

# The Flying Wire



**Chapter 124  
Experimental Aircraft Association**

**Volume 63 Number 2  
March 6, 2024**

**Board Meeting (Quarterly)- 5:30 pm**

**Dinner - 6:15 pm \$7**

**General Meeting - 7:00 pm**

[www.EAA124.org](http://www.EAA124.org)

[www.CafeFoundation.org](http://www.CafeFoundation.org)

[www.EAA.org](http://www.EAA.org)

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## March 7, 2024 Program

**Presentation:** Please join us at our March Chapter meeting to welcome home USMC Captain Bill Collier. Bill will regale us with tales of his flying for the CIA and Air America and other stories and adventures of his time as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam.

Bill and his wife now live in Port Townsend Washington, but he grew up in nearby Sonoma, graduating from Sonoma High School in 1961. He attended the Napa Valley Junior College where he was recruited by the USMC in 1964 to join and attend Navy Flight School. He flew H-34's in Vietnam, then later flew both Hueys and H-34s in Laos for Air America!

Bill's been a Helicopter pilot most of his life, plying his trade in the fine art of rotorcraft long after his time in the military. He's worked for the likes of the Sonoma County Sheriff Department and the Orange County Fire Department to name a few. There's very few pilots of this era left like Bill.

Come and listen to history as told by the men who've been there. It should be a great night. We look forward to seeing you.

## Dinner Menu:

The March Menu is Traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage ... (lots of mustard!), Veggie Variety (potato, cabbage, carrot, parsnip, rutabaga), rye bread and butter, and homemade carrot cake for dessert. \$10.

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## Escargot

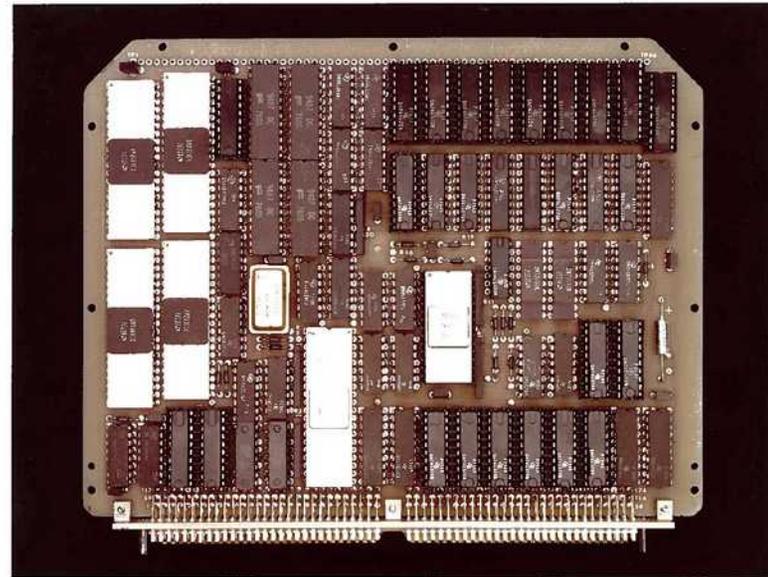
By Andy Werback

For those of you who prefer English, it's pronounced "common garden snail". If you prefer French, it's pronounced "S Car Go". Don't ask me why they put in a "t" and then don't pronounce it. That's just French.

Well, despite the title, airplanes are part of this conversation. Not a big part, but a part.

I was working for Applied Technology in Sunnyvale, CA, on Radar Warning Receivers (RWRs), that let fighter pilots know about threat RADARs (those radio transmitters that could detect, track and launch missiles or aim guns at their aircraft). For some reason pilots tended to want to know about those things and stay away from them.

In 1985, after 7 or 8 years of working on the Navy's newest AN/ALR-67 RWR, I was assigned to work on a radar simulator for the German Air Force (GAF). They were using our Enhanced Radar Warning Equipment (ERWE) and needed a simulator for testing and training. There were a lot of possible options, but the GAF was looking for a method that utilized parts that were already in their inventory, thus reducing logistics and hopefully, cost. We proposed that we would use our ITEK Advanced Technology Airborne Computer (ATAC).



ATAC 16-M Microprogrammable 16-bit Computer (ITEK)

The ATAC was a single board computer with additional circuit

boards for program memory, random access memory (read/write), and input/output interfaces. One of the later models of the ATAC was flown on the Galileo space mission to Jupiter. This computer was used for navigation and was space qualified (radiation hardened parts).



Galileo Space Mission with ATAC 16-M Navigation Computer

As part of the proposal, we needed to visit the German Air Force in the Ministry of Defense in Bonn, Germany. This was on 3 day's notice - you're going to Germany. First, a quick trip to San Francisco to get a Passport! Then pack a bag (actually a suitcase, back then), and head to the airport - San Francisco International - for a trip to London then to Frankfurt.

