
Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association - Chapter 857

EAA 857 NEWSLETTER



This F-16 Viper demo flight was seen at the 2024 EAA AirVenture at Oshkosh, WI.

They will also perform at the
Westmoreland County Airshow in Latrobe, PA on June 21 and 22, 2025.
Also scheduled are the RCAF Snowbirds who were also at AirVenture!

Presidents Message

Hello EAA 857,

April showers bring May flying weather...right?? I haven't been flying as much as I would like recently but I've found time for catching up on projects and relaxing. I find myself overwhelmed with the idea of going to Oshkosh in just a few short months. GAA Live will be happening on April 30, 2025, at 8:00 PM ET, GAA Live! airs. If you would like to see me present on some safety pet peeves as the National FAA Safety Team Representative of the Year you can follow this link to sign up: <https://www.generalaviationawards.com/gaa-live>

Miss. Samantha Burke has passed her checkride. She is a Private Pilot thanks to the support of the Ray Aviation Scholarship and our chapter! She is eager to pursue her complex endorsement and instrument rating next. Her check ride day featured some gusty crosswind conditions. Great work Sam!!

Danny Michaels is spearheading our efforts for our June Young Eagles event. We will have a table set up at the Mars New Year event on June 6th & 7th in hopes of signing potential Young Eagles up to fly!

Astronaut Don Thomas will attend and participate in the Mars event. He is an astronaut, scientist, professional speaker and educator as well as author of Orbit of Discovery. He was onboard of space shuttle: Discovery. He completed four flights to space and has spent a total of 44 days in space! The event will have a drone show and NASA is expected to make an appearance. This event is gearing towards kids and families and should be a great way for discover potential Young Eagle's and Ray Aviation Scholarship potentials down the line. Copy and paste this link: <https://www.marsnewyear.com> to be taken to the event's website and learn more. Please reach out to Danny Michael's if you would be interested in representing the chapter at this event!



Kindly
Josselyn Slagle
Chapter President



Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association—Chapter 857 Minutes of the March 18, 2025 Regular Meeting

Opening: President Josselyn Slagle called to order at 7:08 P.M. and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting attendees: 15 members were present and 1 guest.

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

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report submitted by email from Frank Szczerba was reviewed. Motion to accept made by Ted Merklin and seconded by Chuck Warren.

Newsletter: March'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

Tech Advisor: N/A

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, April 15th, 2025

IMC / VMC meeting: IMC club presentation after closing.

Young Eagles:

- We have a event setup and registration site prepared for June 14th. The airport has been informed of our proposed dates of the 14th and August 9th. The registration is not scheduled to open until June 7th.
- We expect to have a table at the Mars event for registration.
- As of now it is set up for 45 kids and 3 groups of 15.
- Ted Merklin will send out request for volunteer pilots to help early May.
- The event now shows up on our website page.

Air Academy:

- Carter Stroud is set up to go to Air Academy. We paid his tuition deposit to go in the Fall. Ted Merklin will prepare to apply the Air Academy credits of \$295 We will owe \$5 more for our funding..

Ray Aviation:

- Sam Burke got her Private Pilot's License!
- The scholarship board interviewed 3 people for the scholarship. 2 applicants nailed their interviews. However, they already soloed and passed their written exams. The board decided to extend the applications to April 10th.
- The application on our registration link still shows the old registration date. However, it has been changed to April 10th.

New Business:

- The 99's club wants to volunteer for our next Young Eagles event. Kyle Riedel recommends that they create flyers or a 3-minute PowerPoint explaining who they are, and how can get people into aviation.
- Airplanes & Automobiles is official!
- Kyle proposed we merge chapters with the Grove city chapter.



- 857 roster shows 43 members, 19 member's dues paid to date.

Old Business:

- The hanger keys have been turned back over to the Airport. There are 2 items left that Frank Szczerba will store.

Closing: The meeting was adjourned Frank Szczerba and seconded by Destinyjay Maletta at approximately 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Destinyjay Maletta,

EAA 857 Secretary

***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.*

TECHNICAL COUNSELOR ADVICE:

Chuck Warren

Many of the Chapter's aircraft owners are trying to do more in the way of preventive maintenance and providing assistance to their mechanic. This is good practice and helps in their own understanding of the plane's systems and creating an awareness of any areas that need more care or to be watched more closely to maintain airworthiness.

The annual inspection is a formal airworthiness checkup, performed according to a checklist that is usually developed by a manufacturer and tailored to a specific model. The listing of items performed during that inspection also encompasses many items that a pilot may do as preventive maintenance. Some airplanes, such as antiques or some homebuilts, do not have checklists. In these cases a more generic one is often used. There are numerous generic lists on the internet and the FAA publishes one of them in Part 43 of the regulations.

For the owner just getting acquainted with doing more of the hands on work, an inspection list that includes criteria for what conditions and discrepancies to look out for, and what "airworthy" looks like when discrepancies are fixed can be quite handy if the owner is assisting their mechanic performing the annual.

Also, it can be helpful guidance for the owner to check their own preventive maintenance work for completeness.

One free downloadable inspection checklist that has a fair amount of guidance and criteria is found on the Piper Owners' Society website. However, at 14 pages, it is a bit lengthy to put in this newsletter. A link is provided below:

<https://piperowner.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Annual-Inspection-Checklist-PDF.pdf>

Dear EAA Chapter 857

Samantha Burke

I am writing to say thank you for supporting my dream of becoming a pilot. I am incredibly honored to have received the Ray Aviation Scholarship. It has given me many new experiences that I am very thankful for from attending the Young Eagles event to connecting with other aviation enthusiasts.

This scholarship has allowed me to focus more on what I need to do to get to where I want to be. It has also given me the opportunity to advance my skills and knowledge in the field. I am committed to continuing my aviation path and becoming the best pilot I can possibly be but with even more dedication and perseverance.

