
Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association - Chapter 857

EAA 857 NEWSLETTER



What Might Have Been

Sentimental Journey has been canceled for 2020; a popular gathering for the members of EAA 857. So, looking back several years, here is an image of the iconic Piper J-3 Cub playing on its home turf.

Presidents Message

EAA 857 Members,

The disruptions due to Covid-19 continue. New positive cases are encountered daily even as the state government considers how and when to relax the limitations placed on our work and social activities. This has led us to once again **cancel** our April 21 chapter meeting, due to state mandates. We shall have to see what transpires in the weeks ahead regarding the May meeting. In the meantime, please follow all the recommended guidelines for remaining safe and healthy at this time.



We did have a program presentation by the National Weather Service scheduled for our April meeting however this has been tentatively rescheduled for August. Also, the April weekend camporee for 70-100 Boy Scouts that would have been held this weekend, had been rescheduled for May but has now been cancelled. Other disruptions to our calendar have included cancellations of Sun 'n Fun and Sentimental Journey, and unfortunately the EAA Air Academy camps for 2020. Our camp candidate will have the option to attend next year if he so chooses.

The EAA has made no announcement yet as to the status of the June 13th, International Young Eagles Day, although they did submit additional guidelines for Young Eagle Rallies regarding health precautions. We will need to see what the state of Pennsylvania determines is necessary regarding social gatherings as we move through May into June. It will depend on the states position and our Board of Directors, pilot, and ground volunteers comfort level as to whether the event takes place.

I understand and you may have seen messaging from Oshkosh that AirVenture is still in active planning and preparation for July 20-26, with the next decision date during May on whether to continue forward.

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 5/19/2020 at the normal time, 7pm, and place. 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 March 17, 2020 Meeting

The scheduled monthly meeting for March 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.

Checkers

By Bob Santolla

I know that we've been cooped up for weeks with this crazy Covid-19 virus and cannot wait for some normalcy back into our lives and I hope that you are all well and made good use of your time in social isolation.

For those members that are building or working on your airplane you should have been able to make great progress with this time in your shops with no disruptions. Those not building perhaps you thought about adding a rating to your ticket and spent this time hitting the books preparing for the written test, or brushing up on FAR's and the 2020 AIM manual.

I was disappointed as many of you when I heard the news that Sun N Fun 2020 was canceled along with the cancellation of the Sentimental Journey 2020. Let us keep our fingers crossed that AirVenture 2020 is still on!

My article this month is about checkerboards, not the game, but trying to paint them on my Pitts Special as an added detail which I found out to be more complex than a game of checkers with a pro.

I literally spent weeks trying to figure out how the paint scheme should look. The detail of adding a checkerboard pattern became a problem of how does one layout the pattern and masking for paint. My first design was just a plain checkerboard pattern with equal size blocks for the checkers. Then I thought why not have the checkerboard design waving like a checker flag. Boy did that get complex in a hurry! In hindsight I forgot the K.I.S.S. principle.

Here are pictures of my thoughts for masking out the wing to paint the checkerboard pattern in stages. Once the wing was painted and trimmed in black, I cut 4 inch cardboard squares to use as a paint mask pattern. The masking and painting would require a certain sequence to accomplish successfully. I found out very early that there needed to be a better way to accomplish this job. So I decided on plan "B".

Plan "B" was calling a few sign shops around town and explaining what I was trying to achieve. I was on the right track when I sat down with one of the sign company employees and he used his computer to show me different waving checkerboard designs.



I choose what I thought was the best looking design that matched my ideas and gave him the dimensions which he then produced the correct size vinyl films. The material they used is 3M product film about 3 mils thick which is laser cut then applied to a mask which is then transferred to the airplane surface.

I let them apply the first checkerboard film on the elevator. They explained the procedure to me and I did the rest myself. Basically you position the vinyl mask where you want it, then tape it in place, with masking tape, pull off the protective paper backing, and using a plastic squeegee, with felt edge to smooth down the transfer. Some bubbles would form under the film but were easily squeezed out.

These are some pictures of the simple tools needed and the application of the vinyl film. The vinyl 3M product is very durable and does not fade in the sun and is unaffected by fuel and oils.



