



# The *Maple Lake Flyer*

A newsletter of EAA Chapter 878, Experimental Aircraft Association  
*EAA Chapter 878: a part of the aviation communities of Maple Lake, Buffalo, and surrounding areas of Minnesota.*

33 Years.....1986 – 2019

December, 2019

- **EAA CHAPTER 878 EVENT AND MEETING INFO**

**Date:** Saturday, December 14

**Location:** Bison Creek Bar & Grill (Huikko's Bowling and Entertainment Center) in Buffalo. For info on Bison Creek, see: <http://huikkosbowl.com/bar-grill/>

For driving directions, see info on Page 2

**Time:** 6 pm: Social Hour (cash bar)  
7 pm: Dinner (individual order from limited menu)  
After Dinner: Awards Presentations and Guest Speaker, Laura Herrmann



- **FLIGHT TO SUCCESS**  
by Greg Thomes, Chapter President

Seneca, a Roman Philosopher once wrote; "There is as much greatness of mind in acknowledging a good turn, as in doing it." In this spirit, and that of the Thanksgiving holiday just past, I turn our praises to you...EAA Chapter 878 members!

In 2019 our Chapter 878 will be recognized as one of EAA's most 'well-rounded' chapters (doing the most to promote general aviation). From Young Eagles and scholarships, to ways-and-means projects...we have a talented and dedicated group.

Betty and I take this moment to express our gratitude for your membership and involvement in our club.

Please mark Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> on your calendar as the date of this year's Holiday Party and Awards ceremony. More information may be found in this publication.

Thank you one-and-all!

May your skies be bright and breezes light!

Greg



**Remember to regularly check our chapter's website:**

<https://www.878.eaachapter.org/>



- **CHAPTER 878 AVIATION EVENTS – 2019 / 2020**

Dec	14	EAA Chapter 878 Holiday Social and Year End Awards; 6:00 pm Social Hour, 7:00 pm Dinner Bison Creek Bar & Grill (Huikko's Bowling and Entertainment Center) in Buffalo
Jan	11	EAA Chapter 878 meeting. Time and location to be advised. Note: change to Saturday morning meetings for the winter!
	28	IMC / EAA878 meeting at Thunderbird Aviation (KFCM), 6:30 pm
Feb	8	EAA Chapter 878 meeting. Time and location to be advised.
	15	Chapter 878 Fly-In Chili Feed. Buffalo Airport. 11 am to 2 pm
	25	IMC / EAA878 meeting at Thunderbird Aviation (KFCM), 6:30 pm
Mar	14	EAA Chapter 878 meeting. Time and location to be advised.
	24	IMC / EAA878 meeting at Thunderbird Aviation (KFCM), 6:30 pm

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- **DECEMBER “CHAPTER 878 HOLIDAY PARTY and YEAR-END AWARDS” MEETING**

Join your fellow Chapter 878 members and families on December 14 to relax and enjoy the company of friends (or get to know each other better) as we celebrate our growth and achievements of the past year.

As noted on the first page, we'll gather in one of the party rooms at the Bison Creek Bar & Grill (Huikko's Bowling and Entertainment Center) in Buffalo. A “social hour” begins at 6:00 pm, and dinner will be at 7:00, with our programs to follow. For info on Bison Creek, see: <http://huikkosbowl.com/bar-grill/>.

**How To Get There** (if you haven't been to Bison Creek/Huikko's before): In Buffalo, from the intersection of Highways 55 and 25, go north approximately 2 blocks to 14<sup>th</sup> St. NE and turn left. Huikko's is on west side of Highway 25.

Driveway to the parking lot is on north side of the facility, between Hair Design Salon and Klatt True Value Hardware. Yes, it's weird!

Enter dining facility from the parking lot on the west side of building.

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- **IMC CLUB**

by Dave Wendt, Coordinator – IMC/EAA 878

IMC/EAA 878 Club meetings:

**Note: no December 2019 IMC meeting**

I recommend our members register for Radek Wyrzykowski's webinar describing EAA/IMC's newly introduced “EAA Proficiency365.” Radek previewed this program when he visited us at Thunderbird Aviation for our November 2019 meeting.

Note: Radek is EAA's Manager of Flight Proficiency.

Registration for this Wednesday, January 22, 2020 event which starts at 19:00 CST is now available on the website: [www.faasafety.gov](http://www.faasafety.gov).

