



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



## **Minutes of the Meeting of November 2nd, 2021 (Shell Lake Airport, following a potluck social hour):**

The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Bob Gillette at 6:04 pm, at the Chuck Lewis Terminal building, with Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Thanks to Gerry and Bonnie and whoever else helped prep the terminal with tables, chairs, etc.! Thanks to all that brought food/beverages!

### **Welcome guests/Newer Members!**

- Young Eagle/Ray Scholar applicant Ty Zeller of Trego with Dad Brad (Mom, not present is Michelle).
- Ben and Ashley LaBarre (of Hayward? Does BV have that correct?)
- Matt and Carol Rybarczyk (of Rice Lake, hangar at Cumberland)
- Student Bodi Mullen, 15, of Rice Lake – very interested in a Young Eagle ride

### **Anyone need a nametag?**

If you are a member or family of a member we should get you an EAA nametag if you do not yet have one. For chapter members the first one is paid by Chapter. Tags for non-member spouses/kids; or replacements for members at \$9.25 each. Let Secretary Volker know if you need one and he'll make an order soon. Typically on the nametags are:

- Name (let Volker know if you want a nickname here)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> line – either your city of residence (Shell Lake, WI), or some folks put an airplane (RV 8A – N5489Z).
- Chapter 631 – The Blue Hills Flyers - or you could go retro here and have The Flambeau Flyers : )

### **Meeting Minutes of August 3<sup>rd</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup>; and Summary of informal gathering on July 6<sup>t</sup> by Secretary Volker:**

Ric Brekke moved to approve. Dave Nielsen 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.

### **Treasurer Potocnik's Report through October 2021:**

Treasurer Jeff Potocnik summarized his latest report. Gerry Winch moved to approve. Ed Knutson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.

### **Discussion on 631 Ray Scholarship applicant Ty Zeller:**

Volker explained that 631 was able to latch onto a 2<sup>nd</sup> 100% Ray Foundation Scholarship for 2021 for flight training (for up to \$10,000) through EAA HQ. The scholarship committee went through a selection process, had 3 applicants, and Ty Zeller was selected by the committee to be 631's applicant to HQ. Ty's application to HQ is pending; we think there will be no problem with HQ approving it. Ty and family plan to have Ty do flight training at Superior Flying Services at Bong Airport if the application approved – we should know application results in the next week. It will take a little while for 631 to receive the first installment of funds for the Ray Foundation scholarship for Ty assuming he is approved, but our scholarship fund balance could bridge that time period – maybe Ty could start lessons, and Treasurer Potocnik could start paying Superior Flying Service invoices with the understanding that the Zeller family would be on the hook to reimburse 631 for any flight training expenditures by 631 should Ty's application not be approved. Brad Zeller noted that they could certainly reimburse 631 if the application not approved. Gerry Winch motioned to have Ty begin lessons now with 631 paying invoices; should Ty's application not be approved any 631 expenditures would be reimbursed by the Zeller family. Dave Nielsen 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved. Get flying, Ty! : )

### **Other Scholarship items:**

- Ray Scholar Braeden Dennis gave an update on his journey towards Private Pilot. Currently he is at approximately 40 hours. He started in August. He soloed a while back. He has passed his written. He has his oral/checkride scheduled for November 12<sup>th</sup> with DPE Sandi Randall at Romeo. After private, Braeden aspires to pursue additional ratings to become a CFII, build hours, and maybe eventually pursue aerial firefighting or medivac work. Good job Braeden, you've really progressed quickly! *(Note – as Sec. Volker writes this 12/7/21, Braeden's flight school, Bravo Aviation, ran into airplane mechanical issues, so Braeden's checkride for November had to be canceled, and Braeden and CFII Adam Lusson working on securing use of another plane. Hopefully checkride in December (Braeden did do the oral part in November and that went well)).*
- John Ostrem gave a very brief update on Student Pilot Leah McGrane of Milltown. Island City Aero, a few individual UBE pilots, and 631 are collaborating on a scholarship for Leah. Leah is progressing well per John. Taking lessons at Rush City airport. Stay tuned.

### **Chapter Officer Nominations for 2022 and 2023 Calendar Years:**

Discussion: Long-time President Bob Gillette noted that Jeff Potocnik has offered to accept a nomination for the Chapter President office; that is great; Bob has done a great job at that position for many years and it is time to pass that torch. Any others interested in a nomination for Chapter President? None. For V.P. Ray Peterson has noted to chapter officers that due to VFW President and Chaplain duties he is just not able to make most 631 meetings and thus he welcomes any nominations for others to be in the V.P. office. Gerry Winch has noted that he would accept a nomination for Chapter V.P. Any others interested in a nomination for V.P.? None. For Treasurer we'll lose Jeff Potocnik if he is elected Chapter President. Garret Crisler has noted that he would accept a nomination for Chapter Treasurer. Any others interested in a Treasurer nomination? None. For Secretary, Brad Volker noted that he is very willing to stay on as Chapter Secretary, but if others have interest that would be excellent/welcomed by Brad. Any others interested in Secretary? None. A motion was made by John Ostrem to elect the slate of Jeff Potocnik, President; Gerry Winch, V.P.; Garret "Gary" Crisler,

Treasurer; Brad Volker, Secretary. Bonnie Winch 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved. Effective 1/1/22 – 12/31/23.

