
Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association - Chapter 857

EAA 857 NEWSLETTER



The Italian Air Force Flight Demonstration Team Frecece Tricolori flying Aermacchi MB-339PAN trainer jets performed in a very rare (last seen here in 1986) North American tour date at AirVenture Oshkosh 2024!

Presidents Message



Hello EAA 857,

Wow! What a fantastic Young Eagles event this month. I was thoroughly impressed by the number of pilots, volunteers and kiddos. Thank you for your efforts for those of you that came out to support the effort. I realize that all of us within this organization have different underlying interests in how it moves forward but it is great to see us come together.

Future CFI Isabella teaching ground school at our Young Eagles Rally



I am mystified by aviation this week. On Sunday, I flew to N35 also known as Punxsutawney. I went to drop off flyers for Airplanes and Automobiles. I happened to glance at the sign in sheet and a friend of mine had also just checked in on the sheet a day prior. It gave me a chance to reconnect with an aviator in a unique way. Our world has a way of bringing people

together that you just don't expect. On Monday morning I ventured into the airport for a meeting with Ron Spiker of Spiker Helicopters. I expected him to pull up to the airport in his car. He drove his airplane instead to our meeting.

Kindly,

Joss Slagle. Chapter President

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



Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association—Chapter 857 Minutes of July 16, 2024 Regular Meeting

Opening: President Josselyn Slagle called to order at 7:02 P.M. and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting attendees: 12 members were present and 5 guest.

Previous Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the June meeting are in the newsletter. Motion to accept the minutes put forth Ted and seconded by Dan Hood.

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

Newsletter: The July 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. (Planning still to do maintenance on the website).

Tech Advisor: N/A

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, August 20, 2024

IMC meeting: No VMC meeting: Tonight; An IMC meeting will be next month.

Young Eagles:

- Flew 20 kids in June, next event is August 10th.
- Held from this building, Ted is contacting the office to inform them of next event.
- 4 pilots, 3 sessions at 15 kids per session.
- Registration opens on the July 22nd.

Air Academy: Have not yet heard from the Air Academy candidate, Ian Geikowsky, about his experience at Oshkosh.

Ray Aviation:

- Colin Daniello earned his Private Pilots Certificate! Collin is sending Kyle receipts, Collin spent \$18,700 total for PPL. Took 13 months.
- Samantha Burke's first check will get split for reimbursement, then cash flow the other \$4,400 for the check we didn't receive.
- Received a conformation that we got her solo report.
- Can Marty's examiner fee come out of the cash being given?
- Ask to send invoices to Frank, and he'll send a check.
- Requesting for Sam's dad to take his credit card off file.
- Vote on Cash flow \$4,400, until we receive the check on the 24th of July.
- Sam plans to take the Knowledge exam July 31st.
- \$1600 in total pledges, 100 received, all the scholarships we 100%. 31st of Dec will be approved for another scholarship.
-

Old Business: N/A

New Business: We have 35 paid Members, 8 others have not paid 2024 dues. Contact them to clarify their intentions.

Closing: A call to adjourn the meeting was made by Kyle Riedel and seconded by Destinyjay Maletta at approximately 7:33 P.M.

Program: Recognition of Samantha Burke as our third Ray Aviation Scholar with presentations from Kyle Riedel, meeting her parents, photo op, and celebrating her with cake.

Respectfully submitted:

Destinyjay Maletta,
EAA 857 Secretary

New Member Announcement!

by Isabella Buell

Hi Everyone!

I am so excited to be joining the chapter. I got the opportunity to help out with your young eagles events this year! I attended both sessions this year, but this most recent one I taught the ground lesson! I enjoyed being able to talk to the kids and hear the experience they already had. I taught them how clouds form, how wind forms, where they will be flying to and more! I want to thank Ben Wahl and Destinyjay for giving me a presentation that I was able to make into my own! This was exciting for me as one of my goals is to become a flight instructor and teach other pilots to grow and learn!



