
Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association - Chapter 857

EAA 857 NEWSLETTER



International Young Eagles Day at KBTP in 2021

This image was from last years first event that restarted Young Eagle activities for Chapter 857 after the initial relaxation of Covid restrictions.

Let's have another great YE year in 2022!

Presidents Message



We are rapidly closing in on our first event of the year, the June 11 Drive-in/Fly-in pancake breakfast, hamburger/hotdog luncheon! And in association with EAA's International Young Eagles Day we will be offering free Young Eagles rides to kids aged 8-17! We are very fortunate to have a good number of our pilots step forward to fly the kids as I expect this to be a bigger event than usual with the return to "normal" with Covid hopefully on the wane.

That said, we will need folks to volunteer to help set up, tear down, prepare food, tend the cash box, take registrations, ground marshall the planes and kids, and... You get the idea! Many hands will make the event go smoothly, so please volunteer to help, even if only for an hour or two.

At the end of April I drove (ugh) to Oshkosh to attend a 3-day Leadership Academy to help me learn how to do this job better. I've written a trip report that I hope you will find interesting.

I hope to see more of you in person at Tuesday's meeting!

Phil Kriley

EAA Chapter 857 president



Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association—Chapter 857 Minutes of April 19, 2022 Regular Chapter Meeting

Opening: President Phillip Kriley called the meeting to order at 07:03P.M. and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting attendees: 14 members were present. Bob Weir and Josselyn Slagle were viewing from live stream on Google Meet.

Previous Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the prior meeting were reviewed by all present. Dan Hood put forth the motion to accept and Chris McGearly seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Account amounts were reported all balances noted. Kyle Riedel put forth the motion to accept and Ted Merklin accepted.

Newsletter: The newsletter will be distributed and uploaded to the chapter website.

Website: Enter <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea857> in your browser to view the site.

Tech Advisor: No report/not present

IMC Club: Events on the horizon for the future.

Business: The following items were discussed:

- **Young Eagles:** The June event planning has and will commence as we get closer. We are attempting to gather donations towards our food provided at the event. We have decided that breakfast and lunch will both be served at the event.
- **Air Academy:** Leah Martin is expected to attend in late July. She will be our only attendee this year. Our other attendee has had some personal family difficulty and will not be attending this year.
- **Current Membership:** We have 27 total numbers and 9 unpaid members
- **Ray Aviation Scholarship:** The process is actively being discussed.

Closing: The meeting was adjourned at 08:54 P.M. Frank Szczerba made the motion to adjourn seconded by Dan Hood.

Respectfully submitted:

Josselyn Slagle,
Secretary, EAA 857

EAA Chapter Leadership Academy Trip

by Phil Kriley

I attended the EAA Chapter Leadership Academy from April 22-24 at EAA headquarters at KOSH. It was a long drive (over 1300 miles r/t) but well worth the trip. I would like to have flown, but the weather (and my HIS) wouldn't cooperate. There were strong storms on my drive up as well as coming home. KOSH was really socked in when I arrived Friday afternoon – you couldn't even see across a runway. I left very early Friday morning and arrived about 2 pm. It was not a bad trip – in and out of rain, sometimes heavy, but no major traffic issues – just the normal crud around Chicago. For those of you familiar with the drive, there is a pay road that takes you around Chicago, but you used to have to pull over every couple of miles to pay a cash toll. This trip I saw signs telling me I could pay ONLINE! No stopping! Too good to be true...? We'll see...



The Air Academy Lodge is really nice:



This lodge is where our Summer Camp attendee Leah Martin will be staying this summer. I actually stayed in another building, called the Staff Lodge, but had several meals in the main lodge. The class sessions were held in a theater in the EAA Museum. The sessions started early Saturday and ran all day. I'm getting up there in years, and I can tell you that sitting for 2 and a half hours at a stretch with a 5-10 minute break was brutal – especially with one restroom shared by 40 attendees... Sunday, thankfully, was only a half day of classwork.

