



# Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 27 News



Next meeting Sunday, May 16, 2004, 10 a.m., Meriden-Markham Airport, Meriden

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## Letter from the President

Sorry I missed our meeting last month, but as many of you know, Betty and I flew our GP4 down to Florida for a mini-vacation and a visit to the *Sun 'n Fun* Fly-in. Our trip south featured some fine VFR weather. We flew non-stop into Myrtle Beach International (3 hours) and spent a planned, overnight visit there with some friends. Then we flew down to Fort Lauderdale (another three hour leg) where we visited with our grandchildren and their parents. After a few days, we flew up to Merritt Island to visit some friends in Cocoa Beach and spent the night there. We were fortunate to be there on a crystal clear night when they had a rocket launch scheduled from Cape Canaveral. The night launch was truly spectacular. I have now placed the actual viewing of a future space shuttle launch on my to-do list. I can only imagine how spectacular that must be.

We then flew to Lakeland airport for *Sun 'n Fun*. The trip there was quick, but we had to hold over Lake Parker for some unknown reason. This bunched up quite a few airplanes and once we were released to head into Lakeland there was quite a bit of traffic. It is super to have another person in the cockpit when looking out for traffic, and Betty has developed some keen eyesight for picking out aircraft. As many of you are aware, *Sun 'n Fun* uses their taxiway (9L) as the arrival runway for homebuilts and other small aircraft. Their actual runway (9R) is used by warbirds and other large aircraft. Betty and I were pleasantly surprised when we were approximately number 4 on short final, to hear the tower call "Little red rocket, sidestep to the right and land on Runway 9



Right." It's great to have a red airplane! I veered right and had a huge, long, wide runway, all to myself. I knew I could land long and cut down on our taxiing. By landing on this runway, we also cut out all of the taxiing that is done by other arriving aircraft on the north side of the field. When we were ready to enter the homebuilt parking area, we were escorted by a 'follow me' cart (*Sun 'n Fun* welcoming volunteers) which showed us to our parking area. As luck would have it, the driver of the cart was a woman whose house Betty and I had stayed in about four years earlier. Well, before we even unpacked our airplane, we had a place to stay for the night, including an invitation that night to the "best barbecue in Florida." Next, I met some EAA judges asking me if I wanted to have my aircraft judged. I said "sure" and they advised me that I better hurry because registration for judging was closing in one hour. The judges viewed my plane while I went to register. At the registration booth, I found Lorraine Eaton—Carl Eaton's wife—volunteering there. Upon registration, I discover that they were offering neat *Sun 'n Fun* hats to the pilots for bringing their homebuilts to *Sun 'n Fun*, but they had run out of them. Well, it paid to have friends from EAA Chapter 27, because

mysteriously a cap was found for me to wear. Carl and Lorraine are regular volunteers at both *Sun 'n Fun* and AirVenture in Oshkosh.

We enjoyed a whirlwind day at *Sun 'n Fun* including encounters with many friends from Connecticut.

We departed for Fort Lauderdale for a few more days of additional visiting with our grandchildren before heading home. While heading for home, we stopped at Grand Strand Airport (North Myrtle Beach area) and lunched with some other friends from Connecticut who now reside there permanently.

Shortly after leaving Grand Strand airport, we encountered some fuel pressure problems with the GP4 and landed at Lumberton, North Carolina. Due to the problem, (long story) we spent the night in Lumberton, including full use of a courtesy car, and left for home the next day. We now had to contend with some marginal weather but arrived home safely. All in all, this was one terrific trip.

To top it off—after we arrived home, I learned that our GP4 had won an award for the "Best All Wood" aircraft at *Sun 'n Fun*. It doesn't get any better than this.

Hope you enjoyed our little adventure. See you all at our next meeting.

—Jim Simmons

May, 2004

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## New England RV Get-Together Coming in June

The New England Wing of Van's Air Force (NEVAF) has announced its 3rd annual fly-in will be held at Lawrence Municipal Airport (KLWM) on June 12th, with a rain date of June 19th. Hosted by EAA Chapter 106 ([www.eaa106.org](http://www.eaa106.org)), this event will feature seminars on formation flying, flight testing and general aircraft building techniques. Although NEVAF is an organization of amateur builders of the Van's Aircraft line of kit aircraft, this event will be of interest to all amateur builders and aviation enthusiasts.