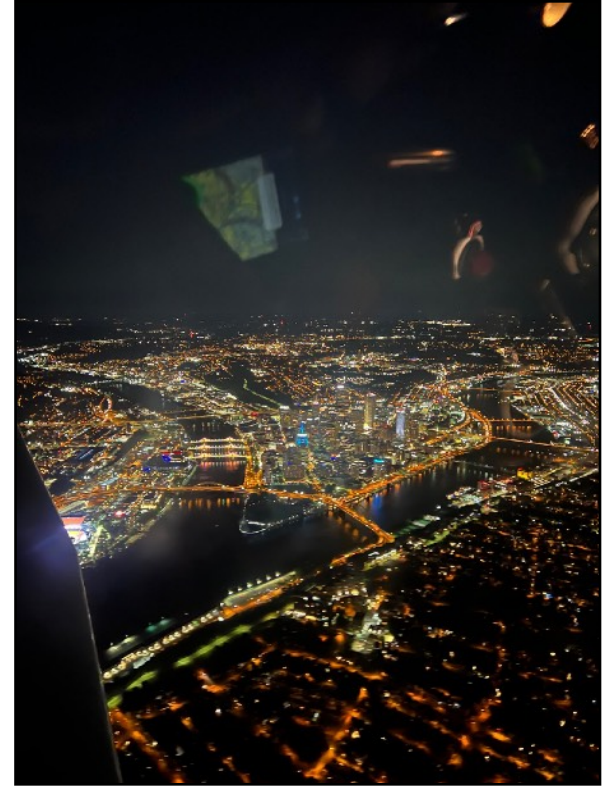
I am 18 years old. I recently earned my private pilots license flying with Joss Slagle. I am working towards a complex endorsement now. I will be attending Kent State in the fall majoring in professional piloting. I will start with my instrument rating in the fall. My favorite airport is Carroll County (KTSO)! I recently took up my first passenger, my best friend Clarissa. We went over for lunch and got to enjoy some delicious blueberry pie! This was not her first flight



with me though, she went up with me and Joss on the 4th of July to watch fireworks from above New Castle! Getting my private pilot license has been so exhilarating and I can't wait for the experiences to come!

I have already gotten to fly with two members from the chapter! At the YE event, I had the chance to go fly in, Vice President, Kyle Riedel's Piper Cub! This is the first time I have ever flown an open cabin and tailwheel plane! It was so fun and such an amazing learning opportunity! I appreciate the opportunity Kyle gave me, and I hope to get my tailwheel one day! Thank you Kyle!

My favorite adventure flying was my night flight over Pittsburgh! After I passed my check ride, Joss, my friend Grace and I flew to see the city at night. I wish my pictures could capture the beauty of the city, but it doesn't do it justice.



In my free time, I enjoy hanging out with my friends and going swimming, flying with my favorite instructor and spending time with my family.

I am so grateful to be able to join the chapter and I can't wait to meet more of the members at the meetings! See you guys soon!

Young Eagles Rally Results

On August 10, EAA 857 held our second and final scheduled Young Eagle Event for this year. We had a great turnout of kids, parents, volunteers and pilots as Joss mentioned in her newsletter message above. We flew 38 Young Eagles with 7 pilots covering 20 flights. *Thank You to all* who helped the chapter in this achievement!

Ted Merklin, Young Eagles Coordinator.



Young Eagles Story

by Ally Moraca

August 12, 2024

allymoraca@gmail.com

The first time I felt the earth fall away beneath me, I realized that flying wasn't just about defying gravity, but about embracing freedom. From my very first flight, I was captivated not only by the technical challenges but also by the sense of responsibility and freedom that came with being in control of a plane. Each flight has taught me something new, whether it was navigating the complexities of physical weather or the thrill of a perfect landing. Flying became not just a skill to be learned, but a passion that would shape my identity and future.

My name is Ally Moraca and I became a young eagle in 2021 when I took my first flight in Butler, PA [ed. with EAA 857]. I can still recall the excitement I felt sitting down for the pancake breakfast watching all kinds of cool planes land and



taxi around the airport. With my sister in the back of the plane, the pilot allowed me to take the controls and try some basic turns while in flight. Seeing the ground from a small plane gives one a new perspective on the area. Rolling green farm fields, shiny lakes with boats and people that appear the size of ants, and seeing the Pittsburgh cityscape appear almost magically out of the ground are some of the joys of flying in our area.

