

December, 2023  
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# EAA Chapter 569 Newsletter

Lincoln, NE



## Meeting Announcement

**Date:** Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 5:30pm – Dinner 6:00pm

**Program:** Christmas Party

**Place:** County Inn & Suites

**Address:** 5353 N 27<sup>th</sup> St. – Lincoln, NE 68521

### EAA 569 Contact Information

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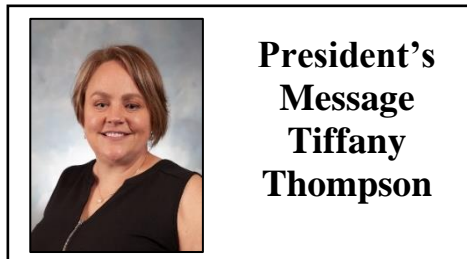
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**President's  
Message  
Tiffany  
Thompson**

Season's greetings to all experimental aircraft enthusiasts! As the year comes to a close, may your hangars be filled with the joy of aviation and the spirit of adventure. I wish you smooth skies, tailwinds of success, and the thrill of soaring to new heights in the coming year.

Happy holidays and happy flying!



A GREAT turnout at the November Chapter 569 fly in breakfast. One attendee was Pat Murry. Pat flew his Sonex Waix up from Olathe, KS. Instead of painting his plane, Pat opted to save a few bucks and wrap it. He did a nice job.

## A Pilot's Thanksgiving

*By Tom Winter*

"Without Don, we'd be in a world of hurt" - That was Roger Aspegren summing up Don Shoemaker's importance to Chapter 569. In those days, we met in the conference room of the Cobbler Inn, and the conference room was all but a museum, with all those photos on the walls. We knew what we owed Don, and Roger gave it expression. Yes, this a Thanksgiving column, and there is bittersweet joy in it: recalling one's debt to others is a good way to delve into memory.

Here goes.

Roger himself was always there when the Chapter needed someone to step up. His roster booklets are a treasure to keep. When we lost our chapter newsletter, realizing it was the glue holding the club together, Roger stepped in, producing *The Communicator* every month. Roger helped with - and organized - our monthly Fly in Breakfast, and served in every chapter office, most of them more than once. And Roger inspired us, first building his Kitfox, then completing his exceptional Subie-powered RV9a. When I was new to the chapter, a lifelong modeler agog to build finally in a scale of TWELVE inches to the foot, Roger straightened me out: with a friendly needle, he nagged me to start dual. I did. Roger died in 2011, age 72.

Bill Sheahan was a B-17 pilot over occupied France in World War II. When I knew him, he was flying an Ercoupe out of the Pester Airstrip, sometimes, legend has it, without regard for the finer points of Charlie airspace. Once, on finding out I was a Latin prof, Bill asked me "Can you read French? I have some letters in French." "I can read them if I can make out the handwriting," I said. This led to an afternoon in Bill's living room, and the letters were from the people who helped him when his B-17 was shot down over France! I read them aloud to Bill and his wife in English. The gratitude went both ways: they saved his life, and for them, well, they felt undying gratitude for his part in freeing their country. The reading aloud was all he wanted, but oh how I wish I had written copies of those historical documents. So much there is, whose importance escapes one at the time!

Bill died age 84, nearly 20 years ago.

Ken Ruhnke was chapter secretary my first term as president. He rode a Harley Davidson to the board meetings and the chapter meetings. He was a member of the Midwest Aerobatic Club, and a founding member of the Flying Conestogas. Bill's aerobatic practice sure was different! He kept a Smith Miniplane at the Arrow Airport and on football Saturdays, he'd be there, engine idling waiting for a touchdown (In those days, one did not have to wait long!) Touchdown? Well, he'd roar into the sky to see if he could bust the balloons! Utterly inspirational. Did he make his Smith Miniplane? I never thought to ask. Ken died just six years ago at age 89.

Wally Peterson, like Bill Sheahan, was a WWII vet, and a giant in the field of economics, (his essay "The Silent Depression" asserted that the typical family income stopped growing in 1973, resulting in most families needing two incomes.) In the war, the Army Air Corps used him to help with logistics, a natural for one of his training. Wally had a 1946 Cub, was happy to share. The phone would ring. Wally's voice: "I'm about to fly to \_\_\_\_\_. Want to go?" My reply was always "Yes!" I'd meet him at the Pester airstrip, a

short bike ride, and we'd fly! The UNL Scarlet interviewed me for his obituary. "Tom Winter, professor of classics, was a long-time friend of Peterson, who introduced Winter to flying.

