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Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association - Chapter 857

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# EAA 857 NEWSLETTER

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**Bob Tedesco offers this view of the Ford Tri-Motor**



## Presidents Message

EAA 857 Members,

A busy year draws to a close this month for your EAA Chapter 857! We have reorganized, and we are now recognized by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as the Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association - Chapter 857. New Bylaws have been voted and with the filings to the state and federal authorities we will conclude the year operating under those terms. On October 3, the IRS acknowledged our application to be a 501(c)(3) charitable entity effective 9/9/2019 which will enable us to accept donations and yield to the donor a tax exemption in return for their support. We will be working within this framework going forward and one aspect of this will require us to file a 990N return each year. I want to thank all of you for your support and patience this year in our pursuit of this designation.

Our November meeting is traditionally the time of year when we elect Officers and Board Members for the coming year.

The slate of officers for this election include:

President	Ted Merklin
V. President	Phil Kriley
Treasurer	Frank Szczerba
Secretary	Rick Schubert
Board Member	Dan Hood

Notification of nominations was posted 11/11/2019 in my email to the members. We will vote on this slate of officers at our meeting on November 19th. If you will not be able to attend please advise your acceptance / rejection of this slate by email of your proxy vote to me at [contact@eaa857.org](mailto:contact@eaa857.org)

Please remember that chapter dues, \$25 per person, are due and payable on January 1, 2020. You must be a National EAA member to maintain your chapter membership. We will be renewing our charter in December with the national organization which will include payment of our national dues and our insurance premium for 2020.

Remember, our next meeting is Tuesday at the normal time, 7pm, and place in the KBTP conference room.

See you there!

Ted Merklin,

President EAA 857

## Minutes of October 15, 2019 Meeting

**Opening:** President Ted Merklin called the meeting to order at 19:00 and led the members in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Attendance:** Eleven members were in attendance.

**Secretary's Report:** Everyone was asked to be sure that they had signed the sign-in sheet. A motion to accept the Secretary's report of the September Minutes was made by Frank Szczerba and Bob Tedesco seconded.

**Treasurer's Report:** A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Phil Kriley and Gary Marsico seconded.

**Newsletter Report:** Articles are always welcome from anyone. Notify Ted Merklin if you are not receiving the newsletter. The newsletter is also published to the chapter web site at: <http://www.857.eaachapter.org/home.htm>, which has been updated for 2019.

### **Young Eagles Report:**

- Phil Kriley is taking over as Chapter Co-ordinator next year.
- National reports that EAA members have flown 2,178,152 kids so far.
- National is reorganizing the Young Eagles next year with several new programs such as registration software and the process for awarding of flight credits to pilots.

**Technical Advisors:** Chuck Potts and Bob Santolla, EAA 857 Advisors

- *Report:* Reminder- ADSB will be required January 1st; There will be no extensions. This is pertinent to aircraft with engine driven electrical systems.

### **Old Business:**

- *501c3 update:* We were notified by the IRS on 10/3 as a nonprofit with 501c3 status, effective as of 9/9/2019.
- *Air Academy:* We may have an Air Academy candidate for next year. The fee for his age group is \$1280.00.
- *Chapter Storage Room:* Improvements for storage and material movement are planned.
- Flowers were sent in the chapters name to the family of Larry Gaichas.

### **New Business:**

#### Officer Nominations:

- President: Ted Merklin
- Vice President: Phil Kriley
- Secretary: Richard Schubert
- Treasurer: Frank Szczerba
- Board Member (3 year term): Candidate TBD
- Nominations will not be closed until the November meeting, "Get involved in management!"

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn at 19:50 was made by Phil Kriley, and seconded by Frank Szczerba.

**Program:** The program was by Ted Merklin; EAA Chapter Video - One Week Wonder Tour, Antique Aircraft Fly-in  
Respectfully submitted,

*Richard Schubert, Secretary*



## Young Eagles Report for October 2019

by Bob Santolla

*[This article had been submitted for the October newsletter subsequent to its publication. It was discussed in the October chapter meeting, however the editor has elected to include it in this months newsletter issue.]*

Total young Eagles flown by Chapter 857 for 2019 - The EAA YE headquarters is about 21 days behind in counting registration forms. We will receive an update by November.

Total YE flown to date - 2,178,152 as of October 7, 2019

Chapter 857 has a candidate to attend the summer camp at the Air Academy 14-15 age his name is Zack Jordan and lives in Cranberry PA

### **New changes in YE.**

The Young Eagles program has gone through a series of changes over the last year. We are now part of the EAA chapters department – this change puts us more in line with the hundreds of chapters who hold Young Eagles rallies each year.

