
Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association - Chapter 857

EAA 857 NEWSLETTER



In Honor of Veteran's Day 2021

**The Air Heritage C-47 "Luck of the Irish" passes over the
Burke Lakefront Airport during the Cleveland National Airshow**



Presidents Message

EAA 857 Members,

Our Annual Meeting of EAA Chapter 857 will be held on Tuesday 11/16 at 7pm in the KBTP conference room. The primary purpose for this meeting as previously announced is to elect a slate of officers for the program year 2022. This traditionally has been performed at this last meeting of the year in November. 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. We must have a quorum in order to conduct this business meeting. I will send you the meeting link to use prior to the meeting.

The slate of candidates for officers in 2022 include:

President	Phil Kriley
Vice President	Kyle Riedel
Treasurer	Frank Szczerba
Secretary	Josselyn Slagle
3 year Board Member	Ted Merklin

If you can not attend the meeting please send a proxy vote to me via email as previously requested. This vote will require a majority of chapter members to enact. Currently there are 34 members with voting privileges so passage will require 18 members in favor of the officer slate.

This will be my last Presidents Message for our newsletter publication, however I plan to continue as the Newsletter and Website Editor. The contents provide this month from Frank Szczerba, Bob Tedesco and Larry Schaefer are much appreciated as always and I encourage all of you to send in your articles from time to time to share with the chapter members.

Once again my thanks to all of you for your help at our meetings and events. It is your volunteerism that helps to drive the success of this chapter. We had good success this year with our Young Eagles events through the efforts of Phil and Robin Kriley as well as som many of you. It was a year of recovery from the impact of the viral pandemic the country experienced and in some ways that will continue for awhile. I would encourage all of you to attend our meetings and events whenever possible and bring your ideas for meeting content and activity, project updates, aviation interests etc to share with the rest of us as we move into 2022.

Ted Merklin,

President, EAA Chapter 857



ps: As usual there will be no scheduled chapter meeting or newsletter in the month of December. These will resume in January.



Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association–Chapter 857 Minutes of October 19, 2021 Regular Chapter Meeting

Opening: President Ted Merklin called the meeting to order at 07:05 P.M. and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting attendees: 9 members were present. Bob Weir, Chuck Warren and Josselyn Slagle were viewing from live stream on Google Meet. 2 visitors were present Leah and Rich Martin.

Previous Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the prior meeting are in the newsletter. Mike Neuman put forth the motion to accept and Mark Beighey seconded.

Treasurer's Report: 8 cents of interest in savings account was reported all balances noted. Chuck Warren put forth the motion to accept and Mark Beighey seconded.

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

IMC Club: Meeting tomorrow 7 pm in the boardroom at KBTP. The topic will be flight planning and tools to use during the process regarding weather.

Business: The following items were discussed:

- **Young Eagles:** Nothing new is known.

- **Air Academy:** Potential candidate Leah Martin was present for the meeting and has submitted her application to the National Committee. The older group's candidate has also applied to the National level.

- **Chapter Nominations:** Fast approaching think about who we want to see in these roles

- **Current Membership:** We have 36 total numbers and expect the number to remain steady

- **Boy Scout Event:** The event went well

- **Ray Aviation Scholarship:** We would like to apply for this scholarship for next year to choose a worthy candidate to receive \$10,000 towards private pilot license flight training. Gary Marsico has taken on this task.

- **Nomination of Members:** Frank Szczerba and Josselyn Slagle have indicated a desire to stay in current positions as (Treasurer and Secretary respectively). We will be voting at the next meeting in November. 1 and 2 year Board members continue their current terms. Motion put forth by Mike Neuman to accept tentative slate for officer nominations. Seconded by Chuck Warren.

- For President Phil Kriley

- VP Kyle Riedel

- Treasurer Frank Szczerba

- Secretary Josselyn Slagle

- 3 year Board Ted Merklin

Closing: The meeting was adjourned at 07:58 P.M. Mark Beighey made the motion to adjourn seconded by Mike Neuman.

Program: Following the 50/50, Frank Szczerba briefly reviewed his recent trip to Wichita for a Mooney safety conference.

