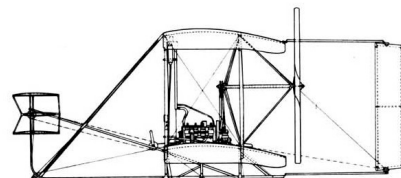




The Flyer



Volume 57, Issue 8

August 2025

From EAA 44 Chapter President Mark Scheda

EAA 44 Friends,

It seems like a long time since I made a significant contribution to our newsletter and despite all the busyness of summer, here we go:

Speaking of significant contributions, I want to first thank Trina Kenney for her many years of dedicated service as EAA 44 Treasurer. Trina has resigned that post to make time for her other commitments, but I am ever so grateful for the work she put in on our behalf over the years. The Treasurer job is one of the most difficult in any volunteer organization because it requires constant attention, a substantial base of knowledge, and the willingness and ability to communicate in detail about our financial goings-on. Chapter 44 is on solid financial footing thanks in large part to Trina's efforts and that of the treasurers who preceded her. Our Bylaws provide for a means to replace an officer when the need arises, and Jeremy Wyatt has stepped up to the plate to take on the Treasurer role. Jeremy has demonstrated his commitment to the chapter, having been present at so many of our gatherings and functions. He's attended ALL of our Board of Directors meetings this year as a guest so he knows how the board works, and in my experience Jeremy is very much a genuine and thoughtful guy. Jeremy and Trina and I have met to effect a smooth transition, and I have every confidence that we are all going to like the job that Jeremy does as Treasurer. Please say hi and Thank You to Jeremy when you see him at our next function!

One of the harder (but also more rewarding) jobs as President is lining up speakers for our monthly gatherings. The reason it's rewarding is that I have the opportunity get acquainted with interesting people I wouldn't otherwise get to meet or know so well. Some of you have said you'd like to have more visibility to upcoming speakers so here we go, as best I know it:

August: Carl Bouwens, Own-design Delta show 'n tell (yes, Carl is bringing his aircraft!)

September: Norm Isler, Gyrocopter build and flight testing

October: Jeff Brooks, Fokker D.VII flight test program

November: Dan Probst, RV-8A build

January: Bob Burns, Air Traffic Control (tentative)

I have some other ideas up my sleeve for 2026, but I am always open to suggestions about who you'd like to hear from – especially if you can introduce me to people you already know who have an interesting story to tell.

(continued next page)

Mission: EAA Chapter 44 is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization of aircraft builders and aviation enthusiasts in the Western New York region dedicated to promoting aviation and encouraging participation in aviation-related activities. These include designing, building and restoring aircraft, education, advocacy, and youth outreach programs. We promote flying with high standards of safety in an environment that supports freedom, family, and personal fulfillment.

(President's message continued)

We've had a summer of significant events – Open House, Young Eagles Rallies, a Young Eagles 2-day workshop, BART, etc. All of those require substantial effort to plan and produce, so it seems appropriate to shout out a sincere thank you to everyone who made them happen. I feel just a little sheepish because planned family vacation(s) have gotten in the way of me being present at some of those events. However it's wonderful to know that so many of you continue to show your commitment to our mission, day-in and day-out. Thank you!

On this next subject, I've wavered about whether to include it at all, but I think it's better that I do raise it. Most of you know of the recent GA-related accidents in our area. I am aware of three, and I certainly hope there aren't more that haven't made my radar. Thankfully, we have not lost any EAA 44 members in these recent accidents, but I know there has been injury close to home, and some of you have lost friends forever. Of course, the dominant emotions are sadness and empathy for those who've experienced a loss, but I reluctantly admit there is a part of me that feels a twinge of anger or resentment for the possibility of poor decision-making on the part of the responsible PICs. No sane pilot intentionally makes an unsafe decision. But when an unsafe decision results in an unfavorable, sometimes catastrophic outcome, all of us who fly, and all of our friends and family bear a greater burden. For us pilots, some of it can be mitigated: we add something to a checklist, or insist on a larger fuel reserve, or choose a safer route of flight (or a myriad of other things including staying on the ground) because of what we learn from the loss. We can control many safety-related factors. But our friends and family have no such control – for them such accidents only intensify the sense of fear that something unthinkable could happen to us, a stressor that none of us want for our loved ones. The foregoing isn't intended to be a rant, but rather a desperate plea for all of us to make safe decisions for the benefit of our loved ones. We owe it to them to be constantly-vigilant, always-safe pilots, and to urge our flying friends to do the same.

