increase her knowledge and leadership skills. Kate learned to fly in the powered flight summer training block and learned Arabic in Israel as well as training aboard the USS Fort Worth. Kate is the Midshipman Coordinator of Wreaths Across America.

There are several summer programs at USNA for high school students after their sophomore and junior years. Kate attended two of these programs, Summer STEM and Summer Seminar and she can give you information on how to apply as well as talk about life at the Naval Academy.

The largest group of officers from the Naval Academy serve as officers on ships. However, there are many other career fields such as cyber security, intelligence, special warfare, submarines, ocean meteorology, Marines etc.

Please contact Suzanne Gruending at: sgruending@gmail.com for more information.

Minutes from the September 21st Board of Directors Meeting

Attendees: Marge & John Butterfield, Chris Chicoine, Willa Clark, George Coy, John and Shirley Fitzgerald, Bethany Fronhofer, Susan Levaque, Miguel Marin, Ed Scott, Beth White

Chapter Activities—Chris Chicoine: The State of Vermont had an issue with hosting a Poker Run. Instead, Halloween photos, Jeopardy will be include with our annual Potluck Lunch on Sunday, October 29th (Verify Date)

Plattsburg Career Day– September 30th: Willa, Susan, Chris, and possibly Beth, will represent Chapter 613 at the event.

Boy Scout Merit Badge/Young Eagles—October 15th: John F will confirm the date with the Boy Scout Troop.

Young Eagle Credits: Chapter 613 still has \$1,000 in YE Credits that has to be spent by the end of 2023. Suggestions were to purchase a PA system, or to help send a youth to next summer's Aviation Camp in Oshkosh. (Total camp cost is around \$2,000)

Lightspeed Headset Donations: Chapter 613 has received (2) donations from Lightspeed for headsets purchased by members.

Feedback from Plattsburgh June Young Eagle Rally: Feedback from attendees was very positive.

Suggestions were for more science and displays. However the Chapter needs to spend more time interpreting the results of the surveys.

To enhance our YE experiences, Chapter 613 will host a seminar on "What Makes a Young Eagle Flight a Great Experience?" This seminar is planned for early spring 2024, before YE rallies begin.

Aviation Center Maintenance/Upgrades: The next major facility upgrades will be to add ceiling insulation, heating, and more lighting to the hangar area. This will allow winter projects to be conducted in the hangar.

The flagpole rope board needs to be replaced.

Beth and Bethany will create a funding plan for the Chapter. Marge will contact Rosalie Sprout to sound her out on using McGrath Scholarship funds for hangar improvements.

George will make arrangements to have the septic tank pumped out this fall.

Non-Profit Property Tax Relief for the Aviation Center: Beth will research whether the Aviation Center might qualify for tax relief since Chapter 613 is a non-profit corporation.

Chapter Membership Survey: EAA will be sending out their Chapter Membership Survey soon. Responses must be completed by the end of 2023.

Election of Chapter Officers: Election of Chapter Officers will be held at our November Pancake Breakfast. Officers serve a 2-year term. Any active Chapter 613 member may submit their name as a candidate for any position. To date Susan Levaque is a candidate to replace Marge Butterfield as Secretary, and Bethany Fronhofer to replace George Coy as Treasurer.

Chapter Accounting—Quick Books: Issues have been identified when converting Chapter accounting from Quick Books to Quick Books Online. Bethany will take a look at both platforms since she is a candidate or Treasurer.

Chapter Management System: Don White, from another Chapter contacted Chapter 613 about the Chapter Management System that he has developed. This system is not sanctioned by EAA National. Miguel will evaluate the platform and report his findings.

RC Airplane Program: Tony Speranza has been running the RC Program at MVU High School, and is being challenged to attract enough kids. Beth will discuss with Tony to spread the word and attract more kids to the program.

Chapter Calendar: Important dates will be posted more consistently on the Chapter's Google Calendar.