Respectfully submitted:

Josselyn Slagle, Secretary EAA 857

Mooney Safety Foundation Pilot Proficiency Seminar

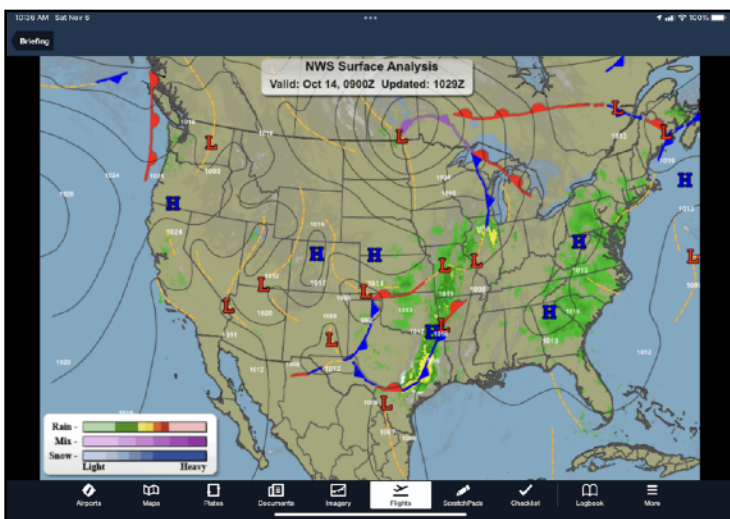
Part 1: Getting there

By: Frank Szczerba, Sr

Being a new Mooney owner, I joined the Mooney Aircraft Pilots Association (MAPA), and signed up for a Mooney Pilot Proficiency Program seminar. This program is offered by the MAPA Safety Foundation, and is modeled after the well-known Beechcraft Pilot Proficiency Program. It offers 2 to 3 days of focused training from Mooney experts, with both ground school and flight training, including both a Flight Review and IPC. While the seminars are offered at various locations around the country, the only remaining event for 2021 was planned for Wichita. This seemed like a perfect opportunity to try out my new traveling machine. At 835 nm direct, the trip should take about 6 hours out and 4.5 on the return.

In the days leading up to the trip, I was closely watching a large frontal system that stretched across the central plains, bringing high winds and heavy precipitation. On Wednesday, it passed through Wichita the day before bringing 60 knot gusts, an inch of rain in a little more than an hour, and a 10°F drop in temperatures. The weekend weather promised to provide for great flying in Wichita, if only I could get there safely.

Thursday morning dawned grey and foggy in Butler. A check of the current conditions and forecasts for the day showed a low pressure system over central Missouri, with scattered showers and several large gaps that should allow me to penetrate the front without risking anything more than light precipitation. This became my Plan A, but going nonstop would mean possible IMC and turbulence in the latter part of a 5 hour flight, which was more risk than I was willing to take, so I looked for a good place to stop ahead of the front.



Not the nicest flying weather



Climbing out on top over Beaver

ForeFlight quickly led me to KCUL, Carmi Municipal in southern Illinois. The reviews were good, promising a nice lounge and a crew car that I could use to visit the nearby town should I need to wait out the frontal passage on the ground. This became my solid plan B. It didn't hurt that Carmi had 100LL for \$3.90/gallon, less than I was paying for Premium at Costco in Cranberry. I loaded up some drinks and a hoagie from Sheetz and set out for the airport. I picked up the plane from AirQuest (my standby vacuum pump had failed on Tuesday), loaded up my bags and fuel, picked up my clearance and taxied out to runway 26.



120 kias and 600 fpm climb at 9000' and ISA+10 (10,000' density altitude)!

By 10:50 local I was wheels-up and climbing to 10,000' on an assigned 270° heading until west of the Bravo, then direct HLG and as-filed for the rest of the flight. Once past HLG I was cleared to 12k for the rest of the flight. With the headwinds I was seeing 145 kts groundspeed, though this deteriorated as I went further west, to as low as 135 kts over Indiana and southern Illinois. I flew the RNAV 18 into Carmi, breaking out early for a sporty landing in gusty crosswinds from the approaching front. Carmi doesn't report winds, but the windsock was standing straight out, so it was at least 15 kts. I landed at 14:00 EDT (13:00 local), making for a 3h10m flight, slightly more than my planned 2h46m thanks to the stronger-than-forecast headwinds.

A Nice little airport...





...with cheap fuel...



in the middle of nowhere!

At Carmi, I topped off with that \$3.90/gallon 100LL and chatted with an RV-7 owner who was passing through on his way to a weekend of camping in Tennessee with some fellow RV owners. I had planned to have my lunch here, but it was hot and muggy and the weather was starting to deteriorate. A quick check of my planned route to Wichita showed that the forecast was largely holding up, with only a handful of stations reporting MVFR conditions and no thunderstorms yet forming. I decided to eat lunch in the air, called Evansville Approach by phone to pick up my clearance, and headed out, wheels up and climbing to 8000' at 13:36 local.

An hour later I was passing St Louis and approaching the front with a 36 kt headwind. I climbed to 10k to stay visual, and passed through the front with nothing worse than a bit of light chop and a quick bath for 7DT. Once past Whiteman AFB and approaching Independence, MO, I was clear of the front and seeing 165 kts groundspeed. Once I was handed off to Wichita Approach I heard a lot of Mooneys on the frequency. Must be some kind of convention or something....