The Ray Aviation Scholarship made it possible for me to get where I am at now. My next step is to get my complex endorsement and instrument rating at Haski's. I am very excited to bring everything that I have learned into my next bit of training.

Once again, thank you for your investment in my future and your belief in my potential. Your generosity has helped me so much. I will continue to give back to the aviation community in meaningful ways.

Thank you,

Samantha Burke



Ray Aviation Scholarship

Samantha Burke

The Ray Aviation Scholarship is a great opportunity for people interested in pursuing careers in the aviation industry. It offers more than just financial support. This scholarship helped me opened doors to new experiences and unique opportunities.

The Ray Aviation Scholarship not only gave me financial freedom, but it also helped me network with other people and gave me recognition for my achievements. I have met some of the best people through this scholarship that I will always remember. Anytime I completed a milestone in my training, I would get so much support which made me feel I can do anything I put my mind to. The scholarship encourages persistence and success.

I was allowed to put a lot more time into training that way I could get to my goal quicker. I did not have to worry about the financial burden of flight training, and I was also offered help with topics that I might have been stuck on which I am very thankful for. I progressed quicker with all the help I received.

The events I was included in also made me feel closer with the aviation community. I was happy to help young kids have a blast at the Young Eagles event and with the operation of it all. It made me realize how helpful the aviation community can be, and I was glad to be a part of it.

The Ray aviation Scholarship was a great way for me to experience new things and get the help I needed with training. I am very fortunate to have been given new opportunities from this scholarship. It has helped shape me into the person I am today.

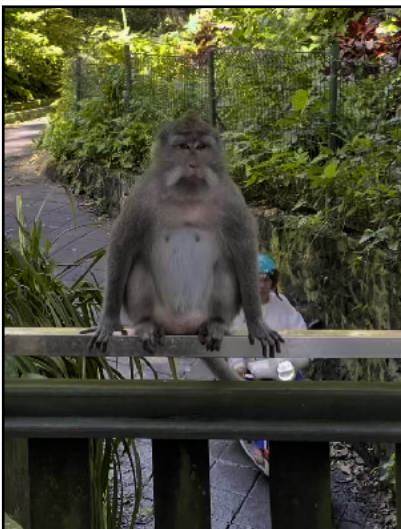
Dear EAA Chapter 857

Destinyjay Maletta

I wanted to share some highlights from my recent 2-week adventure in Indonesia, where I spent time in both Bali and Jakarta on a volunteer trip. In Bali, I volunteered with the East Bali Poverty Project, working with students in the mountains. I helped them with their English and STEM subjects, and it was so rewarding to see their enthusiasm and progress. These kids are truly inspiring! I also had the chance to work with turtles at a local conservation project. I spent time cleaning their exhibits, preparing their meals, and feeding them. It was amazing to be part of something that helps protect these beautiful creatures.



Our nonprofit group made the most of our time by visiting different colleges and historical sites. One of the highlights was zip-lining through the breathtaking landscapes. We also visited a monkey sanctuary, where I got up close with some playful little guys. We also got to experience the most stunning views of volcanos!



Of course, I can't forget to mention the food and relaxation! We enjoyed \$3 dinners and got \$6 back massages for 1 hour. It was definitely a great way to unwind after a busy day. Overall, this trip was not only a lot of fun but also incredibly inspiring. I came back with a renewed sense of purpose and a ton of great memories.



Take care and see you soon!

Destinyjay Maletta



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

May

July

September

November

VMC Club Months

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 for full details and conditions



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

EAA AIRVENTURE
OSHKOSH
2025

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

BOEING



Annual Oshkosh AirVenture Bus Trip

July 22 – 26, 2025



When: Tuesday, July 22nd 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 35th Bus Trip to Oshkosh. We leave from the Butler Farm Show grounds on Route 68 at 7:00 a.m. on July 22nd and return on July 26th 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. Go to EAA AirVenture for entry prices.

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)



FLY OR DRIVE IN!

AIRPLANES
★ & ★
AUTOMOBILES

EST. 2024

FREE
ENTRY!

AUGUST 23, 2025

★ 10am-4pm ★

SCAN ME



AIRPLANE RIDES

HELICOPTER RIDES

UNIQUE FOOD TRUCKS

New Castle Airport 406 Frank Farone Drive, New Castle, PA 16101



Learning to fly is one of the most challenging and rewarding things you'll ever do. Typical flight schools have a dropout rate of **80%** or more, thanks in part to scheduling conflicts, aircraft availability, and times when life just gets in the way.

Imagine setting aside those issues and coming to Oshkosh, the mecca of recreational flying, and earning your sport pilot certificate in as little as three dedicated and focused weeks.

Welcome to EAA's Sport Pilot Academy, your direct path to becoming a pilot through an all-inclusive and totally immersive training program.

EAA's Sport Pilot Academy offers:

- Small-group and one-on-one instruction
- Room and board



- A dedicated fleet of state-of-the-art Van's RV-12iSTs SLSA training aircraft
- Behind-the-scenes tours include a control tower tour and more

2025 Regular Session Schedule:

- June 3-24
- August 5-26
- September 9-30

[Learn More](#)



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This is an EAA Pilot Proficiency Center email communication.



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.

Chapter Meetings	Tuesdays	January 21 February 18 March 18 April 15 May 20 June 17 July 15 August 19 September 16 October 21 November 18
IMC / VMCClub -		Alternating Chapter Meetings
International Young Eagles Day -		June 14, 2025
EAA 857 YE Rally -		August 9, 2025

2025 National Events

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

EAA 857 Chapter Officers for 2025

Use contact@eaa857.org to email the Chapter President.
Your request will be forwarded to the appropriate individual.

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