



# Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 27 News



Next meeting Sunday, June 15, 10 a.m., Brainard Airport, Hartford, CT

June 2008

Don't forget our Young Eagles Rally—Saturday, June 14, 9-3

## TETRAHEDRON REPAINTED—AGAIN

Under the leadership of Fran Uliano, the tetrahedron and windsock light pole at Meriden Airport has been repainted to a lustrous Day-Glo orange color once again. Previous painting of the tetrahedron has resulted in a rapid fading of the finish. We have now applied a primer, a new brand of Day-Glo paint and a clear coat. This application is expected to last longer than the previous coatings. Only time will tell how long the new coatings will last.

The volunteers for the primer painting were Fran Uliano, Chris Kohler and Jim Simmons. A day later, the Day-Glo paint was applied by Fran Uliano, Rick Bernardi and Bob Brown. And



finally, a day later, the clear coat was applied by Fran Uliano and Jim Simmons. As you can see from the accompanying photo, it looks super; and it can be seen from miles away! Many

thanks to the additional volunteers (Don Turcek, John Boyce and Bob Spaulding) who offered their assistance, but weren't needed. We'll call on you for our next airport improvement project.

## JUNE MEETING IS IN HARTFORD

The next Chapter meeting, Sunday, June 15, will be at Steve Socolosky's hanger at Brainard Airport in Hartford, 230 Lindbergh Drive, hangar #5. We'll be checking out Mike Zemsta's RV-10 which is nearing completion.



### Directions:

**Flying:** tell ATC that you are taxiing to the T-hangars. You will eventually taxi either on Alpha or Juliet to Charlie. At Charlie, go west to the T-hangars and park on the ramp to the north of the older, blue

T-hangars. <http://www.airnav.com/airport/KHFD>

**From the south: I-91 N**, take exit 27 (bear right, then quickly get into middle lane at light) Chowder Pot will be on your right. Skip to "All directions" below.

**From the south: 5-15 N**, Take exit 87 to your right, then get into the middle lane. Chowder Pot will be on your right. Skip to "All directions" below.

**From the north or west: I-91 S**, take exit 27 to airport road. Take a left onto airport road. Stay in left lane until "T" intersection of Brainard road (approx. .3 miles). Follow "All directions" below.

**All directions:** Left onto Brainard Road, keep right (note: Brainard road becomes Maxim road). After railroad tracks and through intersection of Murphy Road, right on Lindbergh Drive. 230 Lindbergh Drive is approximately one half mile on left.

Please park outside the fence and someone will let you in. You will see Mike Zemsta's RV-10 near the hangar.

Hope to see you there!

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<b>President</b> Jim Simmons 203-272-9346	<b>Vice President</b> Bob Spaulding 203-378-5688	<b>Treasurer</b> Bill Jagoda 860-349-9901	<b>Secretary</b> Steve Socolosky 860-569-6385	<b>Membership</b> Mike Okrent 203-393-2662	<b>Newsletter Editor</b> Rick Beebe 203-230-8459	<b>Young Eagles</b> Fran Uliano 860-347-0412	<b>Tech Counselor</b> Dave Pepe 203-634-4457
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## MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2008

**Call to order:** The meeting for EAA Chapter 27 was called to order by President, Jim Simmons. All officers were present.

**Recognition of Visitors:** Welcome to Tom Pittendreigh and Dave Adams. Dave is working on a Sinus motor glider.

**Treasurer**—Bill Jagoda: Bill reported a balance of \$954.10. Thank you, Bill!

**Technical Counselor**—Dave Pepe: Mike Zemsta's RV-10 is progressing in its final stages. As Mike put it, "It'll be ready to fly in about 2-3 weeks but the paperwork will take about 2-3 months!"

**Young Eagles**—Fran Uliano: Fran announced that Laura Hargreaves, has received an additional \$414.00 from Chapter 334 in Groton as the result of their donating 10 points from their Young Eagle flights.