On a much lighter note, in July, I had the extreme pleasure of visiting a free-flight model flying competition at Geneseo. It was a bluebird day, so I flew the Colt down to spectate while dozens of model pilots competed in many categories. Our own Vet Thomas was an entrant, so I got to hang with Vet for a while and watch him fly his really beautiful aircraft. I was struck as I walked down the flightline at how silent the competition was, because everything flying was rubber-powered! Not a single internal-combustion engine to be seen nor heard! I witnessed some amazing flights, including a couple of nearly out-of-sight flights where the model was saved only by an effective dethermalizing scheme. Vet can tell you LOTS more about it, but I highly recommend a trip to Geneseo next year to witness some very cool flying and marvelous modeling craftsmanship.

It's been a fantastic summer for VFR flying – a lot of dry air and high barometric pressure. I sincerely hope you've been able to enjoy it as much as I have.

Now go flying safely!

Mark



Mark's Piper Colt at Geneseo, with the C-47 "Whiskey 7" in the background.

Radio Kudos

At the July Gathering, it was made known that member Jim Carpenter had submitted two of our members to be recognized as “Lights in Our Community” on WBEE 92.5 FM . WBEE runs a program called “Be A Light” that is aired each Monday at 8:10 am. This is the verbiage that was read on the air:

“Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 44 member, Rick Tandy, is the coordinator of the Young Eagles Program. This program provides free airplane rides for numerous students throughout the Rochester area. Rick works tremendously hard organizing pilots and students to make the program successful. He volunteers his time freely and expects nothing in return. Nationwide, the EAA Young Eagles program has flown nearly 2.5 million young people, making it the world’s largest aviation program.

In addition, Bob Nelligan-Barrett works with students to refurbish and assemble planes in a project called BART. This program takes place at our EAA building in Brockport as well. Bob works with students on a weekly basis and teaches the necessary skills associated with airplane flight and assembly. Bob gives of his time freely and is totally involved in this program.

Success in both programs have encouraged students to go on to become pilots and/or a career in aviation.”

Thank you, Jim, for offering kudos to two of our hard working members!

Rick Tandy, left, and Bob Nelligan-Barrett, right, and our 2024 Gold Chapter banner in the background!



Oshkosh through my lens, a week of wings, wonder and wow. - by Sri Charitha “Cherry” Velamuri

Oshkosh has been a bucket list dream of mine ever since I first heard whispers of its magic - and now, for the second year in a row, that dream is still very much alive. No matter how many times I go, the thrill never fades. This year’s adventure kicked off at the crack of dawn in Rochester, with Harsh fearlessly taking the wheel as our driver-in-command. I proudly assumed the vital role of commander-in-chief of snacks and beverages, while Jim Straub - true to form - entertained us as the group’s resident wartime storyteller, weaving tales that made the miles fly by. After 14 long hours, we rolled into Columbia Park, our home for the next unforgettable seven days. There, parked along the scenic shores of Lake Winnebago, stood Jim’s brother’s RV - so massive, it made my first grad school apartment look like a broom closet.

What I love most about Oshkosh isn’t just the endless rows of airplanes, it’s the spirit of aviation and the incredible sense of community that brings us all together. On our first day, we went to see the airplanes line up at Fisk, how could we not experience all those iconic wing rocks*. What surprised me the most was to see some of the sharpest and smartest air traffic controllers wearing bright pink shirts, looking at their line of sight and directing all the airplanes towards Oshkosh from a dinky looking TRAILER (at right). One of them was nice enough to even answer our questions.

We arrived early this year with plans to volunteer at Fond du Lac Airport, helping divert some of the Oshkosh traffic. Things started off slow, but as the weather worsened and Oshkosh closed, the pace picked up fast— there were 30 to 40 airplanes landing in just 10 to 15 minutes. Within 20 minutes, the ramp was full, with airplanes parked tightly like a swarm of ants. Until now, Midwestern hospitality was something we’d only heard about - but we experienced it firsthand through the warmth and generosity of EAA Chapter 572. They welcomed us with open arms and patiently showed us the ropes. I know for sure - we’ll be back next year.