As you can see, my problem of masking and painting was easily solved with the simple use of vinyl film and some extra hours in the shop. We learn from our mistakes and how to do something better and easier by thinking out the problem and talking with other builders.

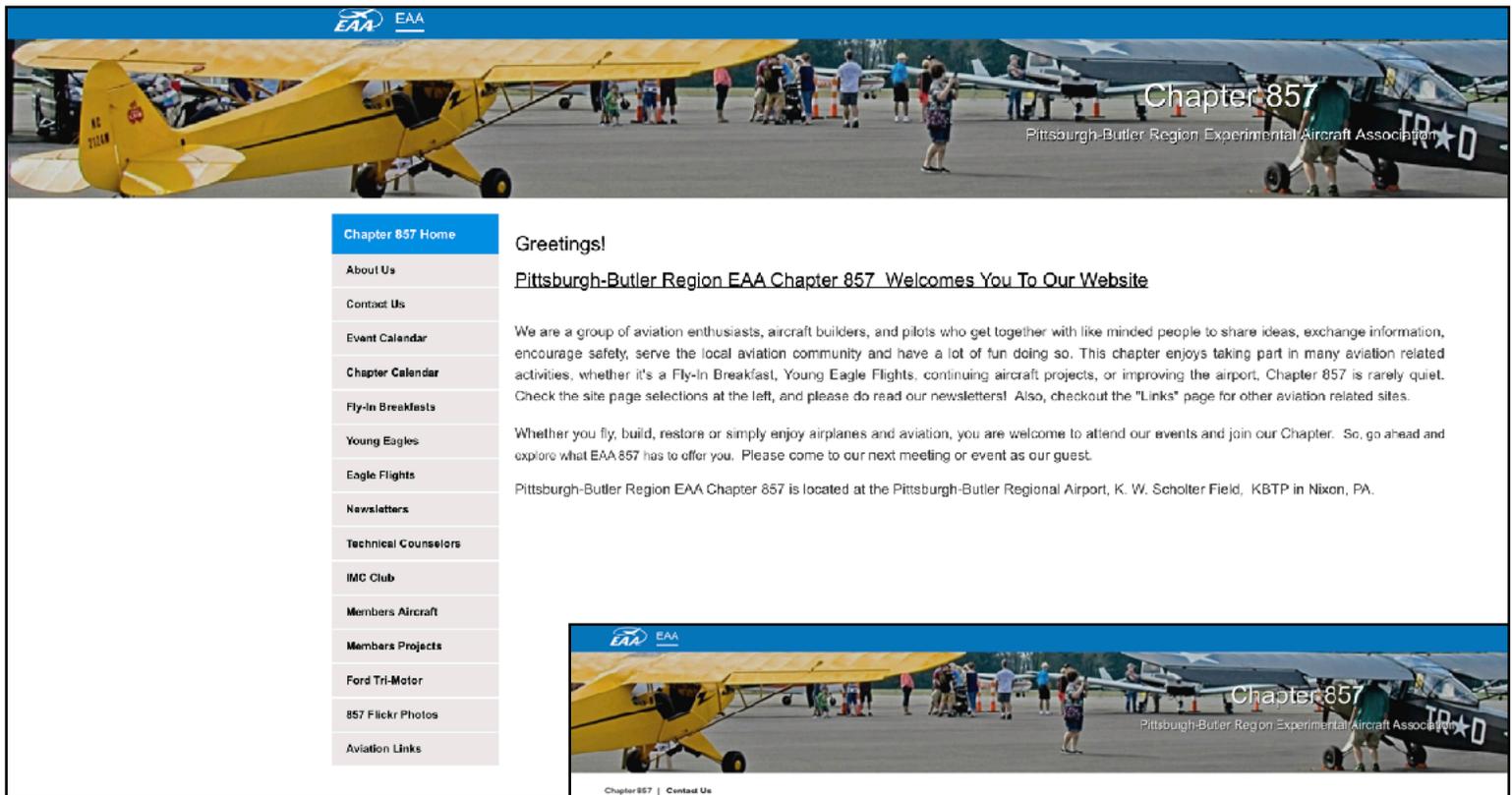
I hope this will be of value to those that are thinking really “cool” paint jobs and remember the K.I.S.S. principle. Get to work and keep on building!



