



The Leader In Recreational Aviation

The Walston Aviator

EAA Chapter 864, East Alton, IL - KALN

April 2025

President:
Rick Farrow

Vice President:
Nicholas Hobbs

Treasurer:
Rick Huebner

Secretary:
Lou Dieu

Directors:
Mark Heckler & Bill Orrill

Young Eagles Coordinators:
Bill Orrill & Jan McKee

Newsletter:
Nicholas & Julie Hobbs

Non Member Email:
eaa864info@gmail.com

Next Meeting
ALN Admin Building

When
Thursday, April 10th at
7:00pm

Calendar of Events

April
10 EAA Chapter 864
Meeting at 7:00pm

May
8 EAA Chapter 864
Meeting at 7:00pm

May
17 EAA Chapter 864
Fly-In Breakfast
7:30 – 11:30am

EAA events
www.eaa.org/eaa/events

Fun Places to Fly
www.funplacetofly.com

ALN Hangar Page on
Facebook
<https://bit.ly/aln-tenants>

Newsletter Contributions and Deadlines

- Anyone wishing to submit items to the newsletter should send them to your friendly editor by the Thursday before the scheduled meeting. Please send contributions to Nicholas at eaa864info@gmail.com.

Next Chapter Meeting

- Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 10th, at 7:00pm.
- No speaker this month, however, we will have a lot of good information for our members. We will have a recap of Sun 'n Fun, watch the chapter video, watch VMC and IMC short clips, and have an update from our last board meeting.
- We will look for volunteers for the upcoming scholarship committee.
- Membership forms will be available at the meeting to renew your local chapter membership.
- **This newsletter serves as the 5-day written notice for a voting meeting.**
- Meeting Agenda
 - Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance
 - Quorum Established
 - Approval of Minutes
 - Old Business
 - New Business
 - Officer Reports
 - Committee and Other Reports
 - Speaker/Program
 - Adjourn

EAA Chapter 864 Meeting Minutes – March 13th, 2025

Vice President Nicholas Hobbs called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

- There were 22 members and 7 guests in attendance.
- The meeting was held back at the airport administration building again after a fresh coat of paint was added.
- Meeting minutes from the last meeting were approved by members.

Program

- Vice President Nicholas Hobbs began the meeting by updating the membership on a few topics:
 - We welcomed out newest members: Cody Jackson and Garrett Wooten. Cody is also member of chapter 64. Garrett is very interested in becoming a pilot and loves aviation. Welcome, Cody and Garrett!
 - President Rick Farrow was at his grandson's hockey tournament in Memphis, TN and could not attend the meeting.

Guest Speakers

- Our guest speaker for the meeting was Mr. Bill Wider. He was the first pilot trained at Shafer/Metro East airport and has been a CFI and corporate pilot. Bill's talk for the night was about his 6 engine outs while flying. He talked about all 6 engine outs and reminded us to never stop flying the airplane when the engine stops!
- Nels Ostrom gave an update on the Instrument Flying Skill (IFR) club. The weather has not been favorable for flying, however, Nels hopes to get this going mid-March.

Treasurer's Report

- Our chapter's treasurer's report was reported and will continue to be reported at the monthly meetings.

Old Business

- Randy McKee reported the progress of our very own Ray Scholar recipient, Kyra Gallagher, as she passed her private pilot check ride on Saturday, March 8th.
- Steve Selby gave another update on our 501C3 status.
- Membership dues were discussed. Our bylaws spell out that membership dues must be paid by April 1st to maintain good standing and receive our monthly newsletter. Non-members will still receive important event notifications and news about the chapter. If you have not filled out a membership renewal form, please see Rick Huebner or Nicholas Hobbs.
- Jan McKee reported on our Young Eagles program and how we are moving to incorporate a new online system, specifically for Young Eagles. We are also considering hosting an event in June for National Young Eagles Day. There will be more to come on this topic.
- The Ford Tri Motor will not be stopping at ALN this year. The form has been filled out and we have received confirmation that ALN will be penciled in for 2026.