Next Meeting The next Chapter 613 meeting will be held in-person at the Aviation Center after the October Potluck Lunch.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

“Passport to Halloween” Saturday, October 28th —by Chris Chicoine, Chapter 613 Activities Director

Are you ready for a spooktacular time? Join us for an event like no other. Passport to Halloween is your ticket to a day of frightful fun! Put on your scariest costume and fly down to KRUT for a poker run style event ending at KFSO. Registration is \$25 and all proceeds go to EAA Chapter 613.



The event will start at KRUT at 10AM, there you will be given your passport explaining the event. The goal is to fly to all 5 airports in your passport, take a goolish picture at each one and fly up to KFSO when you have all 5 pictures. Once at KFSO, there will be awards given for best costume, best picture, pilot landing closest to the line at KFSO, and many more. There will be food and games including a few rounds of aviation Jeopardy!

Tickets may be purchased on Eventbrite at: [Passport to Halloween Tickets, Sat, Oct 28, 2023 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Treasurer’s Report for the Month of September 2023 by George Coy, Treasurer

INCOME	
Hangar Rent	\$200.00
Ray Scholarship	\$3,300.00
General Scholarship	\$100.00
Membership Dues	\$24.01
50/50 Raffle	\$60.00
Total Income	\$4,081.00

EXPENSES	
Natural Gas	\$44.46
Electricity	\$25.47
Highgate Property Taxes	\$2,021.51
Eagle Flight	\$48.00
General Scholarship	\$2,265.27
Ray Scholarship	\$1,396.00
Total Expenses	\$5,800.71

Hangar Contingency Fund	\$14,873.50
Mary McGrath Fund	\$27,738.07
CD#1	\$10,000.00
CD#2	\$10,000.00

Ray Scholarship Balance	-\$3,639.85*
General Scholarship Balance	\$29,890.92
General Fund	\$7,144.05
Checkbook Balance	\$12,548.68

As The Prop Turns

- We have finished one wing for the AN2. The wing is 26 feet long! We are using the Oratex process that does not require any spraying or dangerous chemicals. The fabric comes with the final color on it. It is considerably lighter than conventional covering systems. It uses heat activated glues.
- We have several of our youth regularly learning aviation Maintenance in our hangar. Ian Bradette, Emma Cornette, Miranda Gallagher, and Owen Mongon. All are logging time toward an A&P license in the future.
- Fly Vermont is in the process of upgrading our hangar door. We removed the old cable system and installed a strap lifting system. We are installing new tin and insulation on the door as well.



EAA Chapter 613

Youth Aviator Program Corner

October 2023



EAA Chapter 613 Youth Aviator Program

Our EAA Chapter 613 aviation family is finally able to come together post-pandemic and do what we love - fly and work on aircraft. George's hangar is a hub of activity as he and a team of helpers tirelessly work on various projects. They've been putting the finishing touches on the AN2, performing 100-hour inspections on club planes, tinkering with the Cherokee engine, and making steady progress on the 150 in the back corner. We're fortunate to have a group of eager young mechanics-in-training, logging their hours as they learn. Special shoutout to Emma, Miranda, Owen, Laila, and Ian, who have been showing up regularly and lending a much-needed hand. Emma and Laila were even exposed to welding 101 as Jason Horne from Keene NH came up for the day to help George and John tack weld the pieces to their new hangar door.

We had a very successful Girls in Aviation Day at BETA Technologies. Special thanks to Mark Fronhofer, who helped fabricate our very own set of Cleco challenge boards, which the youth loved. Bianca and Beth Schiller ran the Cleco challenge, with the help of Bianca's son, Liam. Emma and Laila were pros at soldiering and ran our station where youth got to make key chain rings with beads, and learned wire cutting, stripping, soldiering, and heat-shrinking. Those two were certainly tired by the day's end!

We even got a special visit from Miss Vermont Earth 2023, Isabella Williams, and Miss Northern Vermont's Teen, Mina Smith. Zoë took some amazing photos and was able to post these on social media. Zoë also collaborated to create a really great reel about Habitat for Aviation that Isabella posted on her Instagram account that has had over 200 likes.

If you see Jane, please congratulate her! We have a brand new A&P in our aviation family! Jane Thomson is an incredibly hard worker who set her sights on a goal and persisted over the past several years to accomplish this remarkable feat – she is a testament to women and mom's everywhere – a wonderful role model to her daughter, Kyra.



