February 01, 2025

WNY AeroMail #97

IMPORTANT

EARLY BIRDS!

With the proliferation of the Van's RV series of aircraft; it may be difficult to realize that there were home built aircraft before them! I believe when the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) came on the scene in 1953 that there were no kits available. With no internet and long distance phone service exorbitant the amateur builder often found them self very isolated. But designs were developed and evolved into some successful aircraft. Plans were often made available and the Movement was underway.

EDUCATED KNIGHT. Built by students of Buffalo's Burgard Vocational High School under supervision of Greg Ductor and Stan Fliss, sponsored by Warren Nelson. Engine 100-hp Lycoming; cruise 150-mph at gross of 1,050-lbs. Extensive radio and lights. Wheel fairings were yet to be added.

Knight Twister, Student Built
Rapid Unscheduled Disassembly (RUD) 02/07/1981, Miami, FL

One of the Early Birds that has stood the test of time is the Knight Twister. In fact, it is still featured prominently on the EAA website. They say that if you are considering building a biplane, that you first have to consider “Why not a Knight Twister”. The illustrated aircraft was built at Burgard Vocational High School under the direction of the late noted Mechanics Stan Fliss and Greg Doctor. This was circa 1958 and my recollection is that it was orange in color. It’s very likely that it was assembled and Test Flown out of Steffen Field (now renamed Clarence Aerodrome).

Another Burgard Project was a wood canard pusher amphibian known as “The Duck”. I’m unable to find any pix but I never saw another aircraft like it (see Link below, ed.).

A fire at the Orchard Park Airport destroyed the hangar in 1963. Among the aircraft destroyed was Gene Payne’s Pawnee Crop Sprayer and some type of Experimental low-wing twin-engine aircraft. It may have been another one of a kind and no pix could be found.

“Frenchy” Downey with his Pietenpol

Mike Troy with his Pietenpol

Bernard Pietenpol gave us this design about 87 years ago. It has been replicated with many different construction methods and powerplant options. Several have been built locally. "Frenchy" Downey and his son-in-law Mike Troy have built outstanding examples of the type. Their Ford Model A powered aircraft are based near Albion, N.Y. They ARE real aircraft and not just "Pattern Pursuits". They even flew to Oshkosh. By the way, although Frenchie is slowing down a little, I believe he is the oldest active Pilot in Western New York!

Another area resident Pietenpol builder was the late Zeke Royal. His aircraft had a 29 foot wing span and a 65 hp. Continental engine. His "Piet" was completed in 1975 for under $1000! Zeke also built a Tailwind, which is a very fast Steve Wittman design.

Wittman Tailwind W-8 owned by Tim Hjelle

Stits Flut-R-Bug N741TH (no longer registered)

The late Ray Stits was a prolific designer of light sport type aircraft. A tandem Flut-R-Bug SA-6A with tricycle landing gear called the Palmer Airport in Newfane "home" in the early 1970's.

Jim Strong's Fly Baby, photo © by Jim Uber

Another popular aircraft was the "Fly-Baby". Peter M. Bowers designed it to allow folks with some woodworking skills being able to build in the basement. There have been several in the area. Jim Strong owns and actively flies an example, N98DR, out of Clarence Aerodrome.

The preceding aircraft were primarily built from plans. Later aircraft like the Bede BD-5, Rutan VariEze and Van's RV series were most likely built from a kit.

But that's another story. We do invite your participation!

Ron Ciura

Last minute find – The Duck: https://www.secretprojects.co.uk/threads/all-those-weird-and-wonderful-postwar-homebuilt-u-s-one-offs.19591/post-190394

Niagara Aerospace Museum

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

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

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

February 2025

4th. – **Airframe & Powerplant Course #3** - 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.

5th. - **EAA Chapter 44** continues the **Baby Ace Restoration** sessions on every Wednesday at 6PM. You are welcome to observe and pitch in!

11th. - **Airframe & Powerplant Course #4** - 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.

