

# EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter January 2026

President **Mark Scott**  
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Scholarship Coordinator **Matt Valleau**  
Tech Counselors **Dave Pepe, Mark Scott & Mike Zemsta**  
Flight Advisor **Mark Scott**  
Our Web Site: [www.eaa27.org](http://www.eaa27.org)



**Next Meeting, January 18<sup>th</sup>,**  
**10 am Meriden Airport**

*Pipistrel will be our featured guest speaker sharing their history and latest developments in their innovative line of light sport and electric training aircraft. Weather permitting Pipistrel representative Stuart Berlinger plans to fly in a Pipistrel Alpha Trainer. There is a possibility that a few short rides available after the meeting.*



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## President's Message

Happy New Year! Our hope is to have another great chapter year. Our annual chapter planning meeting will be late January or early February depending on officers' availability. Any chapter member interested in attending is welcome. Please get back to me if interested. Significant events this year include our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in September and hosting the EAA trimotor this summer.

## Ray Aviation Scholar 2025

This past month I've been making strong progress in my flight training, especially with radio calls and pattern work. I've been focusing a lot on improving my landings and they have been getting more consistent with each flight. I'm very close to soloing now, which is exciting and motivating. If anyone has tips or advice on fine tuning landings, I'd really appreciate it. Thank you again to the chapter for all the support. It truly means a lot as I reach this milestone.

Ethan Simpson Ray Scholar 2025

## Tech Tip of the Month

Sometimes you need to remove aluminum sheet material or cut out a complex shape in a hard to reach place. There is a neat hand tool called a nibbler. It cuts a line about 3/16 inch wide a little at a time. It can cut around very sharp corners. I used it recently to enlarge a hole in my engine baffling for a new oil cooler air duct fitting.



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## Chapter Holiday Banquet

The January 10 holiday banquet at the Manor Inn in Plantsville brought out many Chapter 27 members and guests, with a warm, relaxed atmosphere that carried through the entire evening. The Manor's generous portions and well-prepared menu again offered excellent value. Stepping in for Mark, James Calver handled MC duties and kept the program moving. Fran and Barb Uliano "baked up a storm" again, headlining the dessert table with their signature airplane cookie competition, where Mike Zemsta (Technical Coordinator) took home a gift card to Neal's Donuts as the winner. The Yankee Gift Swap was as spirited as ever, with a 'World of Flight 2026' calendar changing hands at least seven times before finally landing, while other participants went home with champagne, a set of two LED headlamps, food hampers, wine, and chocolates.

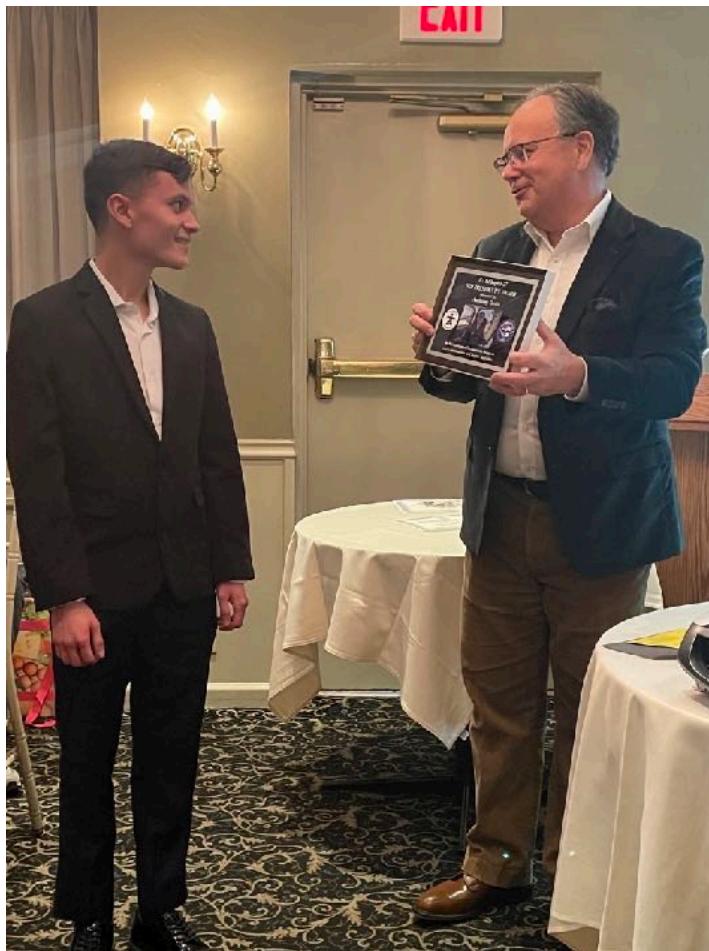
Each officer and chapter volunteer was recognized with an EAA pin and certificate, and the following special awards were presented:

- Fran and Barb Uliano - "Holiday Cookie Air Force Officers"
- Jim Simmons - "Social Chairman"
- The Aponte family - "The Exceptional Family Service Award" (second year in a row)
- Barb Uliano - "Taking Care of all Kinds of Things" MVP Award for her many behind-the-scenes contributions, including coffee at every meeting and managing sales of Chapter swag
- Anthony Ortiz (2025 Ray Scholar) - "President's Award"

James wrapped up the formal program with a review of 2025 and a preview of 2026, supported by photos and a presentation prepared by Mark, giving everyone a clear look at recent accomplishments and plans ahead. Thanks go to Jim Simmons for organizing the event; it was a very enjoyable evening, and there is much enthusiasm for next year's banquet.



