



# Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 27 News



Next meeting Sunday, August 15, 2004, 10 a.m., Meriden-Markham Airport, Meriden

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## Letter from the President

As I sit down to write this month's newsletter, my wife Betty and I have just returned from a personal, month long, aviation odyssey. We embarked on July 2nd for a vacation in our GP-4. We flew coast to coast, visiting with friends and relatives as well as many sites of interest along the way. Our journey was capped off by our GP-4 receiving a major award at Oshkosh. Whatever you do – please do not pinch me. I do not wish to wake up and find that this was all a dream!

This dream could not have happened without the assistance of EAA Chapter 27 members Jerry and Margaret Bass. The left main landing gear failed upon landing at Eagles Nest airpark in Virginia where the Besses reside. Betty and I stayed 4 days at the Bass home and, with Jerry's assistance, I was able to make repairs and continue on our journey. Thanks again, Jerry and Margaret.

Now that our vacations are concluding, we must now focus on our upcoming Young Eagles Reunion Picnic scheduled for September 11th. Fran Uliano, our Young Eagles Chairman, informs me that we're expecting over 120 attendees and still counting. We will need the help and support of our membership to make this event the success we anticipate. Please be sure to come to our August meeting and offer your ideas and support. Every member has something to offer. We need you.

See you all on August 15th!

—Jim Simmons

## Fly West, My Friend

Sadly, we must report that Bob Burk passed away on June 30th. Bob was a long time member of, and Tech Counselor for, Chapter 27. He was also a founding member of Chapter 1208 in Bridgeport and served as past president. Bob built a beautiful Vans RV-6 and was working on an RV-7. He was always willing to open his workshop for hands-on teaching and his contributions to aircraft flying and under construction are too numerous to count.

According to Missy, who he lovingly referred to as "honeybun," Bob requested that there be no memorial services, no flowers and no donations.

Bob will always be remembered as an avid supporter of aviation and EAA Chapter 27.

*Do not look at my  
grave and cry,  
I am not there, I'm  
up in the sky,  
I've passed my final  
check ride,  
And now I'm free to  
fly,  
To places I've only  
dreamed of,  
While flying mortals  
though the sky,  
Do not grieve for me,  
for I'm free to fly,  
Do not grieve for me,  
for I did not die.  
—Chuck Turturici*



Jim Simmons' GP-4 won Reserve Grand Champion, a Silver Lindy, in the plans-built category at Airventure. Congratulations Jim!

August, 2004

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Joe Gauthier discussed the AB-DAR program at our June meeting. At the August meeting, Frederick Stucklen will present custom aircraft electrical design. Frederick is an electrical engineer and is building a Vans RV-7.

## “Wait and Balance”

—James Pepe

My youngest son turned two years old today. Now, I have a wife, a four year old son and a two year old son.

What does that have to do with airplanes?

Well, a lot. They are my family. Airplanes are my hobby and if I want to fly in the future, I have to find a way to balance the two. My wife is very supportive and continually tells me, “Jim, just get an airplane.” I would like to, but I’m a worrier. I never used to worry, but responsibility has hit me hard. So now, I worry about money, about paying for college and about job security.

Also, I want to spend as much time with my children as possible and I remember that flying took up a good deal of time and energy. So I try to think of ways to stay involved with aviation without taking anything away from my children. I’ve considered IFR training, a building project, buying a Cessna 150 or at least going back and getting current again.

I have even tried to forget about flying altogether, but it always creeps back into my mind. It’s usually while I’m sitting on the couch with the boys, watching “Finding Nemo” for the 105th time, that my mind starts to wander and I find myself armchair flying. Full

throttle, ground speed building, pull back on the stick... just about to lift off... then, next to me I hear a voice, irritated by my flailing arms, “Dad, stop it, your arm is in the way....Nemo!!”

I used to climb mountains and fly airplanes for fun. Now I watch cartoons and play with matchbox cars. I would be lying if I didn’t say it’s been a hard adjustment for me, but I’ve learned that, while zipping through the air at five thousand feet is exciting, there is also happiness to be found singing the alphabet at sea level.

What I finally found for balance was EAA Chapter 27. I’m thankful for Chapter 27, because EAA has been a great way for me to stay involved with aviation without taking much time away from my family. I go to a meeting once a month, read *Sport Aviation* magazine when it comes in the mail and my family barely notices.

I haven’t really figured out where aviation fits into my life at this point. Maybe when my children are older, they will have an interest in aviation and we can



Scenes from Airventure. Jim Simmons' GP-4 in the middle of the action during the airshow.

share the hobby. Right now I have to be patient and see what the future brings, but being involved with Chapter 27 makes me feel that I will have some type of aviation endeavors in my future.

Waiting seems to be the answer for right now; waiting for the right time to fly or build. There could be a reason why the average kitplane builder is over fifty years old. Did some of them go through this balancing act as well? Did they have to wait for the right time, too? So, today I’ll celebrate my younger son’s birthday... maybe with another viewing of “Finding Nemo,” and patiently wait for balance between my family and my flying.

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



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A thunderstorm is never as bad on the inside as it appears on the outside. It's worse.

A fool and his money are soon flying more airplane than he can handle.