



Brad Hartz, Vice President
bradhartz@hotmail.com
(260)-437-7475

EAA VINTAGE CHAPTER 37

November 2022

Vice President's Corner

By: Brad Hartz

As I write this, the weather has firmly fallen into Fall. The days are getting shorter and the nighttime moon has been absolutely beautiful. If you have an opportunity to fly over our area, the Fall colors are wonderful and watching Hoosier farmers work through their harvest is simply amazing.

I hope everyone has looked over their ballot candidates and will be voting on Tuesday. Do it!!! Every vote counts.

We thank Scotty Hepler, our new FBO Manager, for his gracious donation of 2 Sweet aviation Discovery Flights sold at auction for \$260. with no auctioneer fees. VAA 37 is firmly solid in its financial position.

There is a great line up of programs for next year. If you have an idea for a program, please let me know, I will help you any I can. I realize not everyone wants to do a dog and pony show. If you have an idea we will make it happen! Otherwise, I have put together a full year of ideas that I think you will enjoy!

This month, our program will be an introduction to Sweet Aviation FBO at DeKalb County Airport presented by Scotty Hepler and possibly Joel Pierce. Join us as we hear about a transition to a new FBO and what Sweet Aviation will offer at DeKalb County Airport.

Sweet Aviation Becomes the FBO for the DeKalb County Airport

Posted on November 1, 2022

Visit our Chapter Website at www.vaa37.org



After months of planning and preparation, Tuesday, November 1 marked the start of Sweet Aviation taking over operations of the Fixed Base Operator (FBO) at the DeKalb County Airport.

“We couldn’t be happier to welcome Sweet Aviation as our Fixed Base Operator,” said Russ Couchman DCAA Airport Manager. “The months leading up to the transition couldn’t have gone smoother and we look forward to a successful partnership.”

Scotty Hepler, FBO Manager, said, “We are extremely excited to be at the DeKalb Airport and provide first class services to our aviation customers and the Auburn community. We have diligently prepared, and are ready to support any request big or small.”

Known for going the extra mile and treating their customers like family, Sweet Aviation and the DeKalb County Airport Authority will provide their customers with many amenities and concierge services such as pilot and customer lounges, refreshments, ground transportation, and more during their stay at the airport.

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“We really love where the airport is located,” said Chuck Surack, owner of Sweet Aviation. “We believe we can offer the best service both to local pilots and those flying long distances who need to make a fuel stop.”

In addition to fuel and other FBO services, Sweet Aviation will also provide flight training and aircraft rental in their two seat Diamond DA20 and four seat Diamond DA40 aircraft. Sweet Aviation will also be providing charter services, aircraft maintenance, and detailing services at the airport as well.

To those interested in becoming a pilot, Sweet Aviation will also begin holding private pilot ground school classes at the airport starting Wednesday, January 11 which is the first step for an individual in obtaining a private pilot certificate.



EAA Chapter 2 Reaches New Young Eagles Milestone

EAA Chapter 2 (EAA2), Fort Wayne, IN holds Young Eagle Rallies at Smith Field Airport (KSMD), Fort Wayne, IN and other airports in northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio. On Saturday, August 27, 2022, EAA2 member Craig Brown flew Finn Freeman at an EAA Vintage 37 (VAA37) rally held at DeKalb County Airport (KGWB), Auburn, IN. Finn is the 11,000th Young Eagle flown by EAA2 members. Craig has flown 367 Young Eagles since 1999. EAA2 has flown Young Eagles every year since 1992 and received a plaque at AirVenture 2022 for that accomplishment.

Finn's first Young Eagle flight was on April 11, 2015. He volunteers at EAA Aeromart, EAA2 & VAA37 Young Eagle Rallies in various areas which includes instructing the kids in how an airplane flies, escorting kids to and from the planes, and marshaling planes. We always make sure he gets to fly too. Finn has attended the first two Air Academy camps and will be attending the Advanced Camp in 2023. His plans for the future include taking the Sporty's Learn to Fly course and getting his private pilot certificate as soon as he saves enough money to start flight training.

Finn has grown up with aviation connections. Both of his maternal grandparents are private pilots, both have flown Young Eagles, and his first flight was when he was 5 years old with his grandpa, David Resler who has flown over 2800 Young Eagles since 2005.

Craig Brown flew his first Young Eagle on April 10, 1999 in his Cessna 172 at Smith Field Airport. He also flies kids in his 1941 Piper Cub. It was in the Cub that Craig took Finn on his Young Eagle flight which was EAA2's 11,000th Young Eagle flight.

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Each year, EAA2 hosts four Young Eagle rallies at Smith Field and VAA37 hosts three Young Eagle Rallies at DeKalb County Airport. The two chapters work together at these rallies along with one held at Kendallville Municipal Airport (C62), Kendallville, IN.

In order to help and encourage youth who volunteer at our events to pursue flight training, EAA2 has set up a Youth Aviation Training Scholarship Fund. Donations for this Fund come from the profits from our Fly-in lunches and private donations. VAA37 also has a Scholarship Fund for flight training which is funded by profits from our Fly-in Breakfasts.

David and Laramie Resler are Young Eagle Coordinators for both Chapters. They, with other members from both Chapters, go to other airports in the northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio to host Young Eagle Rallies. Many of our members fly Young Eagles at times other than at rallies. Both chapters have a dedicated group of pilots and ground volunteers who help at these rallies.

David & Laramie Resler
Young Eagles Coordinators, EAA2 & VAA37



Finn Freeman & Craig Brown



Craig and Finn in Craig's 1941 Piper Cub



EAA Chapter 2 Young Eagles Volunteers

Visit our Chapter Website at www.vaa37.org

Upcoming Programs

- 11/04: *FRI Movie Night! at the Hangar 7p. The Tuskegee Airmen*
- 11/05: *SAT Greg Topper estate sale at the Hangar 1p to 3p.*
- 11/07: *MON final pick-up of auction items at the Hangar 2p-6p.*
- 11/08: *TUE Mid-Term Elections. Go vote. All day.*
- 11/08: *TUE Sweet Aviation FBO Open House at kGWB 4:30p - 6p.*
- 11/08: *TUE VAA 37 Board Meeting. 7p (all are welcome)*
- 11/17: *THU VAA 37 Chapter Meeting with Sweet Aviation 7p.*
- 11/26: *SAT VAA 37 Breakfast at the Hangar! 8a - 11a*
- 12/02: *FRI Movie Night! at the Hangar 7p. TBA*
- 12/17: *SAT VAA 37 Christmas Party 5:30P*

Join or renew VAA Chapter 37 membership! Our chapter is growing!

\$30 Individual, \$40 Family, \$10 Youth

Remit check payable to EAA Vintage Chapter 37 to the following address:

VAA 37
2616 County Road 60 Box 3
Auburn, IN 46706

Or give check or cash to at the next get-together!



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2616 County Road 60 Box 3
Auburn IN 46706

bradhartz@hotmail.com
(260) 437-7475 call or text

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