



# Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 27 News



Next meeting Sunday, September 21, 2003, 10 a.m., Meriden-Markham Airport, Meriden

## President

Jim Simmons  
203-272-9346

## Vice President

Steve  
Socolosky  
860-569-6385

## Treasurer

Barb Johnson  
203-393-3735

## Secretary

Dave Pepe  
203-634-4457

## Membership

Mike Okrent  
203-393-2662

## Newsletter Editor

Rick Beebe  
203-230-8459

## Young Eagles

Fran Uliano  
860-347-0412

## Tech Counselor

Bob Burk  
203-874-5247

September, 2003

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## Letter from the President

It is with great pride that I share the following information about our chapter with you:

The Chapter office at EAA Headquarters has reviewed our most recent newsletters and believes that EAA Chapter 27's programs and activities are exemplary of the ideals of the EAA chapter program. The items which they highlighted were the (and I quote) "Pinch Hitter Course, painting the Compass Rose at the airport, putting stone by the tetrahedron and [your] model airplane seminar. Not to mention the Young Eagles Rallies, seminars and more. What an active chapter!"

As a result of their analysis of our activities, they have requested that we submit an article and photos for publication in the Chapter Hangar section of Sport Aviation magazine. What an honor!

I have solicited the support of Jim Maher to act as the author and information gatherer for this effort. Jim has accepted the challenge and will be looking for assistance and ideas for the actual text and features of the article. I am asking each of you to provide whatever support you can to assist in this effort. Jim will be available at our September meeting and will welcome any, and all, assistance for this article.

I have always been proud to be a member of our local organization and this is a great opportunity to display our pride to the national aviation community. Thanks Jim, and we all look forward to being of assistance in this fine opportunity.

As we performed the improvements to the backdrop area of the tetrahedron, our members noted that the area beneath the windsock is also in dire need of repair. In anticipation of the support of our chapter, I brought the project up at the Meriden Aviation Commission meeting to request their approval to improve the grounds around the windsock. The commission was greatly appreciative and is willing to provide the financial support to make it possible. Below are the items being pursued for the windsock area:

1. Replace the faded and worn out windsock—Meriden

Aviation Services has already ordered the replacement.

2. Clear the weeds and install weed protection covering to the area—EAA Chapter 27 will perform this task.

3. Provide additional white stone to act as the backdrop for this area—City of Meriden to fund this effort.

4. Correct the lighting of the windsock as required—City of Meriden to provide support.

5. Add spotlight atop the wind sock pole to provide illumination for the tetrahedron from above. I am currently seeking an estimate which the Meriden Aviation

Commission will review for financing.

I'll be seeking volunteers support for this latest endeavour.

During the September Meeting of the Meriden Airport Aviation Commission, Commissioner Ralph Blantz



Chapter 27 commissioned and painted the new compass rose at MMK

commended the EAA for our efforts in the support of Meriden Airport. Your efforts have helped to solidify the relationship we enjoy with the FBO and the Meriden Aviation commission. Thanks to all who assisted in these projects.

Fran Uliano, Chapter 27's Young Eagles Chairman, has his picture and an article written by Spencer Curtis, (a recent Young Eagle flown by Fran) prominently displayed in the Monday, September 15th Front Porch Section of the Meriden Record Journal.

The youngster wrote a wonderful article summarizing his Young Eagles flight experience and thanking Fran for the flight. Clearly the young man was impressed and wanted to share his enthusiasm with others.

Great job Fran!

See you all at our September 21st meeting.

—Jim Simmons

## Sport Pilot Makes A Big Splash in Popular Mechanics

The cover story in the October 2003 issue of Popular Mechanics includes an exciting, seven-page feature on sport pilot and light-sport aircraft by Norman Mayersohn, a frequent visitor to EAA AirVenture Oshkosh. It includes many photos of aircraft that could be part of the light-sport aircraft fleet when the rule is finalized in the near future. In the article, EAA is recognized as the "expert" for these new categories, a leadership role the organization has maintained since the proposal's conception.

This kind of showcase in the general media certainly builds enthusiasm for the new sport pilot certificate and light-sport aircraft category, especially the positive influences the rule will have in making ready-to-fly aircraft more affordable, simplifying pilot certification for newcomers, and increasing current levels of safety and security.

