

Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association - Chapter 857

# EAA 857 NEWSLETTER



## **One year ago at the Vintage Barn!**

Opening Day Morning 2019.

This would have been the first stop today in 2020!

## Presidents Message

EAA 857 Members,

We will be meeting this month in our usual place on our usual day and at our usual time! So please join us if you are comfortable doing so in the KBTP conference room on Tuesday 7/21 at 7pm. Bob Santolla will lead off the meeting with a technical presentation on fuel system design. I will follow with the usual chapter business update. We also will attempt to video stream this meeting and I had sent out an email several days ago with the link to the stream. I will forward that to you again this evening.



Based upon the current state mandates, we will need to maintain distance spacing and wear a mask for everyones protection. The presentation speaker is permitted to present without a mask.

Many of us would have been in Oshkosh today for AirVenture 2020. It is indeed unfortunate that the show was cancelled, however you likely have received multiple emails advertising a Virtual AirVenture, including a wide variety of presentations much like you would experience in the Forums and other locations on the field at Wittman. I have signed up for multiple webinars watch will be presented through out the week. See the AirVenture website here.

Finally I will remind you that at the Board Meeting on June 23 we decided that we will cancel the public events we had on our schedule for August and September. It appeared to us that the physical conditions and requirements for conducting such events were not viable for us to follow at this time.

Please everyone take care of yourselves and your families! See you Tuesday!

Ted Merklin,  
President, EAA Chapter 857



## Minutes of June 16, 2020 Meeting

**Opening:** President Ted Merklin called the meeting to order at 19:00 and led the members in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Meeting Attendees:** 7 members via a Zoom meeting online presentation.

**Previous Meeting Minutes:** Approved the minutes from the last meeting which was held on February 18, 2020.

**Treasurer's Report:** The current bank balances were reported. Phil Kriley is owed repayment for the purchase expense of 4 steel shelving units that have been installed in the storage room. One of the 4 units was donated by Bob Santolla.

**Newsletter:** These were distributed monthly for March through June.

**Website:** The new website went live on 4/1/2020.

**Young Eagles:** Status of 2019 YE Credits: 44@\$5 total \$220. Phil Kriley will check to see if these can be transferred to next year.

**Technical Advisor:** No Report

### **Business:**

- **Air Academy:** 2020 camps are cancelled. Candidate Zach Jordan had a reservation for late June Basic: Zach indicates desire to go in 2021, however he will be 16 for the Advanced camp and would be waitlisted now. Bob Santolla is working with family and EAA office.
- **Event Dates for 2020:** Saturday 6/13 YE [cancelled], Sunday 8/9 YE & Fly-in, Sunday 9/13 YE & Fly-in
  - EAA recommendations for event food service safety were discussed.
  - Boy Scout April Camporee at KBTP: Cancelled.
  - Chapter Meetings: In person meetings have been cancelled until July pending relaxed covid restrictions.
  - Sentimental Journey and AirVenture have both been cancelled, so these no longer impact meeting schedule.
  - Jason Frazier NOAA office offered to do a weather presentation at the April Meeting.
  - NOAA Presentation has been postponed until August.
  - Looking at state exemption from Charity Registration based on <25K in donations.

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn at 20:05 was made by Bob Weir, and seconded by Larry Schaefer.

