
Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association - Chapter 857

EAA 857 NEWSLETTER



Susan Dacy performing aerobatics at AirVenture Oshkosh 2024
in her Super Stearman PT-17 "Big Red"

Presidents Message

Hi Chapter Members,

We've had the most remarkable weather for flying lately. I hope you have all taken advantage and kept current. Our chapter faces some exciting decisions regarding pursuing a hangar, supporting a Ray Aviation scholarship recipient for next year, and our future board for next year's officer slate. Please take some time to consider your role in the chapter and what you might be looking to see next year.



As for personal adventures, Airplanes, and Automobiles was quite a success. I spent most of the day running around like a chicken with my head cut off. We had over 400 show cars, 600 guests, and 45 airplanes. The event was highly complimented and I hope offered something for everyone. Thank you to Kyle Riedel, DestinyJay Maletta, Bill Eisenman, and Gary Marsico for volunteering. Thank you also to Danny Michaels and Frank Szczerba for flying in. If I didn't mention you and you came or helped please take no offense I was overwhelmed and still feel so grateful to have great friends that supported this so wonderfully.



I took some much needed time away after the event and ventured to Bradford, Pennsylvania for some peace and quiet in the mountains. I am back to flying regularly again now. I look forward to chatting at the meeting.

Kindly,
Joss Slagle

ps: 2024 chapter dues are now due and payable. Please see Frank Szczerba, 857 Treasurer \$25 per individual, \$35 per family.



Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association—Chapter 857 Minutes of August 20, 2024 Regular Meeting

Opening: President Josselyn Slagle called to order at 7:04 P.M. and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting attendees: 13 members were present with 2 guests.

Previous Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the June meeting are in the newsletter. Motion to accept the minutes put forth by Kyle Riedel and seconded by Dan Hood.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report submitted by email from Frank Szczerba was reviewed. Motion to accept Ted Merklin seconded by Josselyn Slagle.

Newsletter: The August newsletter was distributed and uploaded to the chapter website. Newsletter contributions are always welcome!

Website: Enter <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea857> in your browser to view the site. (continuing to do maintenance on the website).

Tech Advisor: N/A

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, September 17, 2024

IMC meeting: No VMC meeting tonight. A VMC meeting will be next month.

Young Eagles:

- 38 kids flown in August; 20 flights by 7 pilots.
- 55 percent of kids were first time, new YE
- 8 girls and 30 boys
- 46 kids that were registered as of Saturday morning.
- 12 kids had cancelled before hand and 7 did not show up.
- A successful Young Eagle's event overall.

Air Academy: Significant revisions are being made to the program. Now it is limited to 14-18 in two age groups and two curricula, a stem focus and a ground school. Application forms will not be available until September 3rd. This evenings visitors expressed interest in applying.

Ray Aviation:

- Colin is headed to college in North Dakota. His Ray Scholar shirt and pin will be shipped to him.
- 2024 Samantha Burke contributed time washing planes in New Castle.
- Sam flew 6.3 hours in July and is working to complete her written.
- We are \$600 short on getting the matching scholarship funding.
- 2025 application is completed. New change - require that we see the last page of the student's logbook.
-

Old Business: 36 members, a few who have not paid dues yet.

New Business: N/A

Closing: The meeting was adjourned by Kyle Riedel and seconded by Destinyjay Maletta at approximately 7:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Destinyjay Maletta,
EAA 857 Secretary

Seeking Builders and Restorers for our Chapter Hangar

Chapter 857 has entered into an initial lease of Hangar S9, #2 at KBTP and is now accepting input and reservations to use the space for aircraft builds and restorations.



Chapter 857's Hangar at KBTP



The following were the reasons for acquiring the Hangar:

- Interest in the leasing of hangar space at Butler Regional Airport is increasing, and most are presently rented out.
- We have discussed broadening the focus of our Chapter to more “hands-on”, and “tech centered” activities for homebuilt, vintage restoration, and maintenance projects, but need a “home” for such activities.

It made sense to acquire a hanger while a suitable one is available, for lease at Butler Regional Airport, in order to enable this.

This is a recently built hangar, with concrete floors and space for at least one aircraft, or several members’ projects. It is not heated or air conditioned.

Dimensions of the hangar are: 42 foot wide at front, 19 foot wide at rear, and approximately 33 foot depth at center. The door opening is a full 42 foot width and approximately 10 feet tall. Inside, the space has approximately 14 feet of headroom.

(Fun fact: This is enough room to store a vintage Curtiss P-40 fighter plane!)

We are proposing a number of uses for this space including:

- Hangar space for completion of EAA Chapter member project planes.
- Workspace for EAA Chapter Member's small aircraft components (detail parts, subassemblies, complete wings, fuselages...)
- *Hangar space for short-term (1 month?) EAA Chapter Member airplanes needing/awaiting more permanent accommodations.
- *Use of hangar for short term storage (less than 1 week) of itinerant EAA vintage/homebuilt aircraft by EAA members enroute to events such as AirVenture.