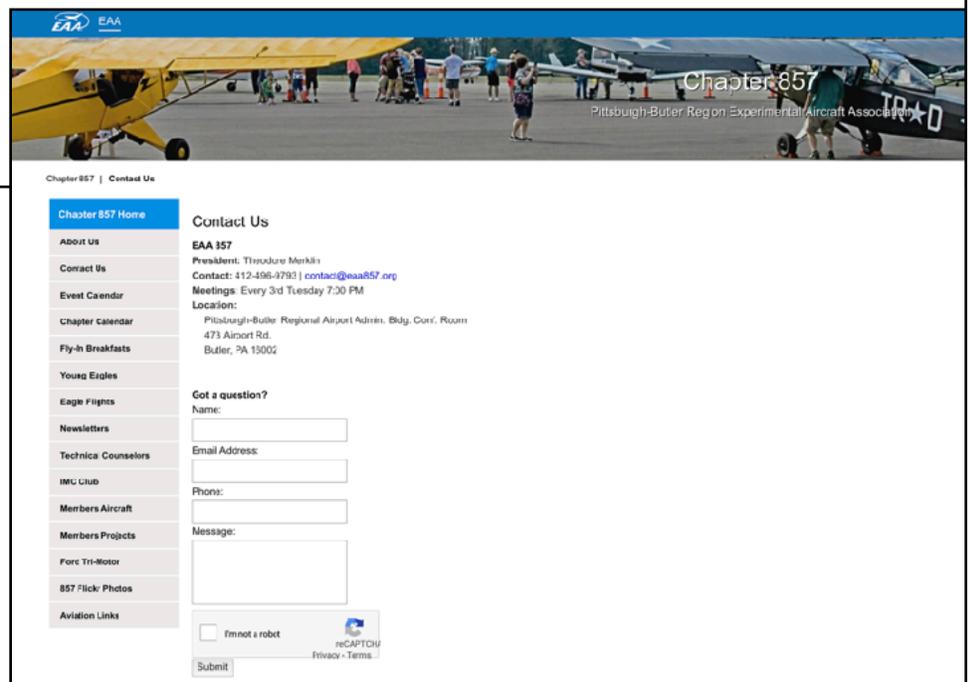
The New EAA Chapter 857 Website

On March 31, 2020 the website we have been used to seeing for some years expired as the agreement between the EAA and the service provider expired. The new chapter website programming structure sponsored by the EAA is now provided by Sitecore, who also provides the programming for the national EAA webpages.

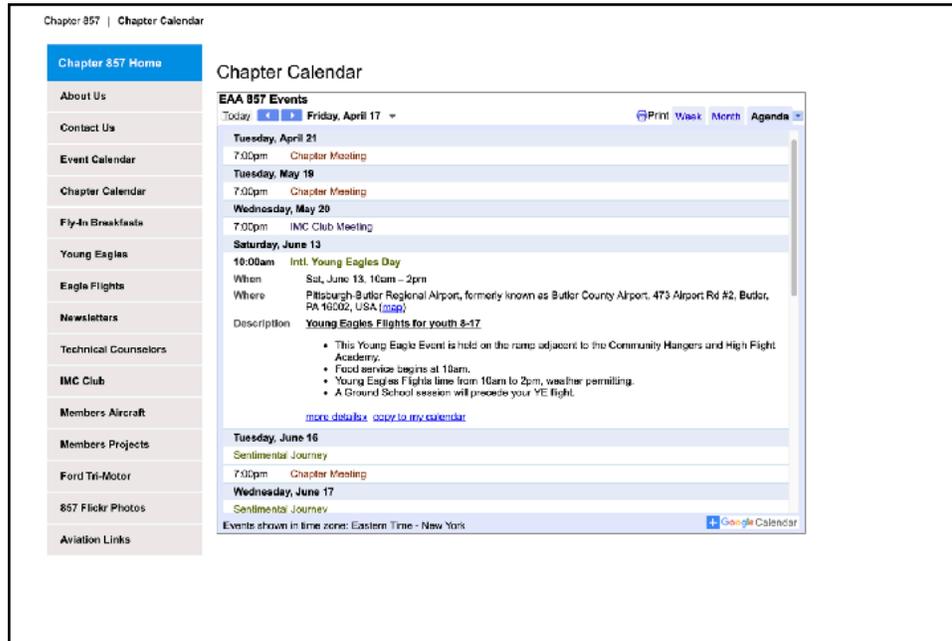
The figure below is the home page of our EAA 857 site. Its URL is <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea857>. Note that any saved link you have to the old site's homepage URL will redirect to the new home page. I will go over several of the pages within the site here but please go visit and explore our new website for your selves. I welcome any feedback you may have.



