



Experimental Aircraft Association

Chapter 27 News



Next meeting Sunday, February 15, 10 a.m., Meriden-Markham Airport, Meriden, CT

February 2009

EAA CHAPTER 27 RECEIVES SPIRIT OF MERIDEN AWARD



Mayor Michael Rohde talking about community spirit and the Young Eagles program. L-R: Mayor Michael Rohde, Airport Commissioner Frank Lewandowski, Young Eagles Coordinator Fran Uliano, Chapter President Jim Simmons.



“Experimental Aircraft Association Day” proclamation. L-R: Frank Lewandowski, Fran Uliano, Jim Simmons

Rick Beebe photos

For the most part, flying Young Eagles or working ground crew at the rallies is reward enough. The smiles of the kids and the gratitude of their parents is all the thanks we could ask for. But every now and then it's nice to be recognized by someone outside the Young Eagle Program. And it's especially nice if that someone is the city that hosts the airport we call home.

So we're very proud to announce that EAA Chapter 27 is the recipient of the city of Meriden *Spirit of Meriden* award. The award is the highest awarded by Meriden and is given to a person or group who "exemplifies community spirit worthy of recognition." The award states that the EAA and our Chapter is "dedicated to the community and our young people" and "has been providing an opportunity for young people, 18 and under,

to spread their wings and fly." It also states that "the members of the EAA have also donated numerous man hours to improvement projects at the Meriden-Markham Airport."

Mayor Michael Rohde presented the award to Chapter President Jim Simmons and Young Eagle Coordinator Fran Uliano during the city council meeting on January 20, 2009. The award proclaims that January 21, 2009 was "Experiment Aircraft Association Day" in the City of Meriden.

Congratulations to all the members of the Chapter for their part in carrying out the EAA spirit, and thanks to Airport Commissioner Frank Lewandowski for nominating the Chapter for this prestigious award.

—Rick Beebe

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President Jim Simmons 203-272-9346	Vice President Bob Spaulding 203-378-5688	Treasurer Bill Jagoda 860-349-9901	Secretary Rick Bernardi 203-265-4113	Membership Mike Okrent 203-393-2662	Newsletter Editor Rick Beebe 203-230-8459	Young Eagles Fran Uliano 860-347-0412	Tech Counselor Dave Pepe 203-634-4457
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MEETING MINUTES

January 18, 2009

Call to order: The meeting for EAA Chapter 27 was called to order by President Jim Simmons at 10:00. All officers were present. There were 29 members present in spite of the snow storm. Visitors: We welcomed Bogdan Gutowski a new pilot with a tail wheel endorsement who is building a Wag-Aero Cub replica. Bog, as he is called, has started construction from straight tubing and has the right side laid out. I observed Bog already obtaining some technical advice from several of our members during the break.



A Wag-Aero Cub replica

Treasurer—Bill Jagoda: Bill reported a balance of \$740.86 for Nov. and 628.20 for Dec. Thank you, Bill! **Dues are due so please send a check to Bill if you haven't done so already.** His address is on the form on the back of this newsletter.

Technical Counselor—Dave Pepe: Dave reported that Mike Zemsta now has 36 hrs on the RV10 and is also started building an RV9! Dave also reported we have Young Eagle t-shirts and hats, along with golf and denim shirts for sale.

Young Eagles—Fran Uliano: Fran reported we flew 147 Young Eagles last year and over 1500 to date. Well done Fran!

Fran and I made a presentation to a potential group of Young Eagles at the Young Astronauts club at the Wallingford Library on the 21st. Fran will report at our next meeting.

Young Eagle credits are now up to \$5.

We discussed various options to replace the Polaroid camera.

Our next Young Eagle rallies;

- Saturday June 13, 2009
- October Saturday date TBD

Laura Hargreaves has offers of rides from 15 pilots and is taking EAA Aeroscholar Fundamentals of Aviation online course. Laura has, since this writing, flown the 747 simulator in Minneapolis complements of Dorothy Vallee.

Website, Newsletter and Director—Rick Beebe: As always, please feel free to upload pictures of your project and aircraft on our website. www.eaa27.org Rick would like us to upload some updated pictures of your projects and aircraft.

Sikorsky Aircraft Tour—Mark Scott: The date is Saturday, March 7, 2009 approximately an 1 1/2 hr tour. A sign up sheet was passed around.

Holiday Banquet – Maury Lisbon: The Hawthorne Restaurant was selected and the date is Saturday December 5th 2009.

Chapter Picnic – Mike Zemsta: The date of the Picnic will be Sunday September 20th and will also include an abbreviated membership meeting.

Airport Improvement Projects include painting of the Tetrahedron (Day-Glo will

be supplied by the City), Repaint airport name and frequency on the taxiway, and Spring Cleanup. Dates to be determined.

Old Business: Dave will inventory Chapter Products and is looking for ideas or requests for new products.

New Business: Bradley Air Museum meeting, Steve Socolosky will coordinate a date in March or April.

Heather “W” will arrange another tour of the NY TRACON on May 2nd. Heather also proposed we have an ‘Old Eagles’ effort although I would prefer to call it “Silver or Senior”.

Mark Scott has offered another open house to update his progress on the BearHawk. Date to follow.

Mike Zemsta proposed a trip to Old Rhinebeck and is looking for interested participants

Seminar Topics for 2009. Heather “W” has volunteered her husband Leon to give us a perspective of local tower operations. Leon works the New Haven Tower. Also on our list is Joe Gauthier, Dave Pepe and possibly someone from the EAA Speakers Bureau. If you have any ideas or requests for a speaker or would like to volunteer, let Bob Spaulding know.

