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Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association - Chapter 857

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# EAA 857 NEWSLETTER

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**The Air Legends Foundation's Lockheed VC-121A Constellation approaches show center in a photo pass at EAA AirVenture 2023.**

## Presidents Message

Greetings Chapter 857,

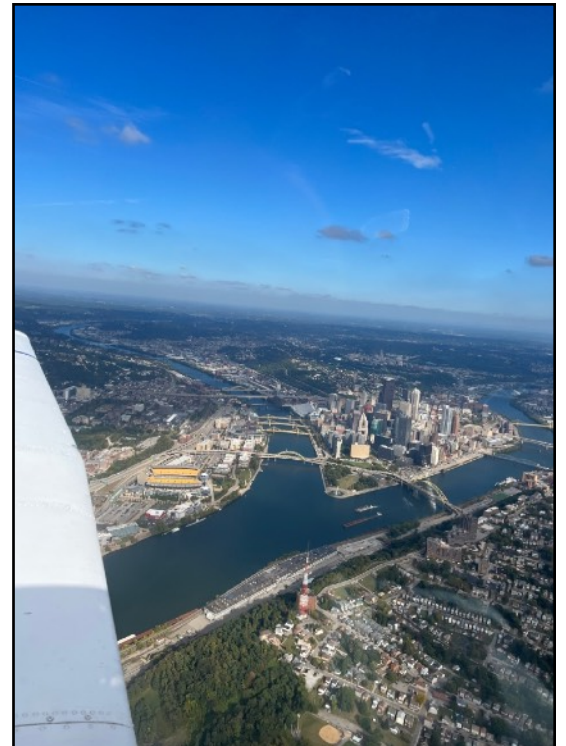
I hope you're all doing well and enjoying the fall weather. Seeing the leaves change from above makes fall my favorite season. I had the privilege of reaching 500 hours of total time in my logbook this fall season. I did so flying a Cessna as pilot in command for the first time in recent years. Originally, I had flown Cessna's early on as a private pilot, but it's been several years. It was great to get back up in a Cessna again to go to KTSO.

Speaking of KTSO they have new menus! This chicken bacon mac and cheese was delicious!

Another fun flying moment I had was flying into Pittsburgh's class Bravo airspace. One of my friends has been having a tough time with weather and getting on the schedule. We decided to take a fun flight on a beautiful day and see the city! Doing this is simple for those who haven't. It creates a good learning moment for students with the radios as well.

Happy Fall,

Joss Slagle, Chapter President





## Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association—Chapter 857 Minutes of September 19, 2023 Regular Meeting

**Opening:** Vice President Kyle Riedel called the meeting to order at 08:02 P.M. and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Meeting attendees:** 14 members were present. 3 Visitors attended.

**IMC Program:** Prior to discussing chapter business matters, Ross Edmondson presented via stream, the conclusion of his around the world project with the crossing of the Pacific journey from Australia to Zelenople

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

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report submitted by email from Frank Szczerba was reviewed. Motion to accept put forth by Kyle Riedel and Danny Michaels.

**Newsletter:** The September 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. Plans are to update the Ray Aviation Scholarship Page and other minor corrections.

**Tech Advisor:** No report

**Next Regular Meeting:** Tuesday October 17, 2023

**Air Academy:** Our chapter received thank you certificates from the Air Academy. Records states we had 7, 11, 12-year-olds in June and August. Meeting idea: Send the Air venture slip to only the Young Eagles that flew with us during the summer.

**Young Eagles:** Young Eagle event scheduled for 9/9 was canceled due to weather and not enough pilots. Should we consider an event in October, either the 7<sup>th</sup> or the 14<sup>th</sup>. High Flight Academy doesn't know if they can provide sanitation for the next event. Kyle suggests not doing a full event. And just stick with a mini event. Possibly host out of the terminal building. Identify pilots and ask if they are available in October. Only allow first time flyers to go up for the mini event. So, take the kids who already flew before out of the equation. Provide a learning session for the kids/presentation.

Kyle Riedel does not want to host another event this year. Danny Michaels seconds it.