Course Description: Improve your flying, proficiency, and safety with EAA Proficiency365™ - an exclusive benefits that can help you stay active in year-round activity utilizing flight simulators to advance your flying proficiency, improve your safety and keep your pilot certificate current without a need for a biannual flight review. Learn how to use EAA SkillScore™ Tracker to measure your progress. Select number: EA6196968

IMC/EAA 878 Club meetings are open to all. All interested pilots (IFR & VFR), are invited to attend. Are you interested in joining? Cost is \$37.00 total dues per year. Our Mission and Purpose is to become BOTH current and proficient pilots!

For more information and program content each month, please contact Dave at [DaveWendtInsurance@gmail.com](mailto:DaveWendtInsurance@gmail.com), or 612-272-4600.



● **ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL TREE OF HOPE TOY GATHERING**  
 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Event held on December 7, 2019 at St. Cloud Aviation, St. Cloud Airport  
 by Elaine Morrow. EAA Chapter 878 Member and Tree of Hope Co-Coordinator



We had a total of 25 planes flying in (that the tower reported) so we didn't beat our past record of 33, but we did have a record of planes from TWO states (Minnesota and North Dakota). Two planes flew in from Fargo, ND, for the first time this year - we invited them to participate since they also get many Minnesota patients in their pediatric units in two hospitals.



Every celebration needs some cake!

The total hospitals to receive bags of toys are 42 in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North Dakota, and all five Ronald McDonald Houses in Minnesota, plus two orphanages and a shelter.

An increase in donations allowed us to pack 251 bags for 2019 (about a 14% increase over the 216 for 2018) and each hospital also received one case of wrapping paper, bows, bags, and boxes for the nurses to wrap them (they usually spent their own money for wrapping).

I counted eight EAA Chapter 878 members who volunteered (though I didn't get a photo of all of them) and want to extend a hearty "Thank You" to each.

Very happy to report that Macklin Caruso from the Minnesota Flyer was there and will be writing an article for the magazine.



The hangar was busy with volunteers receiving, sorting, marking, and bagging the toy donations. Note the bags stacked against the back wall, waiting for their delivery drivers.

Also, Celeste Shefland was able to attend. She and her husband Ray were the originators of the Tree of Hope when they realized that many kids who were hospitalized over the holidays were not able to receive a gift to help ease the trauma. The Shefland's plane had trouble, so she drove all the way down from Nary (outside of Bemidji)!



Aircraft on the ramp at St. Cloud, some bringing gifts and others taking them to their destinations.



Elaine Morrow (left) shows special guest Celeste Shefland (right) what the Tree of Hope program has evolved into since Celeste and Ray first started it 30 years ago.



A human conveyor system employed to load a delivery truck. Other bags were delivered by volunteers in their private vehicles.

Note: Various photo credits to Elaine Morrow, Sarah Schumacher, Greg Thomes and Thuy Pieper

- **TAKE A KID TO AIRVENTURE OSHKOSH 2020 FOR FREE**

You may already have seen the announcement that Boeing has entered into a two-year agreement to provide financial support to EAA to allow youth 18 and under FREE admission to AirVenture Oshkosh.

So, make plans now to take your sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters, friend’s kids, etc. to Oshkosh for the experience of a lifetime.

Caution: the offer DOES NOT cover the cost of the food they’ll eat, so plan your wallet contents accordingly!

<https://eaa.org/eaa/news-and-publications/eaa-news-and-aviation-news/news/12-05-2019-EAA-Offers-Young-People-Free-AirVenture-Admission-With-Boeing-Support>

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- **VOLUNTEER TO BE THE HEAD OF OUR MAPLE LAKE FLY-IN COMMITTEE FOR 2020**

By consensus vote of the chapter we did not have a 2019 fly-in at Maple Lake, breaking a string of 32 consecutive years of Maple Lake fly-ins. But, the hope was to reorganize, plan and hold an event in 2020.

A 2020 fly-In will need planning and organizational help from the entire chapter as we reset our priorities, energy and focus. We’ll need input on possible activities, displays, events, and food serving options.

Please examine what draws you to a fly-in, and how we can channel that attraction into our own event. You can be the leader to bring a fly-in back to Maple Lake.

