



### EAA CHAPTER 72 RAFFLE

RANS S-19 WITH A  
NEW ROTAX ENGINE



**AVIATION HISTORY**  
PLAINFIELD'S AIRWAY  
BEACON WAS SAVED  
AT THE PLAINFIELD  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



### FROM THE LEFT SEAT

EAA 461 WILL HOST  
THE FORD TRIMOTOR  
JUNE 3 - 5



### TBM REUNION & AIR SHOW

FRIDAY, MAY 20TH &  
SATURDAY, MAY 21ST



## From the Left Seat



**G**reetings Chapter 461! Weather. Ugh. That is all I have to say about that.

At our April monthly chapter meeting, EAA Chapters 15 and 461 competed in a Chapter Chili Cook-off to see which chapter would take home the 2022 Chapter Chili Cup. Most everyone had a good time, and I thank all of the volunteers who helped make the event a success! Oh, and I am happy to report that EAA Chapter 461 won the Chapter Chili Cup for 2022! (Looking at you, Craig Kurek!)

EAA Chapter 461 is a  
501(c)(3) non-profit  
charitable organization  
based at Bolingbrook's  
Clow International  
Airport (1C5)



Unfortunately, April did not start our 2022 Young Eagles season quite as we would have liked; however, I am keeping my fingers crossed that we get back on course in May.

To round out our April happenings, I am proud to announce that we earned a Silver Award from EAA Chapters for 2020 and 2021! This is a step up from the Bronze Award we received in 2019, and, with a bit of effort, I think we may be able to strike gold in 2022. Well done Chapter 461!

### Hangar Happenings:

The Girl Scouts have made excellent progress on their Silver Project at the hangar's south entry door. The entryway is looking great so far! Thanks again to Maryann Gates, Julie Soderquist, Girl Scout Troop 75229, and Robbie Culver for making this happen!

Lounge461 is in a (mostly) paused state due to roof leaks that are preventing us from installing our new ceiling. That did not stop Dennis Miendersma from installing the kick panels beneath the lounge railing. They look GREAT, and they will prevent objects from being "kicked" onto unsuspecting heads and airplanes below the lounge.

If you are interested in getting involved in Lounge-461, SimLab-461, or our Pietenpol build, please join us at "Hangar Night" on Thursdays at 7:00 pm, or at "Chow @ Clow" at 5:00 pm on Sundays. You may also check the events section of our website (<https://www.eaa461.org/events/>) for the most up-to-date view of chapter events, or you can request more information via email: [contacus@eaa461.org](mailto:contacus@eaa461.org)

### Chapter Waypoints:

As mentioned previously, we will host an EAA Ford Trimotor aircraft June 3 - 5, 2022 in conjunction with our annual Cavalcade of Planes! Volunteers will be needed to support the aircraft and flying operations.

Details from EAA are as follows:

[EAA Chapter Manual](#)

[EAA Chapter Hosting Summary](#)

Additionally, EAA HQ sent us fifty posters, 100 table tents, 200 brochures, and 2 large (~10ft x 4ft) banners to help get the word out about Cavalcade.

## Aviation For All Ages and Interests

<https://www.eaa461.org>



Whether you fly, build, restore or simply enjoy airplanes and aviation, you are welcome to attend our events and join our chapter. We are a group of aviation enthusiasts, aircraft builders, and pilots who get together with like-minded people to share ideas, exchange information, encourage safety, serve the local aviation community and have a lot of fun doing so.

