



EAA Chapter 166

Hartford, Connecticut

December 2022



NEXT MEETING

**January 28,
2023, 10:00am**

**at the New England
Air Museum**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Steve Socolosky



**KILL DEVIL HILLS, N.C. DECEMBER 17, 1903 AT
APPROXIMATELY 10:35 AM**

119 YEARS AGO TODAY! Orville (Pilot in Command) and Wilbur Wright, some of the original homebuilders, made history with what we recognize as the FIRST FLIGHT! Their flying machine has changed our world and without them, we as aviation enthusiasts, would not exist.

Just like the Wright brothers who persevered through unbelievable weather, technical difficulties, including many wrecked gliders and machines, our Chapter 166 is persevering and looking forward to 2023! Our membership continues to grow, especially with our Student Members through Young Eagles and our RV-12 build! Maybe we'll be flying OUR Home-built flying machine in less than two years! Our very own media specialist, Larry Anglisano, has kept the world up to date with our RV-12 build by producing informative and creative videos, which have been recognized at EAA Headquarters and beyond! Thanks, Larry! We've applied for the \$10K EAA Ray Aviation Scholarship for the FOURTH time and should know in February 2023 if we are awarded the generous scholarship.

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@EAA166

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Since our fall Young Eagles Rally was weathered out twice (once for rain and once for wind), we have BIG plans for International Young Eagles Day on June 10, 2023! We are in contact with EAA Headquarters in hopes of arranging a tour stop next fall, of our EAA Ford Tri Motor to Hartford-Brainard Airport!

At our Annual Awards Dinner last month, elections were held for our Chapter Officers which included Brenda Rossignol as our Treasurer, Dave Thompson as our Secretary, myself as our President and John Baleshiski as our new Vice President, taking over for Rick Montero. Thank you Rick, for serving as VP the last three years and previous to that, as our Secretary! You've brought much to our Chapter, especially with organizing our RV-12 build!

Our next EAA Chapter 166 meeting will be at the New England Air Museum on Saturday, January 28, 2023 at 10:00 AM! What else? I don't know, but if you have an idea, please let me know! The sky is NOT the limit for EAA Chapter 166! Please take a look at the pictures in this newsletter which touch on a few things we did this year!

Enjoy your Holidays!

See you in '23!

BLUE SKIES!

Steve

RV-12 Flight Trial: More Than an Airplane

by Larry Anglisano

This past November I spent a morning at Meriden Airport in Connecticut, home of neighboring EAA Chapter 27 and led by chapter president Mark Scott. Scott—who built his own flawless and one-of-a-kind Bearhawk taildragger also headed the chapter's build team that completed N935WT—a nicely built Van's RV-12 E-LSA.

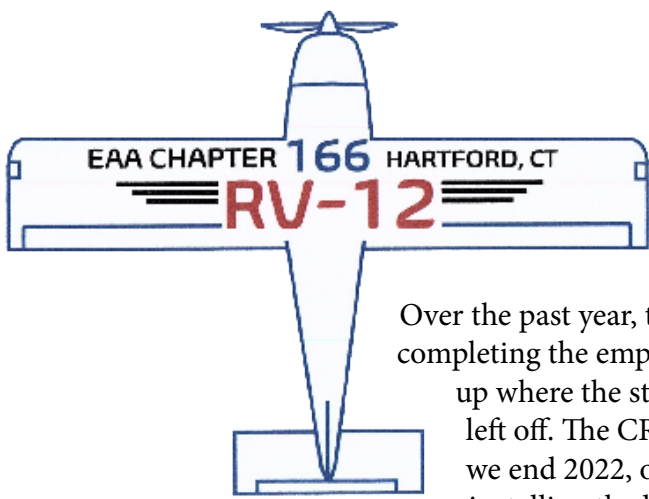
If you don't know about this chapter's completed RV-12 project, it's a text book example of solid EAA chapter leadership, dedicated and skilled adult volunteers who were focused on getting youngsters involved in aviation, plus an airport administration that generously offered the cooperation, space and support to make the project happen.

After talking with Mark Scott about what it took to get this project off the ground, I strapped in to the little airplane for some local-area flying and a good overview of what makes the RV-12 such a good club airplane for pilots of varying skill level. The story is about more than just a successful kit project.

Incidentally, the video production captured the attention of the leadership at EAA headquarters in Wisconsin, as well as Van's Aircraft itself, both reposting it on their own channels and giving well-deserved recognition to EAA 27's success in pulling off one heck of a good build.