New Business

- Nicholas Hobbs gave an overview of the annual ALN open house/fly-in. The date is set for September 27th and 28th. The Speed Demons Car Club will be taking over the parking setup for the public. Any volunteers that would like to help are welcome!
- Nicholas Hobbs asked if our chapter would like to do a drink tent again for the open house. The question of how much money we made last year was asked. Dan Buller reported that we made roughly \$1,000, which was in spite of low attendance at the event. It was decided that we would once again do a drink tent at the event.
- Don Hill asked about doing a pancake breakfast at the open house. It was decided that this would not work due to low man power, however, a fall fly-in breakfast will be held on a different weekend.
- It was mentioned that the Bethalto Chamber asked about our chapter's possible participation in a Touch-A-Truck event. After discussion, the quorum agreed not to have airplanes at this event, however, we could possibly do a pancake breakfast, or a light food stand.
- Our spring fly-in breakfast is set for Saturday, May 17th, from 7:30 - 11:30am. At next month's meeting, there will be a sign-up sheet for volunteers.
- Randy McKee let the chapter know that we have once again been selected for the Ray Scholarship. This year the amount will be \$12,000.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52pm

Minutes taken and reported by Kyra Gallagher for Secretary Lou Dieu



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Announcements

- The next ALN board meeting will be held on April 17th, at 4:30pm. The meeting will be at the airport administration building and all are welcome to attend.
- Fuel prices: West Star \$6.13, 3LF \$4.75, SET \$5.79, VLA \$4.50 (subject to change).
- AirVenture Chapter Camping - Some members have expressed an interest in doing chapter camping at Oshkosh again! We can reserve up to six sites. In order to camp, you must be an EAA national and chapter member. The cost is \$351 per site, allowing you to camp for two weeks and have a reserved spot to camp (utilities not included). This is payable ASAP and reservations need to be made soon. If interested, contact Jan McKee.
- New for 2025, we are passing around a clipboard for members and guests to sign in at meetings. Please sign in, this will help us keep track of a voting quorum.
- Reminder – the chapter's tool crib is for members only. If you are not a member and would like to become one, please see Rick Huebner.
- If you no longer would like to receive chapter emails, please let a board member know, or email eaa864info@gmail.com to be removed from the email list.

Important Notes

- Here is the link to our chapter's online resources: <https://bit.ly/eaachapter864>.
- Please be sure to write your information on the clipboard (located on the table) when checking out our chapter tools and equipment.

Other News at ALN

From the Tower – Joe Case

- Traffic count was high once again this month at 3,411. You all continue to fly in spite of the weather and it's a good thing to see. I am still here. D.O.G.E got me, so I'm happy to stay where I'm at.

ALN Director – Danny Adams

- St. Louis Regional Airport is excited to team with Greater St. Louis Flight Instructors Association to bring a Gateway TRACON presentation to ALN. On April 22nd, Piston Aviation will be hosting an informative speaker session at their ALN facility, focused on safety, case studies, and relevant topics. Please see the flyer below.

Piasa Flying Club – John Hentrich

- No report this month.

Piston Aviation – ALN

- No report this month.

AeroEducate – Randy McKee

- No report this month.

Ray Scholarship – Randy McKee

- We have been approved for a 2025 Ray Scholarship; more details will follow. If you know of anyone interested in the scholarship, please let the scholarship committee know.

Chapter 864 Scholarship – Jan McKee

- No report this month.



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Young Eagles – Jan McKee

- No report this month.

Chapter Enhances Seating Capacity!

- We express our sincere appreciation to Zion Lutheran Church and School in Bethalto for their generous donation, which allows us to enhance our chapter's seating availability. Following Zion's recent seating upgrade, they graciously offered their former chairs, which will prove invaluable for our fly-in breakfasts and chapter hangar events.



Sun 'n Fun

- Chapter members stopped for fuel and BBQ on the way down to Sun 'n Fun! Left to right are Steve Selby, Dave Fleetwood, Dan Buller, Louie Due, Ray Rakers, Pat Pinkston, Andy Urban and Rick Farrow.