Upon arrival at the Pan American gate at SFO, we ran into Sam's college roommate Janet J. - what a surprise, at least for us! Janet was returning to Strasbourg, France for her medical studies. She was well along in their 9 year (or so) program, and thought that we had come to wish her a good trip! Nope, we had come to get me on the same Pan Am 747 on the way to Germany. Fortunately, there was a light passenger load, so there was plenty of room to stretch out for the long flight.

We said goodbye in London, and I continued to Cologne, but with an

offer to visit her in Strasbourg in a few days.

Arriving in Cologne, I had a short stay that allowed a quick visit to the historic Cathedral (still damaged from WWII) and a visit to old Roman ruins. I was then met by our Vice President, Dr. Eckhard S. Eckhard was an interesting guy, really sharp, good with negotiations, marketing, technology, program management and everything else. He was born in Germany, and fluent in German, of course. He pointed out that when we said ITEK, our company name, to be sure to pronounce it "E-Tek" in Germany. We drove down the Autobahn to Bonn in record time, despite the snow, sleet and rain.

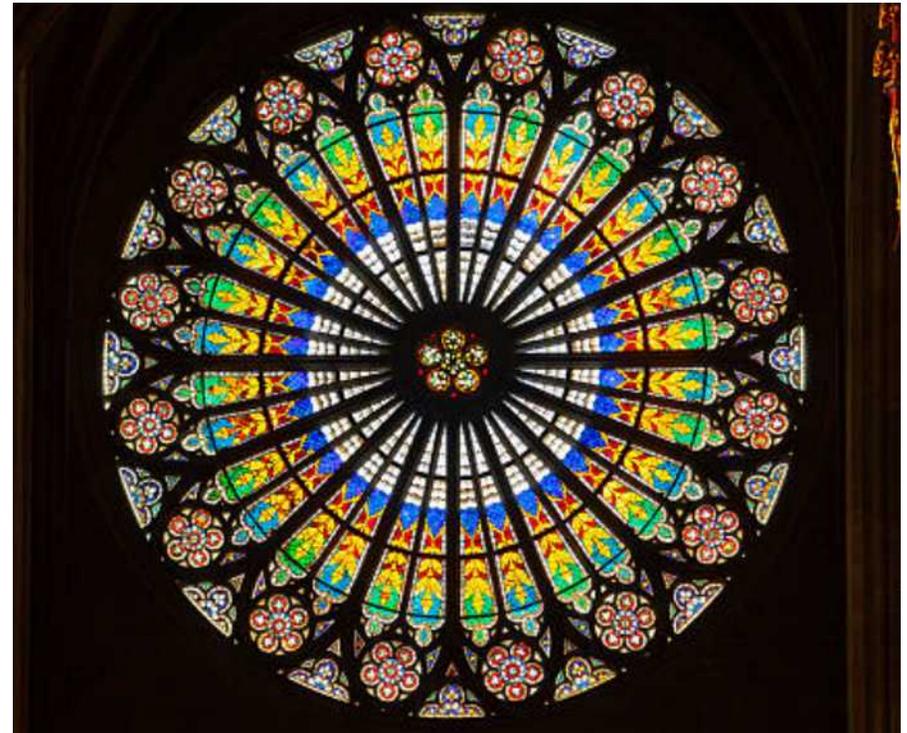
Well, the negotiations went well, we finalized the contract, got invited to a birthday lunch celebration at MOD, and were amused to observe that their vending machines had not just soda and snacks, but German beer as well. These guys knew how to work and play! But they got the job done.

With that part of the trip completed, my next official stop was in Ulm. We had worked out a place to stay in Ulm where Burt G., my manager at Applied, had stayed before - Hotel Neutor-Hospiz, just across from the train station in Ulm. I would be visiting AEG Telefunken to discuss some technical questions.

But the next actual stop would be Strasbourg, France, to visit Janet. That was a really nice part of the trip - a day or two in Strasbourg, an old historic city. Janet had a room on the ground floor of a dentist's home, which used to be his dentistry practice. So, plenty of room for a study desk and a guest, along with an ancient dental chair. The next day, we met with her friend Peter (from Canada, also studying to be a medical doctor) and got a tour of the art museum and the Strasbourg Cathedral. Having never seen anything more than 150 or so years old in California (Mission San Luis Obispo, for example), this was pretty impressive stuff.



Strasbourg Cathedral – with worn-out stairs up to the bells



The Rose Window – Strasbourg Cathedral

Strasbourg was pretty much the highlight of the trip. That evening, we all went out for dinner at a local restaurant – pomme frites (they don't do French Fries in France!!), escalope de veau a la creme, and escargot. Well, the escargot was new to me, but with the butter and garlic on top of some sourdough bread, it was very good, and could I have another beer, please.

