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Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association - Chapter 857

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# EAA 857 NEWSLETTER

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**A Classic Favorite, the Cessna 195 arriving at Oshkosh  
for the 2023 edition of AirVenture !**

## Presidents Message



Hello EAA 857 & Welcome to 2024,

I hope that you have all enjoyed a safe and warm holiday season. Personally, I always feel disappointed by a not-so-white and wintery holiday. Maybe one of these years I will fly on the holiday.

We will proceed into this year with an experienced board of those serving from last year. This should allow us to navigate new ventures more easily. Our goal of gaining a builder on the board did not yield results as we hoped. We will continue to inquire to find a member willing to share their airplane, it's story and building adventures along the way. Several members without airplanes have expressed a willingness to provide food, chairs and support in any way they can. This month EAA national hosts many seminars as part of homebuilding week as I am sure we have all been receiving emails about.

On a personal note, as some of you know I have switched flight schools. I am now instructing at Haski Aviation in New Castle. I must say that flying on the part 61 side rather than part 141 has been vastly different. Each day I am met with individuals that study, listen and are hungry for the next challenge. My love for aviation has been renewed in this new role because of my students and their passion.

This is a picture of one of my students flying overhead for his towered takeoffs and landings at Youngstown Airport.

Wishing you a year full of blue skies and calm winds,

Joss Slagle

Chapter President

*ps: 2024 chapter dues are now due and payable.  
see Frank Szczerba, 857 Treasurer  
\$25 per individual, \$35 per family.*





## Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association–Chapter 857 Minutes of November 21, 2023 Regular Meeting

**Opening:** President Joss Slagle called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Meeting attendees:** 13 members were present.

**Previous Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the prior meeting are in the newsletter. Motion to accept the minutes put forth Frank Szczerba and seconded by Kyle Riedal.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report submitted by email from Frank Szczerba was reviewed. Motion to accept put forth by Ted and Mike Newman.

**Newsletter:** The November 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 do maintenance on the website during the holiday break.

**Tech Advisor:** No report

**Next Regular Meeting:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024

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

**Young Eagles:** Expected Dates for next year, Sat June 8 and August 10th. Rain dates will be the following weekend if necessary. Should we sign up for 3 Young Eagle events or should we scale back?

**Air Academy:** Ian Geikowsky has been accepted into Air Academy, EAA sent him data package for paperwork to be returned. In Spring we will know what credits will be applied to tuition. Ian will attend June 22-26.

**Ray Aviation Scholarship:** Colin is working on knowledge exam practice , Also X- Countries. New application for 2024 was updated last week. Goal to receive another scholarship for 2024.

**Old Business:** N/A

**New Business:**

**Airport Fees:** Frank Szczerba to prepare a \$1 payment to the airport authority

**Officer and Board Election:** Officer Slate accepted by the members present, motion made by Mike Newman and seconded by Kyle Riedel. Additional Proxy votes are needed from absent members, to meet the required majority.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Destinyjay Maletta,  
EAA 857 Secretary

## Ray Aviation Scholarship



by Kyle Riedel

Congratulations to Colin Daniello, our Ray Aviation Scholar! Colin passed his FAA Private Pilot Written Exam on 21 December with a score of 90. Colin's passing score now unlocks the final \$2,200 of this scholarship. Colin was able to move into the cross-country stage of his training with his instructor Markus Liepins over the holidays.

Way to go Colin!

## Light Sport Training in a Kitfox IV

by Kyle Riedel

In November I had the pleasure of meeting Rick Thompson who purchased a 1994 Kitfox IV (620GA). Rick is from New Wilmington, PA where his family owns and operates County Kennels. It had just been a few weeks since Rick trailer-hauled the plane from its old home in Indiana to Western Pennsylvania. Rick is approaching his Light Sport Aircraft (LSA) training from an affordability perspective. Aside from a few hours he logged recently in Piper, Rick will conduct all his training in his own plane thereby reducing the out-of-pocket expenses associated with training at a for-profit flight school. He completed the Airplane Light Sport Knowledge Exam at the end of November, and we started to fly shortly thereafter. In the coming months, I hope to chronicle our flight training and share our experiences with the chapter in our newsletter.



620GA's New Home at KUCP

Rick and Kyle smiling after connecting the heater shroud to the cabin inlet ports.



