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Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association - Chapter 857

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# EAA 857 NEWSLETTER

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**This Zenith was presented as an example of the craft during the Homebuilders Showcase flyby at AirVenture Oshkosh 2023. That's a lot of creative graphics added to this bird!**

## Presidents Message

Hello EAA Chapter 857,

We've made it to the last meeting of the year together. I've enjoyed getting to know all of you better along the way and working with you on various projects. Speaking of projects, we are still looking for a generous host to have us attend their hangar and learn about their airplane. If you are interested in hosting, please reach out!

Our meeting this month will feature food as usual and a raffle with some special year end prizes! I get to share some great news with you all. Our Young Eagle, Ian was accepted into the Air Academy camp session 2 at Oshkosh this year.

As a reminder dues can be paid now for 2024! Anyone else worried about writing the wrong year in their logbook once the clock ticks over? I forget every year. Take care and stay safe.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Joss Slagle

Chapter President



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

The 2024 chapter officer slate includes the following individuals nominated at our October meeting:

President	Joss Slagle
Vice President	Kyle Riedel
Treasurer	Frank Szczerba
Secretary	Destiny Jay Maletta
Board Member	Danny Michaels

The vote will be taken at the November meeting. If you can not attend, please email your proxy vote to the chapter president.

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



## Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association—Chapter 857 Minutes of October 17, 2023 Regular Meeting

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

**Meeting attendees:** 17 members were present. 5 Visitors attended.

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

**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 October'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. Plans are to update the Ray Aviation Scholarship Page and other minor corrections.

**Tech Advisor:** No report

**Next Regular Meeting:** Tuesday November 21, 2023

**IMC meeting:** Try to get wings credited / On preventive maintenance.

**Air Academy:** Currently advance group has been booked for several weeks now. Youngest age group have been open, so far have one response. How many do we send next year?

**Young Eagles:** Trying to decide on a make-up event. Ted Merklin suggested adding Rain make-up dates. and perhaps makes a Young Eagle for May or October. It was also suggested having more events with Builder focus. Board to Propose a new calendar for January's meeting.

The Franklin PA Chapter is seeking a Young eagle pilot for an event the 28th of October.

**Ray Aviation Scholarship:** \$800 left at high flight, entering cross-country. Working on knowledge exam. Collin earned a light speed headset. Ray Aviation scholarship Virtual information session November 9th (Thursday) at 7:00pm (eastern).

**Old Business:** N/A

**New Business:**



**Officer and Board Election:** This will be at next month's meeting. All current officers agree to stand for re-election for the upcoming year of 2024. Board member Danny Michaels agreed to stand for a full 3 year term. Dan Hood and Ted Merklin continue their current terms as Board Members.

**Closing:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:38 P.M. by a motion made by Joss and seconded by Ted Merklin.

Respectfully submitted:

Destinyjay Maletta, EAA 857 Secretary

## **Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association—Chapter 857 Board Meeting Minutes October 24, 2023**

**Opening:** President Josselyn Slagle called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

**Attendance:** Slagle, Riedel Szczerba, Hood, Merklin, Michaels,

**New Calendar events:** for 2024 including adding a building event discussed.

**Actions to take:** Drafting an email to builders requesting hangar event volunteer.

**Young Eagles:** 2 events for 2024: June 8th; and August 10th Plan 2 rain make up dates on June 15th and August 17th

**Air academy:** Send 1 youth to air academy: Ian Geikowsky applied for the camp spot and is in the youngest age group. \$1,000 cost for YE group, \$200 check is being cut by Frank for the deposit to accompany the reservation. Balance due by credits and check next spring.

**New Business:** Suggestion that we add a builder to the board. An email is being drafted to try to find a potential new board member to be added without removing any current standing board members. This board member we are seeking is intended to be a builder.

**Chapter Renewal:** Acknowledgement that chapter renewal is being sent out earlier this year.

**Closing:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:24 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Joss Slagle, EAA 857 President

## Ray Aviation Scholarship



by Kyle Riedel

On November 2nd, I participated in EAA National's informational update on the 2024 Ray Scholarship Program. It appears that the top-line funding of \$11,000 for a private pilot certificate will remain in place. The Ray Aviation Foundation, through EAA National, will again offer a fully funded scholarship and a 25%/75% scholarship. Our Chapter is set to apply for the fully funded scholarship. While we are not guaranteed to receive this scholarship, our Gold Chapter status means that we have a high likelihood of again receiving it.