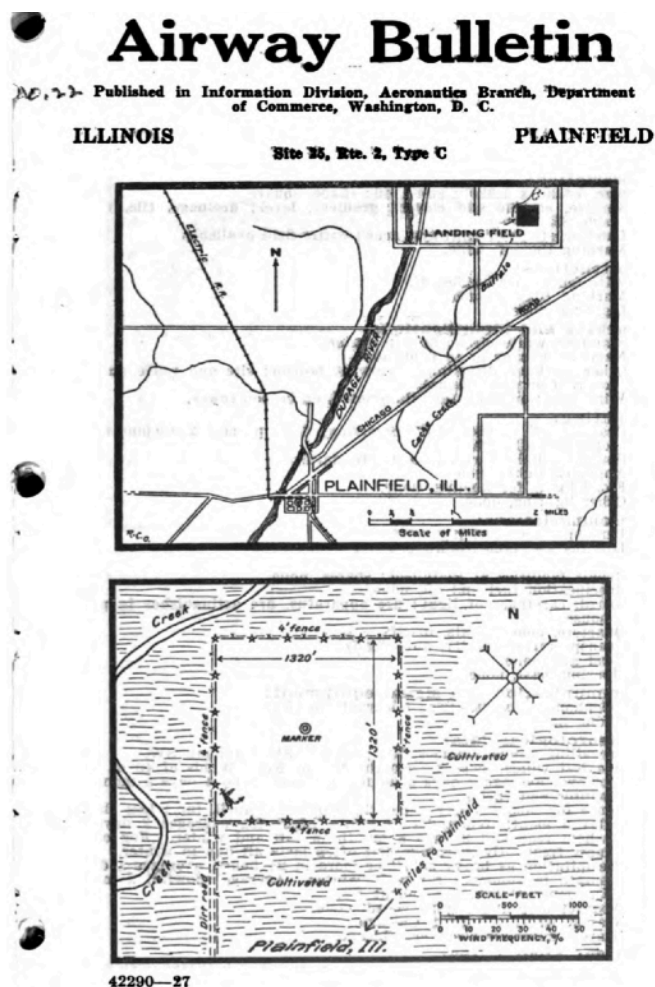
Finally, at this year's event, we will conduct a "GA Parade" flyover of up to 6 aircraft (not a formation flight) in order to showcase General Aviation aircraft in addition to the warbirds. If you are a pilot and aircraft owner who is interested in participating in the "GA Parade" at Cavalcade, please let me know. I will provide you with more information including a biography template to complete. Biographies need to be delivered to Joe DePaulo by May 15, so please don't hesitate!

VFRs!

## Early Airmail Sites near 1C5

*Robbie Culver*

**D**id you know there was once an emergency landing field for airmail route #2 in Plainfield just to the southwest of where Clow is? That there were airmail beacons northeast and southwest of Clow long before the airport? That Airmail Route 2 passed directly over the fields where Clow was built?



## MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Chapter meets on the first Thursday of the month at Clow International Airport, typically at the Illinois Aviation Museum starting at 7:00 pm. Family members, extended family and guests are always welcome.



## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership dues for EAA Chapter 461 are \$25 per year and are due on the first of January each calendar year. Chapter 461 members are to be current members of the EAA, Oshkosh, WI.

Individual membership to the EAA is \$40 per year. Family memberships are available for an additional \$10 per year. Both include a twelve-month subscription to Sport Aviation magazine.



**PLAINFIELD, ILL.****Name:** Site No. 25, Route No. 2.**Class:**

Intermediate. Rating, —.

Owner, Frank Day, route No. 5, Plainfield, Ill.; operator, Department of Commerce.  
Caretaker, Frank Day.**Position:**Lat. 41° 39' 25"; long. 88° 08' 40"; alt. above sea level, 635';  
mag. var. 2° 18' E., 1927; annual decrease, 3'.  
Distance and direction from city, 4 miles NE. (40° true).**Description:**Size, 1,320' x 1,320'; acres, 40; shape, square.  
Surface, stubble and clover; gradient, level; drainage, tile, to W. side SE. corner.  
Landing strips or runways, none; entire field available.  
Marking thereof, none.**Obstructions:**Wire fence on all sides, 4'.  
Marking (day), none.  
Lighting, none.**Marking and identification:**Standard white circle, 60', in center.  
Name on hangar or in field, none.  
Other marking, directional arrow at beacon; site and route numbers on roof or power house.  
Wind-direction indicator, illuminated, on beacon tower.**Lighting:**Beacon, SW. corner, 24" revolving, 6 r. p. m.; 2,000,000 c. p.; operated all night.  
Boundary lights, white, on 4' standards.  
Approach lights, none.  
Flood lights for landing, none.  
Other lighting, none.**Accommodations:**Personnel for servicing, none.  
Landing fee, none; storage, none.  
Hangars, none.  
Repair facilities at Plainfield; spares, none.  
Specification fuel and oil, none.  
Guard, caretaker of light; fire apparatus, fire extinguisher in power house.  
Quarters, none; meals, in city.  
Transportation to city, auto roads.  
First aid, none.  
Mooring mast, none.**Communication and signal equipment:**Telephone at caretaker's; telegraph, in city.  
Radio, none.**Meteorological data:**Prevailing winds, summer, NE.; winter, SW.; annual, SW.  
Heaviest winds, usually from the NE. or SW. Winds of 40 m. p. h. or over average 2 days a month in summer and 4 days a month in winter and spring.  
Dense fog, about 1 day a month, September–April, inc.; less than 1 day a month remainder of year. Light fog averages 2 days for whole year and 3 days a month in fall and winter. Fog occurs most frequently mornings, but often lasts all day in winter.  
Precipitation as heavy as 1" or more in 24 hours, averages 1 day a month in summer; rarely in winter. Average snowfall a month, December–March, inc., about 8".  
Weather map and display board, none.  
Nearest weather bureau, Chicago.  
Nearest upper-air observer, Chicago.**AB 22: April 7, 1927.**

