



Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 27 News



Next meeting Sunday, August 17, 2003, 10 a.m., Meriden-Markham Airport, Meriden

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Bob Burk
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Letter from the President

Many of you already know that Joe Gauthier has been selected by EAA headquarters to receive the first ever, Tony Bingelis award. Joe is the New England area's most highly regarded Technical Counselor and Flight advisor. Preston Kavanaugh of EAA Chapter 166, led the nomination process and he is to be congratulated for an outstanding job. Those EAA Chapter 27 members who contributed letters in support of Joe's nomination can each take pride in helping Joe receive this prestigious award. Preston has written a fine article detailing Joe's accomplishments which appears elsewhere in this newsletter. Be sure to read it. Congratulations, Joe!

I'm also pleased to report that Patty Zemsta has successfully arranged for Meriden Aviation Services to conduct a Pinch Hitter Course for frequent passengers. The course is designed to allow a non-pilot to successfully land

an aircraft in case the pilot should become incapacitated for some reason. Eight people attended this course. Thanks Patty for your efforts in initiating and coordinating this necessary activity. You have helped in making our flying partners safer in the future. The creation of the Compass Calibration Pad (Compass Rose) on the south run-up area is now able to move forward. I will be seeking volunteers at our next meeting to assist in the actual painting of the project. FYI: The application of a sealer to this area will not be performed.

I am coordinating with the Meriden Aviation Commission for the delivery of additional white stone to be refurbished as the backdrop for MMK's tetrahedron. If possible, I will arrange to have this delivered to the airport prior to our next meeting and we could work together to clean the area and spread the new stone following the

meeting.

Gordon Schimmel will be conducting a model airplane seminar at our August chapter meeting. This will serve as the training session for preparing our own model airplanes for a competition to be held at our September picnic. Please make every effort to attend so that you can compete and be competitive.

Final Note: I've just learned that the GP4 that won Grand Champion Homebuilt at Sun-N-Fun and appears in this month's Sport Aviation magazine, has also won as Grand Champion Plans Built aircraft at Air Venture 2003. I had the pleasure of meeting the builder and viewing his airplane and it was a beautiful example of the design.

See you all at our August 17th meeting.

—Jim Simmons

Young Eagles Rally a Success

Chapter 27's Summer Young Eagle's Rally in June was a great success despite being delayed by weather. Saturday, June 14, dawned...foggy. The forecast called for the fog to lift in mid-morning but at Meriden-Markham airport it actually got thicker as the morning when on. At noon, Fran Uliano, our Young Eagle coordinator, decided to call it a day and to postpone the rally until Sunday, our scheduled "rain date."

Sunday was sunny and warm, a near perfect YE day. And it brought out the kids. By the end of the day we'd added 35 more names to the world's largest log book. Many thanks to all the volunteer pilots and ground crew for their hard work and devotion.



Summer, 2003

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Simsbury Fly-In, September 21

EAA Chapter 324 and the Simsbury Flying Club are proud to invite you to a Fly-in on September 21 at the Simsbury, CT airport (4B9). This has become one of the largest events of its kind in New England, and this year will include new features that we expect to attract as many as 5,000-6,000 spectators, dozens of nifty aircraft, and over 150 beautiful antique automobiles.

For the first time, we expect to have fly-bys of exciting aircraft, including Navy F-18 jet fighters, a Coast Guard C-130, and a Canadair Challenger business jet. We'll have formation flying by WWII aircraft. This year, we are inviting a number of airframe and kit manufacturers to display their aircraft. At this point we have commitments from Vans, Lancair, Cirrus, TBM, Piper, Cessna, and Beech, who will bring aircraft and have a factory representative available.

Other events and exhibitors include the New England Air Museum, a LifeStar helicopter simulated rescue, parachute jumpers, a powered parachute demo, the Simsbury Camera Club to take photos of your prized aircraft, radio control airplanes, and aviation author Rinker Buck.

There will be judging and trophies for aircraft in various categories.

We encourage you to attend, to bring your aircraft for display (or not!), and to enter into informal competition to see which Chapter can bring the most aircraft. How about making this a Chapter project?! Come in a formation! We especially hope to see antique, homebuilt, and warbird aircraft.

The event begins "whenever you get there", but typically that means about 8:30 AM. It ends at 4:30 PM. Come whenever you wish, and stay as short or as long as you like. There will be plenty of food available, from pancakes in the early AM to hotdogs, burgers, soft drinks, and ice cream throughout the day.

For more information contact Bill Thomas (wdthomas@snet.net) or Joe Bellino (jbellino@snet.net).

Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2003

The May 18th, 2003 Meeting of Chapter 27 EAA was held at the hanger of Max Lopez at Tweed New Haven Airport. Jim Simmons opened the meeting at 10:00. All officers except Barb Johnson were present.

Visitors were recognized, and were: Bob Braxshaw of Meriden, Howard Rocklen, Earle Stetson and Betty Simmons.

The meeting was attended by: George Anderson, Bob Brown, Bob Burk, Harry Carl, Charles Enz, Joan Howell, Chris Kohler, Maurice Libson, Jim Maher, Chris O'Connor, Mike Okrent, Dave Pepe, Mark Scott, Bob Seeman, Jim Simmons, Bill Simon, Steve Socolosky, Jude Steele, Don Turecek, Fran Uliano, Chas Hughes, Max Lopez, Mike Zemsta, Patty Zemsta (and others who didn't sign the sheet)

Treasurer's Report: Not available. Barb not here.

Tech Counselor's Report: Bob Burk discussed a program to involve youngsters, and to illustrate the principles of flight mechanisms by using model aircraft

Young Eagles Report: Fran Uliano will visit a church and group in Portland to interest kids in the YE program. The YE Rally is June 14, 2003. Fran collected names of potential pilots and ground crew for the event. We should have enough, if only the weather will co-operate.

Golden Eagles Report: Not available, Rob Rouse not here.

Library/Web site: See Rick Beebe or Mike Okrent if you have materials/project pix for either. Materials for the web site can be

emailed to newsletter@eaa27.org.

Education Center: Jude Steele related a call made to EAA chapter in Rutland, Vermont, and said that they had gotten a special deal from the state, but to look out, for as soon as you might improve the building, it would draw others looking to displace you for their own purposes. More to follow on this long-term study Jude is leading.

Upcoming Events: 1. Young Eagles Rally Jun 14, 2003; 2. Chapter Picnic Sept 6, 2003, rain date Sept 13; 3. Christmas Party December 7, 2003

EAA Safety Fest: Thanks to all who participated and helped to make the EAA pavilion a place of interest and inspiration for those who strolled through. Dick Rutan was a featured speaker, he flew non-stop around the world in Voyager and flew 250 combat missions in Vietnam. Joe Gauthier sent his thanks to all who participated.

50/50 Raffle not held.

The seminar was a presentation by Max on the RV-7 project in his hanger. Also his friend Howard showed his nice RV-6, and discussed the many hours that he has labored on his Lancair project (approx 3000 hours to date).

In closing, some final issues

Please pay your dues, only \$15.00, you get a nice newsletter and get to see interesting aviation stuff.

Please wear your nametag, you won't embarrass someone... I was called George and Bob last meeting (no nametag?).

Your Secretary, Dave Pepe

Odd at OSH



A couple of the weirder visitors to Airventure 2003

Joe Gauthier wins Tony Bingelis Award

Joe Gauthier has been named the first-ever recipient of the Tony Bingelis Award. Named after the late Tony Bingelis, the national award



recognizes EAA Technical Counselors for dedicated service and/or significant contributions in assisting members to build and restore aircraft. Awardees honored with the Tony Bingelis Award are carefully chosen by a committee of their peers as outstanding examples of people whose contributions have positively affected members' aircraft building or restoration projects.

Tony Bingelis was a long time supportive member of the EAA and volunteered his services since the early '50's in a number of capacities, each revolving around the homebuilt activities of the EAA. Early in 1972, he was asked to write three articles for *Sports Aviation* and continued that relentless monthly schedule for 299 consecutive how-to articles. The articles, collected into four books, continue as the foundation for every homebuilder's library.

Across the state and throughout New England, Joe has visited hundreds of projects, adding to the builder's education, workmanship, safety of flight, and satisfaction from the homebuilding activity. In this, he is the consummate Technical Counselor, and has both promoted the EAA and advanced a standard for all other TC's to follow. For

these reasons, Joe was nominated by the three Connecticut chapters in which he is active – Hartford's #166, Meriden's #27 and Stratford's #1208. As all three chapters emphasize homebuilding, it is particularly gratifying to see our Connecticut nominee recognized as the nation's best.

The nomination team (David Faile, John Faulkner, Preston Kavanagh and Jim Simmons) report that the highlight of the application process was collecting stories of how Joe has contributed to individual homebuilder projects. In November, a portion of the pilots whom Joe Gauthier has helped were offered the chance to write a recommendation letter. Over the course of December, 36 letters were received. Those who can complete successful projects are rarely willing to spend a great deal of time writing about their work. Therefore, it is particularly remarkable that so many wrote so much. As one letter said:

"Joe has spent a lifetime learning about aviation, improving his own homebuilding and flying skills and the skills of those who come in contact with him...To me, Joe is the personification of what this award is all about. Homebuilding, skilled flying and advancement of the safety and enjoyment of this great sport of aviation."

