



*Experimental Aircraft Association*  
*Chapter 631 - The Blue Hills Flyers*  
Rice Lake, WI



## **Minutes of the Meeting of April 6, 2024 (at Dave & Sharon Nielsen's Hangar, Shell Lake Airport):**

The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Jeff Potocnik at 11:01 AM – Jeff led a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Headcount at meeting = 28. Thank you very much to several folks (Lake Point Aero folks, maybe others?) that brought food and beverages for the meeting today!

### **Meeting Minutes 11/7/23 (at Chuck Lewis Terminal, Shell Lake Airport):**

Move to approve by Gerry Winch; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Gillette. Approved.

### **Treasurer's report Through March 2024 – Gary Crisler:**

- Recently purchased tickets for the 2024 50/50 raffle (get tickets from Bonnie)
- Recap of 2023 50/50 won by Crisler but donated back (Thanks Gary!)
- Recap of original CD expired November 2023. Rolled it into a 7% CD at Superior Credit Union, but Superior failed to explain all the strings attached (required monthly deposits, etc.). So, due to poor explanation was able to liquidate that from Superior and opened a CD with Dairy State at 5.1% that matures in July 2024. (rolled the whole nominal \$20K+interest previously invested in CD into the new CD)
- Overall chapter balance 3/31/24 = \$37,341.04. (General Operating \$ = \$8,650+/-; Warren Lewis student activities fund = \$27,680+/-; Fund for current scholarship students = \$1,010+/-).
- The overall fund balance is trending upward (Yay!); but if you account for inflation it is probably just holding its own : |
- Jan Kittinger noted, paraphrasing, "Don't be down on 'holding its own', the chapter has spent a lot over the last handful of years matching scholarships, sending kids to Air Academy; we've definitely done good things." Good point, Jan.
- Thanks Gary for your efforts to get our books more detailed!
- Jan Kittinger moved to approve report; Kirby Crawford 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.

### **Young Eagles Discussion:**

- From YE ride 2023 credits we earned approx. \$3,500 that will be applied to Air Academy camperships. HQ provided \$10 credit per ride between AirVenture 2022 and AirVenture 2023 rather than the normal \$5 credit per ride.
- John and Nancy Ostrem's grandson will be going to camp and John/Nancy covering that entire cost (thank you John and Nancy).
- Linsey Balts of Barron will be going to camp and she applied for and received a \$1,450 scholarship for that!
- Ivy Perry will be going to camp and she applied for and received a \$750 scholarship for that!
- Young Eagle Kyle "KJ" Johnston spoke a bit about his experience at Air Academy last year
  - Made aluminum and wood ribs
  - Flew in a Cessna 162
  - Flew in a Bell 47 Helicopter
  - Stayed in dorm style building
  - Camp was 3 days
  - Jack Perry noted "KJ is my neighbor, but that is not his fault." Jack and KJ flew up to the meeting today, w KJ navigating.
- Sari Mavis described her Air Academy experience last year a bit
  - Dorm style housing
  - Time split between classrooms and workshops
  - Did some welding
  - Made a spark plug holder
  - Made an aluminum kneeboard
  - Talks on many aviation topics
  - Weeklong camp
  - Bell 47 helicopter ride (yes, she agreed w CFI Dave, this was the best part of camp)

### **Scholarship Committee Notes:**

- Big Congrats to Ray Scholar Sari Mavis who passed her checkride yesterday – 631's newest private pilot! Sharon Nielsen presented her with a celebration cake during the meeting (thanks Sharon).
- The 2023 Ray Scholarship (Sari Mavis) was a 100% scholarship from Ray via EAA HQ.
- For 2024 – 631 applied for (and has received) two 75% Ray/25% 631 scholarships via EAA HQ.
- 631 solicited Ray and Schoonover applicants in early 2024. Received 6 applications by the 2/29 deadline. Committee did interviews and made selections in Mid-March. 6 quality applicants. Selections:
  - Ray #1 – Aidan Olson of Clayton. Aidan not on hand today because he and Dad Roger are attending in Merrill a "Service Academy Day" arranged by Congressman Tom Tiffany. Aidan will be able to talk with representatives of the Air Force Academy that he will be applying for. Mom Terri on hand and noted that Aidan super pumped and excited about the scholarship.
  - Ray #2 – Nathan Whitmore of Sarona. Nathan not able to attend today, but some of us met Nathan at the recent VMC/IMC meeting. Nathan

needs to secure his medical yet. Chapter Scholarship committee giving him until AirVenture to do that; if not secured by then, then committee may steer the #2 Ray to another applicant. Jeff Potocnik noted that Nathan's application was very good.

- Mark T. Schoonover Memorial Scholarship – Member Braeden Dennis selected for this scholarship. Braeden is a former 631 Ray Scholar, is a private pilot, and is pursuing an Aviation Maintenance Technology Associates degree at Lake Superior College in Duluth. Jeff Potocnik has talked with Kyle Jerman of Edward Jones who administers this fund for the Traci Schoonover family. The \$ will likely be steered directly to the Lake Superior College tuition payment office.
- Brief discussion on the re-established joint flight training joint scholarship via both EAA 631 and the Island City Aero Club (ICAC). \$1,000 from each for total of \$2,000. Payment made after applicant earns private. Per a recent ICAC meeting it sounds like an application may be received soon. If so, the two clubs will need to convene a committee and review application.

