

Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association - Chapter 857

EAA 857 NEWSLETTER



AIRVENTURE RETURNS!

July 26 - August 1, 2021

An image taken in 2019 from the Vintage display area towards the flight line featuring classic DC-3 airliners and, in the foreground, NC1337.....

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

EAA 857 Members,

We will meet for our July chapter meeting in the KBTP conference room promptly at 7pm. Please arrive / log in early as we will also conduct this via a Google Meet live stream for those of you who may not wish to attend in person at the airport. I will send you the meeting link to use prior to the meeting. Ross Edmondson will present at the beginning of our meeting on his Round the World project, the England to Australia leg. He will be streaming from Houston and his time is limited on Tuesday so please be prompt arriving to KBTP for the meeting.



Summer is fully here and that means the return of AirVenture is upon us. Opening day is July 26, one week from tomorrow. Those who are planning to attend the show this year by road or by flight, please be careful in your travels there and back, and most importantly have fun at this great celebration of aviation and our freedom to fly. Also, bring home some great photos and experiences to share in future editions of this EAA 857 Newsletter.

I would like to thank Phil Kriley for his outstanding article regarding his and Robin's visit to the WWII Museum in New Orleans. Also thanks go to Josselyn Slagle and Keith McPherson / Dave Hanna for their contributions this month. Preparations are continuing for our Fly-in event on August 15; advertisements have been scheduled, and Young Eagles have already begun to register on the online tool. Keep the date in mind on your schedule as we will need all of your help and support to have a successful Fly-in! We will also repeat this event on September 12.

Take care and be safe in all your travels!

Ted Merklin,

President, EAA Chapter 857



Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association–Chapter 857 Minutes, 7:00 P.M., June 15th, 2021 Regular Meeting

Opening: President Merklin called the meeting to order at 7:08 and led the Pledge of Allegiance. 10 members were present and 3 were online.

Previous Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the May meeting were in the newsletter, moved for approval by Chris McGeary, seconded by Frank Szczerba, and carried by the membership to approve.

Treasurer’s Report: The treasurer’s report was also posted in the newsletter, moved by Dan Hood, seconded by Mike N., carried by the members to approve.

Income from the YE day event was \$221.85. Expenses were:

\$198.49 food and drinks

\$116.56 printer ink

\$8.25 postage to mail the forms to EAA

\$42 was donated

Newsletter: Ted published the newsletter and posted it on the chapter website.

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

YE report: Results from International Young Eagle Day at KBTP:

- Need to train the marshallsers “how to”
- Good job by all the pilots, as the airspace became very busy once the weather allowed operations. Many flights by Airquest, High Flight Academy, us and others all at the same time. I counted at least 10 planes moving in the pattern and on the ground at the same time.
- Thanks to High Flight for the use of their Wi-Fi and training room.
- Dan Hood’s carts for the tables and chairs worked very well and made the setup and tear down processes much easier.
- A wheel on our metal cooler broke off and Dan said he would take a look at it.
- There were 9 requests for Eagle flights
- Phil gave one ground school while we waited for the weather to lift. The classroom was packed with kids and parents and there was a lot of positive feedback, so I plan to offer at least one optional ground school session in each of the next events.
- The new software was a hit, once we got over the learning curve. We had 25 kids pre-register using the online tool. We had some technical issues with the printers, but once they were worked out we had two printers at our disposal (thank you Robin Kriley). This actually made it more convenient, as one was used for registration forms and one was used for the certificates.
- The software also provided some useful info regarding the number of kids flown (33) and their contact info etc.

Tech report: No report

Old Business: Presented Mike Neuman with his 2020 service award.

New Business:

- IMC club meeting with FAA presentation “Meet the Controllers” to be held in hangar C3 at BTP at 7:00 Wednesday, June 16.
- FAA Zoom webinar next week about non-towered operations.
- Next meeting July 20, maybe with Ross Edmondson’s next Round the World chapter. Hope to use the grill and make some hotdogs and burgers for the meeting.
- Board plans to meet on Saturday, July 17 and attempt to get the grill cleaned up and working.
- Sentimental Journey next week; June 22-26.
- Sunday, Aug 15 is next YE event. Starting at 9 for food, 10 for flights. Phil will create the event using the new Registration software.
- Ted will request a Chapter blast notification.
- Plan to advertise also on Social Flight, Fun Places to Fly, Butler Eagle, local radio and flyers to be posted.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Frank Szczerba, seconded by Dan Hood, carried by membership.

