



# The Denton Flyer

Newsletter of EAA Chapter 661, Denton, TX

**January 2023**



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## Next Meeting:

The next meeting of Chapter 661 will be Saturday, 7 January, back at our usual meeting place at US Aviation, 4850 Spartan Drive, on the field at KDTO, on the second floor in Classroom Bravo. The meeting will start at 1200, on Saturday, 5 November. If anyone asks, the password is "swordfish."

Julie Carson will return to talk about the capabilities and features of ForeFlight. Recall Julie spoke to us at our February meeting last year. If you are a ForeFlight subscriber, bring your device and your questions for Julie. If it's anything like last year, this will be a fascinating, fact-filled discussion. If you, like me, subscribe to one of those other services, we can sit together in the back and sing, "Anything You Can Do (I Can Do Better)." OK. Not really. That would be rude - even for an engineer.

## How it Really Happened

By Stormy Weathers

After Action Report:

EAA Chapter 661 Holiday Party:

Thursday, 8 December 2022

Location: "Milpa's," 820 S Interstate 35E, Suite #101, Denton, TX

If you were there, you know. If you were not, well, maybe next year. We laughed, we cried. Actually, some of us laughed until we cried. However, I am pleased to report that no shots were fired and no arrests were made – that we know of. The gift exchange proved to be a particularly raucous time. I learned that white elephant gift exchange can be played as a team sport. Who knew!

Some of this is true.

## Name Tags:

If you don't have a name tag, see Stormy. Don't wait for the price to go up. They are still free.

## Member of the Month:

### Daniel Rogers

By Heather Fahle

Daniel was a tough interview. Not that he was at all unfriendly or unforthcoming; it's just that he's had such an interesting path through aviation that it was hard to come back to the questions at hand and remember to stay focused and take notes as we went.

Those of you who know Daniel know that he is an active and avid member of the Civil Air Patrol. And if, like me, you have often found yourself wondering exactly what they do and where they started, you can buy Daniel a beer some time and prepare to be entertained and enlightened. He's not only really knowledgeable, but has a love for his topic that makes him incredibly interesting to listen to.

Daniel started his journey to pilot-hood when he was just 13 years old. His 7th grade English teacher saw something in him and introduced him to the Civil Air Patrol. He did his orientation series of five flights and was hooked. He continued in the program and started his training in earnest when he was 16. He continued learning and was able to solo at that age as well.

Daniel still remembers his first CFI, a man named Louis Mahoney, who played a big part in Daniel's training. Daniel has happy memories of his struggles as well as the successes in training, and to this day,

Louis, an American Airlines pilot who trained future pilots for the love of it, is still his aviation hero. One memory that sticks out for Daniel is when he was training and struggling with landings. Louis sat in the car with Daniel one afternoon after flying and just stuck with him until he got it right.

Daniel loves flying for the fun and joy of flying. He loves to fly young people and see them fly and take the controls for the first time. One of his favorite flying memories, however, was when he had the opportunity to fly with a friend to Kitty Hawk. Seeing the runway where the first flight occurred and experiencing the general sense of history there really moved him.

One of the things that I like to ask people is, “What is your best advice?” There are a couple of good nuggets to harvest from such a question. Aside from the benefit of the actual advice to be learned, the other, more subtle nugget is the insight that it provides into what a person considers good advice, and Daniel didn’t disappoint. His advice? Always be prepared. We talked a little bit about examples, and in general, I think this advice pretty much sums up Daniel in general as well as some solid advice for being a good pilot. Always be prepared.

Even though he does not fly airplanes commercially, Daniel’s love of aviation is clear in his career path. He started out on the ramp and was promoted to Ramp Controller at New York LaGuardia. For those of you who aren’t familiar with Ramp Controller, they are the ones in the tower who tell the planes when they can push, taxi, where they can taxi. They handle everything that aircraft do in the non-movement area. Daniel did this from 2004 to 2020. In 2020, Daniel made the move to dispatcher. When he was hired by American Airlines, he also worked as a Ramp Controller at DFW until his dispatch class came open in November of 2021.

