



EAA 857's Danny Michaels with members of the 911 air wing at KPIT. Danny had an opportunity to tour the base and inspect their Boeing C-17 Globemaster. He shares his experience in an article for this newsletter.

Presidents Message



Hello EAA 857,

Would you believe its March with the weather? I wouldn't. I suppose the ground hog did see the shadow. I hope you have all had a chance to take advantage of the warmer weeks we have had. This month's meeting will feature chapter recognition for leadership roles. The hope is to sail through the business and spend most of our time socializing. We should have a few younger members in attendance.

Airplane spotting!

Lately, I have been spending more hours at airports than ever before and with that I have seen some interesting planes rolling by or in this case into the hangar for routine inspection. This one caught my attention. Yes, that is the grinch on the tail. I didn't get a chance to speak to the owner. I did see him start up and throttle up to get the tail to come up off the ground so that the airplane was on all three wheels. Very interesting to watch.

See you on Tuesday,

Joss Slagle

Chapter President



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



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

Opening: President Josselyn Slagle called to order at 7:07 P.M. and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting attendees: 9 members and 1 visitor were present.

Previous Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the prior meeting are in the newsletter. Motion to accept the minutes put forth Kyle Riedal and seconded by Danny Michaels.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report submitted by email from Frank Szczerba was reviewed. Motion to accept put forth by Ted Merklin and seconded by Kyle Riedal.

Newsletter: The February's 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. (Plan to do maintenance on the website)

Tech Advisor: Last meeting talked about getting a projects space. Couple of rotation lease coming in the summer. Talked about storage space. \$160 per month. Butler farm show hanger available. May or June we will hear more about the rotation. Possible to offer a course for light sport airmen requirement... need 12-15 pilots an order to operate.

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, March 19, 2023

IMC meeting: IMC discussion on IFR Illusions

Young Eagles: The event dates remain June 8th and August 10th. We will run both EAA events through the terminal building. EAA is updating the registration software, should become available April or May. August 24, 2024 10-4pm...Joss will be hosting wings and wheels event at new Castle. Idea is to bring our event to the event in new castle. Helicopter rides.

Air Academy: Ian Geikowsky has received the paperwork to move forward with the medical. Scheduled for the Second session.

Ray Aviation: The Ray Aviation Scholarship Coordinator provided a brief update on the Chapter's involvement with this scholarship. For the 2023 Ray Scholar, Colin Daniello is working on his January and February Flying reports. Due to weather, he has flown very little, but that is to be expected. High Flight Academy has received the last installment of the scholarship funding--\$2,200.

For the 2024 program year, the scholarship committee interviewed all five the applicants on 29 January. We are awaiting final notification from EAA National on our application to again receive a 100% funding scholarship (\$11,000).

For the 2025 program year, the scholarship coordinator has drafted a donor form that would allow individuals and corporations to provide a tax deductible charitable donation explicitly for the 25%/75% Scholarship. Having the ability to receive the funding via this type of scholarship would guarantee our future participation in the program if we meet it and a few other parameters. Future information about this will be published in the Chapter Newsletter.

Old Business: N/A

New Business: Schedule a board meeting to discuss the New Castle event. Also discuss Boy scout's event, and Check signatures.

Closing: The meeting was adjourned Kylie Riedal and seconded by Ted Merklin at approximately 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Destinyjay Maletta,
EAA 857 Secretary

C-17 Globemaster III

By Danny Michaels

One of the benefits of getting older is that your friends get older, too, and one of mine happens to be a two-star, Major General in the Air Force. A few weeks ago he called out of the blue, inviting me to join him on an informal inspection of the US Air Force 911th Airlift Wing in Pittsburgh, in preparation for a command change ceremony the following day. General D. Scott Durham (I call him “Scott”...callsign “Bull”) has been an Air Traffic Controller, C-130E Hercules Pilot, and C-17A Globemaster III Pilot, with over 330 combat hours, so he knows every inch of the C-17. It was a thrilling tour. I crawled into/out-of every square inch of the aircraft, even up into the landing gear wells, and I was able to sit in the left seat in the cockpit. I get goosebumps thinking about it.

Just when I thought the tour was over, I was ushered into a secure area where I relinquished my phone and possessions, then into a gymnasium-sized room filled with a brand new, two-story C-17 full motion simulator. It still had that new car smell! Scott let me sit in the left seat and walked me through all phases of flight. Wow! Just wow! The simulator uses satellite imagery, similar to the new Microsoft Flight Simulator (but better), that provides a strikingly accurate version of the terrain. It looked and felt exactly like the real aircraft I sat in moments prior.