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Anthony presented the Presidents Award



Barb “Taking Care of all Kinds of Things”  
MVP award



The Aponte family – “The  
Exceptional Family Service Award”

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## Youth Aviation Center and Sonex Build

The Sonex build is progressing nicely. The aft fuselage is riveted and positioned for forward fuselage panel attachments. We received a nice work table from Doug Dringoli. We rearranged the work space and are using it for the wing assembly. (Mark)



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## Chapter Projects

Dave Rich and Al Starbard are making good progress on their Carbon Cub. The wings are painted and in their hangar. The recently painted fuselage in Dave's garage looks great.



## EAA Homebuilders Week

Join us on January 26-30, 2026, during the sixth-annual EAA Homebuilders Week online event. Experts from every corner of the homebuilt aircraft community will bring their knowledge and information to builders everywhere through free and interactive webinars.

Homebuilders Week is a tremendous learning opportunity that celebrates the legacy of EAA founder Paul Poberezny. As he often said, using hand and mind to create aircraft that allow us to enjoy the personal freedom of flight!

### Homebuilders Week Schedule of Events

[Register Now](#)

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- **January 26, 2026**
- **January 27, 2026**
- **January 28, 2026**
- **January 29, 2026**
- **January 30, 2026**

Link to register:<<https://www.eaa.org/eaa/aircraft-building/homebuilders-week>>

# EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter January 2026

## Regional Meetings

Check chapter websites for meeting status

Chapter 1310 Meetings - 2nd Wednesday 7 PM April-October

2nd Saturday 10 AM November, January, February, March at Skylark Airport

Chapter 166 Meetings - Last Saturday of month 10:00 AM (Except July, Nov & Dec) at HFD Hangar 1 EAA Classroom, 20 Lindberg Drive, Hartford. <http://eaa166.org>

Chapter 27 Meetings - 3rd Sunday of month, 10 AM at Meriden Airport

<http://eaa27.org/>

Chapter 324 Meetings 1st Wednesday of month, 7 PM Simsbury Airport

<https://www.facebook.com/eaa324/> <https://chapters.eaa.org/EAA324>

Chapter 324 VMC Club Simsbury Airport CT 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm

Laura Doherty | [laurado@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:laurado@sas.upenn.edu) - [EAA.org/VMC](http://EAA.org/VMC)

Chapter 1620 Meetings 1st Wednesday of month, 7:30 PM Barnes Airport Hangar 3, 111 Airport Rd. Westfield, MA. 01085 <https://www.facebook.com/eaa.org/>

## Airshows and Events

April 14-19 Sun and Fun <https://flysnf.org/>

May 22-24 Central PA Airshow featuring Navy Blue Angels

<https://www.warbirds-eaa.org/event/central-pa-air-show/>

May 29-31 Atlantic City Airshow "Thunder Over the Boardwalk"

<https://airshowdisplay.fr/en/airshow/atlantic-city-airshow-2026>

June 05-07 Mid Atlantic World War II weekend <https://maam.org/show-info/>

June 19,20, & 21 Greenwood Lake NJ Airshow Night show pyrotechnics

<https://www.njairshow.com/>

July 4th Snowbirds over New York

July 05-06 Bethpage Airshow @ Jones Beach featuring Navy Blue Angels <https://www.fourleafairshow.com/>

July 11-12 National Warplane Museum Airshow on Turf Geneseo NY

<https://airshowdisplay.fr/en/airshow/geneseo-airshow-the-greatest-show-on-turf-2026>

July 20-26 EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2026

[https://www.eaa.org/airventure/eaa-airventure-tickets?utm\\_source=eaa\\_internal\\_web\\_link&utm\\_medium=internal/eaa.org&utm\\_campaign=av\\_tickets\\_2026&utm\\_term=homepage\\_slider&utm\\_content=image](https://www.eaa.org/airventure/eaa-airventure-tickets?utm_source=eaa_internal_web_link&utm_medium=internal/eaa.org&utm_campaign=av_tickets_2026&utm_term=homepage_slider&utm_content=image)

August 01-02 New York Airshow Orange County Airport Montgomery NY featuring the USAF Thunderbirds <https://hudsonvalleycountry.com/ny-airshow-headliners-2026-and-2027/>

## Classifieds

MANY structural pull rivets left over from the RV-12 build. They are 1/8 dia, Gesipa LP4-3 with .093-.197 grip. \$5 for a 1/2 lb bag or about 200 rivets. That is about 80% less than similar Q rivets from Aircraft Spruce.

Contact Mark Scott (203-988-3197

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## EAA CHAPTER 27 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join and pay online with PayPal at [EAA27.org/Join](http://EAA27.org/Join)

or

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  
Annual dues are \$20.00 per year. Make checks payable to **EAA Chapter 27**  
(Please print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

EAA Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Pilot rating held: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive our newsletter via email? Y / N

Aircraft owned, make & model: \_\_\_\_\_

Flying \_\_\_\_ Building \_\_\_\_ Restoring \_\_\_\_ % complete\_\_\_\_\_

Tell us about your areas of interest and expertise:

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If anyone has something they would like to share in our newsletter, places of interest to fly too, your airplane build project, articles, flight experiences, etc. please forward them to Joe "[newsletter@eaa27.org](mailto:newsletter@eaa27.org)"

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