**Program:** T. Merklin presented several technical videos from the EAA Chapter Video Archive.

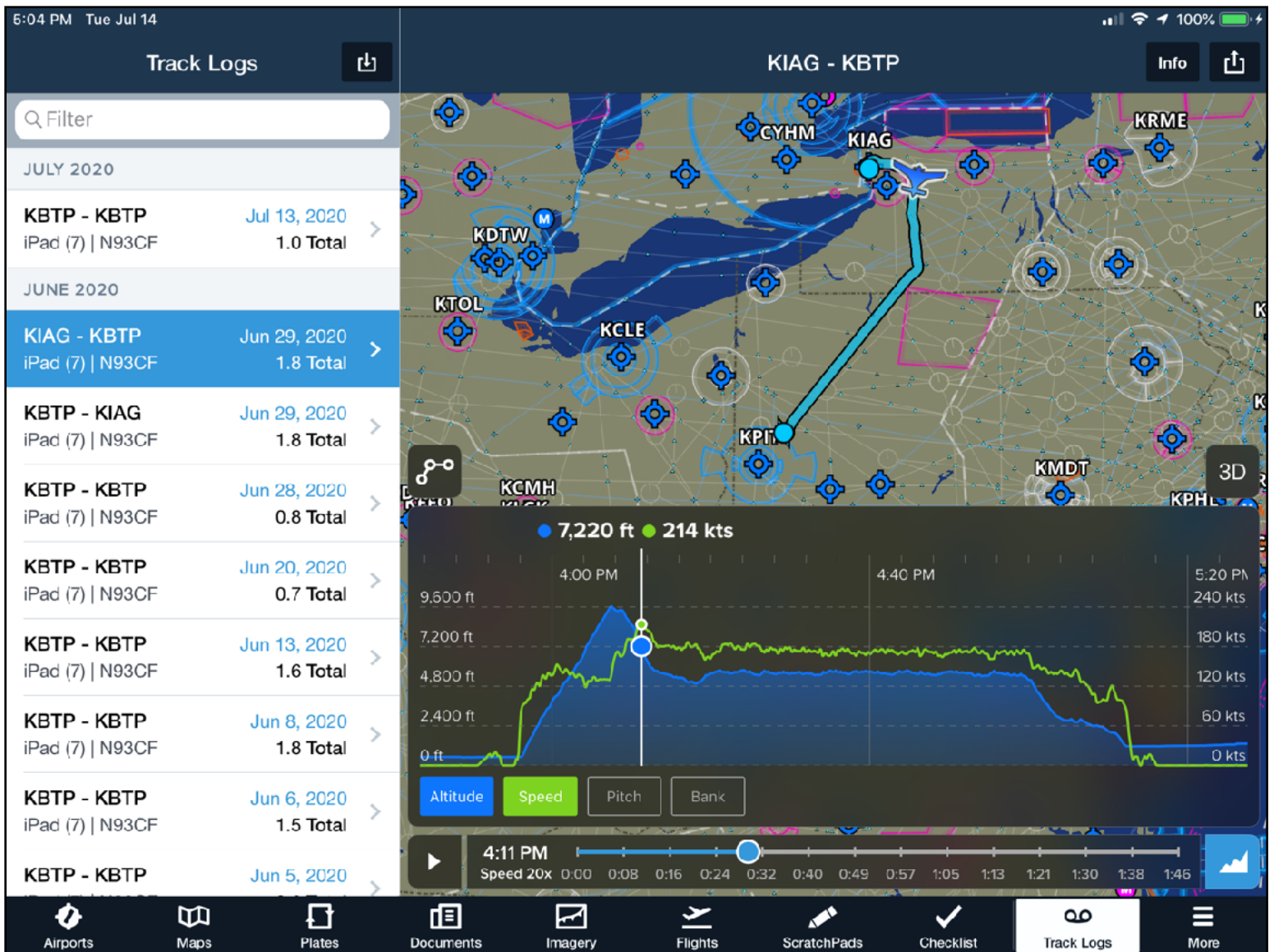
Respectfully submitted,            Richard Schubert            Secretary

# Niagara Falls

by Phil Kriley

Here is a little trip report for the newsletter. I will not be available for the meeting as I will be visiting my son, daughter-in-law and new grandson next week.

Last Monday my wife and I took a trip up to Niagara Falls. We left KBTP at 10:00 am and landed at Niagara Falls International (KIAG) at 11:17 am. The weather was warm on the ground but nice and cool at altitude. The air was very smooth as well. We cruised under a cloud layer and then climbed higher once we passed them. The attached track logs from Foreflight show our route, speed and altitude for the trip. We deviated east to avoid Buffalo's Class C airspace. This is the trip north:





**Niagara Falls International Tower**  
Robin Kriley and The Cat's Meow.

**Niagara Falls International FBO**

The Falls are directly behind the FBO from this angle



After landing the FBO called a taxi for us for the short ride to the visitor's center on the American side of the Falls. The border to Canada was closed due to the pandemic, but we prefer the American side anyway. Many of the attractions and restaurants were closed, but we had a nice lunch at the Cave of the Winds snack bar. I had a very good cheeseburger and Robin had chicken fingers. We walked to the Bridal Falls and saw beautiful rainbows as you can see in the picture. We continued our walk across Goat Island towards Terrapin Point for a view of the Horseshoe Falls. We watched the Maid of the Mist take a load of people right up to the falls. We next walked up to the Three Sisters islands. This is one of our favorite spots as there is shade and cool rocks to sit on. Some folks let their dog into one of the small streams for a cooling bath! I considered joining him! A number of small pedestrian bridges join the islands and give you a beautiful view of the rapids above the Falls.



### **Bridal Veil Falls Rainbow**

We continued our walk around Goat Island and found an ice cream stand where I got a cup of Dip'n'Dots but Robin just wanted a drink. Her loss! We crossed the large pedestrian bridge back over to the American Falls visitor's center which, unfortunately, was closed. So we called the cab and headed back to the airport.

**American Falls**

The people in the background are where we took the picture of the rainbow in the previous picture