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1927

While doing some research for an ongoing aviation history project, I found information in the *Airway Bulletin* published by the Aeronautics Branch of the US Commerce Department in 1927. The emergency landing field was labeled Site 25, Route 2, Type C.

The airfield (more of a fenced pasture) would have been located southwest of the current location of Clow International airport, just west of Kings Rd and north of W 127th St, adjacent to Lily Cache Creek. It appears the Bolingbrook Golf Club course is there now.

## Board of Directors

Chairman - Dean Karafa

Al Bally

Angela Greer

Gia Kapp

Jeff Krasowski

Amy Reeb

Rich Tichy

**YOU CAN FIND  
US ON  
FACEBOOK!**



## HANGAR NIGHT

Every Thursday evening from 7 pm to 9 pm we host a "hangar night" where we learn, we build aircraft, we socialize, and we work on our hangar.

No experience is required, no membership dues must be paid, and no expectations are set.

Come out, meet friends you haven't met yet, see what the buzz is all about, and join in the fun!

Contract Air Mail Route #2 passed almost right over Clow (long before the airport existed) when it began service in April 1926. The route was from Chicago's Maywood field to St Louis Lambert field, with intermediate stops in Peoria and Springfield, IL.

An article on [patch.com](https://patch.com/illinois/plainfield/lambert-old-school-site-tied-to-village-history) dated May 10, 2012 stated "Between July 1923 and June 1924, the airway route planning and technology came together. Between Chicago and Cheyenne, a first-of-its-kind system of guiding light beacons was established. The navigational system included 289 gas-powered, flashing, electric light beacons; 34 emergency landing field sites, equipped with rotating electric beacons, boundary markers and telephones; five terminal landing fields, equipped with beacons, floodlights and boundary markers; and 17 planes with luminous instruments, navigation lights, landing lights and parachute flares.

Among the navigational sites selected were two in Wheatland Township. A beacon tower and generating plant were erected on the Robins-Thompson farm. An emergency landing field was constructed at the Frank Day farm, nearly two miles east of the beacon site."

<https://patch.com/illinois/plainfield/lambert-old-school-site-tied-to-village-history>

By July 1927, the airway was lighted with rotating 24-inch diameter beacons with 2,000,000 candle power each. They turned at 6 RPM and were spaced 10 miles apart to guide the aircraft.

There were three airway beacons near Clow - one near Route 53 east-northeast of Clow, one at the emergency field, and one in Plainfield on Book Rd between 119th and 127th street. Plainfield's beacon tower was saved (which is rare), and now sits at the Plainfield Historical Society where it can be seen as you fly back to Clow from the southwest, if you look carefully. It's easy to find from a Champ going 80 mph at 1900' MSL!

If you're driving, it is right by the DuPage river west of the railroad tracks in downtown Plainfield. The links below have information on both beacons. (The Plainfield Historical Society apparently only has a Facebook page)

<https://thesurveystation.com/map-of-ngs-airway-beacons/>

Designation: Beacon site (moved) north of Plainfield, IL

Coordinates: 41.660056,-88.185067

Status Report: Beacon intact but moved, no arrow, no shed, as of

## Chapter Leadership

President & Web Editor:

Chad E. Carlson

Vice President: Al Bally

Treasurer: Josh Krecek

Secretary: Alexander Falco  
Sonnenberg :

