

January, 2020

Volume 45, Issue 1

www.eaa569.org

[facebook.com/ea569](https://www.facebook.com/ea569)

EAA Chapter 569 Newsletter

Lincoln, NE



EAA 569 Contact Information

President

Tom Winter
H: 402-488-9238
c150gpilot@yahoo.com
1010 Eastridge Dr.
Lincoln, NE 68501

Vice President

Tom Trumble
C: 402-540-6089
ttrumbl@windstream.net
5545 N 17th St.
Lincoln, NE 68521

Secretary

Jerry Mulliken
C: 402-720-0125
jmulliken@speednet.com
118 S. 52nd St.
Omaha, NE 68132

Treasurer

Cristi Higgins
H: 402-217-9763
higginschristi@msn.com
PO Box 335
311 South West Ave.
Western, NE 68464

Tech Counselors

Erick Corbridge
402-499-1039
Corbe99@Yahoo.com

Tom Henry

H: 402-791-2116
W: 402-479-1540
TomHenry3@aol.com

Young Eagles Coordinator

Cristi Higgins
H: 402-217-9763
higginschristi@msn.com

Newsletter and Web Editor

Doug Volkmer
C: 402-890-2818
rv7doug@gmail.com
3720 Stockwell Circle
Lincoln, NE 68506



Meeting Announcement

Date: Tuesday, January 7th

Time: 7:30pm

Program: Field of Dreams

Butch Lottman will kick off 2020 by telling us about the development of his airstrip near Springfield, NE.

Place: Duncan Aviation Engine Shop
5000 NW 44th St – Lincoln, NE



President's Message Tom Winter

Butch Lottman headlines our first 2020 meeting. He and a partner have leased farmland near Springfield, which they have developed with hangars and a [3,000 foot turf runway](#). Personally, I am eager to hear him tell us all about it. Our vice president and program guy Tom Trumble has already got three exciting programs lined up. It's going to be a great year.

Tom Winter,
Chapter President

Performance Aviation Visit

By Tom Winter

Notice the big new Performance hangar at KLNK? Friday (Dec 27) I stopped in there at Performance to spread the gospel of the EAA Chapter, and met Alix Christenson, admin

coordinator, and Bill Heckathorn, founder and CEO. I also met Zach Friesen, head of marketing. Alix gave me the tour, and led me to the main office, where I chatted up Bill Heckathorn.

Bill aims at Performance being an academy style flight school, with an international clientele, as well as helping to broaden the local aviation community. For my part, of course, I want all of his CFIs to join the chapter, and to encourage their students to do the same, pointing out that the Chapter has been a great support group and I wouldn't be a pilot if it had not been for the chapter — my pitch was that their students could profit from this support group, too!

The intent of Performance to be an international flight academy seems perfectly reasonable. Bill expects an international clientele, noting that Eurasia will soon be an aviation Market to top North America. I was the more ready to agree, since my CFI, Takuo Yamamoto came from Japan to Nebraska 22 years ago to become a pilot, at UNO's program.

The USA is the place to become a pilot, and where in the USA? Here is a sample from the Performance site:

“Because we are located in Lincoln, Nebraska (the center of the U.S.), you'll gain valuable experience training in varying weather patterns, and we know you'll love our friendly Midwestern values.”

They are a Cirrus training center, and have connections with SkyWest, Gojet, and Mesa. Their extensive fleet includes a Cirrus, six identical Skyhawks, a Seminole, a Skylane, an RG Cutlass, and an FAA-approved sim.

Christmas Party 2019

By Doug Volkmer

The annual Chapter 569 Christmas Party was held on December 7th at the SAC Museum. This year we joined forces with Chapter 80 (Millard), Chapter 1055 (York) and IAC 80 (Seward).

An invite was extended to Ann Richart, the new Director of Aeronautics. Ann gladly accepted the invite and spoke briefly at the party. She described herself as “the new Ronnie Mitchell” in case people didn’t know who she was. She previously was the airport manager at Martha’s Vineyard Airport in Massachusetts. She’s

excited to be in the Midwest and to have the opportunity to work with Nebraska aviators and airports.