Habitat for Aviation got an extra special visit from Katherine Trapani from the U.S. Department of Economic Development. Together with administrators from the Town of Swanton and Franklin County Industrial Development Corps, and led by some of our Women Build Planes team, we shared with her some of the magic that's happening at Franklin County State Airport. Before she left that day she turned to me and said, "I think I would have missed out on something really special hadn't I visited today." Habitat for Aviation's Rans S-21 kit is being shipped from Hays KS to Franklin County VT this week and the Women Build Planes team is gearing up for a very special "Kit Opening" ceremony in a couple of weeks. We are eager to get started on our build and can't wait to show the world that women build, fly, and fix airplanes.



Beth White

This month, along with Kyra, I had the opportunity to travel to Las Vegas for a Harbor Freight Leadership Lab meeting. Walking through O'Hare's cantilever glass ceiling adorned with pink ribbon flags in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness month moved me to tears. The gratitude I feel and support from this aviation family is so very much appreciated. Now two years out of cancer-elimination treatments and cancer free, it's hard to believe that two years ago I was enduring chemotherapy. I am the most loved human on the planet and thank this community for all your support and for your continued support and check-ins. It means the world to me. Please encourage those in your life to get their mammograms and know your bodies – if anything feels strange (like a grape in your armpit, for example), please please, please have it checked out.

Las Vegas in and of itself was other-worldly and I will be satisfied if I never return. The Harbor Freight Leadership Lab meeting at the United Carpenters Union's impressive International Training Facility was worth the trip. The Carpenter's Union reminded me of our EAA family and I think folks from EAA would really appreciate the way their emphasis on continuing education and the values they bring to their work. From the short time I was there, it is evident that they are committed to providing leadership and skills training and leave time to celebrate and bond. Their facility has everything from underwater welding to conference rooms to a huge building area with ceiling cranes, forklifts, you name it, they've got it!



I had the distinct pleasure of taking my 82 year old downstairs neighbor from Keene NH on several incredible flights this month. We went to Provincetown, MA, on the tip of Cape Cod, and if you haven't flown into that airport, I really recommend it – it's magnificently spectacular. Nested in a national park, this little airstrip is surrounded by dunes. The parking fee is only \$10, and there's a town bus, which for \$2.50 per person, you get a mini-tour of the peninsula and dropped right in the center of town where there is no shortage of people watching, lobster rolls, and henna tattoos. We also did the Hudson River Corridor and flew to Sanborn, Maine, intending to see the Car Museum (which had a free shuttle) but got there a little too late to make it to their car show. I recommend calling ahead if you want to make that trip because most restaurants are closed on Sunday and if the crew car is out, the taxi to town (approx. 5 miles) runs \$25.00. Luckily, Yong and I only had to take the taxi one way into town because the parents of the man who owns Hills Seafood Restaurant, which has a great fish sandwich, drove us back!



I am so grateful to Steve Miller who gifted us a Slipstream Genesis ELSA, which we are having fun doing an annual on and getting ready for flying come springtime.

This Little Girl is Me Campaign: To honor International Day of the Girl on October 11th, Inspire Girls USA had a #ThisLittleGirlsMe social campaign. Thousands of exceptional women have posted powerful #ThisLittleGirlsMe stories, including Arianna Huffington, Billie Jean King, Melinda French Gates, and more. This incredible campaign has already touched the lives of over 47 million people, igniting inspiration in girls around the globe. As a participant in this campaign I wrote: I would tell my younger, tenacious, red-headed self that life goes by quickly, drink up the little moments with those you care about and who care about you, come to deeply know yourself and those in your reality, work hard, don't worry so much about your hair, get a mammogram early, and, most importantly: women fly planes, women build planes, and women fix planes.



