
Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association - Chapter 857

EAA 857 NEWSLETTER



EAA 857 participated in the 2025 Mars New Year Celebration with support from this cast of characters! We shared space with our colleagues at the Civil Air Patrol and promoted our upcoming June Young Eagles Rally. All told we signed up 60 Young Eagle participants for the rally. Due to weather it's now scheduled for June 21, 2025.

Presidents Message

Hello EAA 857,

We have an exciting month in front of us. We have 60 Young Eagles planning to fly on Saturday. The Mars New Year recruitment efforts were a smashing success! I want to personally shout out to Danny Michaels for suggesting and making this idea happen. Also, thank you to Danny, DestinyJay, Isabella, Azora and Ted for representing the chapter at Mars New Year Event.



Our chapter meeting shortly follows International Young Eagles Day. Mark your calendars. We are sure to have an exciting June VMC club presentation.

Below you'll notice an article on my trip across the pond. In that article I make mention of Scott MacLean and how we connected over the Concorde. I also suggest a potential builder suited in person seminar at New Castle airport potentially in the next few months. I would love some input on this idea.

I've accomplished some flying since I've been back in town. The weather here is worse than in London. Maybe I should have stayed longer although we did have a few nice days. Our newest Ray Aviation Scholarship recipient ventured to Meadville with me for ice cream on Memorial Day. We had a mini-intro to cross country planning prior to the trip. She is eager to get to cross countries and escape the pattern. Sam Burke and I have been working towards her instrument rating as we can with the weather.

Kindly

Josselyn Slagle

Chapter President





Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association—Chapter 857 Minutes of the May 20, 2025 Regular Meeting

Opening: Vice President Mario Dandrea called to order at 7:10 P.M. and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting attendees: 11 members were present.

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

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

Newsletter: The May 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. The website lists both of our Young Eagle events. Ted needs to update to reinstate Larry Schaefer's 500th YE photo.

Tech Advisor: N/A

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, June 17th, 2025

IMC / VMC meeting: VMC Club next month.

Young Eagles:

- First YE event scheduled Jun 14th. Rain date on the 21st.
- Second YE event August 9th.
- Event is setup for 45 kids and 3 groups of 15.
- June 7th we will have a booth set up at the Mars New Year event. We will try and recruit some Young Eagles.
- 7 pilots signed up to fly for the Young Eagles Event.
- Ted Merklin created the registration app for our second Young Eagles event on August 9th.

Air Academy:

- Carter Stroud is set up to go to Air Academy. EAA 857 share of tuition has been paid complete.

Ray Aviation:

- Congratulations 2025 recipient Addie Barrett!

New Business:

- Presentation to Adeline Barrett for the 2025 Ray Aviation Scholarship.

Old Business: NA

Closing: The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Dan Hood and seconded by Destinyjay Maletta at approximately 7:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Destinyjay Maletta, - EAA 857 Secretary



Adeline Barrett (center), receives the Ray Aviation Scholarship from the Scholarship Coordinator, Kyle Riedel (left) and Chapter Vice President Mario Dandrea (right)

AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED TO HEARTLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL JUNIOR BY LOCAL EAA CHAPTER 857.

Award part of annual \$1.8 million Ray Aviation Scholarship program

(Butler, PA) — (20 May 2025) — Adeline Barrett of Columbiana, OH received a unique full-scholarship opportunity for flight training, thanks to EAA Chapter 857 of Butler, PA. This Ray Aviation Scholarship program is administered by the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The Ray Aviation Scholarship program provides up to \$12,000 scholarships to young people who are seeking to learn to fly. The Ray Foundation has provided \$1.8 million to fund the scholarship program, which seeks to improve the flight training success rate from the current industry standards of 20 percent to 80 percent for program participants. Local EAA chapters are responsible for identifying youth for the Ray Aviation Scholarship program and mentoring them through flight training. The Ray Foundation is furthering the legacy of James C. Ray, an EAA lifetime member who was dedicated to aviation and youth education.

Since its introduction in 2019, the EAA Ray Aviation Scholarship program has allowed over 350 youths to complete their flight training and receive their pilot licenses. This is the fourth Ray Aviation Scholarship received by Chapter 857 thereby bringing thousands of dollars in flight training to our local flight schools. In addition to this scholarship, Chapter 857 has, for over a decade, offered EAA Air Academy Scholarships to area youth. These scholarships offer an aviation-focused, summer-camp like experience in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. There is no better way to expose youth to Aviation and Aerospace opportunities than by participating in an EAA Air Academy event.