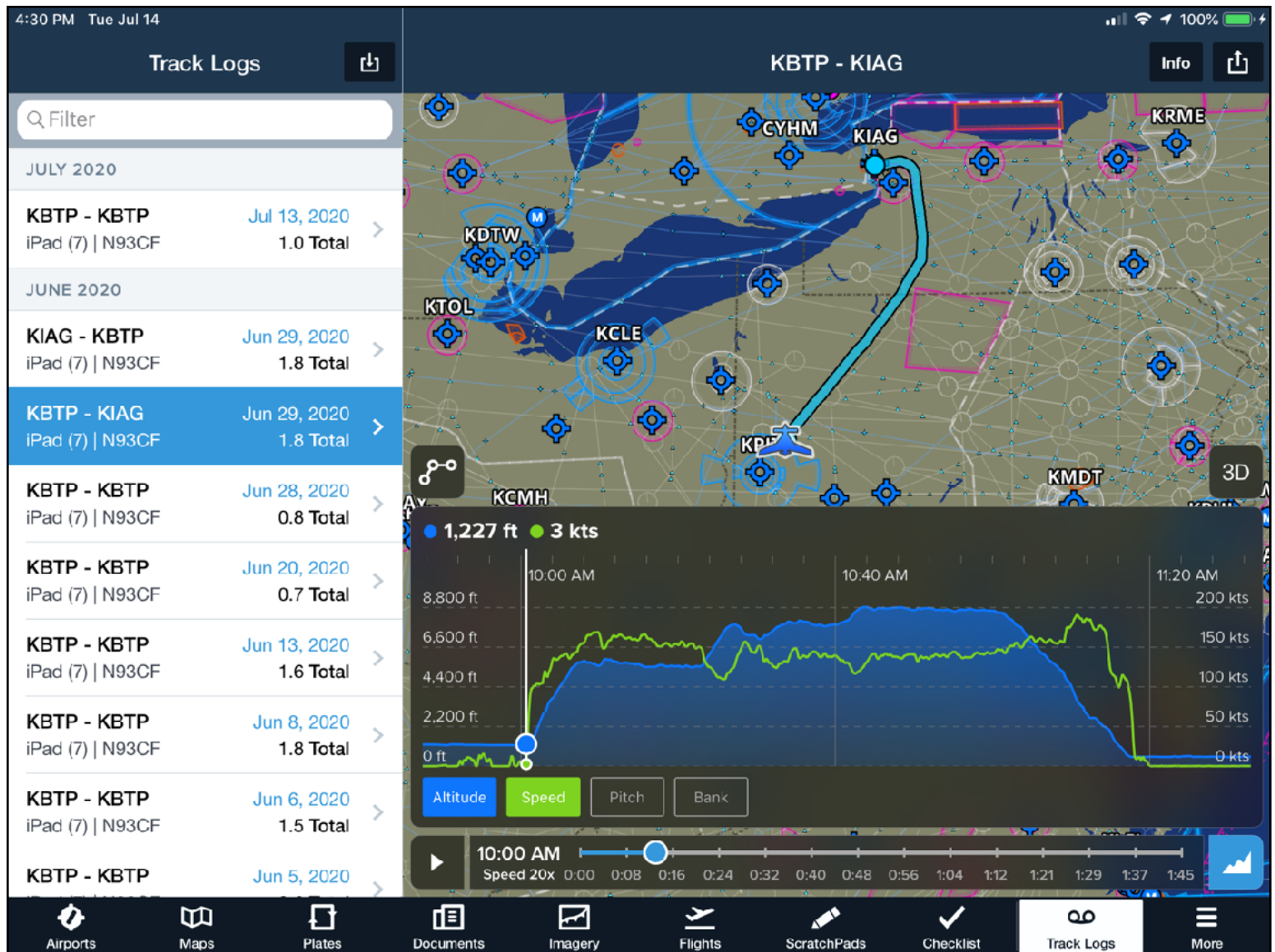


**Small bridge near the Three Sisters islands and the rapids above the falls**

The bottles of water in my pockets really look funny! What a great pair of legs though!