Stuart McCurdy, a retired U.S. Air Force Colonel with over 30 years of formation-flying experience in T-38s, F-4s and other aircraft, will present his seminar on formation flying. McCurdy is founder of Formation Flying Inc., which is approved by the FAA to evaluate formation pilots for the purpose of issuing formation cards allowing participation in FAA waived airspace. Mr. McCurdy has presented seminars at events throughout the country, including EAA AirVenture.

Returning to present the very popular session, *Approach to Flight Testing*, is Joe Gauthier. Gauthier has been an active EAA Technical Counselor since 1977 and is an FAA Aviation Safety Counselor, an EAA Flight Advisor, a NAFI Master Flight Instructor and an amateur-built designated airworthiness representative (AB-DAR) under the new AB-DAR program. As southern New England's leading flight advisor, Gauthier has made the maiden flights of more than 30 homebuilt aircraft.

Also planned are seminars on metal working and electrical wiring techniques. Information and updates will be posted to [www.nevaf.com](http://www.nevaf.com), including arrival procedures, seminar information, and attendance and lunch fees.

Event activities and seminars are subject to change and will be reflected on the event web site.

## Meeting Minutes

*April 18, 2004*

Due to the *Sun 'n Fun* Fly-in in Florida and other reasons, there was a diminished turnout at this meeting, but we went about it in a workmanlike fashion, and the donuts and coffee were as good as always.

Dave Pepe and Bob Ryan were there for officers present, general attendance follows:

General attendance: George Anderson, Rick Beebe, Charles Enz, Joan Howell, Bill Jagoda, Chris Kohler, Maury Libson, Jim Maher, Ray Morgan, Mike Okrent, Dave Pepe, Rich Reaveley, Sheila Seeman, Bill Simon, Stan Solecki, Earle Stetson, Don Turecek, Bob Upson, Bob Brown, Don Green, Chan Schiller, Jude Steele and Rick Bernardi (see Rick's new straight-tail C-172 at the north end).

**Treasurer's Report:** Bob Ryan gave a very nicely detailed report which, unfortunately, I do not have a record of, so it will wait until I or someone else updates and reports to you.

**Tech Councilor's Report:** We did not have a tech report from Bob Burk, but I did go over the details of an incident where an aircraft lost the crankshaft plug on the engine and lost the best part of his visibility, and was safely talked down by Mike, an instructor with MMK FBO. We discussed the proper way of installing the plug—it's pretty technical: Bang it in with a BIG hammer until it deforms properly, affecting a good oil seal.

**Young Eagles:** Fran Uliano discussed the upcoming Young Eagles Rally June 12, 2004. The rain date will be the next day. Also discussed the details for the Young Eagle's Reunion. More to follow.

**Upcoming Events:** Young Eagles Rally, June 12, 2004; Young Eagles Reunion, Sept 11, 2004; Holiday Party, December 3, 2004.

**Education Center:** Jude Steele was at the meeting and he tells us that he's keeping his eye on any possible developments that will impact on our hope to avail ourselves of the building's use.

**Partners:** Joan Howell spoke about the "partners" concept, and will nurse it along to test for the possibility of regular meetings for builders' partners, to discuss related issues.

**Reminders:** DUES are due. Contributions are solicited for the Chapter Website and Library—get your project the attention it deserves. We need a volunteer to create and maintain the Chapter Bulletin board.

**Tee Shirts:** It was suggested that we get some inexpensive tee-shirts with the Chapter 27 logo.

50/50 raffle wasn't held. Where are those raffle tickets, anyway?

**Seminar:** We watched an AOPA Safety video, had discussions on the content, and passed out info sheets.

*Submitted by your Secretary, Dave Pepe*

## EAA Air Academy

Over the past two decades, thousands of young people have participated in the aviation experience of a lifetime at EAA's summer aviation camps. For many of them, it became an important steppingstone in both their personal development and appreciation for aviation.

The EAA Air Academy programs are supervised and administered by top-notch aviation instructors and enthusiasts who offer more than 200 years of combined teaching experience. From the moment a participant arrives, the sky is the limit as a dynamic aviation experience unfolds and close friendships with fellow aviation enthusiasts begin.

All camps are conducted at the EAA Museum and Leadership Center complex in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, with the residence portion of the program at the impressive Air Academy Lodge.



This year, by popular demand, we have expanded the age range of the Air Academy to include youth camps for 10 and 11 year olds. This means we now accommodate 10 to 18 year olds through a range of different camp experiences. You can enroll or learn more about each camp at our website <http://www.airacademy.org> or by calling us at 888-EAA-EAA9 (888-322-3229).