"I wouldn't be a pilot; I wouldn't own a plane if it weren't for Wally Peterson. I think there must be hundreds of Nebraskans who could say such sentences 'I wouldn't... if it weren't for Wally Peterson.' I'm one," Winter said.

Winter won a ride in Peterson's antique plane at a charity auction, and the friendship grew with Winter earning his pilot's license. Eventually, the pair bought a plane together, a plane Winter still flies.

They often flew Peterson's antique Piper, but it got hard for Peterson to climb into the plane, Winter said. "So for some time, we just flew in the Cessna 150. I had a policy about it. He was a generation ahead of me, a WWII veteran, and if he wanted the plane, he had the plane. Never argued. Never quibbled. Finally, he offered me his half at a generous best-friends price, and so I became, sadly, sole owner of our Cessna 150. And of course, flying our plane, I can still hear his voice advising. What a gift!" It was 2006 when I became sole owner of the Bluebird of Happiness, and I still hear his "Want to go?" each time I pull my plane out of the hangar. Wally died in 2012, age 91.

## Minutes of the Club Meeting

Vice President Jerry Clinch called the meeting to order at 7 pm, November 7, 2023. The meeting was held in the Duncan Engine shop conference room with 10 attending. There were nine voting members present, including new members Chuck Lewis and Logan Otto.

An EAA video interview of aerobatic performer Mike Goulian was featured. Mike talked about the importance of mentors to aerobatic training, since it is a solo sport. It is important to seek out mentors, and for mentors to speak out when the occasion calls for it. He emphasized the hazards of the normalization of deviance. Mike was inspired by "Cloud Dancer". Learning to deal with nerves was a big challenge of competition.

After a break for pizza, the business meeting was called to order.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved without changes.

Treasurer Cristi Higgins reported via email that the EAA checking account balance was \$5047.40. The breakfast account was \$2742.76. Interest on the \$10,000 CD was \$35.34.

Young Eagles coordinator Cristi reported a very successful event at the Fairbury airport with 51 young eagles flown. Airport personnel were very supportive of the event, and provided excellent PR.

Tom Trumble reported that Anders Krzycki has been selected to attend the 2024 EAA Air Academy Basic Camp. The cost (before applying our Young Eagle Credits) will be \$1300 with an additional \$500 travel reimbursement. Tobias Jordan, Chapter 569's Ray scholar, has been approved by EAA national for \$11,000 flight training reimbursement. Tobias is considering Oracle Aviation or John Cox for instruction. Noah Philson is studying for his written.

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After some discussion, it was determined a quorum for electing the board of directors was present. Following is the slate of board nominees:

Board of Directors 1(To be appointed 2024 President): Tiffany Thompson

Board of Directors 2(To be appointed 2024 Vice President): Jerry Clinch

Board of Directors 3(To be appointed 2024 Secretary): Jerry Mulliken

Board of Directors 4(To be appointed 2024 Treasurer): Cristi Higgins

Board of Directors 5(To be appointed 2024 Newsletter Editor): Doug Volkmer

Board of Directors 6(Immediate past President, automatic in accordance with bylaws)

Hearing no other nominations, Tom Trumble moved to elect the slate by acclamation. Harold Bickford seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The 2024 Christmas party will be held Saturday, December 9, at Comfort Inn and Suites. Steve Johnson, pilot for Nebraska State Patrol will speak. Table decorations were discussed.

In new business, Tom Trumble reported that Chapter 80 asked if we would be interested in a donated Kitfox project including a Rotax 912 engine. Logan Otto expressed interest. Logan will evaluate the project.

At 8:37 PM voted to adjourn, Jerry Clinch seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Mulliken, Secretary

### Lost and Found

The following knife sheath was left at the Chapter 569 picnic. If this is yours, contact Doug Volkmer. You may be asked to present a couple IDs and perhaps a birth certificate.



YEAH, THE FAA WENT NUTS AGAIN!

### Chapter Dues for 2024

As we flip the calendar to December and round out another year, it is time to start thinking about your dues for 2024. The annual amount is \$25.

Whether you are a new member or renewing your membership, we are encouraging members to go to the Chapter website ([www.eaa569.org](http://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 \$25.

For those who wish to complete a paper form, there is a printable on the Chapter website as well.

### Creepy News

Your newsletter editor is just finishing up the 3<sup>rd</sup> condition inspection on the RV-7. With just a freckle under 100 hours on the plane, nothing out of the ordinary was found. I did pull the right fuel tank and addressed a few leaky rivets. I did know about this early on. The first time I topped off and let it sit overnight I was greeted with some blue stains the next morning. The leaky rivets were on top. The solution has been simply to top off and go fly. If I burn 30 minutes of fuel that works too as the rivets were on the outboard end. With an upcoming paint job coming, it was time to quit putting it off.

