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Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association - Chapter 857

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# EAA 857 NEWSLETTER

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P51D "Gunfighter" rolling out upon landing at AirVenture Oshkosh 2024

## Presidents Message

Hello EAA Chapter 857,

Last year at this time I was sharing DestinyJay Maletta has passed her instrument check ride and Anthony Gazda had passed his private pilot check ride. This year I don't have any exciting flying news to share. The weather has been bitter, and it has been challenging to make substantial student progress. Miss. Samantha Burke (our Ray Aviation Scholarship recipient) will soon take a check ride when we finally get a break in the weather. She has been working diligently to be prepared when her moment comes.

One exciting bit of personal news I would like to share is that I was selected as the 2025 FAAS Team Rep of the Year for the district. The Allegheny FSDO presented me with the award on February 13th, 2025.

This month we will have a board meeting and regular meeting all in one night. As usual board meetings are public. You are welcome to join us at 6 P.M. prior to our monthly meeting. We also look forward to seeing you at 7 P.M. Lately, our meetings have been very well attended, and I would like to thank every one of you for that.

Kindly,

Joss Slagle

Chapter President



**Note:** Chapter membership dues are \$25 for 2025 and **are now due and payable**. You may add a family membership for an additional \$10. You must be a member of the national EAA to join EAA Chapter 857.



## Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association—Chapter 857 Minutes of the January 21, 2024 Regular Meeting

**Opening:** President Josselyn Slagle called to order at 7:00 P.M. and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Meeting attendees:** 16 members were present and 1 visitor.

**Previous Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the prior November meeting are in the newsletter. Motion to accept the minutes put forth by Dan Hood and seconded by Frank Szczerba.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report submitted by email from Frank Szczerba was reviewed. Motion to accept by Kyle Riedel seconded by Dan Hood.

**Newsletter:** The January'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.

**Next Regular Meeting:** Tuesday, February 18st , 2024

**IMC / VMC meeting:** IMC Tonight after closing.

**Young Eagles:** June 14th Sat, International YE event. August 9th, the local YE event.

- The new software should be up and running. Ted Merklin wants to do the write up of the schedule for the June event.
- Danny Michaels offers to have a table to sign kids up at a event to fly during the Mars New Year event on June 7th. Ted Merklin suggests to not open registration until the day of that event. Danny Michaels would like to sponsor a CFI to rent a plane to participate at the YE event.
- Motion to plan to support the mars event and 2 YE flight rallies for June 14th and August 9th. Tentative accept those dates, then let the board confirm those dates. Motion to accept Kyle Riedel seconded by Dan Hood. The board agreed to solidify the June dates. All in favor.

**Air Academy:** Ted Merklin checked that Carter Straub's parents received the document packet; the deposit was made.

- Carter Stroud has a fraction of the tuition that needs to be paid in May.
- The deposit \$200 was paid by the chapter in October.
- We should be applying our 2024 YE's credits (not yet announced by EAA) to his tuition.

**Ray Aviation:**

- Sam Burke flew 14 hours in October and is in her final check-ride prep time. She has used the \$11,000 of the 2024 scholarship.
- Received 4 applications for the 2025 Ray Aviation Scholarship. Not all are complete yet.
- We also received a notification for the new scholarship update.



- 1 of the applicants is in a collegiate flying program, which may be an issue to resolve. The scholarship board will try to do all 4 interviews in 1 hour by February.

**New Business:** The 2024 chapter volunteer service pins and certificates were awarded.

- Feb 10th, Joss Slagle is doing an FAA safety seminar at 7:00pm. Topic is on General Aviation Survival skills.

**Old Business:**

Hanger Lease; we did not have anyone to apply for it. We have to give the airport authority 30 days to let them know if we want to discontinue it.