The featured speaker for the evening was Charlie Daubs. Charlie was an SR-71 pilot and spoke in depth about the design and development of the SR-71 and his experience flying it.

The SR-71, which was retired in 1998 was a high-altitude, Mach 3+

reconnaissance aircraft. How fast is Mach 3? Around 2,300 mph.

Unlike general aviation aircraft where the aircraft “talks” to you, you don’t have that luxury when flying the SR-71. When flying GA aircraft, you hear and feel what the aircraft is telling you. In the SR-71, you are in a pressurized suit, “feeling like the Pillsbury doughboy”, Charlie said. You trust

what your instruments are telling you.

The SR-71 had no glide capabilities. If it lost power, it was coming down like a leaf. Only 32 were built with 12 lost, but not to enemy fire.

The SR-71, which was constructed largely of titanium, was known to leak fuel while sitting on the ramp. Engineers had a hard time finding a tank sealant that could resist the heat of Mach 3+ flight (1,100 Fahrenheit). Therefore, the fuel tank was designed with gaps that would expand in flight sealing the tanks. The tanks would also leak during refueling missions while the



This SR-71 on display at SAC had the third highest flight time of the fleet.

SR-71 slowed down to hook up with the tanker. The plane, which typically flew at 80,000 feet, was the only plane that came *down* to refuel.

Charlie showed some pictures from 80,000 feet. You

could see the curvature of the earth and during daytime hours, you are blanketed by darkness above you. Charlie recalled flying to the east and watching the sunset and then turning around and watching the sunrise.

Our Christmas Party was set up under the SR-71. That plane had the third highest flight time of the fleet with over 3,000 hours. Some of those hours were logged by our featured speaker.

Also taking place at the Christmas Party, President Bickford recognized the Chapter 569 officers for 2019. Bruce Mundie did the same for Chapter 80.

Vice President Tom Trumble presented service award plaques to President Bickford and First Lady Edi Bickford. President Bickford has decided to step down after five years of marvelous leadership.

To round out the evening’s festivities, Dennis Crispin, Mike Howard and Cristi Higgins led guided tours of the museum for those who were interested.

Photos from the Christmas party, thanks to Dennis Crispin, are on our website at <http://eaa569.org/gallery/>.

Thanks to everyone who donated door prizes. Season’s Greetings!



Swing Under the Wings at SAC Museum

By *Dennis Crispin*

It is time to start planning for this year's Swing Under the Wings dinner-dance party at Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum. The fun starts on February 14, from 6:00pm to 11:00pm.

The annual event is done in the style of a 1940's – WW2 USO party. Wear your best swing area garb and be prepared to have a great time. An authentic live swing band will set the mood.

A fine dinner will be catered by Premier Catering. There will be a cash bar.

To make your reservations call Event Coordinator at 402-944-3100 or you can go to sacmuseum.org for more information or online reservations.

Several EAA 569 members regularly enjoy this party, so, when you make your reservations, ask to be seated at the EAA 569 table.

Where else could you dine and dance under the wings of a B-29 and a KC-97?

How to celebrate your 102nd Birthday? Go fly your Cessna 150, that's how!

By *Tom Winter*

The main retirement hobby is looking for reasons to fly, and the best one is the annual birthday party for Ernie Smith. Have a look:

76 years of age is bad enough, but 102? I don't think I've got the strength, but The Guinness Book of Records Oldest Active Pilot, Ernie Smith, of Red Oak Iowa celebrated his 102nd birthday, Saturday 12/21/19, and your roving reporter was there.

Here's the citation from the book: The oldest active pilot is Ernest Eli Smith (USA, b. 21 December 1917), who aged 98 years and 114 days still regularly flies light aircraft, as verified in Red Oak, Iowa, USA, on 13 April 2016.

Ernie since then has had a stroke and has recovered from it and has graduated from the local nursing home into assisted living. About 30 people were there at RDK's Norm Yeager Terminal to help celebrate. I was in the crowd greeting Ernie when friends wheeled him in.