50/50 Raffle Winner: Tova Spaulding – Congratulations and Thank You!

Seminar Presentation: Rick Beebe gave us an update on the EAA five-year plan which has involved a lot of changes at HQ to make EAA financially stable. He also gave us an update on the Airventure site construction under way at Oshkosh.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:55 am

Respectfully submitted – Rick Bernardi

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Connecticut residents have experienced our coldest January in 15 years and a consistent pattern of freezing temperatures and equally persistent snowfall. It's hard to get our regular "fix" of flying. Just the thought of preflighting our aircraft in these conditions is enough to discourage even the most dedicated among us. I'm sure we all look forward to warmer temperatures and clear runways.

On Tuesday, January 20th Fran Uliano and I represented our Chapter as we received the "Spirit of Meriden Award" for our Young Eagles Program at MMK. It was truly a great honor (the highest award from the mayor of the City of Meriden) for us to accept this award. I reminded those in attendance that Fran and I were there representing all of our members who have participated in the Young Eagles program. "Congratulations" to everyone who has contributed their time and energy in support of Young Eagles at MMK!

During an informal discussion with Frank Lewandowski, a member of the Meriden Aviation Committee, he posed the question: "Assuming some funds were available, what we would like to see done at MMK?" I told him that I would solicit input from our members at our February meeting and report back to him with my results. So I ask each of you to please give the question some thought and bring your ideas forward at our next meeting.

Lastly, "Congratulations" to Mark Scott upon accepting the position of Technical Counselor for the EAA. I'm sure Mark will be a valuable resource for aircraft builders throughout Connecticut.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our February 15th meeting.

—Jim Simmons

TECHNICAL COUNSELOR NOTE

As I walked with Jim to look at his Skybolt's engine installation after last month's meeting I mentioned interest in becoming a technical counselor after I finished my Bearhawk. Jim said "why wait, you are probably qualified now." He checked the rules, said it looks good, we filled out the paperwork, and the next thing I know I'm approved by EAA. It turns out my homebuilding experience (1500+ hrs), vintage aircraft experience (3 yrs owning a C-170A), and engineering degree with experience (probably too much of that) qualifies me. So now I have an excuse to visit at everyone's project and completed aircraft. I may even be asking for rides as official business!

As I said in my presentations I analyze everything. Through this work I think I have amassed a useful amount of knowledge about many aspects of homebuilding. I am really looking forward to sharing what I have learned so far. I've done metal work on my wing and fuselage, so I can provide help on that topic. I'm working firewall forward systems now (IO-540) and did two owner (extensively) assisted annuals on my Cessna so I have some experience to share there too. After I finish fabric covering sometime this year I'll be able to offer advice on that. At work I do a lot of aerodynamics, performance, and some structural analysis. So if you have questions in these areas or possibly on writing a simple performance manual contact me.

Questions about my favorite subject, sea-planes, will be most welcome. Between Dave Pepe's RV work and my Bearhawk, vintage airplane, and other experiences we should have help to offer on most topics. Building an airplane is a succession of a thousand large and small decisions. The Bingellis books and online videos are great but there are many things you still



only learn by talking to others. So don't hesitate to contact me. I have developed a great network of building buddies so if I can't help you there is a good chance I know who can. I look forward to learning more about your projects and offering counseling where I can.

—Mark Scott

EXPERIMENTER RISES AGAIN!

If you enjoyed reading the *Experimenter* magazine, you'll be happy to hear that it's been resurrected as an e-newsletter for homebuilders. Launched on January 20, the newsletter features technical articles, videos and tips, as well as knowledge, information, and ideas for the entire homebuilding community. It will come out the third Tuesday of each month.

If you have not seen it yet, the latest issue is at <http://www.eaa.org/experimenter/issues/0901.html>. If you wish to subscribe, you can do so at <http://www.eaa.org/subscribe/>. Subscribers also receive a free download: *Custom Aircraft Building Tips*.

If helicopters are so safe, how come there are no vintage/classic helicopter fly-ins?

Problem: Money piling up on you. Antidote: Build an airplane.—Lauran Paine, Jr.

SIKORSKY TOUR MARCH 7TH, 2009

I am organizing another Sikorsky tour this year. It will be on Saturday March 7th. We will meet in the administration lobby at 9:30 am where the small Sikorsky museum is located. Enter Sikorsky at the North gate on Rt 110 in Stratford. Stop at the North gate guard booth, tell them you are there for a tour, and they will direct you to the administration lobby which is at the South end of the facility. The tour will start at 10 am. Please be on time. If you arrive late it will be difficult to join the group once we start. I expect the tour to take about an hour and a half.

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The deadline for submission of materials for the next newsletter is March 5, 2009.

2009 EAA CHAPTER 27 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please fill in the following information and mail with your dues to:
EAA Chapter 27, c/o Bill Jagoda, 43 Derby Road, Rockfall, CT 06481
(Dues are \$20.00 per year, due in January, make checks payable to: *EAA Chapter 27*)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address: _____ Receive Newsletter via: Email Paper

EAA Membership No: _____ Expiration date: _____ 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 10 am at Meriden Aviation,
Meriden-Markham Airport, 213 Evansville Avenue, Meriden, CT unless otherwise noted.
www.eaa27.org