Scholarships Available

The Lyons Aviation Foundation: Now-January 13, 2024. <https://lyonsaviation.org/>

Leroy Homer Foundation: October 31 - January 31, <https://leroywhomerjr.org/scholarships/>

ENE 99s Scholarship: Now-December 15th, https://www.womenpilotsene.org/05_Scholarship/2024ScholarshipApplication.pdf

EAA: November 1-March 1, 2024, <https://www.eaa.org/ea/learn-to-fly/scholarships>

AOPA: September 5-February 9, <https://www.aopa.org/training-and-safety/students/aopa-flight-training-scholarships>

Tuskegee NEXT Summer Flight Program: a full-time, residential program in the Chicago area that runs from mid-June to mid-August (ages 18-20), applications open, <https://www.tuskegeenext.org/tuskegee-next-apply>

Multiple Av Fuel Scholarships: <https://www.avfuel.com/AVTRIP/Maximize-AVTRIP/Scholarship-Opportunities>

Flying Musicians Scholarships: Closes January 31, <https://flyingmusicians.org/fma-solo-program/>

EAA Chapter 613 Youth Flyers: Reflections from Flight Training

Miranda Gallagher, High School Aviator

This month I've had the opportunity to work with Beth on the initial steps of my "Service Thesis Project" for Big Picture South Burlington. This project will be focused on Habitat For Aviation and the all women's build of a RANS-S 21. I was able to go to a hot air balloon festival earlier this month with the Civil Air Patrol. We got to spend the whole weekend meeting the pilots and setting up balloons. It was an amazing experience and



I'm definitely going next year. I've been working in George's hanger on Sundays and flying with Ryan whenever possible.

I am doing an early-college class and midterms are coming soon. It is called "Special Topics In Aviation-Electric Aviation" and is taught as a partnership between Vermont State University and BETA Technologies. Every week is a new topic relating to electric aviation. So far we have learned about: the ecological and economic impact of electric aviation, the batteries, motors, airframe design, X-Plane (flight Sim software) and we had the chance to fly BETA's flight simulator. Very few college classes are held at the businesses they're about. Some classes visit business locations but we go to class in the BETA's North Hanger. We have spoken to and been taught by BETA team members. Electric aviation is a relatively new concept and because of this there aren't many places to learn about it, which makes this such an amazing opportunity. I'm so happy to be a part of electric aviation history.

Calla Senasac, High School Aviator, Ray Scholar

This past month has been overwhelming. School this year is much harder and has much more work than previous years, but I'm doing my best. I soloed a few weeks ago and it was so exciting! As I went to taxi by myself I realized the plane turned much easier and as I took off all I could think about was, "Oh my gosh, I'm in the plane by myself." It went well though, and now I can book the plane by myself and go fly, which is a whole new thing and I'm nervous about it! I'm also very excited about the habitat for aviation airplane build that is happening in a few weeks because I've never done anything like that before and it will be a great learning experience.



Ian Bradette, High School Aviator

Wow, does time ever fly. This month had to have been one of the best for me, as I was able to arrange (with the help of members of the community) the purchase of my new plane, a Bede BD-4B, a fast, slick, high performance 4 seat experimental with so much potential. You guessed it though, it's in pieces! The good thing is, I'm determined, and with the airframe looking like an airframe, I've got a great starting point. The aircraft was a long project that has been through multiple hands, with all of its life, that I know of, starting in Minnesota. The aircraft was ordered by its original owner in 1969, just after Bede started kit production of the BD-4. Included in the unfathomably confusing pile of paper I received with it were many articles that were a pure blast from the past, with many still in pristine condition. I also received a large amount of mandatory and recommended aircraft modification plans that show in (confusing) detail how to construct them. What I got with my purchase was a 195hp Blanton V6 Ford automotive engine, the folding BD4 wings, and the all-metal fuselage. My hope is to get the aircraft in the air within the next year and a half to two years, but I've got a lot of work ahead of me!

Speaking of getting in the air, I went flying this evening with my instructor, Ryan, on what I would go to say was one of my most enjoyable flights. Flying in light rain and mist with orange sun beams glowing through the sky, reflecting off the lake, and beautiful tall mountains to either side of us, with the occasional pilot making the most ear piercing noise into their microphone, was truly spectacular. We flew down to Middlebury, which definitely made my list of favorite airports to land at, second to Morrisville/Stowe. Once again, I appreciate everyone in the community who supports my endeavors and dreams, I couldn't do without this aviation family.



