



The Official Newsletter of

# EAA Chapter 2

January 2015

Volume 59, Issue 1



## President's Corner

### Greetings Chapter 2!

"Believe me, my friend, there is nothing- absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing, as simply messing about in *airplanes*."

Okay, the author of that quote used "boats" instead of airplanes but it applies well to the involvement of members of EAA Chapter 2. This Chapter never ceases to amaze me with their diverse experience and interests in all things aviation. The Chapter boasts several current and past builders and restorers of aircraft, as you might expect of an EAA chapter.

We have a wide range of flight experience, from beginning student, through instrument, instructor, multi-engine, test pilot, and rotor - as well as those who do not yet fly but who aspire to do so soon. Our members collectively have a wealth of historical knowledge about certificated, experimental and military aircraft. We have members who appreciate the aesthetic value of aircraft through photography, drawing and various other art forms. We have members who fly for work and those who work to fly.



Photo Courtesy of AOPA

Some members fly off of grass and think nothing of camping out of their plane for a week. Some find it routine to use the better part of a twelve thousand foot slab of pavement. Others are content, occasionally using 4 gallons of fuel, for a low and slow hour of sight-seeing around the countryside. We have members who are rated to take your plane apart and put it back together and those whose expertise is at the yoke.

Regardless of our experience, skills, age, politics or religion, the thing that brings us together is "messing about in airplanes." I look forward to an eventful year with Chapter 2.

Happy New Year and Happy Flying,  
Mark Beck, President

## Next Meeting: January 9th, 7pm

Ivy Tech Bldg. at KSMD  
405 W. Cook Rd, Ft. Wayne

### TOPIC: WINTER FLYING OPERATIONS

Featured Speaker: Joel Pierce  
CFII, General Manager of Sweet  
Aviation

**THIS EVENT IS ELIGIBLE FOR  
WINGS CREDIT.**

Are you a pilot? Are you building an aircraft? Are you an aircraft owner?  
Are you just "plane nuts" about aviation?  
If so, then join us! Visit our website at [www.eaa2.org](http://www.eaa2.org) and click on "Join EAA2"

## EAA Chapter 2 Meeting Minutes for December 6, 2014

The Christmas party pot luck dinner was held on December 6th at the Hoosier Air Museum. Outgoing Chapter President, Kevin Stahl welcomed about 23 members and guests who then enjoyed a good variety of dishes. We held a 50/50 drawing with half the proceeds going to the Museum. The meeting continued with a walk among the aircraft and other artifacts. Members had a great time looking into and sitting in some of the planes while Larry Stone provided interesting facts about several planes. The next Chapter meeting is Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup> – 7 p.m. at IVY Tech's Aviation Center at 405 West Cook Road, Fort Wayne, IN.

*Submitted by Mark Beck, President, EAA Chapter 2*

## Calendar of Events 2015

**January 9, 7PM** - IVY Tech Aviation Center  
Joel Piece, Winter Flying Operations

**February 7, 7PM** - Brotherhood Mutual  
Chapter 2 Banquet and Awards

**March 13, 7PM** - Home Workshop Builder Visit  
Featuring Larry Zepp's Viking 110 HP aircraft engine and Zenith Zodiac fuselage construction

**April 10, 7PM** - IVY Tech Aviation Center  
Jack Webb, test pilot, airline pilot, and aircraft home-builder will speak about his experiences and his "Box of Trouble" - parts and artifacts that can teach us something to keep us safe.

Please share your ideas for *chapter events*, *speaker topics*, and *builder visits* with [mark.beck@eaa2.org](mailto:mark.beck@eaa2.org) or [larry.zepp@eaa2.org](mailto:larry.zepp@eaa2.org)

## Chapter Officer Election Update

Mark Beck, President and Larry Zepp, Vice President, are both beginning their terms on January 1, 2015. Geoff Robison, Treasurer, Paul Simunek, Secretary, and Kevin Stahl, Website Editor, Laramie and David Resler will continue



as Young Eagles Coordinators. A correction from the December newsletter, Pam Zepp will now be our Newsletter Editor. Craig Brown will continue as our Flight Advisor.

Are you a pilot? Are you building an aircraft? Are you an aircraft owner?  
Are you just "plane nuts" about aviation?  
If so, then join us! Visit our website at [www.eaa2.org](http://www.eaa2.org) and click on "Join EAA2"

## Who's Who in Chapter 2?

### Drew Hoffman

*Are you licensed?* Yes I am. SEL, Instrument and



Three Young Eagles and Drew

Commercial

*When did you start flying?*

My first log book entry was 10/23/77.

*What do you fly?* I currently fly a Cessna 170A.

*What is the most interesting place you've flown?*

That would be a toss-up between Timmins Ont. Canada and Durango, Colorado. Timmins is the gold mine area in Canada; it's a couple of hours flying-time north of the Great Lakes. You'd be better off with floats than wheels flying over what the Canadians call the "bush". We were there in mid-June and it didn't get full dark 'till about midnight and began getting light at 3:00 a.m. Durango, CO is beautiful country. I set a field altitude record (Stevens Field Airport KPSO/2V1) for the 170 on that trip with a landing at Pagosa Springs - elevation 7700'.

