

SAFETY TOPIC: Breaking the Accident Chain Early

Welcome back from Oshkosh! The topic for this month is breaking the accident chain through better preflight and pre-departure checks.

Some of the leading factors in general aviation accidents include fuel mismanagement, powerplant failures, and poor aeronautical decision-making. Unfortunately, many of these accidents can be traced back to a chain of hazardous decisions that began before the aircraft was ever started.

A thorough preflight is incredibly important on every flight and should be repeated whenever your aircraft has been left unattended. Good habits include verifying all preflight items listed in your aircraft's POH, visually confirming fuel quantity and summing all required tanks and drains, and completing a full runup once the engine is at the appropriate operating temperature.

In the summer heat, it can be tempting to rush through or skip some of these steps to start moving and get some airflow through the cabin. However, that small shortcut can create a much larger risk.

Identifying malfunctions, damage, or other problems while still on the ground is one of the easiest ways to prevent a dangerous situation in the air. Yet, I am sure many of us have been tempted to rush a preflight after saying, "I just stopped to run to the bathroom."

Even if no one else has been around the airplane, risks are still present. Birds, FOD, and weather can all damage an airplane, sometimes in unassuming ways. Taking an extra five minutes on the ground may prevent an emergency later and, in some cases, could save your life.

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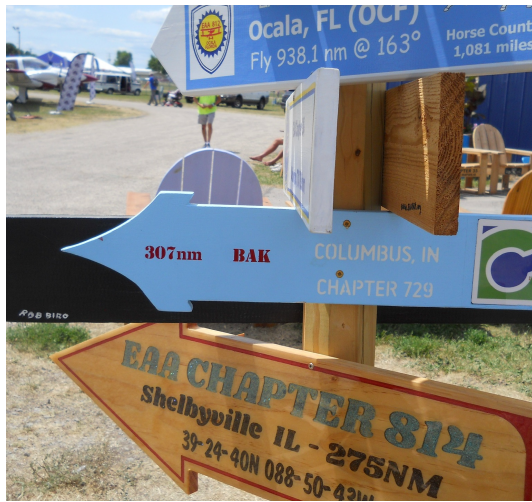
OSHKOSH!

WOW! Another great year at EAA Airventure 2026! We loved seeing many fellow chapter members in attendance!

Oshkosh had over 700,000+ people in attendance this year. A new record! I also seem to think...based on this new Airventure chapter photo to the right...this was a record year for EAA 729 attendance! Yay!

The chapter arrowhead at the Blue Barn still stands pointing towards home at BAK:





Chapter members enjoyed many activities including: Attending forums, purchasing new aircraft tools, flying in the airshow, and this year's 2025 Ray Scholar, Ethan Paul, was able to be in attendance for the Ray Scholar breakfast hosted by the EAA every year!

I hope everyone had just an amazing time as I did, and we hope to see everyone and more next year!

EAA 729 Jump Start Program

For those who may not be aware, this year our chapter applied for and received a \$10,000 grant from the Heritage Fund of Columbus to launch a new scholarship program we developed called Jump Start!

The Jump Start program was created to help local students overcome some of the financial barriers to getting started in aviation. Specifically, the scholarship covers many of the expenses associated with completing the eligibility requirements for our Ray Aviation Scholarship, giving students who may not otherwise have the opportunity the support they need to take their first steps toward flight training.

The program also gives students an opportunity to experience the expectations and commitment of a Ray Scholar firsthand, helping them determine whether the Ray Aviation Scholarship is the right next step for them.

The Jump Start scholarship covers:

- An FAA Medical Examination and medical certificate
- Sporty's Private Pilot Ground School Course
- FAA Private Pilot Knowledge Test fee
- Three hours of dual flight training and associated ground instruction

This year, we selected four exceptional students to participate in the inaugural Jump Start program:

Advait Aras

Caed Besosa

Caitlyn Gordon

Dane Gregory

The Jump Start program is no walk in the park! Participants are held to high standards similar to those expected of our Ray Scholars. This cycle, students were required to complete their ground school and pass the FAA written exam within just three weeks of receiving the scholarship, while also completing their flight training within a strict timeline.

