



FROM THE LEFT SEAT!

IN THIS ISSUE!

FROM THE LEFT SEAT

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TO FLY WEEK

FORD TRI-MOTOR
TOUR 2024

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



Greetings Chapter 461,

It has been a while - too long, really - since I have been able to sit down, focus, and write, and I apologize for the lengthy silence. That said, I am happy to report that my idle keyboard is not an indication of idle hands. In fact, as the picture suggests, I have been quite busy training my new puppy pilot, Barley (Golden Retriever, born October 7, 2023)! Okay, excuses and exceptions aside, I will now do my best to recap November 2023 to present:

- November 23, 2023: Thanksgiving
- December 7 - 15, 2023: Hanukkah
- December 25, 2023: Christmas
- January 1, 2024: New Years Day
- February 25, 2024: 12th Annual Chicagoland EAA Chapter Leaders Conference
- March 16, 2024: Dean Karafa presented The Apollo Project (Thanks Dean!)
- March 31, 2024: Easter
- April 1, 2024: U.S. Air Force reactivated the SR-71 program

In all seriousness, we remained quite busy this past winter with a majority of our time and effort focused on hosting Hangar Nights where John Tatro and RV Bob worked tirelessly to develop and execute a remarkable chapter build program. It is difficult to overstate the excitement those two generate, and seeing EAA's "roots" on display reignited my motivation toward my personal RV-14A build that stalled in mid-2023 due to problems with laser cut parts (more on that later). As you know (if you don't, you are about to), we just crossed the threshold into April. That means it is almost time for - you guessed it - Young Eagles! And if my inbox is any indication, this is already shaping up to be another busy year which is... wait for it... a very good problem to have! With this in mind, I ask all of our YE volunteers - non-pilots and pilots alike - to refresh their knowledge of the Young Eagles Program and our specific routes of flight. Additional details are available here:

- YE Program: <https://tinyurl.com/EAA461YE>
- 461 YE Routes: <https://tinyurl.com/EAA461YE>

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Cavalcade 2024

Looking a bit further ahead, we are rapidly approaching the 2024 Cavalcade of Planes (June 1 & 2). The event is coming together well, and Chapter 461 is stepping forward this year with the following activities and presentations scheduled:

- EAA's Ford Trimotor
- Rick Ernst's... well, here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJecDgx0OSc>
- Matt Hissem's Mercury and Gemini 1:1 capsule mockups
- Young Eagles promotion
- Merchandise table
- 50/50 raffles

We are going to need a slew of volunteers to keep the Ford and our hangar running safely and smoothly at Cavalcade. Admission and food are offered at no charge to volunteers, so please block off part (all) of that weekend and join in the fun!

Oshkosh Camping

Building further on the theme of summer and fun: on March 1, we secured twelve (12) chapter camping slots at Camp Scholler for EAA AirVenture 2024 (July 22 -28). I believe we are aiming for more "Spirit 461" this year than in recent years, and I think that is - as Dean often says - only fantastic!

Please contact Sara Gentile, Amy Reeb, and/or Jamie Nolan for more information about this year's chapter camping adventure. Please let me know if you need their contact information.

Hangar Happenings

- In December, we received a \$2,500 grant from Enterprise Trucking based on a grant submission entered on our behalf by Laura Marchese. On behalf of EAA Chapter 461 I would like to shout out: THANK YOU LAURA!!!
- In January, Ozan Kalan and I combined the \$2,500 from Enterprise Trucking with \$550 in Best Buy gift cards donated by John Wiess to buy and build a brand new flight simulator for the chapter. The sim sports a 13th generation Intel I9 CPU, 64GB RAM, and an NVIDIA 4070 graphics card, and it is aptly named the Big Flight Simulator (BFS).
- On or about June 11, significant ramp and taxiway work will commence at 1C5, and this work may result in some areas of the airport being temporarily inaccessible by aircraft. Additional information will be available and shared soon.