Current President Bob Gillette noted that Ray Peterson will join Doug Karis as a Chapter Technical Advisor. Excellent; thank you past/future officers and tech. advisors!

**Very brief Young Eagles Discussion as YE Coordinator Jack Langland has headed south for the winter:**

- Jack's draft YE event schedule for 2022 is very aggressive – 9 dates weather permitting
- All agreed that such is good, but also challenging
- Brad Volker noted that he and Janis will probably “sign up” for flying/helping at roughly half of the dates, but need to have more weekends free in the summer for family, etc. matters.
- There was discussion that we could develop a sign-up roster/system to make sure the dates are covered, allow some breaks for all; this could be for pilots, ground crew, crew food. This could be on Google Calendar, or similar.
- Don Fiedler volunteered to work on this project (thanks Don!)

**Old Business:**

- Picnic Silent Auction – President Bob noted that there is still some “wheeling/dealing” going on with a few of the items that were in the silent auction at the picnic. Bob will handle that and it may net the scholarship fund just a bit more \$ than we previously thought. Thanks again to all that did any bidding!!!
- Chapter Bylaws Update – the update approved at recent meeting is being formalized. It was signed by Secretary Volker today, and notarized. Treasurer Jeff will package it up with our Articles of Incorporation and get it to HQ for processing.
- Christmas Party Update by Maxine Dakins
  - Lehman's Supper Club in Rice Lake, Wednesday December 8<sup>th</sup>, drinks at 5; food at 6.
  - Question: It will be a buffet style. Would preference be
    - Chicken/Ribs for \$32/plate, or
    - Chicken/Pork Loin for \$28/plate
    - There was pretty strong consensus to go with Chicken/Ribs
  - President Bob (and Judy) noted that if you want to have many drinks please consider staying at the Best Western which is right next door. It is a nice place with nice hosts. Bob and Judy will be there, consider joining them.

**New Business:**

- John Ostrem presented a proposal/idea for organizing a bus trip to KOSH for Young Eagles, any other interested youth, interested adults, in the spring (say March) to visit the EAA Museum, Etc. This is an idea that members of Island City Aero Club have. Would EAA 631 be interested in cost sharing on this to provide exposure to aviation to youth (and interested adults/chaperones)? Much discussion:
  - Coach Bus – John will look into costs, approximately 46 seats
  - Leave 6:30-ish a.m.

- KOSH by 10 a.m.
- Museum - \$7/kid
- Movie
- Scavenger hunt in Museum to encourage seeing most of it
- Lunch
- Control Tower tour could be available John told by HQ
- Tour by Airport Mgr. could be available John told by HQ
- Could see the Air Academy Camp grounds
- Need one adult chaperone per 8 kids
- Grand total cost estimated at \$2500
- We could make use of Jack Langland's YE "black book" to solicit YE interest
- Thinking a long Saturday in March
- Purpose – energize kids into aviation
- Insurance concerns? Chapter insurance via HQ would apply while at KOSH; the bus company will be insured
- 631 would need to be lead (sole) sponsor; ICAC could donate assistance \$
- Would need to have HQ involved in the planning – John has already discussed with HQ in some detail. HQ accommodates this kind of request very regularly
- Have a parent with each kid?
- All agreed explore this further. If this interests any planning-wise, see John Ostrem. Secretary Brad will send an email to membership for ideas, concerns, questions, interest.
- Treasurer Potocnik noted that he will take care of the annual Chapter renewal through HQ. He will list the new officers.

### **Tech./Safety:**

- Doug Karis noted
  - An incident where, in a Champ, a CFI had a student who's foot got caught between the pedals
  - An incident where part of a propeller broke off in flight for unknown reasons. No blood, so likely not a bird strike. Could it have been a drone?
- Ric Brekke noted
  - If in need of Lycoming cylinders expect to wait a year : ( [Pres. Bob noted that he has 4 lycoming cylinders for sale if anyone needs – for an IO-360 or IO-540]
  - It is also taking forever to get a prop back from service
- Bob Gillette noted
  - He is selling his Maule if any interested
  - A King Air accident – lost left engine; shoved in the left rudder (which is incorrect, and seems even counterintuitive); auger in; Pilot error. Remember "dead engine → dead foot"
- Bob Triplett noted
  - Took an engine into shop for work in June; not done yet. Again, wait times long now.
- Gerry Winch noted a bit of timely trivia – The Spruce Goose flew its one and only time on this date in 1947. You can see and tour the Spruce Goose at the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum in McMinnville, Oregon.

***Adjournment:***

Ed Knutson moved to adjourn. Everyone 2<sup>nd</sup>! Approved : )

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