



# Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 27 News



Next meeting Sunday, September 12, 10 a.m., Meriden-Markham Airport, Meriden, CT

September 2010

## FIRST FLIGHT, KOLB ON WATER

Just thought I would share what I did this past summer. I haven't been flying my Kolb much lately so after getting my seaplane rating last Fall I decided to convert it to amphibian. I teamed up with Puddlejumper Floats from Montreal and we designed a kit for the Kolb Mk III. After this particular flight there were a few modifications to be made. Move the plane 2 inches forward on the floats to give a better flotation balance and decrease the angle of incidence on the water by a degree. I am finishing up those mods right now and hope to be flying again in a week or so. Tomorrow I will be rigging the final mods and installing the nickel edged prop. If anyone asks, designing and modifying a tail dragger to amphibian sure does define weight and balance. In all its forms: in the air, on the runway and on the water as well as angle of incidence on step.

A&P school starts on Monday so my time will become very limited which will impact next flight.

— Rob Aiksnoras



© 2010 Chapter 27, Experimental Aircraft Association, all rights reserved

<b>President</b> Bob Spaulding 203-378-5688	<b>Vice President</b> Mark Scott 203-393-3187	<b>Treasurer</b> Bill Jagoda 860-349-9901	<b>Secretary</b> Rick Bernardi 203-265-4113	<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 Counselors</b> Chuck Drake 860-659-2880 Dave Pepe 203-634-4457 Mark Scott 203-393-3187 Mike Zemsta 860-832-8661
---	---	---	---	--	--	--	---

## Letter from the President

As the saying goes, “time flies when you’re having fun”. Watching the school kids queue up for the bus, the rather conspicuous foliage changes on a few trees presaging the onset of fall colors, and some delightful sleeping weather with the windows open rather than the air conditioner furiously spinning the electric meter, all point to a summer about to call it quits. Where did the weeks go...didn’t summer just begin? My father often remarks, “I feel like I’m having breakfast every five minutes”, when taken by surprise with the passage of time. Indeed.

Some random thoughts...

The month of September very often offers some of the best flying weather of the year. Moderating temperatures make for a great time to be out and about by air. It’s a good time to start planning a fall foliage trip, perhaps to a small airfield you haven’t visited in the past and do a bit of exploring. And with the density altitude beginning to come back down, you’ll get a bit of a performance boost to boot.

Speaking of performance, there’s a good rule of thumb regarding runway available and takeoff speed. You should have 70% of takeoff speed by 50% of the runway length available, or the half way point. This speed should guarantee takeoff within the remaining half of the runway. If you don’t, abort the takeoff.

Meriden Aviators, our new FBO, has been busily at work renovating the outside of the main building at the airport. We don’t have a schedule as yet regarding the interior renovation schedule, particularly as to how that will impact our meeting room. As soon as we find out from the management folks, we will let you know and will deal with a temporary meeting site until the renovations are complete.

With the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) forcing the issue regarding the removal of lead from aviation gasoline (AVGAS), the pressure is on industry and the FAA to find a suitable unleaded fuel alternative—not a trivial task considering the safety implications, aircraft performance, and Federal Air Regulations (FAR) compliance risk. The immense effort to see this issue through to an acceptable solution for the general aviation (GA) fleet as a whole will be increasing in intensity as time progresses. The final decision as to what that solution might be will require input from those with the greatest stake in it: aircraft owners and operators. If you have an opinion regarding this issue, it doesn’t hurt to contact your governmental representatives and aircraft associations to express your viewpoint. For a good synopsis of the progress to date on finding an unleaded fuel, see the latest issue (Sept. 2010) of AOPA Pilot magazine.

And for a bit of aviation history, who made the first powered flight in an aircraft and when?

The answer is...Jean-Marie Le Bris in 1856. Reportedly, Mr. Le Bris designed a glider, modeled after an albatross, in which he flew to a height of 100 m above his departure point and over a distance of 200 m along a French beach while being towed by a running horse. I guess that qualifies as powered flight.

A reminder — our annual picnic is on Sunday, September 12th at Meriden-Markham (MMK) Airport, in the north hangar, starting at 11:30 am. This is always a fun event and not to be missed. We’ll also hear from Mary D’Orvillers regarding her experiences at the EAA Air Academy. See you there.

Stay safe,

— Bob Spaulding

## Chapter Picnic Timeline

As noted on the enclosed flier, our Chapter picnic is this coming Sunday, September 12, at 11:30. What’s not noted is the rest of the timeline.

Those who can help clean up and set up should be there at 9:00am. It shouldn’t take more than an hour or so to get set up.

We’ll have an abbreviated business meeting at 10:00am. During that, Mary D’Orvillers will talk about her trip to the EAA Air Academy.

