

EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter May 2026

President Mark Scott
Vice President James Calver
Secretary Rick Beebe
Treasurer Bill Jagoda
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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 May 17, 2026 10 am Meriden Airport

Pipistrel will be our featured guest speaker sharing their history and latest developments in their innovative line of light sport and electric training aircraft. Weather permitting Pipistrel representative Stuart Berlinger plans to fly in a Pipistrel Alpha Trainer. There is a possibility that a few short rides available after the meeting.



EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter May 2026

President's Message

The airport building is undergoing abatement and renovations in May. Our meeting will be in the snow plow garage this month. We will have chairs, a projector a screen, and probably airplane noise if it is a nice day.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes, April 19, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am. Officers present: President Mark Scott, Vice President James Calver, Secretary Rick Beebe, Treasurer Bill Jagoda. There were 33 attendees.

Visitors: Joe Palmisano. Mike Schlechter and his wife.

EAA HQ released the results of the annual member survey. We had an 80% response rate and our chapter got very good results.

Treasurer's Report: \$2093.00

Tech Reports: Doug Dringoli is doing a lot of welding on his Hatz right now. Dave Rich reports that the Carbon Cub is 99% done with 50% left to go. Al Starbard is investigating engine monitors for the Cub right now. Dave showed off 3Ms "knifeless template system." It's basically a very thin string that you put on your base surface, lay vinyl over it and then pull the string through to cut the vinyl.

Mike Schlechter from Real Clean Aircraft Detailing gave a short presentation on his cleaning and detailing services. www.realcleanaircraft.com

Young Eagle Rallies for 2026: June 13, August 8 (first timers only), October 3. Rain dates are the following day.

Ray Scholar report: Ethan reports that his flight training is going. Just finished ground school. Written coming up soon. Solo coming up soon, too. He'll be going to St. Louis University for Aeronautics. The Chapter will be opening applications for next year in May.

Sonex build: Isabelle reports that the build is progressing. The firewall is particularly fussy. The wing skins appear to be too short to cover the area they need to.

Our clean up day is May 2 from 10-12. (Note, later changed to 1-3)

We'll be installing the commemorative bricks sometime this summer.

The Pipestral presentation will be in May.

The May meeting will be held in the Snowplow Shed because the FBO building will be closed for renovation.

June 6 there's a pancake breakfast at Kleinkill airport run by EAA Chapter 146.

EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter May 2026

Presentation: Joe Palmisano is a glider CFI and tow plane pilot. He gave a very interesting presentation on The Connecticut Soaring Society and soaring in general.

--Rick Beebe, secretary

Ray Aviation Scholar 2025

Hello everyone, I'm excited to share that I officially soloed on Tuesday, April 28. It was an incredible experience and something I'll never forget. The weather was calm, not too windy, it felt like a perfect day for a first solo. The moment my instructor stepped out of the cockpit and left me alone in the aircraft was probably the most "on my own" I've ever felt. I was very nervous, but I stayed focused, read my checklist, and talked myself through each step just like I had practiced.

Once I got into the air. I immediately noticed how much differently the plane handled without another person in the seat, it felt lighter and more responsive. Throughout the flight, I kept hearing my instructor's voice in my head telling me "right rudder." By the time I landed, it really hit me, this was the first time I truly felt like a pilot.

Ethan Simpson Ray Scholar 2025



EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter May 2026



EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter May 2026

Chapter 27

Youth Aviation Center and Sonex Build

The fuselage is “boxed up” now with the firewall tabs bent and positioned in the front. The gang is working on all the support pieces and wing box parts. There are some tricky holes to drill that require the angle drill. Everyone is developing new skills. Our wing skin is slightly short relative to its positioning on the spar. We are talking with knowledgeable builders about what to do. Sonex was just bought. Hopefully we can contact them soon.



EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter May 2026

Chapter 27 Projects

Carbon Cub

Over the past month or so we've been wrapping up the build and attending to many of the details not only with the build but also getting started on the registration and certification process. We've been somewhat undecided on the panel except that near-term would be VFR and pretty minimal. The plan is to leave a more sophisticated panel as a separate project that can be undertaken once we have an airworthy and flying aircraft. One addition we did decide to make now is an engine monitor and have ordered an EI CGR-30P. We both like the idea of not only being able to actively monitor engine parameters but also being able to record this data for analysis. Things are a bit slow at the moment with Dave on a vacation and the seaplane season is ramping up for me. We plan to keep pushing forward as time allows and with luck could be flying in June/July.

Al Starbard



EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter May 2026

Chapter 27

Cheshire High School Meeting

We have scheduled at the airport a tour for Cheshire High School kids and adults on June 25th. Plans are in the works. At the moment we expect about a two hour event with introductory presentations, airplanes on display, a tour of the airport, and the maintenance facility. We expect the flight school to participate too. The start time is still TBD. We will need a few volunteers to help out. More to come in the weeks ahead.

Wallingford STEM academy

Mark brought the table top wind tunnel to the Wallingford STEM event on May 2nd. Kids enjoyed feeling the wind and watching the tufts on the airfoil. Young Eagle rally fliers were handed out and a member of the Board of Education requested information on the AOPA STEM course.



Meriden Airport

The MMK terminal building will be closed from 5/04 thru 5/29 for renovations. Airport Ops will be operating out of the garage Bldg-C adjacent the terminal for the month of May. The walk thru gate will remain open, however the drive thru gate will be shut down for contractor use only. Friday EAA coffee and donuts will continue to meet in Bill Jagoda's hangar I-5 for the month. You can still park in the terminal parking lot and Airport staff will give you a ride to the hangar if needed. Thank you for working around our renovations this month!

EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter May 2026

Airport Clean up and Improvement Day

Unfortunately, attendance was pretty light and we did not accomplish all we were hoping to. There were a few sprinkles of rain, otherwise conditions were fine. The picnic tables were painted, garbage along the fence was picked up, grass damaged by the snow plow was repaired, and some of the gardening work was completed. Thanks for the help to those who participated. The airport and City appreciate the work we do.



EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter May 2026

Wallingford School Photography Club

A Wallingford school photography club came to Meriden Airport for a couple hours a week or so ago. There were 35 kids taking pictures of everything. We had them sit in a couple planes and shoot pictures in the maintenance hangar too. They even got some action shots of planes landing. They all seemed to really enjoy it. It looks like this will become an annual event.



EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter May 2026

Tech Tip of the Month

Ever been working on something on your panel or elsewhere in the cabin and drop something small which of course ends up in the most inaccessible spot possible? It happened to me all the time. Now I lay down an old blanket under where I'm working. When I drop something it does not bounce. It lands and stays put. Use a light colored blanket and parts are easy to find. It also makes a good place for tools as you are working. It also protects the interior if you are using any kind of glue or lubricant. Another tip is to use steel cad plated hardware instead of stainless steel. You can retrieve a cad plated steel parts with a magnet on a telescoping stick. You can't with stainless steel parts. (Mark)



Airplane Weight Scales and other tools

Joe Gauthier's Daughter has graciously donated Joe's airplane scales to the Chapter. A new battery was purchased and they seem to be working fine. If you have not weighed your plane in a while it might be a good idea. It does not take long. They are free to use for Chapter and EAA members. We will charge a nominal fee for non EAA people.

Joe's daughter is looking for a home for Joe's gas welding equipment, 220 volt compressor, engine build up stand, stationary sander, and metal lathe. If you are interested in any items contact Mark.

EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter May 2026

Young Eagles

Attention Young Eagle Volunteers! 2026 Young Eagle Rally Dates:

Book your calendars and **reserve your planes** for volunteering for the following 2026 Young Eagle Rally dates:

June 13th (rain date June 14th)

August 8th (rain date August 9th) This will be a smaller rally for first time participants.

October 3rd (rain date October 4th)

Clear your calendars now so that our awesome team can make these events a reality!

Donna Young Eagles Coordinator

EAA Chapter 27

YOUNG EAGLES RALLY

Free Flights for Participants Ages 8 to 17

Saturday, 6/13/2026

Rain Date: 6/14/2026



Meriden Airport (KMMK)
213 Evansville Ave.
Meriden CT 06451



Parents/Guardians must PRE-REGISTER at
EAAChapters.ORG starting May 13, 2026 @ 8AM

A Parent/Guardian Must be Present

EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter May 2026

Meriden Markham Municipal Airport

RUN THE RUNWAY

5k & Kids Fun Run



Sunday, October 25, 2026

9:00am

Proceeds benefit:



Disabled American Veterans

AMERICA



Book Your Race Today!



SPONSORSHIP & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!

Contact: Meridenrunning@gmail.com



Meriden Running Club



EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter May 2026

Chapter 27 and MMK Calendar Events 2026

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

Park & Rec camp. end of July. Date TBD

Girls Inc. Creative engineering week July 27

Events

MMK 5k run October 25, 2026

70th anniversary of Chapter 27 Sunday, September 20

Holiday Banquet January 9, 2027

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

May 9th EAA Chapter 968 is having a Fly-In from 9am - 1pm @ The Rutland Vermont Regional Airport ([KRUT](#))

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 05-07 B29 Fifi at Bridgeport - Connecticut Air and Space Museum

June 10-14 Westfield FIFI B29 Saturday the 13th 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pancake breakfast

June 19, 20, & 21 Greenwood Lake NJ Airshow Night show pyrotechnics

<https://www.njairshow.com/>

EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter May 2026

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/aaa-airventure-tickets?utm_source=aaa_internal_web_link&utm_medium=internal/aaa.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/>

September 12-13th Beverly Regional Airshow

EAA Chapter 146 Fly-In Breakfast Dates for 2026

Dates: Saturday, June 6, 2026, and Saturday, September 12, 2026

8am to noon, WX permitting, at Kline Kill Airport (NY1), Ghent, NY

Follow us on Facebook for updates: [EAA Chapter 146 Ghent NY](#)

(Chapter Secretary: 518-250-6674, call or text)



Pancakes, eggs, sausage, OJ, & coffee, all for only \$10. Plenty of parking for both aircraft & cars at one of the most picturesque grass airfields in the Northeast.

Please Note: Fuel IS NOT AVAILABLE at Kline Kill Airport. Fuel is available at Columbia County Airport (1B1), 5 NM SW.

EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter May 2026

Classifieds

For Sale: Garmin GDL51

This is a portable SiriusXM weather receiver as well as a GPS and ADHRS. Works with Foreflight and Garmin Pilot. \$850 at Aircraft Spruce. \$550. Rick Beebe. rick@beebe.org or 203-623-3744

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)

For sale one share in the Spirit of Meriden Flight Club (SOMFC) Van's RV-12. Excellent aircraft for a new student or a seasoned pilot and only requires a Sport Pilot license. Running costs after share purchase are \$94.00 monthly and \$24.00 per hour (dry, no fuel). The RV-12 is permanently hangared at Meriden (KMMK). See the SOMFC web site for club and RV-12 details <https://www.somfc.org> Contact Bob Maher on 203-859-1271.



EAA Chapter 27 Newsletter May 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"