**Ray Aviation Scholarship:** Colin sent in his report at the end of August. Next challenge is to complete his written exam. On track with completing his check-ride at the end of the year.

**Old Business:** N/A

**New Business:** Officer rotating positions. Looking for any volunteers. Bill passed his Air worthiness certificate.

**Closing:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 P.M. by a motion made by Danny Micheals and seconded by Kyle Riedel.

Respectfully submitted: Destinyjay Maletta, EAA 857 Secretary



## Ray Aviation Scholarship

EAA 857 will once again apply for the authorization for the chapter to award a Ray Aviation Scholarship in 2024. See the contact information for an online information presentation regarding the scholarship in the flyer shown:



### You are Invited to a Ray Aviation Scholarship Virtual Information Session

(This session is oriented toward potential scholarship applicants (ages 16-19) and their parents)

#### When

- Date: November 9<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)
- Time: 7:00pm (eastern)

#### How to receive an invitation


- Contact Ray Avn Scholarship Coord. (Kyle Riedel) via email (riedel.kyle@yahoo.com)
- Receive a Google Meet Invitation
- Connect virtually at 7:00pm on 9 November
- Information session will last 20 minutes and 10 minutes for Q&A

#### Agenda

- Ray Scholarship Program Overview
- Application Requirements/Procedures
- Meet the Scholars from 2022 & 2023 (availability dependent)
- Question and Answer Session

**Scholarship Recipient receives up to \$11,000 in Funded Flight Training\***

\* Contingent upon receipt of Ray Aviation Scholarship from EAA National



### **Chapter Members, Please Note:**

We will request your nominations for 2024 chapter officers at our October 17 meeting, with elections to follow at our November 21 meeting. Please plan to attend these meetings.

Also, this is a reminder that Chapter Dues, \$25, become due for 2024 on January 1.

## Member Profile: Bill Eisenman by Bob Tedesco

On Tuesday, 10/10, I visited New Castle Municipal Airport where Bill keeps his CH 750 project. Gary Marsico is in the next hangar with his “new” Mooney Cadet (Ercoupe?). 59 were made in 1969-70.

Bill is a recent widower with two adult children. He worked for Boeing and developed flight control software for the F-18. Then, off to Duluth GA to work on software for the Brimstone air-to-ground anti-tank missile. Later, he worked for America West Airlines in Phoenix. A.W. merged with US Airways and he worked for them as a structural engineer. US Airways then bought American Airlines and it was off to Dallas for five years.



He retired in 2020 so he had plenty of time to finish his project. His family is from the Pittsburgh area and he was born in historic Oil City. He now drives a school bus for K through fifth-graders.

You may be wondering how Bill was qualified for such wide-ranging assignments: avionics engineer to structural engineer. Well, he has an electrical engineering degree from Gannon University (Erie 1971), and an Aerospace Engineering degree from St. Louis University (1991). He also has a private pilot’s license with a tailwheel endorsement.

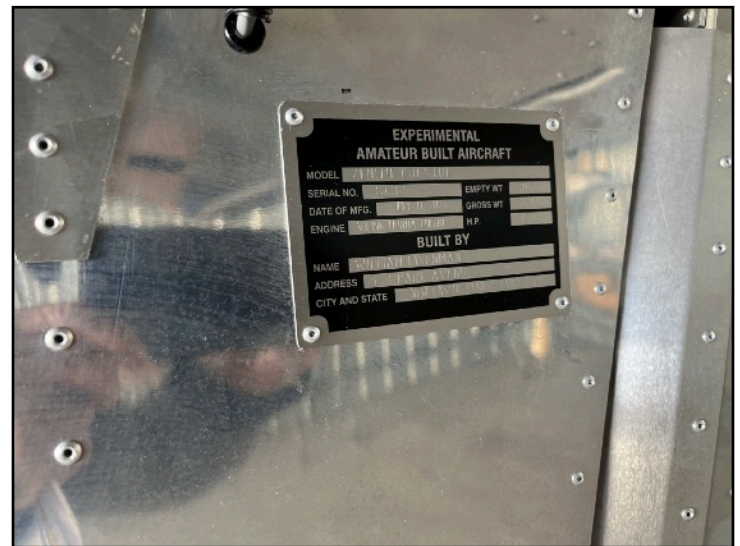


Besides hunting, fishing and airplanes, his avocation is raising service dogs for Canine Companions for Independence. He raises them from puppies and they stay in training for 12-18 months. So far, he has raised four dogs with two now in training. So the paw prints on the CH 750 are no accident!