The picnic will start at 11:30.

If you have questions, call Mike & Patty Zemsta at (860) 832-8661 or Bob Spaulding at (203) 378-5688.

**This space  
is reserved for  
You!**



**Help fill it. Send in updates about your project, tips & tricks, interesting flying stories, parts for sale or cool photos.**

**Email to [newsletter@eaa27.org](mailto:newsletter@eaa27.org)  
or mail to  
Rick Beebe  
360 Mountain Rd  
Hamden, CT 06514-1416**

## Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2010

**Call to order:** The meeting for EAA Chapter 27 was called to order by President Bob Spaulding at 10:02am. Officers present; Bob Spaulding, Mark Scott, Bill Jagoda, and Rick Bernardi. The meeting was held at KMMK. There were 23 members present and 4 guests.

**Recognition of Visitors:** A new member Thor Bakke was recognized. Thor is a glider pilot and interested in WW1/2 replica aircraft.

**Membership—Mike Okrent:** Nothing new to report.

**Treasurer—Bill Jagoda:** Bill reported a balance of \$1805.87. We have Chapter merchandise for sale and Bill is always available to collect dues.

**Technical Counselors Report—“The gang of four” Dave Pepe, Mark Scott, Mike Zemsta and Chuck Drake:** No reports this month.

**Website, Newsletter and Director—Rick Beebe:** Rick reported on AirVenture and EAA’s new president, Rod Hightower. It was a wet and swampy so RV parking was moved to shopping center parking lots. Plane parking was a problem and there were no mass arrivals because the north 40 was wet. The weather cleared and the event was successful.

Also, Rick would like pictures of your projects and aircraft.

**Young Eagles—Fran Uliano, Richard Merrill:** Fran reported we have flown 51 this year for a total of 1,768. Fran reported on a new Flight Training program, providing a first flight lesson and flight training scholarships. Also all Young Eagles will get a free membership until they reach the age of 19.

Bob Spaulding discussed the Beat the Street “gang” and their visit to EAA27 and the award presented to the EAA27 Young Eagles program. *(Photo, center of page).*

### Chapter Bulletin Board—Chris Kohler:

Chris has done a great job providing a visual look at our Chapter with the board. The board is temporarily out of service pending renovations at the FBO. (Chris is still smiling)

**Airport Improvement Projects:** Are on hold pending the FBO renovation. Arian Pravalla and his organization “Meriden Aviators” have been selected to run the



FBO. We met Justin, one of the Flight Instructors and learned he was a former Young Eagle!

The resurfacing of the FBO building is almost complete and it’s looking great. The roofs of the Maintenance hangar and FBO have been replaced and the buildings are now free from leaks.

### 2010 Events:

- Chapter Picnic – Mike and Patty Zemsta - The date for the picnic is Sunday, September 12th. North hangar prep for the picnic starts at 9am, then a short meeting. Picnic starts at 11:30am
- Holiday Dinner– Maury Lisbon - The dinner will be held at the Hawthorne Inn Saturday December 4th 4:30 to 9:30pm.
- USAF Thunderbirds – August 21-22 at KBAF.
- Simsbury Fly-In Sunday September 19th.
- New Haven (Tweed) Fly-In has been cancelled for this year. It will be scheduled for next year, Oct 1-2, 2011.

**Old Business:** Boy Scout Merit Badge sponsorship and training – Mark Scott has a program and asked for and received volunteers.

**New Business:** Chapter 1041 has a Fly-In/ Drive In Breakfast Saturday and Sunday, September 25-26, Gettysburg Regional Airport (W05).

The B-17 Aluminum Overcast, hosted by Chapter 334, August 30th to September 2nd Groton.(GON).

50/50 raffle – Won by yours truly.

**Seminar:** A presentation by Kira Reed about her experiences at EAA Air Academy in Oshkosh sounds like she had a great time and learned a lot about aviation.

**From The Windsock:** Carl & Lorraine finally showed up last Friday, they had some RV trouble on the way back from Oshkosh and it was good to see them again. They are off to Maine and I hope we will see them on their way back to Florida. Our impromptu Friday gathering has been happily growing.

*Respectfully submitted – Rick Bernardi*

Never pass  
up a gas  
pump, toilet or  
restaurant.

## I hope it's not hungry

Chapter member Rick  
Andrews, number 15 in line  
for takeoff at JFK International  
3:00 PM Sunday Aug. 29th  
2010 in his RV6-A.



*The deadline for submission of materials for the next newsletter is October 8, 2010.*

### 2010 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? \_\_\_\_\_

*The pilot is the  
highest form of  
life on earth.*



EAA Chapter 27  
c/o Richard Beebe II  
360 Mountain Rd  
Hamden, CT 06514-1415  
newsletter@eaa27.org