



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



Minutes of the (virtual) Meeting of April 7th, 2020:

The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Bob Gillette using GoToMeeting platform rather than meeting in person at Shell Lake Airport due to the COVID-19 social distancing needs (chapter members could join in by phone and/or by computer via weblink) at 6:02 pm. Members present that Secretary Volker aware of: John and Nancy Ostrem, Treasurer Jeff Potocnik, Secretary Brad Volker, President Bob Gillette, Jan Kittinger, Dan Mersel, Bob Rand, Gerry Winch and wife Bonnie.

2019 Meeting Minutes (October, November, and December):

Dan Mersel moved to approve; Gerry Winch 2nd. Approved.

Treasurer Potocnik's Report for End of March, 2020

Treasurer Jeff talked through the report. Report was displayed on computer monitor for those that joined via computer. Gerry Winch moved to approve; Jack Langland 2nd. Approved.

Young Eagles/Air Academy Report by YE Coordinator Jack Langland:

- The first 2020 YE flight rally is scheduled for May 23rd at Vetterkind Field. We'll have to play this by ear. Depending on COVID virus recommendations as we get closer to the date we may have to cancel or reschedule this rally – stay tuned.
- EAA Air Academy Camp for 2020 – Jack has 3 kids lined up to attend camp and has a 4th that he would like member input on.
 1. Jaycie Nykanen, nominated by Ed Knutson
 2. Max Elliott, nominated by Tom Elliott
 3. William Tourillot, nominated by Chuck Aldrian
 4. Jack Thurlow, nominated by Ray Peterson – Jack is a nephew of Ray's wife; resides in Kentucky. Langland not sure if membership would like to make expenditures for a youth located so far from 631's local; would like member input. Langland did reach out to the nearest Kentucky Chapter to first see if Thurlow could be provided a Young Eagle ride to, at least partly, assess his interest in aviation. Langland also thought that maybe the Kentucky chapter would be interesting in co-sponsoring Thurlow. Unfortunately Langland has not heard back as to whether or not a YE ride was provided and has not yet discussed with Kentucky chapter possibly sharing sponsorship costs. Some members felt sponsoring a youth that distant from 631 is too much of a stretch. It was decided to table this matter for now (motion by Mersel, 2nd by Winch, approved) and re-discuss it after a policy for sponsoring kids is developed for Chapter 631. Jan Kittinger volunteered to chair a committee to develop a policy that makes it black/white for Langland to know whether feasible when a youth first nominated. **Anyone interested in joining Jan on this committee please**

let Jan know (or let Secretary Brad know and Brad can let Jan know). Ideally, this committee can form, and produce a policy in the next month or so for members to ratify.

Ray Foundation Flight Training Scholarship(s):

- Logan Henning, 631's 2019 Ray Scholar is tracking well – has soloed and has passed written. \$3,800+/- spent thus far. Logan had slowed lessons over the winter both due to school, and at the request of chapter as Logan cannot earn his private until 17th birthday in late June 2020. Probably time for Logan to get back into frequent lessons now. Brad will check in with Logan and family very soon.
- A selection process was recently held to select from 3 great candidates 631's nominee for a 2020 50/50 Ray Foundation Grant (50% of \$10K funded by Ray Foundation via EAA HQ; the other 50% funded by chapter per action at 631 December 2019 meeting). The 3 candidates that expressed interest in the scholarship opportunity:
 - Braeden Dennis of Rice Lake
 - Sean Hodkiewicz of Rice Lake
 - Caleb Peterson of Barron

All three candidates were excellent. Sean Hodkiewicz was selected to be nominated to EAA HQ by the scholarship committee. While all applicants were impressive, Sean stood out because he has been involved with the chapter for a couple of years (has taken several YE rides, has attended some meetings, has helped out at events/highway cleanup, has attended the annual picnic, etc.). Sean is currently diligently pursuing a third-class medical and student pilot certificate which are needed before he/631 can apply to HQ for the scholarship.

- It was noted that there is some chance (we are not sure yet) that 631 may be afforded an additional nomination slot for another 2020 Ray Foundation Scholarship. If that does come to fruition, then a) 631 would have to vote on whether or not it could fund further expenditure (if the nominations slot were 50/50 rather than 100% like our 2019 Logan Henning slot), and b) 631's scholarship committee would have to re-examine the remaining two candidates (Dennis, Peterson) and make a selection. Stay tuned...

Tech/Safety:

- No Tech/Safety discussion held this meeting, other than Dan Mersel noted that he read an article today where it was predicted that the US and Canadian airspace was going to be shut down almost completely soon due to the COVID pandemic (hopefully not correct).

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Members John and Nancy Ostrem made a request that 631 be the primary entity sponsoring the KUBE Fly-in this summer as such would allow using EAA standard event liability insurance. The Ostrem hangar, and Don White's hangar are used during the event for the pancake breakfast and John learned last year

(after the fact) that the event did not have liability insurance. Such is needed going forward; would 631 be willing to be the main sponsor so that the event could use EAA insurance? This was discussed at length.

- EAA Chapter 631 would be the primary sponsor (and advertised as such); any other support (such as Island City Aero Club) would be “supporting” entities.
- Would Island City Aero Club (“supporting” organization) be willing to give a portion of the fundraiser proceeds to 631? John O. did not know the answer to that and ICAC representatives were not on the 631 call-in meeting.
- Some 631 members noted that the proposal would be more palatable to 631 if 631 were given a portion of the proceeds (all or most agreed that 50% of proceeds to 631 sounded too high; \$300 was one suggestion (roughly the cost of buying one-day insurance for such an event).
- John O. noted that he and Nancy are EAA/631 members; and the insurance coverage by EAA HQ is a member benefit. Others disagreed that it is a member benefit; such insurance is offered to chapters at a cost; 631 typically opts to purchase the insurance every year as it gets used for chapter YE rallies, and the chapter picnic.
- It was suggested that KUBE look on the market for one-day insurance similar to what Lake Point Aero Club in Shell Lake does. LPAC spends \$250-\$300 per year for one-day insurance – probably not stellar coverage, but coverage. And could LPAC purchase rather than Ostrems and/or White purchasing?
- Prior to most of the above discussion a motion was made by Jeff Potocnik that 631 be the main sponsor of the KUBE Fly-in (which includes no airshow). 2nd by Gerry Winch. Following the discussion the motion was voted down (not unanimous, but more nays than ayes). It was suggested that maybe John could discuss the matter with ICAC to see if they would be willing to steer a modest portion of the fundraiser proceeds to 631 and then bring the matter back to 631.
- Janis Volker has migrated the chapter website from the old platform (EAA HQ ending ties with this entity which created the need to migrate) to the new platform (same entity that EAA HQ uses for its website). Please check it out. The address for the site is <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea631>. Dan Mersel had suggested that the site include a page showing a picture of each member with name (and could be with a plane) kind of like the Rochester MN chapter does. Janis happy to work towards that – please send in pictures of either yourself, or other members (get their OK first).

Adjournment:

Gerry Winch moved to adjourn. Jan Kittinger 2nd. Approved.

Respectfully submitted, Brad Volker – Chapter Secretary
www.631.eaachapter.org