



# The Flyer



Volume 43, Issue 4

Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 44

April 1, 2012

## **“WE HAVE A BUILDING!”**

### **SAC RECEIVES PERMANENT CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY!**

**by Norm Isler**



SAC Construction Manager Mike Clayton & VP Norm Isler celebrate our permanent C of O.

I just went back into my files, and discovered that I wrote my first Sport Aviation Center Update in April 2009, exactly three years ago. That was the month you may recall that the you-know-what hit the rotary air motivator.

The town told us we could not build where we wanted to. (Remember we moved our building from one location to another to meet the setback requirements?) A reality check proved that our original dreams exceeded our available funds. By quite a bit. We spent a great deal of time and effort reevaluating our priorities, and our anticipated building uses, to come up with the plan for our new home. We invited eight companies to bid on our project, and five responded. Negotiations with two resulted in the final winner, Finger Lakes Construction, winning our contract.

At our June 2009 meeting, we discussed the proposed project in detail, outlining the building and projected costs, funds on hand and fundraising that would be needed. At the end of our business meeting that night, the following resolution was proposed, “The members of EAA Chapter 44, Rochester, New York, do hereby determine and decide to move

Continued on next page.

## **SURPRISE DONOR COMPLETES US WITH A HANGAR**

So there I was, sitting on Phil’s Porch at the SAC today listening to the scanner and hoping for ANY activity at the airport. Then, from out of a blue Rochester sky I hear the unmistakable sound of a Merlin, a P-51 to be sure. On the scanner I hear a vaguely familiar voice check in. “Ledgedale Traffic, Ghost Rider making a high-speed low pass, Ledgedale.” I get on the radio, “Negative Ghost Rider. The pattern is full, permission denied.” The Voice gives a chuckle over the air as the big Merlin starts screaming from base onto a final approach down on the deck.

Just as he passes the Sport Aviation Center the pilot flashes me a thumbs up and hauls back on the stick, sending the Mustang into a climbing, rolling turn. By the end of the runway he is several thousand feet up. He joins the pattern again, lands, and with me waving wildly, pulls up to the SAC and shuts down.

The nose art says “Kiss Me Kate.” Could it be? I look at that big toothy grin and can’t believe who I’m seeing. It’s Maverick at the SAC! Who woulda ever believed it?



I welcome him to Rochester and our little corner of the world. We go inside and I give him a tour of our building. He asks several questions about the Chapter and our members and what we are building. I tell him of members projects, both completed and in progress. We talk about our other programs, for the general public and the aviation community.

Continued on next page.

**BUILDING con't**

forward, awarding a contract to Finger Lakes Construction and other various area subcontractors to build our new Sport Aviation Center.” As I recall, the motion passed unanimously, and I signed the contract with all of us anxious for what would come next.

In July, we broke ground, and watched an endless parade of dump trucks bring in the crushed stone that would form the foundation of our new home. Truck after truck after truck of stone arrived, dumped, was graded and compacted. Holes were drilled for poles, framing went up. Along the way that first summer, we hosted a pancake breakfast that featured a “Pre-dedication Ceremony” with Sweden Town Supervisor Jack Milner in attendance. (And two television crews.)

Work continued through the winter. And the next winter as well. Not to mention spring, summer and fall. By summer of 2011, we had our provisional Certificate of Occupancy, issued by our friend and Town Building Inspector Jim Butler. We opened to great fanfare with a visit from EAA President Rod Hightower. County Executive Maggie Brooks joined us too, as well and other members of the town and county governments. It was a great day!

On March 19, the new Town of Sweden Building Inspector, Walt Windus, toured our building and pronounced it whole! Our multiple years of blood, sweat and probably a few tears paid off. We now have a “finished” building!

As we look around, of course we realize it is not really completely finished. But it is legally finished, and now we can continue at a slightly more relaxed pace. What is left to do? Plenty! But we now move mostly into the “cosmetic and recreational” phase as opposed to “health and safety”. The building committee and the board have established a list of “Top Priorities” to make the building most functional and accessible as quickly as possible.

