

Based at Pittsburgh-Butler Regional Airport, KBTP, Butler County, Pennsylvania

EAA 857 NEWSLETTER



A New Standard D25 taxis out for a Vintage Showcase demo!



Presidents Message

EAA 857 Members,

I want to thank everyone who came out in support of the celebration for the 90th Anniversary for the founding of the the Pittsburgh-Butler Regional Airport on September 28th. We did some fund raising by serving hamburger and hot dog lunches to the guests who attend the celebration and we did turn a profit! Thanks again to all the volunteers for set up, cooking, and clean up of our tables, chairs and cooking facilities.

Our next to last meeting coming up for 2019 on October 15th. Traditionally, we take nominations for next years officers at this meeting. If you wish to volunteer yourself or nominate another person for one of the officer or Board positions, please do so. The election will as usual be held at the November Chapter Meeting on 11/19.

In September I noted that the Pennsylvania Department of State had accepted and filed our new Articles of Incorporation pursuant to the chapter seeking 501(c)(3) status with IRS. This month I am pleased to announce that we have received notice from the IRS accepting our 1023EZ application as a 501(c)(3) entity, and setting an effective date of 9/9/2019. With this status we will be able to accept donation support for our programs and said donor will now be able to take a charitable deduction on their taxes. The advertising notices have been published as required by Pennsylvania, and our next task is to establish a new bank account aligned with our new Federal ID.

As the end of the year approaches, please remember that chapter dues, \$25 per person, are due and payable on January 1, 2020. You must be a National EAA member to maintain your chapter membership. We will be renewing our charter in December with the national organization which will include payment of dues and our insurance premium for 2020.

Remember, our next meeting is Tuesday at the normal time, 7pm, and place in the KBTP conference room. See you there!

Ted Merklin,

President EAA 857



Minutes of September 17, 2019 Meeting

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

Attendance: Seventeen members were in attendance.

Secretary's Report: Everyone was asked to be sure that they had signed the sign-in sheet. A motion to accept the Secretary's report of the August Minutes was made by Bob Tedesco and seconded by Larry Schaefer.

Treasurer's Report: A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Bob Santolla and seconded by Phil Kriley.

Newsletter Report: Articles are always welcome from anyone. Notify Ted Merklin if you are not receiving the newsletter. The newsletter is also published to the chapter web site at: <http://www.857.eaachapter.org/home.htm>, which has been updated for 2019.

Young Eagles Report:

- EAA has made updates to the program including eliminating need for 10 flights before receiving any credit.
- We will have no more official chapter Young Eagle events this year.
- Phil Kriley has volunteered to be the Young Eagles Coordinator for 2020; Thanks Phil!

Technical Advisors: Chuck Potts and Bob Santolla

Report: Reminder: ADSB will be required January 1st; There will be no extensions. This is pertinent to aircraft with engine driven electrical systems.

Old Business:

- The chapter reorganization is proceeding with filing documents and advertising. Ted anticipates the process to be complete by the end of the year.
- The board is looking into getting some shelves for the storage room to allow better organization in there.
- We have moved our September Event from 9/8 to 9/28 so it coincides with the KBTP 90th birthday celebration currently being planned by the airport Board of Directors. We will not conduct Young Eagle Flights at this event. The airport has asked us to cook a lunch menu and we will also have a table to promote the EAA and our chapter.

New Business:

- We will add Larry Gaichas to the memorial board

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn at 20:10 was made by Chuck Potts, and seconded by Bob Santolla.

