

December 01, 2024

WNY AeroMail #95

## **IMPORTANT**

### *Wooden Wonders*

In 1862 the Monitor and the Merrimack engaged in a naval battle. It was the first clash of ironclad ships. Prior to this ships were constructed of wood. So only forty some years later the first aircraft took to the skies. Wood was the material of choice.

There were plentiful supplies and skilled workers that understood the properties. The metal alloys of the time were far too heavy. Much of aircraft terminology was derived from marine names. Struts and spars are prime examples.

Wood is an excellent material for aircraft construction with favorable strength to weight ratios. Components are held together by glue. Spruce is generally used for spars and ribs while mahogany plywood is the most common for skins. Surfaces are then covered with fabric and protected by varnish and various paints. The biggest problem with wood is failure to protect it from the elements. Drain holes should be provided during construction to prevent excessive moisture that would result in rot.

Here are some examples of types built with wood that have graced the skies of WNY (pilots mentioned were local to WNY):



Aeronca Champion 7FC Tri-Traveler

Various versions of the Aeronca, Bellanca, Champion, Citabria and Decathlon aircraft used wood for the wing spars and fuselage stringers.



Bellanca 14-13-2

Different models of Bellanca aircraft featured wood spars and covered with plywood. The wing was an efficient design that provided superior performance. They were sometimes referred to as "Cardboard Constellations". There were two of them at the Amherst Airport (one had a Franklin engine) and one was recently based at the Clarence Aerodrome.



Culver Model V

These designs by Al Mooney were of all wood construction. The V featured a fuel injected 85 hp. Continental engine, two position prop and retractable tricycle landing gear. Pilot Frank Walker demonstrated the cruise speed of nearly 130 mph. Palmer Airport in Newfane was home to several.



Mooney Mite



Mooney M-20 A

These aircraft were constructed with a welded tube fuselage and wood wing and tail. The Mite was powered by several types of engines including a Crosley. Pilot Bill Papich had a nice looking example of the single-place airplane.

The M-20A was built in a similar fashion to its little brother. Pilots claimed the 180 hp. Lycoming performed better than the 200 hp. M-20E and later metal aircraft. The Western New York Flying Club had one delivered from Corpus Christi, Texas. It did perform well.



Piper J-5

These aircraft had wood spars. Pilot Jim Uber has an excellent example of a J-5A.



Taylorcraft BC-12D

Another model with wood spars. Pilot Russ Hardy had several of the BC12D that were painted alike. Pilots Frenchie at Gaines Valley and Bill Keller at Akron enjoy there T-crafts.



Cessna T-50 Bobcat (Military Version)

This aircraft was constructed with wood wings. Sky King's first airplane "Songbird", was powered by Jacobs Radial Engines. There were a couple AKA "Bamboo Bombers" in the area.



What is it?

Wood has been popular with home built aircraft for many years. The Pietenpol and Steve Wittman designs such as the Tailwind and Buttercup are prime examples.

There are many others.

***Ron Ciura***

For more on the Culver V, also see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culver\\_Model\\_V](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culver_Model_V)  
<https://www.aircraftspruce.com/catalog/kitspages/1946culverstory.php>  
<https://aeroresourcesinc.com/uploads/197710-1945%20Culver%20V.pdf>

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<https://niagaraaerospacemuseum.org/visit-the-museum/>

Open Saturday and Sunday 11-4PM and by appointment.

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The Niagara Aerospace Museum, located to the left of the terminal at the Niagara Falls Airport, recently celebrated its 25th year documenting the incredible aviation and space history of Western New York, ranging from the rocket engine that lifted all twelve Apollo astronauts off the moon to the Bell X-1 that Chuck Yeager flew to break the sound barrier

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## EVENT CALENDAR

### December 2024

**3<sup>rd</sup>.** - **Airframe & Powerplant Course #12** - Classes are held every Tuesday @ 6:30 PM in the Terminal building at the Buffalo-Lancaster Airport (BQR), 4343 Walden Ave in the Town of Lancaster, NY.

**4<sup>th</sup>.** - **EAA Chapter 44** continues the **Baby Ace Restoration** sessions on every Wednesday at 6PM. You are welcome to observe and pitch in!

**10<sup>th</sup>.** - **Airframe & Powerplant Course #13** - Classes are held every Tuesday @ 6:30 PM in the Terminal building at the Buffalo-Lancaster Airport (BQR), 4343 Walden Ave in the Town of Lancaster, NY. This will be the last class of 2024.

