



# EAA Chapter 83 Terre Haute, IN



A Social Organization operated for the Advancement of  
Aviation Education, Homebuilt Aircraft, and Private Aviation  
Dedicated in the memory of Garland Wadsworth and John Blouch

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November 2022



From your  
President-  
Keith Welsh

Hello again everyone.  
Welcome to your EAA Chapter 83 newsletter.

The meeting at Williams Aviation happened on a pretty windy and cold day. Great idea not to have tried for a fourth airport meeting but this one could have been just as easy being it was at KHUF.



*Our Host Chad Williams*



*A couple photos of the group*

After our meal, provided compliments of Williams Aviation, Chad put on a very informative talk on polishing which is something he is passionate about. More on that later.

The member reports were fun as usual...for example we learned from Wayne Sanders that he and Jerry Badger, who fly together often to eat out at airports around the area, have logged 144 landings at 10 different airports so far this year. Jerry fly's a Mooney and Wayne an RV-6A that he built. And that is not the routine touch and goes for practice either. That's just flying. Good for them! Elliot Abel reported on the progress of their Bearhawk, Jim Mayhew reported that he is working on getting his IFR and we have a new A&P in Bob Brickley, congratulations Bob. Bob is retired former FAA ATC and finally as most know Reed Usrey gives helicopter rides during the Covered Bridge Festival each fall. This year he logged right at 600 takeoffs and landings during the 6 days of helicopter rides at Bridgeton.

## **ATIS: Communications:**

For our program Chad gave a demonstration on polishing. He took an airplane which appeared to be clean and made believers out of us that it in fact wasn't. The resulting shine was impressive. His knowledge of polishing products comes from years of experimentation, reading and practical use. For example, we learned that Carnauba wax is as good as it gets for protecting a finish but it has one problem....it will only last about two months. I love my truck but not that much. Then in comes the newer Ceramic's. In order to properly get the actual benefit of a ceramic

product it must be properly applied. Doing so will give up to 2 years of protection and not all ceramics are not created equal.

His demonstration involved the use of products from Griot's Garage based in Seattle, WA however, all their products are made in and distributed from Plainfield, IN.

Among the products he demonstrated were the three below, Rinseless Wash and Wax, Complete Compound and the Ceramic 3-In-1 Wax.



Griot's Garage has an excellent website that goes into detail on the recommended use for these products.



Chad applying the Complete Compound



I guess not everyone was interested in polishing airplanes

### **BearHawk Construction:**

From these photos you can see that the Melanie's and Elliot's BearHawk 5 is coming along very well. As I understand it this aircraft is a backcountry type airplane powered by a Lycoming IO-540 engine. I was pretty impressed by the quality of the welds and overall construction from BearHawk. I see lots of adventure ahead



Builders Log: <https://eaabuilderslog.org/?blproject&proj=7zJWhcxx8>

### **Delivering Santa:**

On Friday Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> our own Reed Usrey delivered Santa by helicopter to the Indiana State Museum in Indy. The link below will take you to the facebook page to see the video of their arrival. His flight begins at about the 4-minute mark.

<https://www.facebook.com/IndianaMuseum/videos/tune-in-to-see-santa-land-via-helicopter-at-the-indiana-state-museum-during-open/461471249461226/>



This is a photo of Reed's new ride. It is a Robinson R44II that is their new instrument trainer. And for those not aware Frank Robinson, founder of Robinson Helicopter, passed away on Nov 12<sup>th</sup> at home in CA. He was 92

## Chapter Service Awards:

Were passed out to those present and the rest will be sent. Many thanks to those who served EAA Chapter 83 in 2022.

## New Chapter Officers for 2023:

For 2023 your Chapter 83 officers are:

President: Keith Welsh  
Vice President: Rick Ramsey  
Newsletter Editor: Keith Welsh  
Treasurer: John Watler  
Secretary: Alice Ramsey

## Life at Boeing:

Last month's story from Vern Lehman actually has a second part. This one is a little more current and with one part in particular we...or should I say Elliot...can relate to. If you remember, Vern is one of our Quickie builders who worked at Boeing during some pretty eventful times that makes for interesting reading. Continuing.....

"I was also there when Lefty Gardener flew the P-38 routine including vertical rolls on one engine. WOW! That was really impressive. We first moved to Everett in June of 1968, that Autumn it was raining almost constantly. Being from Kansas and Florida we didn't know what a "Pineapple Express" was. What happens is a low-pressure stream from the Hawaiian Islands sets up in the Pacific and it pumps continual storms right into Puget Sound between the Olympics and Cascades.

