



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



Minutes of the Meeting of August 2nd, 2022 (at the Toftness-Erickson Memorial Airport, Cumberland):

The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Jeff Potocnik at 6:01 PM at the Gannon Hangar (Thanks Gary!). President Potocnik lead the 23 members with the pledge of allegiance. Big thanks to Island City Aero Club for providing pizza for the social hour!

Meeting Minutes of 6/11/22 (at Warbirds North Airstrip, Trego):

President Potocnik noted the draft minutes should be changed to reflect the fact that Mark Schoonover was a US Navy pilot and not the reported Air Force pilot. Jack Langland moved to approve. Kirby Crawford Second. Motion passed.

Treasurer Gary Crisler's Report through June 2022:

Treasurer Gary Crisler reported on Chapter funds noting the balance was steady at about \$32,800. The Chapter had received several Young Eagle donations that had been deposited. Checks of \$935 were sent to the Young Eagles Camp, and \$600 to the Federal IRS 501C-3 project, which received an approval letter. Ed Knutson moved (Dave Nielsen second) to approve the Treasurers Report, and the motion passed.

Brief Update on Ray Foundation Scholar Byron Ripplinger, etc.:

- Dave Nielsen reported on the flight training progress of Ray Scholarship recipient Byron Ripplinger. He has flown approximately 10 hours and is ready to solo.

Young Eagles Discussion, YE Coordinator Jack Langland:

- Jack Langland reported that approximately 238 Young Eagle rides had been flown so far this season with approximately 40 at each airport. EAA will be providing a nice Polo Shirt for pilots flying 30 Young Eagles between August 1st to Airshow 2023. Gerry Winch and Jack Langland represented the Chapter by volunteering at Air Venture and noted the value of supporting the Young Eagles Program and the excellent reputation of Chapter #631.
- Langland requested comments on the aggressive 2022 flight schedule and discussed the concerns of keeping up the pace. We are about 100 ahead of previous years. There are 3 Young Eagle flights remaining (Cable, Rice Lake,

and Cumberland). Members recommended Langland create a draft 2023 schedule for review and comment.

- Langland reported on the 3 EAA Air Academy attendees and the need to make reservations for 2023. We are looking at reserving 6 reservations for next year and the Chapter provides \$200 per student with an adjustment when the total is determined. Dave Nielsen moved (Doug Schubel second) that the Treasurer send \$1,200 to EAA for 6 attendees and the motion passed. Langland noted there was an interest by Nancy and John Ostrem for reservations for qualified grandchildren with full cost paid by the Ostrem's.
- Langland said there was an EAA discussion of changing the Chapter Young Eagles Credit from \$5 to \$10 effective January 2023.

VMC/IMC Club (Dave Nielsen – CFII, and Coordinator (at least temporarily):

Dave Nielsen reported on the 3 meetings thus far and a reminded members the next meeting in Shell Lake is August 16th. An average of 10 pilots have been attending the sessions and members were urged to attend. **Let Dave (or Brad) know if you want to be on Dave's email list for the VMC/IMC Club meetings.**

Tech/Safety:

President Potocnik advised the members that we need an A&P or an IA to assume the duties of Tech Advisor for the Chapter. Information is available from EAA; and/or **talk to Jeff or other officer if interested or have recommendation.**

Old Business:

- President Potocnik reported on the successful closure of the transition to an IRS 501-C3 tax status, noting this could create a new revenue raising source for the Chapter. He followed through with the \$200 gift card to Scott Warwick for the excellent advice and support in the application process.
- Potocnik discussed the Mark Schoonover Memorial Aviation Scholarship fund that has been formed by wife Traci Schoonover and family. Mark was a Navy pilot and then returned back to the area and continued flying, promoting aviation, and the family has been successful in business. Traci and family sold one of the family airplanes to start this fund in Mark's memory. The fund is a Donor Assisted Fund managed by Kyle Jerman of Edward Jones in Chetek. As the fund earns dollars Traci and Kyle will steer aviation scholarships to quality area fledgling pilots in need of a monetary boost. Traci has been discussing this with Chapter 631 and plans to have Chapter 631 help find quality candidates. Other entities will also likely be involved. Traci and family have a desire to keep the scholarships steered to recipients in rural areas as larger population centers tend to get more of these types of opportunities. Very, very cool/generous! 631 helping the Mark Schoonover Memorial Scholarship fund requires 631 to be 501c3 which we now officially are! Jeff noted there is more work/dialogue to do with Traci and/or Kyle and we'll be organizing the process and criteria for future scholarships. Wow! Traci has joined the chapter, so please welcome her aboard when the opportunity arises.

New Business:

- Potocnik indicated our Annual Report will be completed but we are now “current.”
- The Chapter needs a new Printer for the Young Eagle Program because the Cartridges are very expensive. Langland purchased a Printer for \$147 to complete the Young Eagles paperwork. Dave Nielsen Moved (Kirby Crawford second) that Langland be reimbursed for the new Printer and the motion passed.
- Potocnik reminded the members the Chapter #631 sponsored Fly-in at Cumberland will be held on August 28th and urged members to contact Island City Aero Club President Scott Warwick or Ric Brekke about volunteer needs. Volker will send the Chapter #631 poster with details to members. **The Island City Aero Club is supporting the Chapter’s fly-in and will be having a meeting Thursday August 4th at 6:00 PM at the Cumberland Airport with details to follow.**
- The 2022 Chapter Picnic will be held at Judy and Bob Gillette’s Airstrip again this year, September 8/9/10. They will need volunteers for the effort and the Chapter will need to respond. President Potocink was asked to form a task force to develop a longer range plan to keep the Summer Picnic operational without needing to depend on the Gillettes for all the details. **RSVPs are helpful for the picnic – email Bob and Judy; or email Volker and Volker will forward to Bob/Judy.**
- **It’s “Thumbs Up Nomination Time” and members were/are asked to send candidates names to Volker for consideration by August 16th.** We need time to schedule the US Air Force Thunderbirds and the Hayward Marching Band and prepare the engraved plaque for the member who gets the “Thumb.” The award will be made at the Summer Picnic.

Next Meeting:

Potocnik stated the next meeting will be Saturday September 10th, at the Summer Picnic.

Adjournment:

Ed Knutson moved (Jack Langland second) the meeting be adjourned at 7:04 PM and the motion passed.

*Minutes prepared by John Ostrem in Volker’s absence (thanks John!); Respectfully submitted,
Brad Volker – Chapter Secretary
chapters.eaa.org/ea631*