**8<sup>th</sup>.** - **EAA Chapter 46** - EAA Chapter 46 is having a December gathering in keeping with the Holiday spirit! On Sunday, December 8, 2024 Chapter 46 will hold our first Holiday gathering at 2:00 PM in the large hangar at Lancaster Airport, 4343 Walden Ave, Lancaster NY 14036. There will be chili, snacks, warm and cold beverages, and a campfire (weather permitting). The event is free and open to all EAA members and their families and friends, and while not required, attendees are welcome to bring a dish to pass. Be sure to dress

warmly, since the hangar is not heated as much as your home and you'll need winter clothes if you venture outdoors around a campfire.

**12<sup>th</sup>.** - **Aero Club of Buffalo** dinner and a not to be missed presentation from Col. Walter Gordon. For December meeting details, check out:

<https://aeroclubofbuffalo.org/event/10things/>

**19<sup>th</sup>.** - **EAA Chapter 674** meets at GVA third Thursday of every month, 7 PM at the clubhouse, 2501 Gaines Waterport Road, Albion, NY. Anyone interested in aviation, discussing airplanes, local aviation events, helping out, etc. - call EAA Chapter 674 at 585-750-3795.

**19<sup>th</sup>.** - **Luscombe Factory Auction** – see attached.

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The December 2024 Issue of the **Akron Flyer** by **Allen Kidder** is now available and includes Discovery Flights and the many interesting airplanes that landed at Akron Jesson Field. There is an article on Convair jets and Mike Westphal's photos of a Boeing 707 at BUF.

The December 2024 issue of **Vectors for Safety** by **Gene Benson** is now available and is loaded with episode 26 of Old Pilot Tips and continues presenting several of his Accident Analyses with graphic photos:

<https://www.vectorsforsafety.com/blog/vectors-for-safety-december-2024>

You may not be aware that Gene has 78 videos on his website for your viewing!  
See: <https://www.youtube.com/@GeneBensonAviation/featured>

EAA Chapter 44 news: <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea44/newsletters>.

EAA Chapter 46 news: <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea46/newsletters>.

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Here are some of EAA's Webinars scheduled for December:  
<https://eaa.org/ea/news-and-publications/ea-webinars>

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<b>ATTACHMENTS / LINKS</b>
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# Aero Club of Buffalo

The Oldest Aero Club in America, Second Oldest Club in the World  
[www.aeroclubofbuffalo.org](http://www.aeroclubofbuffalo.org)



## Col Walter Gordon

**USAF (retired)**

Thursday 12 December 2024  
Rizotto Eatery and Sweetery  
930 Maple Road, Williamsville

6:00 p.m. Cash Bar  
Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

**\$35.00**

Please join us this month when our own Walter Gordon presents *Ten Things I Didn't Learn at War College*. This talk was initially developed in response to a request from the Air Force Reserve for senior officers with deployed leadership experience to speak at professional development seminars. It has since evolved, however, to reflect the successes and failures of a thirty-year active and reserve Air Force career. From the cockpit of a C-130 landing on a blacked-out runway in Iraq to counseling a sobbing sixty-year-old master sergeant pleading not to be sent home from his last deployment, Ten Things relates the lessons learned – lessons just as applicable outside the military – by a citizen-soldier pilot leading his flying squadron in peace and war.

Walter Gordon worked as an engineer in Western New York from 1979 to 2020 at four different aerospace firms, most recently at the Moog Space and Defense Group. He also retired as a colonel from a parallel 30-year career in the Air Force Reserve, serving as commander of the 328th Airlift Squadron and then 914th Airlift Wing in Niagara Falls, New York. He is a veteran of Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom and has over 2,000 hours flying time in the C-130. Walter has a long-time interest in aerospace and aerospace history, joining AIAA at age 17 and currently serving as chairman of the Niagara Frontier Section. He is also the chairman of the Niagara Frontier Aviation and Space Hall of Fame and a past president of the Niagara Aerospace Museum and Aero Club of Buffalo. He has B.S. and M.S. degrees in Aerospace Engineering from the University at Buffalo and an M.S. in Strategic Studies from the USAF Air War College.