12th. - **EAA Chapter 46** February Meeting starts at **5:30 PM** at Lancaster Airport (KBQR), 4343 Walden Ave, Lancaster, NY 14086. We will provide the pizza, water and coffee – otherwise bring your own drinks. Gene Benson, a nationally known speaker, aviation consultant, and FAASTeam Lead Representative, will be the guest speaker. See below for details.

13th. - **EAA44's IMC/VMC club**, which meets at 7PM in the SAC. It's open to anyone (not just EAA44 members), and is a great low-effort way of learning from one another and having some hangar-flying fun. EAA national provides two professional-quality videos every month, each of which gives a flying scenario and poses the question "what would you do in that scenario?".

18th. - **Airframe & Powerplant Course #5** - 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.

18th. - **EAA Chapter 44** meeting starts with dinner at 6:30 PM with presentation to follow at 7:30 PM by a Mystery Person. Join us at Sport Aviation Center, EAA Chapter 44 - 44 Eisenhauer Drive, Brockport, NY 14420, Ledgedale Airpark (7G0).

20th. - **Aero Club of Buffalo** meets at Risottos Italian Eatery and Sweetery, 930 Maple Road, Amherst NY 14221 for 6PM cash bar, 7PM dinner ($35) dinner and a presentation afterwards by guest speaker Jared Cummings who will take us back to flying with Engineer and Top turret gunner MSgt Bruno Gallerani in the B-17 over Germany during WWII.

20th. - **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.

25th. - **Airframe & Powerplant Course #6** - 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.

The February 2025 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 are more of Mike Westphal's photos including the one of the first Boeing 777 at BUF. Dennis Borkowski shares several Jump Plane photos from Akron's Frontier Skydiving. Soaring Academy of South Belgium photos are also included.

The February 2025 issue of **Vectors for Safety** by **Gene Benson** is now available and has an Old Pilot Tips video on go-arounds and continues presenting several of his Accident Analyses with graphic photos:
https://www.vectorsforsafety.com/blog/vectors-for-safety-february-2025

You may not be aware that Gene has 81 videos on his website for your viewing!
See: https://www.youtube.com/@GeneBensonAviation/featured

EAA Chapter 44 news: https://chapters.eaa.org/eaa44/newsletters.

EAA Chapter 46 news: https://chapters.eaa.org/eaa46/newsletters.

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

ATTACHMENTS / LINKS

Airframe & Powerplant Course

Thirteen week semester, class #3 is on February 4th. 2025. 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 Spring Semester continues the topic of 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

EAA Chapter 46 February Meeting

Wednesday February 12th, 5:30pm

Lancaster Airport (KBQR), 4343 Walden Ave, Lancaster, NY 14086.

Pilots always strive to have a smooth landing. After all, our passengers usually judge the entire flight and the pilot's proficiency based solely on the quality of the landing. A pocketful of FAA certificates and ratings, and a fat logbook does not guarantee great landings. Landing skills are strengthened by continuing education, experience, and proficiency training. But they can quickly degrade by complacency, overconfidence, and a lack of recurrent training.

Gene Benson, a nationally known speaker, aviation consultant, and FAASTeam Lead Representative, will be the guest speaker at our February meeting. Gene has been flying for more than 50 years, with over 8,000 hours of instruction. He will discuss how we can land our aircraft smoothly and safely and avoid common errors that can lead to undershoots, overshoots, runway excursions, and a host of other runway "misadventures" that all pilots are convinced will never happen to them.

Please note: attendance will qualify for 1 Credit, Basic Knowledge Topic-2 in the FAA Wings Pilot Proficiency Program.

This month, we are doing something new. The meeting will begin earlier at 5:30 PM with pizza and water bottles and coffee. (If you prefer, feel free to bring anything else to drink.) Gene's presentation will follow at 6:30 PM. The meeting is free and open to anyone with an interest in aviation.