On November 9th, I hosted a virtual informational update on the Ray Aviation Scholarship. Ted Merklin provided email addresses (Young Eagles & YE parents) for all "age-eligible" that our chapter flew in the last two years. Of the 26 YEs we had a total of two dial-ins. One was a YE from the list and the other received the information on the briefing from another source (not sure where). Both Naomi Wigley and Colin Daniello dialed in to introduce themselves as the 2022 and 2023 scholarship, respectively. A big thanks to each of them for volunteering their time.

2024 Ray Aviation Scholarship Goals Include:

- 1) Again, receiving a fully funded scholarship from EAA National.
- 2) Receiving more than 5 applications (in prior years, we only received 5 applications each year).
- 3) Receiving our first application from a Young Eagle flown by Chapter 857.
- 4) Awarding the scholarship to the applicant most able to complete their PPL within the program parameters.

## The Great November Raffle!!



Aside from the annual election activities during our November meeting, the chapter will raffle off all the remaining food items from our cancelled Young Eagle Rally. Please bring some cash (\$5) so we can empty the storage room while funding our normal operations. Our intent is that every single raffle participant will leave with one of these many prizes.

***Prizes include:***

***25% of the Cash Buy-In***

***Frozen Hamburger Patties***

***Frozen Sausage Patties***

***Maple Syrup***

***Pancake Mix***

***Coffee Grounds***

***Squeezable Butter***

***Soda***

***Chips***

**Thanks and Gratitude from the EAA Chapter Board Members!**



Congratulations to Ben Wahl for starting a new flight instructor position and for becoming a CFII on 14 November. Ben is building his hours and client base with River Town Aviation at Mid-Ohio Valley Airport (KPKB) (Williamstown, WV). As Chapter 857 members make their fall flights, make sure to stop in and see Ben as he moves forward as a professional pilot. As a super volunteer for EAA, we wish him the very best!

## Hill Air Force Base Aerospace Museum

by Phil Kriley

My son has been transferred from NAS Jacksonville to Bremerton WA, so Robin and I are driving his wife's car up to help with the move. Not far from Salt Lake City is Hill AFB, and they have a nice aviation museum. Here are a few pictures I took. This is a B-1 supersonic bomber.



*Ed.: In the background is the The Douglas C-124 Globemaster II, cargo aircraft nicknamed "Old Shaky".*



I don't remember what this next plane is, but the Rockies in the background were beautiful!

*Ed.: The museum lists this item in their collection as a T-29 Flying Class Room. Wikipedia says it was used to train Navigators. Its based on the Convair 240.*



This is a nicely restored P-51 Mustang, although it was made from parts from several planes.



Next is a B-17G.



A nice P-40 in the WASP exhibit:



And lastly a Wright that was the first built under contract:

The part of the collection dedicated to the Vietnam era is undergoing a large renovation and so was closed, but what we did see was impressive. My son said he did some T&G at Hill AFB in the P8-A Poseidon when he was stationed at NAS Whidbey Island a few years ago.

After 6 days driving we still have a way to go, so it's time for me to hit the road!

Take care,

Phil Kriley



## EAA 857 - Chapter Meetings and Events for 2024

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 16 February 20 March 19 April 16 May 21 June 18 July 16 August 20 September 17 October 15 November 19
<b>IMC / VMCClub -</b>		TBD
<b>International Young Eagles Day -</b>		Saturday, June 8, (rain date 15)
<b>EAA 857 Fly-In and YE -</b>		Saturday, August 10 (rain date 17)

### 2024 National Events

<b>Sun 'n Fun -</b>	<b>April 9 - 14</b>
<b>Sentimental Journey -</b>	<b>June 18 - 22</b>
<b>AirVenture Oshkosh 2023 -</b>	<b>July 22 - 28</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>
<b>Young Eagles Coord</b>	<b>Ted Merklin</b>
<b>Ray Aviation Scholarship</b>	<b>Kyle Riedel</b>