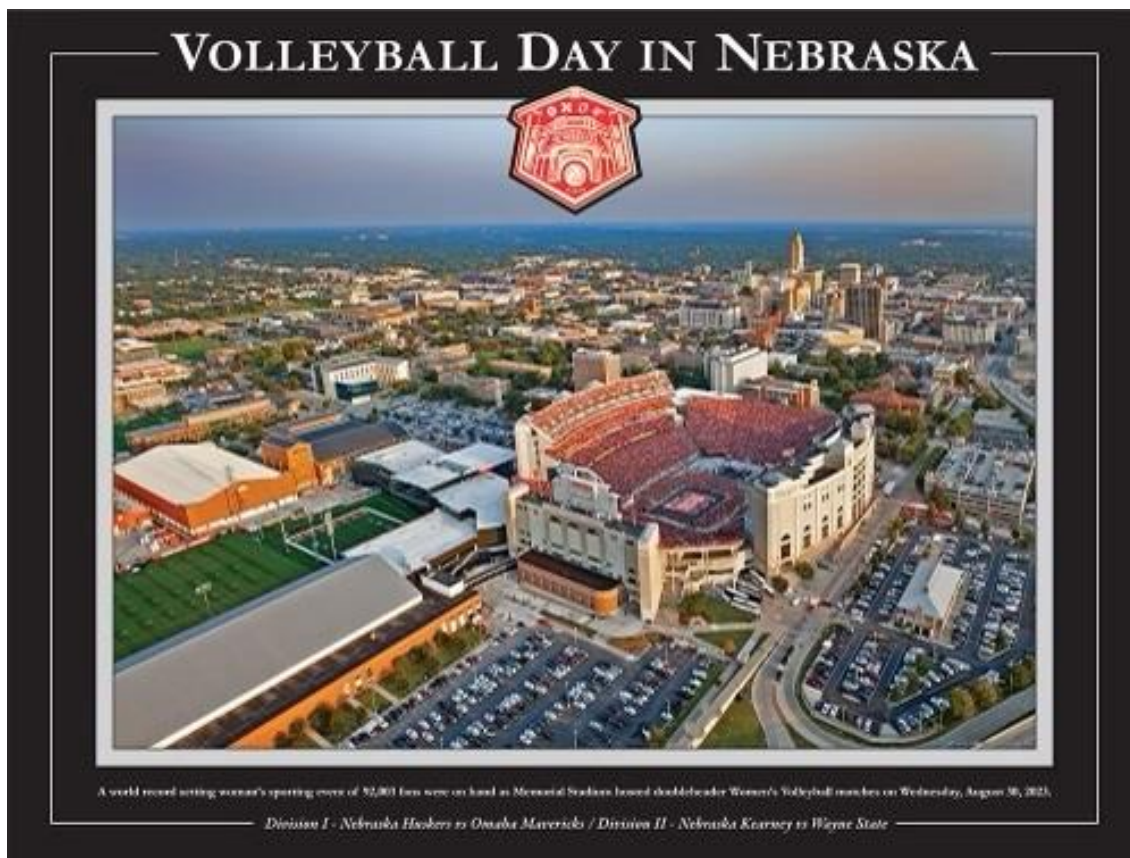
One addition to my arsenal this year has been a new creeper. This thing is great. I wish I would've bought it a couple years ago. It makes working on the bottom side so much nicer. The back inclines so you are much closer to your work. It moves around real nice as well. Also, when not doing any work, I think it'll be nice to take a Saturday afternoon nap on.



EAA Chapter 569 Calendar		
Month		
December	2	8:00am - 10:00am York Fly in Breakfast, EAA Chapter 1055 - KJYR
	9	Christmas Party - Country Inn & Suites, 5353 N 27th St, Lincoln NE 5:30pm - 9:30pm
	16	8:00am - 10:00am Crete Fly in Breakfast, EAA Chapter 569 - KCEK
January	2	7:00pm General Meeting - Program: Chris Stokes
	20	8:00am - 10:00am Crete Fly in Breakfast, EAA Chapter 569 - KCEK
February	6	7:00pm General Meeting
	17	8:00am - 10:00am Crete Fly in Breakfast, EAA Chapter 569 - KCEK



And finally ...



Looking for a stocking stuffer for that Husker fan? [Doug Prange](#) has a new poster available of Volleyball Day in Nebraska which took place in Memorial Stadium on August 30, 2023 with a record crowd of 92,003 in attendance. The 18" x 24" poster is \$19.95. If you're interested, Doug can be reached at 402.432.0774 or [doug@prangephotography.com](mailto:doug@prangephotography.com).

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Merry Christmas!

