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# EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION CENTRAL OHIO - CHAPTER 9

2160 West Case Road, Ste.14  
Columbus, OH 43235

Phone: 614-292-4306 Web: [www.eaa9.org](http://www.eaa9.org)

## NEWSLETTER September 10, 2004

### CHAPTER OFFICERS

#### **President**

Alan Harding, 614-442-0024  
al@osubarnstromer.com

#### **Vice President**

Ken Barrow, 740-362-2804  
kbarrow@direcway.com

#### **Treasurer**

Ted Kellogg, 614-885-4064  
Kellogg.14@osu.edu

#### **Secretary**

Bob Mullins, 614-436-3398  
RobertM109@aol.com

#### **Directors 2005**

Bob Simon, 614-889-0278  
rms@ustek.com  
Craig Schneider  
614-761-8749  
craig@ntsupportcenter.com  
Joe Vogel, 614-486-2732  
vogel.2@osu.edu

#### **Directors 2004**

Dick Wetherald, 614-891-5145  
wetherald@cas.org  
Clare Lutton  
wlutton@yahoo.com

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Bob Mullins, 614-436-3398  
RobertM109@aol.com

#### **Young Eagles Coordinators**

Lindy Lusch, 614-889-9809  
llusch@columbus.rr.com  
Keith Edwards, 614-471-1970  
flyingarch@yahoo.com

#### **Explorer Post 2009**

Keith Edwards works with  
OSU to help coordinate Post  
2009. Al Harding, Liaison

#### **Technical Counselor/ Flight Advisor**

Alan Harding, 614-442-0024  
al@thentshop.com  
Martin Sobel, 740-548-5730  
rv8vator@earthlink.net

### **'Fuddy Duddy' great success...**

## **EAA9 Helps EAA Salute WWII Veterans**

*By Curt Jenkins*



The soft rumble of four massive engines pulled the bomber across the central Ohio sky, enticing hundreds of aviation enthusiasts and the curious



*EAA's B17 crew includes (l-r) Ernie Kierzek, Larry New, Phil Reiter, Mike Hastings, Geoff Robison, and Bill Fitch.*

from their homes to see this moving piece of history. *Fuddy Duddy* was a great success. President Al Harding and his usual list of suspects pulled off another huge success with the B-17's visit and the KVG (Kenny's Volunteer Group) kept it full of passengers and in the air all weekend. (Except for that pesky Sat morning when the fog and low ceilings kept it grounded.) Perhaps, like me, the curious on lookers thought it was just a B-17, a heavy bomber, an enigmatic symbol that flew in WWII, but we all quickly discovered that this wasn't any ordinary airplane, this B-17 was really a time machine. It transported our visitors back to an awful war and revived memories

of loved ones who served, or of comrades who were lost. One woman said that it flew right over her house and I thought maybe she was upset with the noise, but I learned that her father had flown a 17 in the war and she was delighted to see it up close. Small hands tugged on their father to hurry up so they could get closer to the shiny giant; fathers told sons about grandfathers who had served or grandmothers who had ferried the great planes across oceans to the waiting crews. I watched 84 year old men clamber up her ladder and squirm across the narrow cat walk through the bomb bay and I could see them 60 years earlier taking the same walk at 25,000 feet, ice clinging beneath their oxygen masks and the bone numbing cold harassing their every move to just stay alive and do their job. I listened as sons spoke of their fathers who had fallen in the war or had just died the day before and how they had wished they could have lived to see this ghost from our past. Their stories brought to mind the enormous sacrifices these veterans, men and women, had made. *Fuddy Duddy* was more than just a relic of WWII it was a moving memory and a shining symbol of a profound patriotism that had imbued their generation. Paul Hersherner, a bombardier, explained how the Norton bomb



*Despite difficult weather, crowds turned out to watch and tour the plane while at Don Scott Aug. 27-30, 2004*

sight was controlled by a gyro that had to be caged if the plane was turning abruptly so that it would continue to function properly. Mr. Soale was a pilot who flew 31 missions with his crew and all survived save one. On that mission the fabric tail section burst into flames from the flak, and the tail gunner, seeing nothing but fire all around him and certain that the plane was going down, bailed out over Germany. With only the bare skeleton of spars and ribs of the empennage, the B-17 brought the other nine crew members back safely. *Fuddy Duddy*, the B-17, was a great success, but I will always think of it as a time machine that gave all of us a small glimpse of another generation so many years ago, and will stand for many years as a living testament to the 19 and 20 year old boys who flew them into battle with the odds stacked against them. We owe them a lot, they are a remarkable generation and I was lucky to have met so many. We are all lucky. [For a complete report from Jenkins, check the EAA9 Web site at [www.eaa9.org](http://www.eaa9.org).]