Program: The program was by Bob Santolla on condition inspections.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Schubert

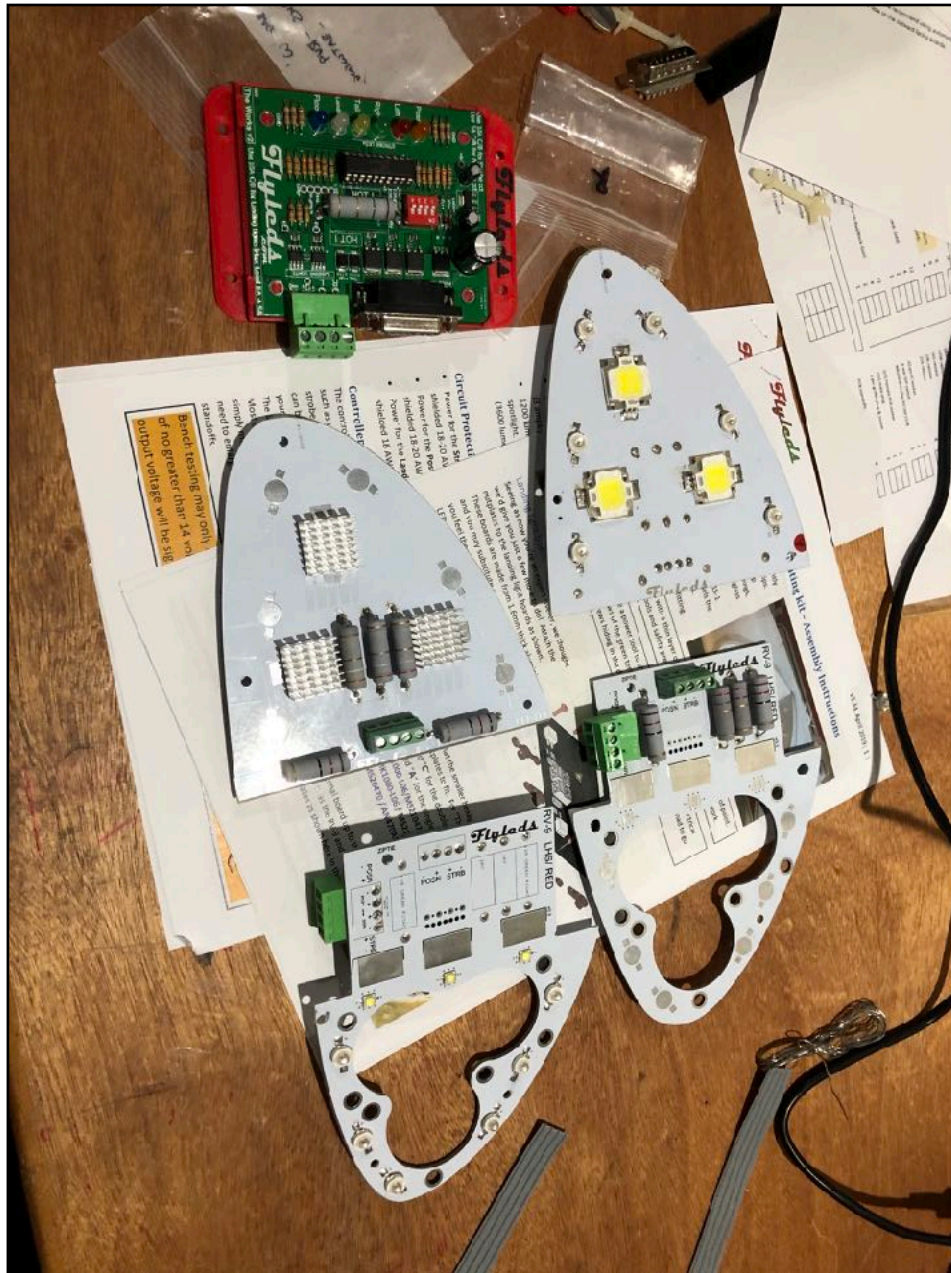
Brighter Lights

by Chris McGearry

My Vans RV-9A has (or rather had) a Whelen strobe system, with both wingtip and tail strobes, along with the standard 12VDC Halogen landing lights. I like the visibility the strobes provide, but parts are a bit costly. The strobe bulbs run about \$80 each and require removal of the fiberglass wingtip (about 30 screws). I've already replaced both wingtip strobes and the tail strobe is getting pretty black. So when the control box quit working, and Whelen said it was cheaper to replace the box for \$809 than to have it repaired, I started looking for an alternative.



I found an Australian company called FlyLEDs that makes an LED replacement package that not only replaces all the strobes and position lights, but gets me brighter landing lights.



