



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



## **Minutes of the Meeting of August 8, 2023 (at Toftness/ Erickson Field, Cumberland) (corrected 10/3/23):**

The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Jeff Potocnik at 6:00 PM in Gary Gannon's hangar (thanks for hosting Gary!). President Potocnik led the members with the pledge of allegiance. Headcount = 27. Thanks to John and Nancy Ostrem who brought some pizzas for the social hour!

### **Welcome to some newer faces:**

- Student Aidan Olson of Clayton, with father Roger. Aidan is a recipient of an Air Force scholarship that will have him spending some time at Luke Air Force Base near Mesa, Arizona. 1600 students applied; 20 accepted. Way to go Aidan! Aidan's grandfather was a B24 pilot with 52 missions in Italy/Germany. Aidan and family just learned of Chapter 631 via John/Nancy Ostrem and Aidan has done a Young Eagle ride with John.
- John Brown – a neighbor of Gerry Winch/Bonnie Carlson in Shell Lake. John has been interested in aviation for a while and thought he'd "jump in" by joining 631.

Welcome to 631! We are glad you have looked us up!

### **Meeting Minutes of 6/10/23 (at Warbirds North Airfield, Trego):**

John Ostrem moved to approve. Dave Nielsen 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.

### **Treasurer Crisler's report through July 2023 (and other financial business):**

Highlights:

- \$88 in interest so far on the CD we purchased. Woohoo!
- \$1,000 donation by Bennet Doubleday
- Some Ray Scholarship expenditures
- Some Ray income \$8,800
- \$300 donation from Hayward Aviation – towards food at HYR FFAST seminar
- Dakins donation of \$500 towards trailer
- Sitting at \$37,500 +/- overall

Doug Schuebel moved to approve Treasurer's Report; Gerry Winch 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved.

**Other Financial:**

- Now that we are a non-profit we need to get a bit more detailed with financial documentation, so for all of our events an effort will be made to track expenses and donations. So, if desiring reimbursement for anything in the future (including food for meetings) Treasurer Gary will need a receipt.

**Young Eagles Discussion, YE Coordinator Jack Langland:**

- A big thank you to Judy and Jan for all their work over the years to make the scholarship fund the reality it is! Very appreciated!
- Academy/Camp – 37 youth sent to camp thus far
  - Bennett Ostrem – best thing ever (camp); wants to get a helicopter to go to school; food was good; wrote a letter (it will surface; not on hand); made friends from around the country
  - Sari Mavis (advanced camp) – Workshop / Classroom (days split 50/50); did sheet metal work; did some composite work; did some welding; did some wood rib work; very grateful for the opportunity; in a chat group with other Ray Scholars.
  - Reservations for next year – need to do soon. \$1200 down will give us slot for ~~one participant for each of the camp levels~~ up to 6.
  - Potential names by November please
  - Advanced camp (16-18) - \$1,650; Ages 14-15 - \$1,300; ages 12-13 \$1,000.
  - Dave Nielsen moved to spend \$1,200 to secure 3 camp spots for 2024; Gerry Winch 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.
- Jack thanked Gerry Winch for all his time at the AirVenture Blue Barn (Jack spent a lot of time there also). Thanks guys; EAA HQ has 631 on its radar because of those efforts!
  - Other related to AirVenture Blue Barn – they are always looking for chapter things like an Adirondack chair made by 631, or a sign (so many nautical miles to Chapter 631). Dan Mersel offered to pay for materials for any woodworking projects like this if some other member was a woodworker and wanted to do.
- SSQ YE – 72 flown!
- Cable YE – 19 flown

**Other Air Venture-related:**

- Doug Schuebel worked with former Air Force C-130 pilot Mary Bigmountain of Rusk County 4-H to take some busloads of kids over to AirVenture – 3:45 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. : )
- Bodi Mullen went on that trip – very worth the super long day; really liked the simulators; really liked the warbirds; really like the airshow, especially the noise of the fighter jets and the warbirds formations.
- Thanks Doug for the efforts you and others put into that!

