

May 01, 2026



WNY AeroMail #112

IMPORTANT

Piets!

The proliferation of the RV Series of homebuilts can give the impression that there has never been another significant EXPERIMENTAL. There is - and the design is nearly 100 years old! That's right, they have been flying since 1928. The various versions of the Pietenpol or "Piets" as they are often referred have an entirely different mission than the popular RVs. They are an economical way to get in the air for Sport Flying at its best.

What is generally built as a tandem 2-seater taildragger is technically not a high wing aircraft. The design what is referred to as a "Parasol" due to the supporting cabane struts. Construction is primarily of wood with fabric covering. Much of the materials can be purchased from either Home Depot's Aeronautical Department or Lowe's Aircraft Supply. Since it is EXPERIMENTAL the builder can choose from a variety of wood, fabric and finishing products. The important FAA AC 43.13-1B - Acceptable Methods of Repair is just one of the references to aid in selection. There have been some made with welded tubing fuselages and Cub wings. The 1933 Pietenpol Sky Scout used the 20 - 30hp. Ford Model T engines and the earlier Pietenpol Air Camper were commonly fitted with the 40hp. Ford Model A engine as well as 60hp. Corvair conversions and 65hp. Continental A65. My guess is there

are a few with Rotax powerplants! You can probably build the entire aircraft together with instruments for less than the cost of a Lycoming overhaul. I wonder if the Centennial Model of the Pietenpol will feature a turboprop and a glass panel?

The Medina – Albion - Gaines Valley area is a hotbed of " little guy aviation". Several Piets have been built and operated there. A notable pair were built by "Frenchy" Downey and his Son-in-Law Mike Troy. Here are some pix of the construction. They claim they took about a year to build and under \$8,000 (in the 1980's).



Ribs (the first one pictured) can be built in a day.



Therefore all 32 ribs can be made in one month.
Craftsmanship, alignment and attention to detail are important here.



The tale of the Tail. Things are shaping up.



Need another nail or two here. Planning and patience in action.



Must be REALLY cold in the slipstream!
The Ford Model A engine is really trying to move the truck!



Getting ready for the first flight. Note the radiator!



Frenchy's version of the craft.



Arnold Williams started construction of his Piet the very same day as Mike Troy.



Mike and Frenchy even built and carved their own props.
Fun project if you like to work with wood.



Mike and Frenchy somewhere in Ohio.
The blue one is another example of the type.



Mike and Frenchy are off on a mission.
That thing in his hand is destined to replace GPS.

Mike says "They don't fly fast but they fly nice".

Ron

Anyone have any tales of aircraft, people, hangars or anything Aviation that you can share? If one of these was significant why not put a tribute together? Send your submissions to Magman366@gmail.com and Christopher.Koch@gmail.com

***Reminder: May submissions for WNY AeroMail #113 due
05/28/26***

Mark Mekker's Local Aviation Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/@PlaneFlyingCraziness>

Submit your videos here:

mmekker@easternstandardproductions.com

EVENT CALENDAR

May 2026

2nd. – 3rd. - Light Sport Repairman Inspection Course presented by Chris "Duff" Guarente of Intrepid Aircraft. Course runs from 8AM – 5PM both days at EAA Ch44 SAC at Ledgeale Airport. See description below for details.

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

9th. – All you can eat **Pancake Breakfast** at **KELZ** Wellsville Airport. See description below for details.

13th. - EAA Chapter 46 Wednesday Meeting starts at 5:30 PM at Lancaster Airport (KBQR), 4343 Walden Ave, Lancaster, NY 14086. Dan Probst will present the building process for his Van's RV-8A. Please read the description below for the details.

14th. - EAA Ch44 IMC/VMC club meeting, 7PM – 8:30PM in the SAC (Sport Aviation Center of WNY, 44 Eisenhower Drive, Brockport NY 14420).

