

May, 2024

Volume 49, Issue 5

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# EAA Chapter 569 Newsletter

Lincoln, NE



## EAA 569 Contact Information

### President

Tiffany Thompson  
C: 402-219-2289  
tiffthomps518@gmail.com  
7033 Fernhill Pl  
Lincoln, NE 68516

### Vice President

Jerome Clinch  
C: 402-499-8213  
jerry@bccine.com  
2741 N 81<sup>st</sup> St.  
Lincoln, NE 68507

### Secretary

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

### Treasurer

Cristi Higgins  
H: 402-217-9763  
higgenschristi@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  
higgenschristi@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, May 7<sup>th</sup>      **Time:** 7:00pm

**Program:** Retired Air Force Lt. Colonel Dick Trail

Dick lives in McCook, NE and is a flight instructor. He currently is a Nebraska DOT Aeronautics Commissioner. Dick was co-pilot of a KC-135 tanker on May 31, 1967, that was involved in the first tri-level refueling operation that saved six US Navy Jets from going down in enemy territory over North Vietnam. He was inducted into the Nebraska Aviation Hall of Fame in 2014.

**Place:** Nebraska State Patrol Aviation Support Hangar  
Lincoln Airport - East Side  
Enter at Gate 25 (just west of North Park Rd & West Superior St)

**Note:** IAC 80 will meet prior to the above meeting at 6:30pm at the same location.

\*\*\* Note: Our new meeting location, the Community Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at the LNK Terminal is not quite ready yet, thus our temporary meeting location at the NSP hangar. There is room for fly-ins to park, if you're so inclined.



**President's  
Message  
Tiffany  
Thompson**

As we step into the vibrant days of May, I wanted to take a moment to share my excitement about the upcoming month and all the fantastic opportunities it holds for our EAA chapter. From thrilling events to meaningful initiatives, May promises to be a month filled with camaraderie, adventure, and aviation wonder.

With the arrival of warmer weather and longer days, May brings ideal flying conditions for pilots of all stripes. Whether you're planning a scenic cross-country flight, a leisurely jaunt around the local airspace, or a thrilling aerobatic adventure, there's no better time to take to the skies and embrace the freedom of flight.

May provides numerous opportunities for our chapter to connect with our local community and share our love of aviation with others. From our beloved monthly fly-in breakfasts and exhilarating Young Eagles flights to the informative EAA Learn to Fly Week webinars (scheduled from May 13th to May 18th) and the highly anticipated Learn To Fly Day on May 18th at KBIE, we have some great events coming up where we can engage with fellow aviators, inspire future pilots, and foster a sense of belonging within our aviation family.

May is a time to celebrate the achievements of our members and recognize the milestones they've reached on their aviation journeys. Whether you've recently earned your pilot's license, completed a challenging aircraft restoration, or simply conquered your fear of flying, we applaud your accomplishments and look forward to cheering you on as you continue to reach new heights.

As we embark on this exciting month together, let's embrace the spirit of adventure, camaraderie, and discovery that defines our EAA chapter. Whether you're a seasoned aviator or an aviation enthusiast taking your first steps into the sky, there's a place for you here, and we're thrilled to have you as part of our aviation family.

Here's to a May filled with blue skies, tailwinds, and endless possibilities!

## **Lila Tomek**

### **Nebraska's own Rosie the Riveter**

*By Nancy Tomek Wilcher [about her mother]; at the request of Bonnie Kanel and Dennis Crispin*

On April 10, 2024, a ceremony was held in Washington, D.C., to present a gold medal to honor the women who worked in the defense plants in World War Two. Twenty-seven women—all about 100 years old—were present to represent the six million of their sisters that built the airplanes, ships, tanks, and guns that were instrumental in winning that terrible war.

Lila Tomek, 101 years old, of Humboldt, Nebraska, was in the delegation that accepted the honor. Lila, then 19 years old, was employed in the Martin Bomber Plant outside Omaha, Nebraska. Yes, she did drive rivets!

The Martin plant built the Martin B-26C and the B-29 bomber aircraft. An auxiliary production line modified B-26B and B-25 aircraft for special applications and produced parts and assemblies for other aircraft factories. The plant built the specialty versions of the B-29 which included the dozen or so planes that were specifically equipped to carry nuclear weapons.