Another change we announced at AirVenture was that we have eliminated the pilot requirement of achieving 10 Young Eagle Flight before earning any Young Eagles credits. For 2019 and beyond, ALL Young Eagle flights earn credits for their chapter of record. This will provide a significant amount of additional funding to chapters to support your Young Eagle efforts. Beginning with flights in 2019, all Young Eagles flown and registered will earn Young Eagles credits for the pilot's chapter of record. The standard amount of \$5 per credit will remain. For example, if a pilot flies eight Young Eagles in a calendar year, he or she will earn eight credits (\$40 worth) for their local EAA chapter.

Our annual "ask" is for each pilot to try to fly 10 Young Eagles per year and there is still plenty of great flying weather before winter arrives. No matter how many Young Eagles you fly, you are still making an impression on a young person and helping to create the next generation of aviators. Thanks for your help.

**YE On-line registration:**

More than 250 chapters and over 1,000 pilots have been using the Young Eagles online registration tool for managing their Young Eagles rallies. This program has the capability to create your event, and to sign up kids as well as pilots prior to the event. You can also schedule time slots so you have better control over the flow of activity. The system has the ability to send your rally data to Oshkosh once your rally is complete. At this time, we are asking that parents sign a liability waiver that must be sent to EAA by the chapter's Young Eagles coordinator after the rally.

If your chapter or pilots are not using the new system, you can sign-up at [YEDay.org](http://YEDay.org)

**Phillips 66 YE \$1 per gallon fuel rebate.**

EAA Young Eagles presenting sponsor Phillips 66 provides Young Eagles volunteer pilots with a \$1 per gallon rebate when they use the Phillips 66 Aviation Personal Credit Card to fill up for Young Eagles flights. For more details on the rebate, please visit the [Phillips 66 Young Eagles Rebate program](#).

**How to participate in the Phillips 66 Rebate Program**

- Volunteer pilot must be a licensed pilot and an EAA member.
- The \$1.00 per gallon rebate applies only to Phillips 66 Aviation avgas (It does not include jet fuel, motor fuel, or other fuel brands.)
- Avgas must be purchased at a Phillips 66 FBO and Phillips 66 Aviation Credit Card must be used.
- Young Eagles flight can take place at any time during the calendar year.
- Volunteer pilot must provide a receipt or a copy of the receipt and complete the [Young Eagles rebate submission form](#).

**Lightspeed headsets for YE Pilots:**

Every quarter there will be a drawing for 3 Lightspeed headsets to be given away to YE pilots, that's 12 per year. You just need to be a YE pilot to qualify and have flown YE and your name will automatically be entered.





## **Trying Something New**

by Bob Santolla

“How does one describe an EAA member? That question does not have a definitive answer.

EAA members represent every aspect of aviation and often have multiple interests. We fly them. We fix them. We even build them.

EAA members are what we like to call the "keepers of the flame." Sure, we love airplanes. But it goes beyond that.

It's about passion, camaraderie, that ol' can-do spirit, and a grassroots way of sharing our love of aviation with others.

It's the airplanes that bring us together. It's the people who keep us coming back.

Those words appear on the EAA website to define who we are and what we do. We are designers and builders of airplanes and just about anything that flies. We are experimenters too, trying new things and learning something along the way.

So my article this month is, the new to me, aircraft covering system call the Stewart System. The Stewart System has been around over 25 years and has a proven track record in the light airplane industry for aircraft covering and painting systems.

I am finally to the point in my Pitts Special build project that it is ready to cover with aircraft fabric. My first covering job was my Baby Ace which I choose Ceconite using butyrate - nitrate coatings. After many hours of working with this system I came to realize why it was call “aircraft dope”. By the end of the work day you could get a headache buzz from breathing the fumes all day. Not to mention the flammability of the materials, if you ever saw a piece of finished cloth lit by an open flame it would burn up like a piece of flash paper. A real attention getter!

That's how it was done for many years until Ray Stits came up with his vinyl based system which is now called Poly Fiber. The problem is that all the covering systems are known as high volatile organic compounds (VOCs) These are highly flammable coatings and reducers along with the dangerous isocyanates in the paints that produce the high gloss finish that builders like to help them win Grand Champion award winners.