Program: Ted gave a demo on the new YE Registration software after the 50-50 drawing.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Kriley

National World War II Museum

My wife, Robin, and I recently visited the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. I am a charter member of the museum and had been looking forward to an opportunity to visit. We flew down via Southwest and the trip was less than optimal, with delays for weather, maintenance and lack of a crew on every leg, both directions. But they got the job done, eventually, and did not lose any luggage so I can't complain too much.

We stayed at the Higgins Hotel which is directly across the street from the museum. It is named for Andrew Higgins who invented and manufactured the LCVP (Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel) and is better known as the "Higgins Boat" and was instrumental in the D-Day landing as well as landings in the Pacific Theater.

Due to ongoing issues caused by the Covid pandemic, most of the restaurants and bars in the hotel were still closed. Rosie's, on the top floor, was open but with insufficient seating and a very limited menu, but what we did was order some take-out (including a bottle of decent wine) and have a late dinner in our room the first night. For breakfast we found a GREAT place called Two Chicks Café. It was about 5 blocks away, but it was worth it just for the perfect GRITS! We never felt the need for a car, but did take a cab a couple of times to visit other parts of the city.



The interior of the hotel is done with art deco and furnishings reminiscent of the mid 40's. Here are some pictures of some of the furniture in the lobbies: Notice the rivets in the chairs!



Helmets for lamp shades...

And a table with a crank to raise and lower it!



This is a reconstruction of a Higgins boat that is in the entrance lobby of the museum.

The museum is presently 6 buildings, and 2 more are under construction. When the museum was first opened, June 6, 2000, it was called the D-Day museum, but it soon expanded to encompass all of WWII.



The entrance lobby has a C-47 in invasion stripes suspended from the ceiling, along with a Spitfire, the Higgins boat, an anti-aircraft gun and a set of train cars where you can see an orientation video.



There is an EXCELLENT movie, narrated by Tom Hanks, called Beyond All Boundaries, presented in the Solomon Victory Theater. The screen wraps around you, the chairs are really comfortable, and the special effects are great. The seats shake when the tanks roll past or bombs explode, for example. In one scene, you are in the tail gunner position of a B-17, looking at the plane directly behind you. To enhance the realism, an actual B-17 nose section is lowered from the ceiling and super-imposed on the screen! An anti-aircraft gun rises up from the stage floor with simulated gun flashes and sounds! Absolutely a “must-see”!

The museum takes you from the beginnings of the Hitler/Nazi rise through the D-Day invasion, VE Day and finally the Japanese surrender. There are many dioramas depicting various scenes from the war.

This one is of a crash-landed D-Day invasion glider with a Jeep inside, and broken wings on the glider.

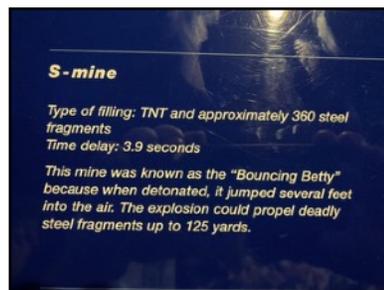


This one is from inside a simulated building, looking up through a hole in the roof as Allied planes fly overhead. The images of the planes move past you as you watch – pretty cool effect!

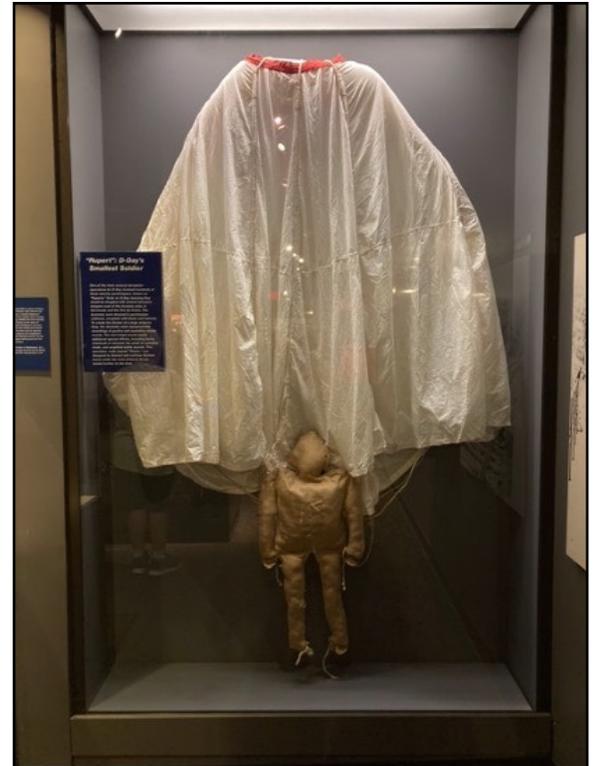
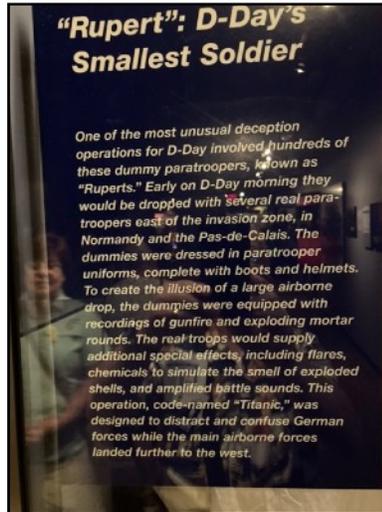
There are MANY other scenes depicted very realistically, as well as many artifacts such as actual weapons used by all sides of the war. I was really interested in the various small arms that the Japanese, Germans and Allies used, and how similar they were.