Mom had to dress formally then, hose, a skirt and high heels also. She often told me how the "portables" they had for offices were off the factory a bit with nothing but wooden planks to walk on. Of course, the mud would push up between the boards and her feet would get wet and cold, so going to the high-level meetings she almost always had "cold feet". On entering the factory, the first 747 was still in build without the roof finished! The SST mockup was also under a roof but much less work was going on there at the time.

It was sad for me, but I did say goodbye to the last 747-8F in the factory that is going to Atlas Air Cargo when I left Everett in November 2021. Last Autumn I was back on contract at the factory working on the KC-46 and 767F. Pineapple Express again! Inside the factory was not as much a factor as much as what is happening outside, because it is a rare day there isn't a ton of things waiting for us to do and wet, we would get.

The Shop guys and gals were indeed "the Incredibles" that they accomplished something that no one thought possible. I can tell you for a fact also ... that anyone who can read the 747 drawings is an expert on drawing reading. Of all the models of Boeing, reading the 747 2D engineering drawings is a skill set above and beyond! Not only that, the Planning also used a system called Omnibus Variable Delete. Basically, what that was is all possible options were added, and letters were attached to the job operation to suppress those instructions NOT to use. A bit like driving on the freeway in reverse using only the rear-view mirrors.

The Suppressor letters were "tied" to a specific Airline customer. But remember also. Each airliner is an individual depending on what the mission of that aircraft

was expected to be. Imagine the almost infinite variables, that is daily life in the factory. When we are talking the 737, at one time we were on a 6.5 hour build rate. Boeing does not build "white tails"... we custom build each aircraft to what the customer defined.

Some of my other historicals were probably more notable. The Starship 1 for example ... and how we were also building parts in our autoclaves for the Voyager. Burt, Dick, John, and Jeanna were often in our work area right next to NC1, NC2, and NC3. Lots of memories. Some things in life I would have changed, if possible, but not these! A "plane Crazy" kid grew up in these places and I am grateful to this hour for each opportunity."  
Vern

## NOTAMS: Upcoming Events:

### EAA Chapter UL81 Christmas Party 2022'

Day: Saturday

Date: Dec. 3rd, 2022

Location: Wilson Field Hangar (4IN4)

-Doors open around 4:pm ET

-Opening Prayer and Dinner: 5:pm ET

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The evening of activities consists of an informal carry-in dinner, followed by an Ugly Sweater Contest and Bingo. We include several Prizes!

Several of our members are also members of your Chapters if you have questions, or email me.

We send emails pertaining to any updates several times throughout the month of November allowing ample time to prepare (trying not to interfere with any other upcoming activities).

Please consider attending and enjoying a simple evening with fellow flying friends, we would love to have you!

Thank you.

Robert Grubb

President EAA UL81

## VAA Chapter 41 Visit with Santa:



**SKY KING AIRPORT**  
6898 N Clinton St,  
Terre Haute, IN 47805  
DATE: Dec 10, 2022 TIME: 10:00-1:00

## **VMC Meetings:**

Beginning in January Laurance Cross will again be presenting programs on the subject of VMC which can include such things as maps, weather, FAR's, VFR regs etc...etc... So be sure to keep a lookout in upcoming newsletters for dates and times.

Laurance also presents sessions on IMC. For those interested be sure let me know so that any plans can be made.

## **Our Next Meeting:**

**We will meet next at Elliot and Melanie's hangar at KHUF for our annual Chapter Christmas Party.**

**By now most of you have already received a notice. The evening is open to all pilots and spouses of the Terre Haute area for an evening of fun, visiting and just plain pilot talk (the kind of thing that is rare among mortals).**

**What: EAA Chapter 83, VAA Chapter 41 and Terre Haute area pilots Christmas party**

**Where: Elliot and Melanie Abel's hangar at KHUF**

**When: December 7th, 2022**

Their hangar is located at the West T's on Hunt Road. From inside the gate continue to the first LT. They are the third door.

Cocktail hour will start at 1730 (5:30pm) with dinner at 1830 (6:30pm). All times are EST.

Beverages will include beer, wine and soft drinks. The meal will be Italian by Piloni's with deserts.

The cost is \$20 per person payable at the door.

We need to have RSVP's by December 4<sup>th</sup> to help with planning.

RSVP's can be made by emailing me at [kw544@juno.com](mailto:kw544@juno.com), or texting 812-230-2355 or getting hold of any of the 4 of us, Melanie, Elliot, Cathi or me.

Looking forward to seeing you there.  
Melanie and Elliot, Cathi and Keith

See y'all on the 7th.  
Fair Sky's  
Keith