Over the years I have developed an allergic reaction to these products which effects many builders so I need something less dangerous to my health. Thats when I discovered the Stewart System which is a waterborne system. Do not confuse this with a water based system for they are completely different. The breakthrough in the Stewart

System was the discovery of how to use water as the carrier for the solids in the coatings. Water is added only as the carrier, to reduce the viscosity of the solids to allow the coatings to be sprayed.

I ordered my covering materials while at Oshkosh and was surprised by the fact that there is no hazardous shipping charges which saves money! During the airshow week I sat in on a few demonstrations and got my hands dirty trying out this covering system. There is a learning curve when using this system and I had a few problems with the glue call EkoBond. It was mostly operator error as I was learning but a few phone calls to the company techs and they quickly put me on the right path.

I like the system very much and to date I have covered, rib laced, and applied the surface tapes to the four ailerons, two stabilizers, elevators, and the rudder. I am happy with the results and look forward to the painting and trimming.

When building a rag and tube airplane your parts are just skeletons until the fabric is applied. Then the shapes become recognizable airplane parts. That makes me want to work harder to finish my project and get it into the air.

We are experimenters trying new ways to make are airplanes fly better and safer. So don't hesitate trying something new and remember to keep m' flying!



## **LED Lighting Upgrade**

by Chris McGeary

Well, after a couple of night flights with the new LED lighting, I am very impressed.

On the ground, the navigation lights are bright enough to color the grass red and green on either side of the taxiway, and the strobes light everything up nicely.

In the air, if there is any moisture, the landing lights and strobes are visible from the cockpit when they are on.

On final, I can now see the stripes on 26 when I am over the fire station. What an improvement!

One other unexpected benefit: I installed the UAvionix Echo UAT system to implement ADS-B Out on the RV-9A. When I got my PAPER report back, it was showing a 60% failure rate in capturing the MODE 3A ident from my Garmin 327 transponder. When I ran the PAPER from a flight last Sunday night, I had no failures. The only thing I changed was replacement of the Whelen strobe system with the FlyLED system. The UAvionix system “sniffs” the transponder ID by looking at fluctuations in the 12VDC current. My guess is that the Whelen strobe system was introducing noise into the 12VDC wiring and interfering with the transponder signal being read by the UAvionix unit, and the FlyLED system does not.

Again, it’s nice to be seen!





### **Chapter 857 Members**

See your chapter's Website at:

<http://eaa857.org>

Take a look today!

Newly Updated with **This Newsletter!**

Prior Issues for 2019 will appear in our newsletter archive.

Please submit your project updates, photos, articles, thoughts, technical tips

to [contact@eaa857.org](mailto:contact@eaa857.org)

ALSO, Monitor our Facebook Group Page:

Search for "EAA Chapter 857"

### **Websites of Interest to EAA 857 Members**

<http://www.butlercountyairport.org>

<http://www.eaa.org/>

<http://www.airventure.org/>

<http://www.aopa.org/>

<http://www.faa.gov/>

<http://faasafety.gov>

<http://www.condoraero.com>

[www.draggintailpilots.weebly.com](http://www.draggintailpilots.weebly.com)



### EAA 857 Chapter Officers for 2019

<b>President</b>	<b>Ted Merklin</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Phil Kriley</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Frank Szczerba</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Rick Schubert</b>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Ted Merklin, Ed.</b>
<b>Web Page</b>	<b>Ted Merklin, Ed.</b>
<b>Young Eagles</b>	<b>Bob Santolla</b>
<b>Technical Advisors</b>	<b>Chuck Potts     Bob Santolla</b>
<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Bob Santolla     2019-2021</b> <b>Gary Marsico     2019-2020</b>

Use [contact@eaa857.org](mailto:contact@eaa857.org) to email the Chapter President. Your request will be forwarded to the appropriate individual.

### EAA 857 - Calendar for 2019

#### Chapter Meetings

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

- January 15
- February 19
- March 19
- April 16
- May 21
- June 18
- July 16
- August 20
- September 17
- October 15
- November 19

#### Chapter Events

EAA 857 First Flight -	Tuesday,	January 1
EAA 857 Chili Cook Off -	Sunday,	February 10
International Young Eagles Day -	Saturday,	June 8
EAA 857 Fly-In and YE -	Sunday,	August 11
KBTP 90th Anniversary -	Saturday,	September 28

#### 2019 National Events

Sun 'n Fun -	April 2-7
Sentimental Journey -	June 18-22
AirVenture Oshkosh 2019 -	July 22-28