
Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association - Chapter 857

EAA 857 NEWSLETTER



**The USAF Heritage Flight F-22 Raptor and a pair of P-51 Mustangs
breaks formation at show center after their performance at
AirVenture 2023**

Presidents Message



Hello again EAA 857,

Well, Oshkosh is over, and we wait for another year. Personally, I didn't make it to Oshkosh. I came down with COVID shortly before when I was planning to leave. Maybe next year. I hope those of you that went got to enjoy it! The pictures I have seen were breathtaking. At this month's meeting Ted Merklin will present some of his pictures from Oshkosh. I hope this inspires those of you that attended to share stories and thoughts.

As some of us may have seen on the news and social media, Ross Edmondson completed his round the world voyage. Many of you have reached out and requested that we have Ross come back and speak with us about his trip again. He will be speaking to us virtually at our next meeting on September 19th. If you can't make it to the meeting, please call in!

Speaking of social media, we now have a Facebook page and a Facebook group. The pages are meant to look identical, but a page will hopefully promote more interaction from non-members. Feel free to like a follow both to keep up with activities.

August 19th is our next Fly in and Young Eagles event. Please come out and support the cause by attending or volunteering with the event.

Happy and Safe Flying,

Joss Slagle

Chapter President



Pittsburgh-Butler Region Experimental Aircraft Association—Chapter 857 Minutes of July 18th, 2023 Regular Meeting

Opening: President Josselyn Slagle called the meeting to order at 08:00 P.M. and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting attendees: 14 members were present.

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

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report submitted by email from Frank Szczerba was reviewed. Motion to accept put forth by Ted Merklin and Dan Hood. Adjust our prices because we are losing sales on the food sales.

Newsletter: The June 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 August 15, 2023

IMC meeting: A FAAST seminar preceded the chapter meeting. Plan to invite Ross Edmondson in for an IMC meeting.

Air Academy: We have 2 candidates for the air academy; Lindsay Lipp and Thomas Edwards. Their paperwork and tuition funds were submitted in May. They will be attending Young Eagles Camp July 5-9.

Young Eagles: The next Young Eagle events are scheduled for 8/19 and 9/9.

Ray Aviation Scholarship: Colin Daniello noted he plans to solo the end of July. Caught up on ground school.

Old Business: N/A

New Business: We are creating a new Facebook page, not group to encourage more involvement.

August event: We moved the date to the 19th of August, so we don't conflict with Franklin's Wings with Wheels event.

We need to assess how many pilots we might have.

We need someone to take the lead on food prep.

Closing: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:26 P.M. by a motion made by Frank Szczerba and seconded by Gary Marsico.

Respectfully submitted:

Destinyjay Maletta, EAA 857 Secretary

Ray Aviation Scholarship: Colin Daniello's Solo

by Kyle Riedel

Congratulations to the Ray Aviation Scholar, Colin Daniello, from EAA Chapter 857! Colin started training for his Private Pilot Certificate on 19 June and conducted his first solo flight on Monday (31 July). The Ray Aviation Foundation even provides a custom designed t-shirt for their scholarship recipients with all of the details with a “cut-away” design. Next milestone for Colin is passing the FAA Private Pilot Knowledge Exam and then preparation for his Practical Exam. As the Ray Aviation Scholarship Coordinator, both I and all EAA Chapter 857 wish Colin the very best on his journey to be a professional pilot! If you are seeking aviation opportunities for your young aspiring kids, please reach out to us to learn more about such an amazing and growing career field!



Once more to Oshkosh

by Chris and Margot McGeary

Last minute, we decided to journey once again to Oshkosh. We had flown down to southern Missouri to keep tabs on house construction (and to use a cattle prod on the builder). Weather looked great for Saturday, so we shoved off early (0545) to get in ahead of the Piper Mass Arrival expected at 10 AM. Unexpected headwinds delayed our arrival a bit.

We joined the conga line at Puckaway Lake. ADS-B is a godsend for this. Amazing how difficult it is for folks to fly at a steady 90 kts, though. Wouldn't you know, they cut off landings just 3 aircraft ahead of us, and sent us back around to rejoin at Puckaway. Round 2 got us within 10 aircraft before something happened and they closed the airport to "sanitize". Back to Puckaway again. Third time was the charm (except for the flight of 4 Bonanzas who decided to cut the line by flying UNDER us).