The first Maple Lake fly-in was held on September 13, 1987 (only one year after EAA Chapter 878 was formed). It featured a pork chop dinner (something unusual at fly-ins at the time) prepared by the Wright County Pork Producers. It was sponsored by EAA Chapter 878, the Maple Lake Commercial Club, the Maple Lake Flyers, and the Maple Lake Jaycees.

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- **FRIENDS OF BUFFALO AIRPORT (FOBA) CHRISTMAS PARTY, Friday December 13**

Included with this newsletter is your invitation to the Buffalo Airport Christmas Party, sponsored by the Friends of the Buffalo Airport (FOBA). This is a great opportunity to meet other pilots, not only from Buffalo but from the greater aviation community as well.

If you’re not familiar with the location of the party hangar, drive onto the airport ramp through the access gate on the west site of West Metro Aviation, turn left and your destination is the hangar with all the people, cars and lights on the right! You can’t miss it!

See you there!

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- **THE JAZ RECORD**  
by Jazmin Spreiter, EAA Chapter 878 Member  
and Ray Foundation Aviation Scholarship Recipient

This month I have been getting together with Colin and Laura studying for my written exam. This has been a tough part for me since I am more of a hands on learner. I feel confident and I am taking it on Dec.16th.

I haven’t been able to do to much flying this month because I’ve been weathered out. After passing my written this month I hope to get going with my flying and take my check ride as soon as possible.

I also just wanted to say again how grateful I am for this scholarship and I wouldn’t be where I am today without it. Thanks!



Jazmin Spreiter:



- **SONEX UPDATE**  
by Wayne Flury

Shown below are recent photos of my Sonex with the windshield and canopy finally fitted and installed. There are many parts of any airplane construction project that can be called difficult, and the Sonex certainly has its share, but in my experience the work of fitting the canopy to the windshield and fuselage can only best be described as “tedious!”

The canopy used on the “A” model Sonex starts off as an oversized and floppy piece of Plexiglas, blown into sort of a “bubble” shape which must be cut and trimmed to fit into the cockpit opening. I’ve got to give a big “Thank You” to Boyd Emmel for helping with the first rough cut of the canopy to size (needed two people to handle the large sheet and maneuver it through the band saw). Over the years I’ve heard and read countless tales of people carefully handling the Plexiglas through cutting, trimming, sanding and drilling, and then to have the disappointment of a crack suddenly appearing. So I was a little paranoid, to say the least, as I began the process (it’s a \$200 part, and I don’t like buying more than one each of such parts).

The initial and succeeding cuts are marked with masking tape to the approximate dimensions, cuts are made, edges are sanded smooth (three grades of sandpaper), the canopy is laid onto the fuselage, more tape is applied, more cuts are made, more sanding is done, more fitting and marking, etc., etc., etc. Since the canopy is a “bubble” shape, it becomes a task of fitting a three dimensional item into a fixed dimension cockpit with angled bulkheads fore and aft, each with different radii. A little cut on one side affects the fit of an opposite side, or the diagonal side, or whatever!! There are lots and lots of canopy removals. I built a wooden form on which to sit the canopy while doing the cutting and sanding, and that worked well.

The first couple of times that I picked up the canopy (by myself) to move it from the airplane to the wooden form and then back again, I fully expected cracks to be sprouting like a spider web. But, after I became more confident, I found the canopy to be very resilient to handling. An analogy might be the way you picked up and held your first newborn child – you fully expected the baby to break if you weren’t careful! But by the time of the second, or succeeding kids, you developed a more casual but confident style.

I believe current versions of the Sonex canopy (as compared to the very early units) have a more forgiving chemical composition and so that’s likely why I didn’t have trouble with cracks. This is, I suppose, an unintended benefit of being such a slow builder! This doesn’t mean that tomorrow when I go into the shop I won’t find a crack, but since the canopy has now gone through several temperature cycles, I’m feeling OK!

It’s noteworthy that Sonex has modified their “B” models to include an impressive (and solid) framework into which the canopy is fitted and, I believe, reduces the work of installation.

Now Santa needs to be generous and bring me some goodies to put into the instrument panel (probably a package of MGL Avionics instruments – EFIS, radios and other).



Canopy in “down and latched” position. It’s finally starting to look like an airplane!



Canopy in “open” position. A cable holds the canopy from opening further, but I’ll likely need to make something to hold the canopy open in wind so it doesn’t come slamming down on sensitive body parts.