Young Eagles Coordinator:  
Al Bally

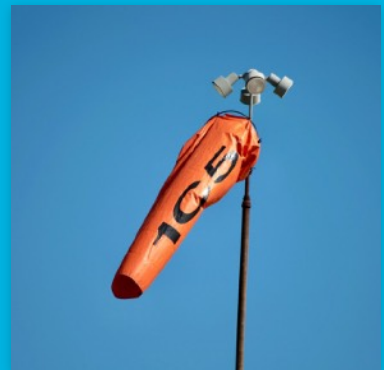
Membership Coordinator:

Angela Greer

Facilities Coordinator and

Newsletter Editor:

Robbie Culver



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing address:

118 S. Clow International  
Parkway, Bolingbrook, IL  
60490

<http://bbclowairport.com>

Email address

[contactus@eaa461.org](mailto:contactus@eaa461.org)

3/18/2016. There is a beacon that was north of Plainfield, Illinois, that was saved in 2014 and moved about four miles by the Plainfield Historical Society to the Railroad Museum located on Illinois Route 126 near the Du Page River and the CN rail line (formally the E,J, & E). It was located on Book Rd, between 119th street and 127th Street. Reported by Roger Helm.

Dave DuPree wrote on <https://thesurveystation.com/2016/04/10/beacon-near-plainfield-illinois/> the following:

“The tower in Plainfield isn’t just any old beacon tower. It’s one of the very early towers erected by the Air Mail Service of the U. S. Post Office Department. These were essentially windmill towers, modified and built by the Baker Manufacturing Company of Evansville, WI. They were originally designed in 1922-23 to support an 18” rotating beacon.

However, by 1925 the 18” beacons had been deemed inadequate and were replaced with larger and heavier 24” beacons. In 1927-28, after the Dept. of Commerce assumed responsibility for the federal airways, a beefier, derrick type tower was sought to support a 24” beacon, two course lights and additional equipment (and to provide a larger, safer work platform). From that point forward, all federal airway beacon towers were evidently supplied solely by the International Derrick & Equipment Co. (IDECO), a manufacturer of steel oil derricks.

Those early Baker towers quickly became symbols not only of the U. S. Air Mail, but of aviation progress in general. Photos of the towers, often with a mail plane overhead, appeared in newspapers all across the country in the 1920s. The towers lined the lighted portions of the first transcontinental airway, and continued in service long after the Dept. of Commerce took over. A few of these old towers were still being used by the FAA to support antennas as late as the 1970s. Then they disappeared. After more than a decade of searching I have found only two survivors. The other, reduced in height by a few feet, serves as an airport beacon tower in Kansas.”

The one northeast of Clow near Rt 53 may be located here:

[https://www.ngs.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/ds\\_mark.prl?PidBox=MF1330](https://www.ngs.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/ds_mark.prl?PidBox=MF1330)

More information on why the beacons were built can be found at the following link - and if you want to see what an airmail beacon looks like up close, there is one in a hangar at Clow!

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transcontinental\\_Airway\\_System](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transcontinental_Airway_System)

## *Tickets Now on Sale for EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2022*

Weekly and daily admission tickets for the 69th edition of EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, EAA’s annual fly-in convention, are now available online for the event at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, on July 25-31, 2022. Additional special offers and advance purchase parking passes will be available in the coming weeks.

[Click here for tickets](#)

Again in 2022, all attendees ages 18 and under are admitted free, supported in part by The Boeing Company. In addition, EAA members who purchase admissions prior to June 15, 2022, are eligible to receive their admission wristbands in advance via the Express Arrival program.

While admissions are available at the gate, early online purchase gives the best discounts, options for faster entry to the grounds, and additional information and insights prior to the event.



Editor's note: Once you start reading about, you'll be hooked! I found a new way to kill time by researching Illinois aviation history, and it is uncovering all sorts of cool stuff!

## Ray Aviation Scholar Update

*Emily Vineyard*



Hi everyone!

Here's an update on my Ray aviation scholarship progress!

As I'm sure you have noticed the weather has been horrible and I was only able to complete a single ground school this month because I can only fly weekends until I get out of school.

This is my Junior year as you all know and I must maintain a high GPA to make sure I don't lose the academic scholarship I have at Lewis University and that means I can't skip school during the week.

The good news is that the Flying School is making every resource available to me so that when summer break hits in a few weeks I'll be able to come in several times a week and I'm sure I will solo quickly! I was almost ready before the Winter closed in but you know how Illinois is.