The chapter applauds our Jump Start scholars for their hard work and dedication! We are proud of each of you and wish you the best of luck as you continue working toward the opportunity to become a Ray Scholar.

Interested in learning more about Jump Start? Program FAQs, requirements, and application information are available at [Scholarships – EAA Chapter 729](#). Additional questions can be directed to eaachapter729rayscholarship@gmail.com.

EAA 729 Ray Aviation Scholarship Program

EAA Chapter 729 was awarded two matching Ray Aviation Scholarships from the national EAA Ray Foundation for 2026! For each scholarship, the chapter contributes \$3,000, while the Ray Foundation provides the remaining \$9,000, for a total award of \$12,000 per scholar.

Interviews are well underway for our 2026 EAA Chapter 729 Ray Scholarship candidates. Good luck to all!

The 2026 EAA Chapter 729 Ray Scholars will be notified of their awards by Monday, August 17, and we look forward to sharing the news with the chapter shortly after!

We anticipate awarding another Ray Scholarship in early 2027. If you or someone you know may be interested, eligibility information, requirements, applications, and FAQs are available at [Scholarships – EAA Chapter 729](#). Additional questions can be directed to eaachapter729rayscholarship@gmail.com.

Youth and Adult Build Updates

With the hustle and bustle of OshKosh this July, progress has slowed on the Zenith! We are looking forward to getting back after it as we move into the fall!

For real-time updates and behind-the-scenes moments from both build projects, follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/ea729 and on Instagram at instagram.com/eaachapter729.

Volunteer Opportunity: Help with Youth Zenith 650 Build

We are looking for volunteers with mechanical aptitude and a passion for aviation to help mentor the next generation of aviation enthusiasts as they build a Zenith 650! If you have experience in aircraft construction, mechanics, or simply enjoy working with young people in the aviation community, we would love to have you on board. This is a fantastic opportunity to share your knowledge, inspire future pilots, and make a lasting impact on the lives of these young builders. If you're interested in volunteering, please reach out directly to Brad Stinebring or James Yrineo for more details.

Member Minute: Keith Embree



This month we recognize Keith Embree! Keith has been a chapter member since June of 2024 and recently constructed for us a beautiful J-3 Cub Pedal Plane! Keith, fantastic work! We hope to keep doing projects like these in the future!

As a board, we will be discussing how best to raise funds with this J3 Cub for our youth programs. Be sure to check it out at our annual family summer cookout this month.

REMINDERS:

Fly-Out Opportunity

This Saturday, August 15th at 8 AM, EAA 67 will be hosting their Pancake Breakfast until 11 AM at the Noblesville Airport (I80). All interested pilots or passengers can register for the fly-out with EAA 729 at [Fly-Outs – EAA Chapter 729](https://eaa729.org/fly-outs/) (<https://eaa729.org/fly-outs/>).

*Be cautious if attending for wet, grass runway conditions.

Coming soon, we are hoping to start a Fly-outs group messaging system to arrange more in the future!

Next Flyout: September 5th, KMZZ

Upcoming Chapter Events and Gatherings

August Monthly Gathering

Thursday, August 20th at 6:00 PM

EAA 729 Hangar - 4750 Kelly St Columbus, IN 47203

This August, we will be having our annual chapter cookout at the EAA hangar! We hope to see everyone there! Food will include grilled burgers and brats. Drinks will be provided; however, bring any specialties you would like, and sides/desserts brought by members are always encouraged!

September Monthly Gathering

Thursday, September 17th at 6:30 PM

EAA 729 Hangar - 4750 Kelly St Columbus, IN 47203

The September Monthly Meeting focus will be a presentation from Larry Bothe over checklist usage!

