



www.eaa471.org

May 2024

President's Message

Steve West

There are so many thoughts in my head about our chapter's involvement in AirFest this past weekend, that I think the best thing I can do is simply mention those that deserve credit in making this event a success. Without the participation of the members of Chapter 471, AirFest 2024 simply could not have happened.

Starting at the top, our own Steve Krazer was the event coordinator, pulling together everyone associated with the event from airshow performers, to working with Dyess AFB to provide military fly-bys, to air show acts, to food vendors, to parking, to crowd control, to loaner cars... the list goes on!

Most may know her as our monthly breakfast biscuit and gravy cook, but Charlotte Rhodes performed the role of AirBoss for the event. Yep, sounds like a cool title, but what that means is during the Air Show she was in charge of everything that flew, taxied, took off, or landed in the air show demonstration area.

The Big Country One demo team, consisting of our chapter members Jeff Randall, Jim Carrol, Eddie Eichler, Steve Templeton, and Gary Potter with Matt Starks, kicked off the event with a fly-over, smoke on!

Bobby Richardson, our own Young Eagle coordinator, took charge of setting up barriers, placing locating tarps, wrangling tractors for parking shuttles, finding hay bales and traffic cones, and sourcing all the UTVs used for the airshow.

Thanks go to Jeff and Betty Clement for stocking the meeting room with food and drink to keep everyone running.

Friday evening entertainment along with steak sandwiches and the fixings was provided by Black Sheep Productions, also known as Audie Gill and Lon Beasley.

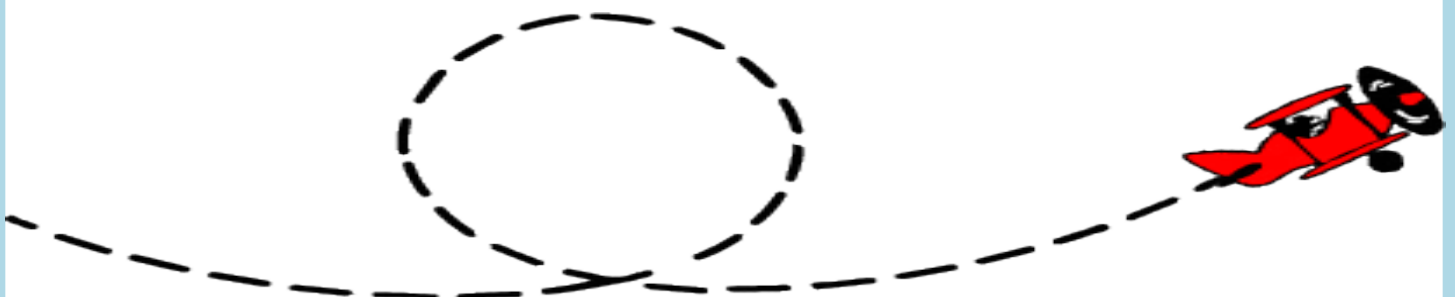
Lastly, I must say how proud I am of everyone who volunteered and helped with hosting the EAA Tri-Motor this past week. I feel that I must mention one particular individual by name.

If there is an Oscar to be given in the category of Flight Briefing Performances, then our own Cecil Walston would be most deserving!

The danger of making a list like this is the very distinct possibility that I've left someone out.

Correct me when you see me!

See y'all Saturday!



Congratulations to Charles Ross for Earning the FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilots Award and for 50 Years as an Active Pilot



The award was presented by Dan Vengen of the Lubbock FAA office.



Charles Ross and his family.



Aviation - One Big Family

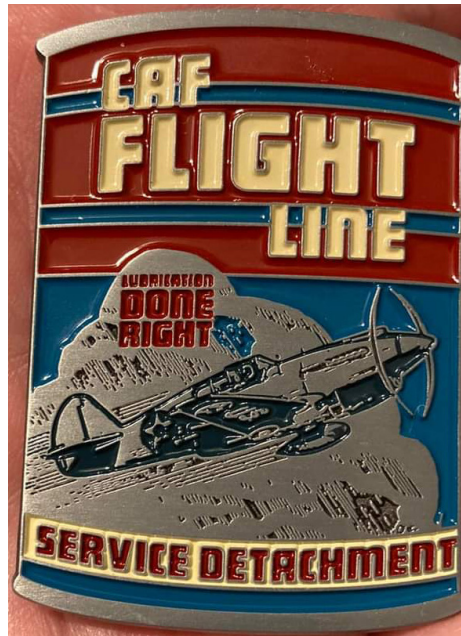
Slightly funny/ironic yet personal feel good human story day for me today. I go to my hangar at about 11am today to see Abilene Airfest preparations going on around the ramp for the airshow tomorrow. Check in for a few minutes with my local EAA 471 Chapter and Airboss Charlotte Rhodes (co worker retired fellow FAA Abilene Air Traffic Controller DEAR friend). Then I go to my little T-hangar to clean up and shine my little Cessna 150 which I've been able to own and fly for 14 1/2 years now.