The tabbed links on the left go to multiple subject matter pages that describe aspects of our organization such as the Young Eagles program, our fly-in breakfasts and our newsletter archive for example. The “About Us” tab gives a synopsis of our chapter with some contact information to the President. The “Contact Us” tab provides a means to send the chapter an email by the reader.



There is a new feature presenting a “Chapter Calendar” as seen in the image at the top of the following page. This is derived from a Google Calendar of events for the chapter which is linked into our website.

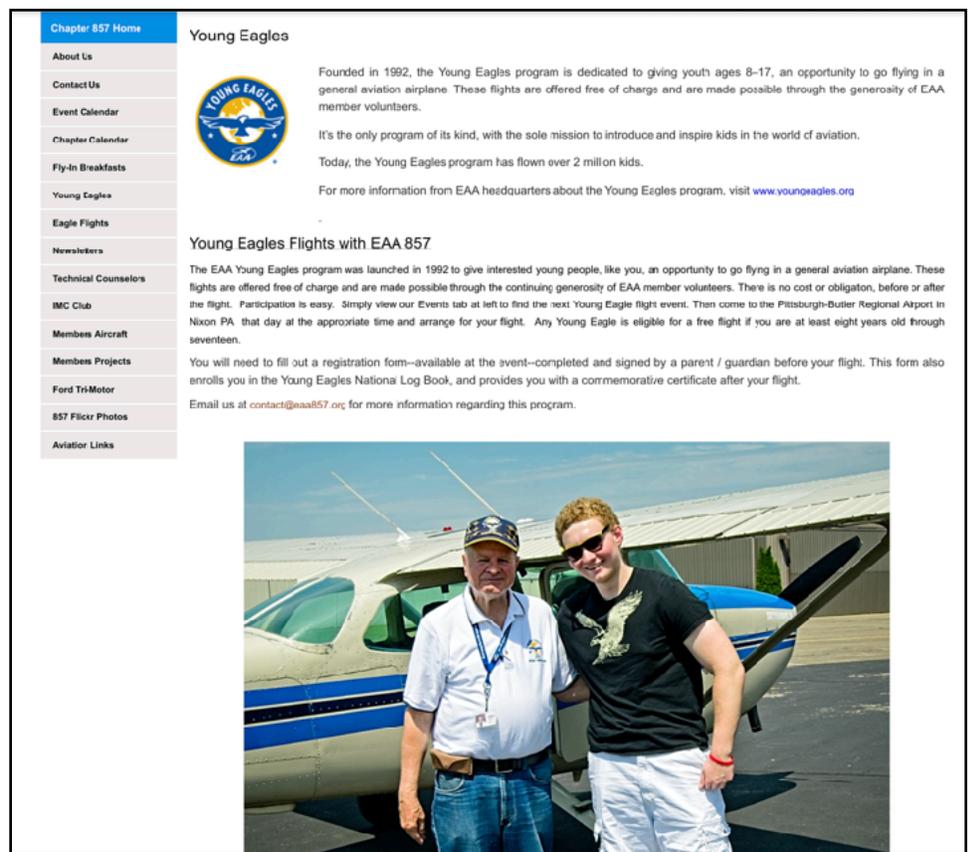


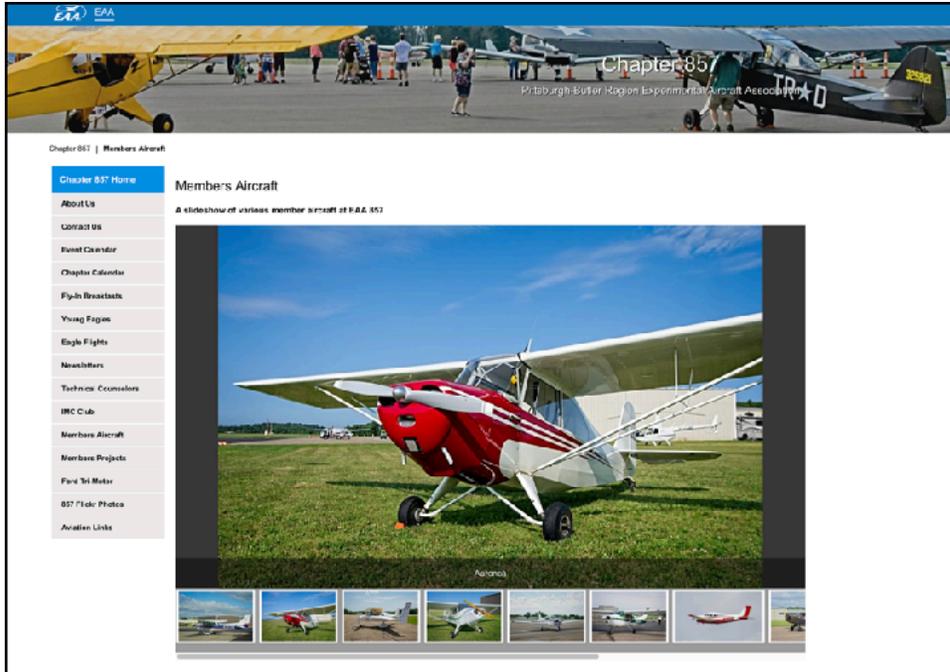
In the image at left you can see that there are event items that are color coded by type, such as the Chapter Meetings in red, IMC meetings in purple, specialty items in green. In this image, the International Young Eagle dated item was clicked on to expand the information to show details for the event. You can see that there is even a link to a Google Map for the KBTP site.

This presentation is the Agenda format as a default, however the user can select to view the calendar in a weekly or monthly presentation by the selection tabs at the upper right. Also, the down arrow allows the user to filter what event type is presented in the view.

The “Young Eagles” page describes the program and towards the bottom of the page provides a contact point for the Young Eagles Co-ordinator. If we implement online registration for our YE events, then this page would automatically provide a link to that process.

Similar pages are provided for the “Eagle Flights”, “Technical Counselors”, and “IMC Club” selections with contact information for those chapter lead personnel.