Airside Community Coffee Social

Friday, September 18th at 9 AM

Airport Maintenance Garage

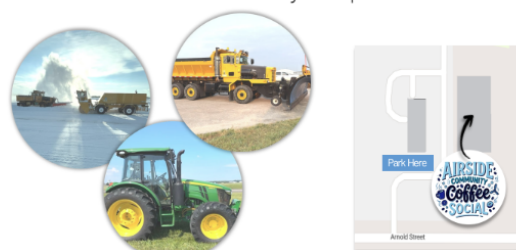
The airport has specially invited EAA 729 members to have a meet and greet with the airport staff over coffee and donuts!

Sonex Fly-In

Saturday/Sunday, September 26th-27th, 12 PM - 12 PM
Columbus Municipal Airport, Various Locations



We thought it would be fun to have a meet and greet with our airport staff and members of the EAA over coffee and donuts! Come to the Maintenance garage so we can show you our heavy duty equipment, including the newest snow removal equipment we've added to our fleet. Let's get together, put a name to a face, and talk about the ways we can support each other! No RSVP needed ... just stop on in!



FRIDAY . SEPT 18 . AT 9AM
columbus municipal airport

James Yrineo and Bill Batten of the Indiana Sonex Mafia, are hosting a Sonex fly-in! Including but not limited to, airport camping, BBQ dinner, pancake breakfast, and airport activities. Feel free to stop by if you are interested!

A promotional poster for the September Sonex Fly-In. The background is a blue sky with a white contrail from a blue and white Sonex aircraft flying over a green field. On the right, there is a tall, modern, blue and white control tower. The title 'September Sonex Fly-In' is at the top in large, green, stylized letters. Below the title is a QR code and a small box with text: 'Sonex Fly-in KBAK Columbus IN - General / Events - SonexPilots.org' and 'sonexpilots.org'. The main text describes the event dates (September 26th-27th), location (KBAK, Columbus Municipal Airport), and activities (BBQ dinner, pancake breakfast, overnight camping, airport tour). It also lists the organizers, James Yrineo and Bill Batten, with their email addresses. A calendar icon is next to the dates.

September Sonex Fly-In

Sonex Fly-in KBAK Columbus IN - General / Events - SonexPilots.org
sonexpilots.org

Join fellow Sonex enthusiasts at the Columbus Municipal Airport from Saturday, September 26th at noon through Sunday, September 27th at noon!

Hosted by the Indiana Sonex Mafia, the weekend will include a BBQ dinner Saturday evening followed by a pancake breakfast Sunday morning.

Overnight camping will be available at the airport, along with numerous local hotel options. Transportation to and from local hotels can also be arranged with the organizers.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to tour several airport attractions, including the Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum, C-119 Flying Boxcar, and control tower.

Contacts:
James Yrineo - Jfyrineo@gmail.com
Bill Batten - williamabatten@gmail.com

September 26th-27th
12pm-12pm
KBAK, Columbus Municipal Airport

2026 Young Eagles

August 8th Young Eagles:

Thank you to all the ground volunteers, pilots, and young eagles who assisted with our August Young Eagles Rally! We flew 64 Young Eagles at this event!

Special thanks to all the pilots for their effort at this event! **Eric Scheidt** once again flew the most Young Eagles at 15! HOWEVER, the pilot that actually flew the most flights was **Todd Fishel** at 6 total flights!

Another special thanks to all the Young Eagles who assisted in marshalling aircraft throughout the event!

— May 9, 2026

— June 13, 2026

— ~~August 8, 2026~~

- September 19, 2026 <<<< Next Upcoming Rally
- October 17 (tbd)

Each rally runs from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, with registration opening one month prior to each event. Flight reservations can be made at <http://eaachapters.org>. Follow the calendar at eaa729.org and our social media (@eaachapter729 on Facebook and Instagram) for updates!