**Closing:** The meeting was adjourned by Frank Szczerba and seconded by Danny Micheals at approximately 7:37 P.M.

**Program:** Kyle Riedel presented the IMC decision scenario topic of the month, “Wrong Altitude”

Respectfully submitted:

Destinyjay Maletta, EAA 857 Secretary



**Cessna A37B Dragonfly**

## Piper Rudder AD Issued

With several Cubs and a Tri-Pacer project in our midst I thought this screenshot from the EAA media site regarding applicable AD news would surely be beneficial for those members of the chapter

EAA | News & Publications | News |

**Final Piper Rudder AD Rejects Most Community Input**  
Final Piper Rudder AD Rejects Most Community Input

[Related Articles](#)

**FAA Launches Advisory Committee to Evaluate Commercial Air Tour Safety**  
January 30, 2025

**EAA Response to AOPA President's Position on Avgas**  
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**FAA Adds Email Delivery Option for Aircraft and Dealer Registration Certificates**  
January 23, 2025

**EAA Evaluating Two New FAA Medical Policy Changes**  
December 05, 2024

**California Flight School Begins Using High-Octane Unleaded Avgas**  
November 14, 2024

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[Recent Articles](#)

**Final Piper Rudder AD Rejects Most Community Input**  
February 13, 2025

**Field Reports Highlight Need for Owners to Assess E-AB Aircraft Prior to Using G100UL**

**Final Piper Rudder AD Rejects Most Community Input**

The FAA released the final version of Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2025-02-11. The AD requires the owners of most Piper high-wing aircraft with rudder posts made of 1025 carbon steel to upgrade to a rudder with a post made of 4130N low alloy steel. The affected model list includes a wide range of aircraft, from J-3 Cubs to PA-22 Tri-Pacers and Colts. The FAA estimates a total of 6,500 active aircraft will need their rudders replaced or modified.

Per the AD, compliance times are as follows:

Category Type	Compliance Time
Category I Airplanes: Airplanes having both a rudder post mounted beacon light and a 150 or greater horsepower (hp) engine installed	Within 2 years after the effective date of this AD.
Category II Airplanes: Airplanes having either a rudder post mounted beacon light or a 150 or greater hp engine installed	Within 3 years after the effective date of this AD.
Category III Airplanes: All airplanes not in Category I or Category II that do not have a rudder post mounted beacon light and have an engine less than 150 hp and greater than 100 hp installed	Within 5 years after the effective date of this AD.
Category IV Airplanes: All airplanes not in Category I, II, or III that do not have a rudder post mounted beacon light and have an engine of 100 hp or below installed	Within 10 years after the effective date of this AD.

Numerous commenters opposed the AD when it was proposed last year, including EAA and its Vintage Aircraft Association (VAA) division. VAA invested extensive time and resources into proposing an alternative on-condition testing technique, as well as an alternative strengthening method that was minimally invasive and would not require a fabric re-cover. EAA argued for the rescinding of the AD due to its being based on a small number of occurrences, including several uniquely modified aircraft, as well as covering many low-horsepower models that have no known history of failures.

In the end, the FAA disagreed with almost all comments that were critical of the AD and made almost no changes. The only significant concession was creating a new "Category IV" for aircraft such as the J-3 and PA-11 that have low-horsepower engines installed – not removing these aircraft from the applicability list but giving them a 10-year compliance time instead of 5 years.

EAA is now considering next steps. The AD preamble does note that the alternative inspection and repair techniques suggested by VAA and others may be considered as an alternative means of compliance (AMOC). EAA would lend support to these efforts, as well as evaluate other options for lessening the impact of this AD for our members.





## Upcoming EAA Webinars

One of the benefits we have as EAA members is access to exceedingly educational and informative content via the EAA Webinar series. The list and descriptions below cover upcoming streamed presentations from now into April. If you click on this [link](#) you will find the page where you may register for upcoming webinars as well as links to previously recorded content. Aviation history, technology, flight skills, chapter management best practices etc presentations are available to view. Periodically a notice is forwarded if you wish to keep abreast of the schedule.