Near the top of our list of priorities is making the building available to ALL members. (Be sure you have paid your dues! If you’re not a current member, we can’t issue you an entry code!) Working with our Eagle Scout Candidate Ben Hare we plan to make the grounds more attractive and more accessible. Along with that comes some earthmoving for improved and increased parking access, better outside lighting and “more comfortable” restrooms. And there is more.

In three years, we have completed a task that many said was impossible. Three years ago I started

Continued on next page.

**DONOR con't**

I also pull down our building model so he can see our plans for the hangar (I’m no dummy) and of course he sees the Mustang in there. I tell him, we can all dream, though only some of us can realize our dreams, as I gaze out longingly to the ramp. I explain the hangar is Phase Two of our construction and that we are soon to be developing our Capital Campaign for that.

We spent around an hour just talking and hangar flying when Tom (I’m on a first name basis by now) asks if I’d like to go for a ride. Well DUH! What do YOU think I said? He hands me a spare helmet (gotta play the part ya know), straps me in nice and tight, and off we trundle down to the end of Runway 28. My heart is thumping, my skin is electric, and we are on the roll! I’m pushed back into the seat from the acceleration, the Merlin is roaring, and then we’re off and climbing. I direct him to the practice area and we spend a half hour looping and climbing and simulating shooting down enemy aircraft and ground vehicles.

We finally have to return because he needs to get on his way. We pull up to the SAC again so I can take some pictures of his plane, (you know me). While I am doing that I am not paying Tom much attention as he prepares himself.

We shake hands goodbye and he thanks me for the hospitality. He told me we are doing good work here. Our commitment to aviation and the SAC is apparent. And then he hands me a check. A BIG check. A build-and-complete-the-hangar check for \$250,000! I was stunned and flummoxed. What do I say, what do I do??



I said Thank You. What more is there to say? It was one of those chance encounters where the planets align and everything comes into place for us, and we win the lottery.

So there you have it. We can finish our building the way we originally wanted it, to make it the premier aviation education center of Western New York.

If your Spidey-sense doubts the veracity of any part of this story, you need only look at the date of the newsletter.

**BUILDING con't**

writing this column, becoming a monthly feature of the newsletter, to keep all of our members and friends up to date on progress. You may notice something different this month. In most of my past columns, I singled out one or more individuals for their efforts, and to thank them for what they have done. Over three years, I singled out a lot of people! This month, I am not mentioning any names. Instead, I ask you to come to our next meeting on April 17 and look at the person to your left, and to your right. Look also at the person in front and behind you. They, along with YOUR efforts, are the folks that made this dream come true. Be sure to thank them for their help. When good people come together to support a good idea, it is amazing what can happen.

On that note, I want to reach out to every one of our members and say "Thank you!" Thank you for your support (both psychological and financial) that has allowed us to reach this goal. Thank you for your efforts, be it publicizing our group at WINGS, or helping at a Young Eagle Rally, swinging a hammer, digging a trench, or whatever it is you did. This project has reached this point due to the efforts of the entire group.

All of that said, there is one important point I need to make. PLEASE DON'T STOP COMING!!!! We still plan to have our second and fourth Saturday of the month sessions at the SAC. We'll enjoy having the windows and doors open as we finish the painting, floor coverings, and so on. We have most of the materials now, so soon we will build the sound panels we have been researching and planning to eliminate the **echo** (ECHO Echo echo) in the Great Hall. And wait until you see what is happening in the Grand Promenade! Also, we need to be sure we get the grass cut regularly and all that sort of thing. But as always, the best part will be enjoying a day with friends, seeing the dream come true and relaxing on the porch watching the planes come and go.

As we transition from BUILDING our home to USING our home, the need for a monthly update is no longer so great, and with that in mind I lay down my quill, (keyboard actually) and turn this space back over to the newsletter editor for alternate use. The monthly SAC Update will be come a periodic feature as I try to take back some of the time and reinvest it into building one airplane, and flying another.

See you at the SAC!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### by Rob Williams

I decided this month that there will be no particular message or theme, just a hodge-podge of thoughts and a few snippets of reflection.

First off I want to congratulate the chapter again for securing the C of O for our SAC. This represents a culmination of some very hard and persistent work by a hand full of people over the last decade or so, and the tremendous support from the chapter members in terms of labor and financial contributions. What a great milestone for our chapter. You should be proud.