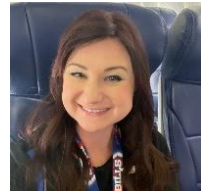
14th. - EAA Ch44 and **Austin Hancock** presents "**How to Fly Lucy Gal**". It is a warbird pilot's ground school series derived from WWII-era training materials held at 7PM in the SAC (Sport Aviation Center of WNY, 44 Eisenhower Drive, Brockport NY 14420). This lecture presents **Advanced Training** in the **AT-6**.

14th. - EAA Chapter 674 meets on the third Thursday of every month at 7 PM. Join us in the clubhouse of Gaines Valley Airport, 2501 Gaines Waterport Road, Albion, NY. See below for details. Jean Depatie, jdepatie@rochester.rr.com

16th. – Airline pilots **Tedra Derkovitz** and **Greg Barnhard** present “**Tailwheel Safety Seminar**” at KDKK (Dunkirk Airport) from 9AM – Noon. See below attachment for details.

16th. – **Young Eagles** at 4PM at the EAA Ch44 SAC (Sport Aviation Center of WNY, 44 Eisenhower Drive, Brockport NY 14420).

21st. – **EAA Chapter 44** pot luck dinner at 6:30 PM in the SAC with guest speaker **Sarah Sudyn** following on “the Role of the Airline Dispatcher”.



25th. - All you can eat **Pancake Breakfast** at 9G3 **Akron Airport** supporting local scholarships from two aviation groups. See description below for details.

The May 2026 Issue of the **Akron Flyer** by **Allen Kidder** is now available and includes many interesting people and airplanes that landed this month at Akron Jesson Field along with an article on the North American XB-70 and Mike Westphal's photos this month of unusual paint schemes on Boeing 737 jetliners.

The May 2026 issue of **Vectors for Safety** by **Gene Benson** is now available with Old Pilot Tips episode #42 including Cognitive Tunneling, a link to his newest feature “Squawking Human” and continues presenting three of his Accident Analyses with graphic photos:

<https://www.vectorsforsafety.com/blog/vectors-for-safety-May-2026>

You may not be aware that Gene has 97 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>.

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

ATTACHMENTS / LINKS



Not just for tailwheel endorsed pilots! We welcome anyone interested in a spirited discussion about taildraggers and their unique safe handling operations.

9:00am – 10:30am	Presentation by Tedra Derkovitz and Greg Barnhard (both airline pilots, flight instructors, and tailwheel owners)
11:00am	Light refreshments (water, soda, hot dogs, chips)

Fly in: Ramp space available in front of hangar (bring chocks, just in case!)

Drive in: Parking available in FBO lot, follow signs to Hangar 4



Light Sport Repairman Inspection Course

My name is **Chris Guarente**. I have been working with Mark Scheda at the Ledgeale EAA Chapter 44 and we are offering the Light Sport Repairman Inspection course at the their chapter building in Brockport, NY on May 2nd. and 3rd. With the new MOSAIC rules this is the course that allows owners of experimental amateur built or experimental light sport aircraft to complete their own condition inspections every year. We wanted to let your members know about the offering in

case you had anyone that still needed the course and was interested. The course will be offered that weekend and run from 8 am to 5 pm both days. Once they complete the course, we cover all the paperwork they submit to the FAA (including the ops limitations change request) so they can get it all taken care of and get their certificate.

If anyone is interested, they can sign up for the course on our website.

<https://intrepidaircraft.com/light-sport-repairman-course>

Once they register, I will send more information with details of what to bring and exact locations and even some local hotels if they don't want to drive back and forth each day.

Thanks,
Chris "Duff" Guarente
Intrepid Aircraft
661-221-1866



2026 Induction Ceremony and Dinner

with the Niagara Aerospace Museum,
Aero Club of Buffalo and
AIAA Niagara Frontier Section

Chris Fitzsimmons – Kodak
James Llinas – CAL, Calspan and UB
Michael Regan – Calspan
Paul Morgante – Bell
Tony Whitman – Kodak and L3Harris

Friday, May 8th, 2026
6:00 p.m. Cash Bar
7:00 p.m. Dinner

Banchetti by Rizzo's
550 North French Road
Amherst, NY 14228

Induction ceremony and recognition of Aero Club scholarship recipients and
AIAA Young Professional following dinner.