Gotta make "The Turtle" presentable with a cleaning shine. After 2 hours of exhausting work in the abnormal 80% humidity (normally about 20-25% around here) and soaked in sweat. I go to leave the carded security airport gate #24 and see a white truck with a pull trailer on the exterior side abeam the metal security box you swipe your card for entrance. I figure I'd give them a minute to use their security gate badge card to activate the gate. No luck, the passenger door opens and a guy lifts his Abilene Regional Airport Dyess Big Country Air Fest "Aircrew" lanyard badge out into the air for me to see, and I take that as a valid means of me driving my car to the weight sensor to open the gate, and then I back out at a 45 degree angle to let them drive in. They drive up 15 yards and stop and wave to me as to say "hold on a minute". I roll my window down and a very jovial distinguished man walks up to me and says "Thank you so much for helping us out my friend, I'd like to give you one of my challenge coins!"

He reaches out his hand smiling, and proudly hands me a CAF "Flight Line" crew challenge coin.

I smile and say "Thank you sir, and let me give you my challenge coin as well." And I hand him one of my Big Country One Formation Flight Team challenge coins I designed and had made last year.

His smile he already has grows bigger and so did mine. Two strangers, being kind to each other. I drove away with a sense of thinking, "wow, the world is going to be ok when humans can just be kind to one another." I don't know his name, and he doesn't know mine, but I can bet you we both will remember the mutual kindness we gave one another for the rest of our lives. Travis Browne maybe you might know who this kind man was, he sure made my day, and I hope I made his as well.



EAA Chapter 471 Hosts the EAA Ford Trimoter

Chapter 471 successfully hosted the EAA Tri-Motor on May 2nd through 5th. The aircraft made a total of 17 flights over the city, carrying an estimated 125 passengers, including a number of chapter volunteers. I'd like to thank everyone who volunteered in this effort as well as those members who volunteered for Airfest 2024. Great job everybody!



Trimotor Fun for EAA Chapter 471 Members while they Volunteer to help the EAA Ford Trimotor



Betty admitted she accidentally flew on the Ford Trimotor while helping with flights they were giving and preparing for the airshow yesterday. She said she was left unsupervised. Jeff was at work. I'm sure she wasn't the only one who helped with rides and got a chance to fly on the Ford Trimotor.





Black Sheep Productions



The Black Sheep once again made preparations for a Friday night party for AirFest volunteers and guests. After a little deliberation over the weather, it was decided to move the party to Hangar 3. With many people pitching in, all the cooking equipment and supplies were quickly relocated. Even though the threat of weather kept several people away, there was still a good showing.

Tasty ribeye sandwiches, good music, and great people It doesn't get much better than that!



Lon Beasley & Matt Stark doing the cooking.



Big Country's Women in Aviation AirFest 2024 Honors Women in Aviation

Planes that have left their mark on history were the highlight of this year's Big Country Air Fest, making waves at the airport, while modern military aircraft such as the B-1B and B-52 bombers that fly over our skies made their loud presence. This year's theme was women in aviation, reflecting on the impact women have played in military history and looking to inspire the next generation. Mikayla Spivey from the 12th Armored Division Memorial Museum stated that this event demonstrates flying precision and highlights the advancements women have made in the industry. "It just shows how far we've come and the place women have in our military history. And now, with being a military museum, we're kind of in a full circle, being able to progress and show that and then connect with future generations. We had so

