
Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association - Chapter 857

EAA 857 NEWSLETTER



EAA Members Tend To Build Flying Machines

Check out a new EAA Builders Log tool to document your project in this issue!

Presidents Message

EAA 857 Members,

Due to Covid-19 continues and has lead us to once again **cancel** our May 19 chapter meeting. We do plan to have a June 16 meeting and Bob Santolla has offered for us to meet at his hangar at Butler Farm Show. We are now in the Pennsylvania Yellow Phase of response to the virus pandemic; please continue to follow all the recommended guidelines for remaining safe and healthy at this time.



Bob will present at the June meeting at his hangar, and perhaps we will also grill some dogs and burgers as we get back together. The National Weather Service presentation is tentatively rescheduled for August. The largest disruption to our summer calendar now includes cancellation AirVenture 2020 as well as the EAA Air Academy camps for 2020. Our camp candidate will have the option to attend in 2021 if he so chooses, however he would now be in the Advanced Camp age group which currently has him on a waitlist.

In addition to cancellation of our May meeting we have also **cancelled** the June 13th, International Young Eagles Day at KBTP. this is due to the limitations in the yellow phase on large group gatherings in excess of 25 people and uncertainty as to availability of our volunteer pilots and ground personnel. We will evaluate and keep in mind our scheduled August and September events.

Please remember that chapter dues, \$25 per person, were due and payable on January 1, 2020. You must be a National EAA member to maintain your chapter membership. We renewed our charter in December with the national organization, and your dues in part pay for that charter and our yearly insurance.

Remember, our next meeting is tentatively Tuesday 6/16/2020 at the Santolla Hangar starting at 6 to precede the meeting with a bite to eat. We will let you know if there is a change to that scheduled meeting.

Please everyone take care of yourselves and your families!

Ted Merklin,
President, EAA Chapter 857

Minutes of April 21, 2020 Meeting

The scheduled monthly meeting for April 2020 was cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic situation in Pennsylvania. There was no group activity constituting a quorum of members for which meeting minutes were taken.

N-Numbers

By Bob Santolla

As my Pitts Special project gets closer to completion it is time for me to think about selecting an N-Number which is part of the process of FAA registration which falls under 14 CFR Part 45.

So what's in an N-Number, let's take a closer look. Different countries may use various letter associations to go with their registration numbers. In the United States, your registration number will start with the letter "N," which is why many people refer to the registration this way. The numbers can vary in how they are, including ending with one or two alphabetic letters. Other regulations go along with the assignment of the number, including that the number can be anywhere from one to five characters, it cannot start with a zero, and it may not contain the letters "I" or "O" because they are too close in resemblance to the numbers one and zero. The piece to remember is that this number is used as the unique registration identifier for your plane.



All civil aircraft in the United States are required to register with the FAA and receive an N number that is displayed prominently on the plane. Planes can have different registration numbers over time, specifically if the airplane has changed ownership. If you purchase your aircraft from another owner or broker, you can get new numeric numbers when you register the plane yourself as the new owner. You will have to fill out the proper paperwork and file it with the FAA so that you can be assigned a new number.

To properly form an N-Number there are a few rules that you must review. First it must begin with the capital N then, one to five numbers (N1234Z) or one to four numbers followed by one letter (N1234Z), or one to three numbers followed by two letters (N123AZ). To avoid confusion with the numbers one and zero, the letters I and O are not to be used.

Here are some more rules with N-Numbers. An N-Number may not begin with zero. You must precede the first zero in an N-Number with any number 1 through 9 for example N01Z is not valid.

Registration numbers N1 through N99 are strictly reserved for FAA internal use. The FAA no longer issues numbers beginning with NC, NX, NR, or NL. On some older aircraft, these numbers may be displayed in accordance with FAR Part 45.22.

Size means everything so now we will look at what that means with displaying N-Numbers. Fixed wing aircraft minimum height 12 inches on both fuselage sides. There are exceptions on aircraft displaying 2-inch marks before November 1, 1981, and on aircraft manufactured between November 2, 1981, and January 1, 1983, you may display those marks until the aircraft is repainted or the marks are repainted, restored, or changed. Once the aircraft is repainted or the marks are repainted, restored, or changed, the N-Number is required to be 12 inches.

