



EAA Chapter 166

Hartford, Connecticut

December 2024



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Steve Socolosky

Special First Flight Edition

As is our tradition here at EAA Chapter 166, we are recognizing Orville and Wilbur Wright for being the FIRST in powered, controllable flight AND for being the FIRST Homebuilders! Their accomplishment is truly almost unimaginable, considering the level of technology at their time. I am still learning about them as you can see by the last photo in our newsletter, where Wilbur is at the controls.



Our next meeting will be held on SATURDAY, JANUARY 25th 2025, at 10:00 AM, up in our Chapter meeting room in H1, at Brainard Airport (KHFD)! Please be sure to sign in in the Hartford Jet Center lobby. If you fly in for our meeting, there are no fees.

Thanks to all who attended our October meeting! The weather was great and except for being late to the meeting because I had to fly out for breakfast with Julia and Nate (we did some hovering on the return flight, too!), our meeting got going and was well-attended.

EAA 166 ELECTIONS! On Saturday, November 9th, at our Annual Awards Dinner, the following Members were elected:

Vice President: John Baleshiski

Treasurer: Brenda Rossignol

Secretaries: Dave Thompson, Keshet and Fabrizia Spadaccini

Young Eagles Coordinator: Jody Long

Justin Hotchkiss: Membership

President: Steve Socolosky

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EAA Chapter 166



EAA 166



@EAA166

NEXT MEETING

January 25,
2024, 10:00am

Chapter Meeting
Room in H1

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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We had our largest gathering yet at our Awards Dinner and were honored to have Member Bob Richlovsky's Granddaughter sing the National Anthem! It was beautiful!

DUES ARE DUE! Please also make sure your EAA National Membership is up to date as it is a requirement to participate in our Chapter activities. Here is the link on our website: [JOIN EAA 166](#)

Our RV-12 Chapter Build Project continues to progress! Please read more below!

Our RV-12 will be flying next year and we plan to fly it to Oshkosh! Are you planning to attend Oshkosh? If so, the time is NOW to begin planning, especially if you've never been. Just ask any of us and we'll be glad to help and there is much good information on EAA's website, too!

See you all on SATURDAY, JANUARY 25th, 2025 at 10:00 AM up in our Chapter meeting room in H1, at Brainard Airport (KHFD)! Please be sure to sign in in the Hartford Jet Center lobby. We'll have coffee and water, and plenty of Aviation Spirit!

Thank you, HAPPY HOLIDAYS and BLUE SKIES!
Steve





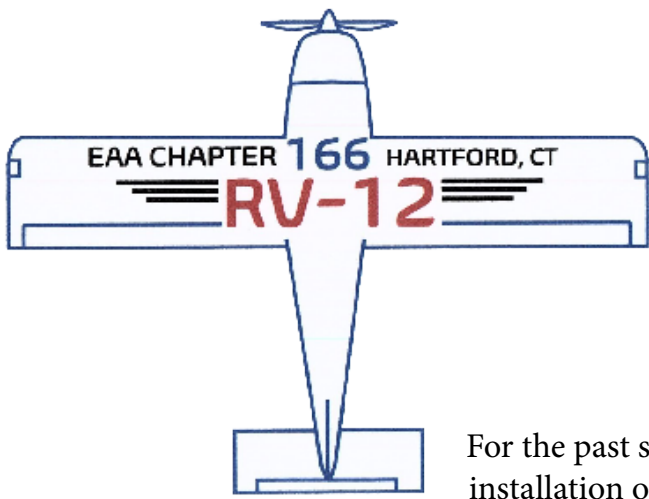
We wish our longtime Young Eagles Coordinator, Manu Ramesh, all the best as she moves on to Ohio! Thank you for all you have done for all the Young Eagles and for all of us, sharing your Spirit of Aviation, Manu!



Nate Claudio awarded Student Member Most Valuable Player of EAA 166's RV-12 Build Team, by Build Leader, Rick Montero



Bill Barry's explanation of this very unique aircraft hanging in the New England Air Museum!