Adeline will be training at Haski Aviation based at New Castle Airport, PA. The scholarship is designed to support a flight student through both written and practical segments of flight training that are part of successful FAA pilot certification.

EAA Chapter 857 is gearing up for two youth-oriented events at the Butler Regional Airport. During these events known as Young Eagle Rallies, kids between the ages of 8 and 17 can register to receive their first flight in a general aviation aircraft by a local pilot. Participants can also meet our scholarship recipients to discuss their future for pursuing aviation as a career. Chapter 857 will also present information to participants about youth scholarships available to everyone in the community.

The Young Eagle Rallies are scheduled for 14 June and 9 August. More information can be found at the EAA Chapter 857 website: <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea857>.

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

June
August
October

The England Post Trip Debrief

by Joss Slagle

I ventured across the pond with my mother for her 55th birthday this year. Each year, I try to come up with an adventure of some sort for her. My mom's parents (my grandparents) saved for years and years to travel after they raised their three children then unfortunately her mom passed away young, and they never got to live out those dreams. I try to help my mom travel and enjoy a new place at least once a year. In previous years, we've visited St. Lucia, Boston, San Francisco and during COVID we traveled the sky and took the plunge sky diving. Since this was entirely her trip, I only got to sneak away for two aviation museums but there is still tons to share.

The Tower of London featured 30,000 ceramic poppies as part of "The Tower Remembers" installation paying tribute to the 80th anniversary of VE Day. The display is meant to honor the sacrifices made during World War II.



Big Ben, Westminster and the London Eye were exciting to see. Big Ben was incredible. The was our worst weather day. We had 70 and sunny every day except this one overcast day early in the trip. It never rained while we were there. We were amazed and relieved to not need the raincoats and umbrellas.



Airplanes and Automobiles “global marketing”

The classic phone booth. These were plentiful across the city. You would think with the invention of the cell phone that these would disappear, but London seems to keep them around. I share this picture because my mother was grossed out having to pick up this public phone to pose for the picture. I told her “it was part of the birthday experience”.

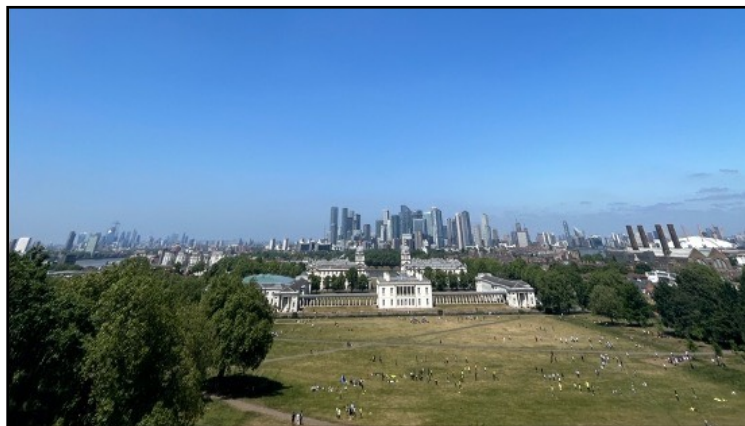


The Tower Bridge

This was by far one of the most enjoyable tourist spots we went to. We climbed the stairs, skipping the elevator to the top and walked across the bridge. The bridge features signage along the way to shed light on the history of the bridge. I won't spoil it for future travelers but trust me this is worth the short line you'll experience to see it.



The Prime Meridian was interesting to see. You had to climb a big hill to get to the small museum featuring some historical information on observatories. The view was well worth the climb. The staircase comes from the Queens House, a free museum/castle tour. In the same vicinity was the National Maritime Museum. All of these were inside of a rather large park. This was outside of the city. This was the most at home I felt during the entire trip. I am very much used to open area to roam. I found the London city streets to be over stimulating.



Did you know there is such a thing as a Royal School of Needlework? Yeah, me either... My mother ventured to the Royal School of Needlework while I visited the aviation museums, but I had no escape from visiting Liberty... the 5-floor department store. Thankfully they had a lovely sit and wait area with free Wi-Fi. My mother, the self titled queen had a blast.