"I remember you! You fly in from Lincoln!" Yes, I was the only one to fly in for the party, and 2885 Sierra was all alone on the ramp. I have visited him twice before, most recently in 2017. He walks with a walker, but he walks! And his speech and his mind are both clear. He has not been playing his guitar

lately: he held up his left hand. "I can't press the strings down firm enough." Norm Yeager himself was not there — he was out flying with a student pilot. Later I asked his age: Norm turns 85 in January. We shook hands congratulating each other when I replied that I turn 76 in January. Soon ready hands helped Ernie into the 150, in the left seat, and CFI Norm Yeager got in the right seat. I confidently expect that eventually Norm will be in the Book as the World's Oldest Active CFI!

They had to wait while everyone got pictures, including me and the press, Nick Johansen from the Red Oak Express! Then they flew off. Nobody knows who was actually doing the flying! I chatted with Ernie's son Mike Smith and his wife Beverly Swanson. Mike is still compos mentis, just like his dad!

(continued on page 4)



Ernie Smith, Guinness oldest active pilot and Norm Yeager, 85-year-old active CFI.

Mike and Bev have been married 55 years, just like Joanna and me. (Pardon me while I rejoice that Joanna is still compos!) I got pictures of the birthday cake and the people while Ernie and Norm were out flying. Kevin McGrew, the airport manager, had the table set up like a head table with two rows of audience chairs.

During the cake and ice cream, I noticed that Ernie was all by himself at the table. This isn't right, I said to myself. On your birthday you've got to have company, so I went up and joined him.

"Not one for speeches" he said, "but I really appreciate this."

Missing Hallmark Ornaments

During the clean-up after the December 7 Christmas party at SAC museum, a Chapter 569 member discovered that seven of his Hallmark ornament airplanes, provided only as table decorations, were missing. There is also one missing from last year.

Again, please understand they were not placed on the tables as party favors. These keepsake ornaments are no longer available from Hallmark and are only sourced through individual sales at significantly higher than original prices. The member would like to keep the originals for his collection without having to buy replacements.

The Hallmark ornament airplanes in question along with the year they were issued are:

- 2011 Culver Cadet
- 2013 Gee Bee Sportster Model Z
- 2008 Ercoupe 415-D (2 examples)
- 2003 1936 Stinson SR Reliant
- 1999 Curtiss R3C-2 Seaplane
- 1994 1917 Curtiss JN-4 "Jenny"
- 2005 1931 Laird Super Solution (missing from 2017 Christmas party)

Thank you in advance for your help in resolving this issue.



News from

EAA Headquarters

EAA Offers Young People Free AirVenture Admission with Boeing Support

Young people age 18 and under will be admitted free to EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2020 as a way to introduce more youth to the possibilities in the world of flight. The Boeing Company is financially supporting this effort for the next two years to encourage more aviation-minded families and their children to attend the event that brings more than 10,000 aircraft from around the world to Oshkosh each year.

"EAA's mission is growing participation in aviation, and in 2019, after EAA reduced admission costs for students, we saw an increased number of families coming to AirVenture," said Jack J. Pelton, EAA's CEO and chairman of the board. "Inspiring young people and giving them a first look at what's possible in aviation is only

achievable if they can get in the gate. This effort will build on the more than 60 years where AirVenture has earned a reputation as a wonderful family event. We're incredibly appreciative of Boeing's support and like EAA, Boeing is committed to inspiring the next generation of aeronautical innovators. Because of Boeing's belief in our mission, we can invite youth from around the world to experience AirVenture at no cost."

The free youth admission is available throughout AirVenture week. Along with Boeing's financial support, a small fee on AirVenture advanced-purchase adult admissions and value-added opportunities such as the Aviators Club will support this free admission opportunity for young people.

"At Boeing, we aim to inspire and prepare the next generation of innovators, and EAA AirVenture provides a unique opportunity to encourage the natural curiosity of young people," said William Ampofo, vice president of business aviation, general aviation, and OEM services, Boeing Global Services. "We are proud to provide an opportunity for thousands of youth to experience this world-class event, and be inspired to use their talents, creativity, and vision for the future of aviation."