On the approach into KICT I overflow runway after runway, more than a dozen within the 15 miles or so to the east of Eisenhower Field and 33 in the area... truly the air capital of the world! It gave me a new appreciation for the Dreamlifter crew who landed at Jabara instead of McConnell AFB in 2013.

Thankfully, I landed on the correct runway at the right airport, KICT runway 19L at 16:38 local for a 148 kt average groundspeed, and after a short taxi parked on the ramp at Yingling Aviation, our hosts for the weekend. If you're ever in Wichita, consider stopping at Yingling. The facility is beautiful, the staff friendly and attentive, and the prices reasonable for a big airport.

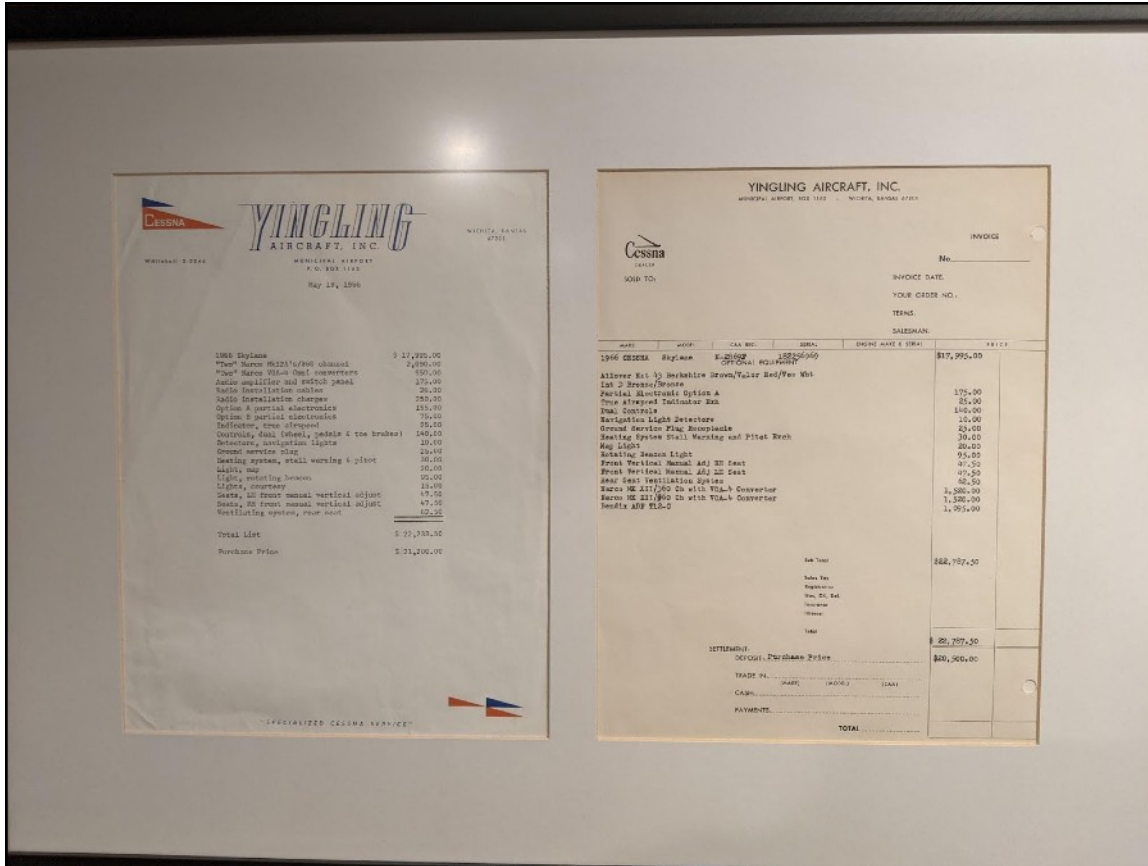
With the plane secured and fuel ordered, I headed across the street to check in at the Doubletree, where I got to know the MAPA Safety Foundation staff, instructors, and my fellow attendees over dinner at Chisholm's American Beef and Ale House, then an early bed time in anticipation of a 7AM start on Friday.



The Yingling Aviation front desk.



Just one of the lounge areas at Yingling.



\$20,500 for a new Skylane in 1966!

N197DT on the ramp at KICT





Ramp full of Mooneys, ranging from an M20A to an Acclaim

Project Update: Zenith CH701

by Bob Tedesco

Recently, my daughter Teresa helped me to assemble my project/hobby for a project club update and interference check. A few things emerged: wing root panels and windshield need adjusted to fit and inboard flaperons need cut for final fit.

