



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



Minutes of the Meeting of June 13th, 2020:

The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Bob Gillette in-person at the Shell Lake Municipal Airport at/just outside Winston and Donna Rock's hangar w/ social distancing due to COVID-19 at 1:00 pm. Members present that Secretary Volker can remember: Treasurer Jeff Potocnik, Secretary Brad Volker, President Bob Gillette w Judy, Jan Kittinger, Bruce & Maxine Dakin, Bob Rand, Don Fiedler, Gerry Winch w Bonnie, Tom Hodgson w Elizabeth, Ed Knutson, Tom Elliott, Dave Misner, Lynn Melin (w guest nephew pilot Ben Melin of Osceola), Winston Rock w Donna, Jack Langland, Gary Gannon, Charlie Becker (631 Charlie, not HQ Charlie), Jack Perry, Kirby Crawford, and Logan Henning w Dad Brian. Other guests: _____ Kuhn of Gibson Aviation in Menomonie (Kuhn brothers/family camping at the beach this weekend).

President Bob commented on the passing of longtime member Ellen Schmitz on June 11th. A great lady – she must have been as she moved to northern Wisconsin with Dave from California! They were married 49 years. Ellen was a pilot and she loved to ride in the Huey w Dave. She will be missed very much by her 631 friends. There will be a visitation/service at Warbirds North Airfield on Thursday, June 18th.

Meeting Minutes of (virtual) May 7th Meeting, 2020:

Kirby Crawford moved to approve; Tom Elliott 2nd. Approved.

Treasurer Potocnik's Report for End of May, 2020

Treasurer Jeff talked through the report. Gerry Winch moved to approve; Tom Hodgson 2nd. Approved.

Young Eagles - YE Coordinator Jack Langland:

- 5 YE Rides so far this year, by Jay Pearsal, Bob Triplet, Jeff Potocnik, and Jack Langland.
- KOSH Camps are canceled for all of 2020. We think we'll be able to preserve/use the credits that 631 earned during the 2019 YE season. Plan is to send the kids we had lined up for 2020 in 2021.
- 631 YE Rallies canceled through June. HQ thinks no rallies before July 4th.
- July 11th YE Rally, Shell Lake – let's attempt to do it thinks Jack. Concensus of meeting attendees was in agreement, assuming take appropriate precautions, and assuming HQ OK with it. Jack has no-touch thermometer we can use to scan folks. Ample hand sanitizer, sanitize yokes/sticks, etc. between flights. Have YE's wear masks. We have a regular meeting on July 7th – at that meeting we'll decide on final say whether a go or not. Jack will proceed with on-line registrations.
- Jack has paper two-sided YE forms if any want to be doing YE rides on non-event days. Just ask for them when you need them.

- Reminder that background check required for pilots and some of the ground help. If you are not sure if you are current with that contact HQ and ask (or ask secretary Brad and he can check). You should get a reminder from HQ when yours is coming due.
- Hopefully we'll be able to do the remainder of the scheduled YE rallies per the 631 schedule (July 11th onward).
- Pretty long-winded discussion on final draft policy of how kids will be selected to be sponsored by 631 to go to KOSH camps (primarily who is eligible by geographic area):
 - Per a "by counties" discussion at a prior meeting, Secretary Brad handed out a sketched map of how that might look – see attached – a green line that includes several whole counties, a couple counties parted mid-way. Nothing sacred about this map; just provided by Brad to aid the discussion.
 - Another idea floated was "within 75 miles of Rice Lake (or similar)"
 - An informal vote was taken by show of hands if "by county" sketch preferred over radius concept. The "by county" sketch was preferred.
 - Jack Langland made a motion that Jack, as YE Coordinator, could set in motion reservations for camp, with no special permission from membership, when such requested by kids who live within the green line sketched on the county map. Gerry Winch 2nd. Approved.
 - Attached is the final policy/map
 - Thank you to Jan K. and committee for creating this chapter policy
- YE safety, and personal/chapter liability discussed a bit. Personal liability is something that each pilot needs to research and then make decision if comfortable flying YEs. Chapter President Bob G. has discussed chapter liability some with HQ recently; is comfortable with the feedback from HQ regarding robust EAA policy, disclaimer, and string legal department. This is a good conversation to be having, though – let's keep emphasizing safety, maybe even more than we have; and this could/should be an ongoing discussion.
- President Bob noted a recent thank-you note he received from a Brandon Ceisel. Brandon, with prodding from his grandfather, arranged a YE ride with Bob in the past. Brandon now has his pilot's license and is on his way to a flying career. Not the best timing due to COVID, but that will change...

Ray Foundation Flight Training Scholarship(s):

Ray Foundation Flight Training Scholarship Updates:

- Logan Henning (2019) – Logan's checkride and interview exam are tentatively scheduled for his 17th Birthday on Monday June 22! Logan has been flying quite a bit lately. Best of luck Logan; we are very proud of you! Keep us informed of the check ride date/time as it gets closer as some may try to get to SUW to hopefully celebrate with you. Oh, the pressure! ☺
 - Note as of minutes publishing date of 6/29/20 – Logan did earn his pilot's license on his 17th Birthday of 6/22/20 at Richard Bong Airport! Jack, Jan, Jeff; and Logan's Parents all visited the airport to increase the pressure on Logan. Jan made cupcakes for his birthday. A few photos attached.
- Sean Hodkiewicz (2020) – Sean is currently waiting on word from FAA as to whether his medical will be approved. It has been approximately 5 weeks since he and family submitted all requested information to FAA. Fingers

crossed. Sean working today so was unable to make the meeting – working is a perfect reason to not make meeting!

Tech/Safety:

- Bob G. and Ray P. discussed a bit an event that happened at Cornell in the past. A lesser experienced pilot took off with full flaps. Once realized, the pilot fully retracted the flaps all at once; the plane stalled. Fatal for pilot and passenger.
- Bob G. noted – if not actually flying a lot to stay in practice do “chair flying” to keep refreshed on procedures, checklists, etc. This was a common practice in the airlines back in the day.
- Ray P. reminded folks to be safe around propellers and to help keep others safe, particularly folks that are not accustomed to being around airplanes.
- Ray P. reminded folks to be wary of bi-fold hangar doors. These can let go during opening/closing; and they can even let go when static. Avoid being under them whenever possible. Also, maintenance to cables, pulleys, etc. is key in avoiding the dangers these doors can present.

Old Business:

- Chapter survey results – Bob G. summarized. See attached printout. Our chapter is doing well, but there are also areas where we could improve.

New Business:

- Annual Picnic – there was some discussion – should this be a one day event to help reduce the tremendous amount of prep that Bob, Judy, Jan and others do? Should it be moved to another location to help Bob and Judy? There seemed to be strong agreement that we need to make this less work for Bob and Judy, so keeping to one day is probably a good idea. Let’s play this ear and discuss more as the summer progresses. All agreed that we need to make this easier on Bob and Judy by keeping to one day, more of us helping with it, and possibly moving it to another venue. Stay tuned.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, July 7th at Rice Lake Airport – EAA’s B-17 is canceled for that day, but we’ll still have a meeting. Brad – please check with Mike Nelms that OK to hold meeting given COVID situation (Brad will do).

Adjournment:

Ed Knutson moved to adjourn. Tom Elliott 2nd. Approved.

Respectfully submitted, Brad Volker – Chapter Secretary
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