



The Observer



THE OBSERVER IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
THE GETTYSBURG BARNSTORMERS, EAA CHAPTER 1041, GETTYSBURG PA.

The Gettysburg Barnstormers, EAA Chapter 1041 -

August 2023

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA)

...is not just Experimental Aircraft!

This organization is for everyone that has an interest in aviation. Whether you're an experienced pilot, or just someone who loves aircraft, EAA Chapter 1041 welcomes you!

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Another AirVenture In The Books— See You in 2024!

It seemed like it took forever to get here, but after it got here, the time went by oh so fast. This year, EAA was able to stream what was happening live— the daily air shows, the fantastic night air show on Wednesday night, along with events from the Theater-In-The-Woods.

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend this year, but the live streaming almost made up for it. Henry and Peggy made their annual pilgrimage to Oshkosh, and several fellow Barnstormers shared their campsite. They were even able to visit our Air Academy camper, Dominic!

AirVenture 2024 runs from July 22nd to the 28th— mark your calendars!

Only 357 days...



Henry's Hangar

"Never judge what may have happened in someone else's cockpit if you weren't there."

Paul Poberezny,
EAA Founder, 1921-2013

Hello Barnstormers!

This month's column is being written as Peggy and I are preparing for our annual pilgrimage to the "Mecca of Aviation", Oshkosh.. If my recollection is

correct, this is our 36th trip to the annual EAA Convention. We are looking forward to a wonderful week, enjoying our Chapter 1041 Campsite with several members and probably a few guests. Stay tuned for more news and stories when we all get back to Pennsylvania.

Elsewhere in this issue of The Observer you should find details of our Saturday, August 5th

Field Trip to the Udvar-Hazy Center of the Smithsonian Institute. Contact me 'asap' to sign up before all the seats are taken.

Also in this issue of The Observer should be information about our extra special 30th Anniversary Chapter Picnic on Sunday, August 13th. Please contact me to sign up and join

(Continued on page 2)

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS For AUGUST 2023

- **August 12th - IMCI VMC gathering 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM at the airport**
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- **August 13th - Chapter Picnic at Mathna Airport**
- **August 19th - Chapter Fly-Out**

A LOOK AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER 2023

- **Sept. 9th - IMCI VMC gathering**
- **Sept. 11th - Chapter Meeting, 7PM**
- **Sept. 14th to 17th - Ford Tri-Motor at York Airport**
- **Sept. 23rd to 24th - Fall Fly-in/Drive-in Pancake Breakfast**

Henry's Hangar (continued from page 1)

(Continued from page 1)

us for all the fun. Plan to share your best memories of things we have done as a Chapter over the years as we celebrate this milestone.

We want to sincerely say a great big THANK YOU to Gary & Kathy Mathna for again hosting us at their beautiful grass airstrip for our annual picnic. We really appreciate the wonderful atmosphere of the location and the ability for planes to fly in to the picnic. You pilots among us – remember that seeing planes land at his airport makes Gary smile from ear to ear!

In September, we have two very exciting events: a visit from the EAA Liberty Ford Tri-Motor, and our second-of-the-year Fly-In/Drive-In Breakfast.

Both of these need your participation, especially the breakfast. Given the record number of breakfasts served in June, we will need many hands for this popular weekend.

We passed around a sign-up sheet for the Tri-Motor visit during the July Chapter meeting, and have a good start on enough help. During the September Chapter meeting, we will view a video presentation that is a training session for

how the various stations are manned when we host the Tri-Motor at the York Airport (THV).

Please plan to attend this important evening so we can properly and safely handle the tasks involved.

We hope to see you all at our upcoming events and thank you for your participation.

Henry



Another Former Barnstormer Has His Heavenly Wings

The Barnstormers have lost a former member, Bob Simpson. Bob was a CFI and a skydiver, and was active with our group for many years. In April of 2016, Bob gave a presentation to the Chapter about his career flying helicopters for the Maryland State Police and MedStar.

There will be a Memorial Service for Bob Simpson

on Saturday, August 5th at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, 16530 Trenton Church Road, Upperco MD 21155, with a visitation at 10:00 am and the service at 11:00 followed by a luncheon. Persons wishing to send a card to Bob's wife, Peggy, can use this address:

Peggy Simpson
2563 Ebbvale Road
Manchester MD 21102



Peggy and her husband Bob at our holiday party a few years ago.

Obituary reprinted from the Eline Funeral Home website

Robert James Simpson, 85, of Manchester, MD, passed away on July 13, 2023, at Bridging Life Hospice in Westminster, MD. Born September 16, 1937, in Baltimore, MD, he was the son of the late Kenneth and Ida (Hartzell) Simpson and the beloved husband of Peggy Stone Simpson, his wife of 32 years.