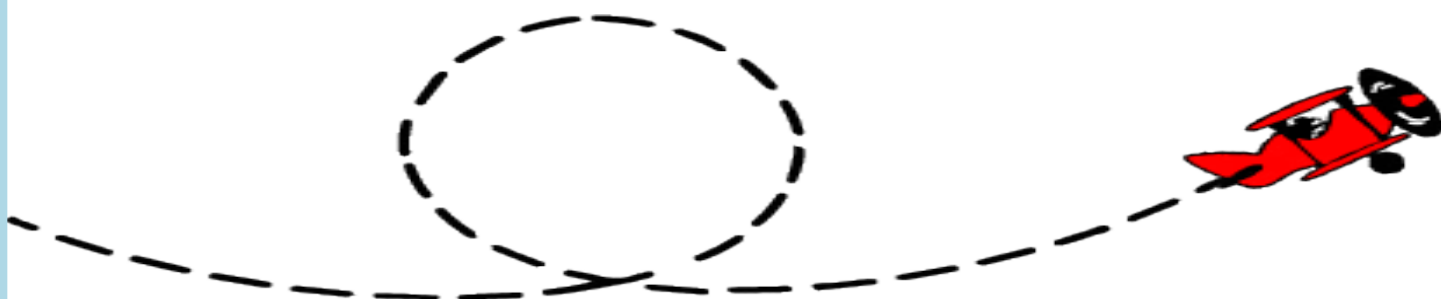


many kids come up and look at the half-track, climb in, ask questions, and try to get engaged with the history and what they can learn and what they can do in the future," Spivey shared. Spivey expressed her hope that the event would inspire people to pursue their dreams.

"You can do anything you set your mind to, whether flying an 80-year-old airplane, twisting loops, driving a military vehicle, or teaching people about world history. Just anything you decide to do; you can do it," Spivey said. The event showcased a variety of aircraft, such as the B-25, famous for the Doolittle Raid, to the C-47, which played a role in defeating Imperial Japan during World War II. It also included impressive stunts by skilled pilots such as Mike "Spanky" Gallaway in his Extra 300 and Mark Mastren in his Super Stearman.



Big Country One Performs During Women in Aviation AirFest 2024



Cisco Municipal Airport Burger Burn Fly - In for their new FBO

A promotional graphic for a 'Burger Burn Fly-In' event. The background is dark blue. In the top left is the 'AirSpace AUCTIONS' logo. In the top right is the 'CISCO MUNICIPAL AIRPORT' logo. The central focus is a large, multi-layered burger with a biplane flying through it, surrounded by flames. To the left of the burger, the text 'Hamburgers + Pilots Fly-In' is written in yellow. Above this text is a small 'ell' logo. Below the text is a small icon of a burger with a dashed arrow pointing to the main burger. To the right of the burger, a white speech bubble contains the text 'May 11, 11am-3pm'. Below this, a yellow rounded rectangle contains the text 'Cisco 3F2 Airport'. The bottom of the graphic has a yellow border.

AirSpace AUCTIONS

CISCO MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

ell

Hamburgers
+ Pilots
Fly-In

May 11,
11am-3pm

Cisco 3F2 Airport



WASP Homecoming 2024

WASP Homecoming and Celebration Air Show was a Success.

The National WASP WWII Museum hosted its annual WASP Homecoming on April 26 – 27.

Traditionally, this weekend has been an opportunity for the WASP to come home to Avenger Field, spend time together, and receive love and kudos for their groundbreaking service.

Although the WASP can no longer attend, we still celebrate them. We honor the WASP with praise and understanding from legacy pilots.

We put on a great show that the WASP would whole-heartedly approve - a World War II airshow on Avenger Field.

Insightful panels and engaging speakers inspired this year's attendees with their knowledge, passion, expertise, and enthusiasm creating an unforgettable experience. For their expertise on the WASP, we thank moderator Olga Custodio and WASP children Tom Lucas, Melissa Reed, and Marcy Crawford for sharing their mother's contributions at our WASP Celebration Brunch.

Over the weekend, our Women Military Aviators (WMA) panel followed by a special conversation with Eileen Bjorkman, president of WMA, educated us on the service, sacrifice, and persistence of the second generation of women in the military. The WMA opened the doors for women in command and ultimately combat.

Our third generation of Air Force aviators, moderated by Afton Brown, weighed in on the best advice they have received in their careers 80 years after WASP service.

Erin Miller spoke of her successful grassroots, social media, and direct advocacy campaign to gain the right for the WASP to be inurned at Arlington Cemetery.

Friday night's special guest was Susan Kilrain, NASA, astronaut, ret. She had us on the edge of our seats with serious moments of courage and skill punctuated throughout with humor. Susan's wisdom and grace has kept her words reverberating in our minds.

Despite disheartening weather reports of rain and hail, the winds shifted, and the WASP Museum's inaugural airshow took off. How better to celebrate the WASP than by flying their favorite planes? The P-40 took to the skies followed by an acro Stearman and the beloved AT-6. For two hours, the crowds were mesmerized by the roar of the engines and their ensuing contrails.

The WASP Museum is grateful for all our visitors. Their participation and engagement elevated this event beyond our expectations. We hope they left feeling inspired, empowered, and ready to make a difference in their own communities.

Together, we ensure the WASP legacy lives on.



SAVE THE DATES!