FINALLY, the museums! I visited the Brooklands Museum first. The most remarkable thing about this one was the Concorde Experience. Paying an extra few bucks got you a boarding pass, certificate saying you were there and to get inside of the Concorde and sit in the seats. This airplane is one of 20 that remain in the world. I enjoyed the experience and would say this alone makes it worth it to go. They get you on the plane in your seat. They play a video for you about the plane and its history. They've added some special effects that take you "into the air". This experience was immersive and wonderful.

I connected with another aviator because of venturing out to see this Concorde. Scott MacLean flew on the Concorde. He is a local based out of Medina 1G5. He flies a Cozy MKIV (Phil, I hope you see this). He and I chatted at length after connecting on social media. He is awesome! He has volunteered to offer a presentation for us on Canards. I would love to make this a larger event. I was thinking a combined chapter event with both Butler and New Castle chapters putting this on at New Castle Airport in the hangar. This would also make it less of a hike for Scott and allow us to interact with the newly revitalized chapter.



I should also mention this museum is also home to cars considering Brooklands was a famous racetrack. Brooklands had other airplanes as well, many of which you could get on board and walk through. Each plane had a volunteer with a history in aviation that told you all about that airplane. I found myself taking many pictures of things for students.



The Royal Air Force Museum

This museum was so large it was an all-day affair. Pictures don't do it justice. There were seven buildings, with hundreds of aircraft and it was all free to explore. The one drawback to this museum was that you didn't connect with the history as well because there was limited interaction. I personally enjoy when a museum gives you more of a peak into flying.



One of the reasons this trip happened was British Airways non-stop direct flight from Pittsburgh to London-Heathrow. As we returned from across the pond, I was lucky enough to see a second Concorde. G-BOAB was the 3rd Concorde to be delivered to British Airways on Jan 14th, 1976. It's final flight was on August 15th, 2000. I personally love a good mystery! What are they doing with this retired aircraft at London-Heathrow?



I think that British Airways is sentimental and can't get rid of it. Supposedly, they wanted to turn this one into a walk under piece and hang it from the ceiling in the British Airways terminal at the airport. They've cleaned up the aircraft over the years on a few occasions for British Airways family day. One of the other plans presented for G-BOAB was to place her at the entrance to the terminal somehow so that she would become the gateway guardian for British Airways. She has been moved into and out of the hangar and therefore out of public view several times over the past several years. Her future is still uncertain, but I thought it was cool to see her on the departure. This wrapped up the trip nicely for me. The window seat is always worth the view!

TECHNICAL ADVISOR COLUMN:

By C. J. Warren

If you are a pilot and owner of a regular certificated aircraft, or a pilot or sport pilot with a light sport category aircraft (any of these), you can perform preventive maintenance yourself on the airframe, engine(s), propellers, appliances, and certain component parts. This could result in your saving lots of money, vs. having these chores performed at an FBO.

Also, the aircraft must have a Standard U. S. Airworthiness Certificate, and not be used for Part 121, or Part 129 or Part 135 operations.

Who is eligible to do the maintenance work, and which items may be performed, and by whom, and the performance standards are all framed within FAR Part 43, MAINTENANCE, PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE, REBUILDING, AND ALTERATION.

Part 43 also defines the various categories of work which fall under the category of “preventive maintenance”, provided it does not involve complex disassembly/reassembly operations of structure or operating systems on your aircraft:

1. Removal, installation, and repair of landing gear tires.
2. Replacing elastic shock absorber cords on landing gear.
3. Servicing landing gear shock struts by adding oil, air, or both.
4. Servicing landing gear wheel bearings, such as cleaning and greasing.
5. Replacing defective safety wiring or cotter keys.
6. Lubrication not requiring disassembly other than removal of nonstructural items such as cover plates, cowlings, and fairings.
7. Making simple fabric patches not requiring rib stitching or the removal of structural parts or control surfaces.
8. Replenishing hydraulic fluid in the hydraulic reservoir.
9. Refinishing decorative coating of fuselage, balloon baskets, wings tail group surfaces (excluding balanced control surfaces), fairings, cowlings, landing gear, cabin, or cockpit interior.
10. Applying preservative or protective material to components where such coating is not prohibited or is not contrary to good practice.
11. Repairing upholstery and decorative furnishings of the cabin, or cockpit.

I will provide further details in coming newsletters. Finally, if there is interest, I am willing to present more about owner performed preventive maintenance in future Chapter meetings.



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