Chapter Waypoints

- Our events page is up to date for the remainder of 2024, and it may be viewed here: <https://www.eaa461.org/events> If we are missing an event you think should be in the list, please let us know via: contactus@eaa461.org

RV-14A Update:

As I alluded to earlier, enthusiasm for our chapter build project combined with some positive news from Van's Aircraft to reignite my motivation to work on my RV-14A. In March, after months of stagnation resulting from the laser cut parts debacle, I received 344 brand new CNC punched parts from Van's to replace all of the laser cut parts that arrived in my various kits. That was a good first step, and another good step came when Van's filed their reorganization plan on March 29. The general consensus appears to be that the plan is sound and Van's is well positioned to survive their CH11 bankruptcy. My shop is just about back in shape, and I hope to start smashing rivets in the very near future.

I'll see you on the flightline!

VFRs

461 HAPPENINGS @ CLOW

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.

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!

YOUNG EAGLES:

We fly Young Eagles (kids ages 8 thru 17) on the 2nd Saturday of each month - April thru October - weather permitting. Starting at 9am and running till about noon.

CHOW @ CLOW

Join us Sunday evenings at 5pm for Food, Fellowship and maybe some Flying at the 461 hangar. Bring your own food as we hang out and wind-down the week!

THE BREAKFAST CLUB @ CHARLIES

Come out to Charlies on Saturday mornings at 7am and have breakfast with 461 members. Some of these characters can even tell you about the other Breakfast Club they were apart of back in high school.

461 Youth - Where are they now!

Angelina Kapp

Angelina got involved in 461 back in the winter of 2017 and attended monthly meeting and volunteered with young eagles, cavalcade as well as other events. She started a youth group with the chapter for local high school females interested in aviation.

Since graduating in spring of 2022 I have been in more hotel rooms than I thought possible! I stayed with my cousins in Seattle and earned my seaplane rating. Highly recommend to at least take a flight if the opportunity ever arises. I interviewed for and researched a ton of entry level pilot jobs. Eventually I decided to pursue aerial survey and I moved to St. Louis. I flew a cessna 206 stationair for about 6 months and earned my CFII on the side. Occasionally working with a flight school on my days off to help with discovery flights and some instruction.



I loved St. Louis. Matt and I got engaged shortly after and he was flying as a captain for Endeavor Air. Then more opportunities presented themselves to us and we worked hard for them. Matt got hired on as a 777 first officer for United and needed to move to SFO. During this time I saw a listing for a survey company that flew Cessna Caravans and I could relocate to the bay as well. I flew my butt off. We became the proud parents of a Busbhy Mustand ii and flew it from STL to LVK last spring. During my off days we kept flying for fun together and then flew into the sunset (pun intended)! We got married last June <3

Last August I changed jobs once more and became a first officer for NetJets Aviation. I am flying a Citation Latitude and absolutely love it! I typically fly across the US but I have also been to the Caribbean and the Bahamas several times. In our off days we really love hiking and exploring the bay. We love to camp and are working on visiting all of the national parks too. I hope you guys are all doing well.



Sincerely,
Angelina

EAA LEARN TO FLY WEEK INSPIRES FUTURE PILOTS MAY 13-18

Aspiring pilots can kick-start their aviation journey as EAA Learn to Fly Week returns on May 13-18. The six-day event enters its second year with expanded webinar offerings, and new topics to explore. Learn to Fly Week is supported by Sporty's.

"Learning to fly can seem like a daunting task at first," said David Leiting, EAA Eagles Program manager, "but EAA's Learn to Fly Week will help the dream remain larger than any hurdles."

Learn to Fly Week begins with 15 webinars scheduled over the first five days, May 13-17. EAA staff members and industry experts will be hosting each webinar. New topics for 2024 include getting started with helicopters, aircraft options for flight training, and training with FAA-approved flight simulators. All webinars are free to attend, but online pre-registration is required.

The week concludes on Saturday, May 18, with EAA Flying Start programs held at numerous chapters throughout the country. At those locations, prospective pilots can connect with the local aviation community, discover flight training opportunities available in their area, and take a free introductory Eagle Flight as part of EAA's program for adults that connects them with aviation resources.