Spencer Levi

I have been taking advantage of the nice weather we have been having and flying a lot. I took a flight with my instructor, Ryan, to Saranac lake NY during peak foliage. The scenery was amazing. I am now endorsed to fly that same cross country flight on my own. I have also been able to practice my communications with ATC. Ryan says I will most likely be ready to SOLO in class C airspace after one more lesson. I am planning on going on a long cross country flight tomorrow and am excited for that! I hope everybody is having a great fall. Fly safe!

Maxwell Hochschild, Aviator

Not much has changed since my last newsletter update. We're still working with the FAA to get medical approval before I can solo, and since we don't have that yet, Ed Scott and I have been taking a break from flying. Hopefully, we'll be able to get approval from the FAA before the snowy months begin, but in the meantime, there's still plenty to do. Hope everyone's summer went well!

Brody Hammond, High School Aviator, AOPA Ray Scholarship Recipient

I'm now halfway through my instrument training! So far I've become comfortable with many full and partial panel procedures. This includes approaches, holds, maneuvers, intercepting and tracking radials, and flying arcs. I'm particularly looking forward to flying in actual IMC, as well as doing cross-country flights on an IFR flight plan. My college classes are still in full swing, with mid-term exams coming up in the near future. An interesting change from high school to college is how learning becomes deeply personalized. The vast majority of my classes are now tailored around aviation, which has been a nice, relevant change of pace. I'm also enrolled in a brand new class this semester that's a blended campus between the Williston campus and BETA Technologies at the airport. It has been a fascinating in-depth look at industry challenges and groundbreaking innovations in the production of the next generation of aircraft. Over the past few weeks, we explored the topics of sustainability and advanced air mobility, and are now learning the fundamentals of electrical systems. We got to hear from many wonderful speakers so far, including Austin Meyer, the founder of X-Plane. We've also been given an in-depth look at BETA's design process and even some simulated flying of ALIA. I'm excited to see how the class continues as ALIA moves through the certification process.

Kyra Becker, Ray Scholar, Instructor, Commercial Otter Pilot

I've been in Nevada for almost six weeks now! On Saturday, I hopped into the cockpit of the twin Otter (DHC-6-300) for my very first flight, it was an absolute blast! Since I've been instructing for most of my hours, getting accustomed to the right seat was not a factor for me which definitely helped during my first flight.



Now, let's talk about the Otter. This aircraft is an absolute powerhouse, demanding a bit of muscle to tame. During my initial flight, we delved into various basic maneuvers to get used to the feel of the airplane. I executed stalls, steep turns, simulated emergency descents, simulated engine failure, and a simulated engine fire. To add a touch of realism, we practiced an engine shutdown and spent some time in the pattern. After not having flown since my multi-engine check ride, stepping back into the cockpit reignited my passion for flying. I was reminded of the sheer joy of being in the sky.

But let me tell you about one of the highlights so far - the breathtaking view of the Grand Canyon from above. As a must-see destination on countless bucket lists, the Grand Canyon has always held a special allure. Being able to soar over this natural wonderland is nothing short of extraordinary. It's moments like these that make me truly appreciate the wonders of flight. Last week my mom came to visit me for the weekend as she was working in AZ for the week. She was here for a quick weekend but I made sure the itinerary was packed. We did a helicopter tour of the Vegas strip which was an extraordinary experience. We also did an air tour of the Grand Canyon. It was exciting to have my mom experience the airplane that I'll be flying.

I am disappointed to have missed Fall in the East but I've been getting my fill through all the foliage posts on social media. I am hoping with a little luck in airplane availability and good performance on my end I can go home in the next two weeks. Commuting five minutes to my new job in Plattsburgh will be quite the luxury. Fingers crossed next newsletter I will have some more moments to share about new flights in the Otter. Happy flying.

Ian DeVries, Aviator

This past month I've had no shortage of excitement! I'm proud to announce that I signed off my very first student for solo flight on September 30th! We flew dual from Burlington over to Plattsburgh, I got out and watched from the FBO, and he proceeded to take off and land three times all by himself. It was a big moment for me, and I proudly listened on the radio and watched his flight path on FlightAware as he performed exactly as I had taught him. We were also privileged to get some great pictures in front of a visiting C-17 Globemaster!



