



# EAA Chapter 166

Hartford, Connecticut

*September 2024*



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## NEXT MEETING

September 28,  
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,

Unfortunately, I have sad news about two of our EAA 166 Members, who tragically were lost in a plane crash in Vermont on Sunday, September 8th, along with two others. EAA 166 Member Paul Pelletier and Student Member, Delilah Van Ness, along with Delilah's mom and Cold War fighter pilot and retired TWA 747 Captain, Frank Rodriguez, went down shortly after take off at Basin Harbor Airport (B06) in Vergennes, VT, after a blue-sky flight up to Basin Harbor and delicious brunch on the field. While our aviation community mourns their loss and feels for their families and friends, we must also remember that they were all enjoying some of the same things we all enjoy about flying, until that last moment.

Our next meeting will be held on SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th at 10:00 AM at my hangar at Brainard Airport (KHFD), rain or shine! 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!

Thank you to all who attended last month's meeting! We had one of our biggest turnouts (which seems to be becoming the norm) as we congratulated our latest Ray Scholar, Isabella Puiggari! Isabella took her first Young Eagles flight last October and has become one of our most active Student Members! Isabella's latest contribution to our Chapter has been taking the lead to represent us in our promotion of Young Eagles at the annual Girl's In Aviation Day (GIAD), run by the CT Chapter of Women's in Aviation International (WAI). It's being held on Sat., Sep. 21, 2024 and EAA 166 has been a part of this great event for the past seven years! Thank you, Isabella and all the EAA 166 Members helping out!

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EAA Chapter 166



EAA 166



@EAA166

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

...continued from page 2

Our RV-12 Chapter Build Project continues to progress, even though Rick Montero, our Build Leader, was away, Steve Oakley and Mark Welch attended to a few "small" details in Rick's absence. Please read more below!

See you all on SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th at 10:00 AM at my hangar! Please bring a little something to share. We'll have coffee and water, and plenty of Aviation Spirit!

Thank you and BLUE SKIES!  
Steve



Sue Van Ness (Delilah's mom), Paul Pelletier, Delilah and Frank Rodriguez

As many of you know, Paul (who created the Aerospace program at Middletown High School) and I co-taught at MHS for the past four years and Delilah was our Student in one of our Aerospace courses, Drone and Flight Science. Delilah loved to fly and was receiving flight instruction from Paul. Delilah's mom was all-in supporting her daughter on her aviation journey. Frank Rodriguez was also our friend and would visit our Students to encourage them to pursue aviation, as he did as a teenager. Frank was never at a loss for words and shared many great stories over his long aviation career! We are missing them all! BLUE SKIES! – Steve Socolosky



(left) Delilah's FIRST Young Eagles flight with Dave Armando

(right) Delilah's second Young Eagles flight, with Steve (Delilah liked Dave's chopper better!).





The EAA 166 leadership team presenting Isabella Puiggari, EAA 166's 5th Ray Scholar, with her scholarship and with a flight bag from Larry Anglisano.

EAA Chapter 166 awarded EAA 166 Member, Seth Varrato, with \$1,000.00 towards his flight training, since Seth has been a continuous volunteer at EAA 166 events and especially at our RV-12 build nights. Then, when we announced this award to Seth at last month's meeting, EAA 166 Honorary Member, Lindsey Rutka, matched our award to Seth with an additional \$1,000.00 award! Get that Private Pilot Certificate, Seth! Seth is currently attending UConn and sent us his thank you note below:

Dear Everyone at EAA Chapter 166,

I am deeply grateful for the scholarship that you have graciously gifted to me. It has significantly helped me with being able to progress quickly with the final steps of my flight training. In fact, just this past week (Week of 8/1), I completed my first solo cross country. In my next steps, I'm going to be working on my nighttime training and preparing for my dual and solo long cross countries.

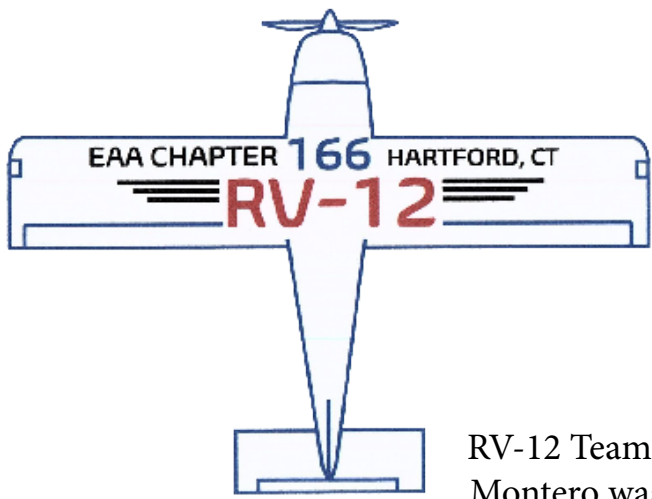
Once I finish that up, I can begin preparing for my check ride!