Robert was a graduate of Howard High School. He served in the U.S. Air Force as an aircraft mechanic and after leaving the military joined the Maryland State Police. During his 23 years with MSP, he served as a Road Trooper before transferring to the aviation division where he flew medevac helicopters.

After retiring from MSP as a sergeant in 1983, he spent 11 years flying for MedStar in Washington, D.C. Robert was a licensed pilot and

instructor in both fixed wing aircraft and jet helicopters. He enjoyed hunting, skydiving, operating Amateur Radio and participating in Cycle Across Maryland (CAM) tours.

He was an active member of the Maryland Troopers Association, Maryland State Police Alumni Association, Quiet Birdmen, and Experimental Aircraft Association, where he donated his time and services flying 360 Young Eagles who were pursuing their interests in flight.

Surviving, in addition to his wife, are his two daughters, Laura Simpson of Chambersburg, PA, and Susan Meyer of Hampstead, MD; son, Robert Simpson of Gettysburg, PA; brother, Kenneth Simpson and wife Deborah Graham of Pueblo, CO; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends at Christ Lutheran Church, 16530 Trenton Church Road, Upperco, MD, 21155, on Saturday, August 5, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. A memorial service will immediately follow the visitation, with Pastor Michael Adams officiating.

A reception will take place after the service. If planning to attend the reception, please RSVP to jan2525p@gmail.com or call/text 443-935-2327.

Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either, The Gettysburg Barnstormers, c/o Treasurer Karen Radzai, 450 Shrivvers Corner Road, Gettysburg, PA, 17325 or Maryland State Police Alumni Memorial Fund, 1750 S. Plantation Drive, Dunkirk, MD 20754.

Service Details

Visitation

- Saturday, August 5th, 2023 10:00am - 11:00am
- Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 16530 Trenton Church Rd., UPPERCO, MD 21155

Service

- Saturday, August 5th, 2023 11:00am
- Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 16530 Trenton Church Rd., UPPERCO, MD 21155

The Fall 2023 FLY-IN/DRIVE-IN “WINGS, WHEELS, & PANCAKES”

BREAKFAST * 8 AM – Noon * RAIN OR SHINE!
Saturday and Sunday * SEPTEMBER 23rd AND 24th, 2023
Sponsored by Chapter 1041 of the Experimental Aircraft Association
(the Gettysburg Barnstormers) at: GETTYSBURG REGIONAL AIRPORT (W05)
Route 30 West, 1130 Chambersburg Road, Gettysburg PA 17325

FEATURING

Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage, Home Fries, Coffee, Tea, and Juice!

***Cash: \$10 Adult/ \$4 Youth (12 & under), *Credit: \$10.50 Adult, \$4.50 Youth**

*Prices may be subject to change due to fluctuating food costs.

A portion of the proceeds benefit Aviation Programs for Youth

Join us for Planes of all types, Antique and Classic Cars, and even flying model planes!

Also, come see “Floyd’s Fabulous Flying Flapjack Machine”!



Above pictures from our last breakfast! On right, Floyd's Fabulous Flying Flapjack Machine was designed by Floyd Armstrong (1944-2014)

Check us out on the Web at: WWW.1041.EAACHAPTER.ORG, or contact: Henry Hartman, Chapter President, at 717-637-3741 or (cell) 717-465-5952.





Photos From The July Meeting (and Happy Birthday, Wendi!)



Bob Howe's Name Added to the Memorial Wall at Oshkosh

As you all know, Bob Howe's name was to be added to the Memorial Wall during this year's activities at AirVenture.

Several of Bob's family as well as several of his EAA 1041 family were in attendance for the ceremony.

The Memorial Wall Dedication Service was held at 10AM on the closing day of AirVenture (Sunday the 30th). Thanks to all for their input into Bob's biography that was in the program.



History of the Ford 4-AT-E Tri-Motor



Henry Ford mobilized millions of Americans and created a new market with his Model T “Tin Lizzie” automobile from 1909 to 1926. After World War I, he recognized the potential for mass air transportation.

Ford’s Tri-Motor aircraft, nicknamed the “Tin Goose,” was designed to build another new market: airline travel. To overcome concerns of engine reliability, Ford specified three engines and added features for passenger comfort, such as an enclosed cabin. The first three Tri-Motors built seated the pilot in an open cockpit, as many pilots doubted a plane could be flown without the direct “feel of the wind.”

From 1926 through 1933, Ford Motor Company built 199 Tri-Motors. EAA’s model 4-AT-E was the 146th off Ford’s innovative assembly line — the 76th model 4-AT-E — and first flew on August 21, 1929. Days later, it was sold to Pitcairn Aviation.

When Pitcairn’s management changed hands later that year, NC8407 became the first air-

plane belonging to Eastern Air Transport, whose paint scheme is replicated on EAA’s Tri-Motor. Eastern Air Transport later became Eastern Airlines.

