



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



Minutes of the Meeting of October 1, 2024:

The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Jeff Potocnik at 6:00 PM, in the the conference room of the Rice Lake Regional Airport, including a Pledge of Allegiance. Approximately 23 members present.

Big thanks to today's garbage pickers on 631's stretch of Highway 8 east of Cameron: Jack Langland, Matt and Carol Rybarczik, Bruce and Maxine Dakins, Dave and Sharon Nielsen, Gary Crisler, Bob Triplett, Jeff Potocnik, Gerry Winch, Tracy Schoonover, Brad Volker. (Brad wonders if he forgot any here...)

Meeting Minutes of August 6, 2024 (Cumberland Municipal Airport maintenance building):

Dave Nielsen moved to approve; Jack Langland 2nd. Discussion – Bonnie Carlson noted that in two spots Hunter Johnson was noted as Hunter Ripplinger (please change to Johnson); and regarding the purchase of two computers please note that will be done with \$ from the YE donation box. Motion contingent on corrections approved.

Treasurer Crisler's Report for End of September, 2024:

Gary Crisler talked through the report. A few notes:

- 2 of 3 installment payments from HQ for Aidan Olson's Ray scholarship are received at this time
- The raffle brought in approximately \$3600. Half of that (approximately \$1800) was paid out to an RAF member who attended the picnic/campout.
- There were \$4280 in picnic/campout donations!

Dave Nielsen moved to approve; Jack Langland 2nd. Motion approved.

Young Eagles Update (Jack Langland):

- Jack is looking at the calendar for YE event dates for 2025, so a draft of dates will come out soon. Sawyer County runway closure in spring may trigger moving that date. Do Rusk County again?
- 340 rides were given in 2024! 11,069 rides by chapter to date!
- Thanks to Kevin Wanecke and Dave Nielsen who flew young eagles at the Grantsburg "save the airport" event recently! Approximately 50 youth flown that day.

- Mya Gardner was 631's 11,000th Young Eagle! And Mya's Ray application has been approved by HQ!
- Jack is now accepting nominations for youth to attend EAA camps – if you know a good candidate contact Jack.
- Jack noted Big Thanks to all that help with Young Eagle events. It's really a team effort and we have a very dedicated team.
- HQ will be unveiling a new software for Young Eagle registrations, etc. soon.
- 2 new computers were purchased by the chapter for handling the new software, etc. Thanks to Bruce Dakins who spearheaded that.
- President Jeff noted that the chapter received an email from a John Adkins wondering about doing remote control model aircraft flying during Young Eagle events. Mr. Adkins is with the Rice Lake Model Airplane Club.
 - EAA HQ does not allow RC flying during YE events
 - EAA HQ also does not like comingling events of different groups
 - A handful of comments were made noting safety concerns with flying RCs during a YE event. Members hesitant.
 - Static display of RC models during YE events would be fine!
 - 631 helping in some way of a separate RC model flying event(s) would be fine!
 - Consensus that RC model flying is a great thing
 - **All agreed – cannot mix YE event flying with RC model flying**

Scholarship Committee

- Scholarship committee selected Mya Gardner as 631's Ray recipient after the original recipient was unable to obtain medical by fall. Mya was an obvious choice all committee members agreed. Mya has had 3 lessons so far!
- Aidan Olson (the other 2024 Ray recipient) recently completed his solo X-country. He is close to practicing for the test.

Chapter Picnic/Campout:

- Big Big thanks to Bob and Judy Gillette and friends who hosted the picnic/campout!!!
- Thanks to the RAF folks who helped prep
- President Jeff noted that he took the liberty to offer 631 help to RAF for future efforts of work days at Lakewood Lodge. The group has a great mission and thanks to Bob and Judy the Lakewood Lodge airstrip has been a great thing for 631. Jeff thinks RAF's next workday at Lakewood Lodge will be in May 2025 – stay tuned.
- Thanks to Dave Misner who took a lot of photos at the 2024 picnic/campout
- Judy Gillette noted that a friend of hers observed that it may be time to consider changing the chapter picnic some. Are folks tired of it as-is? More on this to follow...