● **EAA CHAPTER 878 and MAPLE LAKE FLYER INFO**

EAA Chapter 878  
 PO Box 169  
 Maple Lake, MN 55358-0169

[www.878.eaachapter.org/](http://www.878.eaachapter.org/)  
 a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

The *Maple Lake Flyer* is published monthly by Chapter 878 of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) for the use, education and enjoyment of Chapter members and others to whom it is provided. No claim is made for the accuracy of materials presented. Editorial content is the opinion of the contributor and does not necessarily reflect the position of Chapter 878 nor the EAA.

Submissions for publication are encouraged and should be sent to the attention of: Newsletter Editor (see address below).

Send "change of address" information, email address and phone number changes to Newsletter Editor.

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Chapter meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of each month (except for the winter months of January – April when we meet on the second Saturday morning). Meeting location and time may vary each month, depending upon the meeting program. Our December meeting is a family social event held at a local event center, with date, time and place to be determined annually.

Chapter membership is open to all persons interested in aviation. To become a member, simply contact any one of the current officers and request a membership application, or click on the "Membership" link on our website. Annual dues are \$10 for members up to 35 years of age, \$25 for age 35 and over, and \$35 for a family membership.

**Current Officers:**

<b>President:</b>	Greg Thomes	763-443-7039	greg@thomesinsurance.com
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Peter Radintz	320-963-1980	peradintz@hotmail.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Wayne Flury	763-670-6021	wflury@outlook.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Henry Williams	612-363-1803	hawms1@q.com

**Chapter Leaders and Coordinators:**

<b>Beverage Coordinator:</b>	<b>OPEN</b>		
<b>Chapter Assets Monitor:</b>	<b>OPEN</b>		
<b>Chapter Librarian:</b>	Harold Greseth	763-682-5486	hjpgreseth@gmail.com
<b>Chapter Manager of Non-Profit Programs:</b>	David Wendt	612/272-4600	DaveWendtInsurance@gmail.com
<b>Chapter 878 Roster Monitor:</b>	Wayne Flury	763-670-6021	wflury@outlook.com
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<b>Culinary Coordinator:</b>	<b>OPEN</b>		
<b>Eagle Flights Leader:</b>	Kyle Weatherly	612-759-5227	k.weatherly@live.com
<b>Facebook Leader:</b>	<b>OPEN</b>		
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<b>Flight Advisor:</b>	Chris Glaeser	952-239-4081	chris.glaeser@gmail.com
<b>Fly-In Committer Chairpersons</b>			
<b>Winter Chili Feed</b>	Laura Herrmann	952-210-8600	ljherrmann@yahoo.com
<b>Buffalo Fly-In</b>	<b>OPEN</b>		
<b>Maple Lake Fly-In</b>	<b>OPEN</b>		
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<b>Technical Counselor:</b>	Dick Burns	952-473-1887	dickburns1@aol.com
<b>Young Eagles Co-Coordinators:</b>	<b>OPEN (1)</b>		
	Kyle Weatherly	612-759-5227	k.weatherly@live.com
<b>EAA Chapter 878 Advocates:</b>	All Members		

● **THE FUNNIES**  
by Wayne Flury

None of the cartoon ideas that reluctantly formed in my brain seemed to be worthy of much effort, so I took the easy way out and shamelessly pulled some from online sources. These were new to me, and hopefully to you also. Plus, I thought they were funny as well as seasonal appropriate!.

Happy Holidays!!

12/2019

Cartoon credits as noted



Cartoon credit: from the Kyle Franklin Facebook page.



# Buffalo Airport Christmas Party

*Sponsored by Friends of Buffalo Airport*

*In memory of Loren Schiebe & Andy Brallier*

*Date: Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>*

*Time: Social 5:00 p.m.*

*Dinner 6:00 p.m.*

*Location: Sue Brallier's hangar, Buffalo Airport*

*For many years Loren and Andy invited the aviation community to their hangars for a celebration of the holidays. Though they are no longer with us, Friends of Buffalo Airport (FOBA) invites you to continue the spirit of their hospitality by joining us to enjoy good food, good friends and good aviation stories. All pilots, their spouses and friends are welcome.*

*FOBA will provide pulled pork, pulled beef, buns, soft drinks, coffee, plates and eating utensils. A donation box will be at the entrance to help FOBA with the cost of the party.*

*Please bring a pot luck item to add to the food table. You may bring your own personal beverage.*