## Decorated B17 Vet Helps EAA9



*EAA9 paid special honor to Loren Gale Johnson for his help with media when 'Fuddy Duddy' arrived. Maj. Johnson is a WWII B17 pilot with 30 missions – virtually all as lead pilot. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying*

*Cross and numerous air medals. He helped answer reporters' questions about what it was like to fly B17s in war. EAA member Col. Joe Vogel presented Johnson with a plaque on behalf of EAA9 and all of its members.*

Next Meeting – Sep. 18, 10 a.m. – Rich Schwandt's 'Skunk Works' RV-9A Project; 3694 Inverary Drive, Columbus, 43228.

## YE's Takes Flight Aug. 14



"Each day we set out to show kids how to defy gravity in a really big way, we never know exactly what to expect," says Young Eagles Coordinator Keith Edwards. "We also never know what the day will bring. Will the weather improve as forecast? Will it be worse? Will there be any kids? Will there be a huge crowd? Will there be enough pilots? Will there be any other essential helpers to do the work? Thanks to every one of you who made it happen, it was a success. The numbers speak for themselves!" Pilots: John Parsio flew 30 (almost half !!!!!!!); Tom Maish 18 (6 flights!); Keith Edwards 9; Alan Harding 7 (glad he didn't have to grill hamburgers) Robert Simon 4 (in his two-seat Glastar, who then left to fly YE's at MNN!) A total of 68 Young Eagles! Supporting cast: Micki Hogan (my vote for RELIABILITY); Dick Wetherald (when will N738BL be cured?) Ben Merckle (my vote for "best event recruiter"); Brandon Bateman (Ben's friend, I hope he gets hooked!) Chuck Hoisington (my vote for "best event promoter" for bringing members of PWP); Rick Tressler; Lindy Lusch. Other valuable contributors: Bob Mullins (EAA 9 newsletter); Deral Carson and the tower staff; Marissa Berry and the OSU airport staff and line crew; Cindy Krebs (Zoning).



*John Parsio flew (l-r) Eddy Waller (Columbus); Michael Robinson (Dublin); Kelly, David and Michelle Ramirez (Hilliard)*



*Bob Simon works with Jacob Harper and his mother, Mary from Chicago. The Harbers heard about the program while attending church camp in Mt. Vernon, OH.*



*Al Harding flew Young Eagles Brandon and Connor Wolfe (Worthington) who attend Grandby Elementary.*



*Tom Maish flew Young Eagles Emily and Kevin McMains (Sunbury) and Caitlan Russ (Hilliard).*



## Check Our Website

Be sure to check our Website at [www.eaa9.org](http://www.eaa9.org). We would like to hear your comments which you can send to President Harding at [al@osubarnstormer.com](mailto:al@osubarnstormer.com). Thanks to Craig Schneider for his work on this site.

## Member Notes...

Welcome to **Robert B.L. Taylor** of Columbus – a WWII AAF veteran! Welcome also to **Charles ('Chuck') Hoisington** of Colum-



bus. He is an ASEL private pilot and is a commodity trading advisory. And, we welcome **David Birsjada** of Westerville.



While in Oshkosh for Airventure, EAA9

President Harding had an opportunity to visit with EAA President Tom Poberezny and AOPA President Phil Boyer.

## OSU to Host Merit Badge Event



This year's Youth Aviation Adventure will take place Saturday, Sep. 25, at Don Scott Airport beginning at 9 a.m. The event is part of the Boy Scout Aviation Merit Badge program. As in the past, the "Adventure" will consist of eight stations. Each station addresses one or more of the requirements to achieve the Aviation Merit Badge. Cost for the program is a modest \$3 which is collected at the door. "Because it is held indoors, the program will be held regardless of weather," says merit badge counselor Dan Kiser. Scouts must complete a written test and complete activities from the Aviation Merit Badge Handbook. Several EAA9 members help with the event. For more information, contact Dan Kiser at [dan@kiser.com](mailto:dan@kiser.com) or Steve Wathen at [swathen@equityrealestste.com](mailto:swathen@equityrealestste.com).



## Ramp Check

Young Eagle Flight Rally schedule. We fly the second Saturday every other month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at OSU Airport (weather permitting, of course). As of Sep. 7, 2004, 1,079,932 YE's have been flown. The next date for 2004 is October 10.

**Sep. 18** – EAA9 Meeting - Rick Schwandt's RV-9A Project; 10 a.m.; 3694 Inverary Drive, Columbus, OH 43228.

**Sep. 19** – Vinton Co. Airport Fly-In.

**Sep. 23** – Youth Aviation Adventure. Don Scott Airport. Program begins at 9 a.m.

**Oct. 10** – Young Eagles and EAA9 Hog Roast. YE's fly from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hog Roast to follow after 2 p.m.

Alan Harding  
EAA Chapter 9  
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**Membership Meeting...**  
***Rick Schwandt's RV-9A Project***  
**September 18, 10 a.m.**  
**3694 Inverary Drive, Columbus 43228**



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*EAA ... The Leader in Recreational Aviation*