*What influenced your interest in aviation?* I guess it was because I grew up near Smith Field. A friend and I would ride our bikes over to the restaurant that was in the terminal at the time and get a 10 cent Coke and watch airplanes. It was the mid 1960's and the place was always busy back then.

*What are you building/restoring?* I have a 7AC Champ that I was restoring that has pretty much turned into just storing! I hope to finish it someday.

*How long have you been a Chapter 2 member?*

Since 1985 ... if I remember right. I haven't been active the last number of years.

*Have you been a Chapter officer?* I've held every officer position at one time or another, except newsletter editor. I don't remember ever doing that.

*How long have you been a national EAA member?*

Since 1987

*What is your favorite thing about Chapter 2?*

Mostly, I enjoy being around other like-minded airplane nuts.

*Tell us about some of your trips to Oshkosh.*

My first trip to OSH was 1976. I didn't get back 'till 1986 but Nancy and I haven't missed one since.

*Who introduced you to aviation?* Actually, it was no one in particular. It was just all those bike trips to SMD when I was a kid.

*What is your favorite airplane?* I would have to say the P-51 Mustang. On one of my bike visits

Are you a pilot? Are you building an aircraft? Are you an aircraft owner?  
Are you just "plane nuts" about aviation?  
If so, then join us! Visit our website at [www.eaa2.org](http://www.eaa2.org) and click on "Join EAA2"

to SMD a Mustang landed. It was awesome for a seven-year-old and I still remember it like it was yesterday!

*Who is your dream co-pilot?* My wife Nancy, of course! But also can you imagine what you could've learned from ... say Jimmy Doolittle or Bob Hoover in their prime?

*What is your most memorable flying experience?* After thirty-six plus years of flying, it's hard to pick just one. I guess the way I will answer this question is more about the types of aircraft I've flown. I have been very fortunate to have had friends allow me to fly their beloved



© Mike Shreeve 2012

Courtesy of [AeroCraftsman Restorations and Replicas](http://www.aerocraftsman.com).

<http://www.aerocraftsman.com>

Photo by Mike Shreeve

machines over the years. A few of the most memorable would be the 90A Monocoupe, ZKS7 cabin Waco and the Waco model 10 ASO (*thank you again Phil!*), also Cubby Stewart's Stearman, and I can't forget the rides in the EAA's B-17 & Ford Trimotor. *"I am blessed to have PIC time in a little over 60 makes and models of aircraft to grace my log books at this point in my aviation adventure."*

## Homebuilt Corner – Jan. 2015 Planning to Build a Homebuilt Plane

One of the great freedoms we have as Americans, is the ability to learn and construct an aircraft for our education. Most of the other countries in the world either do not allow this at all or severely restrict this activity!

If you like learning and have time that you can devote to a long term project, aircraft building could be for you. Do you have perseverance and patience in your makeup or do you have trouble completing things you cannot finish quickly?

---

*Many designs offer kits that greatly reduce the assembly time and still comply with doing the FAA required minimum of 51% of the work. When you are done, your builder's log will qualify you for a Repairman's Certificate - allowing you to do all maintenance, since you are the manufacturer.*

---

Conduct a personal inventory of your time, family, finances, work, and building space to see if building a homebuilt aircraft is for you. Talk to your family and be honest – this is a major decision that needs their support. If you are just trying to get an aircraft for less money, consider buying a used airplane – it may be a better solution if you don't strongly want to build.

**Deciding WHAT to build** – Consider your skill, where you like to fly, and what types of airplanes you like best. If you are a low time or occasional pilot, pick an easy to fly plane and not a complex

Continued on next page



Are you a pilot? Are you building an aircraft? Are you an aircraft owner?  
Are you just "plane nuts" about aviation?  
If so, then join us! Visit our website at [www.eaa2.org](http://www.eaa2.org) and click on "Join EAA2"

high performance or aerobatic one. Consider your finances and where you will keep the completed plane. Ask chapter members, scan the internet, and read issues of *Sport Aviation*, *Kitplanes* and *Experimenter*.

If visiting many of your friends will require a landing on a grass strip, you should focus on a reasonable



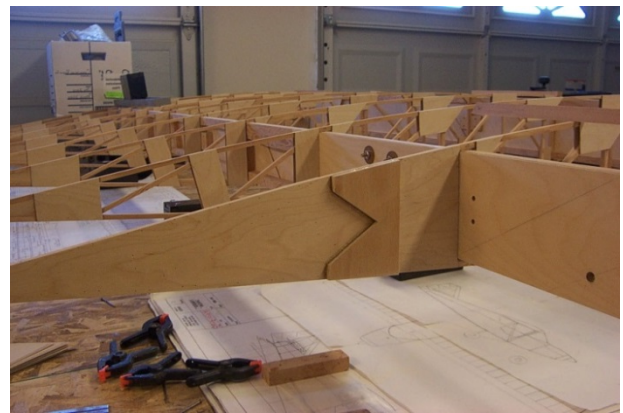
takeoff distance and not on a canard aircraft that needs a long ground run to lift the nose. Many people choose a two seat aircraft, so you can take a passenger. If you think you must have a four seat plane, examine your needs carefully since these larger aircraft are often much more expensive than two-seaters.