**Scholarship Committee Notes:**

- Sari Mavis – flew to Siren yesterday. Getting used to Dave Nielsen’s 172 since he sold both 150s. Written test soon.
- Hunter Johnson - 2023 Mark T. Schoonover Memorial Scholarship – also getting used to Dave’s 172, needs to do X-country yet, hoping to finish in next month or two.
- John Ostrem and Jeff P. – both have worked on clarifying the details of further scholarship collaborations by Island City Aero Club and EAA 631. See details in proposal attached. John Ostrem moved to have the 631 membership approve the criteria as listed in the proposal. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve Dennis. Discussion (some concerns):
  - \$1,000 to \$2,000 doesn’t do much
  - Change lives more by spending the \$ on academy/camp?
  - Co-mingling concerns? No, HQ’s concerns with co-mingling with other organizations is related to events.
 Motion passed despite two Nay votes.

### **Tech/Safety (Matt R.):**

- Matt attended a Technical Counselor’s breakfast at AirVenture which included a very good presentation by EAA on things to look for before FAA airworthiness inspections on homebuilts – all the little details. Matt plans to help Gerry Winch with such an inspection soon.
- Tomorrow – Matt will be putting the wings back onto his 120.
- Jeff P. reminded folks that HQ has online many very good “hints for homebuilders” videos. As an example, Jeff watched one recently that concentrated on Cotter keys and their proper use.

### **Old Business:**

- YE trailer purchased and being used. Need to line up insurance yet – Jeff P. looking into. Secretary Volker has the title and will be filed with all the other hard copy filing that is in a banker’s box at Cooper Engineering. Don Fiedler donated 631 logo decals for the trailer (need to be installed yet) – thanks Don!
- Secretary Volker will put together a nametag order for Chapter members who do not yet have an EAA 631 nametag. See or call Brad if a nametag needed/desired. First nametags are free to new members (cost of approximately \$10 per nametag covered by Chapter). Replacement nametags or nametags for family members who are not technically members are also available – at cost of approximately \$10. Call or email Brad if nametag desired. [bvolker@cooperengineering.net](mailto:bvolker@cooperengineering.net); or cell 715-651-5979.
- Washburn County Fair recap
  - The Dennis family AgCat fuselage was popular for attracting folks – thanks Steve and Fam.
  - Thanks Dan Ripplinger who moved the fuselage to fair and back
  - Folks that put a lot of time into manning a 631 booth at fair – Bob and Judy Gillette, Bruce and Maxine Dakins, Jan Kittinger, Jeff Potocnik – big thanks volunteers!
  - Use the trailer and a canopy
  - Reached a crowd that did not know we exist until now
  - Sold 80 raffle tickets
- Fundraising

- 50/50 Raffle – organized by Bonnie Carlson and others (thanks!). 1500 tickets purchased. A bunch of tickets are out to members; need to get the rest out to sellers. Sold some during the Cable YE event. Plan to sell at Rice Lake and Cumberland YE events. Plan to sell at Cumberland and Shell Lake pancake breakfasts. Drawing to be the Saturday of picnic at Gillette at 2:00 pm.
- Continued thanks to Dave Nielsen for putting on the VMC/IMC gatherings (good stuff!); and thanks to Sharon for providing snacks!

### **New Business:**

- Other opportunities to put YE Trailer to good use?
  - Workshops for kids (no during YE events)?
  - Materials are available from HQ for educational activities
  - Gerry Winch will put together more information for a future meeting for the membership to consider
- Cumberland Pancake Breakfast/Fly-in is a go. Those who can help please do. Will be supported heavily by ICAC (technically a 631 event). Sunday August 27.
- Nancy Ostrem has offered to do some updating on the chapter website and has received login credentials from Ty Zeller. Thanks Nancy! Bodi Mullen expressed interest in helping with this. Multiple “users” welcome to help keep things updated.

### **Next Gatherings:**

- Picnic/Campout at Gillette’s Lakewood Lodge weekend of September 16 (Thanks Bob and Judy!!!)
- Rice Lake meeting (preceded by Highway 8 Cleanup) – Tuesday October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Decided that this date (social hour before meeting) will be a potluck.

### **Adjournment:**

Bob Gillette & Ed Knutson simultaneously moved; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jan K.. Passed unanimously!

*Minutes respectfully submitted, Brad Volker – Chapter Secretary*  
[chapters.eaa.org/ea631](http://chapters.eaa.org/ea631)