I got to take off, fly some maneuvers around downtown Pittsburgh, (attempt to) dock with a tanker (I failed), and shoot an ILS approach back into Pittsburgh, which I did well. The aircraft has a HUD (heads up display) which is addicting and very helpful (can someone please invent this for GA!). The entire PFD is at eye level, so there is no need to look down. Landing was particularly interesting; set a pitch attitude of 5°, lock it in on the flight computer, and then control vertical speed with power (more power to ascend, spoilers or no power to descend) and ailerons for lateral control. Point the aircraft at the numbers following a dot in the HUD, keeping the aircraft on the glideslope with power/spoilers and ailerons, and flare solely with power. It was strange touching down so high off the ground. What a rush!

I can't say enough about the 911th Airlift Wing. They are a class act! We were greeted by a C-17 crew, including ground support, and ferried to the ramp via shuttle for the tour. For security reasons, I could not take photos of everything, but they allowed some general pics, which I've included and annotated here. I told them about our EAA council and they are open to some sort of event or modified tour should we have interest down the line.

I'm including some information about the C-17 from the Air Force website. I recommend clicking on the video at the top of the website to open the video full screen. You can see the spoilers in action and many other great features. The website also includes a great summary of the aircraft, including mission, features, background, and specifications: <https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/1529726/c-17-globemaster-iii/>

You can learn more about the 911th Airlift Wing here: <https://www.pittsburgh.afrc.af.mil/About-Us/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/183663/911th-airlift-wing/>

I'm a little biased, but the C-17 Globemaster III is my favorite military aircraft.



Danny Michaels in the cockpit of the C-17. Notice the stick control (no yoke).



Cargo bay facing the back of the aircraft.

Every section of the floor flips to reveal rollers, hooks, and any type of connector you can imagine.





40,440 pounds of thrust!

Landing gear bay with titanium ribs. It can withstand a 1000/min landing with over 500,000 pound gross weight. You'll crack your ribs before cracking the landing gear.





IMC Club

The IMC Club session will follow the regularly scheduled monthly member meeting at approximately 2000-2015. We will start with the following video scenario as a bridge into the pilot discussion.

You are welcome to preview the scenario:

IMC March 2024 - [A Shaky Flight - Scenarios - IMC Club Videos \(bcvp0rtal.com\)](#).

VP Kyle Riedel

Defining the Future of the Ray Aviation Scholarship in Chapter 857

Gary Marsico and I have had the honor of serving as Ray Aviation Scholarship Coordinators over the last three years and due to everyone’s efforts, we are on track to have three successful graduates of this uniquely funded and structured program.

In 2024, the Ray Foundation will be awarding 111 matching scholarships (25/75) and 91 full Ray Scholarships (figure included). Due to the good graces of the foundation, we have received a fully funded scholarship for the third year in a role. But this participation in the full scholarship program needs to be transitioned with other chapters to the 25/75 model to ensure it continues as a program within Chapter 857.

To make this transition, Chapter 857 is launching the ability for individuals and business entities to provide a dedicated donation just to this effort. Chapter 857 needs to raise \$2,750 to sustain this program. If we raise this amount of funding, we will automatically be granted the scholarship in 2025 since we already have a successful graduate (Naomi Wigley).

To support this effort, we have created a dedicated donation form to be made available to our membership and other entities to create the awareness of this program’s success and to seek assistance in making it successful in successive years. Questions can be directed to the current Ray Aviation Scholarship Coordinator-Kyle Riedel (contact email on the attached form).

Thanks for the continued support of the educational program.

VP Kyle Riedel

2024 Ray Aviation Scholarship Results

Congratulations!

- **Your chapter has been approved for a scholarship in 2024!**
- **202 scholarships in 2024**
 - 111 matching (25/75) Ray Scholarships
 - 91 full Ray Scholarships
- **157 chapters in the program this year**
 - 17 chapters are participating for the first time!

EAA 677's scholar John Barber after passing his Private Pilot checkride!