A single magazine cover or article, even an extended one such as the one in Popular Mechanics, is designed to attract readership and cannot possibly touch on all the details about the new categories. It's important to remember, for instance, that there are important requirements for sport pilot certification beyond those mentioned in a brief, attention-

grabbing headline-such as 20 hours of approved flight training prior to certification, among others. The sport pilot proposal, however, does include the ability for sport pilots to use a valid United States driver's license as medical certification as opposed to obtaining a third-class medical certificate.

The sport pilot/light-sport aircraft rule, while it will simplify many aspects of getting involved in aviation, is still a complex rule. EAA members and Chapter members, can help as this new rule becomes better known by the public. You may be asked by the public for more information regarding the sport pilot/light-sport aircraft. We recommend directing interested parties to EAA's sport pilot web site ([www.sportpilot.org](http://www.sportpilot.org)) or EAA's Sport Pilot Hotline at 877-359-1232. Those are also excellent recourses to familiarize yourself with the requirements and potential of the new categories, so you more fully understand and can communicate them.

The October issue of Popular Mechanics is on newsstands now, and the complete article will be available on the magazine's web site ([www.popularmechanics.com](http://www.popularmechanics.com) <<http://www.popularmechanics.com>>) in mid-October.

## Scenes from an Award

Joe Gauthier received the Tony Bingelis award from Paul Poberezny at this year's EAA Airventure. Here are a couple shots from the event.



Joe and his award flanked by three CT chapter presidents. L-R: Bob Upson, Simsbury; Mark Gosselin, Hartford; Joe; Jim Simmons, Meriden



Joe steals a photo op in Paul Poberezny's "Red One"

## August Meeting Minutes

The Sunday, August 17, 2003 meeting of Chapter 27 was called to order at 10:00 by President Jim Simmons. Dave Pepe, secretary, and Fran Uliano, Young Eagles, were the only officers missing.

**Visitor:** Rich Reavely

**Treasure's Report:** Aug. bal. \$3238.84 reported by Barbara Johnson.

**Tech. Counselor' Report:** Bob Burk spoke about Max Lopez's RV-7A.

**Golden Eagles:** Bob Rouse flew two and mentioned that he finds it difficult to find potential Golden Eagles who have the time or interest to fly.

**Library:** We received King videos from Stan Solecki and a book case filled with various types of aviation literature from Stan Chaffin. Thanks for your donations!

**Chapter website:** Check it out! Those with projects are urged to send pictures to Rick Beebe so he can post them. *Please* be sure to describe the picture and identify yourself so we know who it came from. Thank you!

**Pinch Hitter Course:** Patty Zemsta said that the course has been very informative and helpful. Great job Patty!

**MMK Development:** Jim explained that the MMK project is moving along albeit slowly and illustrated where the new t-hangars are planned to be located.

Jim also described his awe at the Aviation Explorer Program which had a meeting at OSH. Jim said he was excited to see the enthusiasm of these teens who participate in the program which is designed as an extension of the Young Eagles program.

**Events:** Chapter 27 Picnic and Firefighter Training Day: Sat., Sept. 6 at 11:00 a.m. Rain Date: Sat., Sept. 13 at 11:00 a.m.

**Holiday Party:** Sunday, Dec. 7 at the Hawthorne Inn, Berlin, CT. Maury Libson coordinating.

**Seminar:** Gordon Schimmel, superintendent of schools in Mansfield and educator of aviation, guided the members through an interesting build of a rubber-powered, balsa glider. He explained many details aiding in the construction as well as some hints on how to improve its flight characteristics. This was all done in preparation for the flight competition at the chapter picnic. The categories established for the competition are as follows: Endurance, Distance, Aerobatic, Creativity, Appearance and Payload vs Distance. No flight tests were made at the meeting. Thanks Gordon!

## Chapter Picnic a huge success!

The annual chapter picnic, held at Meriden Markham airport on September 6th, was a huge success. To begin with, the weather gods smiled upon us and provided us with one of the clearest and brightest days our chapter has ever enjoyed for one of our scheduled events. Then the membership, organized by Patti and Mike Zemsta, responded as has become customary for our group. Setup was performed by so many members participating, that I am reluctant to mention them by name for fear of omitting someone.

What a terrific problem to have. However, I must give a special thanks to Chris Kohler for his efforts with the grill, the dining canopy, and his very special coordination of the Meriden Fire Department.

The Fire Department brought their firemen to the event for a training session. They came to view our aircraft and to learn what measures they should or could use in their rescue efforts during an aircraft emergency response. We provided a variety of aircraft, certified and experimental, for their viewing. They all appeared to be highly motivated and clearly displayed an interest in our aircraft and their inner workings. The coordinator of the training session for the firefighters stated that the event was extremely successful and it will be posted on their website for the viewing within the fire fighter community. We can all be proud of our assistance in this worthy effort. Hopefully, our chapter has assisted them in their efforts to support the aviation community.