Get lots of advice and try out the airplane at the manufacturer or with a builder. I started building a KR-2 in 1976 and it was the small two seat airplane I could afford. When it was partially completed, I realized I did not fit in it! Trying it out for size is very important!

**Deciding HOW to Build** – There are now many aircraft kits available, and this is a very good way



to build. Some of the hard / complex work is done for you and you may have an active builders group available for support. Ask and research about the kit company. Are they stable and dependable? They need to be worthy of your investment of time and money. Some companies also offer plans where the builder orders raw materials and fabricates every part. This is much more time consuming than building from a kit, but it saves money. Some kit manufacturers also offer the option of partial kits. This allows the builder to order kits as they



Courtesy of [Mywoodenairplane.com](http://Mywoodenairplane.com)

build, instead of ordering the entire kit all at once. Many builders find that this is easier on the family budget. Many kits offer a rudder or similar starter kit that a prospective builder can try. If you like making the rudder, you will probably like continuing to build the rest of the plane.

You may try different materials to see what you like. The workshops at AirVenture Oshkosh are a great way to try welding, sheet metal, wood, composites, or fabric work. You can also visit chapter members and check out the construction method they are using. For garage workspaces attached to the home, many find that sheet metal construction is very easy to work with.

Continued on next page

Are you a pilot? Are you building an aircraft? Are you an aircraft owner?  
Are you just "plane nuts" about aviation?  
If so, then join us! Visit our website at [www.eaa2.org](http://www.eaa2.org) and click on "Join EAA2"

**The One Week Wonder at AIRVENTURE 2014** was a great example of how sheet metal kit advancements have reduced build time. Most holes in the Zenith 750 Cruiser skins were pre-drilled to final size on a computerized machine when they came out of the crate! The time savings of kits using this pre-drilled or pre-punched construction is truly incredible!

**Long Range PLANNING – Get tools and a building space** – As you refine your homebuilt plane goals, tell your family about the tools you will need for birthdays, Christmas, and other events. Can you get gently used tools from a builder that completed their plane? Most builders really need the following tools, no matter what the construction type:

- ✓ Air compressor and accessories
- ✓ Electric drill and drill press
- ✓ Band saw and hack saw
- ✓ Bench grinder
- ✓ Dremel tool and accessories
- ✓ Lots of clamps – especially the ratchet grip type



- ✓ Can you build in a limited space - or is now the time to add on to the garage or build that pole barn?
- ✓ Ask builders of the type plane you are considering, what other tools you will need.
- ✓ Ask questions of your chapter Technical Counselor or Homebuilt advisor – they are there to help!

Fair skies and Tailwinds,

*Larry Zepp* (260) 348-0336

## YOUNG EAGLES UPDATE

We would like to put together information about kids we have flown as Young Eagles who then went on to pursue a career in aviation or as a hobby. We need their name, any contact information that you might have, and pictures if you have them. We will make contact with each of them to gather information so we can make a presentation at the VAA37 banquet.



Send this information to Laramie at [LResler@brotherhoodmutual.com](mailto:LResler@brotherhoodmutual.com)

David and Laramie Resler - Young Eagles Coordinators



**Newsletter Editor**  
2812 Trent Drive  
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

---

**Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter Two**  
426 West Ludwig Road  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46825

*Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter Two Encourages and Promotes Sport Aviation and Aeronautical Education in Northeast Indiana.*

## **EAA Chapter 2 Officers and Board Members:**

President	Mark Beck	(260) 403-6220	<a href="mailto:president@eaa2.org">president@eaa2.org</a>
Vice President	Larry Zepp	(260) 348-0336	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@eaa2.org">vicepresident@eaa2.org</a>
Secretary	Paul Simunek		<a href="mailto:secretary@eaa2.org">secretary@eaa2.org</a>
Treasurer	Geoff Robison	(260) 437-5579	<a href="mailto:treasurer@eaa2.org">treasurer@eaa2.org</a>
Young Eagle Coordinators	David & Laramie Resler	(260) 693-6191	<a href="mailto:youngeagles@eaa2.org">youngeagles@eaa2.org</a>
Builder's Support	Larry Zepp	(260) 348-0336	<a href="mailto:skyking6500@gmail.com">skyking6500@gmail.com</a>
Website Editor	Kevin Stahl	(260) 637-3613	<a href="mailto:webmaster@eaa2.org">webmaster@eaa2.org</a>
Newsletter Editor	Pam Zepp	(260) 602-2398	<a href="mailto:newsletter@eaa2.org">newsletter@eaa2.org</a>
Technical Advisor	Dean Husted		
Flight Advisor	Craig Brown		