**Click on the video to launch the
RV-12 Flight Trial.**



EAA 166 RV-12 BUILD UPDATE

Over the past year, the RV-12 Build Team has made lots of progress. We ended 2021 by completing the empennage and started 2022 by working on the lower fuselage; picking up where the students at the CREC Academy of Aerospace and Engineering had left off. The CREC students had assembled most of the lower fuselage ribs. As we end 2022, our team has completed the lower fuselage including forming and installing the longerons, installing the fuselage skins, and the firewall. A major milestone accomplished around mid- year was the joining of the tailcone to the fuselage. Since then, the team installed the roll bar, aft window, brake lines and fuel lines and is now installing the base and frame for the instrument panel. I'm really looking forward to our progress in 2023 because some-time during the first half of the year we will be installing the wings and canopy. At that point, our little RV-12 will really start to look like an airplane.

I'm very proud of the progress our team has made this year. We have a very dedicated team of student and adult volunteers helping out. Thanks to the videos produced by Larry Anglisano of our build progress, interest and participation on our team has grown. At the beginning of the year, we met once per week and had about eight to ten volunteers. As we close out 2022, we now meet three times a week and have about 18 volunteers attending our weekly sessions.

At our December 8 meeting, the team said good bye to one of our very dedicated members, Ludwig Johanning. Ludwig is taking a new job assignment that will have him spending the next six months in Sweden and then possibly moving to Phoenix, AZ. The team will miss his commitment and enthusiasm. We presented Ludwig with a scrap piece of the RV-12 to take with him and a reminder of his time with us. We wish him the very best.

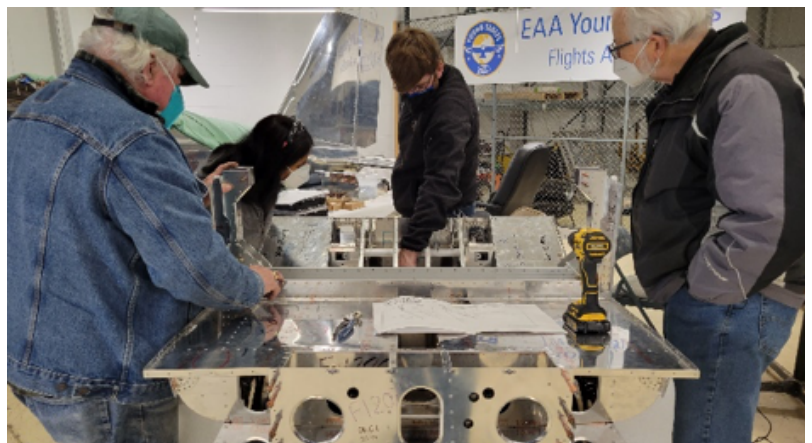
I wish to thank all the student and adult volunteers for their dedication and commitment to our build during the past year and wish all members a joyous and safe holiday season.

Rick Montero

EAA166 RV-12 Build Team Leader



Photo showing Rick presenting Ludwig with a piece of the RV-12 signed by many of the Build Team members. What is Ludwig wearing on his head? Is it a RV-12 Tiara? Photo Credit: Manu Ramesh.



This photo from early 2022 shows the team installing the Systems Block Studs. The baggage bulkhead had also just been installed.

Photo Credit: Rick Montero.



2022: A Year In Review



Norm, Brenda, Greg, Sue, Carol and Joe



Future Pilots!



More future Pilots!



New EAA 166 VP John, Dave and Eleta



More 2022 awards dinner attendees!



John Baleshiski flies around the Statue in an RV-12!



Autonomous Electric Uber at Hartford-Brainard Airport?



EAA SportAir Workshop at NEAM!



Whadda ya mean it only has ONE seat?



Chris O'Connor with two future Pilots!



Girls in Aviation Day practice building an RV-12!



On Sunday, October 16th, Mitchell Rathbone made his first and second solos in a Schweizer SGS 2-33 out of Windham Airport. Mitchell attended Civil Air Patrols 2021 Glider Flight Academy at Hartness State Airport in Springfield, Vermont. He has continued his training with the Connecticut Soaring Association and as of late October had logged 24 flights.



Ray Scholar, Will Coates, after his FIRST SOLO! Congratulated by Ray Scholar Coordinator, Rick Montero



Will's Solo Judges!



Our RV-12 coming together!



EAA 166 meeting at Steve's hangar! Food?



NEAM's Space and Education Day!



Another RV-12 build night with a rainbow!

See you all in 2023 at EAA 166!