



1955-2020



The Beacon 15

August 2020



A Word From the Prez



Well, we really don't have a cover story for this month's newsletter so I decided to lead with 'A Word From the Prez'. I really don't have much to talk about. All of the outside events our chapter was to participate in have been cancelled for the year: TBM Reunion, AirVenture, Quad Cities Air Show, Waukegan's Air Show and Joliet's Open House. Those were the big events and I won't list the smaller ones. It's like the saying "All dressed up and nowhere to go". Of course, I'm referring to our donut equipment. Look on the bright side, we won't be scrambling at the last minute to get things in order for our next event. I can go on and on BUT I do have something to talk about as I think of it. One word: RODRICK

As some of you know... and for those that follow me on Facebook, I've been busy the last 3 weeks taking care of a small little friend. On July 12th, I was 'adopted' by a small robin in my front yard. The short story is my wife and I were clearing weeds under 2 pine trees in the front yard and my wife noticed a little bird just sitting on the sidewalk about 10 feet away. As I pulled more weeds, I turned around and the bird was standing next to my feet. I walked about 30 feet away, turned around, and saw this bird flying right at me. He landed right on my shoulder! My wife was in shock.. probably as much as I was. Out of nowhere... I had a new friend.



For the last 24 days, I've been greeted at the front door by Rodrick (My daughter picked the name). I do the same routine with him each morning: I walk to my truck, turn around, and Rodrick comes and lands on my arm. I do this twice, then feed him his daily food. Around 2-3pm each day, I come home, walk around the truck and do my 2 'clicks', and Rodrick again, flies over and lands on my arm (and sometimes head).

If you find this a little unbelievable, which a lot of people do, I have documented every day, for the last 25 days, with photos and videos which I post on my Facebook page. It's quite amazing... and to this day, I'm still amazed and shocked that this has happened in my life. I'd love to talk about it more but I'm not sure what else I could say. There really are no words... the only thing I can suggest is checking out my facebook page for the last 3 weeks. So if you're on facebook, check out the link below. Here's a still picture of a video of Rodrick flying to my arm.



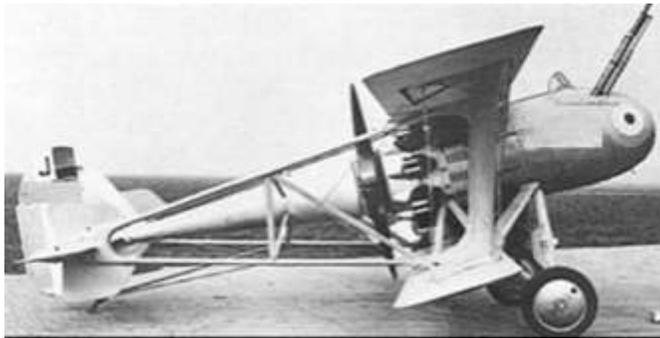
<https://www.facebook.com/darren.lilja>





Name That Plane

As you can tell from the past 'Name That Plane' articles, our mystery planes were all American built models. This time, we stepped up the challenge with a foreign aircraft. To our surprise, quite a few people guessed this month's plane, and a few first timers gave it a run. One of the newbies got the lucky draw. Congratulations to Chuck Dose for correctly guessing July's mystery plane as the Vickers Type 161. He'll receive a bottle of Aviation American Gin, a bottle of AvBlend and also a chapter golf shirt. Way to go Chuck!



Built by Vickers LTD in the UK, it first flew on 21 January, 1931. Only one prototype was built. The Type 161 was designed as an interceptor fighter and carried a Coventry Ordnance Works (COW) 37 mm gun as its only armament. The gun was mounted so that it could be pointed upward at a 45 degree angle or more. The concept behind this arrangement was that the 161 would fly under an enemy bomber or airship and shoot up into them with the COW. This unique airplane was a single engine, single seat, pusher prop biplane powered by a Bristol Jupiter VIIF 9-cylinder radial engine driving a four bladed propeller that was mounted behind the cockpit and surrounded by the fuselage support structure. The pilot sat in a nacelle mounted to the upper wing along the 37 mm COW gun which he had to operate while piloting the aircraft. Wingspan of the upper

wing was 32 feet while the lower wing was less. Empty weight was 2318 lbs while maximum weight was 3350 lbs. Top speed was reported to be 185 mph which was much faster than that of any of its intended targets at the time. Initial flight tests of the Type 161 led to several modifications of the tail surfaces to correct some yaw issues and the addition of elevator trim. The 161 may have been the first aircraft to incorporate inflight adjustable elevator trim. While government flight tests of both the airframe and the COW gun went well, the British government never ordered any additional aircraft and the program was abandon. During WWII, Britain, Germany and Japan developed aircraft with upward firing guns designed to fly under and shoot down enemy bombers. The US's Northrop P-61 Black Widow night fighter also had the capability of aiming four of its .50 caliber machine guns up to 90 degrees vertical for the same purpose. Following WWII, the US worked on several projects with jet fighter aircraft such as the F80A outfitted with upward shooting guns intended to intercept and shoot down Soviet bombers but none went on to production.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vickers_Type_161 ,





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Name That Plane

Ok, we're tossing out another tough one for this month's Name That Plane. Not only will the winner receive a bottle of Aviation American gin, but we'll toss in a bottle of AvBlend oil AND an EAA Chapter 15 Golf Shirt! AND... you'll get one dozen of mini donuts for free at a future event. Hell, we'll give you 2 dozen! Get your guesses in. Deadline is July 21st.