In 1930, the Tri-Motor was leased to Compañía Nacional Cubana de Aviación Curtiss, where it inaugurated air service between Havana and Santiago de Cuba. The airplane was later flown by the government of the Dominican Republic.

EAA’s Ford Tri-Motor returned to the U.S. in 1949 for barnstorming use. In 1950, it was moved from Miami to Phoenix and was refitted with more powerful engines for use as a crop duster. With two 450-hp engines and one 550-hp engine, it became the most powerful Model 4-AT-E ever flown. In 1955, it was moved to Idaho and fitted with two 275-gallon tanks and bomb doors for use as a borate bomber in aerial firefighting. Then in 1958, it was further modified for use by smoke jumpers.

After working for a variety of crop spraying businesses, EAA’s Tri-Motor moved to Lawrence,

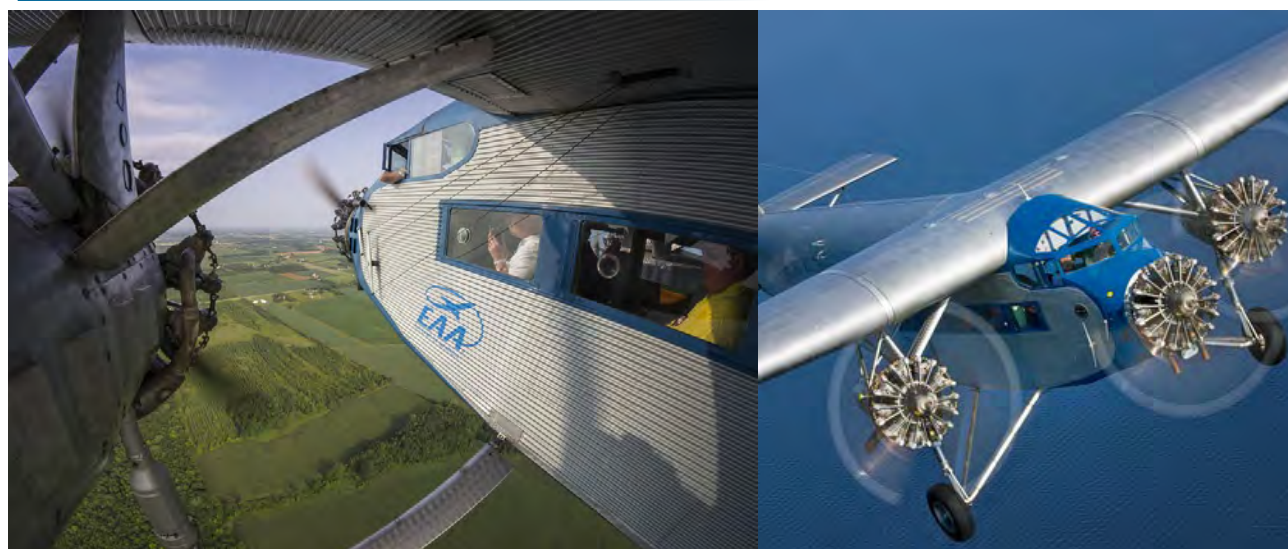
Kansas, in 1964, where its new owner flew barnstorming tours. During this period, it had a variety of roles, including serving as the primary setting for the Jerry Lewis comedy, *The Family Jewels*.

In 1973, the aircraft was still being used for air show rides, including an EAA chapter’s fly-in at Burlington, Wisconsin. While at the 1973 fly-in, a severe thunderstorm ripped the plane from its tiedowns, lifted it 20 feet into the air, and smashed it to the ground on its back. EAA subsequently purchased the wreckage.

After an arduous, 12-year restoration process by EAA staff, volunteers, and Ford Tri-Motor operators nationwide, the old Tri-Motor took to the air once again, having its official re-debut at the 1985 EAA Fly-In Convention in Oshkosh.

It was displayed in the EAA AirVenture Museum until 1991 when it returned to its former role of delighting passengers on its annual tour across the U.S.

(reprinted from EAA website)



fly on the Ford

EXPERIENCE THE GOLDEN AGE OF AVIATION

FORD TRI-MOTOR PROPERTY OF 



YORK AIRPORT (THV)

YORK, PA | SEP 14TH-17TH

PRICING: ADULT MEMBER: \$85 | ADULT NON-MEMBER: \$95 | CHILD (17 & UNDER): \$65

RIDES: THURS 2-5 PM | FRI-SUN 9 AM - 5 PM



FOR MORE INFO: FLYTHEFORD.ORG
OR CALL: 1-877-952-5395



AVIATION LINKS

**Have an aviation related link?
Let us know so that we can include it!**

www.eaa.org
www.aopa.org
www.1041.eaachapter.org
www.intrepidmuseum.org
www.york-aviation.com
www.airfactsjournal.com
www.jerryandersonart.com

You can find us on Facebook as well!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1101406127018136>

Coming soon: Instagram and Twitter! Keep an eye out here!



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