Daniel started working as a dispatcher in September of this year and he loves it! He loves being part of a team and loves problem solving. Daniel is part of the team who makes sure that all of the planes and all of the people get to where they need to get. When weather moves in, Daniel is working to get all the planes to the best possible locations. Dispatch does more than that though. They also handle any

emergencies that arise in-flight, like mid-air medical emergencies. He’ll work with the flight crew to determine if the plane should divert and to where. He will then make sure that the appropriate equipment and personnel are there to meet the plane. So next time you fly commercial, either as a passenger or pilot, remember that it is Daniel and his teammates who are making sure that you get there, on time, with a full crew, and safely!

## **Chapter Shirts:**

They are here! Numero Uno Mark Cohen has received the order for chapter T-shirts and passed them to The Victory Pilot Shop. They are for sale for \$25. We are also looking at offering hats and polo shirts in the future. The polos will likely be \$40 each. The price for hats is still to be determined.

## **Help Wanted:**

Our Chief Editor Buck Rivets launched this feature a few months back. The idea is to give you a place to ask for help with something on your plane. Perhaps you are looking for those who are building (or have built) something similar. However, so far, we have no takers. This is not surprising. It can be hard to ask for help. Moreover, it is hard to trust that the person offering is actually qualified to help.

Perhaps, it’s even harder to see yourself as someone with the skills to help a builder with a project. However, as previously noted, consider what you have accomplished. Do you remember the lessons you learned in the process? You may be able to help someone avoid the mistakes you made.

Are you using EAA’s Technical Counselor Program? We do not yet have any tech counselors in our chapter, but there are some in the area. Even if you are confident in your abilities, getting another set of skilled eyes on your project is a good idea. Moreover, having those reports in your documentation can be a great benefit when it is time to ask the DAR for an airworthiness certificate. The first question the DAR will likely ask is, “Did you use the Tech Counselor Program?” If you say, “Yes,” he or she will probably spend more time looking at those reports than looking at your airplane.

## Homebuilders Week:

By Charlie Becker, EAA Homebuilt Community Manager

This is an online event that starts 23 January. It is an opportunity to learn about all aspects of building your own aircraft.

EAA will be hosting our third annual Homebuilders Week online learning event for aircraft builders: ([www.EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek](http://www.EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek)). It will be five straight days of educational forums covering a broad spectrum of aircraft building topics. It will start on Monday, January 23, 2023, and run until Friday, January 27, 2023. The live online presentations will be open to everyone interested in building their own aircraft. Sessions will start at 11:30 a.m. CST and run until 8:30 p.m. CST daily.

This event is an opportunity for a new person to jump in with both feet and learn a lot about the wonderful world of homebuilding. We will cover areas like getting started successfully and techniques when building with sheet metal, composites, steel, and wood. But, it won't be just for the newbie; we are offering in-depth talks on panel planning, engine selection, FAA certification, flight testing, and selling a homebuilt aircraft. There will be something

for every builder, whether you are just starting out, knee deep in a project, or just received your airworthiness certificate — it is going to be a great learning opportunity.

EAA is working with industry experts, kit manufacturers, and other subject matter experts to provide top-notch material for builders. The sessions will be live and allow time for attendee questions. Recordings will be archived and available to EAA members for review.

EAA Homebuilders Week coincides with the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Experimental Aircraft Association in 1953. Those founding members of EAA lit the fuse on the homebuilt movement that provides affordable access to aircraft ownership and today has spread worldwide.

EAA Homebuilders Week is possible through the generous sponsorships of Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Co., Dynon, Scheme Designers, Inc., and Van's Aircraft, Inc.

Visit [EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek](http://EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek) to review the schedule and sign up for a session.