During the hottest week Vermont's October has seen for decades, the weather was absolutely beautiful for flying. This fair weather has given me some great opportunities to get pictures of the fall foliage. In past years, I always seem to just barely miss peak once I finally get up in a plane, but this year is different! Now that I am flying much more frequently and regularly as an instructor, I've had plenty of chances to snap a few good shots of this year's vibrant colors. I'm looking forward to seeing more!

Gabe Merrill, High School Aviator

When learning to fly a big issue for many is getting the information necessary to stick in your head especially when you have a hard time learning from videos like me. One thing I have done is to write down the important takeaways from lessons. This makes it more memorable because I'm using more areas of my brain when writing than listening. This is one strategy you can use to help you retain the pieces of information that you will need in order to get through parts of your flying journey. I hope this helps someone who is struggling to get through ground school.

Meet our Newest Aviator, Zachary LeCours

My name is Zach and I am a 17 year old senior attending Champlain Valley Union High School (CVU). I grew up in Williston, Vermont. I enjoy playing football and baseball, hanging out with my friends, working, and traveling.

Ever since I was born I did a trip to Florida with my family and all I ever looked forward to was going to the airport, looking at all the aircraft, and flying. Even just as a day trip to the BTV airport my dad would take me to eat lunch and watch planes take off and land. The airport felt like a vacation. I dream of flying for the commercial airlines one day.

I have always loved aviation. I was born to fly, every year growing up I did a trip to Florida and all I looked forward to was flying in a plane. I even wrote a note to my high school self in kindergarten that I wanted to be a pilot. I have so much love for it, I applied and now have a job at BTV with Delta so I can see the insights of aviation and make pilot friends that come in and out of BTV. I have a flight simulator game that I always use.



In July 2022, I was scrolling on Instagram and found an advertisement about Delta airlines jobs near me. I of course clicked on it just to see any chance I could be a part of the aviation industry and I applied at the age of 15. In just a few hours I got a response telling me to attend a job fair at a hotel nearby. I attended the job fair and learned about the job responsibilities I could potentially be doing if I did work there. After a long conversation, I was approved to come back for an interview as soon as I turned 16, a few weeks later.

I went for the interview the day I got my drivers license and was instantly hired. I started as a SkyCap, upon arrival of an aircraft I would clean the cabin and assist with wheelchairs. A few months later I was moved up to a Customer service agent in which I would be at the ticket counter checking in passengers and bags, and I would be at the gate as a gate agent which included working the boarding process, printing flight plans, making stressful decisions, and even cleaning the plane in a timely manner. I was also introduced to be a ramp agent so I am also outside loading and unloading bags on and off of aircraft. *(Continued on next page)*

(Zachary LeCours, Continued) This job has made me take a big step in aviation as I am learning what goes into the commercial airlines, and I also make friends with the pilots. I am always learning what their lifestyle is like, any possible career paths for me, and even any basic questions I may have. In fact, one of the captains came back to BTV and donated his headset for me that he used to use. I am excited for my journey with the EAA Chapter 613 program to help me get to where I would love to be in my life.

Meet our Newest Aviator and Mechanic-in-Training, Owen Mongen

For as long as I can remember I loved to build things and have had a fascination with vehicles of any kind. I have lived in Vermont my whole life, growing up in the town of Montpelier. At the age of 14 I had my first flight in a small plane, a Cessna 172 while at a summer camp. I loved everything about the experience; the feel of being in a small plane, the sound of the engine, the freedom of flying, being at the controls, and seeing everything from up above. Now at the age of 16 and a junior in high school I am contemplating what path I want to take in life. In exploring aviation related careers I have become increasingly interested in becoming an aircraft and powerplant technician. Being able to have a hands-on job with aircraft would give me the ability to combine all of my interests. I recently shadowed A&P Technicians at Heritage Aviation and Pratt & Whitney which gave me a glimpse of what a day in the life of an aircraft mechanic would look like.