But the fun came in the evenings! Friday evening they bussed us over to the Sonex factory that is right on the grounds of KOSH. What an impressive facility! This is only one of several buildings – this one specifically for visitors and prospective customers:





Inside is a nice showroom with several planes on display, including two of their jet-powered planes:



I was impressed by the folding-wing version:



When the wings are un-folded, there is a clever mechanism that provides the continuity from the joystick to the ailerons – without anything to connect! It consists of a “teeter-totter” (for lack of a better term) in the wing root that has a flat plate on one side and an adjustable ball on the other – that mates to an opposite part in the wing itself. Here are a couple pictures that hopefully explain it a little better:





After a nice history lesson about Sonex and John Monet, we were taken back into the factory. They have many kits and quick-build kits in progress, as well as a number of research-and-development projects. There are some pilotless drones with cameras mounted in “ball turrets” in the belly, for example:





There is another large warehouse building where the kit sections are packaged and shipped.

One part that caught my eye was a bin full of extrusions that are used to make wing spars. Note how they are tapered, being thicker at the outer part of the extrusion. Very nice workmanship!

I came away very impressed with Sonex!





On Saturday night we got to tour the EAA Museum. For those of you who have never been, you are missing one of the best aviation museums in the world! New this year is an exhibit featuring the Corsair in Korea:

They held the grand opening for the exhibit but I did not attend. But I DID get a real thrill...I got to sit in the museum's P-51!



That was really exciting for me, as the P-51 has been my favorite airplane for as long as I can remember.



Inside the museum is a “sign post” showing the direction and distance to various EAA chapters. Maybe one of our craftsmen can make a sign for our chapter? [These are posted outside the Blue Chapters Barn over near the Forums during AirVenture and they have asked for more chapter arrows to put on display. ed.] There are directions for doing so on the EAA web site – somewhere!



An artifact that I had not seen in previous trips was in the lobby outside the upper theater – a Millennium Falcon prop from Star Wars! It was donated to the museum by the sound crew as a thank-

you. Apparently some of the sounds in the movie were provided by the EAA! Who knew?

So I had quite a trip, and hopefully some of what I learned in the classes will help our chapter. More about that as we move forward!



Aircraft Insurance: Exploring All Your Options

by Kyle Riedel



Two major items are causing most aircraft owners to re-visit their aircraft insurance coverage: 1) the increased value of their airplanes following the pandemic and 2) fewer companies choosing to underwrite airplane insurance.

I found this very true for myself as I moved my J-3 Cub from Wisconsin to Pennsylvania. Equally so, I flew with two other pilots in the last 60 days that just recently purchased airplanes. Both pilots expressed the same frustration with receiving insurance quotes that made the cost of ownership even more difficult. Thankfully, they both had eligibility thru USAA (United States Automobile

Associations), but neither had explored quotes from USAA's affiliated aircraft insurance company - Falcon Insurance (Headquartered in Kerrville, TX). After seeking quotes from Falcon Insurance, both airplane owners did end up signing policies with them. I as well have my J-3 Cub insured through USAA as it was the most competitive quote out of the three quotes that I received.

While most USAA members are US Military Veterans themselves, USAA does also extend member privileges to children (including adult children) of USAA members and former spouses of USAA Members. So, if any of these membership criteria apply to you, you might include USAA as another source for seeking quotes for airplane insurance. Hopefully it will provide you with another insurance option that may not have already explored.

Kyle adds in his article transmittal to me: "I'm not trying to be a "pitchman" for USAA or Falcon Insurance in this short article. It is merely my recent experience with the company and explaining that anyone with USAA membership (or membership eligibility) should include them in the quote process. If the topic isn't appropriate for the newsletter, that is fine as well."