I mentioned at the last meeting that I had the lucky privilege of flying the F-16 simulator at Luke AFB a few weeks ago. I want one for my living room. It would be the next best home appliance only to a holodeck.

I like our "happy bottom" chairs. Thanks Gail and Jerry. My bottom was happy.

We have a lot of stuff on our plate coming up this spring and summer. As usual, do your best to participate. We can always use the extra hands. As you know, more of them makes for less work.

Well, you can't beat the weather we had this year so far. Those days in the seventies and eighties a few weeks ago really spoiled me. I got the Stearman out, dusted her off and took her for a local tour. Man that felt great. I can't wait for the next warm day.

If I had anything to complain about, it would be that I have to start mowing the runways again soon. But I have no complaints.

I like all the prep and effort that goes into the pre-meeting meals these days. We have never had it so good. Thanks to all of you who contribute.

I have been reading up on the Cubs2Oshkosh, celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the J-3 Cub. They are trying to get the largest gathering of Cubs and "cover AirVenture 2012 in a field of yellow". If you go to the website, [www.Cubs2Oshkosh.org](http://www.Cubs2Oshkosh.org) you can read all about it. In fact there is a location map showing all the push pins of those planning on bringing a cub. Nice tool for meeting up on the way. I am seriously thinking of making the trip in my Cub if I get my engine back and mounted in time.

That's all from me for this month.  
Fly safe and CAVU.

### OLD GOATS RAMBLINGS

by Art Thieme

I'm thinking of changing my name to OLD TURKEY. It was good enough for Ben Franklin to want it to be the national bird. Probably won't do it because it won't fit on the license plate.

Also OLD GOAT is in honor of Al Garlick. Al was one of the early Chapter 44 presidents and newsletter editor. He and Earl Luce were my mentors when I built the miniMAX. Al built at least 5 airplanes. There was only one way to do things: Als way or the wrong way.

Checking up on Queen Elizabeth's birthday I find that I am older than the Queen. Just want to set the record straight.

I think the end is near when duct tape is now sold as duck tape.

One positive result of the security check at airports is that it keeps people without tickets from taking up seats in the waiting area to say goodbye to friends.

My grandson is in the Air Force and about to be going to his new base. His is home for two weeks and assigned to work with Air Force recruiters to talk to recruits. He tells me he hasn't talked to any because the two recruiters assigned to this area can only send two recruits a month to basic and they have to be in area that the Air Force needs.

Another resolution I should make and keep: wear an apron when doing a job in the shop. How many shirts and pants do I have to soil before I do this?

I enjoy reading the Rockler woodworking and hardware catalog. Never buy anything, but I do enjoy looking at it.

I wish that I had read Ace Abbot's book THE ROGUE AVIATOR before he spoke to the chapter. After flying F-4 Phantoms in the Air Force he flew Learjets and had 11,000 hours in 727's for 10 different airlines. A tough way to make a living.

Old Goat, out.



A Bottle Queen and an Old Goat.

### METAL MAIDEN REMINDER

by the Bottle Queen

April 14th, bring all metals to the SAC for recycling. Anything with metal on or in it will be accepted. Car batteries and motors from household equipment are valuable because of the lead and copper in them. Of course, your nickels are still welcome.



Thank you to Jerry and Gail Isaac (foreground) for their donation of new folding chairs and tables. They make a huge improvement in the appearance and comfort of the Great Room.



Bill Shaw flying an iPad.

## BOB BAILEY SPEAKS ON THE FOUNDING OF EAA CHAPTER 44

### Did you know that:

- \*EAA 44 was founded by air racers;
- \*the origin of our Cloverleaf Chapter name came our chapter number;
- \*Gordon Stoppelbein & Richard Ohm, of the red air racer hanging in the Rochester terminal, were members; and that
- \*Paul Poberezny flew in for the first meeting in a B-25?

These and other exciting facts were uncovered in a fascinating presentation by Bob Bailey, son of founding member John Bailey.



March Speaker Bob Bailey entertained us with stories of our early history.

The first EAA Chapter was founded in 1953. We followed in 1957, founded by Everitt "Squeek" Hepler and Bob Deyell. Our first meeting was in February 1958 and was attended by 22 members from Rochester and Buffalo.