If you are interested in volunteering with the Young Eagles Program either as a pilot or ground volunteer, please visit [Young Eagles Resources for Chapters and Volunteer Pilots](#) | [EAA AirVenture Oshkosh](#) for more information and contact Ryan Malanoski rkmalanoski@gmail.com to get started!

For Sale!

For the first time since roughly 2016 we have an airplane looking for a new home from a chapter member!

Jeff Roesner and Brett Fathauer are selling their 1971 Cardinal C177RG (N8025G)

SPECS:

1971 CESSNA CARDINAL 177RG
N8025G; Serial Number 177RG0025

Features:

Tornado Alley Turbo System III
Micro Vortex Generators
GAMI Fuel Injectors
JDI EDM-900 Engine Monitor
External Power Receptacle
Co – Pilot Push-to-Talk
Four Place Intercom
1009 Pounds Useful Load

Avionics:

Audio Panel Bendix/King KMA 24 TSO
GPS/Nav/Com #1 Garmin GTN-650
GPS/Nav/Com #2 Bendix/King KX 155 TSO with
Glideslope
Transponder GTX 330 ES with ADS-B Out
Autopilot S-TEC 20/30 Single and Two Axis Automatic
with
GPSS and Altitude Hold

Exterior: White with Dark Blue, Maroon and Gray Striping (6/10)

Interior: Leather Light Brown Seats and Brown Fabric Floor (6/10)

Airframe Total Time: **7,654 Hours Since New**

IO-360 200 Horsepower Engine: **2,659 Hours SMOH**

2 Blade McCauley B2D34C Propeller: **46 Hours Since New**

Aircraft continue to meet all applicable inspection requirements as of this date.

Price = \$108,900 (currently). We are considering to lower the price next week.

Below is the link to the Trade-a-Plane advertisement:

https://www.trade-a-plane.com/search?category_level1=Single+Engine+Piston&make=CESSNA&model=177RG&listing_id=2458404&s-type=aircraft

Contact: brett.w.fathauer@gmail.com, jeffreypoersner@gmail.com

Friendly Reminder: 2026 Chapter Dues

This year is closing out! We kindly remind all EAA 729 members to submit their 2026 chapter dues. Your continued support helps cover essential expenses like hangar maintenance and the food we all enjoy during our gatherings. Every dollar you contribute goes directly back into benefiting the chapter and its members.

Not sure of your current status? Reach out to **Bill Batten**, he will be happy to help. Thank you for being a vital part of our aviation family!

If you are interested in becoming an EAA 729 Lifetime member, visit <https://eaa729.org/shop/> and select "Lifetime Membership"

Submit Your Accomplishments and Updates!

We want to hear from you! Chapter 729 is always looking for member-contributed content to feature in our monthly newsletter. Whether you've achieved a new rating, reached a building milestone, completed an interesting flight, or have an aviation story to share, we'd love to include it.

We're looking for aviation achievements and milestones, personal aircraft build project updates, interesting flying experiences or trips, aviation-related articles or insights, and photos from your aviation adventures.

How to Submit: Send your stories, articles, or photos to Kate Russell at cbuskate@gmail.com. Help us celebrate the diverse aviation experiences within our chapter community!

CONTACTS/LINKS/SCHOLARSHIPS/ETC.:

Website: eaa729.org

Facebook: facebook.com/eaa729

Instagram: instagram.com/eaachapter729.

