

EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter March 2025

President Mark Scott
Vice President James Calver
Secretary Rick Beebe
Treasurer Bill Jagoda
Newsletter Editor Joe Bogacki
Young Eagles Donna Shea
Scholarship Coordinator Tom Spitler

Tech Counselors Dave Pepe, Mark Scott & Mike Zemsta

Flight Advisor Mark Scott

Our Web Site: www.eaa27.org



**Next Meeting Sunday March 16th,
Meriden Airport, 10 am**

**EAA Chapter 27 Presentation;
“Flying for a Charter Company”
Brian Rehtiene, Chief Check Pilot
Tradewinds Aviation**



**Meriden Airport
Sunday March 16,
Coffee and Donuts, 10:30 am
Presentation, 11 am**

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President's Message

It has been a pretty poor month for flying. Hopefully March and April are better.

We are going forward with the engraved brick fund raising initiative. See details below.

If you know an aspiring professional pilots be sure to tell them about Brian's talk at the March meeting

Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2025

President Mark Scott called the meeting to order at 10:05. Other officers present Bill Jagoda, Treasurer; Rick Beebe, Secretary. There were 30 attendees and no visitors. Mark talked about ways to improve the Chapter experience for visitors. We can offer a free six month EAA membership. James Calver will make follow-up calls.

Mark passed around a chapter roster with spaces for people's planes and talents for future reference.

Treasurer's report. EAA sent the money for Anthony's first solo milestone. Current balance \$2080.60

Dave Matuska sent his gearbox to Lockwood in Florida because of a vibration problem after only 36 hours. It came back but there's still a problem. It may be related to a flexible spinner. He will try taking the spinner off to see if that helps.

Dave Rich showed off the VFR panel that came with the Carbon Cub kit they bought.

The Chapter bought a copy of Vic Syrnacuse's "Pre-Buy" book. It's a beautiful book full of full-color photographs, but is rather expensive. Talk to Mark if you want to borrow it.

Mark had worn his tires down bald. Rather than spending \$500 on new tires he sent them to Desser and got them re-treaded for \$130 each.

Dave Rich showed a video he made landing on the ice at Alton Bay New Hampshire.

Our next Young Eagles rally is June 7. The Fall one is October 25. Rain dates are the following days each weekend.

Update from Ray Scholar Anthony. He's been flying like crazy. Two weeks ago he finally soloed. Constance filled out his "I soloed" shirt and cut off the tail while we watched. He's moving on to cross-country and night flying next. The aviation club at his school just received their RealSimGear flight simulator. They going to get it BATD certified which means they'll actually be able to log hours on it.

Mark recently talked with Lucy, our 2022 Ray Scholar. Her instrument check ride is next Friday. She's an impressive young lady.

The chapter will be getting a Venmo account to allow people to use that for dues or donations.

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Our April guest speaker will be a New York Air Traffic Controller. Come hear stories from the other side of the radio.

Mark is working on having our Chapter host EAAs Ford Tri-motor. MMK is too small but Tradewinds Aviation has agreed to allow us to use their facilities at Oxford.

Mark and Constance proposed selling inscribed pavers to raise money toward flying scholarships. They would replace the sidewalk in front of the FBO. A show of hands showed enough interest to move ahead. More info later.

Easter falls on the third Sunday in April so we're moving that meeting to April 27. Likewise, Father's Day lands on our meeting in June so we'll move that meeting to June 22.

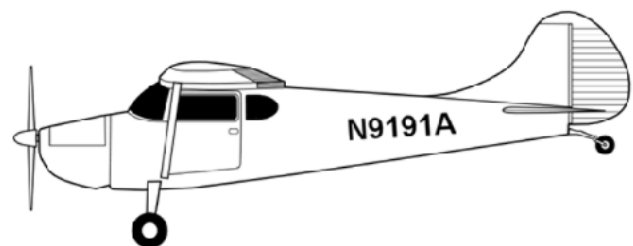
Donna Shea gave a wonderful presentation on her experience at Jack Brown's Sea-plane base taking float plane training.

--Rick Beebe, Secretary

Chapter 27

Commemorative Brick Fundraiser

At the last meeting we discussed a fundraising initiative by selling engraved 4x8 and 8x8 inch bricks to commemorate people's association with the airport. We asked if personalized images could be engraved with text. A sample was sent and they said they can do it at no additional charge as long as the images are no more complex than the examples shown here. They need to be a single dark color and in a high resolution .png format. They will be black as will the text on the brick. Most computers can create such images. We are going forward with the program and more details will be presented at the next meeting. If you need help creating images contact Mark.



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Ray Scholarship for 2025

We finally did it! After many months of highs and lows, I'm happy to report that I've finally completed my first solo flight. The conditions couldn't have been better for a day to solo—it was an overcast with little to no winds and there was absolutely no other aircraft in the traffic pattern. Training alongside my instructor Josh has been such a privilege as he's really been able to understand my needs and has trained me to a really high standard. A huge shoutout to Connie, Calvin, and Doug Dringoli who were out there watching over me as I did my first three takeoffs and landings!

Now having been PIC, my entire concept of flying has shifted drastically. I've learned that having a backup plan should always be in the back of your mind, and constantly thinking 'What would I do if something went wrong' is vital to be able to act as a confident and capable pilot over any aircraft. Doing everything at my pace and taking any additional precautions I felt were necessary was the entire mindset I adopted as I went forward to do my first solo flight. As I begin to train for other types of operations, I won't back down from taking the time to thoroughly go through everything and reach out for help ensuring that I'm 100% before I move onto any further points in my training.