We also went on a little mission to find a Baby ACE-and we found it! It had the original blue and white paint scheme and a super shiny Continental engine. We chatted with the owner and pilot, who was very friendly and answered all our questions. He even gave us his contact info in case we had more questions later. We snapped a bunch of photos of the plane for BART, just like Bob asked. Then we met up with Nancy from our chapter, grabbed a bite to eat at the Seaplane Base, and confirmed the heading for Ledgesdale Airport.

Of course, there were countless warbirds, vintage aircraft, homebuilts, and so much more—but what I enjoyed most was simply being at Oshkosh and immersing myself in the incredible aviation community.

Oh, and did I mention I broke my thumb right before the trip? Did it stop me from going and soaking in the Oshkosh magic? Absolutely not. Would I do it all over again? **200% YES.**

Blue Skies and Tailwinds Everyone

Cherry.

*(Editor’s note: Not having been to Oshkosh, I had to ask Cherry what she meant by “wing rocks”. Apparently, the pilot “rocks” their wings as a visual confirmation of a communication.)





At top: Nancy Whatley, Harsh Gupta, and Cherry Velamuri at EAA Chapter 44 heading.

At right: Cherry Velamuri at Oshkosh.

Below: Baby ACE at Homebuilts section, Oshkosh.



EAA Chapter 44 Summer Camp 2025

On Saturday and Sunday, August 2 and 3, EAA 44 revived the summer camp for kids program started some years back and put “On Hold” (along with so many other experiences) by the dreaded covid virus. We set some tight requirements including attendee ages between 11 – 16 (to keep our attendees compatible), and, as it worked out, our ages were even a bit closer than planned, 12-15. Five kids attended, one being a regular from the BART group.

Project managers Elise and Norm Isler worked with several volunteers to bring together an experience that was about ½ classroom learning and ½ hands on projects. Tom Henion gave some real-life experiences of a working airline pilot along with information on weather, aerodynamics and other subjects. “Captain Crosswind” Dave Hurd filled us in on aircraft instruments, navigation and the air traffic control system. Paul Berg and Norm Isler talked about rotorcraft, what makes them similar and what makes them different, from each other and fixed wing. Gail and Jerry Isaac led the hands on workshop building a wood wing rib. Bob Nelligan-Barrett gave a spirited update on the Bart project and Frances Englund and Dan Nicot talked about scholarship opportunities in aviation. Three other chapter members gave a large donation of their time to make this weekend a success: Dave Amsler, Jeremy Wyatt and Darryl Byers.

Our group took a tour of the Ledgeale Airpark, discussing how the airport and traffic around an airport works and checked out the different aircraft based at 7G0. After some shop tool basics and measurement tutoring, we had three “hands on” sessions, with each attendee making (and taking home) an electric project, a metal cell phone stand and a wooden wing rib. While not all the projects looked like an airplane, they all incorporated techniques used in airplane building and repair.

We want to thank all the volunteers that came out to the SAC to help run the program and also thank the team that left the SAC sparkling clean before our event so there was little work to do to prep the building for the weekend.

Plans are already being discussed to repeat the experience next year and hopefully expand the program a bit. To do so, all we need are a few more able-bodied volunteers to help. Please join us, the kids really love it!



Norm & Elise Isler, and the Summer Camp participants.



Tom Henion discussing aircraft types and configurations.



Above: Norm and students during metal shop project.
Below: Bob N-B discussing Baby Ace history.



Paul Berg giving a talk on helicopters.



Dave Hurd discussing the information on sectional maps.



Above: Norm goes over pre-flight procedure with the students.
Right: Gail & Jerry Isaac conducting the Build A Rib workshop.
Below: Norm and students, trying their hands at doing some electrical work.





Dave Amsler showing the students the cockpit, flight instruments, and controls.
Many thanks to Jeremy Wyatt for all the photographs!

EAA Chapter 44 Young Eagles Schedule for 2025

Founded in 1992, the Young Eagles program is dedicated to giving youth ages 8–17, an opportunity to go flying in a general aviation airplane. These flights are offered free of charge and are made possible through the generosity of EAA member volunteers. The Young Eagles program has flown over 2.5 million kids

August 23, 2025 : 10 AM

September 20, 2025 : 10 AM

Please pre-register to reserve your child's aviation adventure! For registration and questions, please contact Rick Tandy at rltandy23@gmail.com

For more information from EAA headquarters about the Young Eagles program, visit www.youngeagles.org

Curtiss Museum looking for parts

The Glenn H. Curtiss Museum in Hammondsport, NY, is looking for 30x5 aircraft tires and 30x5 spoked wheels with hubcaps. This would be for use on their 1929 Fledging aircraft. If anyone can assist, you may contact Carol Anne Adams, the Executive Director of the museum at Director@curtissmuseum.org or by phone at 607-569-7055.