But, a good landing on the yellow dot and off to Homebuilt Camping. As we were unloading, a fellow came running up and introduced himself as Daniel Snow. He was the person who built N214D and sold it to me after putting 400 hours on it. Turns out he had been looking for me last year as well and had seen us on Flight-Aware. We caught up and were happy to tell him what a nice job he did building it. He's getting in line to build an RV-14 next.



We had the usual Saturday evening thunderstorm, but not as bad as last year. We attended a number of safety forums, and I was able to do hypoxia testing at the FAA Safety Center. Turns out I rapidly get light headed at 27,000 ft. Who knew?

As usual, the seaplane base was an oasis of calm compared to the main grounds. Sunday afternoon was spent watching Cessnas, SeeBees and Grummans takeoff and land.



There were more electric aircraft this year. Beta Corporation gave a forum on their upcoming ALIA-250 EVTOL 6 passenger aircraft (longest flight so far of 293 mi), and their aircraft charging station network currently stretching from New York to Arkansas. Pipestrel demonstrated their new Velis Electro. Extremely quiet, for sale, and the range is now up to 50 minutes with VFR reserve. No engine maintenance and that 50 minutes will cost you less than \$7 in electricity at the KWh rate I paid last month in Gibsonia.

Lots of back and forth with Sling Aircraft. Turns out the empennage for my High Wing kit has already arrived in the states, and the major parts of the kit should be leaving South Africa this month. I now need to deal with long lead time items (like upholstery of all things).

The Wednesday night airshow was great with a wonderful fireworks display.



We headed back Thursday morning. Twenty minutes in line, but we did manage to get out just before the SuperGuppy. A good tailwind, VFR Over The Top at 9500 ft across Lake Michigan and southern Michigan, clearing skies south of Cleveland, then ducked under the clouds starting to build around Youngstown. We managed to arrive at BTP when the pattern WASN'T full of students (yeah!). Just under 3 hours from takeoff to landing. What a great day!

AirVenture Oshkosh 2023

by Ted Merklin

My travel to Oshkosh routine to attend AirVenture each year is to depart on Saturday about 6am from Moon Township and run up I-376 to the PA Turnpike then head west through Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois until I turn north for Wisconsin arriving at perhaps 4 or 5 in the afternoon. I'll sign myself into Camp Scholler, set up my tent and go grab a bite to eat.

Sunday morning is spent wandering through the Vintage area to see what unique aircraft have arrived such as the Nicholas Beazley parasol winged antique shown below. This is set in front of the Vintage Hangar just to the left of the Vintage Red Barn and was staged to be featured in the Vintage In Review presentation on the first day of AirVenture. On the other side of the grove of trees behind the hangar is vintage aircraft parking where you will find, Howards, Stinsons, Staggerwings, Stearmans, and some very early Cubs.



The aircraft on the next page is marked as a Taylorcraft Cub manufactured in Bradford PA. There were several of these on display this year.

After walking through the vintage aircraft on Sunday morning, I went in search of a wing to sit under to watch the stream of arrivals to Oshkosh.



Adjacent to the Beech 18 that I sat under was this DeHaviland Beaver on Floats which sat along the flight line through the Thursday show.





Some of the arrivals included this Stearman in US Army trainer colors.

Just a bit larger to land on 36L was NASA's Super Guppy transport aircraft. This was a modification of the C-97 StratoFreighter and powered by Pratt and Whitney T-34 turboprop engines. This aircraft was used to transport the S-IVB third stage of the Saturn V moon rocket.





Another unique arrival was this homebuilt Zenith on Floats!



Later in the week this newly restored Lockheed Constellation arrived to be displayed on Boeing Plaza.

The weekly airshows usually have a showcase of classic, homebuilt or commercial aircraft that leads off the show such as this Fairchild, after the opening Parachute delivery of the US flag and singing of the National Anthem.



There will be aerobatic performances, both solo and in formation displays.

