

# EAA CHAPTER 770



Welcome to the Chapter 770 newsletter. Please share your news and updates from the chapter, upcoming flying events, info and more. And also share your experiences from this year's AirVenture. If you have flying stories, photos etc to include feel free to send them to [ctf6911@gmail.com](mailto:ctf6911@gmail.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**EAA Air Venture:** July 25-31, 2022  
**Chapter Meeting** August 18, 2022  
**B-25 Berlin Express Visit:** August 20-21, 2022

## UPCOMING EAA WEBINARS

<b>Squawk Talk -All About Radar and Transponders (WINGS)</b>	July 13, 7:00pm
<b>Homebuilt Highlights from AirVenture</b>	August 2, 7:00pm
<b>Disastrous Annual (WINGS)</b>	August 3, 7:00pm
<b>The Culver PQ-14</b>	August 9 , 7:00pm
<b>Handling In Flight Emergencies in Small Airplanes (WINGS)</b>	August 10, 7:00pm

Register for upcoming webinars at:  
[www.eaa.org/ea/news-and-publications/ea-webinars](http://www.eaa.org/ea/news-and-publications/ea-webinars)



This final Countdown to AirVenture is with Rich and Tracy Deal. They have both been volunteering at AirVenture for years , performing various tasks.

**Eric: How long have you been attending Oshkosh/Airventure?**

Rich: Since I was in my late teens. We drove up. My father was the one who got me started. I lived down in Florida for a while, and he always went to Sun N Fun, so he got me started there and said, if you like it this much, I'll take you to Oshkosh. So we went off and on every few years before I started going up there every year.

**Eric: When did you start volunteering up there?**

Rich:Probably around 2008.

**Eric: You drive the trams on the grounds?**

Rich: Yes that is our main function.

**Eric:What do people use the trams for? Are they to get from point A to point B? Are they good for sightseeing from the tram itself?**

Rich: Yes it is quite a walk sometimes it is quite of a walk, sometimes people are tired just walking from the parking lots to get to the first tram. Some of them at the beginning will take the tram to sightsee and see where everything is at, a lot of them will ask how to get to the floatplanes, which that is from one end of Oshkosh to the other to get to the bus for a 40 minute ride to the seabase. Then there are those who just can't do a lot of walking and need that help.

**Eric: Do you have a favorite part of AirVenture to drive through or visit when you're there?**

Rich: The vendors, the Flymart, and of course seeing new aircraft. When I started going full time, was when they started the Light Sport program. I

was into ultralights with my father for years. I love flying, but when I get into an airplane to get somewhere, I just want to get there. I couldn't see spending a lot of money to go around and look at the crops and that's about it. So when LSA's came out, I was absorbing every part of that I could. One, I would like to own one, and second, would I fit in one? So I found out really quick there were a couple I wouldn't fit in.

**Tracy volunteers as well ?**

Rich: yes she does the same thing

**Eric:She said she does narration on the trams as well?**

Rich: well she doesn't call that narration, she calls that bossing me around. She tells the passengers, "that's my husband up front, and this is the only time of year I get to tell him where to go and what to do", isn't that right?

Tracy: yep!

Rich: but she has the worse end of the deal, she's bouncing around in the back, she has all the dust., I'm up in the front in the air conditioning with the stereo on!.But she thoroughly enjoys it, because like I said, I was going to take her up there once and how many shows have you been up there now?

Tracy: this will be my eighth.

Rich: Well she's made her friends too.. so they keep in touch on Facebook all year long and then they can't wait to meet up and talk about what's been going on the past year, drink their wine and have their good times.

**Eric:You do a lot of camping up there I hear?**

Yes, I currently own a Piper 140. That was the first plane that I purchased and I wanted to fly it up, and my wife was not interested, so I flew up a few days before the show. I was too afraid of my skills to fly into OSH

**Eric: I can understand and relate to that!**

Rich: so I flew in to Fon Du Lac. I remember getting on the radio telling them who I was, “oh yeah, come on in and do a left base to runway XX”, okay! So I did. There was nobody there, I was one of the first ones, I had the three other seats in the plane full of food and camping equipment, that was my first jaunt with camping up there. I did that a few times, and then bought the Cirrus and flew up in that a few times and I kept telling my wife about OSH and how much fun I was having. So I thought to maybe include her so maybe she probably wouldn't go again

Tracy: (laughs)

Rich: I said, Why don't you come with me, and she said yes. So then my little two man tent over a few years became a six man tent and then we had one with a little porch on the front, and we started with a queen size blow up bed and then we got a...