Bob had a PowerPoint display with many of our early aircraft "built in Rochester" and for many, he knew where they are located now. He has donated his slides and a transcript of member/builder/pilots names and their aircraft. It would be an interesting exercise to track down some of these people, their descendants, and their aircraft.

**Thank you Bob for this glimpse into our early history.** Only a few of our "most veteran" members remember Squeek or the others. Like WWII vets, there are not many who remember this time first-hand. We are glad to have had this opportunity.

## EAA Chapter 44 Board of Directors' Meeting 13 Mar 2012

**Board Members Present:** Clayton, Williams, North, Hazen, Isaac, Hurd, Isler, Stoddard, Byers, Hazen

### Reports:

- President (Rob Williams):
  - Declined invitation to participate in Extreme Vehicles weekend at RMSC.
- Vice President (Norm Isler):
  - Appointment with Building Inspector on Monday (19 Mar). Looking for final C of O or a specific list of items to complete.
  - Parents briefing for Cosgrove Middle School (Spencerport) Youth Aviation Program. Flights 5 May, rain date 12 May.
  - Potential Fall trip to visit Washington, DC aviation museums.
  - EAA Chapter 44 is once again a finalist in the Lightspeed Foundation grant competition. Norm requested pictures of Chapter activities to support application.
- Treasurer (Dave Hurd):
  - Completed audit per Norm's oversight.
  - Received a check from Gale and Jerry Isaac for allocation to the chair acquisition fund. Thank you.
  - Review of those in arrears for dues payment.
  - Review of annual balance sheet and profit / loss statement.
- Secretary (Stephen North):
  - Minutes read and approved.

### Business:

- Capital Campaign (Mike Stoddard)
  - Report on Capital Campaign committee meeting; focus was on fundraising strategies. Goal is to develop plan and create supporting informational material by Oshkosh. Trying to target aviation related businesses, both large and small, local and national.
- Building Committee (Darryl Byers)
  - Update from Ben Hare – Eagle Scout project.

- Needs to scale the scope of his project to the available funding and his ability to execute the project.
- Board discussed landscaping options; preference is to focus on main entrance (East side of building).
- Need cost estimate for Phase 1 landscaping.
- Ben to review at next Building Committee.
- Priority
  - C of O / Functional
  - Sound panels
  - Finish grading
  - Light on peak of building
  - Keyless entry
  - Landscaping / concrete work
  - Sound system (cost unknown)
  - Storage building (cost unknown)
- Sound panel materials being ordered.
- General
  - Bottle Queen - Reported on funds received and available for the Happy Bottom Fund.
  - Mike Clayton moved to allocate funds to buy 60 folding chairs, Darryl Byers seconded. Passed unanimously.
  - Wings on Saturday 9 June, Young Eagles flights on Sunday, 10 June.
  - Board discussed ideas for outreach to Geriatric Pilots Association and possible open house for Learn to Fly day.
  - Lilac Parade on 12 May – Plane Train participation? Should be OK.



**Volunteers and grandkids needed on 12 May for the parade. See Bob N-B.**

## General Membership Meeting 20 Mar 2012

### Reports:

- President (Rob Williams):
  - Thanks to Lorraine Myers for a delicious dinner.
  - Builder reports
    - RV – ready for paint
    - Kitfox – rolled out in driveway
    - Bowens Special – June Show & Tell
    - Glasair – working on panel, radios and lighting
  - Wings 2012 (9 June) – Chapter participation limited to booth. Looking for volunteers.
- Vice President (Norm Isler):
  - SAC had received official Certificate of Occupancy. Hurray!
  - Spencerport School education program started with 17 kids. YE flights scheduled for Saturday 5 May.
  - Once again Chapter 44 is a finalist for the Lightspeed Foundation grant. Need to work hard to better last year's effort.
  - Potential bus trip with Chapter 46 to DC aviation museums for fall of this year.
- Treasurer (Dave Hurd):
  - Report read and approved.
  - Noted members in arrears for dues.
- Secretary (Stephen North):
  - Minutes read and approved.