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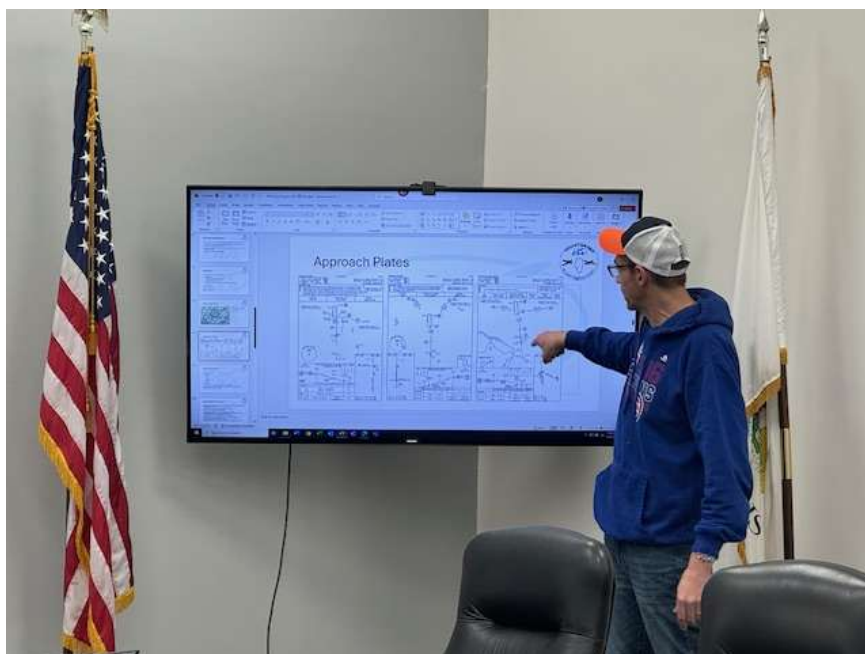
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IFR Flying Club

- On Saturday, March 22nd, the chapter's inaugural IFR club meeting convened at the administration building for a pre-flight briefing. Despite a low turnout due to a couple of aircraft being grounded for maintenance, five pilots and two airplanes participated that morning. The group successfully executed six approaches and a couple of holds. There were two designated routes, which included starting at ALN, traveling to Litchfield, followed by Vandalia, and then returning to ALN, or vice versa. Nels plans to schedule another event in the near future.





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Local Fundraiser

- Randy and Jan McKee, and Nicholas Hobbs attended the EAA leadership boot camp at Wings of Hope on Saturday, March 5th. They met Blake Litchfield from Terre Haute, IN. Blake sent some information about the 3D printing fundraiser their chapter is doing. If interested in their creations, please contact Blake at the email below:
 - Blake Litchfield, current Young Eagles coordinator for Chapter 83, began 3D printing late last year and soon desired to use 3D printing to benefit his chapter. Blake began making small items that could be sold at YE rallies such as key chains and small airplanes. Then, after seeing some models of light boxes, the ideas really began to shine. Using one of the available EAA logos, Blake created a light box that easily sits on a counter or small table. Next, he designed a light box with the Chapter 83 logo; this one was designed to hang on a wall. He also created a light box memorial for a dear chapter member who had recently passed away. Blake is enthusiastic about using the chapter logo light boxes as a fundraiser for Chapter 83, and he has already made some sales. Blake has additionally been granted permission by EAA to sell the EAA logo light boxes as a fundraiser and is looking forward to showing them off. Asked why he chose to 3D print light boxes for Chapter 83, Blake says, "It's something unique that several other people aren't already doing." Blake hopes to raise enough funds to build a chapter flight simulator. Anyone interested in more information can contact Blake at ea83.th@gmail.com



April Birthdays

- Dan Hauter – 4/8

Happy Birthday!

If you are not listed, please contact Nicholas Hobbs to fill out a membership form.

EAA Questions of the Month



EAA VMC Club

Question of the Month

Question: You're preflighting your airplane, and realize that you have not checked your ELT in a long time. The battery was replaced just under two years ago, but hasn't been tested since. Is there some way you can test the device without triggering a search and rescue event to ensure it still works properly?

Answer: Yes. First, analog (121.5 MHz) ELTs can only be tested within the first five minutes after the hour. This is done by triggering the device briefly while listening for the audible signal on 121.5 MHz. No more than three audible sweeps can be transmitted. Airborne testing of ELTs is prohibited. Digital (406 MHz) ELTs should only be tested in accordance with the manufacturer instructions.

