



# Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 27 News



Next meeting Sunday, June 20, 2004, 10 a.m., Meriden-Markham Airport, Meriden

#### President

Jim Simmons  
203-272-9346

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203-467-4826

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860-347-0412

#### Tech Counselor

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Rick Bernardi, his "new" straight-tail Cessna and a new Young Eagle

## A Beautiful Day for Young Eagles

Saturday, June 12 was International Young Eagles Day and Chapter 27 turned out in force to do our part. Barbara Uliano and Betty Simmons handled registration, Chris Kohler was our able ground boss, and Rick Merrill managed the photo chores. We had nine pilots: Rick Beebe, Rick Bernardi, Bruce Hartman, Bill Jagoda, Jim Simmons, Steve Socolosky, Jude Steele, Tony Vallillo, and our fearless leader Fran Uliano. We couldn't have asked for a more perfect day. Crystal clear skies with eighty mile visibility (a rarity in these parts!), pleasant temperatures and not too much wind. Our 22 new Young Eagles couldn't agree more.



Young Eagles Chairman Fran Uliano adds another smiling face to a long and successful list

## Letter from the President

This month I would like to solicit your ideas for helping us to create a successful Young Eagles Reunion Picnic. As you know, we have scheduled this event for Saturday, September 11, 2004. We will be inviting the Young Eagles who have flown with us over the years, and their families, to join us for the day. It is our goal to create a happy and memorable occasion for all who attend. Note: Harrison Ford has sent his regrets that he will be unable to attend.

Our current thoughts are to have a barbecue picnic coupled with some games and/or entertainment. Suggestions thus far include:

Model Airplane Competition (similar to last year's event)

- Prizes for winners.

Door Prizes for attendees:

- Airplane rides
- Introductory Flying Lesson

Raffle Prizes for contributors:

- Airplane rides
- Flight Simulator Games
- Introductory Flying Lesson

While we believe that each of these ideas is fine, we are still looking for that special idea that will help attract the youngsters and their parents.

I would like to request your input at our next monthly meeting. Please bring your ideas for creating an attraction to bring the kids back, as well as ideas to entertain them while they are with us.

So put on your thinking caps, and come up with some ideas. Together, we can make this event the success we desire for all who attend.

I look forward to seeing you all at our June 20th meeting.

—Jim Simmons

June, 2004

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**Member Profile—Bob Ryan** **20th Annual Simsbury Fly-in—Sept. 26**

My first exposure to flying was in 1938 when a neighbor, Ed Griffin, bought a very used Boeing Biplane. Ed was previously a pilot and mechanic. He stripped the plane and put on new skins. Then he rebuilt the radial engine for the plane. He always let the kids help him. When he had finished the plane he gave us all rides at the Hamden Airport on Dixwell Avenue in Hamden. We then were treated to all the other aircraft on the field.

My next aircraft experience came in 1951 when I joined the service and was sent to school for Aircraft Ordinance in Jacksonville, Florida. From there I was sent overseas and was assigned to VMF-212 out of Portland Oregon. My job was to load and repair the guns, load all types of ordinance on the planes, and to work on fire control systems. The aircraft were Corsairs from the Second World War. We went through many planes and pilots during the time I was there. Our biggest bombing was the Yalu River Dam in North Korea. Our pilots wiped it out and the North Koreans were without power for some time. Working on the Corsairs was a great job.

My next exposure was in 1982 when I first took up flying as a student pilot. I got my Private about a year and a half later. I got curious and went to Oshgosh to see what the show was all about and I was hooked. A short time later I joined Chapter 27. I have enjoyed the second part of all the meetings for years. Happy to be aboard.

—Bob Ryan

**20th Annual Simsbury Fly-in—Sept. 26**

You are cordially invited to attend this year's Simsbury (CT) Fly-In, jointly sponsored by EAA Chapter 324 and the Simsbury Flying Club. The date is Sunday, September 26, with a rain date of October 3.

This event has become one of the largest of its kind in New England. Last year, over 7000 spectators attended, along with 150 aircraft of all kinds, and a number of manufacturers' displays. If you are an antique car buff, we will again have an estimated 300 beautiful old autos also on display.

As usual, we will have judging in 15 categories, so bring your aircraft and put it on display for all to see. We are especially interested in having homebuilts, antiques, classics, and "unusual" aircraft. Spam cans are welcome, too, of course.

We also plan to have good TV and media coverage. We'll have interesting fly-bys of WWII aircraft and others, a simulated lifesaving operation featuring the LifeStar helicopter, parachute jumpers, and lots of other activities throughout the day.

The event starts "whenever you arrive" and ends "whenever you depart". For most, this means about 8 AM through 4 PM. There will be a pancake breakfast at low low prices, and the usual lunch fare: hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream, soft drinks.

Why not organize a formation flight to the event? We would love to see multiple aircraft from your Chapter or local airport.

Please remember to observe all the proper rules of the skyways as you are arriving and departing. We are within Bradley Class C airspace, so you must contact them if you are penetrating their control area. Our field Unicom frequency is 122.7.

In case the weather is marginal the day of the event, call us at 860-658-2025 for a recorded announcement of event status. If you have questions about the event, please contact the event Chairman, Joe Bellino (jbellino@snet.net) or Bill Thomas (wdthomas@snet.net).

This is a great event. We hope you will make a point to attend.