*if space is available...

Other potential uses:

- Classroom/demonstration space for tech activities such as fabrication, maintenance and inspection.
- Space for a Chapter “Tool Crib” containing aircraft maintenance and assembly tools for loan to Chapter Members.

At the next Chapter Meeting, we will brief the members on the Operational Concept for that new space to seek your input as attempt to add hangar access as a service offered to our membership. Please join us at 7:00pm on 17 September in the KBTP boardroom to provide input to this initiative. We won't be successful at this endeavor without your input!

Tech Focus:

Current Work on Restoring the Most Fiddled-With Tripacer in the World: Some Recent Photos

by Chuck Warren

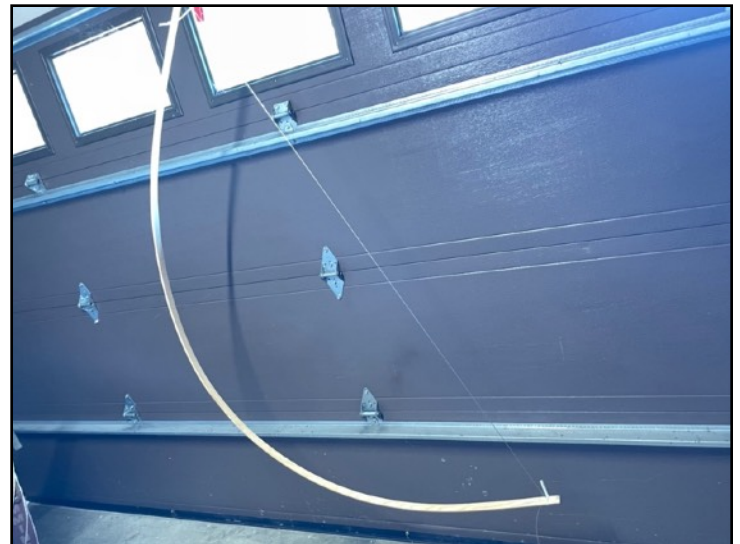


Figure 2.

A NEW wingtip bow, start of bending to form.

Figure 1.

This box contains a set of NEW windows.



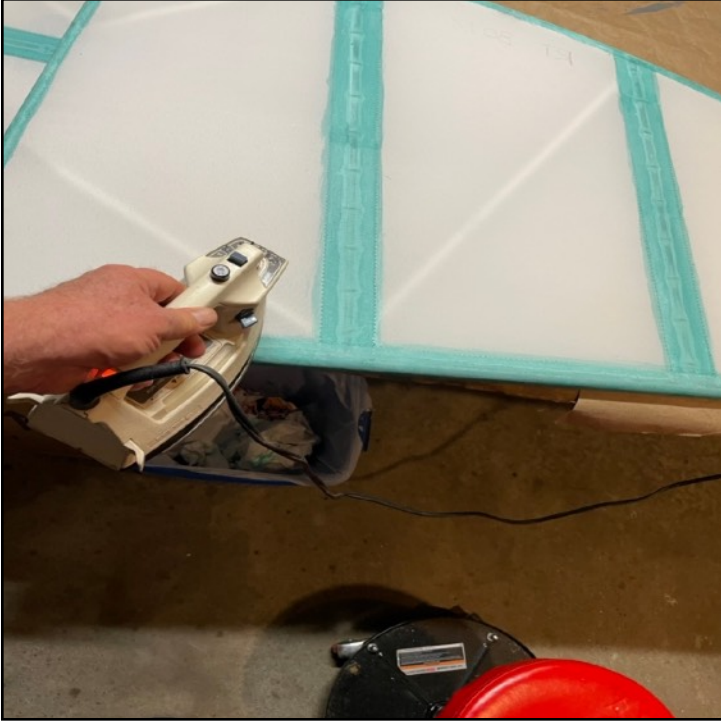


Figure 3.

Curing and sealing border tape to the Tailplane.

Figure 4

Tailplanes and rudder with new fabric.





The Air Academy for 2025

The EAA has significantly revised the scope and format of the Air Academy offering for 2025. It has eliminated the Young Eagle Category for 12 and 13 year old youth, and has introduced new camps called **Explore Aviation** and **Discover Flight** for ages 14-18. The new camp chapter reservation [form](#) and camper registration [form](#) were released for use on September 3. The following descriptions were taken directly from the EAA website.

EAA Air Academy Explore Aviation Camp

Welcome to Air Academy's Explore Aviation Camp, where the thrill of flight meets the excitement of hands-on STEM exploration! Explore Aviation Camp offers a unique and exhilarating summer experience for young aviation enthusiasts aged 14 to 18. Nestled in the heart of sport aviation, our camp offers an unforgettable experience for campers eager to delve into the world of aviation.

Get ready to immerse yourself in a dynamic blend of activities designed to ignite your curiosity and inspire your imagination. Step into our state-of-the-art flight simulators and experience the exhilaration of piloting aircraft through the virtual sky. Engage in interactive workshop projects where you'll design and build your own aviation-inspired creations under the guidance of our experienced staff.