My father’s oldest brother, Leonard Kriley, was severely injured during the Normandy Invasion on D-Day. He landed on Omaha beach and stepped on a land-mine known as a “Bouncing Betty”:

It is so-named because when stepped on, it jumps up about three feet and then explodes.



Another interesting artifact was this small dummy that was dropped along with the real paratroopers during D-Day, named “Rupert”.

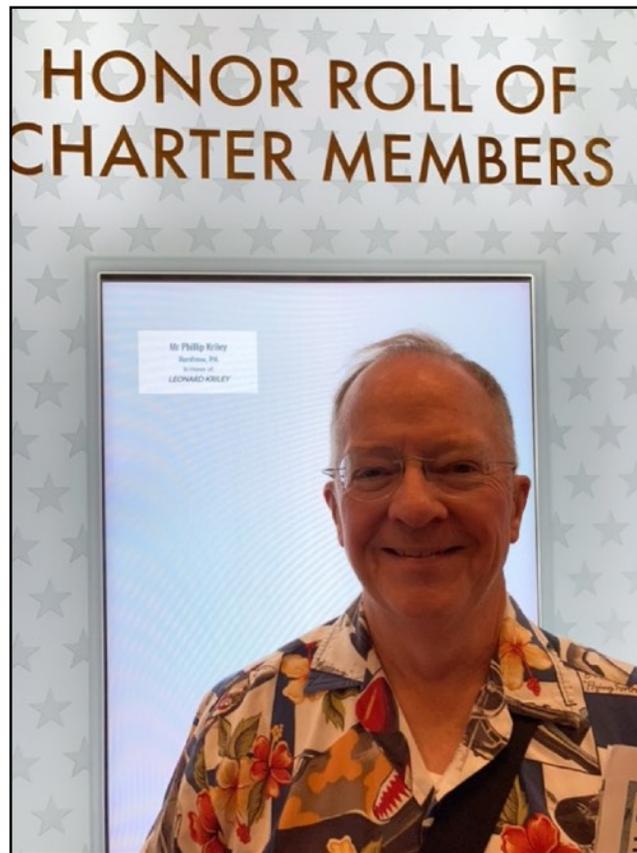


But for me, of course, the main attraction (after the Tom Hanks movie) were the numerous WWII planes on display! There were the Spitfire and C-47 in the lobby mentioned earlier, a Messerschmitt hanging in the entrance lobby of another building, and several others I’ve already forgotten. But one room was dedicated specifically to airplanes, in the US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center. In this very large, 4-story room are a number of planes suspended from the ceiling.



There is a Corsair, a P-51, a Dauntless, a B-25, a TBM Avenger and the star attraction: My Gal Sal! She is a B-17 that was crash-landed on an ice-cap in Greenland in 1942. The crew was rescued, but the plane was abandoned until it was recovered in 1995. It was painstakingly restored over the next 10 years and looks to me like it could be flown! Here are some pictures of this room:





We also visited the New Orleans aquarium, which was very nice, and the Cathedral-Basilica of Saint Louis, which was beautiful. Of course we visited to French Quarter and walked down Bourbon Street! That day we logged over 6 miles walking! Dinners were delicious – we sampled three very nice restaurants. On Thursday night we took a river cruise on the Creole Queen paddle-wheeler and had a nice dinner and a beautiful sunset cruise on the Mississippi!



We spent 2 full days in the museum, so if you go, plan on at least that much time as there are two more buildings under construction! We had a great trip and I recommend it!