### [Chapter Roster Management Tool 101](#)

**Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 7 p.m. CDT with Serena Brouillette**

*Your chapter roster provides vital information on the health of your chapter. Join Charlie Becker and Serena Brouillette for an overview of EAA's Chapter Roster Management Tool. Learn why it is so important and how your chapter can implement it.*

### [Stick and Rudder Flying Skills](#) | Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit

**Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 7 p.m. CDT with Gordon Penner**

*Stick and rudder skills are the foundation for safe flying. Gordon Penner, a master CFI in aerobatics and gliders, will explain the concepts of controlling an airplane in the stick and rudder fashion that promotes safe flying fundamentals. Gordon will highlight modern techniques and principles outlined by Wolfgang Langewiesche in his famous book, *Stick and Rudder: An Explanation of the Art of Flying*. Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit.*

### [Ernest Gann Collection](#) | EAA Museum Series

**Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 7 p.m. CDT with Chris Henry and Amelia Anderson**

*Ernest Gann was an author of many classic novels that involve aviation. Join us as we discuss the EAA Aviation Museum's exhibit that honors this great author.*

### [Start Your Own Flight School](#)

**Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 7 p.m- 8:30 p.m. CDT with Prof. H. Paul Shuch**

*Some pilots become flight instructors as a way of building hours toward an airline career. Others do so in order to devote their lives to teaching and learning. In this webinar, Prof. H. Paul Shuch details lessons learned and mistakes made along the path of founding a flight school.*





### Can You Help Me? EAA Aviation Technical Services FAQ

**Thursday, February 27, 2025, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. CDT with Tim Hoversten**

*Tim Hoversten, EAA's technical aviation specialist, counts down the top questions and answers that members are currently asking, as well as sharing EAA resources for legal and medical questions.*

### Engine Temps Gone Wild? | Qualifies for FAA WINGS and AMT credit

**Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 7 p.m. CDT with Mike Busch**

*Last month's webinar by Mike Busch, A&P/IA, discussed the importance of using digital engine monitor data in troubleshooting powerplant issues. But there are times when engine monitors lie and provide bogus information, and it's very important to distinguish such anomalous readings from true engine problems. In this webinar, Mike describes an incident involving a Cessna 182 whose sophisticated engine monitor started reporting pretty scary CHTs and EGTs, and how this was identified as an indication error that was easily cured by the aircraft owner himself. Qualifies for FAA WINGS and AMT credit.*

### Grow Your Chapter and the Aviation Community – Host a Flying Start Event

**Thursday, March 13, 2025, 7 p.m. CDT with David Leiting**

*May 17, 2025 is EAA International Learn to Fly Day, and your chapter is invited to participate by hosting a Flying Start event! Join this live webinar, and we review how to plan the perfect Flying Start event. These events are the perfect way to grow your chapter, as well as the local aviation community. Topics covered will include event planning, event best practices, and what resources EAA provides to simplify the hosting process for chapters.*

### Flying to and Around Alaska |

**Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 7 p.m. CDT with Vic Syracuse**

*Vic and Carol Syracuse have flown their RV-10 to Alaska five times. In this presentation, Vic will walk through the preparations, routing, and recommendations to help you have a safe and memorable trip to Alaska. For those in the Lower 48, flying to Alaska is one of the most memorable flights you can make, and seeing Alaska from the air takes you places inaccessible by any other means.*



**Aircraft Engine Compression Testing | Qualifies for FAA WINGS and AMT credit**

**Wednesday, March 26, 2025, 7 p.m. CDT with Bill Ross**

*We will debunk many of the myths and misunderstandings surrounding aircraft engine compression testing. Bill Ross from Superior Air Parts will discuss compression testing techniques, borescope inspections, and how to determine cylinder airworthiness. Qualifies for FAA WINGS and AMT credit.*

**The T-6 Texan | EAA Museum Series**

**Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 7 p.m. CDT with Chris Henry and Amelia Anderson**

*North American Aviation's classic trainer helped teach U.S. pilots to fly in combat during World War II, but this airplane has done much more. Join us for a special night as we talk about the mighty Texan!*

**All About Airspeed | Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit**

**Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 7 p.m. CDT with Catherine Cavagnaro**

*In this webinar, CFI and DPE Catherine Cavagnaro takes a trip around the airspeed dial and discuss how each of the important airspeeds, from stall to VNE, is determined. We'll also present various phases of flight and emergency situations and see how important knowing an optimal speed can help. Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit.*

**Night Flight | Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit**

**Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 7 p.m. CDT with Lary Bothe**

*Join Larry Bothe, an 8,000-hour small airplane pilot and CFI, as he discusses basic information and best practices for flying at night. Topics include the FAA's definitions of night, airport and aircraft lights, flashlights, and night vision; hazards to night flight, such as obstacles and ground fog, and risk management during night cross-country flight. Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit.*

There is a lot of other great media content also available from that link to EAA News and Publications site. So go check it out!