### **Old Business:**

- Cumberland Airport Annual Pancake Breakfast Fly In – Discussion
  - 631 sponsored this for a couple of years as a way to provide insurance to the event
  - Now, with 631 non-profit status – more scrutiny possible on finances
  - EAA HQ not conducive to events that collaborate with others (example – climbing wall that has been at fly in).
  - 631 President Potocnik met recently with Joe Miller (President) and Don White of ICAC to share concerns; and noted that if 631 involved, 631 needs to be totally involved and would desire to split proceeds 50/50 rather than 90% ICAC/10% 631.
  - Per recent ICAC meeting, ICAC has found an alternate insurance provider and will organize/insure the event on their own. ICAC very understanding of 631 concerns. ICAC hopeful that many 631 members will still attend, help, enjoy. Potocnik noted hopeful/very optimistic of same.
- Chapter 631 has attained “Gold Status” from EAA HQ (Yay!)
  - 11 criteria. Need 9 to make gold status. 631 meets 10 of the criteria. The only criteria we do not meet is owning our own hangar. Big thanks to all who pitch in to make our chapter what it is!!!

### **New Business:**

- Terri Olson (Aidan's mom) has offered to do some updating on the Chapter website. If you'd like any photos or other material added to the website please get the information to Terri at her email address: [cmooncandles@gmail.com](mailto:cmooncandles@gmail.com)
- Secretary Volker finally getting serious about the next nametag order. Has a list of approximately 10 members/friends to get nametags for. Others? Initial nametags are free (cost covered by chapter) to folks that are actual members of both EAA parent organization and Chapter 631. Others (non-member friends, parents, spouses, etc) welcome to also get nametags at a \$9 cost. On Brad's list so far are: 4 members of the Jon Brown family, Terri Olson, Ivy Perry, Kyle Johnston, Otieno Oduor, Carl Cooley. Let Brad know if others need a nametag plz (715-651-5979 or [bvolker@cooperengineering.net](mailto:bvolker@cooperengineering.net) )

- 50/50 raffle fundraiser 2024 – Bonnie has tickets – get tickets from Bonnie to sell! Sales to end prior to fall picnic; drawing at picnic. Thanks Bonnie!
- Judy & Jan – see information sheet – Judy and Jan want to do donation baskets again at picnic. They have been a good fundraiser in the past. Consider donating items for a basket. No basket? No worries, just get donated items to Judy/Jan and they'll find a basket and wrap. Looking for nice stuff, not secondhand stuff. Thanks Judy/Jan!
- Please use the signup feature of the Chapter website calendar – for food, silverware, etc.! <https://chapters.eaa.org/aaa631/event-calendar> Example – click forward to May; click on May 7<sup>th</sup> gathering; click on link to sign up for food/etc.

### **Tech/Safety:**

- Ric Brekke has donated to the chapter a microfiche reader system that includes many maintenance and service manuals for Cessna, Piper, and Beech aircraft; as well as propellor info. and other stuff. The reader system is quite heavy; not really practical to store for folks to take home/borrow. Rather, folks would have to come to it if we found a place to store it. No real takers to lend space. Carl Cooley suggested that maybe the information could be converted to pdf or similar, but was not sure where that could be done. Carol Rybarcik wondered if best to hold on to the information but not the reader system. Whoever might want to research could take the information to any local library and use the libraries reader. For now, consider Ric's donation part of the chapter Tool Crib. Thanks Ric!
- Chapter Tool Crib – Matt Rybarcik and Harlan Loken have made a list of items in the tool crib available for checkout. <https://chapters.eaa.org/aaa631/tool-crib>
  - Since no chapter hangar the items stored at either Matt's or Harlan's.
  - Wow, lots of items!
  - Thanks guys! Thanks to donors beyond Matt/Harlan!

### **Next Gatherings:**

- Next VMC/IMC Mtg – Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30, Shell Lake Airport
- Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, Rice Lake Airport Terminal. Social at 5; meeting (or presentation) at 6:00.

### **Adjournment:**

Moved by Gary Crisler; 2<sup>nd</sup> also by Gary : ) Unanimous!

*Minutes respectfully submitted, Brad Volker – Chapter Secretary*  
[chapters.eaa.org/aaa631](https://chapters.eaa.org/aaa631)



Greetings Chapter 631'ers!

At this time of year we are anticipating adventures for our warm weather season. Flying, gardening, fixing and cutting GRASS!?! Many events have already been planned for 2024 and this chapter is extremely active.

Judy G and Jan H would like a consensus for a fund raiser for 631 to do at the Chapter Picnic. Some years past we had a lot of fun and great revenues by making theme baskets for a silent auction at the picnic. We would host the event and hoping some of you might also participate. Some ideas:

GARDEN.                      TOOLS.                      GARAGE.                      KITCHEN  
GRILLING.                      SPA.                      CHRISTMAS

BIG, OR SMALL. JOIN IN WITH ANOTHER TO SPONSOR AND MAKE ONE.

Baskets should be nice items. Keep in mind some might come by air, that could spark more ideas.

Please respond by email or phone.

Jan is secretary for this.

Email: [spiderlakewoods@gmail.com](mailto:spiderlakewoods@gmail.com)

Phone: 715-354-9566

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Judy G. & Jan H

All monies to be for Chapter 631

P.S. tax deductible