Regarding Zelenople, KPJC

Josselyn Slagle submitted a reference to this article in AOPA PILOT regarding our neighboring airport:

There is an article in AOPA magazine the July 2021 edition on page 100 written by Charles Moore called Bad Advice. Charles is a pilot from western PA and the article has Zelenople and Allegheny airports in it. This might not be what we are looking for, for the newsletters content but it may be interesting to feature a small line about its existence. I read that magazine a lot I think it's pretty rare to see an article that's as local to us as that is in AOPA magazine.

Here is a [link](#) to the article "NEVER AGAIN: BAD ADVICE REGRETTING THE CHOICE TO STAY AWHILE" published in AOPA PILOT magazine July 1, 2021.

We also received this notice regarding activities at Zelenople from Keith McPherson [Condor] and our Dave Hanna:

Hi Everyone,

I just got an email from Dave Holman stating that he had a meeting early this morning with the Rt. 288 Project Team, and that they can't start construction until July 26th.

Therefore, that means that the Airport Closures are also delayed until 7/26. Dave is working to get the NOTAM changed to reflect this.

The Condor Board turned a quick evaluation/decision on the aircraft move, and we've also delayed that move until NEXT weekend.

So, those of you with reservations for 573, 104, or 06M this coming week can fly from KPJC without interruption, until NEXT weekend when we move to KBTP.

I know that some you have vacation trips this coming week, and this should simplify things.

Please do not call Dave Holman, as he has told us what he know, and now you know as much as us.

We will continue to keep you updated as this moves forward, so please be sure to be checking SkyManager and your Email for updates.

Best regards,

Keith on behalf of the Board.

August 15th Fly-In and Young Eagles

Our August 15 Event has been registered on the site Fun Places to Fly as seen here:

We also have requested a Chapter Blast communication to be sent from EAA National to our regional EAA chapters to advertise our Fly-in.

There will also be a Young Eagles Flyer sent to you soon for distribution.

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Rod Machado's NEW! Instrument Pilot eGround School
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July 26 - Aug 1, 2021
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Sunday, Aug 15, 2021
EAA 857 YOUNG EAGLES DRIVE/IN FLY/IN BREAKFAST, Butler, PA

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Pancake Fly-in!

Pittsburgh/Butler Regional (KBTP), Butler, PA
Pancake breakfast fly/in drive/in. Free plane rides for kids ages 8-17. 9 am to 2 pm.

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Rod Machado's Private Pilot Ground School

Pittsburgh/Butler Regional (KBTP), Butler, PA
Pancake breakfast fly/in drive/in. Free plane rides for kids ages 8-17. 9 am to 2 pm.

Contact: Phil Kriley
Phone: 412-720-3152
Website: <http://yeaday.org>
Email

[Print out a Flyer for this EVENT!](#)

Current Weather at Butler, PA:
Click [HERE](#) for your local Weather conditions.

Airport Information:
Butler County/k W Scholter Field (BTP)
[More info from AirNav.com](#)
Latitude: 40-46-35.7000N
Longitude: 079-57-03.9000W
Elevation: 134ft
Fuel: 100LL Jet-A
CTAF: 123.05
Unicom: 123.05

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Destination Airport ID: BTP
Mileage Type: Statute Miles Nautical Miles

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Filling in the Cracks!

Free! Rod Machado's Private Pilot Flight Training Syllabus

MyPilotPro
GoPro Mounts

FLY TO THE

Dan Hood is offering some items to you for your shop as he cleans out his space. See Dan for details!





EAA 857 - Chapter Meetings and Events for 2021

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 19 February 16 March 16 April 20 May 18 June 15 July 20 August 17 September 21 October 19 November 16
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IMC Club -	3rd Wednesdays, Cancelled until further notice.	
EAA 857 Chili Cook Off -	Cancelled	
International Young Eagles Day -	Saturday,	June 12
EAA 857 Fly-In and YE -	Sunday,	August 15
EAA 857 Fly-In and YE -	Saturday,	September 12

2021 National Events

Sun 'n Fun -	April 13-18
Sentimental Journey -	June 22 - 26
AirVenture Oshkosh 2020 -	July 26 - August 1

EAA 857 Chapter Officers for 2021

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

President	Ted Merklin
Vice President	Phil Kriley
Treasurer	Frank Szczerba
Secretary	Josselyn Slagle
Board Members	Gary Marsico 2021
	Dan Hood 2021-2022
	Mark Beighey 2021-2023
Newsletter	Ted Merklin
Website	Ted Merklin