**Seminar Topics**

Charlie Enz (in photo) presented a fascinating technical discussion on how small changes in cowl design can greatly affect engine cooling at our May meeting seminar. The presentation was accompanied by great documentation. Thanks Charlie!

Joe Gauthier will be at our June meeting to talk about the new AB-DAR (Amateur Built-Designated Airworthiness Representative) program and how it effects the inspection and licensing of homebuilts.

## MMK's Tetrahedron Gets Facelift

On Friday, June 4th, under the leadership of Fran Uliano, the EAA Chapter 27 team of Ray Morgan, Bob Ryan and Jim Simmons met at Meriden Airport to repaint the tetrahedron. Fran chose an orange colored paint which he hopes will hold up in the elements better than the Day-Glo paint we had used previously. While there, the team also painted the mast for the windsock and light stanchion. The light had previously been installed for illumination of the tetrahedron.

We are also pleased to report that the lighting for the tetrahedron has finally been installed and the lighting for the windsock has been repaired. If you are out flying at night, please check it out and let us know how effective it is. It's great to see the progress at MMK.

## Help Ellis Tech!

There's been a long-time project to construct an Aviation Maintenance Technician Training facility in Hartford administered by the State Vocational Technical School system. The legislature is close to approving the project but supporters are suggesting that a letter campaign would help give the project the final little push it needs. They're asking everyone to write a short letter to the Governor and Lt. Governor. The letter should describe your background and the need for the release of funds to construct the Aviation Maintenance Technician Training facility in Hartford. If your're comfortable using company letterhead, and it's appropriate, please do. If not, a brief description of your personal background and interest and involvement with the school should be sufficient. Emails are ok, hard copy and email is much better. Please feel free to pass this on to anyone else you know who may be willing to help. If you need any further information feel free to contact Charlie Hilton at [Charles.Hilton@po.state.ct.us](mailto:Charles.Hilton@po.state.ct.us). Mail to:

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Thanks for your support.

## EAA Dominates 2004 Maintenance Fest

Safety Fest/Maintenance Fest 2004 was held in East Hartford on May 15 and the local EAA chapters once again showed up in force to teach the attendees about this homebuilding thing. Several of the 23 seminars were presented by EAA members including Jim Simmons' "Building, Owning and Flying Homebuilt Aircraft." The EAA Chapters ran several "learn a skill" booths: Chapter 27 demonstrated working with sheet metal, Chapter 166 showed off composites and electrical, and Chapter 1035 was working with wood.

A highlight of Maintenance Fest is the maintenance olympics. Contestants are timed performing three common maintenance tasks—safety wiring prop bolts, riveting aluminum, and adjusting the rigging on flight controls. Normally only open to mechanics, this year, for the first time, the olympics were open to anyone. And EAA members ran away with the top four spots!

The competition was sponsored by SnapOn tools. Larry Gagnon, Chapter 166, came in first and won \$400 worth of SnapOn tools. Ken Terrio, also of 166, was second and got \$250. Dave Pepe, Chapter 27, took third and won a \$150 coupon for the SnapOn truck. Although out of the money, we're proud to say that Chapter 27

member Mike Zemsta pulled in the number 4 spot. Something tells me the pro mechanics are going to come out gunning for the amateurs next year. We'll be ready....



**Mike Zemsta shows 'em how to safety wire prop bolts.**



**Steve Sokolosky (L) answers questions at the Chapter 27 "Learn-a-Skill" sheet metal booth.**

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The program finished up with a panel discussion on the "Future of Aviation Safety" moderated by noted author Rinker Buck. Panelists included aviation attorney Paul Lange; former chairman of the Professional Aviation Maintenance Association, Dick Wellman; A&P/IA Don Carlson; CFI and AB-DAR, Joe Gauthier; Airline captain and pilot examiner, Wally Moran; and FAA representative Bob Wright. It was an interesting and informative discussion.

—Rick Beebe

*"Something  
Went Wrong in  
Jet Crash"*

*—actual  
newspaper  
headline*

*Don't drop the  
aircraft in  
order to fly the  
microphone.  
An airplane  
flies because  
of a principle  
discovered by  
Bernoulli, not  
Marconi.*

## **Wanted: Lycoming O-360**

Mike Okrent is looking for a  
high-time or run out engine for  
his RV-7A project.  
(203) 393-2662

## **COMPUTER WANTED**

We are looking for a donation to the Chapter of a working PC for use at MMK as a weather briefing station. This PC will be connected to the MMK wireless LAN and provide pilots with the opportunity to have access to various web-based weather and flight planning information.

If you have recently upgraded your PC for a newer high performance model and have retired a working system to storage within your home, we are asking that you please consider offering it for this worthy effort.

Please let us know at our next meeting of the availability and specs of your system.

Lets make this happen for the benefit of all pilots visiting MMK.

*The deadline for submission of materials for the July newsletter is July 6, 2004.*

## **2004 EAA CHAPTER 27 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Please fill in the following information and mail with your dues to:  
EAA Chapter 27, c/o Bob Ryan, 6 Manor Ct., North Haven, CT 06473  
(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? \_\_\_\_\_



EAA Chapter 27  
c/o Richard Beebe II  
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newsletter@eaa27.org

Meetings held on the third Sunday of the month at Meriden-Markham Airport,  
Meriden, CT at 10am unless otherwise noted.  
[www.eaa27.org](http://www.eaa27.org)