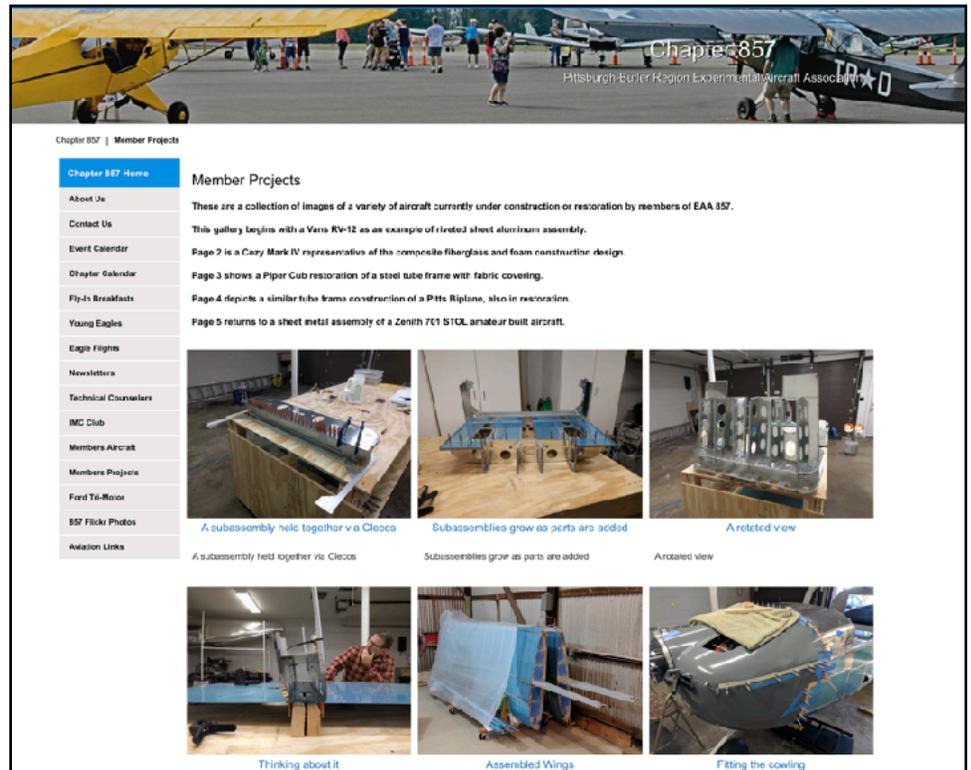


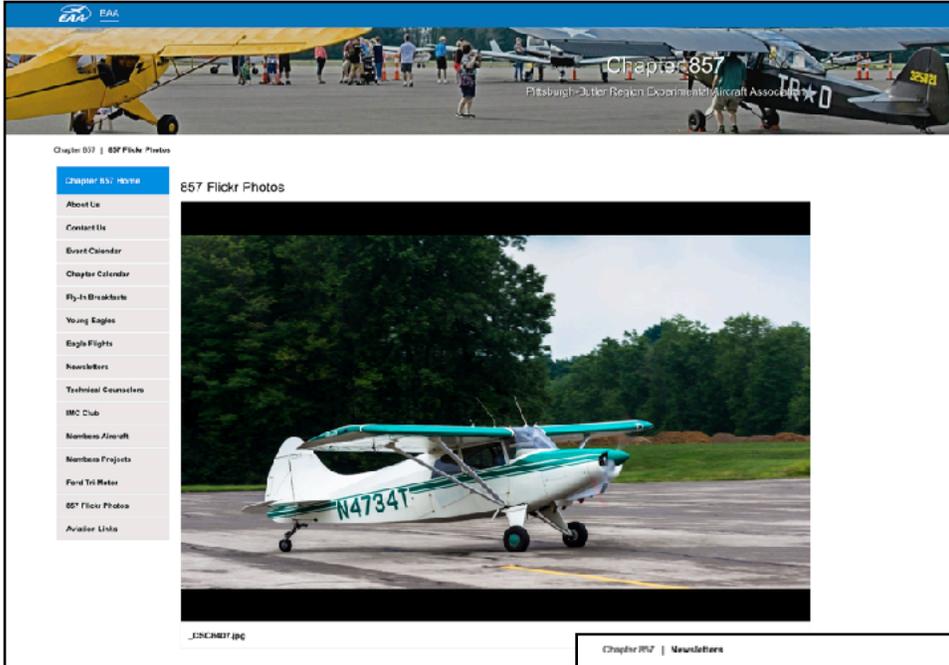


There are several alternative presentation styles currently used for photo pages. At the left is the “carousel” style I used for “Members Aircraft”. Selecting a thumbnail in the bottom row, displays the larger image above.

There is a multipage grid style presentation in the current layout that shows images for various “Member Projects”. Click on an image to see an enlarged view.