**Join us for Walter's talk, a wonderful dinner and a festive evening! Please note we will be holding our Aero Club Annual Holiday Basket Raffle at this meeting! Please consider donating a basket to this worthy cause. (Funds raised at this meeting are used to support Spring 2025 Aero Club of Buffalo Scholarships)**

*Mary Mattocks*

90<sup>th</sup> President  
Aero Club of Buffalo

Cut and Send Bottom Portion

**Aero Club of Buffalo**

**Thursday 12 December 2024**

**Rizotto Eatery and Sweetery**

930 Maple Road, Williamsville, NY 14221

Petit Filet \_\_\_\_\_  
Parmesan Crusted Cod \_\_\_\_\_  
Pasta Bolognese \_\_\_\_\_

Members - \$35.00  
Guest(s) - \$35.00

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AND EMAIL ADDRESS

Reservations must be received by Monday, 9 December 2024.

To register for this dinner email: [aeroclubofbuffalo@gmail.com](mailto:aeroclubofbuffalo@gmail.com), call (716) 901-6126, or mail this form to: Aero Club of Buffalo, Box 676 Williamsville, NY 14231. Please make your check payable to the Aero Club of Buffalo. You can also pay at the door provided you have previously made your reservations.

## Hands-on Radio Control Airplane Simulator

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Clarence C. Ragland  
[Fliers1@aol.com](mailto:Fliers1@aol.com)

[Our industry is struggling - Academy of Model Aeronautics](#)

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### ***Correction to Issue #94***

On October 29th George Ezzo was presented with the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award in recognition of pilots who have demonstrated safe piloting skills for 50 or more years. George is also a FAA A&P Inspection Authorized Mechanic.





Starman Bros Auctions

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ONLINE AUCTION - ENTIRE LUSCOMBE AIRCRAFT FACTORY  
Bidding Now Open - One Lot Close Thursday December 19th At 1:00 P.M. E.S.T.

Click Here To Register On Proxibid & Begin Bidding:

<https://www.proxibid.com/asp/AuctionsByCompany.asp?ahid=10870>



**Bidding Now Open**

**Lots Start Closing:**  
Thursday December 19<sup>th</sup>  
At 1:00 P.M. E.S.T.

**The Entire Luscombe Aircraft Corp.  
Aircraft Factory Being Sold As One  
Package. Including Type Certificate,  
STC's, Jigs, Dies Shop Equipment,  
Tools, Molds. New Inventory, Etc.**

**A 7% Buyer's Premium Will Apply To All Purchases.**

**LOCATION:** The Luscombe Aircraft Corp. is Located At 3301 Turner Road, Jamestown, NY.  
On The Jamestown Airport (Identifier KJHW).

**OPEN HOUSE:** The Factory Will Be Open For In-Person Inspections December 9<sup>th</sup> Thru December 13<sup>th</sup>  
From 8:30 A.M. To 5:00 P.M.  
Any Other Times Are By Appointment Only – Call Steve Starman (402) 681-6456.

**PAYMENTS:** Entire Purchase Price Must Be Paid For Within 3 Banking Days.

**AUCTION TO INCLUDE:**

**The Entire Luscombe 8A Aircraft Factory Being Sold As A Package.  
To Include The Following:**

**SHOP EQUIPMENT:** Toyota Forklift, Sheet Metal Shears & Brakes, C.P. Compression Riveter, Airc compressor, Homemade Press Brake, English Wheel, Miller & Lincoln Welders, Slip Roller, Punch Press, Hardness Tester, Bandsaw, Blast Cabinet, Belt & Disc Sander, Tool Boxes, Bead Rollers, Drill Press, Etc. (See Complete List).

**HAND TOOLS:** Good Selection Of Sheet Metal Working Tools, Electronics Scales, Cable Swagging Kits, Prop Protractor, Cable Tensiometer, Diff. Press Tester, Drill Bites, Sanders & Polishers, Hand Held Rivet Squeezers, Rivet Pullers, Torque Wrenches, Etc. (See Complete List).

Large Selection Of Eurocopter & Other Specialty Hardware.

**AIRCRAFT JIGS & FIXTURES:** Entire Grouping On Jigs To Build Luscombe 8A Aircraft From Fuselage Jigs, Wing Jigs To Control Surface Jigs. (See Complete List).

**DIES & JIGS:** Large Selection Of Dies & Jig Parts, Several Pallets, Several Patterns. (See List).

**NEW LUSCOMBE 8A INVENTORY:** Large Selection Of New Inventory For Luscombe 8A Thru 8F Aircraft.

**AVIONICS & SERIALIZED PARTS:** Instruments Avionics, Voltage Regulators, EGT's, Etc.

**AIRFRAMES, WINGS & PONTOONS:** Luscombe 8A Cabin Section, Partial 8A Fuselage,  
(4) Luscombe Wings A/R, Set Of Pontoons & Ski's.