Longstanding youth activities and programs at AirVenture include such popular offerings as the hands-

(continued on page 5)

on KidVenture display and program area; technology, innovation, and education options at Aviation Gateway Park; and extraordinary events such as daily air shows and more than 1,500 forums, workshops, and seminars.

Complete admission pricing and advance online purchase is [currently available on EAA's website](#).

Canadian Forces Snowbirds Returning to AirVenture 2020

The Canadian Forces Snowbirds, one of the most popular military aerial demonstration teams in the world, announced EAA AirVenture Oshkosh as part of its 50th year performance schedule in 2020, making Oshkosh a stop for the second time in five years. The announcement was officially made at the International Council of Air Shows (ICAS) convention in Las Vegas.

The Snowbirds are currently scheduled to have a public practice session over the grounds on Friday, July 24, with full performances during the daily afternoon air show on Saturday and Sunday, July 25-26.

The [Snowbirds](#), officially designated as 431 Air Demonstration Squadron, were created in 1971 and have a nearly 50-year connection to EAA, as they were the first military team to perform at Oshkosh when they flew over the EAA fly-in during the 1970s. They last appeared at AirVenture in 2016, which was their first performance there since 1983.

“There is an elegance in the Snowbirds’ aerial choreography that is matched by no other military demonstration group,” said Rick Larsen, EAA’s vice president of programs, publications, and marketing, who coordinates AirVenture features and attractions. “When they appeared at Oshkosh in 2016, the Snowbirds were warmly welcomed not only for their air show performances but for the way they interacted with our attendees, including some team members even camping with their jet on the show grounds. The Snowbirds’ return is just one more reason that EAA AirVenture 2020 will be an event to remember.”

The Snowbirds fly Canadair CT-114 Tutor jets in approximately 60 air shows each year. The nine aircraft used in the performances are piloted by experienced team members from the Royal Canadian Air Force. During the show, the pilots fly at speeds ranging from 110 to 465 mph (180 to 750 km/h) and in formation with distances as close as four feet of wing overlap. Comprised of exciting loops, rolls and solo passes as well as graceful nine-jet formations, the Snowbirds’ show includes more than 50 different formations and maneuvers during each 35-minute performance.

Have you paid your 2020 Chapter Dues?

One last reminder about your 2020 dues. Whether you are a new member or renewing your membership we are encouraging members to go to the Chapter website (www.eaa569.org) and fill out the online form. To get to the form, select Join on the Chapter website home page and follow the instructions on the page. After submitting your form, you will be

instructed on where to mail your \$20.

For those members who prefer to fill out the paper form, we have included a copy of the form on the following page.

Again, whether you are a new member or renewing your membership we ask that you fill out the form.

Events

York Airport (JYR), EAA Chapter 1055 Fly-in breakfast on the 1st Saturday of every month. 0800 - 1000.

Crete Airport (CEK), EAA Chapter 569 Fly-in breakfast on the 3rd Saturday of every month. 0800 - 1000.

Jan-Feb, EAA Webinars. [Click here for more information](#).

Jan 18, SAC Museum, Ashland, NE Indoor Air Show, 10:00am – 2:00pm
[Click here for more information](#)

Feb 14, SAC Museum, Ashland, NE Swing Under the Wings, 6:00pm – 11:00pm
[Click here for more information](#)

EAA Chapter 569 Membership / 2020 Renewal Form
Include your \$20 check made out to EAA Chapter 569



Mail to: Cristi Higgins
PO Box 335
311 South West Ave
Western, NE 68464

New Registration or Renewal: _____

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

EAA Number: _____

Would you like to receive the monthly Chapter Newsletter via email? Yes No

Experience With (wood, metal, welding, composite, fabric, electronics, paint)?

Flying and/or Building Information:

Other comments:

John Cox
2279 County Road 2425
DeWitt, Nebraska 68541-2518