The plant was honored by a visit from President Roosevelt as he recognized their accomplishment as the only wartime aircraft factory that made every delivery on schedule.

The artist Norman Rockwell painted a picture for the cover of the *Saturday Evening Post*. Entitled "Rosie the Riveter," it became the symbol of the woman that worked in the factories that supported the war effort. Preparing to produce the painting, Rockwell sent a photographer into a shipyard to find a girl that

would be representative. The photographer found a girl that looked the part and posed her with a heavy rivet gun on her lap, a sandwich in her hand, and a lunchbox labeled “Rosie” at her side. They disregarded the fact that the lady was a telephone switchboard operator, not a riveter.

*Rosie the Riveter* became the generic term for the women defense workers. The moniker was especially appropriate for the ladies that built the airplanes that were assembled with millions of small rivets. After the war was over, several women named *Rose* came forward to claim that they were the original *Rosie the Riveter*.

Nancy Tomek Wilcher wrote the following article in 2021. It is reprinted with the permission of The Humboldt Standard.



### Lila Tomek Recalls Unique WWII Experience

Lila Westerman was 19-years old when she left her office job in Pawnee City, NE, to apply for work at the Glenn L. Martin Bomber Plant near Omaha. It was the fall of 1942, and her two younger brothers had been drafted to serve in the Army. Lyle was headed to Europe and Glenn to the Northern Mariana Islands in the Western Pacific. Although she wanted to serve in the Army as well, her brothers shot down the idea immediately! So instead, she decided to serve the war effort by joining many others in assembling two bomber planes: the B-26 Marauder and the B-29 Superfortress.

When Lila started, the workforce was primarily male; however, as the men were drafted into the military, Martin realized there wouldn't be enough males on the factory floor. He explained to the many doubters that women were perfectly suited to handle the 25,000 parts that comprised a B-26 and the miles of wiring that needed to be snaked through harnesses along with other work in close quarters.

After being hired on October 3, 1942, for \$0.60 an hour she was sent to a four-week sheet metal and blueprint training course at Tech High School in Omaha. Once the training was completed, she ran a rivet gun, spliced cables, worked in final assembly, and participated in a special assignment.

It wasn't all work, because Lila and four friends participated on a bowling league and called their team the *Bomberettes*. They were the first-place winners of the second shift B-29 Specials Thursday Morning Bowling League!

One day, she and her riveting partner, Rosie from Verdigre, NE, along with a few others (mostly men) were told to report to the main gate where they were transported to a separate Army hanger that housed five planes. The assignment required them to work seven days a week, 12-14 hours a day until the work was completed. They were told the project was top secret and instructed to tell no one about it. Lila wondered why they were removing the armor plate and the ammunition racks from the planes.



One day as they were working, the whistles blew, and the loudspeaker instructed everyone to descend from their ladders and face east. Imagine their huge surprise when the doors opened and a convertible carrying President Franklin D. Roosevelt and two others entered, and the President saluted the workers at each plane.

On August 6, 1945, when the Omaha-built Enola Gay dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, the group was called into a meeting to learn the significance of their special assignment. Stripping the planes of armor plate and ammunition racks made them light enough to carry the heavy bomb and extra fuel required for the mission.

Lila's employment concluded August 21, 1945, as the military contracts were being terminated.



The 27 "Rosies" who made the trip to Washington, D.C. on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

## Want to Buy – Engine

65 or C-85 – 90 engine for a '47 Vagabond ASAP. If you have one or know of one contact P. J. at 402-429-9999. Rebuildable or ready preferred. Cash paid.

## Minutes of the Board Meeting

President Tiffany Thompson called the online meeting to order at 10:00am on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Attending were Jerry Clinch, Tom Henry, Doug Volkmer, Tiffany Thompson, Cristi Higgins, Tom Trumble, and Jerry Mulliken.

No Treasurer's report.

Young Eagles Coordinator report: Cristi reported the next event will be April 5<sup>th</sup> at Seward followed by April 6<sup>th</sup> at Crete. Other events are April 19<sup>th</sup> at Beatrice, April 27<sup>th</sup> at David City, and a May 18<sup>th</sup> Flying Start event at Beatrice.