**TYPE CERTIFICATE:** Type Certificate #A-694, Various STC's, Large Selection Of Drawings, Blue Prints, Etc.

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## **Airframe & Powerplant Course**

Thirteen week semester, class #12 is on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. 2024. Classes are held every Tuesday evening in the Terminal building at the Buffalo-Lancaster Airport (BQR), 4343 Walden Ave in the Town of Lancaster, NY. Start time is 6:30 PM and the class is three hours, ending at 9:30 PM. This Fall Semester the topic is Aircraft Powerplants.

While intended to assist in obtaining the A&P Certificate, these courses are helpful to anyone operating or maintaining light aircraft. You are invited to stop in for a night and see if it meets your expectations before registering.

Questions?  
Ron Ciura [magman366@gmail.com](mailto:magman366@gmail.com)

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## FLYING CLUB SHARE

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[pauhanany@gmail.com](mailto:pauhanany@gmail.com)

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### WNY AeroMail issue #96

Please note that e-Mail submissions of any type for the next issue of WNY AeroMail must have "#96 " in the subject line. You do not need the quotation marks but you do need to have a space after the number 96. Send submissions by December 28<sup>th</sup>. to **Both** [christopher.koch@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.koch@gmail.com) & [magman366@gmail.com](mailto:magman366@gmail.com)

Thanks, Chris

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[MrCookFlight@gmail.com](mailto:MrCookFlight@gmail.com)



### Why Me?

I have been teaching and tutoring math for almost 30 years. In 2021, after 29 years in the classroom, I decided to retire from St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute to concentrate on private tutoring.



I also started flight training in 2020, and while working toward my Private Pilot certificate, decided I wanted to combine my passion for aviation with my experience and love of teaching. I earned my FAA Ground School Instructor certificate in 2023.

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### Helpful Basic Med Links

<https://www.aopa.org/advocacy/pilots/medical/basicmed>

[https://www.faa.gov/licenses\\_certificates/airmen\\_certification/basic\\_med/](https://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/airmen_certification/basic_med/)

Here is the form for your Doctor to complete:

[https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Form/FAA\\_Form\\_8700-2\\_.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Form/FAA_Form_8700-2_.pdf)

I would also like to compile a directory of Doctors that will perform the Basic Med Exam for people that are not their patients. This would be made available to interested pilots.

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<b>ITEMS FOR LEASE, SALE OR WANTED</b>
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**Batavia Flying Club** - *Seeking a Skyhawk!* Are you an aircraft owner (or do you know someone) that would be interested in a leaseback opportunity to a local flying club starting May 2025? Please contact Jenn Prutsman-Pfeiffer at 716.474.3483 if you would like to find out more about this opportunity.

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**For Sale**

2 Luscombes, 1- 7AC Champ (rusted fuselage) and 1 J-3 partial completed.  
LOTS of Cub parts. Too many to list. **Darrell Panike**, Canandaigua 585 738 8264

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T-Hangar for Rent at **Lancaster Airport**. Get your plane out of the snow or off the grass and fly all winter. Available from Oct 01, 2024 through May 31, 2025. Shorter term may be possible. Blacktop floor, electricity, & electric door. Plowed regularly. Door opening 41.5 ft x 12 ft. Rent is \$270 per month. Contact **Steve Niesciur** @ cell: 214-762-1828 or e-Mail: scaaty44@aol.com

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For Sale: my **1946 Globe Swift GC-1B**  
145 hp. Low time airframe and mid time engine. Ken Moses cell: 585 353 4666



Also: Perry Warsaw Airport (01G) has hangar space available. We have several spots up to and including a light twin. **Ken Moses**, Airport Manager call 585 353 4666 for details.

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## VREF Valuation Service

As you may know, VREF airplane valuations are no longer available to AOPA members. Little Bird Airways, LLC has recently purchased a VREF subscription. If you are in the market to buy or sell an aircraft and need guidance on its value, we can prepare a VREF report for you for a small fee. Please call Claudia at 716-796-1823.

