
Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association - Chapter 857

EAA 857 NEWSLETTER



An example of the military liaison and observation aircraft derived from civilian light planes such as the Cessna 170 (305A). This is an O-1A Bird Dog otherwise designated as L-19A from the Korean era. These replaced the WW2 L-2, L-3, and L-4 Grasshopper types which several of our chapter members have owned. It is staged here for a presentation at the Warbirds in Review plaza.

Presidents Message

Hello EAA 857,

Personally, I've experienced a crazy busy month. As Ted shared, I received the FAA Safety Team Representative of the Year award at the district level as well as at the national level. I will be heading to Air Venture this year to accept the award. This still doesn't feel real to me. I have been to Oshkosh but not during the festivities. Please share any tips and tricks you may have!



Miss. Isabella passed her Instrument Written this past month. Isabella, Clarrisa (Isabella's best friend) and I ventured to good old KTSO to celebrate International Women's Day and the passing written score and to practice some holding procedures (I promise I teach not just take fun flights). We learned a valuable lesson about always checking the hours of operation for the restaurant on google rather than on trip advisor. Beware of false advertisement!



I want to give a shout out to Dan Hood. Dan flew the package and letter we received at Butler Airport to me at New Castle this month. We really are blessed to have a great group of people that are willing to work together. Speaking of working together I expect Sam Burke to be signed off for her checkride with a date by the time you are reading this! Sam and I have been working diligently towards completion these past few weeks. We are very excited to finish up and take on instrument next!

Airplanes and Automobiles 2025 is set for Saturday August 23rd, 2025. 10 AM – 4 PM! I hope to see you there!

Kindly

Josselyn 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 February 18, 2025 Regular Meeting

Opening: President Josselyn Slagle called to order at 7:06 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 month's meeting are in the newsletter. Motion to accept the minutes put forth by Kyle Riedel and seconded by Josselyn Slagle.

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

Newsletter: The February 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. Looking for our upcoming YE event to upload.

Tech Advisor: N/A

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, March 18, 2024

IMC / VMC meeting: VMC club after closing.

Young Eagles:

- The board agreed to the Saturday June 14th International YE event and August 9th, the local YE event.
- Registration will not open for until June 7th for the Mars New Year event
- Registration software online is up and running.
- Ted Merklin needs to apply for the YE's event insurance.
- Ted Merklin will create a chapter blast. [Actually NA to YE Events}

Air Academy:

- Carter Straub's Mom reached out to Ted Merklin and wondered if there was anything else that needed to be done. She asks if there were other scholarships. There are from National EAA
- As soon as Ted Merklin gets word from EAA regarding YE Credits, he'll let Carter's Mom know about the balance of fees.
- When Carter gets his free flight, he can explain to YE's, how the progress at the Sporty's Training software helped him.
- Carter is eligible for a discovery flight after completing Sporty's program.

Ray Aviation:

- The interview for the 2025 applicant is set to occur Monday.
- The check for the scholarship cannot go to a University, because they have to be able to make sure that the money is going to flight school.



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

- The airport manager wants to increase the fee for our storage room to treat tenants fairly per FAA. We are asking to see what their proposal is.
- We may need to fill out a tax-exempt application to get a tax reduction off the storage room fee. This is a complex filing we previously elected not to complete.

Old Business:

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

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

Program: Kyle Riedel moved to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Destinyjay Maletta at approximately 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Destinyjay Maletta, EAA 857 Secretary

Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association–Chapter 857 Minutes of the February 18, 2025 Board Meeting

Opening: President Josselyn Slagle called to order at 6:13 P.M.

Meeting attendees: 7 board members were present.

New Business:

- Ted has created the registration site for the June YE event. Ted must discuss this with the KBTP administrator; We need to inquire about the Young Eagle's dates with the airport authority. Since we won't cook for the event, the board suggested to send people upstairs to Serventi's and ask them to pay us 10% for donations to support the local EAA chapter.
- The Boy Scouts contacted us from Mount Lebanon regarding attending the YE rally
- The Airport authority wants to charge fee for renting our storage room [currently \$1 per year]. Dan Hood is going to talk to the airport authority about the fee. The board is proposing that we pay a storage fee. We would have to reduce the amount we give to the Air Academy if we are going to pay a much larger fee.
- The board is thinking about implementing a dues pay button for the website, and a donation button.
- The board agreed to drop the lease for the hanger.