Pre-paid reservations are required by Friday, May 1st, 2026

Niagara Frontier Aviation & Space Hall of Fame Dinner

Name _____

Address/city/zip _____

Email _____

Affiliation for seating (inductee/organization/none) _____

Please reserve ____ seats at \$40.00 per person.

Number of each meal type: ____ Chicken ____ Gluten free ____ Vegan

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

Please make checks payable to the Niagara Frontier Aviation & Space Hall of Fame.

Mail to: Pat Pedersen, 240 Hamlin Avenue, East Aurora, New York 14052

Pre-paid reservations are required by **Friday, May 1st, 2026**

Call (716) 687-1589 for more information

All you can eat
pancake
BREAKFAST



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Fly in - Drive in - Walk in Fun for the whole family

Rain or Shine Saturday May 9, 2026 8AM- NOON

Breakfast: All you can eat Pancakes, sausage, eggs, Juice, and Coffee

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Mercy Flight, Life Net Helicopter, Plane Rides

WELLSVILLE AIRPORT, 2600 TARATINE BLVD, WELLSVILLE, NY 14895



EAA Chapter 46 Meeting – May 13, 2026

5:30 PM @ Lancaster Airport BQR

We have all heard of many people who have built their own planes. Some of us have wondered what it would be like to actually build a plane and join that elite group of pilots flying their own, personally built aircraft. Dan Probst is an electrical engineer who spent about 4 years building an RV-8A, and at the May 13, 2026 meeting of EAA Chapter 46 he will show us what it was like to build his aircraft, how he did it, and details of events that occurred along the way. In addition to his presentation, if weather permits, he will fly his instrument capable RV8-A to Lancaster Airport so we can see the plane itself. If you were wondering what it was like to build your own airplane, this is a presentation you shouldn't miss.

The meeting starts at Lancaster Airport, 4343 Walden Ave, Lancaster NY 14086 on Wednesday May 13th at 5:30 PM with subs and/or pizza and/or hot dogs and cookies (donation appreciated), and Dan's presentation begins at 6:30 PM. The meeting is free and open to anyone with an interest in aviation.

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PANCAKE BREAKFAST

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&
DRIVE-IN**

\$12
ADULTS

\$6
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**UNDER 5
FREE**

- ALL YOU CAN EAT -
PANCAKES, EGGS, & SAUSAGE

MAY 25: 8 AM - NOON

AKRON JESSON FIELD | 9G3
1234 John St. Ext., Akron, NY 14001

Proceeds go to Christian Airmen Educational Foundation
& Aero Club of Buffalo Scholarships

Unlimited Aviation

5502 NY 104, William Sodus, NY 14589

Unlimited Aviation in Sodus, NY, is your premier, one-stop flight training destination. Whether you're pursuing a CFI spin endorsement, flight review, upset recovery and spin training, aerobatics, instrument proficiency, or breathtaking helicopter tours and instruction — we've got you covered.

Our diverse fleet includes a Piper Cherokee 180 for instrument proficiency training, spin training or flight reviews; a Pitts S-2B for aerobatics, spin/upset & prevention/recovery, or just plain old fun; and an Enstrom helicopter (in partnership with BAC Helicopters) for rotorcraft training and scenic tours.

With over 11,000 hours, 25 years as a captain at the world's largest fractional operator, a regional aerobatic champion, formation-flying, and warbird experience, Don brings exceptional real-world expertise to every lesson. Having flown everything from experimental homebuilts and helicopters to long-range corporate jets, he delivers powerful, personalized training that is truly unique and transformative for each pilot he teaches.