A fine luncheon consisting of hot dogs, hamburgers, appetizing dishes and desserts prepared and provided by our spouses was enjoyed by all.

Then we embarked on our first ever model airplane contest which I believe was the highlight of the day. Bob Burk, our technical

counselor, created the concept and unfortunately had to leave before the actual event took place. We had many participants, young and old, and everyone seemed to be fully enjoying the competition. The winners of the various categories of awards are pictured elsewhere in our newsletter.

Additionally, we flew several Young Eagles, as well as sharing our aircraft with fellow members and non-members members. I must admit that I returned from the event completely exhausted, but equally exhilarated by the positive response on our

membership.

Thanks to everyone for helping to make this year's picnic a huge success.

—Jim Simmons



Fran Uliano (right) and four members of the Meriden Fire Department

Below are the recipients of the awards for the Balsa model airplane contest:



Front row (L-R): Hayden Faust, "Shortest Flight". Sean Bowen, "Most Aerobatic design".

Back row (L-R): Timothy Vallee, "Furthest Distance Flight" and "Longest Duration flight" (over 30 seconds!). Charlie Enz, "Most Innovative Design" for his balsa Storch.

All received a B-A-D certificate (for Best Aviator Degree in balsa wood technology) and a box of Cracker Jacks for being "Cracker Jack" builders and flyers.

## September Seminars

### AOPA Airport Watch Video

Airport Security has become a major issue in America. We can aid in the security at our local airports. Do you know what to look for? Do you know how to respond?

EAA has partnered with the AOPA to support the Airport Watch program. At our September meeting we will be showing a brief video which highlights the procedures and benefits of this necessary program. Become an airport watch supporter. We need your help.

### So you think you want to build an airplane?

Jim Simmons discusses the steps necessary to successfully build an experimental aircraft. Jim conducted this seminar at the FAA SafetyFest in May and we have asked him to present the same material to our members at this month's meeting. For many of us it will be a review of what steps are necessary towards getting your aircraft built, licensed and flying. Jim keeps the discussion open and you will be encouraged to add your comments throughout the session.

## EAA on Discovery Wings

Discovery Wings Channel will soon be airing two EAA specials. On September 19: a two-hour documentary, *The Wright Brothers: First In Flight*, featuring extensive focus on EAA's Countdown to Kitty Hawk celebration and the construction of EAA's authentic reproduction of the 1903 Wright Flyer by The Wright Experience, Warrenton, Virginia. The documentary follows the parallel paths of the Wrights in 1903 and The Wright Experience in 2003 as Ken Hyde and his team employ "reverse engineering" to interpolate the brothers' design process and results from existing Wright aircraft and parts, family correspondence, and other sources.

Sometime at the end of October: *Oshkosh 2003: The Centennial Edition*, an EAA TV-produced recap of the recently held EAA AirVenture Oshkosh convention. The one-hour special focuses on piloting, economics of general aviation, homebuilding and access to the skies, EAA's unique aviation community at AirVenture, and a look ahead to aviation's second century. Check local listings for times.



*"It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed."  
—U.S. Air Force Manual*

*Tower: "Delta 351, you have traffic at 10 o'clock, 6 miles!"*

*Delta 351: "Give us another hint! We have digital watches!"*

## For Sale:

**Murphy Rebel firewall back kit**, many upgrades, all pre-punched skins so no jiggling required. 4' x 16' worktable included (350 \$ value) clecos and extras included, kit #333. Must sell: personal reasons. Tail group: elevators and stabs complete just need to close up, ailerons done, approx.250 hrs invested. All this for below factory price. Asking \$15,000 U.S. or \$ 19,250 Cdn. Email: murphyrebel@aol.com or phone: 905-432-2481

**4'X8' Project Table.** \$25

Far less than cost of materials.

Jim Simmons @ (203) 272-9346



On Thursday 8/14/03 a Cessna 182 N2504R, was stolen from Lakewood, NJ between 5:15 and 9:00 AM. If you see it, call USAIG at (212) 859-3856. There's a \$5,000.00 reward for the intact recovery.

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



The Leader in Recreational Aviation

EAA Chapter 27  
c/o Richard Beebe II  
360 Mountain Rd  
Hamden, CT 06514-1415  
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)