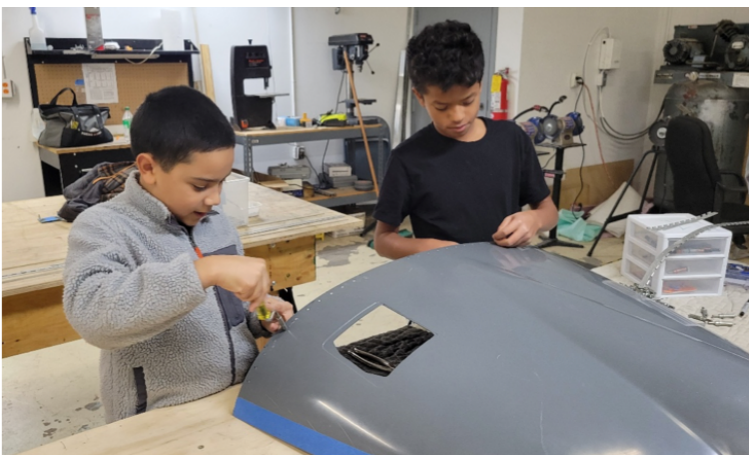


EAA 166 RV-12 BUILD UPDATE

update and photos from Rick Montero

For the past several weeks, the RV-12 Build Team has been working on the installation of the upper cowl and spinner. Both parts required blind match drilling into the attachment hardware. For the upper cowl, match drilling through the fiberglass cowl into a MS20257-3 hinge was required. Installation of the firewall hinges went smoothly, but the match drilling to install the side hinges went poorly. The drilled holes did not align within the center of the hinge plate, so the team had to fill in all of the holes drilled into the upper cowl and re-drill in the proper location. We also had to buy replacement hinges. This set back our progress by a few weeks while the repair work was performed and we waited on delivery of the new hinges. While that work was ongoing, the team installed the oil access door on the upper cowl and began work to install the propeller spinner.

Attaching the spinner required match drilling into the forward and rear spinner plates. While the rear spinner plate is clearly visible while match drilling through the fiberglass spinner, the forward spinner plate is completely hidden within the opaque fiberglass spinner. The forward plate also has specific hole locations for match drilling. Our build team found that using ¼" rare-earth neodymium magnetic spheres worked very well to help locate the drilling locations for the forward spinner plate. The magnetic spheres were taped to the inside of the aluminum spinner plate at the desired locations and another magnet was used on the outside of the spinner to locate the position. Once the position was known, we marked it and matched drilled. The technique worked perfectly!



(left) Nate and Aaron counter sinking holes in the upper cowl in preparation for hinge installation.
(right) Kai and Jackson installing the mounting screws for the spinner after having installed the nut-plates with rivets.

Check out the latest build updates on our YouTube channel!



EAA166 Hartford, Connecticut

@eaa166hartfordconnecticut8 · 355 subscribers · 21 videos

More about this channel >

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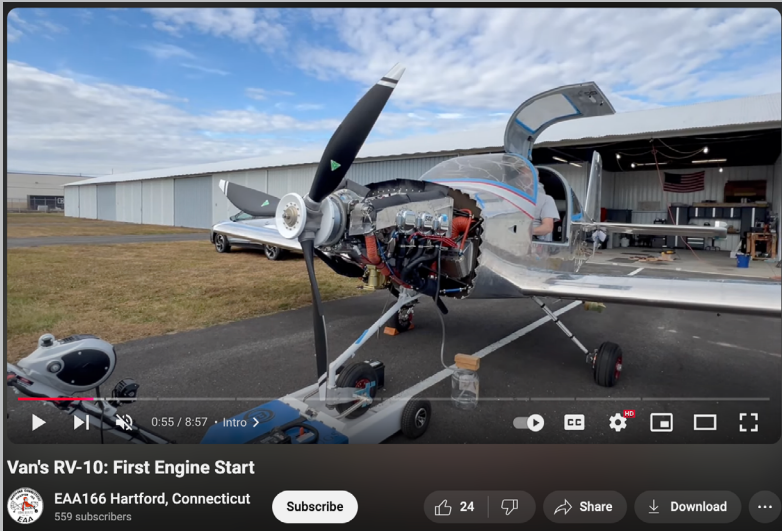
Next, the team will complete installation of the upper cowl and then work on installing the lower cowl baffle.

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. The teams will break for the holiday, so no build sessions are planned during the weeks of Christmas and New Year.

Rick Montero
EAA Chapter 166 RV-12 Build Team Leader



Rick teaching Ryan and Trevor how to use a pneumatic squeezer to install rivets on the lower cowl hinge. (Photo credit Josh Snow)



Amelia, Rick's granddaughter, recently visited the RV-12 Build Project and gave the Build Team an enthusiastic "Well Done" on craftsmanship and build progress.

A huge milestone in any kit project is starting the engine for the first time. As RV-10 builder and EAA166 member Mark Welch describes in this video, there are some critical items that need to be addressed before hitting the starter button, while preparing for the anticipated first flight.

[Click here to watch.](#)



Benny, Rick's grandson, recently visited HFD and checked out Manu's C150. He loved it. The perfect airplane for him and just the right size too.!



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!



Larry Anglisano shot this off the wing of a Cirrus on a leg between New York and CT



Past Ray Scholar, Logan Vidal, earns his Instrument Rating at Jacksonville University – 12 DEC 2024!



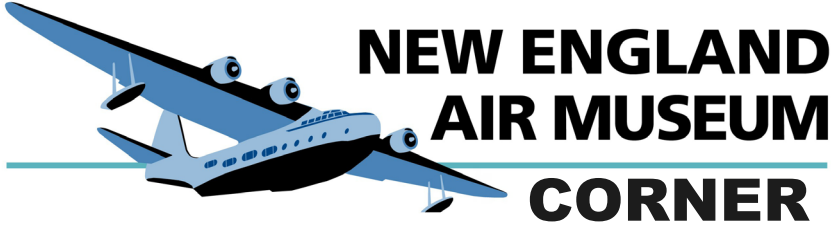
Chris Meyer getting his Super Decathlon gassed up!