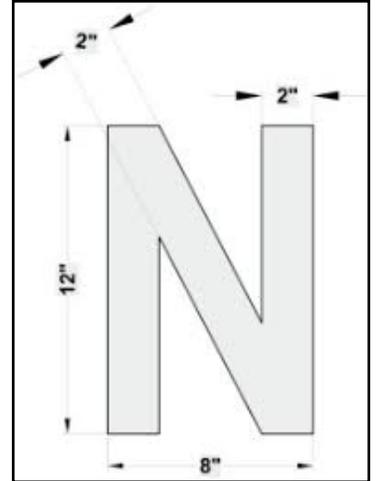
Displaying the N-Numbers on amateur-built with a maximum cruising speed of 180 knots or less you may use 3 inch markings.

Sorry if I made that sound confusing but it came out of Advisory Circular number 45-2.

Knowing the rules you can reserve your N-Number by contacting the FAA website do a search of available N-Numbers. Many numbers are reserved for other aircraft and you may notice that the reserved N-Number has no particular aircraft assignment. The owner of that number may be waiting to change to a different aircraft. Unfortunately some “cool N-Numbers” are held with no aircraft because there are people making big bucks by selling these numbers to someone who really wants to pay (movie stars, large corporations) it appears to be a ransom cottage industry over looked by the FAA.

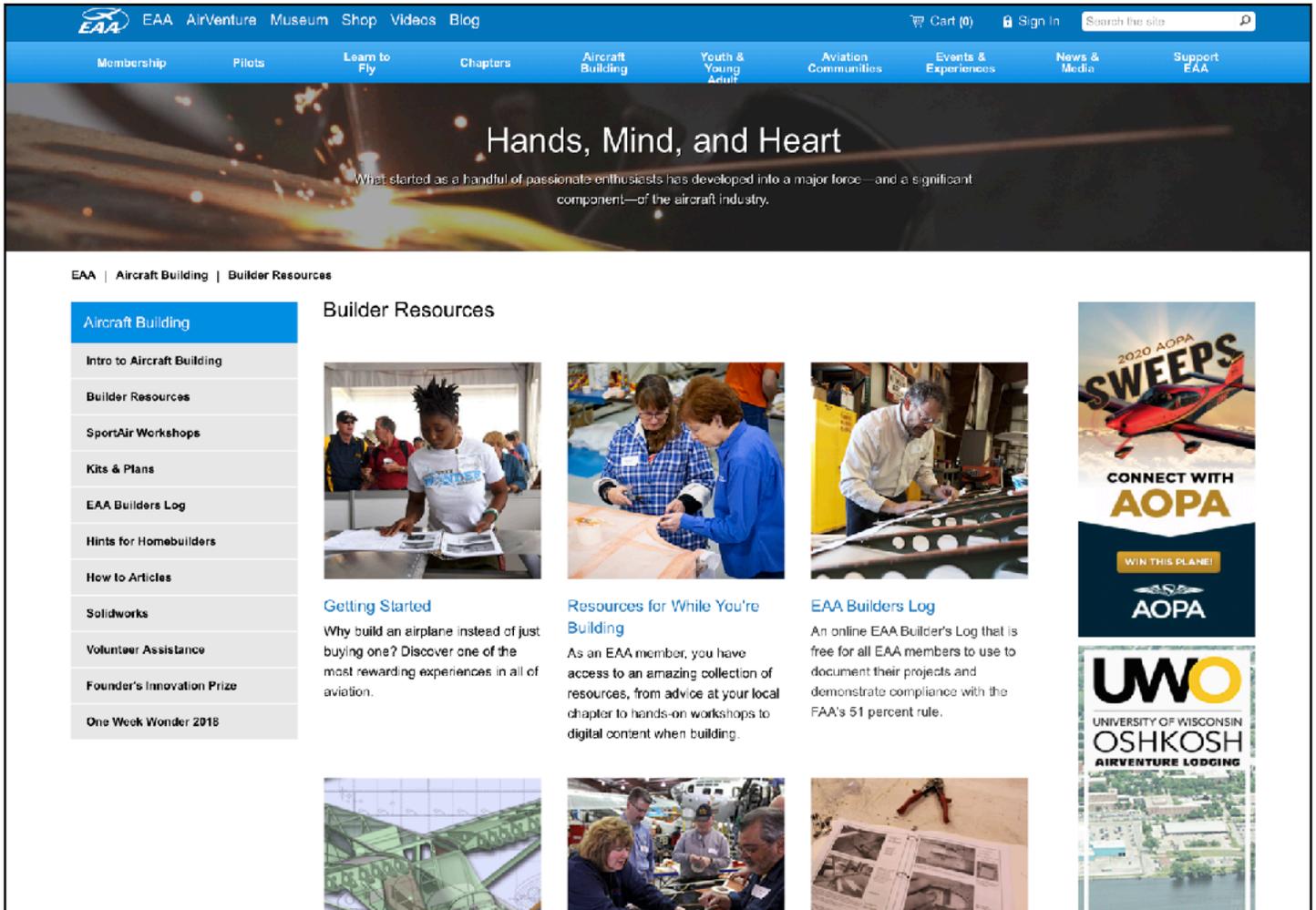
Once you have decided on an N-Number you can hold that number for \$10 for up to one year. The FAA will send you by mail notification of your reserved number. If you still have not used the number within the year just fill out the paper work and reserve for another year for \$10.