Don Henry donphenry@gmail.com

<https://unlimitedaviation.org/contact>





Rainbow Air Tourism Center

56 Acheson Drive
Niagara Falls, NY 14303, USA

When was the last time you took your out-of-town guests on a helicopter tour of Niagara Falls? Take flight in the **new** Airbus H130 helicopters from the **new** home of Rainbow Air!

(716) 284-2800

<https://www.rainbowairinc.com/>
info@rainbowairinc.com



EAA Chapter 674 Upcoming Events

Our EAA meetings are usually at the GVA (Gains Valley Airport) club house. At times, it is at a member's home or hanger to show their project's progress. We also try to do technical demos like welding, riveting and such for our younger members.

President: John Tower 585 283-1762

Treasurer: Jean (John) Depatie 585 589-0358

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Gaines-Valley-Aviation-100069383616047/>



<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

WNY AeroMail issue #113

Please note that e-Mail **submissions** of any type for the next issue of WNY AeroMail must have "#113 " in the subject line. You do not need the quotation marks but you do need to have a space after the number 113. Send submissions by May 28th. to **Both** christopher.koch@gmail.com & magman366@gmail.com

Also: Clicking "reply" to this monthly copy of WNY AeroMail sends your response to a non-monitored e-Mail address. Please use our e-Mail addresses above.

Secondly, "for sale" ads will run for *three issues* maximum unless the ads are revised and updated.

Thanks, Chris



CUSTOM GIFTS * ORNAMENTS * AWARDS
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WOOD * GLASS * CERAMIC * PLASTIC * METAL
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LaserAce.online@gmail.com

You and your aircraft deserve so much better than markers and masking tape, and cracked or mismatched tags. Why not refresh your aircraft panel with a brand new set! We are a small business located in Alden, NY, specializing in custom laser engraving, offering many alternatives in various colored plastics and metal of any size any quantity at reasonable prices, with excellent customer service and quick turnaround.

Check us out on Facebook, or call, text or email us to get started!

A collage of images showcasing aircraft detailing services. The central element is a white rectangular box containing the logo for "JUST LIKE NEW AIRCRAFT DETAILING", which features a stylized blue triangle with a black airplane silhouette inside. Below the logo, the text "JUST LIKE NEW" is in large black letters, followed by "AIRCRAFT DETAILING" in smaller black letters. At the bottom of the box, the phone number "(585)813-4022" is displayed in blue, along with the website "JUSTLIKENEWDDETAILINGWNY.COM". Surrounding this central box are several photographs: a small propeller plane in a hangar, a person working on a plane's fuselage, a close-up of a plane's nose, a Beechcraft logo on a red and white aircraft, a close-up of a plane's engine, and the interior of a private jet showing rows of white leather seats.



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Connor Domoy - 585-201-3718

New LSA ruling investment opportunity

We are seeking seed money to launch a crowd funding program, or direct investment support to manufacture a game changing LSA (hybrid) 4 seat complex aircraft, Kit to certified. Designed for efficiency, performance, comfort, occupant safety (BRS), and low manufacturing cost. Scalable design for Drone applications and/or pressurized and larger non LSA future consideration. Current model has 9' wing span. Details are available after an NDA has been signed.

Modernization of Special Airworthiness Certification (MOSIAC)

Key Changes in the MOSAIC Rule:

- **Aircraft Capabilities:**
- **Increased Speed:** MOSAIC allows for higher maximum speeds for light-sport aircraft, potentially up to 250 knots.
- **More Complex Systems:** The rule permits more advanced systems, including retractable landing gear, constant-speed propellers, and various propulsion systems like electric and hybrid options.
- **Increased Size:** MOSAIC allows for aircraft with up to four seats, though sport pilots will still be limited to carrying one passenger, [according to the FAA](#).
- **Stall Speed:** The rule is based on a clean stall speed, with a likely cap between 54 and 63 knots.
- **Weight:** By permitting higher stall speeds, the proposal would bring aircraft weighing as much as 3,000 pounds within the LSA regulatory framework, says the FAA.
-
- **Pilot Privileges:**
- **Potential for Simplified Medicals:** The MOSAIC rule may maintain sport pilot privileges, potentially allowing pilots to operate expanded LSA capabilities without a medical certificate, though this remains under review.
- **Endorsements:** Pilots may need specific endorsements for certain aircraft features or operations, like night flying or operating aircraft with more complex systems.