Nate, Julia and Steve on their way to BREAKFAST!



Julia makes her first radio call to depart Southbridge Airport (3B0).



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!



School Vacation Week Programs

December 21 – 30th 10:30AM – 2:30PM

Enjoy a variety of family-friendly activities during school vacation week at the New England Air Museum from 10:30AM – 2:30PM! Closed Dec 24 & 25



Homeschool Day: Fixed Wing Flight

Monday February 3, 2025

Meet retired airplane pilots and certified flight instructors, learn how pilots chart a course using sectional maps, discover how planes fly with our public programs team, receive special access inside ou...

[LEARN MORE](#)

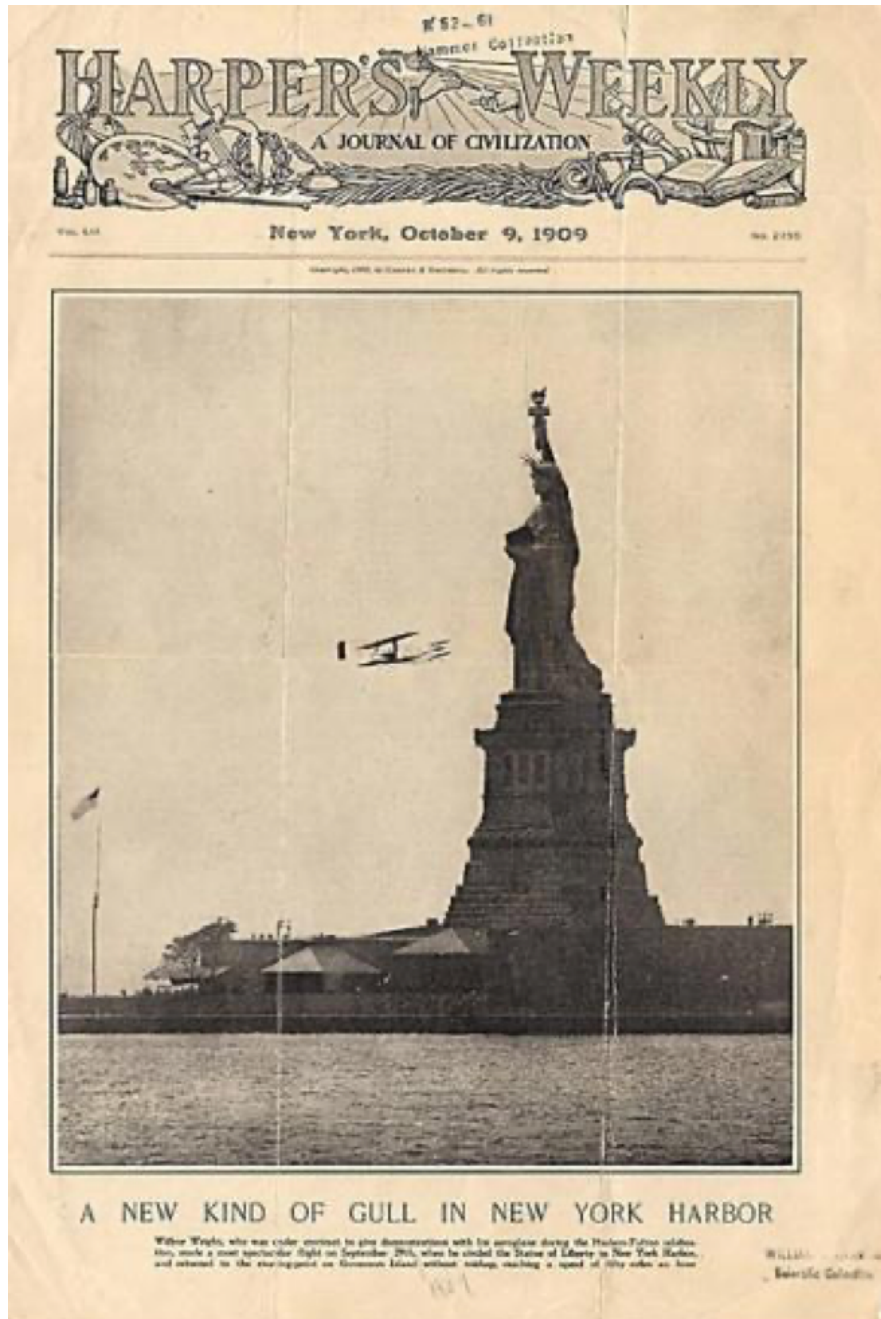


Women Take Flight

Saturday March 8, 2025 10AM – 3PM

Save the date! Meet local women in the aerospace industry, participate in hands-on STEM activities, climb aboard historic aircraft, use flight simulators, and more!





No New York City Special Flight Rules Area (SFRA) for Wilbur, back then!