**Horseshoe Falls**



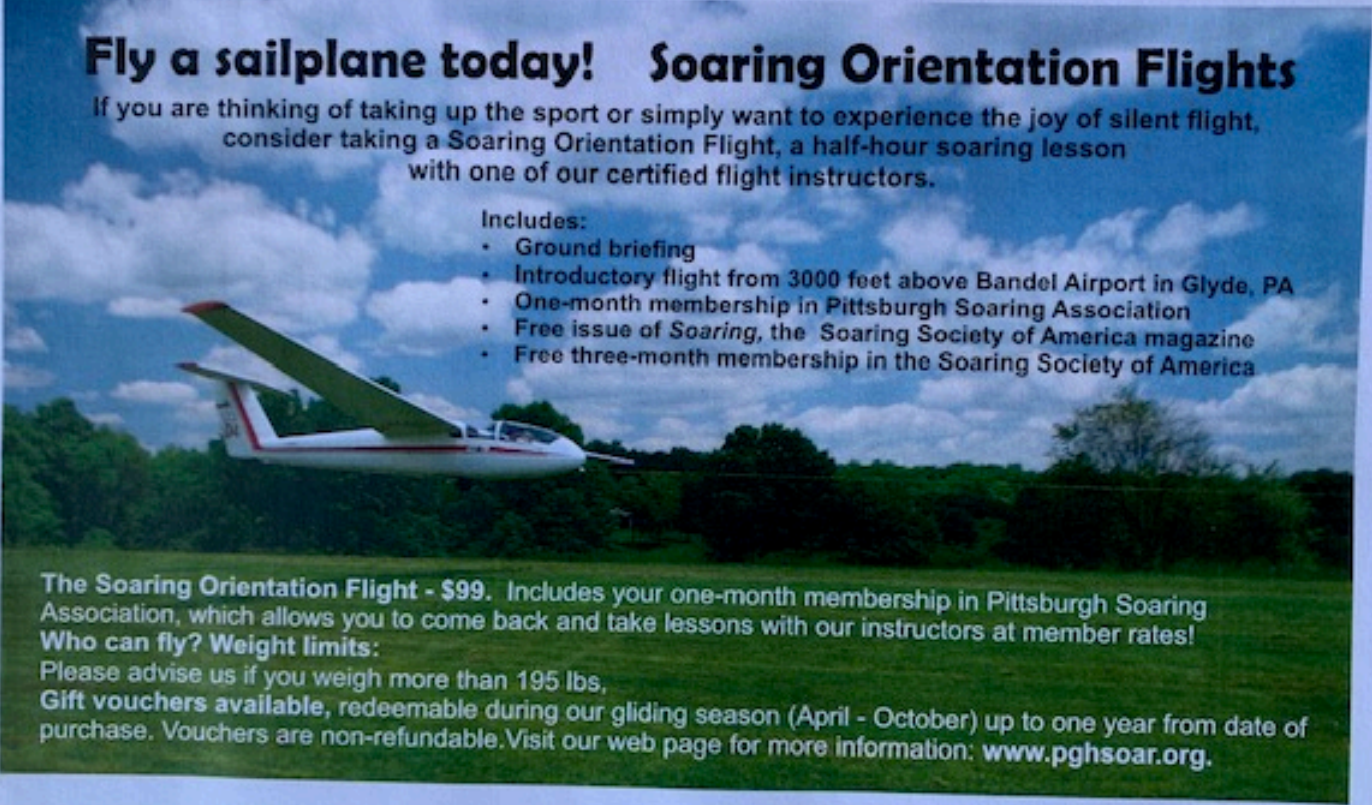
### Track log for the return trip

After takeoff we headed north to stay clear of Buffalo’s Charlie again, then east for a bit and then south towards home. There was a line of clouds ahead of us, so I started a climb to try to get over them. At 9500’ the tops were still a little above us, and since we only carry a small bottle of oxygen I decided to descend under them. The constant speed prop really did it’s thing on the descent! We had a top speed of 214 knots without over-speeding the engine! That was fun! Back at 5500’ we were under the clouds and slowed to a fast cruise of between 170 and 175 knots. Still, even under the clouds we had pretty smooth air, but not quite as smooth as the trip up. We took off from KIAG at 3:55 pm and landed at KBTP at 4:13 - about the same time each way. An hour and 15 minutes vs a 4 hour drive... What a fun trip!



**You Might be interested in this:**

Dave Von Kaenel asked to add this promotional notice to our newsletter for the Pittsburgh Soaring Association located at Bandel Airport near 84 PA. Last year Dave began flying their tow plane for launches of the gliders. One of their members had displayed his glider at our fly-in last August.



**Fly a sailplane today! Soaring Orientation Flights**

If you are thinking of taking up the sport or simply want to experience the joy of silent flight, consider taking a Soaring Orientation Flight, a half-hour soaring lesson with one of our certified flight instructors.

Includes:

- Ground briefing
- Introductory flight from 3000 feet above Bandel Airport in Glyde, PA
- One-month membership in Pittsburgh Soaring Association
- Free issue of *Soaring*, the Soaring Society of America magazine
- Free three-month membership in the Soaring Society of America

**The Soaring Orientation Flight - \$99.** Includes your one-month membership in Pittsburgh Soaring Association, which allows you to come back and take lessons with our instructors at member rates!

**Who can fly? Weight limits:**  
Please advise us if you weigh more than 195 lbs.

**Gift vouchers available,** redeemable during our gliding season (April - October) up to one year from date of purchase. Vouchers are non-refundable. Visit our web page for more information: [www.pghsoar.org](http://www.pghsoar.org).



**EAA 857 - Chapter Meetings and Events for 2020**

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 21	
		February 18	
		March 17	<b>[CANCELLED]</b>
		April 21	<b>[CANCELLED]</b>
		May 19	<b>[CANCELLED]</b>
		June 16	ZOOM Meeting
		July 21	at KBTP !
		August 18	
		September 15	
		October 20	
		November 17	
<b>EAA 857 Chili Cook Off -</b>	Sunday,	February 9	
<b>International Young Eagles Day -</b>	Saturday,	June 13	<b>[CANCELLED]</b>
<b>EAA 857 Fly-In and YE -</b>	Sunday,	August 9	<b>[CANCELLED]</b>
<b>EAA 857 Fly-In and YE -</b>	Saturday,	September 13	<b>[CANCELLED]</b>

**2020 National Events**

Sun 'n Fun -	May 5 - 10	<b>[CANCELLED]</b>
Sentimental Journey -	June 16 - 20	<b>[CANCELLED]</b>
AirVenture Oshkosh 2020 -	July 20 - 26	<b>[CANCELLED]</b>

**EAA 857 Chapter Officers for 2020**

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>Ted Merklin</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Phil Kriley</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Frank Szczerba</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Rick Schubert</b>
<b>Newsletter / Web Page</b>	<b>Ted Merklin, Ed.</b>
<b>Young Eagles</b>	<b>Phil Kriley</b>
<b>Technical Advisors</b>	<b>Chuck Potts    Bob Santolla</b>
<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Dan Hood        2020-2022</b> <b>Bob Santolla    2020-2021</b> <b>Gary Marsico    2020</b>