## Air Academy Scholarship



**Carter Straub (center) receives a \$500 scholarship from EAA Chapter 857 from Ted Merklin (Chapter Board Member-left), and Joss Slagle (Chapter President-right).**

Carter Straub, an 8th grade student at Pine-Richland Middle School, was awarded a \$500 scholarship on 19 November toward attending the EAA Air Academy Camp which is hosted by the Experimental Aircraft Association. Carter will attend the camp during the summer of 2025. Located in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, the Air Academy Camp is a week-long experience which will fuel Carter's interest in flight with a diverse array of hands-on activities curated to ignite curiosity and spark a passion for aviation. Carter applied for this unique scholarship opportunity after engaging in a Young Eagle flight this past summer with EAA Chapter 857 located at Pittsburgh-Butler Regional Airport. The EAA is a national organization engaged in the support and promotion of all aspects of general aviation to the public, including their Young Eagle program for youth ages 8-17 providing an introductory flight experience.



## **IMC/VMC Club Schedule**

In 2025, Kyle Riedel looks forward to serving the Chapter's pilots and aspiring pilots as a coordinator for EAA IMC/VMC Club. My goal is to offer these vignette-driven scenario discussions on an alternating schedule, so we appeal to all types of flying. Through discussion of the vignettes, we all grow as pilots, especially by viewing each scenario from our own flight experience.

The sessions will be offered after each of our regularly scheduled meetings and will last 15-25 minutes (based upon the level of pilot interaction). Like 2024, if there is an FAA Safety Seminar that occurs at the same time, we will participate in those events since they are more detailed in topics. Additionally, most of them offer Wings Credit.

Members and non-members are all invited. Chapter 857 offers the IMC/VMC as another good reason to join our Chapter and to grow as pilots.

### **IMC Club Months**

March

May

Jul

September

November

### **VMC Club Months**

February - up next!

April

June

August

October

## EAA Chapter 5 Promotion

Hi Joss,

I am Vice President of Chapter 5 in Middlefield OH. We are running an exciting raffle to raise funds for a high school STEM build project. One lucky person will win a trip for four to the Paris Airshow this June. First-class airfare, luxury accommodations at the Four Seasons George V in Paris, and tickets to the airshow. Tickets sell for \$100 each. Details on the raffle and how to enter can be found at the Chapter 5 site: <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea5>

Here is where we could use your help in getting the word out on this unique raffle. Could you please post this information on your Facebook site and forward this message to your chapter members? They probably know someone who would be interested in winning this trip.

I have attached some of the materials we have created to promote this event.

Thank you in advance for your support of this project.

Regards,

John Yochum  
Vice President  
EAA Chapter 5  
440-715-5662



BENEFITS EAA CHAPTER 5  
FIRST-CLASS TRIP to

# PARIS

## AIR SHOW

### RAFFLE!

The 55th International  
Paris Air Show  
at Le Bourget  
Parc des Exposition  
June 20-23, 2025

Winner receives:

- Four first-class tickets from anywhere in the US.
- Private airport transfers to and from your hotel.
- Four nights at the Four Seasons Hotel George V Includes an American breakfast each day.
- Four 3-day public passes to the Paris Air Show.

Drawing on May 3rd, 6:00pm

Visit [EAA5.org](https://EAA5.org) for full details and conditions

## Ultralight Days

More [seminars](#) of interest coming up in February!