Tracy: it was a queen size blow up cot

Rich: yeah blow up cot which had a hard firm base that you unfold like a chair and then you put the blow up part on top of that, so if you went flat, you were still flat so you didn't turn into a taco..so we did that for a while, put a little ceiling fan in there, we were glamping! As we got older and winds started picking up more and more it was getting to be quite a hassle putting the tent up and getting set up. So after we sold the Cirrus, we did not want to give up OSH, so we bought a camper and now we take the camper up. Because we volunteer so much which leads to free camping if you have enough hours, we go up as early as we can. So that's been our camping experience from the Piper to two different Cirrus' to the camper. Let me tell you, think Oshkosh is great because you get to meet people and do things, but being out there with your airplane being parked out on the North Forty or South Forty, is the best feeling a pilot, I think, can have, because you're right there tent to tent with all these other pilots, and sitting there in the evenings with just the crickets, and you start wandering around and next thing you know, you have a hundred new friends.

**Eric: Anything else about AirVenture you'd like**

**to share?**

Rich: If you plan on going to Oshkosh, especially if it's year after year, even if it's every other year, you should consider volunteering. They also have volunteer weekends up to three months out, the painting, the building, the mowing, all the parking etc. It becomes a family also, the volunteer family, especially on those weekends they have lunch prepared for you.

There's different types of volunteering, last year we went up a full week early and we just walked down to the volunteer booth and said “here we are”. They would put us in golf carts and take us to places they needed us and when we did that they had these tickets and they were vouchers for meals. You'd get a booklet, and this booklet is a timecard for each person, so when you do your volunteering you'd put down your hours, and then your supervisor for that area would sign off on it, and those hours would go towards your bankability and the account in the bankability is mainly for, if you get 40 hours you'd get free camping the following year, which is a big plus.

So because Tracy and I have volunteered so much we get free camping and free admission for the time we're there. So there's your incentive to do that.

Tracy: Actually any day you work the trams, say you work one shift of trams, they will pay for that day

Rich: so if you set up to do a Wednesday, you can get a Wednesday pass. We do the whole week so when we get there three days before, we get the whole week of passes and that includes parking. What Tracy and I did for the first time, we went to the volunteer booth and said “hey where do you want us” and we got volunteer shirts for that as well as the trams.

And this year, I am looking forward to also driving golf carts. If you've been to OSH before you have seen people driving golf carts that looks like staff. They have a cart program and they have drivers that go through a safety class, and also a “where is it at Oshkosh” class. So you're out driving around and you see someone that looks like they need help you can pick them up and take them

where they need to go, or you have a radio that if someone needs help they can contact the cart department and they'll dispatch you to go do something. It could be a VIP thing, it could be helping someone take a couple cases of oil to their airplane, it could be anything.

Traci hasn't decided if she is going to do carts. That's more of a one on one thing so it wouldn't be us together, but she has her things she likes to do and include her friends so she needs her time so she probably won't do carts but if she does it'll be great. But I'm wanting to do it for one just to see other places and meet other people, and actually being a driver all the time on the tractors you don't talk to anybody, so it would be my chance to talk to the public.

**Eric: It probably gets you off the main drags a little so you probably get to see that in which you don't see very often on the tractor?**

Rich: that's what I'm hoping for. So we're doing 4 or 5 days this year for trams..

Tracy: I think it's 4

Rich : so I'll pick a few other times between that to do carts and see what I think. Yeah last year we got dispatched to go , we swept out a few of the forum buildings, got the stages cleaned out, the floors cleaned up before they put the chairs out, so we did some of that for a while. There's a lot of stuff to do a few days before the show that they need help with.

**Eric: yeah like you were mentioning earlier with the setup, that has to be almost monumental the amount of work required?**

Rich: beside the Red Barn, there's a camping area, that is kind of like full time campers, they have a lot of decks built in for the campers and I think they work all summer long to help set up the place. Then they have the special weekends to get the painting and the mowing and all of that done. It is an artistic ballet that they have down to a science. But, It has been very fulfilling for me as a person and as a pilot to be a part of something so important!