This month we're doing as much night flying as possible before the clocks change. We plan to do our night dual cross country, knock out our 10 takeoffs and landings, as well as run through our reduced visibility operations since we'll be working a lot more with our instruments. Afterwards we'll transition into day cross country and continue with our day operation based requirements.

Each Ray Scholar has the opportunity to write an essay to the Ray Foundation in order to be eligible to obtain a Lightspeed Zulu 3 headset. I was informed that we could've wrote it about anything that's helped me throughout my training, and I knew right then and there that I had to write it about the amazing community of general aviation. Without you guys, none of this could have ever been possible. While training for the technical aspects of flight is important, instilling a passion for aviation and fostering a sense of community among youth is just as essential. Thank you to everyone who's helped me come to this point, and I look forward to sharing with you guys how these next few final months will go!

Wishing you all blue skies and happy flying!

Anthony Ortiz Osorio
Ray Aviation Scholarship Recipient 2024

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Ray Scholar First Solo Flight

Congratulations to Anthony on his first solo flight! It was a joy to celebrate with him at our February meeting. He's been putting his heart and soul into his training. We wish him nothing but the best in his continued pursuit of his Private Pilot Certificate. Pictures below Anthony and his mom, Sol Maria Osirio Roja; Tom Spitler, Ray Scholar Coordinator; Constance Castillo, Manager Meriden Airport & Civil Air Patrol Captain



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Ray Aviation Scholarship for 25-26

Chapter 27 has been approved for the Ray Aviation Scholarship for 25-26. We must now begin to search for a qualified candidate for the scholarship. The candidate should be 16 to 19 years old and be able to complete the training in 12 months. We will give an application to candidates who will submit the application to the Ray Aviation Scholarship co-ordinator. The application period is from now till the end of April. We will then form a committee to review all applications. Once we select the candidate he or she will apply to EAA for approval. If you have any questions give me a call.

Thomas Spitler
Ray Aviation Scholarship Coordinator
860-338-3693

Plane Projects

Kitfox Speedster

Flight test of my Kitfox Speedster is back underway after a one-month hiatus to facilitate an engine gearbox inspection and subsequent gearbox overhaul. Remaining flight test tasks are few, with autopilot operational checks dominating the list. Weather permitting, I hope to complete Phase 1 testing before next month's newsletter, and planning is already underway for my first cross-country flight to Florida.

Dave Matuska

Hatz Biplane

Things are moving along a bit quicker now. Always nice to take individual pieces that were fabricated and begin assembling them into larger subassemblies.

I hope everyone got a chance to see Rick Shultzes Grand Champion Hatz in Sport Aviation. Beautiful looking airplane and a great motivator to keep going!

So where are we now in the project is getting the landing gear mounted to the fuselage. This picture is a great example of "all the pieces coming together." At the top you see the actual attach plates that are welded to the fuselage. Bolted to those is a welded "V". To that "V" bolts both of the shock struts.



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These are a “tube inside of a tube” concept where upon landing, the tubes in both struts pull apart from each other, cushioned by the compression of the yellow springs. Very common in all the Short wing Piper aircraft.

The next picture is of the main front landing gear leg. At the top of the picture, I am jiggging the fuselage attach tube to be welded in place. The opposite end will have a large cope to accept the axle assembly. Again, a tube inside a tube where the final dimension of the axel plate can be positioned and finished welded. The plate at the lower right end bolts to the Matco wheel and brake caliper.

Once all these sub assemblies are tack welded together, the fuselage is then held firmly in place. The pieces are then put in position and built from the floor UP to the fuselage. Done that way, we can accurately account for axle position in regard to camber and castor.



Lastly, I took the opportunity to take my Matco wheels and fit them with Goodyear 8.00x6 Tires. The assembly was pretty straight forward but mounting aircraft tires does have some do's and don'ts. The red caps in the middle of the wheel hold the axle bearings which are greased in place with zip-ties from one side to the other. That's it for now.



Back to work and looking forward to warmer weather. Fly safe everyone...

Doug Dringoli



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Tech Tip of the Month

Bird nest building season is coming. I found this picture on the internet. Back when I had just bought my Cessna 170 I found a substantial nest on top of my engine during a preflight. It took about an hour to remove it all. I covered the engine intakes. Two days later I found a full nest on top of the firewall mounted battery! They flew up the bottom cowl opening. They build fast. We have a lot of Starlings at the airport. They love to build nests in engine compartments. Be sure to check both the engine and firewall areas. Cover the intakes with plugs. Cover the air exit if you can. I made a U shaped netting with a pool noodle which could be stuffed up the bottom cowl opening. Unfortunately I don't have a picture of it. (Mark)



Meriden Airport

New Hangars

New South hangar construction is still scheduled to start in the spring. Prebuild meetings are being held. Hopefully occupancy will be by late summer.

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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 - 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/>

2025 Aviation Events

April 1 – 6 Sun n' Fun Aerospace Expo, Lakeland, FL
US Navy Blue Angels

June 27 - 29 Flight Sim Expo, Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI
www.flightsimexpo.com

July 21 – 27 EAA AirVenture, Oshkosh, WI

September 6 – 7 Thunder over New Hampshire, Portsmouth, NH
US Navy Blue Angels
<https://thunderovernewhampshire.com/>

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

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:

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"