The generous scholarship that you gifted me has already helped me so much in getting me closer to my goals. Without your support throughout these years, I wouldn't be where I am today. Honestly, I can't express just how thankful I am. Aviation has been a huge passion of mine throughout high school and now into the rest of my life, and it's amazing the amount of support everyone has given me throughout my journey.

Once again, thank you all for helping me achieve my dreams and giving me so many amazing opportunities,

Seth Varrato





# EAA 166 RV-12 BUILD UPDATE

*update and photos from Rick Montero*

RV-12 Team Lead, Rick Montero was away so Steve Oakley and Mark Welch finished up a few things such as the nose wheel fairing, mounted the radiator and linkage for the cooler door.

Additionally, check out the 'bougie' faux carbon fiber film on our instrument panel! WHOAH!

We also powered up the avionics! Check out Larry Anglisano's video.

Mark and Steve said that the next items on our RV-12 build include installing the muffler system and Exhaust Gas Temperature (EGT) sensors.

See you next month!  
--Steve Socolosky



Van's RV-12 Build: Garmin Avionics Come to Life

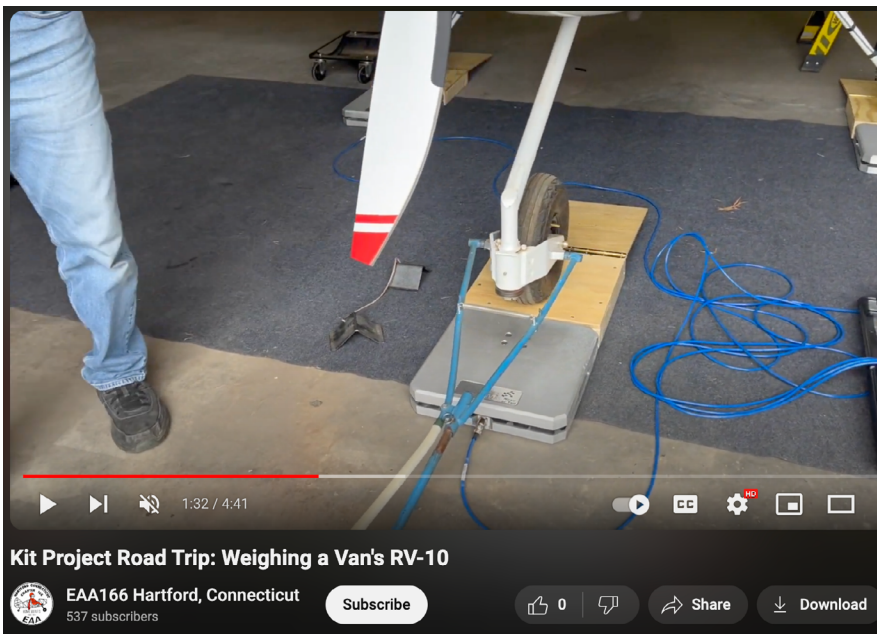
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Besides an engine run, the biggest milestone in any kit build is powering the avionics suite for the first time. That's exactly what the build team at EAA 166 in Hartford, CT did in the Garmin-equipped Van's RV-12 project.

Our cameras were rolling as EAA166's March Welch and Larry Anglisano flipped on the master switches for the first time. There are lessons for others.



Scenes from last month's EAA 166 meeting



## TECH CORNER

*by Larry Anglisano*

A required and import task in preparing a kit to fly for the first time is computing an accurate weight and balance report, and that means rolling the aircraft up on a set of calibrated scales.

In this video, EAA166 members Mark Welch and Larry Anglisano spent some time at the build hangar of nicely done RV-10 that's nearly ready for its first flight test, and Mark Welch demonstrates the general procedure for using a Tanner Racing Products aircraft scale system.



# UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**EXPLORE THE SKIES!**

New England Air Museum is home to an ever changing roster of events – ranging in focus from children, to students and adults. Please explore our featured upcoming events below!

# JFK JR. CRASH AND WINTER FLYING



Presented by

## GREG FEITH

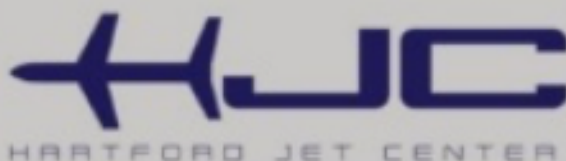
Aviation Safety Expert, Former NTSB Investigator

**OCTOBER 5th 2024 11AM - 3:30PM**

**KHFD Hartford Brainard Airport**



HJC FBO - Hangar 1  
Food Truck



Earn FAA Wings  
Credit

Discounted AV Gas  
No Ramp fees

RSVP by TEXT  
Jeff 860-933-4529



“Once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been, and there you will always long to return.” Attributed to Leonardo da Vinci