I have my N-Number reserved N24RS and I will have it painted on the Pitts fuselage sides in the near future. Keep working on your airplane projects and get them flying!



The New EAA Builders Log

While working on setting up our new website (presented in the April Newsletter) I came across an EAA sponsored resource that should be of particular interest to the current builders and any who are thinking of pursuing a build project in the future. This is a website for documenting all aspects of your build, in essence your electronic 3 ring binder of tasks completed, photos for the record, notes that you may wish to make all for documenting your 51 percent rule process. The site is accessible from the EAA homepage under *Aircraft Building*, by selecting the *EAA Builders Log* link, seen in the screen shot below. This website is a new offering from the EAA introduced at AirVenture 2019.

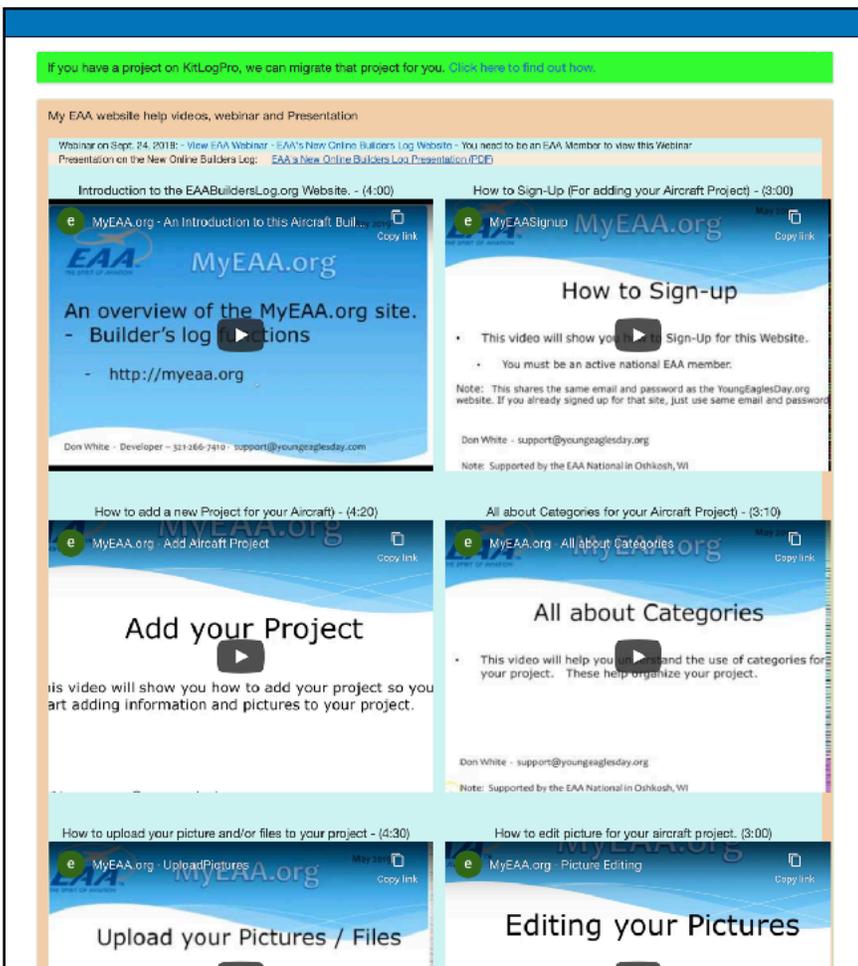
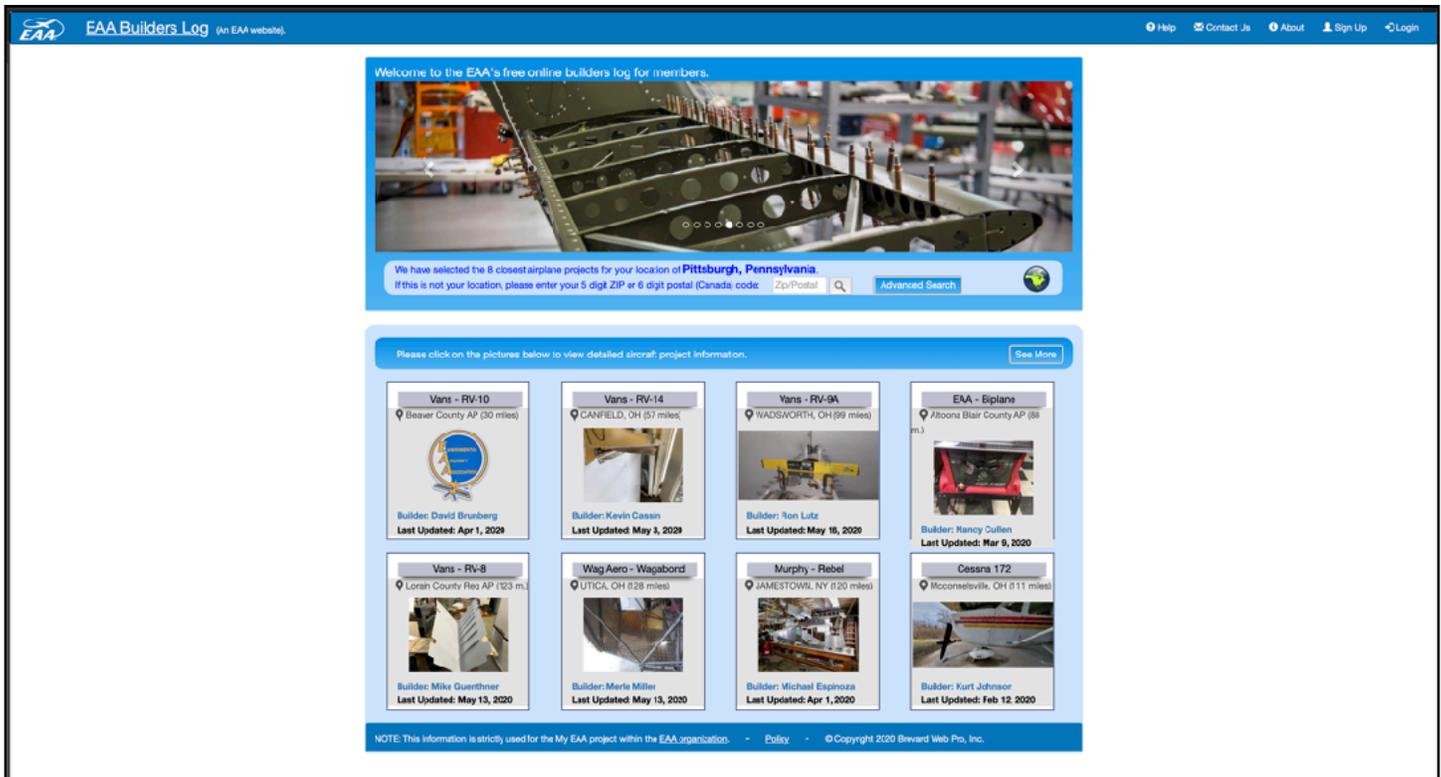