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*Wanted: Lycoming O-235C, contact Ron Ciura: magman366@gmail.com*

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### **Aircraft Items and Tools For Sale**

1. Pilot PA-400T 4 Place Intercom - \$125.00
  2. David Clark H-10-66 Helicopter Dual Military/Civilian Headset - \$275.00
  3. David Clark H-10-56 Helicopter Headset - \$275.00
  4. David Clark H-10-40 Airplane Headset - \$275.00
  5. Hydraulic Mule 0-1500 PSI - \$1000.00 - Used on T-6, P-51, B-25
  6. Aircraft 4130 Steel Tubing and Channel, enough to build a J-3 - \$1000.00
  7. Mooney Gear Rigging Tools - each tool cost \$1300.00, \$500.00 each tool.
  8. Aircraft Gas Powered Tug - Up to 15,000 lbs. Single Engine to Light Jet - new tires, tubes, carburetor installed. \$2000.00
  9. Engine Overhaul Stand with assorted adapters. \$350.00
  10. Aircraft Jumper Cables - \$100.00
  11. Tail Wheel Aircraft Tow - \$200.00
  12. Sensenich Propeller Test Club - \$750.00
- MAN CAVE or HANGAR DISPLAY ITEMS:*
13. Flight Data Recorder: Make Offer
  14. Omega Navigation System: Make Offer
  15. Hartzell Propeller HC-12X20C-3

Contact: Paul D. Faltyn  
716-807-2692 or [PDFpilot@aol.com](mailto:PDFpilot@aol.com)

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**Aries in Flight Ground School Services** - My name is Elisabeth Tate. I am an Advanced Ground Instructor. I offer affordable lessons online via Zoom or in-person at Akron-Jesson FBO. Please visit my website for more information and contact information. <https://elisabethtate.wixsite.com/ariesinflight>

**George Ezzo, A&P IA** at the Buffalo - Lancaster Airport (BQR) has purchased new equipment to balance Propellers. The fees are \$250 fixed pitch and \$300 Constant Speed. You can contact him at 716 860 6044 during normal business hours.

Protect your passengers and yourself from COVID 19. **Aircraft Disinfection Service** [ehartman48@yahoo.com](mailto:ehartman48@yahoo.com) 716-946-8192

Cherokees, 172s and other aircraft for sale **wanted**. Send details to Ron at [Magman366@gmail.com](mailto:Magman366@gmail.com) who will relay to buyer.

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## We Highly Recommend:

Visit Niagara Aerospace Museum's website: <https://niagaraaerospacemuseum.org/>

Do you periodically read "**Vectors for Safety**"? Join Gene Benson's mailing list: <https://www.genebenson.com/#join-my-mailing-list> Also check out his websites at <https://www.vectorsforsafety.com/> and <https://www.genebenson.com/>

If you don't receive the monthly **Akron Flyer** newsletter, contact Allen Kidder [AllenKidder@Gmail.com](mailto:AllenKidder@Gmail.com) and request to be placed on the subscription list or simply signup on the website: <https://www.akronairportny.com/newsletter-signup>

Akron Airport's website: <https://www.akronairportny.com/> and <https://www.airnav.com/airport/9G3>

Check out the National Warplane Museum in Geneseo, NY - <https://nationalwarplanemuseum.com/>

Wings Flights of Hope: <https://www.wingsflight.org>

Further info on abandoned Airfields: [www.airfields-freeman.com](http://www.airfields-freeman.com)

Jeff Brook's "My Fokker DVII Project" -

<http://www.theaerodrome.com/forum/showthread.php?t=24887>

Mike Busch's Savvy Aviation: <https://www.savvyaviation.com/about-us/>

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### **The Aero Club of Buffalo**



Please make note of the following: Our phone number is (716) 901-6126 and our mailing address is PO Box 676, Williamsville, NY 14231. The club's e-Mail address is **[aeroclubofbuffalo@gmail.com](mailto:aeroclubofbuffalo@gmail.com)**.

Regards,

*Willy Mattocks*

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**Notes from Ron Ciura (the Reporter):**



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We are looking for local aviation history and articles! Send them to Ron Ciura at [Magman366@Gmail.com](mailto:Magman366@Gmail.com).

We all know that WNY has many unique Aircraft, Pilots & Stories. If you know of anything unique, please send it to [Magman366@gmail.com](mailto:Magman366@gmail.com)

Some AeroMail points you should know:

- If you have a message you wish to have added to AeroMail then send it to me - the earlier the better.
- Advertisements will be posted for three issues unless you request an extension.
- If you wish to respond to any content, contact the content provider, not Ron Ciura!
- If you no longer wish to receive the "Aviation-Only Mail" please let me know why & I will subsequently remove you from the List.

Thanks,  
*Ron*

"Flying is a hobby I participate in to prevent becoming wealthy!"

"A mile of highway gets you nowhere - A mile of runway gets you everywhere"



**Production Editor:** Christopher Koch [christopher.koch@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.koch@gmail.com)