Aero Club of Buffalo

The heroic story of WWII B-17 Engineer and Top turret gunner MSgt Bruno Gallerani from Massachusetts, told by his friend Jared Cummings. Buno was shot down over the boarder of Germany and Belgium by a German FW190 in 1943, he was the 4th US airmen to evaded capture and eventually escaped back to England through Spain over the course of several months with help from the resistance groups in Belgium and France. His story entails many close calls, unusual circumstance and incredible events that are sheer luck and misfortune. An airman with 3 aerial victories, he flew with two crews on a total 5 combat sorties before being shot down on the Regensburg Raid. Bruno lost his entire first crew he trained with in a tragic event and then on his last combat mission assigned to a B-17 call the "Jolly Roger" he saved two crew men before egressing the crippled aircraft, and parachuting into occupied Germany. At age 103 the late Bruno Gallerani leaves us with a legacy of an amazing story of great challenges, and triumphs', in his humble life he lived.

Melanie C. Georger
Memorial Golf Tournament for the 99's

Friday July 18, 2025 at 12PM with a 1PM Shotgun Start

Chestnut Hill Country Club
1330 Broadway, Darien Center, NY 14040
GOLF, DINNER and BASKET RAFFLE

Individual $125.00
Foursome $500.00
Dinner Only $60.00 **(limited number available currently)**

Sponsorship opportunities available! Call 716-901-3510

18 HOLES * BEST BALL TOURNAMENT
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$10,000 HOLE in ONE CONTEST

This Tournament is to honor and memorialize our loved one,
Melanie C. Georger *as we establish scholarships in her name through the Ninety-Nines (99's) an International Organization of Women Pilots.*

For more information contact:
Paul Georger 715-725-1416 ***Warren Bouchane 716-901-3510***

Melanie C. Georger
Memorial Scholarship Fund

Ninety-Nines
Inspiring Women Pilots
Since 1929

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We offer a wide range of services, including dry washing, exterior waxing, interior detailing, leather cleaning and reconditioning, steam cleaning, deice boot refurbishment, and boot sealant application. Additionally, we specialize in paint corrections and ceramic coatings, britework polishing, spinner polishing, disinsection, lavatory and galley disinfection, as well as charter and jet detailing. Our comprehensive offerings ensure that your needs are met with precision and care—and much more.

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WNY AeroMail issue #98

Please note that e-Mail submissions of any type for the next issue of WNY AeroMail must have "#98 " in the subject line. You do not need the quotation marks but you do need to have a space after the number 98. Send submissions by February 26th. to ***Both*** christopher.koch@gmail.com & magman366@gmail.com

Thanks, Chris

Ground School Support with AGI Chuck Cook

Ground School Tutoring - If you are struggling with concepts or calculations prepping for your written or oral exam, I can help.

CALL TODAY!

716-465-2009

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.

Helpful Basic Med Links

December 2024 changes made through the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024:

- Pilots can carry up to six passengers, increasing the total number of occupants in the aircraft to seven
- Takeoff weight increased from 6,000 lbs. to 12,500 lbs.
- Pilot examiners can conduct flight checks in aircraft covered by BasicMed
- The duration of the comprehensive medical examination is determined using calendar months
- Transport category rotorcraft certified to airworthiness standards under part 29 are **not** covered by BasicMed

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

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

ITEMS FOR LEASE, SALE OR WANTED

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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

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

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 716-946-8192

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

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 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

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/

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**.

Regards,

Willy Mattocks

Notes from Ron Ciura (the Reporter):

We are looking for local aviation history and articles! Send them to Ron Ciura at 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

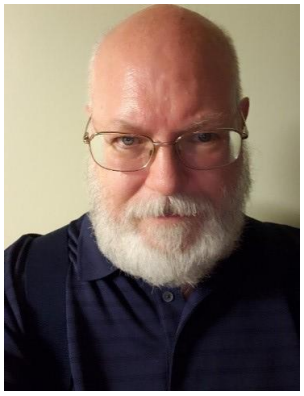
Some AeroMail points you should know:

- 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