Fran also asked for volunteers for International Young Eagle Day, which will be held on Saturday, June 14th at MMK. Mike Zemsta suggested that the parents be given Young Eagle brochures and information so they could help promote Young Eagles to other parents.

**Director/Newsletter Editor/Website Editor Report:** Rick Beebe asked all members to remember that we are always seeking pictures of project aircraft and you can upload them yourself to our web site.

Rick also summarized the highlights of the April 25-26 Directors meeting at Oshkosh which include the major renovations and additions to the site at Oshkosh. Rick supplied some sample layouts of the changes which include new vendor display buildings, walkways, etc. in order to improve the overall experience at Oshkosh.

**Airport Improvement Projects:** Tetrahedron painting (again!). Jim asked for volunteers as the paint was due to arrive in the next week.

Saturday, June 7th, will be MMK's annual

spring cleaning day. Jim took names of volunteers and asked that they arrive at 9:00 a.m. As is the tradition, MMK will provide refreshments.

Jim explained that we will hold off on repainting the airport name and frequency until the condition of the paint can be determined more closely.

**Old Business:** Hangar project at MMK: Building permit has been received and the final meeting of the Aviation commission will be held on Tuesday, May 20, at 6:30 p.m. The lease is awaiting signatures.

Rick Bernardi suggested we invite the new Chairman of the Aviation Committee to one of our meetings.

### New Business:

- Steve Fraas earned his Private Pilot Certificate on May 6, 2008! Congratulations Steve!
- Jim mentioned that the Simsbury Fly-In, Sun., Sept. 28, is looking for Chapter support and asked if anyone was interested in staffing a booth. We will discuss this more at another time.
- EAA is offering discounted admission to AirVenture when you purchase tickets in advance.
- Meriden Aviation Services is looking for to hire new line persons.
- The restaurant at Groton (GON) has closed.
- Thanks to Terry Zemetis for his SUPER work on the Meriden Aviation commission!
- Jim Maher announced that the Red Bull Air Races will be held in Detroit and Canada on May 31 – June 1. This is the closest to Connecticut the races have been held.
- Our June meeting will be held at Brainard Airport (HFD) at Steve's hangar where Mike Zemsta's RV-10 is nearing completion.

**50/50 Raffle Winner:** Tom Pittendreigh. As is customary for our raffle winner,

please submit a brief write-up of about yourself.

We are still anxiously awaiting the profiles to be written from past 50/50 raffle winners which include: Max Lopez, Charlie Enz, Ron Slossar, Bob Brown, George Anderson, Bob Rousse, Steve Fraas and Ralph Colavolpe. Everyone has a story!

**Seminar Presentation:** Harold Rochette, a B-17 pilot who flew his first of 31 missions on Friday, May 13, 1944 as part of the 344th squadron of the 384 bomb group, recounted a few of his many experiences while flying bombing missions in Europe. He explained how, at times, he flew 10 missions in 12 days and that rest was not an option. He also said that the average age of air crews, at that time was 19 years old with some, who lied about their age, being as young as 15-17 years old!

Mr. Rochette explained the title of his book, "8th Air Force Lottery," in that you were UNLUCKY if your name was called because at that time in the war, crew members who flew on bombers over Germany had a 71% chance of being killed.

Mr. Rochette also explained that he was able to write his book with such detail because of his diary he kept throughout his combat experience. His presentation held everyone's interest intently and he graciously had signed copies of his book available afterwards.

*Respectfully submitted*—Steve Socolosky

A reminder that there's no meeting in July.

Hope to see you at  
EAA Airventure Oshkosh  
July 28 - August 3

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Unfortunately, my optimism for the signing of the agreement for the hangars at MMK was premature. It appears that bureaucracy is proving to be never ending for this project. Not only has the signing been delayed, but I understand that it will not be addressed for two months. I'm sure that the project developer, Nick Kerns, is frustrated with this latest development. Our hopes for construction to be completed this year are waning.