Other work needed for final inspection:

- More "first" painting plus some third coats
- Interior preliminary upholstery (daughter Kathy)
- Some fuel system work: gauges, valves, plumbing
- Brake line leak.
- Some final riveting (fit & drilled already)
- Fit the front cowling (using a piano hinge mounting)
- Some fiberglass shaping of inlets and vents on the cowling (the overall cowling has been formed for the 701)
- Some additional instrument & pitot work
- Some additional vinyl work (bottom stripes & air bubbles)



Rear Fuse View



Empennage View



Best Angle View



I'll probably move it to my Farm Show hangar in the Spring, and I think that I am closing in on inspection...summer 2022?

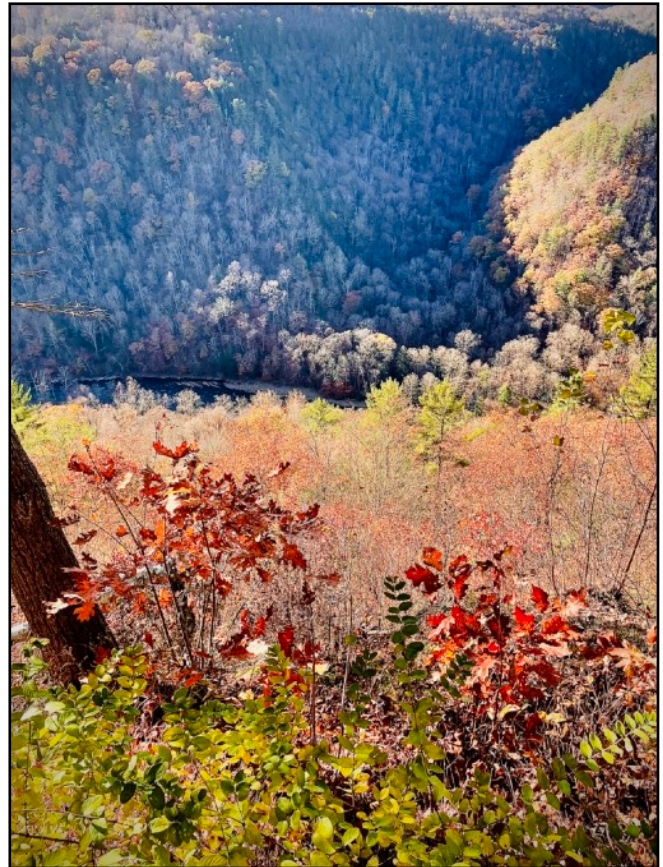
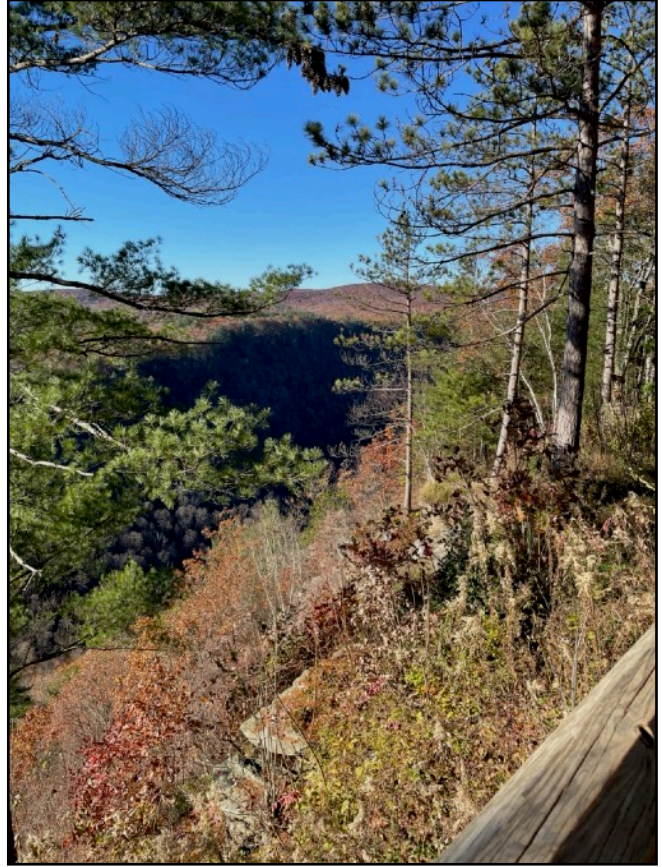
Bob T.

A fall excursion to the Grand Canyon of PA

Larry Schaefer shared a series of photos from a trip he and Gary Marsico took recently to Wellsboro in north central Pennsylvania. This is in the vicinity of the Grand Canyon of PA. It was clearly a great day for flying and scenery!









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, To be Announced.	
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

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 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
Website / Newsletter	Ted Merklin	