I have been looking for opportunities to learn more about aviation. I feel so fortunate to have joined the Franklin County chapter 613 of the EAA. I am so excited to have found a group of aviation enthusiasts that are welcoming, supportive, and provide opportunities to be involved in the aviation community. George and Beth seem to truly care about helping me to reach my goals. I am very excited about being able to work alongside George, getting hands-on experience with aircraft maintenance. George has a wealth of knowledge that he seems eager to pass on to the youth at the airport. I am hoping to partake in a formal A&P apprenticeship and integrate it into my high school education thanks to the help of Beth. My goal is to obtain my private pilot's license and to attend college to achieve my A&P certification.

In my free time I enjoy spending time with friends, family, and our little dog Zoe. I love mountain biking and being outdoors. My older sister also attended the summer camp with me several years ago and she too fell in love with flying. She has her private pilot's license and is currently studying at Florida Institute of Technology to become a professional pilot. Our enthusiasm for aviation has rubbed off on our parents. This fall my parents took me to my first air show which I found very exciting. Next year we are all hoping to be able to experience the EAA Air venture in Oshkosh together. And who knows, maybe someday I'll have my own little plane that I can fix up and my sister and I can go flying together.

Ella Newman, Ray Scholar

A lot has happened since I last wrote a newsletter. I received my instrument rating in December of 2022 and my commercial license in July. I am currently working on getting my CFI and my check ride is in about a month. I have been on a lot of fun cross countries during commercial including the Hudson VFR corridor which has always been a dream of mine, Nantucket (KACK), Eastport Maine (the furthest east airport in the US, KEPM).



My first year at VTC was a blast. I have learned so much and grown my aviation knowledge tremendously. This year CFI ground has been kicking my butt, everyone always said it would be a lot of work but I did not imagine this much ground work. Flying from the right seat is not nearly as bad as I thought it was going to be. I am currently having some imposter syndrome. I will be receiving my CFI a year and 3 months after passing my private check ride and it doesn't feel real. I have recently flown to KFSO to do some touch and go's and it helped me realize how far I have come, and helped calm my imposter syndrome. I am excited to see what this month will hold for me.

Silas Scheckel, Aviator

Over the last few months I've been slowly picking away at the written test for my commercial rating using Shepherd Air and I finally passed with a score of 94%. This is way higher than I would've ever expected because the highest I've gotten in a practice test was 92%. If anyone reading this is looking to pass a written test Shepherd Air is the way to go. I cannot recommend it enough. Yesterday I flew for the first time since May and practiced landings and various maneuvers while trying to hold myself to commercial standards. Later today I'll be taking a flight lesson to start to get ready for the check ride which I hope to complete in mid January next year.

Green Mountain Aviation Field Days Planned for September 13-14, 2024

Hello Everyone!

The Vermont Aviators Association, with support from BTV, Heritage, VFA, Beta Technologies and others, is bringing an "airshow" back to Burlington VT in September of 2024...the first one here since 2016! This is a Burlington event with all facets of the local government and business participating in the planning and execution of the event.

We have decided we want this to be a very Vermont event so will not be a traditional "airshow". Our theme will focus on the "Past, Present, and Future of Aviation" with a heavy emphasis on aviation education and STEM. We are hoping for Statewide participation from various organizations.

Our "Green Mountain Aviation Field Days" will take place at Burlington International Airport (BTV) and will include as much flying as possible keeping in mind the limited airspace around the airport and that commercial flights will be operating throughout the event. Anticipate a lot of aviation / aircraft static's, "touch a truck" and STEM type exhibits. We set up this website last week so please give us some time to get it going.

<https://www.greenmountainaviationfielddays.org/>

Our event will take place on Friday, 13th and Saturday 14th of Sept 2024, with the VTANG having a separate Open House on Sunday the 15th over on the Base. We did consider combining the events but the logistics were problematic so there will be two separate events...although there may be opportunities to participate in both events...more to follow.

We would love to have your organization participate. Please let me know if you would be interested and any thoughts you may have to make this a phenomenal event. :)

Respectfully

Zip

S. Scott "Zip" Willits

Vermont Aviators Association

518-522-0017

vermontaviators.org



Lightspeed Aviation Supporting Chapter 613

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October 2023