Remember that the EAA Air Academy is not just for kids! Adults can register for 3 different heritage camps featuring the B-17, Spirit of St. Louis, and Ford Tri Motor. Visit our website for more details.

*Chuck Larsen, EAA 31303*

*Director - Museum & Resident Education  
Experimental Aircraft Association, Inc.*

## SafetyFest Mechanic Contest

To all Chapter 27 members:

At this year's SafetyFest, a mechanic competition will be held. The tasks are safetywiring prop bolts, riveting four 1/8 rivets and adjusting some controls on a mock rigging board. Nothing that any of us cannot do. The judging will be against defects in procedure, acceptable standards and the clock. Contestants are penalized 30 seconds for each flaw and those penalties are added to the time it takes to accomplish the three tasks.

Hang on to your hats! The first prize is a \$400 gift certificate for Snap On Tools, second is \$250 and third prize is \$150. Everybody who enters gets a surprise gift of a tool from Snap On. Because of time constraints only 24 entrants will be accepted. Sign up early so you don't miss out. Any of you can win this prize, let's not let the A&Ps show us up.

We need volunteers to help in this activity to sign people up and answer questions. There will be a volunteer briefing on Friday at noon and also on Saturday morning at 8 AM... Please make a good showing for EAA and volunteer and enter the competition too !!!

You sheet metal types please bring along your rivet gauges. This is the little tool that has a notch and a hole on either end and is used to determine if the rivet head is properly upset. We need as many as we can get.

Thanks and see you all on the 15th or (14th for the briefing and setup).

—Joe Gauthier

## Air Mayfair at Plymouth

Aeronautica, located at the Plymouth, Mass (PYM) airport is organizing the "Air Mayfair" for Memorial Day weekend. The Mayfair is commemorative of the Harvard-Boston Aero Meets of the 1910's and the life of Harriet Quimby, first woman aviator. It shows the role of New England in the development of aviation and related technologies and its influence on shaping our lifestyle over the past century concentrating on Renewable Energy. There will be vendor displays and, of course, aircraft.

Aeronautica would like to turn the Air Mayfair into a Northeast Regional fly-in comparable

to Sun 'n Fun or Airventure. To that end they're organizing an EAA New England picnic meeting during the Mayfair from 1:00 to 3:00pm on Saturday, May 29th—rain day May 30th. All New England chapter members are invited to attend. They will discuss the organization of a "council of chapters" or a "chapter of chapters" to organize the regional fly-in for next year.

ALL EAA members are welcome to camp overnight and tie-down fees are waived. For information and reservations contact Aeronautica.tv at (508) 747-7748. For more information: [www.aeronautica.tv](http://www.aeronautica.tv)

### MAY MEETING AGENDA

Charlie Enz will discuss engine cooling and how to design a cooling system that minimizes cooling drag.

*Always  
remember you  
fly an airplane  
with your  
head, not your  
hands.*

*Pilots believe  
in clean  
living—they  
never drink  
whisky from a  
dirty glass.*

## Giant Fly-Market, Flea-Market- Fly-In

May 15-16

Dawn to dusk

### Hampton Airfield, Hampton, NH (7B3)

Beautiful seacoast New Hampshire grass strip, mile to ocean!

Vendors from all over New England!

Bring stuff to sell!

Bring money to buy stuff!

Restaurant on field!

VAA 15 doing pancakes and barbecue throughout both days!

**Call airport for further info 603-964-6749**

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*The deadline for submission of materials for the June newsletter is June 7, 2004.*

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### 2004 EAA CHAPTER 27 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please fill in the following information and mail with your dues to:  
EAA Chapter 27, c/o Bob Ryan, 6 Manor Ct., North Haven, CT 06473  
(Dues are \$15.00 per year, make checks payable to: EAA Chapter 27)

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

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

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

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

EAA Membership No: \_\_\_\_\_ Pilot rating held: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you own an aircraft?: \_\_\_\_\_ Make & Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Registration No: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you building an aircraft?: \_\_\_\_\_ Make & Model: \_\_\_\_\_ % completed? \_\_\_\_\_



The Leader in Recreational Aviation

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Meetings held on the third Sunday of the month at Meriden-Markham Airport,  
Meriden, CT at 10am unless otherwise noted.  
[www.eaa27.org](http://www.eaa27.org)