I ordered the kit from Flyboy Accessories, and it arrived a couple days later. Now, this is a kit, which means you get to practice your soldering skills. The kit consists of two circuit boards per wingtip, an integrated fully assembled combination tail strobe /position light, and a control board. The instructions are very complete with a bit of humor here and there, but you should read them over front to back before starting.



Margot & I pulled the fiberglass wingtips off the RV and brought them home. She removed the old lights while I started soldering up the control board. The soldering is fun, just take your time and make sure you put all of the components in the right places and facing the correct direction. A good soldering iron is a big help here.

The wingtip boards need to be shaped to the size of the pocket Vans designed in the tips. The instructions note that each tip needs to be shaped separately, as one wingtip has a much smaller pocket than the other. The good news is the the boards are helpfully marked with red and green stickers to help you keep them straight. A nibbler and a \$40 Harbor Freight belt sander made short work of the shaping.

You also need to cut the inside of the wingtip pocket out to clear the components that are attached to the back of the circuit boards. The instructions include templates you can cut out that show areas on the boards that you can drill for mounting them to the wingtips. The templates also show the areas you want to remove from the wingtip pockets.

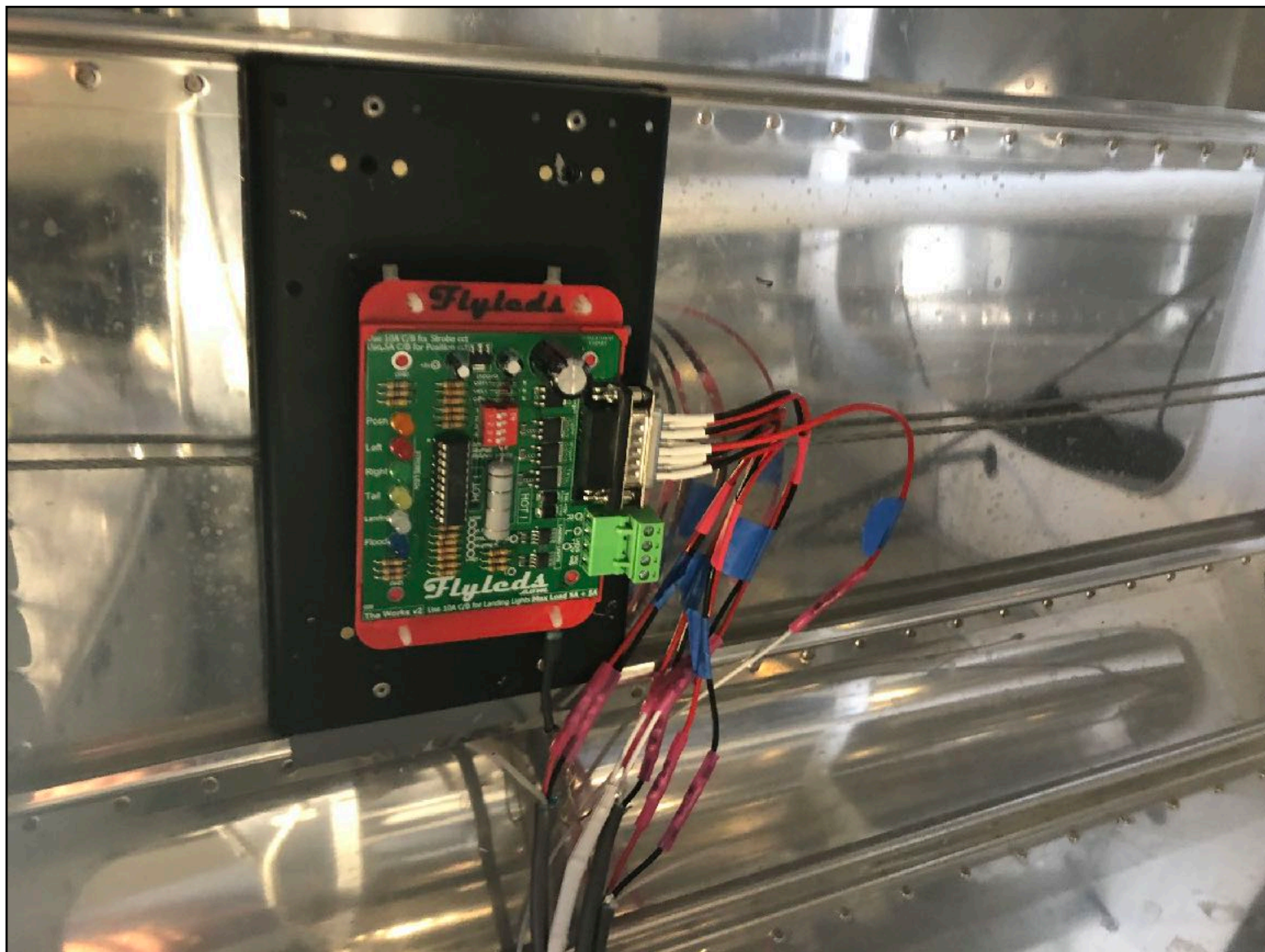


The control board has several circuits on it, depending on whether you are doing a new installation or just replacing an existing one. It even has options for doing a “wig wag” of the landing lights and one for using the wingtip strobe lights as flood lights (at lower power) to light up the sides of the runway or ramp as you taxi. In my case, I was using the existing controls, so I just used the strobe and tail light/strobe circuits.

Once you have the boards built, you can test them individually using a 9V battery. FlyLEDs does not recommend a 12V supply, as you can practically blind yourself (yes, they are that bright!).



The wingtip installations went very quickly. The tail strobe took a couple attempts, as I initially cut the wrong wire leading back to the tail. Testing all the wiring on the bench using alligator clips is a very good idea.