**Join us February 18-20 for the FREE online educational event,  
EAA Virtual Ultralight Days!**

Subject matter experts will present a variety of topics on the lighter side of aviation including getting started; ultralight how-to information and overall educational topics such as maintenance, airport operations, safety inspections, and more!

Don't miss out, reserve your spot today!

[See the Full Schedule](#)

**Tuesday, February 18**

**Getting Started in Ultralights**


**1:00-2:15 PM CST** **Presenter:** Timm Bogenhagen

[Register >](#)



## AirVenture Oshkosh 2025

This years AirVenture featured performers are listed at this [link](#). One of the special appearances planned is a 100 year anniversary celebration of the Goodyear Airship. Two of them will be at AirVenture this year!



ONE WEEK  
**ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES**

July 21-27 [EAA.org/Tickets](http://EAA.org/Tickets)

**EAA AIRVENTURE OSHKOSH 2025**

**FREE YOUTH ADMISSION** Free youth admission ages 19 and under is supported in part by 

The poster features a vibrant aerial scene with various aircraft including biplanes, a large Goodyear blimp, a modern fighter jet, and a propeller plane, all flying over a landscape with a city and an airport. Fireworks are visible in the sky.



**Annual Oshkosh AirVenture Bus Trip**  
**July 22 – 26, 2025**



**When:** Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday, July 26.

**Trip includes:** Transportation on coach bus (Campbell Bus Company), 4 nights lodging at Ripon College in Ripon, WI, breakfast each morning, and the opportunity to travel with aviation minded folks.

**Cost:** Double Occupancy/person: **\$440.00**

Private Room / person: **\$550.00**

This is the 35<sup>th</sup> Bus Trip to Oshkosh. We leave from the Butler Farm Show grounds on Route 68 at 7:00 a.m. on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and return on July 26<sup>th</sup> around 10 p.m. Cars are parked within the fenced area. We spend three great days at the air show and arrangements will be made for those who want to see the night show on Wednesday. Participants are responsible for purchasing entry tickets to the Airshow.

If you would like to be a part of this wonderful adventure, then a \$100/ person deposit is needed along with the completed registration form below. Checks should be made out to **Kent L. Shoemaker** and sent to: **Kent L Shoemaker 225 Glade Run Rd. Renfrew, PA 16053** If you have questions or need additional information, please call, text or email me at: 724-766-5847 or [kentlshoemaker@gmail.com](mailto:kentlshoemaker@gmail.com). Go to EAA AirVenture for entry prices.

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle your choice:**    *Pvt. Room*            *Double Occupancy*

**Roommate (if applicable)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Deposit Amt. \$** \_\_\_\_\_    **Balance due \$** \_\_\_\_\_    **Pd. In Full \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**T shirt size:**    You            S   M   L   XL   XXL   XXXL   (circle size needed)

**Roommate:**    S   M   L   XL   XXL   XXXL   (circle size needed)





## EAA 857 - Chapter Meetings and Events for 2025

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

<b>Chapter Meetings</b>	Tuesdays	January 21 February 18 March 18 April 15 May 20 June 17 July 15 August 19 September 16 October 21 November 18
<b>IMC / VMCClub -</b>		TBD
<b>International Young Eagles Day -</b>		June 14, 2025
<b>EAA 857 Fly-In and YE -</b>		TBD

### 2025 National Events

<b>Sun 'n Fun -</b>	<b>April 1-6, 2025</b>
<b>Sentimental Journey -</b>	<b>June 17 - 21, 2025</b>
<b>AirVenture Oshkosh 2025 -</b>	<b>July 21 - 27, 2025</b>

### EAA 857 Chapter Officers for 2025

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

<b>President</b>	<b>Josselyn Slagle</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Mario Dandrea</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Frank Szczerba</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>DestinyJay Maletta</b>
<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Chuck Warren      2025-2027</b>
	<b>Danny Michaels    2025-2026</b>
	<b>Dan Hood            2025</b>
<b>Website / Newsletter</b>	<b>Ted Merklin</b>
<b>Young Eagles Coord</b>	<b>Ted Merklin</b>
<b>Ray Aviation Scholarship</b>	<b>Kyle Riedel</b>