Board Contacts

John Tunell (President) - jtunell.av8r@gmail.com

Kate Russell (Vice President) - cbuskate@gmail.com

Bill Batten (Treasurer) - williamabatten@gmail.com

Larry Kelly (Secretary) - lostaviator@gmail.com

Ryan Malanoski (Y.E. Coordinator) - rkmalanoski@gmail.com

James Yrineo - jfyrineo@gmail.com

Kyle Smith - mister.meow@icloud.com

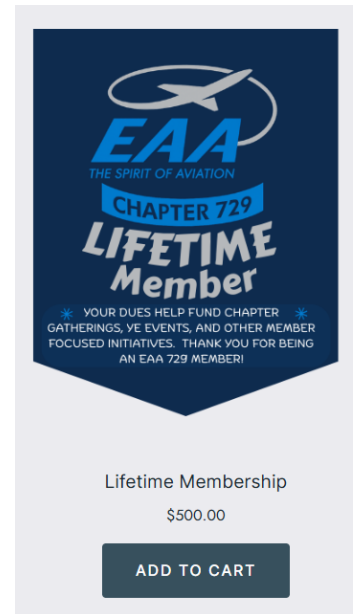
Jason Tepool - jasontepool@gmail.com

Noah Shatto - gonefishingaway@gmail.com

Dan Villiger - dan.villiger@sbcglobal.net

Mike Foushee - michaelfoushee@yahoo.com

Brad Stinebring - blstinebring@comcast.net



Committee Chairs/Contacts

Building Maintenance – Brad Stinebring

Young Eagles – Ryan Malanoski / Kate Russell

Website / Marketing – John Tunell / Kate Russell

Tool Crib – Larry Kelly

Youth Programs – Brad Stinebring

Aircraft Build – James Yrineo / Jason Tepool

Flight Simulator - James Yrineo, Ryan Malanoski, and Kyle Smith

Newsletter – John Tunell / Kate Russell

Ray Scholar – Brad Stinebring / Kate Russell

EAA HQ Liability Insurance – Ryan Malinowski

Social Media – James Yrineo / John Tunnell / Kate Russell / Ryan Malinowski

Fly-Outs - Matthew Degner (matthew.a.degner@gmail.com)

EAA & AOPA Airshow Schedules

AOPA Events - <https://www.aopa.org/news-and-media/news-by-topic/events/airshow>

EAA Events - <https://www.eaa.org/eaas/events>

Scholarships

The Women In Aviation International Annual Scholarship cycle is now open! Apply here:

<https://www.wai.org/scholarships>

Avfuel Scholarship Cycle **Closes August 31st**

[Scholarship Opportunities](#)

EAA and AOPA Scholarship Cycles **Open October 1st!**

[Aviation Scholarships](#) | [Flight Training Scholarships](#) | [EAA](#)

[AOPA Flight Training Scholarships - AOPA](#)

EAA Chapter 729 will reopen the Jump Start and Ray Scholarship Applications in early 2027. It is recommended to visit

[Scholarships – EAA Chapter 729](#) and work on meeting eligibility and preferred scholar qualifications early!

Opportunities

DO YOU LOVE AVIATION?
JOIN THE WOMEN IN AVIATION
BAKALAR CHAPTER

What is it? The Bakalar Chapter is a Women in Aviation International Chapter based right here at the Columbus Municipal Airport in Columbus Indiana!

Who Can Join? Both Women and Men
Junior Members: Ages 5-15 with Parent
Student Members: Ages 16-18
Members: Ages 18+

WHEN AND WHERE?
SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6:30PM
COLUMBUS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT TERMINAL BASEMENT
(CHANGES IN LOCATION AND TIME WITH BE POSTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA)

Why should I Join?
Meet people that share a love for Aviation
Networking/Resume building
Chance to hold leadership roles
Learn more about Aviation
Be eligible for Scholarships
Have Fun!

2026 MEETINGS

DATE	DATE
MAY 13	SEP 9
JUNE 13	OCT 17
JULY 8	NOV 11
AUG 12	DEC 9

LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION?
INSTAGRAM: BAKALAR_WAI
FACEBOOK: WAI BAKALAR CHAPTER
WEBSITE: <https://www.wai-thebakalarchapter.com/>
EMAIL QUESTIONS: hfrieden@columbus.in.gov

Interested in being involved with Women in Aviation? Join in on the fun with the Bakalar chapter at any of their meetings this year...