Help Start The Chapter 44 Explorer Post!



We're looking for a few motivated people!

- The chapter survey makes engaging youth in aviation a key priority.
- Starting an Explorer Post may allow us to connect with more youth through Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America).
- Exploring a vocationally oriented Scouting program.
 - <https://www.exploring.org/aviation>
- 4 adults are required to set up the initial leadership of the post. We have 2 and need at least 2 more.
- The anticipated commitment is 1-2 days a month.



Jeremy Wyatt

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390 Reeves Road

Henrietta, NY 14467

What's in it for the youth?

- **Flying Knowledge**
- **Aviation Protocols**
- **Leadership methods**
- **Teamwork**

They will have an opportunity to participate in

- **Flight scenarios**
- **Flight simulator lessons**
- **Tours of airports and aviation facilities**

They will have an opportunity to network with

- **Pilots**
- **Aircraft maintenance technicians**
- **Air traffic controllers**
- **Flight attendants**
- **Airport managers**

They will learn about the educational requirements for a career in Aviation and receive tangible advice on steps they could take now to prepare and position themselves for a successful career in the field of Aviation.

Being associated with Chapter 44, they can learn about building and maintaining aircraft. With the acquisition of the Kitfox 3, they could help restore the plane and learn about what goes into making aircraft airworthy.

Of course, we hope that some of these youth will become regular members of the chapter to help ensure the future of Chapter 44!

Please consider volunteering to be a leader in the new post or helping out at one or two events.

THANK YOU!

Next General Gathering

August 19, 2025 Dinner @ 6:30, Gathering @ 7:30

Norm & Elise Isler will be providing Pulled Pork. Please bring a dish to pass.

This month, our Presenter will be Carl Bouwens, who will be bringing his own design Delta project for show and tell!

SAC Work Day - Saturday before Gen. Gathering, 10 am.

All activities take place at the Sport Aviation Center of Western New York, and are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted.

Sport Aviation Center, EAA Chapter 44
44 Eisenhower Drive, Brockport, NY 14420 Brockport Airport / Ledgesdale Airpark (7G0)
43° 10' 56" N, 77° 55' 1" W

Board Meetings - 2nd Tuesday of the month

General Gatherings - 3rd Tuesday of the month
\$5 Dinner 6:30 pm, Meeting 7:30 pm

BART (Baby Ace Restoration Team) - Every Wednesday 6pm to 9pm, everyone welcome!

VMC/IMC Club (Visual/Instrument Meteorological Conditions) - 2nd Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm

Newsletter Submission Deadline! I like to publish the newsletter on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Please submit pictures and articles by the Saturday preceding that date. Thank you! - The Editor

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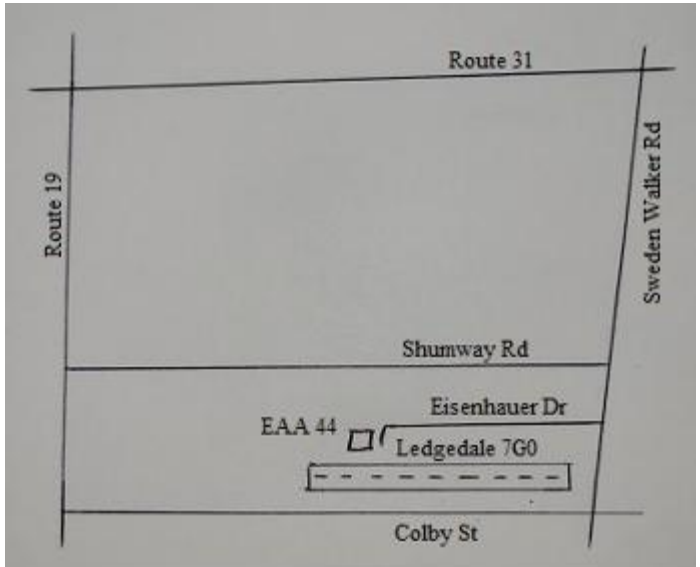
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