Email us at info@eaa15.org with the following information about this month's mystery aircraft? Answers due by July 21st 6pm. Winner will be announced on our website and on facebook.

1. Who designed and built it?
2. What is its designation/name? i.e. C-172 Skyhawk, PA28-140 Cherokee, etc.?
3. What year did it first fly?
4. How many were produced?

A Quick Note about the winner each month The winner of each month's contest will be entered in a grand finale drawing. If you've won twice, you'll get 2 entries! Also, all correct non-winning guesses will be put in to a separate drawing. Even if you don't win a monthly drawing, but guessed correctly, you'll have a second chance in the future. Each time you enter and are correct, you'll get an entry. The second chance drawing will be for all monthly non-winners. Non monthly winners are not going unnoticed! More information will be provided shortly so get your guesses in.





Ray Scholar Update: Jimmy



Hey guys! I wanted to update you all on my recent progress since I last wrote in the newsletter. As of right now I have logged 25 flight hours, of those hours, 6.2 are solo hours. About 3 weeks ago I soloed to the practice area for my first time! My most recent accomplishment however is earning a 92% on my written exam. Leading up to the exam, I went through a King Schools ground school course. Throughout the course, John and Martha King made everything super simple and easy to remember with their acronyms and cheesy humor. With the pressure of taking my written out of the way now, I can now put all of my focus into the rest of my flight training. I can't wait to see what Marty is going to have me do next [maybe some cross country action :)] and I thank all of you guys for helping me through this journey

Joke of the Day

An American Airline Being 777 flight is on its way across the Atlantic. It flies consistently at 800 km/h at 33,000 feet, when suddenly a F18 suddenly appears off the left wing.

The pilot of the fighter jet slows down, flies alongside the 777 and greets the pilot of the passenger plane by radio: "777 flight, boring flight isn't it? Check this out!"

He rolls his jet on its back, accelerates, breaks through the sound barrier, rises rapidly to a dizzying height, only to swoop down almost to sea level in a breathtaking dive. He loops back next to the 777 and asks, "Well, how was that?"

The 777 pilot answers: "Very impressive, but check this out!"

The F18 pilot watches the 777, but nothing happens. It continues to fly stubbornly straight, at the same speed. After five minutes, the 777 pilot radioed, "Well, what ya think of that?"

The F18 pilot asks confused: "What did you do?"

The 777 pilots laughs and says, "I got up, stretched my legs, went to the back of the flight to the bathroom, got a cup of coffee and a cinnamon cake and made an appointment with the stewardess for the next three nights - in a 5 Star hotel, which is paid for by my employer !! "





News From Oshkosh

EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2021 Tickets Now On Sale

July 21, 2020 – Advance purchase admissions, camping, flight experiences, and merchandise are now available for what promises to be a great aviation family reunion at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2021. The 68th Experimental Aircraft Association fly-in convention is scheduled for July 26-August 1 at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh.



The opening of advance presale for AirVenture 2021 coincides with [EAA's Spirit of Aviation Week](#), the virtual and online aviation community gathering organized following the cancellation of this year's AirVenture event.

“The AirVenture experience means so much to EAA members and the aviation community that we have received continual requests since spring regarding when tickets would be available for the 2021 fly-in,” said Rick Larsen, EAA’s vice president of communities and member programming, who coordinates AirVenture programs and activities. “We are expecting an unforgettable reunion at Oshkosh in 2021 of all who love flight, with people eager to add to the generations of memories already created each year during the EAA fly-in.”

Advance daily and weekly admissions are [available via EAA's secure website](#). Those tickets can be printed at home and brought to Oshkosh for fast access to wristbands and all the activities that are part of AirVenture. EAA members should bring their membership card to confirm their membership discount.

As was planned for AirVenture 2020, youth 18 and under will again be eligible for free admission in 2021, thanks in part to support from The Boeing Company. Also available for advance purchase are camping credentials, Oshkosh flight experiences, and exclusive AirVenture 2021 merchandise.

“There is a feeling of being at Oshkosh that goes beyond the airplanes and programs,” Larsen said. “This year we certainly miss the friends and experiences that each of us remember from AirVenture. That only builds the eagerness to get back in 2021 to enjoy those ‘Only at Oshkosh’ moments.”

Highlights and activities for AirVenture 2021 will be announced as they are finalized.





News From Oshkosh

Seeking Turf Operations at KOSH

July 30, 2020 – EAA and Wittman Regional Airport representatives met with FAA airport officials this week to discuss the establishment of turf operations at Wittman, something long desired by vintage/tailwheel aircraft owners at many airports across the country. This meeting took the form of a safety risk management panel, or SRM.