The screenshot shows the EAA website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for EAA, AirVenture, Museum, Shop, Videos, and Blog. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with categories like Membership, Pilots, Learn to Fly, Chapters, Aircraft Building, Youth & Young Adult, Aviation Communities, Events & Experiences, News & Media, and Support EAA. The main header features the text "Hands, Mind, and Heart" with a sub-headline: "What started as a handful of passionate enthusiasts has developed into a major force—and a significant component—of the aircraft industry." Below the header, the page is titled "EAA | Aircraft Building | Builder Resources". On the left, there is a sidebar menu with "Aircraft Building" selected, listing items such as "Intro to Aircraft Building", "Builder Resources", "SportAir Workshops", "Kits & Plans", "EAA Builders Log", "Hints for Homebuilders", "How to Articles", "Solidworks", "Volunteer Assistance", "Founder's Innovation Prize", and "One Week Wonder 2018". The main content area is titled "Builder Resources" and contains three columns of content. The first column is titled "Getting Started" and includes a photo of a woman at a workshop and the text: "Why build an airplane instead of just buying one? Discover one of the most rewarding experiences in all of aviation." The second column is titled "Resources for While You're Building" and includes a photo of two people working on a project and the text: "As an EAA member, you have access to an amazing collection of resources, from advice at your local chapter to hands-on workshops to digital content when building." The third column is titled "EAA Builders Log" and includes a photo of a man working on a project and the text: "An online EAA Builder's Log that is free for all EAA members to use to document their projects and demonstrate compliance with the FAA's 51 percent rule." To the right of the main content area, there are two vertical banners. The top one is for "2020 AOPA SWEEPS" with the text "CONNECT WITH AOPA" and "WIN THIS PLANET!". The bottom one is for "UWO UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH AIRVENTURE LODGING" with a photo of the facility.

In order to access the *EAA Builders Log* you create a member login identity if you don't already have one.

The webpage will load and evaluate your location from your IP address and then present multiple project logs that are documented and nearest to you in your area. You can also search via a Zip Code. You can see here that there are projects in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. Hopefully we will have some documented in from our Pittsburgh-Butler chapter in the near future!

You may also search for a specific project type, such as projects related to a Vans RV-12, using the advanced search feature. Additional regional projects may be shown by clicking on the see more button.



In the blue banner at the top of the Builder's Log webpage take a look in particular at the *Help* link button. There you will find links to the Webinar presented last September by Charlie Becker from the EAA Chapters office and member Don White who developed the product that we are discussing. Mr. White also developed the EAA Young Eagles Rally registration website introduced about 2 years ago. The webinar presentation is available in both the original video and as a pdf document of the presentation pages.

Notice at the left there are a number of YouTube video tutorials to choose from instructing upon the use of various aspects of the website. Some of this information is also summarized in the referenced Webinar.

The screenshot that follows depicts the content on a particular project such as the Vans RV-14 in Canfield, OH. The basic information regarding project ownership is at the top, with a list of project categories at the

left, as you can see. This is an editable list that can document the project as the owner sees fit, and additions or deletions to the default list may be made only by the project owner. Below and to the right of these fields are the project notes for the category *empennage* on the most recent date of activity. The date and time spent as well as photos uploaded by the owner depict the detail of the tasks that were involved. Earlier project work performed follows in this log.

Project: [RV14](#) - Last 10 Project Activities / Entries :
Search in entries

(Please mouse-over any icon to get a description of that function).

Categories + -

Show All Entries - (53)

Research - (2) +

Workshop

Empennage - (51) +

Fuselage

Firewall

Tail Feathers

Wings

Controls

Avionics

Lighting

Instrument Panel

Landing Gear

Engine

Propeller

Fuel System

Interior Finish

Paint / Decals

Inspection

Tools

Builder Name: [Kevin Cassin](#) -

Project: [Vane - RV14](#) - [VIEW REPORTS](#)

Total Hours: 158.5

Total Flight Time:

Start/Last Date: Jan 18,2019 - Dec 09,2019

Friendly URL: <https://eaabuilderslog.org?s=RV14>



Home or Last Project Picture
[Reset](#)

May 03,2020 [Elevator 03](#) - (6.5 hours)
Category: Empennage

Trimmed pitch trim tab skins and close out tabs. Formed close out tabs on elevator skins. Trimmed and labeled rear elevator spars. Drilled 3/64 inch length of piano hinge with pilot holes to create elevator trim tab hinge. Step drilled holes noted in forward elevator spar to create the left spar to allow for electronics and power to electric pitch trim. Clecoed together left and right elevator assemblies as called out on Page 09-06. Clecoed, clamped, and match drilled elevator trim hinges to their respective spars.



