



EAA Chapter 166 Monthly Meeting: @ KHFD – Hangar 1, Ch 166 Meeting Room
Scheduled Date: 25 FEBRUARY 2023; Time: 10:00 AM

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order At: 10:07 am by President Steve Socolosky

MEMBERS PRESENT: _ 20 _ # STUDENT MEMBERS PRESENT: _ 3 _ # GUESTS PRESENT: _ 5 _
TOTAL No. ATTENDEES PRESENT (Members, Guests, and Students): _ 28 _
OFFICERS Present: Pres: _ Yes _, VP: _ YES _, Treas: _ Yes _, Sec: _ Yes _.

Guests in attendance this month included:

- Victoria Udall brought her father Matt. Victoria is interested in learning more about aviation.
- Ken Katz brought his friend Terry to show her what his interest in aviation is all about.

Welcome Victoria, Matt, and Terry! We hope to see you all again soon.

New Members in attendance: (no reports)

Standing Items & Old Business:

- **Ray Scholarship Update:**
 - 2022 Ray Scholar, Will Coates, has soloed and passes his written test. He needs to get in his long cross country and then his check ride to complete his LSA Sport Pilot license. Poor weather has seriously delayed completing these two remaining milestones. We wish you blue skies, Will!
 - 2023 Ray Scholar Program – Chris Gauger, EAA HQ, has advised Steve that Chapter 166 has again been granted a Ray Scholarship to award in 2023-24. We currently have 4 prospective candidates and need to post the application forms to our website.
- **Member Build Updates:**
 - Chris O'Connor reported that he is installing a GTO-550 Continental engine in his CompAire 6 project, and that he had a productive online meeting with Advanced Avionics regarding his proposed avionics package, which he has been told to expect will ship in 4-6 weeks.
 - Bogdan Gutowski has moved his Bearhawk project to his hanger so he can paint Schweitzer glider in his garage.
 - Norm Graham reported that he is building a hanger adjacent to his grass strip on his land in New Hampshire. He is currently awaiting a welder to install the hangar door.
 - Rick Montero reported that he has the horizontal stabilizer on his RV-10 project ready for priming and he is starting on the elevator.

- Chapter 166 RV-12 project: The wings which were installed 2 weeks ago to complete trimming the wing skin adjacent to the fuselage have now come back off in order to enable access to the fuselage for the next stage which is installing the wiring harness.
- **YOUNG EAGLES:** Manu Ramesh reported that there are two upcoming Young Eagles rallies. June 10th is International Young Eagles Day and we will do a local rally on either June 22nd or 29th. Also, New England Air Museum will be sponsoring “Women Take Flight” on 3 Saturdays in March – the 4th, 11th, and 18th. We will participate in those activities to promote aviation, and need volunteers to assist our activities at the museum on those Saturdays. Manu also reminded us that EAA HQ provides credits to chapters for flying Young Eagles and our chapter has benefitted from those credits for acquiring things like a tablet we use for Young Eagle Rally registration tracking and sign-in. For the period Jan 1 – July 31, 2023 EAA HQ has announced bonus credit provisions.
- **EAGLE FLIGHTS:** No flights this past month, but there is one prospective flight next month. John Baleshiski will set up a day in the Spirit of Meriden Flying Club’s RV-12 and will fly any interested Young Eagles or Eagles.
- **TREASURER’S REPORT:** Treasurer Brenda Rossignol reported current account balances of just over \$6000 for our chapter and almost \$3000 for our RV-12 build project. President Steve Socolosky reminded all chapter members that 2023 Dues of \$20.00/year are now due to Brenda for continued chapter membership in good standing. This is in addition to the \$40 or so annual dues that maintain membership in EAA nationally. National membership is a prerequisite to local chapter membership.
- **PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** Steve Socolosky gave several updates covering current activities around Brainard Airport and some upcoming events.
 - **KHFD Update:** Tree trimming for the approaches to Runways 2, 20 and 29 has been completed and other basic maintenance projects are underway. The hearing last week by the land use study consulting company was well attended by airport proponents including some of our Young Eagles. The consultants presented their study methodology and indicated they expect to have a draft report by the end of August. Their approach seemed to be balanced and they appeared quite interested in the aviation education activities at Brainard in all its forms. There are additional hearings coming up. We encourage our members to pay attention to these hearings and to attend if possible.
 - **NEAM Space Expo:** New England Air Museum will hold its annual Space EXPO on April 15th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Our chapter will be on hand to promote our Young Eagles program. Volunteers are requested to participate in staffing our activities.
 - **Westfield Barnes Airport Airshow:** Scheduled for May 13-14. Will feature the F-35 Demo Team. Look for future announcements and details.

New Business: Including Reports & Announcements

RV-12 Flying Club: Rick Montero presented a proposal to the chapter membership in which he outlined the formation of a flying club to take ownership of the RV-12 this year to ensure compliance with the EAA HQ policy banning chapters from owning or operating airworthy aircraft. Membership in the club must be separate from membership in the chapter and will be limited to about 10 – 15 individuals in order to provide ready scheduling access once the aircraft has its airworthiness certificate and has flown off its test hours. At present the prospective flying club has strong interest from about 12 members of Chapter 166. In the future, as additional membership opportunities open up, Chapter 166 members and student members will have priority access over other applicant types.

The key financial considerations for Chapter 166 members at this time include the following:

- Current Fair Market Value (based on actual costs of kit components, engine, and ordered avionics) is \$76,595.00.
- Proposed down payment of \$20,000.00 to be paid once the Flying Club has been officially established, which we anticipate to be about August of this year.
- Subsequently the Flying Club would pay the balance of the purchase in 36 monthly payments. 35 payments of \$1572 and 1 payment of \$1575 (to make all the fractional values work out evenly).

Additional considerations pending resolution include:

- Federal Income Tax implications of these additional income streams for Chapter 166: No changes in the IRS Form 990-N (electronic ‘postcard’) we use to file our tax return are needed, since the Form 990-N applies to organizations with incomes less than \$50,000 per year. However, we need to investigate whether or not restrictions apply to how that income may be spent. We do not believe so at present, but need to ensure that our non-profit status is not jeopardized or questioned.

A provisional motion to accept the flying club’s proposal was moved and seconded. The provision stipulates that the final transaction not be ‘materially different than what has been proposed today’. The motion was then adopted unanimously by all present.

- **Next Meeting:** Saturday, March 25th 10:00 AM Hangar 1, Chapter Classroom. VP John Baleshiski will preside as Steve Socolosky will be attending Rotax maintenance training.

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 AM.

Guest Speaker: (none this month)

Respectfully Submitted,

David S. Thompson

David S. Thompson, Secretary