**Bill's Project: CH 750 STOL**

The "CH" stands for Chris Heintz, the aeronautical engineer behind all of the Zenith designs. The main STOL designs are the 701 and the 750. Zenith no longer features the 801, a four seat design. Zenith also has the low wing CH 650 and the high wing two seat CH 750 Cruiser. The Cruiser is a 750 variant, designed for higher speed cruise and conventional airport operations.



The Zenith STOL versions have been used for missionary work in Africa, and are mainly designed for unimproved runways, farmers fields, plateaus overlooking the Pacific Ocean, beaches in North Carolina, etc.

Bill's 750 is a slightly larger version of the 701 to get the most out of the new Sport Plane limits of 1320 pounds gross weight. The wingspan is three feet longer than the 701 and the empty weight is 200 LB heavier.

Bill welcomes visitors to his hangar, and we welcome him as one of the newer members of EAA Chapter 857!

*Ed.: Bob Tedesco, the author of this new member introduction article, as members of EAA 857 may recall, has his own interest in the Zenith aircraft product line. He has his Zenith project in the works as seen in this photo from a few years ago presented in a previous newsletter. Bob's is the 701 kit mentioned above and is shown with his newly mounted Viking engine.*



## Air Academy Thank You Notes to EAA 857

by Lindsay Lipp and Thomas Edwards

These notes were forwarded to us by the EAA from the two Young Eagles, Lindsay Lipp and Thomas Edwards, whom EAA 857 sponsored to attend the Air Academy this past Summer.



Dear EAA Chapter 857,  
Thank you so much for helping me attend the EAA Young Eagles Camp. Your support has helped me learn more about air planes and meet new friends that share the same interest in aviation as I do. I really enjoyed flying in the Bell 47 helicopter. It was amazing! I also enjoyed the air compressed rockets. It was very fun launching them. Thank you again for this amazing opportunity to come to the EAA Young Eagles Camp.

Sincerely,

Lindsay C. Lipp

P.O. Box 3086 Oshkosh, WI 54903-3086 | 920-426-4800 | EAA.org





Dear EAA Chapter 857,

Thank you so much for your generous support in helping me attend the EAA Air Academy. Your support was greatly appreciated and allowed me to experience many new and amazing things

I really enjoyed having the opportunity to fly in a Cessna 162 Skycatcher. The pilot let me take controls, and then she had me experience D-G, which was awesome! I also enjoyed flying in a Bell-47 helicopter. I sat on the outside seat and since there was no door, it felt that I was flying on my own without any machine keeping me up.

Thank you again for your help in giving me the chance to experience this academy.

Sincerely,

Thomas Edwards

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## EAA 857 - Chapter Meetings and Events for 2023

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 17 February 21 March 21 April 18 May 16 June 20 July 18 August 15 September 19 October 17 November 21	
<b>IMC / VMCClub -</b>		TBD	
<b>International Young Eagles Day -</b>		Saturday,	June 10
<b>EAA 857 Fly-In and YE -</b>		Saturday,	August 19
<b>EAA 857 Fly-In and YE -</b>		Saturday,	September 9

### 2023 National Events

<b>Sun 'n Fun -</b>	<b>March 28 - April 2</b>
<b>Sentimental Journey -</b>	<b>June 20 - 24</b>
<b>AirVenture Oshkosh 2023 -</b>	<b>July 24 - 30</b>

### EAA 857 Chapter Officers for 2023

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>Kyle Riedel</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Frank Szczerba</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>DestinyJay Maletta</b>
<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Dan Hood      2023-2025</b>
	<b>Ted Merklin    2023-2024</b>
	<b>Danny Michaels 2023</b>
<b>Website / Newsletter</b>	<b>Ted Merklin</b>