The control board mounted to the same plate that the old Whelen box was on. The kit even came with standoffs to mount it.

Now that the installation is complete, I have strobes that are about 3 times as bright, and landing & position lights that are about 5 times as bright. All of this uses about 1/2 the power of the old incandescents, so it's less of a drain on the battery and charging system.





As for weight & balance, the LED system weights about 3 ounces less than the old Whelen system (50 oz versus 53 oz), and the fore/aft weight locations are similar.

With winter coming and more evening & night flying in my future, it's nice to be seen!



Chapter 857 Members

See your chapter's Website at:

<http://eaa857.org>

Take a look today!

Newly Updated with **This Newsletter!**

Prior Issues for 2019 will appear in our newsletter archive.

Please submit your project updates, photos, articles, thoughts, technical tips

to contact@eaa857.org

ALSO, Monitor our Facebook Group Page:

Search for "EAA Chapter 857"

Websites of Interest to EAA 857 Members

<http://www.butlercountyairport.org>

<http://www.eaa.org/>

<http://www.airventure.org/>

<http://www.aopa.org/>

<http://www.faa.gov/>

<http://faasafety.gov>

<http://www.condoraero.com>

www.draggintailpilots.weebly.com



EAA 857 Chapter Officers for 2019

President	Ted Merklin
Vice President	Phil Kriley
Treasurer	Frank Szczerba
Secretary	Rick Schubert
Newsletter	Ted Merklin, Ed.
Web Page	Ted Merklin, Ed.
Young Eagles	Bob Santolla
Technical Advisors	Chuck Potts Bob Santolla
Board Members	Bob Santolla 2019-2021 Gary Marsico 2019-2020

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

EAA 857 - Calendar for 2019

Chapter Meetings

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room at the Pittsburgh-Butler Regional Airport.

January 15
February 19
March 19
April 16
May 21
June 18
July 16
August 20
September 17
October 15
November 19

Chapter Events

EAA 857 First Flight -	Tuesday,	January 1
EAA 857 Chili Cook Off -	Sunday,	February 10
International Young Eagles Day -	Saturday,	June 8
EAA 857 Fly-In and YE -	Sunday,	August 11
KBTP 90th Anniversary -	Saturday,	September 28

2019 National Events

Sun 'n Fun -	April 2-7
Sentimental Journey -	June 18-22
AirVenture Oshkosh 2019 -	July 22-28