With regards to the batteries, ELTs must be inspected every 12 calendar months, and this is typically done as part of the annual inspection. Batteries must be replaced after one hour of cumulative use or when 50 percent of their usable life has expired. The date for replacing or recharging the battery must be legibly marked on the outside of the transmitter and entered in the aircraft maintenance record.

Additional information regarding the use, inspection, and testing of ELTs can be found in AC 91-44A, Operational and Maintenance Practices for Emergency Locator Transmitters and Receivers.



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EAA IMC Club

Question of the Month

Question: What items does the FAA recommend be included in a pre-taxi briefing?

Answer: At least 8 items are recommended by the FAA as part of a pre-taxi briefing:

- 1) Timing and execution of checklists and communications (what to do when)
- 2) Sterile cockpit procedures
- 3) Use of most current Airport Diagram
- 4) Taxi route, including hold short lines, runways to cross, and hot spot
- 5) Previous experience at the airport
- 6) Checklist items that can be performed prior to taxi
- 7) Discourage the use of cell phones and other electronic devices during taxi to prevent distractions
- 8) After landing checklists, ground communication, and procedures

Additional information on the topic can be found in AC 91-73B, Parts 91 and 135 Single Pilot, Flight School Procedures During Taxi Operations.



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Local Events

**UPCOMING
GATEWAY TRACON
PRESENTATIONS**

PETE SEDDON
FAA AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SPECIALIST

Presented by:
 Greater St. Louis Flight
Instructors Association

Take advantage of one of TWO upcoming TRACON presentations coming up in St. Louis, catering to pilots on both sides of the river in the metro area. Pete's presentations cover timely topics, case studies, safety discussions, and an open format Q & A session that allows attendees to get answers directly from a local ATC Controller. Pilots of all skill levels are welcome!

APRIL 1, 2025

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Creve Coeur Airport (1Ho)

Main Terminal - Banquet Hall Hangar

14301 Creve Coeur Airport Rd., St. Louis, MO

APRIL 22, 2025

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

St. Louis Regional Airport (KALN)

Piston Aviation Facility

16 Terminal Dr., East Alton, IL



PLEASE REGISTER

Registration not required to attend these events, however it is recommended for WINGS credit.
Look for additional registration details to be sent out via FAASafety SPANS Notice prior to each event



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SOARING INTO AVIATION: STEM CONCEPTS, ACTIVITIES, & CAREER CONNECTIONS

A FREE PD Learning Experience for K-12 Educators from the ROE40 Region

A collaborative effort of
ROE40 STEM Initiatives & the Central Illinois Rural CTE Region
in partnership with the St Louis Regional Airport and West Star Aviation
with support provided by Piston Aviation, The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA),
Civil Air Patrol (CAP), and the American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics (AIAA)

Tuesday, May 6th (9-2:30 pm)

Registration deadline is April 25th with
space limited to the first 20 to register at
<https://tinyurl.com/Aviation-5-6-25>

Location

The St. Louis Regional Airport
West Star Aviation
2 Airline Ct
East Alton, IL, 62024

- Discover aviation connections to integrate at any level.
- Experience hands-on activities to enhance the teaching & learning of STEM concepts & career connections.
- Tour West Star Aviation and learn about various aviation-related careers & pathways.
- Enjoy a delicious lunch funded by West Star Aviation.
- Gain Civil Air Patrol Educator Membership w/ free access to resources including free STEM-kits.
- Have the option to take a free flight as the passenger of a certified flight instructor to learn first-hand about the training & knowledge required to fly a plane.
- Receive mileage reimbursement to and from the event.
- Earn 5 Illinois PD hours.

Note: Schools will be reimbursed the cost of subs.



If you have questions, please contact:

Dr. Kelly Remijan, ROE40 Director of STEM Initiatives, at KRemijan@ROE40.com



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OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



EAA CHAPTER 864 PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025
7:30 - 11:30 AM**

**\$10/adult
\$5/kids 4-12 years
Kids under 3 FREE**

**Enjoy all you can eat
pancakes, scrambled
eggs, sausage, coffee,
juice, and airplanes.**



**St. Louis Regional Airport (KALN)
8 Terminal Drive, East Alton, IL 62024**



**Thank you for supporting our
local EAA chapter and youth
aviation education programs.**





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**SCOTT AFB, IL
OPEN HOUSE
& STEM EXPO**

**JUNE 14
2025**

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
GATES OPEN 9-4

COME EXPLORE!