After I flew a few times at Butler, I decided I wanted to take my flying journey a step further and fly more often. This started with participating in a camp at Indiana County Airport (Innovative Aviation) where I eventually began taking regular flight lessons. Not long after this, flying became a regular part of my life that I looked forward to each week. I began to gain

more experience, both in the air with flying and on the ground with studying. To many people's surprise, getting a private pilot's license involves much more than learning to fly. The student pilot must learn everything from meteorology to aviation law to how the systems of a plane work. After many months of canceled flights due to poor weather and completing hours of studying, I took my first solo flight on April 6th, 2024 in Indiana, PA. This milestone achievement marked not only my ability to fly the plane without an instructor but also the start of summer flying weather. From this point on, I traveled to many other airports to complete training requirements. Some of my favorite flights included flying to Butler to meet a friend for lunch and flying into Pittsburgh International at night and seeing all the big jets as well as fireworks from the Pirates



game. On August 4th, 2024, I took my private pilot check ride in Indiana, PA, and became a private pilot at 18 years old.

For anyone interested in getting their private pilot's license, here's some advice! My first suggestion is to take a Young Eagle's flight! Young Eagles flights are free and are available to anyone between the ages of 8 and 17. This is a great way to know if you like flying and is also an awesome opportunity to meet others with similar interests. The next step is to find a flight school and an instructor you like and work well with. Throughout your journey to get your license, you will spend countless hours at the airport and with your instructor so make sure to find somewhere you enjoy being.

If you took a Young Eagles flight, don't forget to complete the Sporty's Learn to Fly course, included for free with your flight. Upon completion of this course, they will reimburse you for the cost of your written test, a test that is required to become a private pilot, as well as a voucher for a free flight at your flight school. Student pilots must be 16 to solo and 17 to obtain a license, but there's never an age too early to start! Go flying when the weathers nice and have fun with each lesson! The whole process goes quicker than you imagine, so enjoy it!

Once you take your check ride, you will be able to fly your family and friends around and show them what you learned. Some of the places I have taken passengers include Beaver, Allegheny County, Johnstown, Latrobe, and Dubois, as well as scenic tours over the city of Pittsburgh. If anyone would like to reach out with questions or is looking for advice, feel free to email me (allymoraca@gmail.com)! Best of luck to everyone learning to fly and I look forward to meeting you at the next Young Eagles event at Butler! From the moment you take your first flight, the sky is no longer the limit!



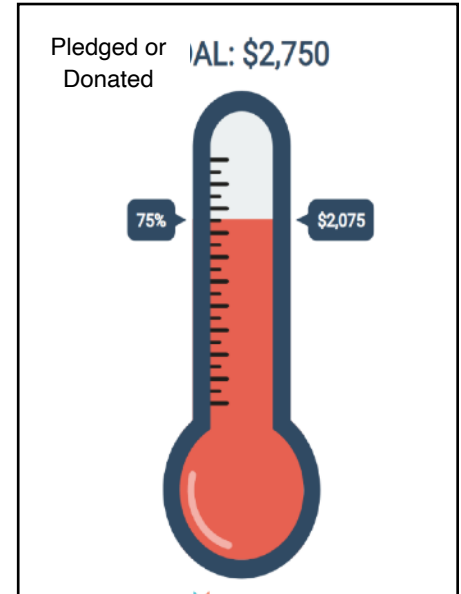


2025 Ray Scholarship Pledge Update

As of 15 August, the Chapter received pledges and donations totaling \$2,075 toward the 2025 Ray Aviation Scholarship. We are just \$650 short of our \$2,750 goal which guarantees that we secure the remaining 75% (\$8,250) as a matching grant from the Ray Aviation Foundation!