Then warbirds of various flavors are flown representing WWII, Korea (such as these Migs), or Cold War era aircraft on certain days.



On different days I would spend the mornings touring the Warbirds or homebuilt or aerobatic aircraft parked and displayed along the flight lines. This included heading out on the shuttle bus to go to the Seaplane base on Lake Winnebago. It is usually a peaceful, bucolic atmosphere at the Seaplane Base; this year however, it was very crowded, reflecting the AirVenture 2023 event in general. This image was captured that morning. After wandering around looking for shots amongst the crowd and without a lot of aircraft operations taking place at the time, I headed back to the field to find a wing to sit under for the show.



One of the featured aircraft for the 2023 AirVenture show was the Chance-Vought F4U Corsair, the bent wing bird. There were at least 6 on the field in warbirds. These were the aircraft featured in the recent movie *Devotion* set in Korea and of course, the TV series *Black Sheep Squadron* set in the South Pacific in WWII.

The next photo and the following image of the “Class of 45” demo are examples of the type. The Corsair paired with the P51D below is Joe Tobul’s “Korean War Hero” performing a formation aerobatics display one afternoon. I believe there is a Butler County story to tell regarding this aircraft.



An aircraft that to my mind has rarely been seen at Oshkosh is the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt. The image below is of a newly restored razorback version of this big fighter / ground attack aircraft.



My stay at Oshkosh was shortened by a day unfortunately. There were 3 substantial thunderstorms pass through during the week, fortunately none really affected the airshow programming as we have sometimes experienced in the past. It did make for some muddy roadways throughout Camp Scholler, but I have seen it worse in the past than this year.

What made the decision to head home (perhaps in haste) was the Friday night 10-11pm storm that completely uprooted my tent! I was in my car when suddenly the tent slammed across the hood of the car, so I grabbed my raincoat and went to wrestle it down below the front end to contain it so it wouldn't get blown into the expensive motor home next to me. As I waited for the rain to die down I debated about what to do next and then decided to try to take the tent down, so multiple rods, hooks and velcro tabs had to be undone in the rain and wind. I finally got that done and the tent in the trunk. I figured I would sleep in the car but after an hour or so and probably still high on adrenaline, I elected to head home, because I didn't think I would get any sleep. I went out with a flashlight to pick up the tent stakes and was surprised to find they were still deep in the ground! It was like the tend just unscrewed itself from the stakes. Next time there will double or triple stakes at the 4 corner rings!

So sometime after midnight I hit the road south towards Milwaukee and Chicago, and arrived back in Pittsburgh shortly after noon. A bit longer than Chris and Margot's return trip!

In retrospect, I should have stayed for Saturday but that water has long gone over the dam and far downstream.

I leave you with this image of the F-35C Lightning II. This is the Naval version of this next generation stealthy fighter aircraft. It has a longer wingspan with folding tips and beefier landing gear for carrier operations. The Air Force operates the F-35A, which has also been exported to several countries. The Marines have the F-35B with the lift fan behind the pilot and the rotating exhaust nozzle at the rear of the engine, which enable VTOL. This image shows the banana pass in the demo display with the internal weapons bay doors open.



Altogether the show was a success and EAA experienced record attendance. I had not been there since 2019 and it was significantly more crowded this year than I recall. I enjoyed it despite the weather upset and I have many more photos I hope to share soon with you.



EAA 857 - Chapter Meetings and Events for 2023

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 17 February 21 March 21 April 18 May 16 June 20 July 18 August 15 September 19 October 17 November 21	
IMC / VMCClub -		TBD	
International Young Eagles Day -		Saturday,	June 10
EAA 857 Fly-In and YE -		Saturday,	August 19
EAA 857 Fly-In and YE -		Saturday,	September 9

2023 National Events

Sun 'n Fun -	March 28 - April 2
Sentimental Journey -	June 20 - 24
AirVenture Oshkosh 2023 -	July 24 - 30

EAA 857 Chapter Officers for 2023

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	Dan Hood 2023-2025
	Ted Merklin 2023-2024
	Danny Michaels 2023
Website / Newsletter	Ted Merklin