

Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 27 News

April
2015

Letter from the President:

April 2015

I am cautiously optimistic that winter is indeed over. The huge pile of snow in my front yard left by the snow plow is finally gone, daily temperatures are on the rise, and we're not looking over our shoulders at the next winter storm forecasted to be imminently bearing down on southern New England. It's been a tough winter for flying. Days off from work have rarely coincided with good flying weather so the airplane has been somewhat hangar-bound. But that appears to be changing at a rapid pace...time to pull chocks and get out there.

As you will also read in this newsletter, Mark has given the chapter "Build A Plane" project a rousing start. Many details are still open but the way ahead is certainly coming into focus. This is a significant initiative for Chapter 27. The vision of making this project come to fruition will require many of us to be involved, from contributions of time to get a building facility up and running, to playing a hands-on part of the actual building process with some very excited first students. Needless to say, opportunities abound.

A major part of getting this project off the ground is our excellent partnership with the City of Meriden. Sure, we need the City to allow use of an airport building for airplane construction and assembly. But this project represents something far greater than that. Our friends in City Hall also have a vision...to make Meriden-Markham Airport more than just a place where airplanes take off and land. The airport is a city asset that not only provides economic benefit to the local Meriden area; it may also contribute to social and educational well-being. Imagine an airport that's just fun to hang out at because there's always something interesting going on. Imagine an airport that supports getting our local junior high and high school students involved in aviation, specifically building an airplane. We, Chapter 27 and Meriden-Markham Airport have that opportunity. I, for one, am tremendously excited about the prospect of making this happen.



**Next meeting:
Sunday, April 19th**

Don MacMillan will be talking about his RV-12 project

**Meeting will be held at
Meriden Markham
Airport at 10am**

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Many thanks to Mark for taking this dream and turning it into reality.

If you haven't paid your 2015 dues, please do so. See you all at our next meeting.

Stay safe.

Bob

Chapter 27 Build A Plane project update:

By: Mark Scott

At the February meeting the chapter approved me to pursue the possibility of starting an airplane build project with local high school kids. Each month I will provide an update on the project in the newsletter. This is the first update.

A presentation was held at Wilcox High School on April 9th. It went very well. Only six kids and their parents attended but all six signed up. I do not think the kids, parents, or school vice principle realized the broad benefits that such a project offers. The Vice principle and students will be telling others at the school about the program. I am hoping we get some more to sign up. All we need is about half a dozen regular enthusiastic students. I think we will get there.

The city is considering letting us use the empty half of the snow plow building. I hope to meet with Wilma Petro soon to discuss where we go from here.

I am looking into options for setting up a nonprofit foundation or something similar associated with the chapter so we can offer tax deductibility for donations.

EAA headquarters is sponsoring a "Build a Plane" jump start program for five chapters. This was recently described in Sport Aviation. Five chapters will be given a complete set of wings to be built at AirVenture. Obviously this is a great start to a program. I am in contact with EAA on this. They sent me an application. We have to apply for the wings by May 15th and be selected from all other chapter applications. We have one shot at this unique opportunity. We need to make a

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Meetings are the
3rd Sunday of the
month at 10am at
Meriden Markham
Airport

great application. I will discuss the application briefly at the next meeting.

I do have one idea. I want a picture or video of chapter members and students, airplane tools in hand, arms raised, yelling "We Need An airplane!" If you have some hand tools bring them. If anyone can make a banner saying "We Need and Airplane" that would be great. If you have any other ideas get in touch with me.

MEET AND GREET JERRY ROBERTS - NEAM'S NEW DIRECTOR

Report by Steve Socolosky

I wanted to bring those, who couldn't make the meeting on March 15th, up to date on our meeting with Jerry Roberts who is the new New England Air Museum Director.

Jerry was very pleasant and, considering there were only seven of us, he was very considerate to take the time (about 45 mins.) to speak with us about his vision for the museum. He explained that one of the first tasks is to improve the visitor experience beginning when you first enter the museum (the counter will be revamped to resemble an airline ticket counter) to reducing the wordiness on many of the exhibits' descriptions.

He also expressed a sincere interest in improving the number and types of engaging activities for young folks. We told Jerry about how we have young

people set rivets and also told him about the One Week Wonder at Oshkosh and how we have met with the new CREC Academy of Aerospace & Engineering school, as they consider building an airplane. He was happy to hear about EAA's involvement and mentioned that one of his ideas is to have the museum (and EAA) possibly have an ongoing project, in the display area, where young people could help and he would like to build a WWII glider.

Jerry seems very interested in having EAA be a part of helping the museum (which we continue to do with the Young Eagles table on Open Cockpit Sundays) and as he said, the Wrights were some of the first homebuilders and knows we can help generate that interest in aviation.

I was encouraged by Jerry's discussion with us and hope we can help make a difference.

Meeting Minutes:

March 15, 2015

Officers: Vice President Mark Scott called the meeting to order at 10:10. Officers present: Mark Scott, Bill Jagoda, Rick Beebe. There were 19 attendees including 1 visitor, Don Turecek's son Peter.

Treasury: Bill Jagoda reports the balance at the end of February is \$1784.98

Tech Counselor: Mark Scott showed a short video of the tailwheel shimmying on his Bearhawk and talked about some of the steps he's taken to attempt to alleviate it. He did find some looseness in a couple of bolts and checked the camber angle. It looks okay. Waiting for warmer weather to see if he's solved the problem.

HQ: EAA and AOPA are encouraging people to write congress to encourage action on the Pilot's Bill of Rights 2 and the 3rd class medical exemption.

Additionally the State of Connecticut is thinking of repealing the aircraft maintenance sales tax exemption. Write to your state representatives

Young Eagles: Fran reports that HQ lost one of our student credits, he's hunting that down. Right now we have \$295 in credits. He received a letter from the

mother of a YE that he flew several years ago. That youngster just had his first solo. Our two rallies this year will be June 13 and October 10.

99's Raffle: Connie showed a drawing that was donated to the 99s by Ev Cassagneras that will be raffled off. Tickets are \$5.

Student build project: Mark is working on plans to set up a project in the basement of the FBO for students from the local high school to build an airplane. There is work needed to fix up the basement first and we may need to become a 501C(3) in order to solicit donations in order to buy the kit. A Van's RV-12 is an ideal candidate. The plan might be to have two weekly sessions, Monday evening and Saturday morning, each 3 hours.

Presentation: Brian Rehtiene showed the BMW motorcycle engine he's modified to power the plans-built Hummelbird he's building. He had to mill a prop hub and figure out how to attach it to the crankshaft. He also milled a second set of spark plug holes in the head for real dual ignition. The project is very impressive, as is his workmanship.

Rick Beebe, Secretary

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Anyone wishing to send in their 2015 chapter Dues, here is the form, please fill it out and send it 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

Deadline for submitting material for the next newsletter is the 2nd Saturday of the month

2015 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? _____