EAA.org/RayScholarship



EAA Chapter 857

2025 Ray Aviation Scholarship Donation

**Yes, include me as a Ray Aviation Scholarship Donor
for the 2025 Ray Aviation Scholarship Program!**

Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 857 is reliant upon external donations to support 25% (or \$2,750) for one (1) Private Pilot Airplane Scholarship in 2025. The remaining 75% (or \$8,250) will be funded via the Ray Aviation Scholarship which is administered by the EAA national office in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 857 participated in the Ray Aviation Scholarship during the previous two years, and it is a proven program which generates a high level of success in achieving flight certificates as compared to the national average. Your donation will explicitly be used for the purpose of funding a flight scholarship for a local applicant in 2025. As always, your contribution to EAA Chapter is tax deductible.

Thank you again!

Kyle Riedel, Ray Scholarship Coordinator (riedel.kyle@yahoo.com)

Donation Form

I, _____, donate \$_____ to EAA Chapter 857 specifically.

Print Name (FN, MI, LN) or Corporate Entity

for the Ray Aviation Scholarship 25/75 Scholarship Program and I understand that my donation will be used explicitly for that purpose. This pledge will be paid to EAA Chapter 857 and the matching funds for the remaining 75% through EAA National from the Ray Foundation Inc.

Signature

Date

Address (Street, City, State, Zip)

Email Address

Phone Number

Please return this completed form with your donation to the Ray Scholarship Coordinator (above) not later than 15 December 2024. Direct any questions to riedel.kyle@yahoo.com or to contact@EAA857.org.

Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 857, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions to the chapter are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.
EIN 84-3116746

EAA 857 member Chris McGeary has advised us that this local aviation event is coming up in early May. This is the Cheat River Fly-in, May 11, near Rowlesburg WV. See the link below for a detail description of this event.

<https://cheatriverflyin.com/>



Also, here is a reminder that Sun 'n Fun in Lakeland FL is near at hand on April 9 - 14. EAA 857 has often had members in attendance there in past years. Are any of you going this year?

Also nearby to us is the Columbus Air Show which will be held June 14-16 at Rickenbacker International airport near Columbus Ohio. The USAF Thunderbird Demo Team will perform at this show. See <https://columbusairshow.com/>

EAA 857 President Joss Slagle adds this event in our planning for August!

AIRPLANE RIDES

FREE TO ATTEND!



LOCAL FOOD TRUCKS

FEATURING

- DEMONSTRATION FLIGHTS
- SAFETY SEMINAR



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VINTAGE CARS

DASH PLAQUES FOR A LIMITED # OF VINTAGE CARS



ONE DAY ONLY!

SATURDAY AUGUST 24TH • 10AM TO 4PM

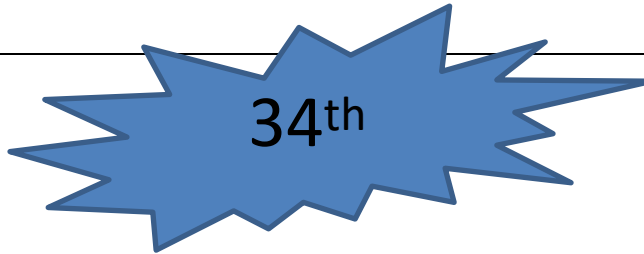
NEW CASTLE AIRPORT

406 Frank Farone Drive New Castle, PA 16101



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Oshkosh Bus Trip 2024
EAA AirVenture – July 23rd to July 27th



This year we will leave from the Butler Farm Show Airport (3G9) on Tuesday, July 23rd and return on Saturday, July 27th. We'll spend three full days at the air show, stay at Ripon College, and travel on an air conditioned coach bus. The cost of the trip includes 4 nights lodging, breakfast each morning, transportation, and the opportunity to travel with wonderful people. The cost of the trip is:

Double Occupancy: \$395.00/per person

Private Room: \$495.00/ per person

If you are interested in joining us this year, then I will need a deposit check in the amount of **\$100.00** made out to **Kent L. Shoemaker**. I will send additional trip information to participants in May and that's when final payments will be due. Complete the registration form below and send it, along with the deposit check, to: **Kent L. Shoemaker 225 Glade Run Road Renfrew, PA 16053**

If you have any questions about this year's Oshkosh Bus Trip, please give me a call, text or Email.. **724-766-5847** or kentLshoemaker@gmail.com.

Name: _____ **Telephone #:** _____

Email Address: _____

Home Address: _____

Indicate your lodging choice: _____ Double Occupancy _____ Private Room

Roommate if applicable: _____ Amount Paid: \$ _____



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
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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