Tech/Safety (Matt Rybarczik):

- Do not use silicone on an airplane! Apologies, Volker did not catch the details of this – was it referring to lubrication, or sealant, or other?
- Matt and Carol attended the recent Cessna 120/140 Convention in Poplar Grove, IL. There was some discussion there on traffic pattern altitudes at non-towered airports.

- It is very important to be at the published pattern altitude, and not some other altitude. Be precise – it is important!
- Normally (but not always!) the pattern altitude for small piston aircraft is 1,000 feet AGL. Look up the pattern altitude as part of preflight planning.
- A couple of stories were noted that emphasized the importance of flying the pattern at correct altitude
- Reminder – it is legal to fly without radio at small airports. So...look, look, look!

Old Business:

- Chapter “Safety Yellow” volunteer shirts are available now. Chapter will accept \$14 donations for those that desire a shirt. The shirts are in the YE trailer, so see Maxine...
- A reminder – Chapter 631 will throw its name in the hat to hopefully land an opportunity to put on pancake breakfasts during a morning of AirVenture 2025 as a chapter fundraiser. Historically, the Chapter cut of income is around \$5K! Each chapter selected needs to have at least 16 volunteers able to help. If selected, we will not know which day of AirVenture for a while. So, plan to attend AirVenture and help with this should 631 be selected.
- Annual 631 fundraiser raffle
 - Maybe do not do this for 2025
 - Income for 2024 was down from 2023
 - Some really put a lot of effort into this, but many have not
 - Bonnie has notes on how much sold where if any interested
 - If we do this again we need to better plan/target events/venues, and need better exposure locations at the county fairs

New Business:

- Bob Triplett’s cub is now done!
- Tracy Schoonover soloed recently!
- Sari Mavis just passed her instrument knowledge test with a score of 85!
- Chapter Bylaws Amendment needed???
- In 2022 the bylaws were updated to better align with 501(c)(3) purposes
- In past we have had members/officers that were not national members
- Roster management tool has exposed members that aren’t national members
- Gerry Winch talked to John Egan at HQ (John is head of chapters matters) and asked if folks could be chapter members w/o being EAA national org. members. Answer – Yes, but such members could not vote on chapter matters. Note though, that current chapter 631 bylaws do not allow such.
- Should we consider changing chapter bylaws to allow chapter members who are not EAA national members (current bylaws do not allow)?
- Jeff P. noted we probably have 6 to 10 folks locally who pay chapter dues who are no longer national members. From the chapter bylaw standpoint those folks basically just made \$25 donations to the chapter as friends of the chapter and are not able to vote on chapter matters.
- Should we “worry” about this, and thus change the bylaws to better match the situation? Or do we continue on as-is and better realize that folks who pay \$25 to chapter but are not national members are technically very

welcome friends of the chapter who are very welcome at all gatherings/events but are not able to vote on chapter matters?

- There was some comment to consider changing the bylaws, but...
- Bonnie Carlson moved to make no changes to the bylaws for such; Jack Langland 2nd. Approved.
- Christmas Party – stay tuned for solid date. Trying to get Lehman's for Wednesday, December 4th.
- Bonnie Carlson asked: Should Chapter 631 be doing annual audits (ideally by a chapter audit committee)? Such is very typical of non-profit status organizations and some feel it needs to be started. There seemed to be consensus that doing such would be prudent. Names suggested for folks who would be good on the committee – Suzanne Perry, Ed Knutson. Mya Garner's Mom Sabrina offered to help on this committee – thanks Sabrina! Dave Nielsen moved to create/have an audit committee to perform self audit annually. Terry Olson 2nd. Approved.

Next Gathering:

- Tuesday, November 5th at Shell Lake Municipal Airport – Jurg Grossenbacher of FAA will be presenting a safety seminar following brief business.

Adjournment:

Several moved to adjourn; Several second. Adjourned!

Respectfully submitted, Brad Volker, Chapter Secretary
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