I'm pleased to report that our airport improvement projects (Tetrahedron repainting and MMK Spring Cleaning) were well supported by our members. Thanks to all who supported these activities. They are now completed and we can all take pride in our support for our home airport.

The repaving of the tarmac on the north end of MMK is about to begin on Monday, June 9th and it's scheduled to take approximately 60 days. We are still uncertain whether it will be an obstacle for this coming Saturday's Young Eagles Rally (June 14th). Our backup plan is to hold the rally near Bill Jagoda's hangar. We won't know for certain until next Saturday morning.

Fran Uliano has recently met with an assembly of about 120 youngsters priming their interest in coming out to the Young Eagles Rally. I've seen many of the terrific "Thank You" cards written by the kids and it's obvious that Fran did a super job of inspiring them. Let's hope they can convince their parents to bring them along this coming weekend.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our Young Eagles Rally. Also don't forget that our June Chapter meeting will be held on Sunday, June 15th at Steve Socolosky's hangar at Brainard airport. We will be viewing Mike Zemsta's RV-10 as it nears completion and is getting ready for its first flight.

See you all soon.

—Jim Simmons

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY STAN!

TO: JIM SIMMONS

Dear Jim,

In reading your chapter's newsletter, it was with great pleasure to see Stan Solecki's picture and birthday cake on the front cover. I want to congratulate him on celebrating his 90th birthday, being with us for some 52 years. I only have three years to go to hit that "90 mark" and the past 55 years of my life with EAA has been quite interesting. As I've often said, I've learned more about people than I ever did about airplanes.

What an education!

My very best to all of you.

Sincerely,

Paul H. Poberezny

Founder and Chairman of the Board  
EAA  
Oshkosh WI

## MEMBER PROFILE: MARK TOWER

After winning a 50/50 raffle, I was asked to submit a profile. Here it is! Steve says everyone has a story. Well, here is a brief version of my 53 years of life. My name is Mark Tower and I am the owner of a metal fabrication shop in East Haven. Some of my work can be seen at Yale's Peabody Museum holding up 1800 lb meteorites. Other work will be seen by millions when Indiana Jones returns to the screen Memorial Day weekend. My company, Shoreline Metal Services LLC, built the stunt gate used in the movie's motorcycle chase scene filmed at Yale. Besides a love for airplanes, I also collect and restore classic British cars. I own two E Type Jaguars, a custom Morris Minor, a Woody Traveler and a TR-6 in the early stages of restoration. I also had the good fortune in the 1980's to pit crew at Seabring and for the Daytona Speed Races. Both were incredible experiences. My Moni project is 90% complete and will soon be back in my shop for the finishing touches. My lifelong friend Mike Fritz, also a Chapter 27 member, will hopefully be at my side finishing his Moni project as well! Mike is an avid cyclist and has helped me develop an interest in biking. We ride together whenever possible. I have a 5 year old daughter Bridget who is a little spitfire! I hope to get her involved in the Young Eagles program in another couple of years. Jennifer, my wife of ten years, and I enjoy get togethers with our 5 older children, as well as boating, camping and traveling. Life is good!



### For sale

### Christen Eagle II

Excellent condition. \$78,000

Call Dorothy Aiksnoras Vallee at  
203-881-8383 or 860-488-6681

*Mankind has a perfect record in aviation; we never left one up there!*



## MMK Spring Clean Up

Some of the people from Chapter 27 who turned out to do a little yard work at MMK on Saturday. L-R: Bill Jagoda, Mark Scott, Stanley Chaffin, Jim Simmons, Laura Sioholm, Fran Uliano

*The deadline for submission of materials for the next newsletter is August 8, 2008.*

### 2008 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? \_\_\_\_\_

*Cash is what you had before you had the airplane—  
Lauran Paine, Jr.*



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