What is great about the most recent surge in giving is the number of micro-donations (between \$25 and \$100) pledged/donated to the chapter. A special thanks to Gary Marsico for preparing pre-addressed envelopes that went out to parents of our Young Eagles participating in the 10 August YE Rally. We also made an extra effort during the YE ground school to explain operational costs of pilots volunteering their aircraft to support the event. Most were surprised to hear about the high fuel consumption rate of aircraft engines and the price of 100LL being over \$6.50/gal.

If you are interested in seeing us receive this scholarship for the fourth consecutive year, please contact the Ray Aviation Scholarship Coordinator (Kyle Riedel) to pledge today. Kyle's email address is riedel.kyle@yahoo.com.



Call for Applicants: Ray Aviation Scholarship

Applicant Eligibility Requirements

- Age 16-19
- Possess student pilot certificate
- Possess FAA medical certificate (prior to start of training)
- Start flying within 60 days of scholarship award date

Complete the Following Prior to Application Deadline

- Go To: <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea857>
- Click on: Ray Aviation Scholarship Tab (Left side of page)
- Download and Complete the Application Form
- Mail in prior to Deadline: **January 1st, 2025**

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

* Contingent upon receipt of Ray Aviation Scholarship from EAA National

McGeary Family Chapter Donation

A huge thanks to Chris and Margot McGeary as they have moved to Lost Mine (MO56) in Theodosia, Missouri to live in their new airpark home.

The McGeary's have donated a Grizzly Industrial 12" Pan and Box Brake, a Stratus 2S GPS with case and mount, and a Noral Flight Bag (all in like new condition).

We wish them the very best and thanks for many years of volunteering. Chris as you recall has served as a past Chapter Treasurer and also regularly helped at the Young Eagle Registration desk for our events. He has authored multiple newsletter articles too. Margot often helped Robin Kriley with other kitchen serving crew at Young Eagle rallies.



A Sampling of Photos from AirVenture Oshkosh 2024



**General Dynamics /
Lockheed Martin
F-16 Fighting Falcon**



**North American
P-51D Mustang**



**USAF
Heritage Flight**



**Fairchild Republic
A-10 Thunderbolt II
“Warthog”**

**Supermarine
Spitfire**



**Hawker
Hurricane**



EAA 857 President Joss Slagle adds this event in our planning for August!



AIRPLANE RIDES

FREE TO ATTEND!

LOCAL FOOD TRUCKS

FEATURING

- DEMONSTRATION FLIGHTS
- SAFETY SEMINAR

HELICOPTER RIDES

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SATURDAY AUGUST 24TH • 10AM TO 4PM
NEW CASTLE AIRPORT

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FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

2024 CLASSIC CAR CRUISE-IN AT

NEW PHILADELPHIA
HARRY CLEVER
AIRPORT

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 1st
2024

UNICOM 122.8

CAR SHOW 9:30am - 3pm

KPHD

WBTC
THE TUSK™
101.9 FM 1540AM
BIG HITS RADIO

2024
IN CONJUNCTION WITH

EAA
THE SPIRIT OF AVIATION
CHAPTER #1077



LABOR DAY

WEEKEND

Wings & Wheels
CLASSIC CAR
CRUISE IN

EAA CHAPTER 1077 BREAKFAST

7:30 TO 1:30

BEST PANCAKES-FRESH EGGS-SAUSAGE- COFFEE& JUICE
WALK-IN*DRIVE-IN*FLY-IN



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.

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

2024 National Events

Sun 'n Fun -	April 9 - 14
Sentimental Journey -	June 18 - 22
AirVenture Oshkosh 2023 -	July 22 - 28

EAA 857 Chapter Officers for 2024

Use contact@eaa857.org to email the Chapter President.
Your request will be forwarded to the appropriate individual.

President	Josselyn Slagle
Vice President	Kyle Riedel
Treasurer	Frank Szczerba
Secretary	DestinyJay Maletta
Board Members	Danny Michaels 2024-2026
	Dan Hood 2024-2025
	Ted Merklin 2024
Website / Newsletter	Ted Merklin
Young Eagles Coord	Ted Merklin
Ray Aviation Scholarship	Kyle Riedel