## Homebuilders Week – Online Event Starts January 22

*An online opportunity to learn about building your own aircraft*

By Charlie Becker, EAA Homebuilt Community Manager

Homebuilders Week is an online opportunity to carry on the founding mission of EAA by sharing as much knowledge and information about building your own aircraft as possible in five days. We start on Monday, January 22nd, 2024, and end on Friday, January 26th, 2024. Each day, we offer six live webinars back-to-back, starting at 11:30 am central time and running every hour and a half until the last session at 7pm central. The sessions are live and allow time for questions. To sign up for the sessions, visit [www.EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek](http://www.EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek)

The topics cover a wide variety of areas of interest to anyone curious about building their own aircraft. We try to make sure there is something for everyone, whether you are just considering the idea of building an aircraft, are knee deep in a project or getting ready for test flying. We even have EAA president Jack Pelton lined up on our anniversary date, January 26th, to talk about EAA's Advocacy efforts on behalf of the homebuilt members.

EAA Homebuilders Week coincides with the anniversary of the founding of the Experimental Aircraft Association in 1953. We have come so far since that first EAA meeting. Back then, information on homebuilding was sparse and hard to come by. I know that if our founder, Paul Poberezny, was still with us, he would give us a big thumbs up for this effort to support the homebuilder.

EAA Homebuilders Week is made possible through the generous sponsorships of Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Co., Dynon, and Scheme Designers, Inc.

Visit [www.EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek](http://www.EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek) to sign up.





# Homebuilders Week Schedule

## January 22 - 26, 2024

To sign up: [EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek](http://EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek)

Time CST	Monday 1/22/24	Tuesday 1/23/24	Wednesday 1/24/24	Thursday 1/25/24	Friday 1/26/24
11:30-12:45	Building an Aircraft: What You Need to Know Charlie Becker	Composite Construction Basics Mark Forss	Amateur-Built Certification Process Joe Norris	Lies, Darned Lies, and Homebuilt Accident Statistics Ron Wanttaja	EAA Advocacy Update: Top Homebuilding Issues and the Impact of MOSAIC Jack J. Pelton, Sean Elliott & Rob Hackman
1:00-2:15	Wiring Basics Dick Koehler	The Nuts and Bolts of Nuts and Bolts Kerry Fores	Building on the Cheap Ron Wanttaja	Lycoming Engine Installation Dave Prizio	Working With Wood 101 John Egan
2:30-3:45	Welding Basics: Gas & TIG Charlie Becker & Tracy Buttles	Fabric Covering Basics Nate Hammond	Buying a Used RV Aircraft Vic Syracuse	Sonex Aircraft and AeroConversions Products Mark Schaible	Zenith Aircraft Kits & Plans Sebastian Heintz & Roger Dubbert
4:00-5:15	Sheet Metal Basics Jim Scott	Factory-Built to Homebuilt: What's the Difference? Tom Charpentier	Advanced Flight Systems Rob Hickman	Garmin Experimental Avionics Solutions Brad Brensing	Scratchbuilding From Plans: 90% Done and 90% to Go! Marty Feehan
5:30-6:45	Panel Planning and Wiring Marc Ausman	Dynon Avionics Michael Schofield	Flight Testing 101 Paul Dye	Propeller Selection for Homebuilts Steve Boser	Latex Paint: A Low-Cost Alternative Malcolm Morrison
7:00-8:15	Rotax 9 Series Installation & Operation Phil Lockwood	Painting Your Plane: DIY or Use an Expert? Craig Barnett & Ken Reese	Engine Break-In Mike Busch	Van's RV Aircraft Kits Greg Hughes	Common Builder & Maintenance Errors Vic Syracuse

Sponsored by





**Oshkosh Bus Trip 2024**  
**EAA AirVenture – July 23<sup>rd</sup> to July 27<sup>th</sup>**



This year we will leave from the Butler Farm Show Airport (3G9) on Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> and return on Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. We'll spend three full days at the air show, stay at Ripon College, and travel on an air conditioned coach bus. The cost of the trip includes 4 nights lodging, breakfast each morning, transportation, and the opportunity to travel with wonderful people. The cost of the trip is:

**Double Occupancy: \$395.00/per person**

**Private Room: \$495.00/ per person**

If you are interested in joining us this year, then I will need a deposit check in the amount of **\$100.00** made out to **Kent L. Shoemaker**. I will send additional trip information to participants in May and that's when final payments will be due. Complete the registration form below and send it, along with the deposit check, to: **Kent L. Shoemaker 225 Glade Run Road Renfrew, PA 16053**

If you have any questions about this year's Oshkosh Bus Trip, please give me a call, text or Email.. **724-766-5847** or [kentLshoemaker@gmail.com](mailto:kentLshoemaker@gmail.com).

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate your lodging choice: \_\_\_\_\_ Double Occupancy \_\_\_\_\_ Private Room

Roommate if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_





## 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 2024

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>Danny Michaels 2024-2026</b>
	<b>Dan Hood 2024-2025</b>
	<b>Ted Merklin 2024</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>