APRIL 25-26, 2025 FLY-IN

APRIL 24-25, 2026 AIRSHOW



Sun N Fun 2024 in the Eyes of Chapter Member Ben Mallon





Webinars

INTERACTIVE | EDUCATIONAL | MOBILE

EAA WEBINARS SCHEDULE

May Webinars

Date	Time	Title	Presenters
5/1/24	7 p.m. CDT	Borescope Initiative	Mike Busch
5/8/24	7 p.m. CDT	Slip Slidin' Away – All About Uncoordinated Flight	
5/22/24	7 p.m. CDT	Solid Edge Synchronous and Ordered Modeling	Doug Stainbrook
5/29/24	7 p.m. CDT	Building Your Dream Airport	Gary Stevens

June Webinars

6/5/24	7 p.m. CDT	Minimally Invasive	Mike Busch
6/11/24	7 p.m. CDT	Rose Parakeet	Chris Henry & Amelia Anderson
6/12/24	7 p.m. CDT	Zeppelin: The First Airliners	John Mellberg
6/18/24	7 p.m. CDT	Making Friends with a Sukhoi	Wes Liu
6/19/24	7 p.m. CDT	Tips for Flying Into EAA AirVenture 2024	Fred Stadler
6/26/24	7 p.m. CDT	Ultralight/Homebuilt Rotorcraft Arrival Procedures - AirVenture 2024	Mark Spang

If you are interested in any of these webinars you can register for them by clicking the link below.

https://www.eaa.org/aaa/news-and-publications/aaa-webinars?mkt_tok=eyJpLjoiTnpkbVpUUTFaR1Ez-TUdabClslNQiOiJ2cWsybWJsZ3BMb0ZnNmYzYn-hwclM3SEhPNDgzdTZvMTkShh6WWFudEt5UkdYcUZG-ZzY2ZStPY0ZCbXhmZ0s3WmxUcUtYblg5UU9YTUQwck-VOTGoyWFpfb0djlU3k0aDBPaGVIVFpCUTRFaVwvZlwwS-jRmZWdLY0tlQThlbkh1eENuln0%3D

Flight Schedule of Events

January	February	March	April	May	June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1/13/24 Monthly Breakfast Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2/10/24 Monthly Breakfast Meeting 2/12/24 VMC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3/9/24 Monthly Breakfast Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4/6/24 – 4/7/24 The Great Texas Airshow 4/9/24 – 4/14/24 Sun N Fun 4/13/24 Monthly Breakfast Meeting 4/13/24 – 4/14/24 Fort Worth Air Power Expo 4/15/24 VMC 4/26/24 – 4/27/24 WASP Homecoming 4/27/24 – 4/28/24 Guardians of Freedom Airshow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5/4/24 Big Country Airfest 5/11/24 Monthly Breakfast Meeting 5/25/24 Breckenridge Airshow 5/26/24 National Paper Airplane Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6/8/24 Monthly Breakfast Meeting International Young Eagles Day 6/10/24 VMC
July	August	September	October	November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7/13/24 Monthly Breakfast Meeting 7/22/24 – 7/28/24 Airventure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8/10/24 Monthly Breakfast Meeting 8/12/24 VMC 8/19/24 National Aviation Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9/14/24 Monthly Breakfast Meeting 9/18/24 Air Force Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10/4/24 – 10/6/24 Ranger Flyin 10/12/24 Monthly Breakfast Meeting 10/14/24 VMC 10/26/24 – 10/27/24 Wings Over Houston 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11/9/24 Monthly Breakfast Meeting 11/2/24 – 11/3/24 Alliance Airshow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12/16/24 VMC

In The Bat Cave



2024 Chapter Officers:

President: Steve West

Vice President: Steve Harbison

Secretary: Dawson Mullins

Treasurer: Matt Stark

Catagory II Directors:

Audie Gill

Leroy Bell

Catagory III Directors:

David Bradshaw

Gary Potter

Charlotte Rhodes

Technical Advisor: Chris Ulibarri

Young Eagles Advisors:

Bobby Richardson

Newsletter Editor: Katelyn Petty

Web Page Manager: Steve Krazer

Flight Advisor: Gary Potter

Search us on

[facebook](#)

[“Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 471”](#)

Visit our Website: eaa471.org

Email: abilene.eaa.471@gmail.com



EAA Chapter 471

Hangar 3: 1801 Navajo Trail • Abilene, TX 79602

Mailing: P.O. Box 2585 • Abilene, TX 79604

email Address: abilene.eaa471@gmail.com

DON'T FORGET

NEXT MONTHLY BREAKFAST

SATURDAY MAY 11 9:00 . A . M . HANGAR 3