### Business:

- Capital Campaign (Mike Stoddard – absent, report c/o Rob Williams)
  - Fundraising focus will shift from individuals to corporations.
- Building Committee (Darryl Byers)
  - The Chapter has received the official C of O for the SAC!
  - Will focus on getting allocated priority items complete.
- General
  - Bottle Queen – Happy Bottom fund has bought chairs. Some funds left for tables. 14 April is metal drive.
  - Program – Bob Bailey, history of EAA44

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The Flyer is published monthly. For an electronic copy, go to <eaa44.org> and enter your email address where requested. For a mailed hard copy (\$10), contact Treasurer Dave Hurd. For membership info, contact Treasurer Dave Hurd.

Stories and photos by the editor unless otherwise noted. Article deadline is 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month. Send submissions to Editor Bob Nelligan-Barrett.

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**EAA 44 is a 501(c)3 organization.** Gifts of cash, securities or other property to the Chapter for the benefit of the Sport Aviation Center are welcome and fully tax deductible. Contact Dave Hurd for details.



## Sport Aviation Center of Western New York

## REGIONAL CALENDAR

### CURTISS MUSEUM TOUR

April 28, Hammondspport  
hosted by EAA 95 UL

### ROCHESTER WINGS

June 8/9 GRIA (KROC)  
<[www.rochesterwings.com](http://www.rochesterwings.com)>  
EAA 44 Activities TBA

### CANADIAN WARBIRD AIRSHOW

June 16-17, Hamilton ON CA  
Hamilton International Airport  
<[www.hamiltonairshows.com](http://www.hamiltonairshows.com)>

### SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY TO CUB HAVEN

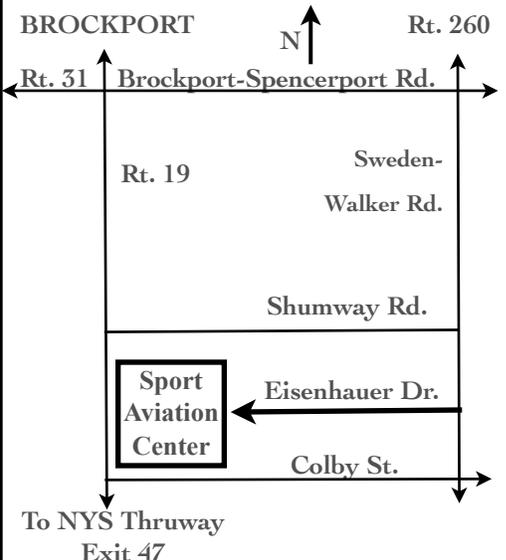
June 20-23 Lock Haven, PA  
Piper Memorial Airport (KLHV)  
<[www.sentimentaljourneyfly-in.com](http://www.sentimentaljourneyfly-in.com)>

### GENESEO WWII AIRSHOW

July 13-15 Geneseo Airfield (D52)  
<[www.1941hag.org](http://www.1941hag.org)>

### AIRVENTURE OSHKOSH

July 23-29 Oshkosh WI  
Go to: <[www.eaa.org](http://www.eaa.org)>  
**EAA 44 OSHKOSH AIRLIFT**



## EAA 44 Calendar



### NEXT GENERAL MEETING

**April 17**

**Gene Benson** will be talking on "Hangar Flying." This presentation is eligible for WINGS credit.

Please bring a dish or dessert to pass to compliment a hot a hamburgers picnic. Thank you.

Apr. 17 General Mtg.  
Apr. 28 SAC Work Day

May 8 Board Mtg.  
**May 10 AOPA ASI SEMINAR**  
May 12 SAC Work Day

**May 12 PLANE TRAIN IN LILAC PARADE-volunteers and grandkids needed**

May 15 General Mtg.- Speaker Paul Gugliemi "Flying to Alaska"  
**May 19 LEARN TO FLY DAY**

June 9 SAC Work Day  
**June 10 YOUNG EAGLE DAY**  
June 12 Board Mtg.  
June 19 General Mtg. - Speaker Carl Bowen "Original Delta-Wing Design"  
June 23 SAC Work Day

**All activities take place at the Sport Aviation Center unless otherwise noted.**

**Sport Aviation Center**  
Eisenhower Drive  
Brockport Airport/  
Ledgedale Airpark (7G0)

**Board Meetings-**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7 PM

**General Meetings-**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month  
Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30

**SAC Saturday Work Days-**  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays, 10 AM

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