



# EAA Chapter 166

Hartford, Connecticut

*August 2024*



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## NEXT MEETING

August 24,  
2024, 10:00am

Steve's Hangar

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Steve Socolosky*

To all our EAA 166 Members and Student Members,

Sadly, Joe Gauthier, one of the founding Members and past President of EAA 166, flew West on July 21, 2024, just before the start of Oshkosh. Joe will be memorialized at Oshkosh 2025, on the last day of AirVenture, Sunday, July 27, 2025, at EAA's Memorial Wall Service. Joe was often at Brainard Airport, with his wife Carol, close by, reading a book. Joe and Carol were special people who were like celebrities at Oshkosh!



Joe helped so many of us and many around the world with his knowledge, experience and willingness to share in hopes of building a great, safe aircraft! Joe assisted us in acquiring our RV-12 and also helped with important decisions and construction of the stabilator. We hope to fly our RV-12 to Oshkosh next year! Thanks for all you've done for us, Joe!

Our next meeting will be held on SATURDAY, AUGUST 24th at 10:00 AM at my hangar at Brainard Airport (KHFD), rain or shine! We meeting one week earlier because of Labor Day weekend. Please enter through the single pass-through gate at EMERGENCY GATE #8. If you need to drive in, please email me: [soco7a@aol.com](mailto:soco7a@aol.com) Thanks to all who attended our June meeting! Once again, we had a full house of Members, Student Members and Visitors!

On Saturday, September 21, from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, the Connecticut Chapter of Women in Aviation International (WAI), will be hosting its annual Girls In Aviation Day (GIAD)! You must register if you plan on attending. All information is in the flyer below. EAA 166 will be there promoting Young Eagles as we've done for the past seven years.

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EAA Chapter 166



EAA 166



@EAA166

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

...continued from page 2

EAA 166 has also been promoting Young Eagles to New England Air Museum campers who have been visiting our RV-12 at Brainard Airport as part of their culminating event at Brainard Airport! For five Fridays in July and August, EAA 166 approximately 80 middle schoolers who learn not only that they can build an airplane, but that they can fly one too, as a Young Eagle! We've been doing this for the past three years and have enrolled many new Student Members and their families! Thanks to New England Air Museum Education Director, Amanda Goodheart-Parks and Lindsey for helping make this happen!

Our RV-12 Chapter Build Project continues to progress. Rick Montero, our Build Leader is keeping everything moving forward. Please read more below!

See you all on SATURDAY, AUGUST 24th at 10:00 AM at my hangar! Please bring a little something to share. We'll have coffee and water, some special announcements and plenty of Aviation Spirit!

Thank you and BLUE SKIES!  
Steve



EAA 166 Student Member and Civil Air Patrol Cadet, Aaron Torres taking a flight in a Black Hawk helicopter!



Flying (for food of course!) with our Ray Scholars, Will Coates and Logan Vidal

### Joseph J. Edward Gauthier 1939-2024

Joseph J. Edward Gauthier, 84, of Cromwell, CT, died in Hingham MA of stroke-related illness on July 21, 2024. Known to his work and airplane friends as "Joe" and to his family as "Ed," he was born on October 15, 1939 in Thompson, CT to Simone and Leo Gauthier, deceased. He is survived by his loving wife Carol Elaine, his daughters Betty Lynn Senes and Linda McLaughlin, and their husbands Ray and Artie, respectively, and grandchildren Emily Senes (husband Brian McInerney), Zachery Macintyre (wife Jill Macintyre), and Kylie Macintyre. He was preceded in death by his brothers Paul, Dan and Leo, and sister Suzanne, and is survived by sister Mary Claire Renaud (husband Leon Renaud).



Joe worked for the phone company his entire career, but his passions were his family and everything homebuilt airplanes. Fueled by his service in the US Air Force as an A&P-licensed mechanic, he became an accomplished pilot, flight instructor and safety counselor. He was instrumental in crafting a 30-page checklist with the FAA to inspect homebuilt aircraft for safe flight, and became the first of many FAA Designated Air Worthiness Representatives ("DAR") to sign off homebuilt aircraft. Joe performed over 70 first flights in newly built aircraft. He served as President of the Experimental Aircraft Association Hartford Chapter 166, served as Flight Advisor for the chapter, and participated in the building of dozens of homebuilt aircraft which were often flown to the AirVenture show in Oshkosh, WI in late July each summer.

His love for his wife of 62 years, Carol, was undeniable. She was his constant companion, whether it be traveling to various destinations to see new sights, enjoying time with family and friends, flying to a destination for a meal, or sitting at the hangar while he worked on airplanes with friends. He was a devoted father to his daughters and loved spending time with his three grandchildren.

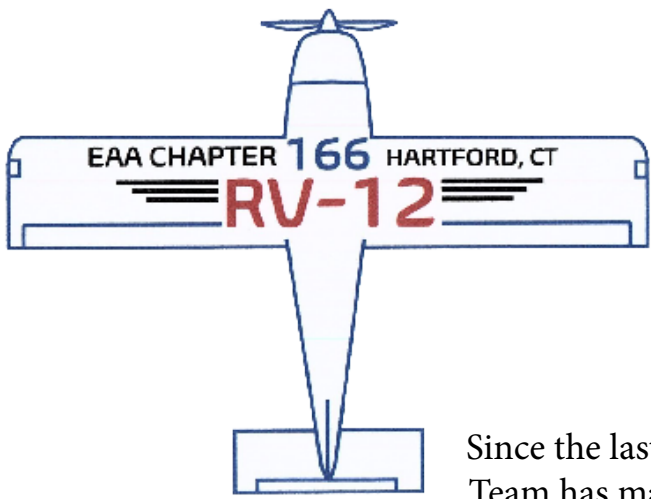
Family and friends may attend calling hours on Sunday afternoon July 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at the Cromwell Funeral Home, 506 Main Street, Cromwell, CT. Funeral services will be held from the Cromwell Funeral Home on Monday July 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am followed by a mass of Christian burial at 10:00 am at St. John's Church at 5 St. Johns Ct., Cromwell. Interment will follow at Hillside Cemetery in Cromwell, where full military honors will be accorded.