As an update I have included a photo of myself and my friend Hannah under the Challenger at the Illinois Aviation Museum. The Kids Club I run, called Future Aviators of America, volunteered to help hang the plane, which was soloed by a young lady when she was only 9 years old!

It amazes me that she was able to solo that at 9 and here I am at 16 working on mine!

### *One Week Wonder Paint Scheme*

Aviation enthusiasts will be able to choose their favorite paint design for this year's One Week Wonder aircraft being built in a seven-day period during EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2022. The 69th edition of the EAA's fly-in convention is July 25-31 at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

This year's project will begin on Monday morning, July 25, with a goal to taxi the airplane — a Sonex Waix powered by a Rotax 912iS engine — on Sunday afternoon, July 31. Volunteer builders will be joined by thousands of AirVenture attendees who will “pop a rivet” and become part of the builder's log for the aircraft.

Voting for the airplane's paint scheme is currently underway, with 10 options created by Craig Barnett, CEO of Scheme Designers Inc., on the ballot at [EAA.org/Paint22](http://EAA.org/Paint22).

The first round of voting, which ends on June 15, 2022, will narrow the list to three finalists that will again be open for in-person voting at the One Week Wonder tent during AirVenture 2022. The winning paint scheme will be announced on Sunday, July 31, during AirVenture week.

# Hangar Night

*Lunas Tailien*

Chad has written in *Left Seat* about what we call “Hangar Night.” Every Thursday evening from 7 pm to 9 pm we gather to work on our Pietenpol project, the hangar lounge, learn about aviation - and, most recently - fly!

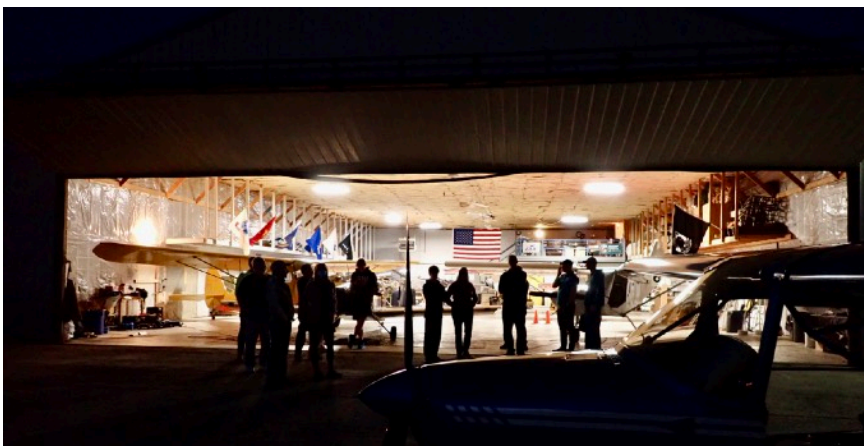


Our April 21st Hangar Night happened to be on a perfect warm spring evening, and with a series of rotten weekends for aviating, we chose to fly instead of work.

Melody was a magic chariot for some of our volunteers, and rides were given past sunset into the night. For some, it was a reminder of the joy of aviation, for others a new experience flying at night.

A special, unexpected treat was seen in the eastern sky as a SpaceX Starlink constellation passed brightly over the hangar.

If you haven't been out to share in the fun, come join us!



## Activities for Kids at EAA

### AirVenture Oshkosh 2022

EAA founder Paul Poberezny said it from the start: get the kids and families involved at the annual EAA fly-in and it will become an annual family tradition.

The same holds true at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2022, as young people will find plenty to do and discover at Oshkosh on July 25-31.



Again this year, it's free admission for all those age 18 and under, thanks in part from support by The Boeing Company.

For more information [click here](#)

Activities include:

KidVenture

Youth Education Center

EAA Aviation Museum/  
KidVenture area

Young Eagles 30th  
anniversary

Warbirds area flight  
simulators



# EAA Chapter 72 Raffle

*Jim Steward*

*President, EAA Bruce McCombs Chapter 72*



I am the President of EAA Bruce McCombs Chapter 72 in Falcon, Colorado. We were gifted a nearly complete and professionally built RANS S-19 with a factory new Rotax engine and propeller still in the box. Chapter 72 members completed the project and it is scheduled to be painted in June.