**WE'RE OPENING OUR DOORS FOR
YOU TO COME SEE YOUR AIR FORCE
& MILITARY SERVICES AT WORK!**

The Open House will feature static aircraft and a variety of military equipment, assets and exhibits! It will also feature a STEM Expo, perfect for families or anyone interested in aviation or the military.

COME CELEBRATE!
SCOTT FIELD & THE ARMY'S BIRTHDAY & FLAG DAY!

FOR UPDATES, VISIT WWW.SCOTT.AF.MIL/OPENHOUSE

FREE PARKING * LOCATED OFF HWY 64, EXIT 19A

 @SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE



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History of Civic Memorial Airport (Better Known Now as St. Louis Regional Airport – ALN)

- Let's take a look back with some old newspaper clippings from the area newspapers. The article below is from Tuesday, October 23, 1945.

Newspapers
by Ancestry.com

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/17154747>

Alton Evening Telegraph (Alton, Illinois) · Tue, Oct 23, 1945 · Page 2

Printed on May 11, 2024

Memorial Airport Directors Named

Three Mayors, 9 Others Elected

Mayors of Alton and two of its neighboring communities were elected with nine widely representative flying enthusiasts Monday night to form a board of directors for the Civic Memorial Airport Corp.

The directors were entrusted with the task of completing preparations for incorporation, including drafting of a constitution and by-laws and a general plan of organization.

Suggested to them by a group meeting at Mineral Springs Hotel as one element in the organization plan was inclusion of an advisory board, made up of widely recognized leaders of community, industrial, professional, and business life here.

The airfield, which the proposed corporation envisions developing, is located south of Bethalto along the East Alton-Bethalto road, with almost unlimited facilities for expansion.

The property already is being used under a tentative plan which does not permit planes to remain there even overnight, because the field is not licensed, Allen Barnerd, chairman of the preliminary organization said today.

Barnerd said the board of directors would meet and elect officers as soon as its organization setup was ready for approval.

On the board named last night were:

Mayor Wadlow of Alton; Mayor Lavier Humphrey, Wood River; Mayor C. A. Vanpreter, East Alton; Leslie Prehn, Bethalto; Dr. B. L. Smith, assistant superintendent of schools here; A. C. Hunt, Wood River; Dr. L. L. Baker, Dr. Kenneth E. Little, Dr. Paul J. O'Neill, Schaefer O'Neill, Louis Brandenberger, Leroy Bordeaux, and Allen A. Barnerd.



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- The article below is from Wednesday, October 24, 1945.

Newspapers[™]
by ancestry[™]

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/17154892>

Alton Evening Telegraph (Alton, Illinois) · Wed, Oct 24, 1945 · Page 12

Printed on May 11, 2024

50 STUDENTS NEEDED

FULFILL THOSE POST-WAR DREAMS — This is ideal weather to learn to fly. A demonstration ride for \$2.50 will convince you how easy it is. Lessons \$5.00 each.

FLYING DAILY FROM 8:00 A. M. TILL DARK.

CIVIC MEMORIAL AIRPORT SITE

18 BUSES DAILY

No buildings as yet, so watch for the planes on the Frank Johnson farm, 1½ miles south of Bethalto, where the East Alton-Bethalto road joins the Hamel Road, Route 140.

