

EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter February 2026

President Mark Scott
Vice President James Calver
Secretary Rick Beebe
Treasurer Bill Jagoda
Newsletter Editor Joe Bogacki
Young Eagles Donna Shea
Scholarship Coordinator Matt Valleau

Tech Counselors Dave Pepe, Mark Scott & Mike Zemsta

Flight Advisor Mark Scott

Our Web Site: www.eaa27.org



Next Meeting, February 15th 10 am Meriden Airport

Major Aaron "REPO" Koveleskie will headline our Sunday, February 15 EAA Chapter 27 meeting with a fast-paced, all-ages talk on his journey from aspiring pilot to F-16 Instructor/Evaluator in the USAF Reserve.



EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter February 2026

Major Aaron “REPO” Koveleskie is an F-16 Instructor/Evaluator Pilot in the USAF Reserves with more than 1,500 hours in the F-16, T-38, T-6, and multiple GA aircraft. He is a 2012 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, a distinguished graduate of Squadron Officer School, and a qualified Wild Weasel Mission Commander. When he is not in the cockpit, Aaron serves in a business role at Pratt & Whitney while continuing to fly part-time as a Citizen Airman.

Major Koveleskie’s presentation starts with how he got into aviation, continues through earning his way into a professional fighter cockpit, and then digs into the core competencies and personal qualities that have mattered most in his flying career. Along the way he’ll share a selection of his wildest, yet family-friendly, flying stories from both military jets and general aviation that promise to keep everyone—from students to seasoned pilots—fully engaged.

Bring a friend, a future pilot, or anyone who has ever looked up at a fast-moving jet and wondered what it’s like to be the one flying it.

President’s Message

Well, we have a real winter this year. Airport airplane activity has been pretty quiet most days given snow, wind, and cold. The groundhog saw his shadow so 6 more weeks of winter. But then I hear he is wrong half the time! Our speaker from Pipestral will be rescheduled for the spring. The snow should be melted by late May!

We had a good officers meeting a couple weeks ago. We have lots of activities planned for 2026. We will review at the February meeting.

2026 Annual Planning Meeting Minutes

The annual Chapter planning meeting was convened on January 31, 2026 at noon at KMMK.

Attendees: Mark Scott, James Calver, Bill Jagoda, Joe Bogacki, David Maas, Constance Castillo, Donna Shea, Matt Valleau, Rick Beebe

We had a brief discussion on membership. We have 7 student members right now. Paid membership is growing slowly. We are set up to accept both PayPal and Venmo although only PayPal functions on the website at the moment.

Matt gave an update on our Ray Scholar Ethan's progress. Weather has been slowing him down of late but he's progressing.

Young Eagles:

- Spring Rally, June 13. Rain date June 14
- Fall rally: October 3, Rain date October 4
- First Timer Rally: August 8. Rain date August 9

Other activities on our radar:

- Career Day in Cheshire
- Stem academy in Wallingford
- Park & Rec camp. Beginning of July. Date TBD

EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter February 2026

- Girls Inc. Creative engineering week. Want a field trip to the airport. Perhaps July 29

Presentation Speaker Ideas:

- Pipestral representative. Will reschedule when weather is warmer.
- FSDO FAAST has a speakers database we can utilize
- Gliding (March or April)
- F-16 pilot

Events:

- 5k run will be returning.
- Classic/Tailwheel flyin?
- 70th anniversary of Chapter 27
 - Make the picnic a larger event
 - Sunday, September 20
 - Order some 70th anniversary swag
- Spring cleanup - April 25
- EAA Tri-motor tour. Mark will talk to EAA. Would be housed at Oxford
- Move banquet to January 23, 2026 to get farther away from the holiday rush? To be brought up at a regular meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00pm

Rick Beebe, Secretary

Ray Aviation Scholar 2025

Flight Training Update: This past month of flight training focused on building consistency and confidence in the cockpit. I am now able to complete takeoffs and landings independently, with my instructor observing rather than taking control. The landings are still a bit rough, but each flight has shown steady improvement. I am continuing to make standard radio calls and I am becoming more comfortable using the Garmin G1000 system. We also began simulated engine failure training for the first time, which was challenging but a good learning experience. It highlighted areas I need to stay more disciplined in, especially emergency, takeoff, and taxi briefings. Weather limited flying opportunities, but overall the month was productive and I am starting to study Gleim for test Prep more and more, so if you have any tips or questions you think of that can test my knowledge level that would be appreciated. I'm looking forward to continuing to refine these skills in upcoming flights and I thank you again for this opportunity.