EAA 461 South
Robbie Culver

Brenda and I moved to Aero Estates (T25) in Frankston, TX in September 2023. Aero Estates has a grass runway, a seaplane base on Lake Palestine adjacent to the property, and an EAA chapter. There are a half dozen active aircraft projects on the field. In other words, it is an aviation geek's paradise!

Moving was an epic adventure, involving two cars, two large dogs, two airplanes, and a lot of faith. It worked out well for us, and we truly could not be any luckier in how it turned out.



So many things went in to the decision to move, not the least of which is wanting to live at an airpark. Part of our experience of moving here was designing a hangar home, and arranging the clearing of the lot and construction of the hangar and home. We designed the hangar to be 50' by 50' with a house attached to the back. Appropriately, the house is smaller than the hangar. We were exceptionally lucky to have found a rental home on the airpark, just about 100 yards from the lot we bought.

The home is "Barndominium" style with a large open area in one corner, three bedrooms, two and a half baths, and a mudroom for the dogs. The rear of the lot opens into a natural area that is reserved as a park and cannot be developed, and we designed the home to look out over the trees.



We had purchased the lot at the airpark in early 2023, and once we got here construction began by early October. We watched as the lot was cleared, dirt was brought in and leveled, and the concrete pad was poured for the hangar on November 16th. Living nearby was a huge advantage - we were able to visit the construction site every day, keep an eye on the progress, take lots of photos and ask lots of questions. I cannot imagine trying to do this from a long distance.

EAA FORD TRI-MOTOR TOUR 2024

Stops already confirmed for
2024 include:

Albuquerque, New Mexico

April 4-7

Alamogordo, New Mexico

April 11-14

San Angelo, Texas

April 18-21

Midland, Texas

April 25-28

Abilene, Texas

May 2-5

Fort Worth, Texas

May 9-12

Ada, Oklahoma

May 16-19

Springfield, Missouri

May 23-26

Bolingbrook, Illinois

May 30-June 2

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

June 6-9

Peoria, Illinois

June 13-16

Lee's Summit, Missouri

June 20-23

Madison, Wisconsin

June 27-30

Oshkosh, Wisconsin

July 22-28

Additional tour stops will be added to the schedule as they are finalized.

EAA's Tri-Motor was built by Ford Motor Company and first flew in August 1929. The airliner was flown in Cuba and the Dominican Republic for most of the 1930s and '40s until it returned to the United States in 1949 where it would serve a variety of purposes including barnstorming and firefighting. EAA's Tri-Motor also appeared in two feature films, Jerry Lewis' 1965 comedy *The Family Jewels*, and the 2009 crime drama *Public Enemies* starring Johnny Depp.

As construction progressed, we watched the hangar steel go up, the house being framed in, and all the walls closed up. We were delighted to host John, Laura, Jake and Amelia Marchese on December 29th. Our first guests, and it was absolutely fantastic to see them. Watching Jake by the runway as our neighbor came in to land his RANS S-21 was a blast, and hearing Amelia tell us about the birds at the lake was super cool. Our son Josh also was here visiting on winter break from college - we all enjoyed wandering around in the wood-framed home under construction and talking about life, aviation, and nature. The hangar door was one of the biggest challenges of the build process - it is a Schweiss bifold much like the ones at Clow. We arranged to have it shipped from Minnesota to the airpark and then installed on the hangar steel frame. This process was crazy - and definitely not cheap - but to us, it was one of the most important aspects of the hangar. The door faces the taxiway/street, and is the first thing people see when they come to the home. We chose to sheet the hangar and home in blue with white trim, and the results are spectacular.



Obviously, part of the fun of living at an airpark is the airplanes and the runway! We have thoroughly enjoyed being able to walk out to the hangar, pull the planes out, and go fly on short notice. No need to move airplanes to get the Sonex or the Champ out! Texas has an incredible amount of airports, and the airpark has a vibrant, energetic aviation community. We did an early annual on the Champ to avoid doing so in the summer heat, and it was half the cost - we did most of the work to take it apart and put it together. Brenda learned a lot!