As the Newsletter Editor, I feel that any aspect of aircraft ownership and pilot training and experiences relevant to this field is within the purview of our EAA 857 Chapter Newsletter. I would encourage you all to contribute your valuable insights on aviation to your chapter peers through this publication! Ted Merklin

EAA Chapter 72 is offering a Raffle of a Rans S-19 Aircraft

Jim Steward, President of EAA Bruce McCombs Chapter 72 in Falcon, Colorado sent this message. “We were gifted a nearly complete and professionally built RANS S-19 with a factory new Rotax engine and propeller still in the box. Chapter 72 members completed the project and it is scheduled to be painted in June. We have elected to raffle this incredible airplane off. The proceeds of the raffle will be used to offer scholarships to future pilots and mechanics. In addition, we hope to acquire a new simulator in which to help these future pilots with additional training and at the same time provide a resource for other local pilots. Our goal is to sell 2500 tickets at \$100.00 each by the drawing date of December 17th 2022.” If you are interested see the brochure below and also check out Chapter 72’s website [here](#).

WIN THIS NEW RANS S-19 VENTERRA AIRCRAFT



WWW.EAA72RAFFLE.ORG



OUR SPONSORS and CONTRIBUTORS

Ken Hendrickson - Builder & contributor

Dana Rieman - Airplane Completion

Greg Frozley - Last Light Images - Photography



**EAA Bruce McCombs
Chapter 72
13550 Piper Lane
Peyton, CO 80831**

**For more information:
www.eaa72raffle.org**

THE WHO, WHAT, WHEN AND WHERE OF OUR RAFFLE.

(Visit our Website for complete Rules)

- Each raffle ticket is \$100 with only 2500 tickets offered for sale.
- Ticket purchaser must be 18 years of age or older.
- Raffle runs from January 1, 2022 until December 16, 2022 with the raffle drawing to be held on December 17, 2022 or sooner if all tickets are sold.
- Drawing results will be published on the raffle website by December 18, 2022 or sooner and the winner will be notified by email, mail or phone.
- The plane will be presented at the EAA Chapter 72 facility. Address listed above.
- If the Raffle is cancelled, all ticket monies will be returned to the ticket holder.
- Winner will be responsible for all applicable fees and taxes.
- Tickets available at the web site listed below.
- Licensed by the Colorado Secretary of State Bingo-Raffles Division under Raffle License No. 2022-16956.

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A word from Mike Neuman about the next IMC Club Meeting on May 18, 7pm at KBTP:

Myranda Fullerton of the NWS will show us some of the tools used by the weather forecasters to predict weather trends. We will talk about MOS (model output statistics), balloon soundings, and skew-t charts. Click on this link to register;

[https://www.faasafety.gov/SPANS/event_details.aspx?
eid=112629&caller=/default.aspx](https://www.faasafety.gov/SPANS/event_details.aspx?eid=112629&caller=/default.aspx)



EAA 857 - Chapter Meetings and Events for 2022

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM
in the Conference Room at the Pittsburgh-Butler Regional Airport.

Chapter Meetings	Tuesdays	January 18 February 15 March 15 April 19 May 17 June 21 July 19 August 16 September 20 October 18 November 15
IMC Club -		3rd Wednesdays, May 18
International Young Eagles Day -		Saturday, June 11
EAA 857 Fly-In and YE -		Sunday, August 14
EAA 857 Fly-In and YE -		Sunday, September 11

2022 National Events

Sun 'n Fun -	April 5 - 10
Sentimental Journey -	June 21 - 25
AirVenture Oshkosh 2022 -	July 25 - 31

EAA 857 Chapter Officers for 2022

Use contact@eaa857.org to email the Chapter President.
Your request will be forwarded to the appropriate individual.

President	Phil Kriley
Vice President	Kyle Riedel
Treasurer	Frank Szczerba
Secretary	Josselyn Slagle
Board Members	Ted Merklin 2022-2024
	Mark Beighey 2022-2023
	Dan Hood 2022
Website / Newsletter	Ted Merklin