Closing: The meeting was adjourned by Josselyn Slagle and seconded by Frank Szczerba at approximately 6:52P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Destinyjay Maletta, EAA 857 Secretary



FAA Safety Seminar via Zoom.
Monday March 17th at 7 PM

[FAASafety.gov](https://www.faa.gov/safety)

"ToM - Empowering Safer Skies Through Risk-Based Flight Reviews and Wings"

Topic: FAA WINGS SAFETY: Empowering Safer Skies Through Risk-Based Flight Reviews

On Monday, March 17, 2025 at 19:00 Eastern Daylight Time (16:00 PDT; 17:00 MDT; 18:00 CDT; 13:00 HST; 15:00 AKDT; 16:00 Arizona; 23:00 GMT)

Select Number: EA03135728

Description:

The FAA WINGS SAFETY Risk-Based Flight Review is a comprehensive program designed to enhance pilot proficiency and safety through personalized, risk-focused evaluations. By identifying and addressing specific risks associated with a pilot's flying habits and experience, this program promotes better decision-making, situational awareness, and overall flight safety. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced pilot, the FAA WINGS SAFETY program helps ensure you're flying with confidence, skill, and the most up-to-date safety practices.

To view further details and registration information for this webinar, click here:

http://www.faa.gov/SPANS/event_details.aspx?eid=135728

The sponsor for this seminar is: AGC FAASTeam

The following credit(s) are available for the WINGS/AMT Programs: Basic Knowledge 1 - 1 Credit

Click here to view the WINGS help page: <https://www.FAASafety.gov/OnlineHelp/Default.aspx?page=/WINGS/pub/default.aspx>

Home Page: <https://www.FAASafety.gov>

Email Preferences: <https://www.FAASafety.gov/Users/pub/preferences.aspx>

Opt Out: <https://www.FAASafety.gov/users/pub/optout.aspx?uuid=BAE3ABF3-3D30-4457-975C-0A732ECC4C04>

For comments or questions contact us at <https://www.FAASafety.gov/about/contact.aspx>

Earn your WINGS to get a chance to win a prize. Go to <https://www.wingsindustry.com/WINGS-Sweepstakes> for more info.

Join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GASafety/>



EAA 857 Chapter Youth Outreach

The following chapter outreach data to area youth was extracted from our Board and Chapter meeting minutes for the 12 years we have been resident at the Pittsburgh-Butler Regional Airport. These efforts being in the form of Young Eagle rallies, Air Academy attendance, and Ray Aviation Scholarships. Also noted are the special events hosting of the Ford Tri-Motor when it has been on tour for the EAA.

EAA 857 Community Activity Summary

Total YE flown from KBTP	~1,165 youth	
Total Air Academy Camp attendees	~15 youth sent,	1 planned for 2025
Ray Aviation Scholarships Awarded	3 awarded	1 or 2 planned for 2025
YE Rally events		2 planned

2000

EAA 857 Chartered at Zelenople KJPC

2013

Moved to Butler KBTP from KJPC
 2 YE rally events and 1 fly-in total 109 flown
 Assisted with WINGS Presentation set up

2014

EAA Air Academy @ Oshkosh 1 sent
 3 YE rally events and 2 fly-ins total 151 flown

2015

EAA Air Academy @ Oshkosh 2 sent
 2 YE rally events and 1 fly-in total 119 flown
 EAA Ford Tri-motor Tour 506 seats flown, on 47 flights

2016

EAA Air Academy @ Oshkosh 3 sent
 3 YE rally events and 2 fly-ins total 127 flown

2017

EAA Air Academy @ Oshkosh 1 sent
 3 YE rally events and 2 fly-ins total 196 flown

2018

EAA Air Academy @ Oshkosh 2 sent
 2 YE rally events and 1 fly-in total 120 flown

**2019**

EAA Air Academy @ Oshkosh	1 sent
1 YE Rally event	total 25 YE flown
KBTP 90th Anniversary participant.	