ONLY THE FINEST EQUIPMENT USED

Fairchilds—Stearmans—Wacos—Cubs—Porter Fields

UNDER DIRECTION OF AIRLINE PILOTS

WALSTON AVIATION



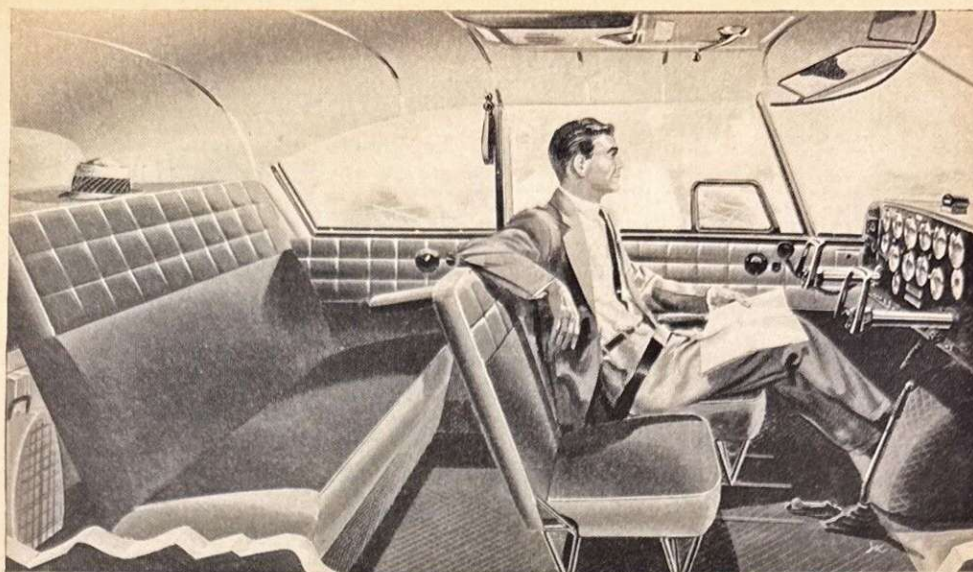
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Old Magazine Clippings/Ads, Courtesy of EAA Vintage Aircraft Association



Effortless flight is yours in the AutoFlite model of the Comanche with sensational Piper AutoControl as standard equipment!

The COMANCHE's Roomy Cabin will Surprise YOU



Roomiest four-place, single-engine business plane — that's the Piper Comanche! You recognize this the minute you step aboard.↘ The two deeply upholstered front seats are 5.5 inches apart, each separately adjustable fore and aft to suit individual requirements.↘ And there's plenty of room to stretch your legs, since the rudder pedals are suspended from above, leaving the floor unobstructed.↘ The rear seat measures 44.5 inches wide with a four-position adjustable back for perfect passenger comfort. No main spar obstructs leg room (it's under the rear seat). All this spacious luxury is enhanced by the beautifully styled interior and the restfully quiet flight which careful, thorough soundproofing has created. ↘ ↘ For all its comfort and roominess, however, you'll be impressed most by the Comanche's performance.↘ The 180 horsepower Comanche (\$14,995) is faster by far than anything in its price class; the 250 horsepower Comanche (\$18,995) is second to none. Little wonder the Comanche is the world's most advanced — most wanted — single-engine business plane.↘ See it, fly it at your Piper dealer's today, or write for brochure Dept. G-2, Piper Aircraft Corporation, Lock Haven, Pa.



BAGGAGE ROOM, TOO!

200 pounds, 20 cubic feet, big 20x22 door. All the room you want!



PIPER
Comanche ↘
America's Most Beautiful Business Airplane

ATTRACTIVE LEASE AND FINANCE PLANS AVAILABLE

FLYING—February 1959



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1418

AVIATION
April 27, 1929

DESIGNED TO BE SAFE — BUILT TO STAY SAFE



A STRENUOUS FLIGHT TEST AND WHAT IT DEMONSTRATED

One hundred and fifty hours of full throttle flight was accomplished in a Spartan C-3 biplane powered with a Walter, 130-horsepower motor in the period from March 8th to 24th as a test of the quality and reliability of the improved Walter motor.

As a result of that flight Spartan Aircraft Company presents the following performance information:

1. Over nine hours of flight daily at full throttle.
2. Average fuel consumption, $10\frac{1}{2}$ gallons per hour.
3. Total distance flown, 13,500 miles.
4. No repairs of any nature were made during the entire 17-day period.
5. The motor had accumulated 58 hours of flying time previous to the 150-hour test flight.



Inquiries regarding Spartan Airplane dealer franchises are invited

SPARTAN AIRCRAFT COMPANY
Tulsa, Oklahoma.