The award was made at Airventure 2003 will be displayed in the EAA museum during the remainder of the year.

FAA to issue plastic airman certificates

Administrator Marion Blakey announced late last week that the FAA plans to begin issuing new airman certificates, replacing the current paper with plastic credit-card-sized certificates that incorporate security features. The new certificate will benefit pilots because it is sturdier and less likely to become lost or damaged. The FAA will issue the new certificates as pilots achieve higher levels or additional ratings, and as lost or damaged certificates are replaced.

Pilots who would like to replace their paper certificate with the new plastic one may submit an application to replace a lost or destroyed

certificate along with the \$2 fee. When the new certificate arrives, it becomes the pilot's valid certificate, and the old paper certificate should be destroyed.

In her announcement, Blakey said, "The new certificate's durability and features will further protect pilot identities and add one more element of security to our aviation system."

In keeping with this year's Centennial of Flight celebration, the new certificate features graphics of the Wright brothers, 1902 Wright Glider, 1903 Wright Flyer, a jet aircraft, DOT seal, and a hologram of the FAA seal.

High Performance Modeling Seminar

EAA Chapter 27 member and AMA leader, Gordon Schimmel, will conduct a seminar at our August 17th meeting on taking an inexpensive toy rubberband-powered balsa model and creating a much higher performance version of the airplane. Gordon intends to provide members with both a theoretical seminar and a "hands-on" session at the meeting. This seminar will serve as an education session for creating your own version of the model for a competition to be held at our September picnic at Meriden Airport. Gordon will be providing the models (both for the hands-on session as well as the competition) at no cost to the members.

This idea was created by our Technical Counselor Bob Burk as an education session as well as a fun competition for our members. We'll discuss categories of competition as well as the prizes to be awarded during the seminar.

Chapter Pinch Hitters

by Patty Zemsta

In June, six Chapter 27 wives/flight companions attended the ground portion of the Chapter-sponsored Pinch Hitter course. Two wives of MMK-based pilots also joined in. This is a course designed to teach non-pilot passengers the basics of landing the plane in case of pilot incapacitation. The class was great. Justin, our instructor, really made us feel a lot more comfortable about getting the plane down in an emergency. All we have to do now is the landings! We're all a bit apprehensive but we'll be fine. Three of us have opted to work in our own planes. The rest of us will "experiment" in MMK rentals.



The class- Betty Simmons, Ramona Upson, Joan Howell, Teresa Fiscus, Shirley Rouse, Patty Zemsta...

Nearly fifty years ago when I was a NAVCAD (Naval Aviation Cadet), one of our classmates had an accident. One of the accident board members asked him what he thought caused the accident.

His reply: "Well sir, I ran out of airspeed, altitude and ideas all at the same time."

Chapter Young Eagle Off to National Flight Academy

Brett Pilkerton attended our last Young Eagles event. Brett's first flight was at a chapter YE rally when he was 10 years old. This summer he will attend National Flight Academy in Fort Pickett (BKT). He is very enthusiastic about flying and plans to become a commercial pilot. He already has 6 hours training and has attained his level D. Chapter 27 helped to launch another future pilot.

Hi from Jerry and Margaret Bass

As many of you know, Jerry and Margaret Bass moved from Simsbury to Waynesboro, Virginia last year where they've been building a house at Eagles Nest Airpark (W13). They're making progress, as Jerry writes:

We have moved to our new house and have unpacked many boxes. I started to plant lawn seed today. Moved completely out of the apartment.

Had burgers on the deck tonight.

You can find more information about the airpark at www.eaglesnest.aero. Jerry's email address is jerrymarge@mail1.myexcel.com.

The deadline for submission of materials for the April newsletter is September 5, 2003.

2003 EAA CHAPTER 27 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please fill in the following information and mail with your dues to:
EAA Chapter 27, c/o Barbara Johnson, 9 Dillon Rd., Woodbridge, CT 06525
(Dues are \$15.00 per year, make checks payable to: EAA Chapter 27)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address: _____

EAA Membership No: _____ Pilot rating held: _____

Do you own an aircraft?: _____ Make & Model: _____ Registration No: _____

Are you building an aircraft?: _____ Make & Model: _____ % completed? _____



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Meetings held on the third Sunday of the month at Meriden-Markham Airport,
Meriden, CT at 10am unless otherwise noted.
www.eaa27.org