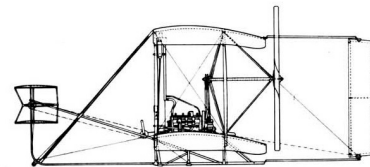




The Flyer



Volume 57, Issue 7

July 2025

From EAA 44 Chapter President Mark Scheda

Chapter 44 is Gold!

I often marvel at the work that so many of you do throughout the year to keep our Chapter a vibrant, welcoming place for aviation enthusiasts to gather. EAA national administers a Chapter Recognition program to highlight those chapters who demonstrate a high level of commitment to General Aviation, and Chapter 44 has earned recognition as a Gold-Level chapter for 2024. Gold is the highest level of recognition a chapter can achieve and our chapter has done so for several years now, providing testimony to the commitment that all of you show, all year long.

How does a chapter qualify for Gold-level status? Well, the recognition is based off ten criteria that have shown to correlate with active and engaged chapters. The criteria (and some commentary from me about how I see our chapter's standing) follow:

- * Attends a chapter leadership training session - check. Four of us attended in 2024 - a GREAT experience I highly recommend to all.
- * Growing or steady membership - yup. Our roster shows 16 new members in the last 12 months.
- * Offers IMC or VMC Club programs – yessiree. Every second Thursday Tom Henion hosts both an IMC and VMC program – an excellent way to stay sharp and learn from your fellow pilots.
- * Participates in Young Eagle or Flying Start programs – you betcha. Rick Tandy organizes four Young Eagles Rallies a year plus several ad-hoc sessions.
- * Has EAA-approved Flight Advisor or Technical Counselor – check. Jim Martin handles both – providing guidance for our Baby Ace build and other build projects around the chapter.
- * Participates in EAA's Annual Chapter Member survey – yes you did. Remember that survey you took in December? It counts in more ways than one.
- * Participates in Young Eagles Build and Fly, Young Eagles Workshops, send a youth to the EAA's Air Academy, or fully completes a Ray Scholarship program. Yes and Yes – although our Young Eagles Workshop was cancelled for 2024, Norm and Elise have us back on track in 2025 and we are consistently graduating new pilots with the Ray Scholar program with Frances' leadership. (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.

(Chapter President's message continued)

* Requests an EAA ChapterBlast email – yup. A good way to get the word out on our Open House event.

* Hosts at least two public events each year – yes. Based on insurance requests for events other than a monthly gathering. We make oodles of insurance requests for things like Open House, Young Eagles Rallies, Young Eagles Workshop, IMC/VMC meetings, BART, and Board of Directors meetings, all of which are open to the public.

* Owns/leases a facility – do we ever! The SAC is among the best in the chapters world base on what I've learned from other chapter leaders.

* Extra credit activity, such as a chapter build project, youth build project, chapter scholarship (separate from Ray Scholars), a chapter tool crib, IAC competition, etc. – of course! Can you say BART?

To earn Gold, a chapter must score on at least 9 of 11 of the criteria (Bronze requires 7 or more, Silver 8 or more). EAA did not reveal our exact number, but we can certainly make a strong case for a perfect score! As always, I'm grateful to have the chance to hang with people with the skill, energy, and spirit of giving which enables all of it to happen!

Bravo,

Mark

P.S.: I also want to mention that the June members gathering was a success! Thank you to all the members who flew their aircraft in, many of which also were at the Open House. Many are pictured in the following Open House article!

OPEN HOUSE 2025 **By Bob Nelligan-Barrett**

Chapter 44's annual Sport Aviation Center Open House Fly-in on June 21st attracted a crowd of families and guests with an interest in aviation. We had a variety of aircraft unlike any we have had before. Thank you, Pilot/Owners, for bringing your aircraft. OnCore Aviation brought TWO planes and a flight simulator to their booth. Past Guest Speaker Austin Hancock had a table to promote his Leland Pennington P-51 Lucy Gal project.

Volunteers endured the heat to park planes and cars, cook on a hot grill, and for those inside the COOL SAC, they had the opportunity to explain Chapter 44 to our guests and describe our programs. Thank you to all of you for your participation, including set-up and tear-down.