2020

Covid Cancellations for all events
Storage room moved due to High Flight facility expansion.

2021

EAA Air Academy @ Oshkosh	1 sent
3 YE rally events and 2 fly-ins	total 95 YE flown
Boy Scout Camporee event supported	

2022

Ray Aviation Scholarship Award	1 awarded
EAA Air Academy @ Oshkosh	2 sent
3 YE rally events and 2 fly-ins	total 128 YE flown
EAA Ford Tri-motor Tour	170 seats flown, on 18 flights

2023

Ray Aviation Scholarship Award	1 awarded
EAA Air Academy @ Oshkosh	2 sent
1 YE Rally event	total 37 YE flown

2024

Ray Aviation Scholarship Award	1 awarded
EAA Air Academy @ Oshkosh	1 sent
2 YE Rally events	total 58 YE flown

On the next page you will see a listing of all the pilots who have flown for our chapter since its inception in 2000. This information comes from the worlds largest Logbook on the EAA website ([link](#)). One can look up individual youth records, pilot records and chapter records as shown below. Summing up the Flights to Date column, these folks are credited with 3,600+ Young Eagle rides, led by our Captain Larry Schaefer with 588. As noted in the summary above, I estimate 1,165 YE have been flown out of KBTP.



FirstName	LastName	FlightsToDate	EAAChapter	DateofLastFlight
Anthony	Acker	14	EAA 857	8/13/17
Jerome	Apt	4	EAA 857	8/14/22
Bill	Banks	426	EAA 857	9/8/24
Mark	Beighey	17	EAA 857	6/11/22
Alan	Connor	1	EAA 857	5/13/21
Todd	Copeland	5	EAA 857	6/12/10
Jeffrey	Edwards	69	EAA 857	9/21/24
James	Fulkerson	3	EAA 857	6/14/14
Elizabeth	Gall	17	EAA 857	9/25/21
Leon	Gant	1	EAA 857	8/19/03
Anthony	Gazda	1	EAA 857	8/10/24
Joseph	Harenski	15	EAA 857	10/17/04
Daniel	Hood	190	EAA 857	8/10/24
Sue	Hostler	289	EAA 857	8/9/15
Fred	Kim	14	EAA 857	7/29/12
Phillip	Kriley	8	EAA 857	9/18/05
Donald	Lavoie	131	EAA 857	6/14/14
Jan	Lewis	26	EAA 857	9/11/16
Charles	Lotz	1	EAA 857	5/21/05
Frank	Marshall	167	EAA 857	9/18/11
Gary	Marsico	164	EAA 857	3/21/23
Keith	Mcpherson	62	EAA 857	9/13/15
Daniel	Michaels	16	EAA 857	8/10/24
Sal	Migliore	3	EAA 857	7/22/01
Michael	Neuman	64	EAA 857	9/13/15
Daniel	Pappert	255	EAA 857	8/12/18
Charles	Potts	114	EAA 857	8/11/19
Kyle	Riedel	11	EAA 857	8/10/24
Steve	Robbins	5	EAA 857	9/11/16
Robert	Santolla	108	EAA 857	9/11/16
Edward	Sattely	4	EAA 857	6/9/12
Lawrence	Schaefer	588	EAA 857	12/23/19
Robert	Severns	30	EAA 857	9/20/09
Josselyn	Slagle	11	EAA 857	6/8/24
Mark	Smiley	157	EAA 857	8/11/19
Daryl	Stutes	20	EAA 857	7/12/08
Francis	Szczerba	135	EAA 857	8/10/24
Richard	Thayer	30	EAA 857	9/16/07

The Chapter's Newest Private Pilot

Kyle Riedel

Chapter 857 congratulates Azora Riggle, a recent visitor to the chapter, for her huge success in becoming a Certified FAA Private Pilot!

Azora flies with the Beech Club located in Meadville. Azora also credits her instructor, Garrett Gottlieb, for staying the course to help her get across the finish line in this “all-important” milestone. Next up on Azora’s list is selecting an aviation university to keep her on track to become a professional pilot.



Azora celebrates her new certificate!





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 - up next!

May

Jul

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



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