Prepare to be amazed as you witness captivating aviation demonstrations that unveil the magic of flight right before your eyes. Embark on a behind-the-scenes tour of our museum, where you'll uncover the fascinating history and technology behind some of aviation's most iconic machines.

In our classrooms, you'll receive instruction on topics such as the principles of flight, aerodynamics, and flight planning, empowering you to understand aviation like never before. And, weather permitting, you'll have the opportunity to take to the sky yourself, with airplane and helicopter flights that will leave you inspired and eager for more.

Join us for an unforgettable summer of discovery, adventure, and the joy of STEM at our Explore Aviation Camp. Let your imagination take flight with us!

** Explore Aviation Camp is equivalent to our previous Basic and Advanced Air Academy Camps.

2025 Dates

*All sessions offered are the same camp.

Session 1 (ages 14-15) – June 20 – 25, 2025 - \$1,300

Session 2 (ages 14-15) – June 28 – July 3, 2025 - \$1,300

Session 3 (ages 16-18) – July 15 – 23, 2025 - \$1,650

Session 4 (ages 16-18) – July 25 – August 2, 2025 - \$1,650



Discover Flight Camp

Welcome to Discover Flight Camp, where the sky is not the limit—it's just the beginning!

Discover Flight Camp offers a unique and exhilarating summer experience for young aviation enthusiasts aged 14 to 18. Nestled in the heart of sport aviation, our camp offers an unforgettable experience for campers eager to delve into the world of aviation.

At our Discover Flight Camp, campers immerse themselves in the fascinating world of aviation through our comprehensive ground-school style lessons. Led by experienced and passionate aviators, these lessons cover a wide range of topics, including aerodynamics, aircraft systems, navigation, meteorology, and aviation regulations. Through hands-on activities, simulations, and interactive workshops, campers gain a deep understanding of the principles and practices that govern flight.

But the excitement doesn't stop there! Weather permitting, you'll have the opportunity to take to the skies yourself, with thrilling airplane and helicopter flights that will leave you breathless.

In addition to aviation-focused activities, Discover Flight Camp offers a diverse range of team-building opportunities. Campers can bond over aviation stories, enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of the EAA museum, and participate in exciting challenges. Our camp fosters a supportive and inclusive environment where friendships are formed, memories are made, and lifelong skills are developed.

Whether your passion lies in aviation, or you simply crave adventure and exploration, Discover Flight Camp offers an unforgettable summer experience that will leave you empowered and inspired to take flight. Join us for an adventure of a lifetime and discover the magic of aviation at Discover Flight Camp!

2025 Dates

*All sessions offered are the same camp.

Session 1 (ages 14-15) – June 12 – 17, 2025 - \$1,300

Session 2 (ages 16-18) – July 7 – 12, 2025 - \$1,300



EAA IMC Club

Question of the Month

This Month's Question and Answer:

Question: Many pilots are accustomed to temperatures in degrees F, but have difficulty converting degrees C to degrees F. What is a simple conversion from degrees C to degrees F that you can make in your head?

More Images from AirVenture Oshkosh 2024



Stinson Reliant



1933 Stampe

SV.4C (Mfg. 1949)



Aeronca

C-3



North American Rockwell

OV-10 Bronco



Rutan / Beechcraft

Starship



Republic

P-47 Thunderbolt



RCAF Snowbirds Demo

Canadair

CT-114 Tutor

USAF Heritage Flight:

- Lockheed Martin
- F-35 Lightning II
- Lockheed Martin
- F-22 raptor
- Fairchild Republic
- A-10 Thunderbolt II
- General Dynamics
- F-16 Fighting Falcon



- Boeing
- B-29 Superfortress
- “FI-FI”

- Boeing
- B-29 Superfortress
- “DOC”





The Battle of Britain:

Avro

Lancaster Mk X.

Hawker

Hurricane



Supermarine

Spitfire



EAA 857 - Chapter Meetings and Events for 2024

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 16 February 20 March 19 April 16 May 21 June 18 July 16 August 20 September 17 October 15 November 19
IMC / VMCClub -		TBD
International Young Eagles Day -		Saturday, June 8, (rain date 15)
EAA 857 Fly-In and YE -		Saturday, August 10 (rain date 17)

2024 National Events

Sun 'n Fun -	April 9 - 14
Sentimental Journey -	June 18 - 22
AirVenture Oshkosh 2023 -	July 22 - 28

EAA 857 Chapter Officers for 2024

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

President	Josselyn Slagle
Vice President	Kyle Riedel
Treasurer	Frank Szczerba
Secretary	DestinyJay Maletta
Board Members	Danny Michaels 2024-2026
	Dan Hood 2024-2025
	Ted Merklin 2024
Website / Newsletter	Ted Merklin
Young Eagles Coord	Ted Merklin
Ray Aviation Scholarship	Kyle Riedel