Tom Trumble encouraged members to consider joining the Midwest Aerobatic Club (MAC 80) to learn about some different flying experiences.

There was discussion of the May EAA 569 meeting being held in the Lincoln Airport Terminal. Parking needs to be worked out, and availability of audio-visual equipment is unknown. The restaurant might provide catering.

Air Academy: Tom Trumble urged anyone interested in attending 2025 Air Academy to get parental permission, and paperwork filed by September. Since we were unable to send someone in 2024, Tom felt we should consider sending two in 2025.

Ray Scholarship: Tom reported that Toby Jordan has 13 hours dual with Oracle. He should solo soon. We have sent \$3,000 to Oracle, and \$925 is unspent.

Breakfast: Doug reported a good turnout at the March breakfast, including some fly-ins from out of state. The Corvette Club is planning on attending the April 20<sup>th</sup> breakfast.

Other business was to consider Oshkosh memorials for Dean Hoy and Ed Siudzinski. Tom Trumble moved to authorize funding the memorial from our treasury, and accepting donations to offset the expense. Past memorials have been \$500. Tom Henry seconded the motion. Motion passed. More planning is needed to properly address the memorials. It should be an agenda item for the next member meeting.

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Jerry Clinch moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as published in the newsletter. Cristi seconded. Motion approved.

The next online board meeting will be May 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.

Tom Trumble moved the meeting to be adjourned, Cristi seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:59am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jerry Mulliken, Secretary

### **Minutes of the Club Meeting**

Vice-President Jerry Clinch called the meeting to order at 7:01pm on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

Twenty-three attended, including new members Bill McDonald, and Toby Jordan. Bill is commencing a Sonerai build. Other new members attending were Ed and Lynn Bowes. Toby is our Ray Scholar. Also attending were Dr Jon Vanderhoof, UNO Aviation Institute, and Alison Adams, UNO Aviation Institute Instructor.

Jon and Alison gave a presentation on the benefits of aerobatic instruction and competition. Jon has competed extensively. Alison coaches the UNO Flying Mavericks, which has competed successfully at the regional level.

Ed Bowes presented information about the Midwest Aerobatic Club, and invited 569 members to help with local competition events.

After a short pizza break, Treasurer Cristi Higgins reported \$7,037.48 in the main account, \$3,456.56 in the breakfast account, and a \$10,000 CD.

Young Eagle Coordinator Cristi Higgins reported that the scheduled April 6<sup>th</sup> Young Eagle Event is rescheduled to April 20 due to excessive wind speeds in the forecast for the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Secretary Jerry Mulliken read the March 30, 2024 board meeting minutes. After correcting the wording of a motion by Tom Trumble regarding the memorials, the minutes were approved.

With no new or old business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 pm.

The next board meeting will be held via zoom May 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. All interested members are welcome to tune in. The next general meeting will be May 7<sup>th</sup> tentatively in the Lincoln Airport Terminal Building. Check the newsletter for updates. Program will be Dick Trail presenting an account of Air Force aerial refueling adventures in Vietnam in 1967.

## Learn to Fly Day

Chapter 569 will be hosting a Learn to Fly Day at the Beatrice Airport on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. It will run from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Click [here](#) for more details and to register for the event. Cristi Higgins and her pilots gave 101 Young Eagle rides in April. Not bad considering we had to cancel some events because of the weather.

Speaking of the weather, our thoughts and prayers go out to all who were affected by the April 26<sup>th</sup> storms.

## EAA Memorial Wall

The EAA 569 Board voted on March 30<sup>th</sup> to add the names of Ed Siudzinski and Dean Hoy to the EAA Memorial Wall in Oshkosh WI. Former EAA 569 members with their names currently on the Memorial Wall are:

- Mary Woodruff
- Barry Daniels
- Bill Sheahan
- Roger Aspegren
- Rollie Woodruff
- Don Shoemaker
- Jim Fix
- Mark Werth

## July EAA 569 fly-in breakfast reschedule date

Mark your calendar! We will be **moving our July breakfast** from the 20<sup>th</sup> up two weeks to the 6<sup>th</sup>. Some of our breakfast crew will be enroute to Oshkosh on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The August breakfast will return to its usual 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of the month.