See: https://www.faa.gov/newsroom/MOSAIC_Final_Rule_Issuance.pdf

<https://www.eaa.org/ea/news-and-publications/ea/news-and-aviation-news/2025-10-30-as-mosaic-rule-kicks-in>

<https://planeandpilotmag.com/mosaic-briefing/>

Helpful Basic Med Links

<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

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

ITEMS FOR LEASE, SALE OR WANTED
--

Jon Michael "Mike" Fox
133 Military Rd
Buffalo NY 14207
716-873-0722

e-Mail: perfectjustperfect@hotmail.com

R-80 Tiger Moth Kit

I have a Fisher Flying Products R-80 Tiger Moth kit partially assembled that I would like to donate any local chapter of the EAA.

The kit sold for \$14,999 in 2011. You can have it free! All you have to do is come to my shop and pick it all up.

Due to medical reasons I am unable to complete the kit. So far, the following have been completed: wing ribs, nose ribs, spars, wing tip bows.

Kit contains material and full scale plans plus videos for assembly
Wood parts
Hardware
Fittings
Aluminum hardware
Fuel tank
Full scale plans
Fabric
Windshield and window
Bolts and fasteners
Landing gear
Includes MATCO Axles, Wheels, Hydraulic Brakes, and Tail Wheel

I also have aircraft mechanic's tools and a Craftsman tool box to donate.

I can be contacted at my address, my e-Mail or my phone. If you contact me via e-Mail, be sure to include "R-80 kit to donate" in the subject line.
(I get a LOT of junk mail.)

Wanted:

Ron Ciura is seeking a single Champion AY-4 (aka A-Y-4) Spark Plug for a vintage aircraft museum display. Does not need to be functional!



FOR SALE/RENT/RENT TO OWN

HANGAR AND SHARE AT CLARENCE AERODROME (D51)



A share in Clarence Aerodrome entitles the owner to one twenty-fifth ownership in the airport. In addition, the owner is entitled to buy or build a hangar which he owns separately from the ownership of the share.

This offer is for a combined share and hangar. The hangar is approximately 1,900 square feet, comprised of a 40' X 40' building and a 17' X 17' addition. It has water and electric service and a concrete floor. The door is electrically operated. The hangar is fully insulated and includes a 100,000 BTU oil fired furnace. It also has second floor storage.

Call: Bob Dispenza
(716) 291-8685

Have you always wanted to own an Airport?

Hamburg Airport and adjacent land will be listed For Sale soon, interested parties contact Rob Gannon at gannon@hamburgairport.us for details. This would be a great opportunity for a group of airplane owners!

FOR SALE

N11721

1972 Bellanca Citabria 7KCAB - \$65,000

TT: 7774.97 SMOH: 2002.37

Complete maintenance logbooks

Last annual 03/04/2025

Compressions: 1) 76 2) 76 3) 78 4) 78

All ADs complied with

Located in KGVQ, Batavia, NY
Engine: Lycoming IO-320-E2A 150HP
Inverted fuel-oil system
Wooden spars and fabric in great shape.
A well-loved airplane always hangared and taken care of by its only 3 owners.
Modifications:
-Schweizer tailhook system
-IFR
-uAvionix skyBeacon ADSB-Out
Reason for sale: lack of use
Ready for sale and ferry anywhere within the CONUS.
Tailwheel endorsement and insurance checkout training available.
For further information including photos,
please contact **Eloy** at 585 719 5988 or eyaguespaude@gmail.com or
<https://wingsandwheels.com/1972-bellanca-citabria-7kcab-towplane.html>



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.

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>

Wanted

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

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

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/>

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