The weather was warm and sunny most of the afternoon, but then weather radar showed a major thunderstorm approaching Buffalo and here. The folks from OnCore Aviation had to get their Diamond and Cirrus aircraft back to Buffalo before that, and once they packed up, so did everyone else. Within a short time, most of the planes had left, and our event was over by 2 PM. Oh well, you can't control Mother Nature!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and attended. It was nice to see some long-time Chapter friends join us for the day. Chapter Founder Squeek Hepler's relatives, Victor and Nancy Miller, and Laura Hills, were happy to see the progress on the Baby Ace. Victor and the pilot of the Extra found that they have common friends in the airline industry. Thanks also to Jeffrey Wyatt and Gail Isaac for their photos shown here.



Barry Holtz's 1946 Grumman Super Widgeon



Extra 300



Austin Hancock explains his P-51 Lucy Gal project to Tom Henion.



Paul Berg's Lindy-winning Rotorway helicopter and Dave Amsler's Sonex



Moritz Wagner's Zenair Zenith 701



BART Volunteers



Son explain flight to his Dad.



Young pilots at the flight simulator



It was that kind of day, helo's, gyro's, Skylarks, and Sonex's.



Dave Hurd and his Glasair



OnCore Aviation's Diamond and Cirrus



Bob Nelligan-Barrett with the Baby Ace and BART team members



Who says aviation isn't fun???



Donna and Cherry braving the heat of the grill!



Norm & Elise Isler's ELA Gyrocopter.

EAA Chapter 44 Aviation Summer Camp

EAA Chapter 44 Members: Any Chapter 44 members who would like to volunteer to help with this year's Aviation Camp please contact Norm Isler: NormIsler@aol.com ASAP, Volunteers will be needed to supervise and assist with our planned activities. No special training required! **Please share the following information with anyone you think may be interested in participating.**

EAA 44 Aviation Camp

Ages 11 – 17

August 2 & 3 2025

9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Cost: \$99.00

EAA Chapter 44 Sport Aviation Center
Ledgedale Airpark (5G0)
44 Eisenhower Drive
Brockport NY 14420

Pre-registration is required. Please contact Elise Isler : AviationCamp@eaa44.org for information and a registration form.

Registration closes July 15, 2025

The camp includes 2 days of fun-filled activities all about aviation. Students will be introduced to basic aerodynamics, airplane construction, weather, navigation, instrumentation, different kinds of aircraft, and aviation related career opportunities as well as hands-on experience working with wood and metal and various tools related to building aircraft.

*** Students are asked to bring their own snacks and picnic lunch including a beverage. Water will be provided.

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 2.2 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

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

Cell: 585-410-3943

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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

July 15, 2025 Dinner @ 6:30, Gathering @ 7:30

This month, our Presenter will be Jeffery Brooks, who will be talking about the flight testing program for his homebuilt Fokker D.VII biplane!

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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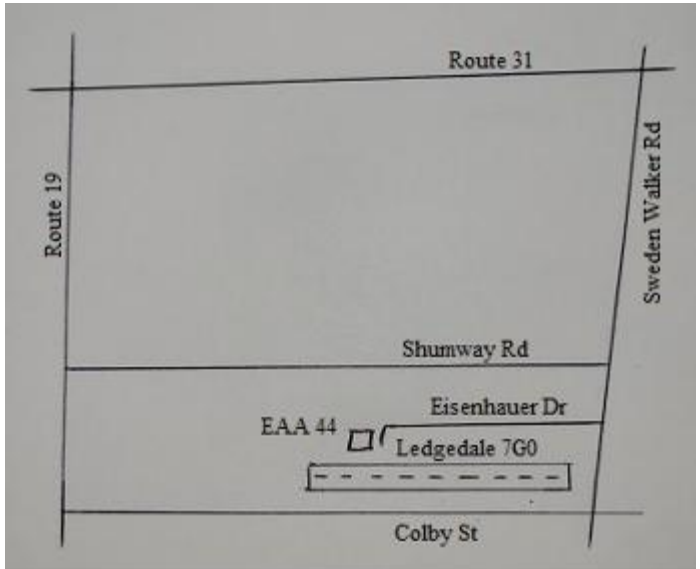
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