5ED3684F-E2DB-4ECE-98FC-



85925691-F4FD-434B-8853-



9FF5137E-3E0D-4F5C-9E83-



A2CF758B-2BF7-4482-8E46-



BB8EC933-FF4A-4B3F-9CEA-



BEE75E69-4A8F-4E39-9A93-



CFA8EF04-2592-4330-B03A-



FEF58461-E29C-4EBA-8D82-

Apr 29,2020 [Elevator 02](#) - (2.0 hours)
Category: Empennage

Cut out and sanded to shape rear and trim tab foam spars.





One of the page templates that is available to chapters to use on their new EAA sponsored websites presents a page that will show a grid of thumbnail links to the Builders Log website for those chapter members who are documenting their build using the tool and have noted their affiliation to their chapter. As an example of this display, here is the Chapter 252 Builders log page from Charlie Becker's chapter in Oshkosh. You will note the link thumbnails to the individual builds associated with Chapter 252. We need some EAA Chapter 857 members to give this a try, so please go check out this new *EAA Builders Log* tool supporting your build process from the EAA!

Chapter 252 | Member Projects

Chapter 252 Home

Events

Event List

Newsletters

About Us

Contact Us

Young Eagles

Ray Aviation Scholarship

IMC Club

Technical Counselors

Flight Advisors

Members Flying Aircraft

Member Projects

Join-Renew

Steve Wittman

Spirit of Elo Award

Member Projects

Here are our member's aircraft building projects from the [EAA Builders Log](#) website.

Supercub - Other

Wittman Reg Airport (0 m.)



Builder: Charlie Becker
Last Updated: Mar 16, 2020

Lancair - IVP

Brennard Airport (0 miles)



Builder: Doug Osterberg
Last Updated: Mar 16, 2020

Vans - RV-9A

OSHKOSH, WI (0 miles)



Builder: Daniel De Deker
Last Updated: Mar 14, 2020

Rand KR-1

OSHKOSH, WI (0 miles)



Builder: Tim Hoversten
Last Updated: Sep 25, 2019

Adventure - EMG-6

Wittman Reg Airport (0 m.)



Builder: Charlie Becker
Last Updated: Sep 10, 2019

Quickie - Q-200

Wittman Reg Airport (0 m.)



Builder: Kyle Voltz
Last Updated: Jul 11, 2019

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 and 2020 will appear in our newsletter archive.

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

to contact@eaa857.org

ALSO, Monitor our Facebook Group Page:

Search for "EAA Chapter 857"

or Friend "Theodore Merklin" and I will add you.

EAA CHAPTER 857

BUTLER COUNTY-KBTP

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EAA 857 Chapter Officers for 2020

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	Rick Schubert
Newsletter / Web Page	Ted Merklin, Ed.
Young Eagles	Phil Kriley
Technical Advisors	Chuck Potts Bob Santolla
Board Members	Dan Hood 2020-2022 Bob Santolla 2020-2021 Gary Marsico 2020

EAA 857 - Chapter Meetings and Events for 2020

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 21	
		February 18	
		March 17	[CANCELLED]
		April 21	[CANCELLED]
		May 19	[CANCELLED]
		June 16	
		July 21	
		August 18	
		September 15	
		October 20	
		November 17	
EAA 857 Chili Cook Off -	Sunday,	February 9	
International Young Eagles Day -	Saturday,	June 13	[CANCELLED]
EAA 857 Fly-In and YE -	Sunday,	August 9	
EAA 857 Fly-In and YE -	Saturday,	September 13	

2020 National Events

Sun 'n Fun -	May 5 - 10	[CANCELLED]
Sentimental Journey -	June 16 - 20	[CANCELLED]
AirVenture Oshkosh 2020 -	July 20 - 26	[CANCELLED]