We have elected to raffle this incredible airplane off. The proceeds of the raffle will be used to offer scholarships to future pilots and mechanics.

In addition, we hope to acquire a new simulator in which to help these future pilots with additional training and at the same time provide a resource for other local pilots. Our goal is to sell 2500 tickets at \$100.00 each by the drawing date of December 17th 2022.

The website for the raffle is [www.eaa72raffle.org](http://www.eaa72raffle.org) where you can find more information, official rules and purchase tickets.

The Grand Prize is a 2022 RANS S-19 E-AB equipped with a factory new Rotax 912-ULS engine with RANS engine/exhaust kits, and a Sensenich composite ground adjustable propeller.

Avionics include: Two Dynon D700 displays, Dynon EMS-220 engine monitoring module, Dynon ADHRS primary and secondary, Dynon roll and pitch servos, Dynon AOA/pitot probe,

## Celebrating Van's Aircraft RV 50th Anniversary

The 50th anniversary of the Van's Aircraft RV series, which has become the world's most popular kit airplane, will be a major element of homebuilt aircraft activities at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2022. EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, the 69th edition of the EAA's fly-in convention, is July 25-31 at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh.



"While aircraft kits have existed for more than a century, it was 50 years ago that Richard VanGrunsven introduced a model that would move the homebuilt movement into an age where kit aircraft would become dominant," said Charlie Becker, EAA's director of chapters and homebuilt community manager. "Today, more than 11,000 completed RV models are the direct descendants of that first RV-3 in 1972. We invite all of them to be present at Oshkosh as we celebrate a half-century of success."

Read more [here](#).

Dynon backup battery, Dynon Mode-S transponder, Dynon GPS-2020 ADS-B OUT and a Garmin SL40 Comm.

## Hangar Work

*Robbie Culver*

As part of a Silver Award project, Girl Scout Troop 75229 has been working on a project to improve the entrance to our EAA hangar.

The young ladies worked to plan the project, gather materials, and then implement their plan - and the result is fantastic! We now have paving stones and pea gravel leading from the taxiway to the door, and the door is being painted soon with a compass rose and EAA 461 logo to be added shortly after.

A big THANK YOU to Maryann Gates, Julie Soderquist, all the adult volunteers and Girl Scout Troop 75229!



## Help Pick the Paint Scheme for the One Week Wonder

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# City of Peru Presents



**TBM AVENGER**  
and  
REUNION

# SALUTE TO VETERANS

## Illinois Valley Regional Airport, PERU, IL

**FREE ADMISSION ★ FREE PARKING**  
**COURTESY OF CITY OF PERU**

## TWO-DAY EVENT!

**Fri., May 20 • 11am - 10pm**

**Sat., May 21 • 9am - 4pm**

## Veterans' Parade & Flag Ceremony at Noon Saturday

## See Warbirds Make History Come Alive and Honor our Veterans

Squadron of TBM Avengers - largest gathering in the U.S.  
Veterans Parade and March, TBM Missing Man Flying Salute,  
Historic aircraft flights and helicopter rides available - Famous  
Warbirds from WWII, Korea and Vietnam will feature flight  
demonstrations, formation flying and simulated torpedo runs.

**Returning Friday Night is the spectacular airshow by the Aeroshell Acrobatic team with their vintage T-6 Texans, brought to us by Marquis Energy. Join us for great food and a beer garden with music by "She's a Maybe".**



[www.tbmreunion.org](http://www.tbmreunion.org)

For show details, visit our Facebook page  
TBM Avenger Reunion.



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*Young Eagles  
30th Anniversary  
Celebration*

2022 marks 30 years since the Young Eagles program was launched at EAA Oshkosh in 1992. EAA will be kicking off the Young Eagles 30th anniversary at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2022, which will include a number of special AirVenture activities, and year-round recognition of volunteers.

30 Flights for 30 Years: Volunteer Young Eagles pilots who fly 30 youths between August 1, 2022, and July 31, 2023, will be awarded a commemorative polo shirt. Once pilots reach this milestone, EAA will contact pilots to request their shirt size.

Ground Volunteer – 30th Anniversary Pins: The Young Eagles program would not be possible without the amazing ground volunteers. Chapters can request commemorative pins to award to ground volunteers. Pins will not be sent until the summer of 2022, but EAA is now accepting orders.