To share memories or send condolences to the family, please visit [www.doolittlefuneralservice.com](http://www.doolittlefuneralservice.com)

In lieu of flowers, donations in Joe's (Ed's) memory may be made to the Joseph Gauthier Memorial Fund (a non-profit charitable fund). This fund has been set up to support the next generation in the sport and craft of flying and building airplanes. Donations can be made to the Joseph Gauthier Memorial Fund and delivered to any Liberty Bank branch, or mailed c/o Linda McLaughlin, 6 Firetower Rd., Rehoboth, MA 02769.



Blue skies, Dad!



# EAA 166 RV-12 BUILD UPDATE

*update and photos from Rick Montero*

Since the last update, the RV-12 Build Team has made good progress. The Rotax 912 Engine has been mounted to the aircraft Firewall and electrical wiring connections are nearing completion. Fabrication and installation of the Tailcone Fairing is complete, which also enabled the build team to make final adjustments to the Pitch Trim Tab position. Assembly of the Nose Wheel Fairing continues and is nearing completion and work on the Nose Leg Fairing has started. In addition to fairing assembly, the build team has completed the assembly of the Radiator Cooler Door assembly and mounted it to the Firewall.

During the next few weeks, the team will complete assembly of the Nose Wheel Fairings and continue work on the engine installation.

The RV-12 Build Team meets every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. Anyone interested in visiting a build session should please contact Rick Montero at [rick.montero@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rick.montero@sbcglobal.net).

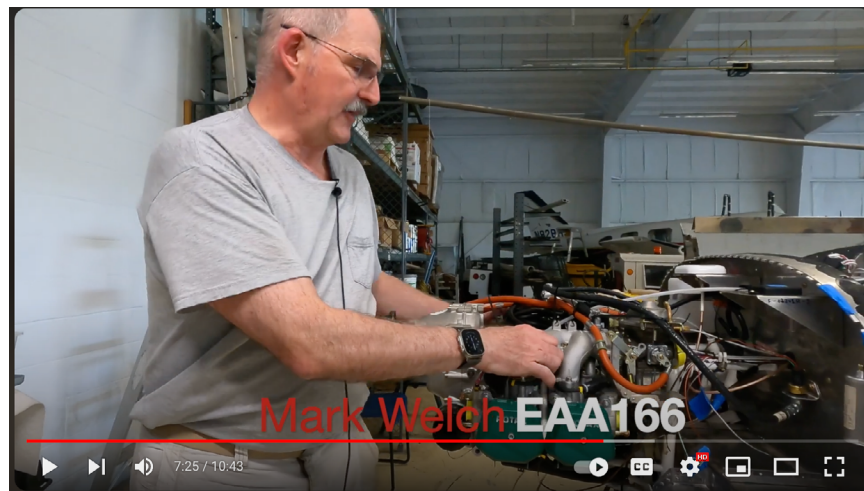
Rick Montero  
EAA166 RV-12 Build Team Leader



Seth and Ron (seated) assembling the Nose Wheel Fairing  
Credit: Rick Montero



(L to R) Jude, Aaron, Steve, and Mark after installing the Rotax 912 engine  
Credit: Mike Murphy



Van's RV-12 Build: Engine Plumbing, Tail Fairing



Progress continues on the Van's RV-12 construction, with sizable progress made on connecting up the Rotax 912 engine and the tedious tasks of fabricating composite fairings for the tailcone and nose strut. Rick Montero and Mark Welch explain in this [latest EAA166 build video](#).



Kline (new member) riveting the Cooler Door Assembly to the Firewall  
Credit: Rick Montero



The completed Tailcone Fairing installed  
Credit: Rick Montero



Isabelle and Rick assembling the Cooler Door  
Credit: Jamie Smith



Credit: Larry Anglisano



Did you fly an interesting route this month? Land for a good \$100 hamburger? We want to hear about it! Submit any photos to [THIS NEW DROPBOX](#) to be featured in our monthly newsletter column, Member Activity!

Manu Ramesh, along with a handful of other EAA 166 members, went to AirVenture in Oshkosh this year! Check out Manu's photos from the night airshow, plus EAA 166's representation on the chapter map.



# Van's Aircraft Makes a Reassuring Showing

by *Larry Anglisano*



Credit: Jon Bliss

## AIRVENTURE REWIND

After emerging from Chapter 11 bankruptcy, all eyes and ears were on Van's Aircraft at AirVenture 2024, and the news was upbeat. At the show, CEO Mikael Via and COO Shawn Ell outlined the company's path forward and were transparent about the internal and external issues that led to the bankruptcy in the first place, saying that the company let its customers down.

While many builders have complained about Van's inability to provide quick technical support, things might get a lot better moving forward. Ell outlined how the company aims to have a 24-hour turnaround on technical/build questions, and will move toward "one-touch interactions," meaning that it wants to respond quickly and thoroughly enough that follow-on questions aren't needed. That's a good thing, as so are the improvements to the Van's operations that seem to be paying off already.

The company said it has shipped 792 kits since the first of the year, building 14 S-LSA RV-12s and delivering 674 kits from those who reordered under the new, higher prices implemented during Chapter 11; that amounts to delivering 45 percent of those orders on the books. It has also delivered 86 percent of the needed replacement parts for customers swapping out laser cut parts in their kits.



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