The next day, it was time to say good bye and get on the train to Ulm. (It was a bit of a scramble trying to lug an old-fashioned suitcase along with all the people returning from a skiing trip with all their stuff.) I'm not sure we accomplished much at Telefunken other than to show the ITEK flag, but the Neutor-Hospiz was nice and I was getting used to the German trains.

The return trip started with a train ride to Munich. Their meal service was a new treat – a woman brought a cart down the corridor (riding first class we had compartments) with bratwurst, pretzels, beer and a few other things. Speaking only German, of course, but

it all worked out OK. A good lunch and a bit of time to enjoy the views of the countryside.

Changing trains in Munich, the next stop was Zurich for a Swiss Air flight back to New York (back when they still had life insurance vending machines for those who dared to travel by air). And another flight back to San Francisco.

And after that, it was nice to be back in Sunnyvale and get back to work!



Just add a little sourdough bread for delicious S-Car-Go

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## Notes from our Chapter President

**EAA 124 Member Ken Barnes receives the FAA Master Pilot Award!**

**This past February's EAA 124 chapter meeting saw record attendance!**

Sam Werback and her crew sold out of dinners for the first time ever! It was a great meeting overall with lots of energy as Dane Jasper presented his story of how he transitioned from flying a Cub to flying warbirds in less than 36 months.



One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the FAA's lifetime Master Pilot Award which was given to longtime EAA 124 member Ken Barnes. The FAA's Master Pilot Award is given to aviators with over 50 years of flying experience!

FAA FISDO safety representatives Art Hayssen and Jim McCord (also long time chapter members) were on hand to present the award to Ken on behalf of the FAA. It was an emotional moment and an honor for us to witness Ken's recognition by his peers and the FAA as a master Aviator and pillar of the aviation community.

Special thanks go out to Scott Holder for organizing the presentation of the award this evening in front of our chapter. He arranged it as a surprise for all involved and it made for a special moment. We're proud to have Ken and his experience around, and to count him as a member of our EAA Chapter 124 club!

-Dominic Antonio Cerniglio

EAA 124 Chapter President

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## Young Eagles Rally

(from Dominic Cerniglio)

### YOUNG EAGLES 2024

EAA Chapter 124 is proud to announce the Young Eagle Rally dates for the 2024 calendar year! The dates are shown below. Young Eagle Rallies are a great way to get together with fellow chapter members here onsite. Together, we introduce the community to who we are as Aviators and a Club while we strive to usher a new generation of Aeronauts into our fold! Somewhere out there is a kid just like you were once dreaming of the skies...in search of a path to flight. Come on out and get involved and help make that dream a reality for the generation behind us!

We're always in search of pilots to fly kids for the event. If you're unable to fly, there's a myriad of ground and flight line volunteer positions available with your name on it! Anyone interested in participating should contact Young Eagle co-coordinators Josh Hochberg (Josh@sonomajetcenter.com) or Dominic Antonio Cerniglio (dcerniglio@mac.com) or approach them at one of the meetings. We'd love to see you out here on the field and have you be part of the magic!!

## KSTS First Annual Chili Cook Off!!

(from Dominic Cerniglio)

1ST ANNUAL  
STS AIRPORT

# CHILI COOK-OFF

Buy tickets online:  
  
Questions?  
Julia@SonomaJetCenter.com



**\$10**  
ENTRANCE  
(\$5 KIDS)

**SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024 from 1200-1500**  
Redwood Hangar (Sonoma Jet Center)  
6000 Flightline Drive, Santa Rosa, CA  
<https://www.santarosa99s.org/events/sts-chili-cook-off/>

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFITING NON-PROFITS AT KSTS:



**HOT PRIZES  
FOR THE BEST CHILI!!**

The Aviation community here at KSTS is gathering for its' 1st

annual Chili cook off Sunday March 24, 2024 1200 - 1500.

Many of our local Aviators, businesses, and entities here at Sonoma County Airport will be gathering their finest recipes to compete for the prize. Your very own EAA Chapter 124 is putting it's best foot forward, throwing it's hat into the ring, and hoping to win fame and fortune with it's 'ace-in-the-hole' secret recipe.

Come out and have some great Chili, see some friends, and support the cause. Most importantly - vote for your Chapter!! A special prize awaits the winner and any proceeds from the event will be split among the airport's non profit participants ... EAA 124 being one of them!

It's a great cause, in a great hangar, with great people, a lotta fun, and a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon with your local Aviation community! We hope to see you there!



(Reprinted with permission of John L Hart FLP)

### Interesting Aviation Links

- Blue Side Up [Click Here](#)
- Pilot Debrief [Click Here](#)
- Bob Pardo [Click Here](#)

## Newsletter Editor Notes:

from Stuart Deal

Just a quick note to remind folks that the signs of Spring are everywhere. At some point the flooding and wind and power failures will quiet down and we will put on sunglasses and take off for new adventures.