Ethan Simpson Ray Scholar 2025

EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter February 2026

Cheshire High School Career Fair

Chapter 27 and the Meriden Flight School were invited to participate in the Cheshire High School career fair. Mark brought our little wind tunnel with information on mechanical and aerospace engineering careers. Donna brought information about our chapter and opportunities for women in Aviation. We were set up next to the flight school which made for a nice combination. Lots of kids stopped by and took interest in seeing the airfoil tufts stream and separate in the wind tunnel at different angles of attack. Hopefully we can make this an annual event for the chapter.



EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter February 2026



Youth Aviation Center and Sonex Build

We are moving along well but had to cancel a number of sessions because it was too cold to work. The forward fuselage is starting to take shape. We are pretty tight in the hangar but we are making it work.



EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter February 2026

Regional Meetings

Check chapter websites for meeting status

Chapter 1310 Meetings - 2nd Wednesday 7 PM April-October
2nd Saturday 10 AM November, January, February, March at Skylark Airport

Chapter 166 Meetings - Last Saturday of month 10:00 AM (Except July, Nov & Dec)
at HFD Hangar 1 EAA Classroom, 20 Lindberg Drive, Hartford. <http://eaa166.org>

Chapter 27 Meetings - 3rd Sunday of month, 10 AM at Meriden Airport
<http://eaa27.org/>

Chapter 324 Meetings 1st Wednesday of month, 7 PM Simsbury Airport
<https://www.facebook.com/eaa324/> <https://chapters.eaa.org/EAA324>

Chapter 324 VMC Club Simsbury Airport CT 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm
Laura Doherty | laurado@sas.upenn.edu - EAA.org/VMC

Chapter 1620 Meetings 1st Wednesday of month, 7:30 PM Barnes Airport Hangar 3,
111 Airport Rd. Westfield, MA. 01085 <https://www.facebook.com/eaa.org/>

Airshows and Events

April 14-19 Sun and Fun <https://flysnf.org/>

May 22-24 Central PA Airshow featuring Navy Blue Angels
<https://www.warbirds-eaa.org/event/central-pa-air-show/>

May 29-31 Atlantic City Airshow “Thunder Over the Boardwalk”
<https://airshowdisplay.fr/en/airshow/atlantic-city-airshow-2026>

June 05-07 Mid Atlantic World War II weekend <https://maam.org/show-info/>

June 19,20, & 21 Greenwood Lake NJ Airshow Night show pyrotechnics
<https://www.njairshow.com/>

July 4th Snowbirds over New York

July 05-06 Bethpage Airshow @ Jones Beach featuring Navy Blue Angels <https://www.fourleafairshow.com/>

July 11-12 National Warplane Museum Airshow on Turf Geneseo NY
<https://airshowdisplay.fr/en/airshow/geneseo-airshow-the-greatest-show-on-turf-2026>

July 20-26 EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2026
https://www.eaa.org/airventure/eaa-airventure-tickets?utm_source=eaa_internal_web_link&utm_medium=internal/eaa.org&utm_campaign=av_tickets_2026&utm_term=homepage_slider&utm_content=image

August 01-02 New York Airshow Orange County Airport Montgomery NY featuring the
USAF Thunderbirds <https://hudsonvalleycountry.com/ny-airshow-headliners-2026-and-2027/>

Classifieds

MANY structural pull rivets left over from the RV-12 build. They are 1/8 dia, Gesipa LP4-3 with .093-.197 grip. \$5 for a 1/2 lb bag or about 200 rivets. That is about 80% less than similar Q rivets from Aircraft Spruce.
Contact Mark Scott (203-988-3197)

EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter February 2026

EAA CHAPTER 27 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join and pay online with PayPal at EAA27.org/Join

or

Please fill in the following information and mail with your dues to:
EAA Chapter 27, c/o Bill Jagoda, 43 Derby Road, Rockfall, CT 06481
Annual dues are \$20.00 per year. Make checks payable to *EAA Chapter 27*

(Please print)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

EAA Member # _____ Expiration Date: _____

Pilot rating held: _____

E-mail address: _____

Would you like to receive our newsletter via email? Y / N

Aircraft owned, make & model: _____

Flying _____ Building _____ Restoring _____ % complete _____

Tell us about your areas of interest and expertise:

If anyone has something they would like to share in our newsletter, places of interest to fly too, your airplane build project, articles, flight experiences, etc. please forward them to Joe "newsletter@eaa27.org"