It's now early April 2024, the hangar is done, the house is being finished out, and we may be able to move in by the end of the month. Soon the dogs will have to learn a new route home on our daily walks, and we will be moving all of our remaining stuff again. Living at an airpark has been everything we hoped for, and so much more - we have great neighbors, a lot of things to do, and a beautiful area to explore! We are living a dream, and counting our blessings in being so fortunate to do so.



YOUNG EAGLES FLYING SEASON GETS UNDERWAY

It was a bright and beautiful sunny April day for an EAA Young Eagles Rally! We were fortunate to be able to provide 51 children / teens the opportunity to fly! For so many of these youth, it was their first time up in a private plane, and we are so privileged to offer this experience. Thank you to our pilots, our ground crew and registration volunteers. I especially want to thank all of the teenage volunteers who dedicated their time and talent!! - Amy



**Young
Eagles**
a club

EAA461's very own! - Arzania "Zook" Williams

RETIRING NAPERVILLE PARK POLICE OFFICER HONORED FOR 40 YEARS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE!



In one form or another, Naperville Park Police Officer Arzania "Zook" Williams has been serving Naperville since the mid-1980s. As he closes out his career and reflects on his time working in multiple agencies, Williams has been presented with several awards and commendations.

Naperville 'one of the best places to be in the country,' says Williams

Williams said he is overcome with gratitude to Naperville's leaders, residents, and the business community for their part in fostering such a rich and fulfilling career.

"I've never been held back with my opportunities to advance in this city," Williams said at Thursday's Naperville Park Board meeting. "This is one of the best places to be in the country, and I hope you guys don't take that for granted. We have a wonderful place to live, and a wonderful place to work, and with that, I'm glad to have been a part of it."

Williams recognized for decades of service

The Naperville Park Board recognized Williams for his decade of service as an officer of the local parks as he prepares for retirement with a certificate of recognition. The Naperville Police Department also presented Williams with a meritorious service award.

Mayor Scott Wehrli, Naperville Park District Police Chief Steve Schindlebeck, and Naperville Police Chief Jason Arres were on hand at Thursday's recognition ceremony.

Williams previously served on the City of Naperville's Police Department in the preceding three decades and gained notoriety for his affinity toward mentoring and training officers and fostering positive relationships with people in the community.

In presenting Williams with the meritorious service award, Arres indicated it is one of the highest honors a sworn officer can receive. Williams' recognition, Arres said, is based on the various roles he has played in the community — including a patrol officer and detective — and for giving "blood, sweat and tears to this community in two different roles of law enforcement."

"For everything you've done, Zook, you have more than earned this meritorious service award," Arres said. "Thanks for everything you did, and all of your service to the community. It's very much appreciated, my friend."

Breaking barriers as first person of color to join NPD

Wehrli, who worked in law enforcement before assuming the role of mayor, recounted his role as a police explorer at the time Williams joined the department. Wehrli in his commendation of Williams noted he was the first person of color to join the Naperville Police Department because you were always available, and you were always willing to come in and work, regardless of whether it was a weekend or a special event or even a holiday," Schindlebeck said. "Trust me, that didn't go unnoticed."

Schindlebeck presented Williams with a shadow box to commemorate his 10 years of service with the group.

Honored to serve for 'integral part of the community'

Williams said he was honored to close out his career working for the Naperville Park District, which he described as "an integral part of this community."

Looking back on the decade, Williams highlighted several pivotal moments that gave him an opportunity to work with his former colleagues on the city police department through collaborative working arrangements.

"When the tornado hit the south side of Naperville, I was working that night, and we were down there — myself and other officers — assisting the city with relocating the residents and keeping a sense of security, in terms of keeping people from getting electrocuted from all of the downed electrical wires," Williams said.

He also found himself working closely with the Naperville Police Department in 2020.

"I've been involved in some things I never expected a park district officer to do, such as when we had the civil unrest in town," Williams said. "We were side-by-side with our brothers at the Naperville Police Department on the front lines."