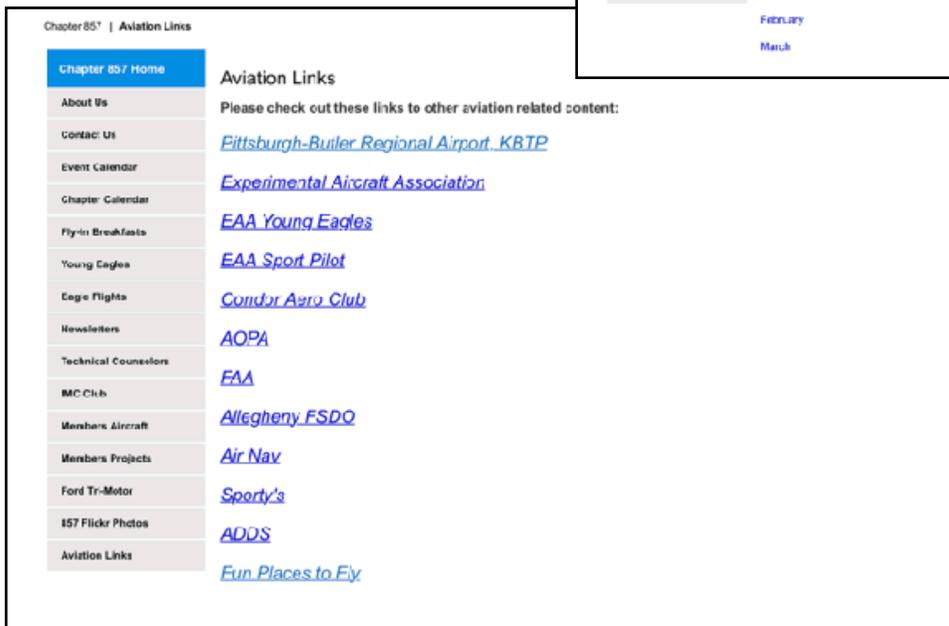
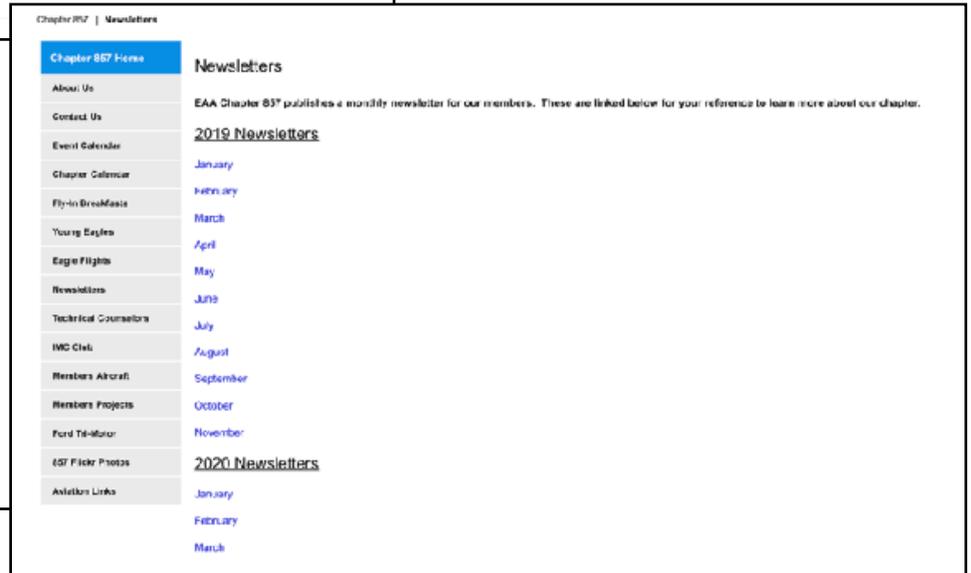
This presentation format was also used for the photos in the “Ford Tri-Motor” tab. Check it out! There is even a link to a You Tube movie of the Tri-Motor from our 2015 event!





A third photo presentation format that is available to use is to link to a Flickr page of photos such as at the left. When you hover over the photo, a left or right hand arrow appears on the respective margins of the image. Click on that arrow to navigate through the list of photos contained on the linked Flickr web site.

The page shown at the right is the “Newsletters” archive for 2019 and 2020 with links to each months newsletter in PDF format. This is updated with each new newsletter as it is published.



The final page in the current layout is a set of pertinent links to URLs for sites of interest to our chapter members. Click on one such as the KBTP site link at the top of the list to go to the site you wish to visit.



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 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 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
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	
AirVenture Oshkosh 2020 -	July 20 - 26	