## B-29 Reunion Added to Warbird Highlights at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2024

From EAA.org

The world's only two flying examples of the Boeing B-29 Superfortress will make a rare joint appearance this summer during EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2024, supporting the "Turning the Tide" salute to 1944 that will also commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. The 71st edition of EAA's fly-in convention is July 22-28 at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh.

It is believed to be only the fourth time two B-29s have made a joint public appearance in 50 years, with the first taking place in Oshkosh in 2017. It is the first time these aircraft have appeared together since 2018.

"As AirVenture is the world's largest annual gathering of warbirds, bringing these two iconic aircraft together is another of those 'Only at Oshkosh' moments," said Rick Larsen, EAA's vice president of communities and member programs, who coordinates AirVenture features and attractions. "These



airplanes are big favorites wherever they appear, but together they will make the 'Turning the Tide' commemoration even more unforgettable."

As currently scheduled, each airplane will spend time featured on EAA's Boeing Plaza. *FIFI* will be on display on July 22-24, while *Doc* will take center stage for display on July 25-28. The airplanes are also scheduled to make a formation flight at the beginning of the July 24 night air show. When not on display at Boeing Plaza, flight experiences on *Doc* July 22-25 will be based at Appleton International Airport, approximately 20 miles north.

*FIFI* is owned and operated by the Commemorative Air Force's [B-29/B-24 Squadron](#) of Dallas, Texas. It was acquired by the CAF in the early 1970s when a group of CAF members found it at the U.S. Navy Proving Ground at China Lake, California, where it was being used as a missile target. The airplane was rescued and restored, then flew for more than 30 years until 2006, when the chief pilot made the decision to ground it pending a complete powerplant re-fit. After an extensive four-year restoration that



included installing four new custom-built hybrid engines, *FIFI* returned to the sky in 2010 and has since traveled coast to coast. More information is available on the [CAF's AirPower History Tour website](#),

*Doc* was built in 1944 and for many years was part of a squadron known as the Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs in upstate New York at Griffiss Air Force Base (hence, the name *Doc*). The airplane was retired in 1956 as the jet bomber age began and sat as a target for Navy training missions in China Lake, California, until 1998. A restoration group took possession of the airplane from the U.S. government and hauled it to Wichita, Kansas, in pieces in 2000. After 16 years and more than 450,000 volunteer hours, *Doc* made its first flight after restoration in July 2016, 60 years after it had been retired. Flight experience information for *Doc* at Oshkosh is available at <https://www.b29doc.com/rides/>. *Doc* is owned and operated by Doc's Friends, Inc., a non-profit based in Wichita.

Month		EAA Chapter 569 Calendar
May	7	7:00pm General Meeting
	18	8:00am - 10:00am Crete Fly in Breakfast, EAA Chapter 569 - KCEK
	18	2:00am - 4:00am Learn to Fly Day, Beatrice, NE - A program which welcomes, inspires, and educates aspiring aviators about their pathway to becoming a pilot.
	23	11:30am Lincoln Airport Authority Board of Directors Meeting
	25	11:30am - 1:30pm Hastings Hamburger Fly in Lunch (rain or shine) - KHSI
June	4	7:00pm General Meeting
	15	8:00am - 10:00am Crete Fly in Breakfast, EAA Chapter 569 - KCEK
	27	11:30am Lincoln Airport Authority Board of Directors Meeting
	29	11:30am - 1:30pm Hastings Hamburger Fly in Lunch (rain or shine) - KHSI
July	2	7:00pm General Meeting
	6	8:00am - 10:00am Crete Fly in Breakfast, EAA Chapter 569 - KCEK
	22	AirVenture begins!!
	25	11:30am Lincoln Airport Authority Board of Directors Meeting
	27	11:30am - 1:30pm Hastings Hamburger Fly in Lunch (rain or shine) - KHSI

And finally ...

## Triple Play



Jessy Panzer / Pitts S-1    Doug Roth / Staudacher Super Star    Rob Ator / P-38 "Ruff Stuff"

Photo Ship Pilot: Tom Trumble / Cessna Skyhawk N737QX    Photographer: Doug Prange / PRANGE Aerial Photography

Another great photo from [Doug Prange](#). Click picture to enlarge.

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