Because FAA Air Traffic Organization convened an SRM to consider the proposal, EAA felt this was a good opportunity to set a benchmark through the data driven SRM process that other towered operations could benefit from. During the course of the SRM, the key stakeholders reviewed more than 40 areas in question. In reviewing each of the 40 items, the agency determined there was "no hazard finding" for everything listed by the proposal. This effectively should clear the way from an air traffic perspective to begin turf operations at the desired location on the airport throughout the year.



"EAA came well prepared to this session, and participated as a subject matter expert, offering solutions to mitigate risk. Currently across the country, turf operations are less common at towered airports. EAA members and many airport tenants want to change that," said Sean Elliott, EAA's vice president of advocacy and safety. "While this turf operation would not be available during the AirVenture NOTAM period, it offers a blueprint on how an airport can accommodate the needs of those who fly tailwheel and other aircraft that benefit, safety-wise, from landing on turf when available."

Elliott added that the steps and risk mitigation undertaken at Oshkosh could be the basis for future FAA policy for airport tenants and users who are seeking similar opportunities for turf operations as an alternate landing area. While turf and paved runways can both be found at small airports throughout the country, added complexities at towered airports have previously made turf operations not as common.

EAA will continue to work with the FAA and local airport officials on the opportunities that might be available for turf operations.



"Over 35 Years of Serving the Greater Midwest"



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What's happening in 2020: Hopefully

Dates are tentative based on the current situation



The Poker Run Location: Joliet We're currently working on the date for the Poker Run this year. We should have the date within the next 2-3 weeks. Stay tuned.



The Challenge: No new updates. There's a good chance the challenge will be postponed until 2021. Again, we'll know in the next couple of weeks.



Air Mail 100—September 8th, 2020 Joliet Regional Airport will be hosting the Chicago portion of the transcontinental run starting in the late afternoon. Website: www.airmail100.com. Sept 8th happens to be the same date as EAA Chapter 15's meeting so we may decide to hold our meeting at the airport to witness the arrival of the mailbag from Bryon, OH. We'll make the decision at this month's meeting.

Joliet Airport Open House—This just in: This year's open house has been cancelled. Look for the event in 2021!

Chapter Merchandise

Chapter Golf Shirts \$20 (Multiple colors available)



New hats coming soon!



630-615-9010
10, 12, 15, 20 and 30 Yard
Roll-Off Dumpsters





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EAA Chapter 15 Non-Profit Declaration and Legal Disclaimer



EAA Chapter 15 exists as a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to promote the interests of its members, aviation. EAA Chapter Officers, Directors and Leaders serve without compensation and have sworn to carry out the will of the membership by means of Democratic processes and rules of order set forth in the Chapter's by-laws. No claim is made and no liability is assumed, expressed or implied as to the accuracy or safety of material presented in this publication. Viewpoints of those who contribute to this newsletter are not necessarily those of EAA Chapter 15, the EAA, or their board members. You must be of good character, adhere to the chapters by-laws, and respect the chapters Mission and Value Statement to become a member of the chapter. Dues are \$20.00 per year payable to EAA Chapter 15. Chapter dues are payable at the first meeting of the calendar year. Member correspondence and newsletter contributions are encouraged to be submitted by email to info@eaa15.org by the 27th of month to be considered for the next newsletter. Membership can be found at www.eaa15.org/membership.htm. The form can be filled out and mailed to the address:

EAA Chapter 15

**1 George Michas Drive
Romeoville, IL 60446**

EAA Chapter 15 meetings:
2nd Tuesday of each month
Board Meeting 6:00 pm
General Meeting 7:00 pm

Location: Lewis Airport (KLOT) in the main conference room.
1 George Michas Dr.
Romeoville, IL 60446
Website: www.eaa15.org



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Board Member	Bob Remedi	Coming soon
Board Member	Jerry Ossowski	Jerry_osso@comcast.net
Board Member	Lee Nelson	Coming Soon
Newsletter Editors	Ray Moeller/Darren Lilja	ray@raymoeller.com



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Advertisement Prices for EAA 15 Newsletter

Attention: With the current situation at hand, we've decided to offer FREE advertising for the rest of 2020. Why? Because it's been a tough year for the local business' to stay afloat, and if we can help, we'll do what we can. So, if you have a business, or know of one that would like FREE advertising, please contact us at info@ea15.org





EAA Chapter 15

Membership Application or Renewal



Please print and complete this form and mail to the address below with a check for \$20 for the Chapter's 2020 dues. If you are a new member, please check the appropriate box below or contact a Chapter 15 officer or board member for more information. Dues renewals are due ASAP. As always, you can pay your dues in person at our meetings.

- MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**
- NEW MEMBERSHIP**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ ALT. NUMBER _____

SPOUSE NAME (If applicable) _____

NATIONAL EAA NUMBER _____

Please mail this form and a check for \$20 made out to "EAA Chapter 15" to:

**EAA Chapter 15
1 George Michas Drive
Romeoville, IL 60446**

Chapter website: www.eaa15.org

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