If you find yourself on such an adventure, please write it down or record the details on your phone and send an audio file, if necessary, with pictures (showing faces if of people). It would be great to put it in the newsletter.

## EAA Chapter 124 Board Meeting Minutes February 7, 2024

Meeting Convened 5:00 pm

Members in attendance: Dominic Cerniglio (President) Marlon Young (Vice President) John Whitehouse (Treasurer) David Franco (Secretary) Jeremiah James, John Swanstrom, George Marshall

CAFE Hangar- In response to the 30 day notice as of February 15, 2024. On behalf of the interested party Ben Barker submitted a response. The CAFE Foundation representative is asserting there is some inferred right of occupancy. After conferring with Airport Administration, our legal counsel, Marlon Young (Vice President) has been informed that EAA Chapter 124 has leasehold primacy over the space in question. The board was advised of the drafted response to Ben Barker's unsubstantiated claim. In addition to the authorized response, the board conferred on how best to proceed with the removal of the contents of the hangar should it be

deemed necessary. Two auction dissolution options were discussed, one involved listing objects individually and the other considered a bulk sale.

Board Meeting Schedule- A motion was made to return to monthly meetings. No decision was made, other than more gatherings separate and apart from the general meeting are to be scheduled, which tend to be truncated due the dinner schedule.

Young Eagles Schedule- Sunday, April 14  
Saturday, June 29  
Saturday, August 17  
Saturday, September 21

Presentation Topics- The President is hoping to get more presentation suggestions from board members.

Meeting Room- The board is considering making the meeting room available to other aviation related groups. One stipulation would be that the organizer be an EAA Chapter member in good standing. Ideas are also under consideration which address airport security protocols. No action was voted on.

Movie Nights- The chapter is looking forward to warmer summer weather in order to host a movie night gathering.

PCAM Chili Cook-off - As a representative of the EAA Chapter 124 Dominic Cerniglio (President) will enter his much acclaimed chili into the contest. A motion was made that the cost of ingredients will be reimbursed out of chapter coffers. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Facilities- Replacement roofing screws are being tested out.

Lease Overhaul Verbiage- The lease should be revised to include stronger language about abandoned property.

John Fritsch Event- The board was apprised of an 80 person event in the meeting room for which the chapter is going to be remunerated.

Facility Hangar Rebuild (Grape Stomper Plane)- A motion was made to allow David Franco 90 days to rebuild the 172H that had an engine out emergency landing in a vineyard short of Sonoma County Airport this last Summer. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 6:00 pm

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## **EAA Chapter 124 General Meeting Minutes February 7, 2024**

Meeting Convened - 7:10 pm

The chapter president called the meeting. He extended a gracious thanks to Sam Werback and her crew for creating another fabulous meal. Several new visitors introduced themselves and shared their experiences in aviation.

Builder's Report- Marlon Young took Donna Turington up for a flight in the plane she had begun building more than twenty years ago.

FAA Award- Art Hayssen and Jim McCord spoke in support of FAA sponsored Wings program. They addressed the benefits of keeping sharp and staying current. They also recommended watching a Youtube video about the Wright Bros. Award. The two of them then awarded Kenneth Barnes a lifetime safe aviator award. His achievements were enthusiastically lauded by the audience.

PCAM Chili Cook-off- Sunday March 24, 2024 12:00-15:00  
Redwood Hangar Sonoma Jet Center 6000 Flightline Drive  
All proceeds benefit non-profits based at KSTS \$10 entrance \$5 Kids

Young Eagles 2024 Schedule-            Sunday, April 14  
   Saturday, June 29  
   Saturday, August 17  
Girls in Aviation Day                    Saturday, September 21

Treasurer's Report- Chapter coffers are holding steady due to the

fact that most most tenants are current. He reminded members that dues are again due.

Facilities Report- The shade hangars are getting cleaned up. After April 1st unclaimed items in lockers will be discarded.

Presentation Topic- Dane Jasper recounted his journey from accomplished pilot GA aviator to becoming a full fledged War-bird pilot. Dane described his first experiences with aviation. He started with standard tricycle gear planes and then transitioned to tail-wheel in order to enjoy with his wife's Carbon Cub. He described how he seized the opportunity to acquire a large hangar on the field, which he planed on filling with War-birds. His first war-bird was a T6 which he procured with the help of veteran War-bird expert Lynn Hunt. He described how he rented a T6 based in Lincoln. After having 100 take-offs and landings he finally soloed in his own T6. He followed up his basic training with intensive instruction at Stallion 51 based in Florida. He had nothing but the highest regard for the competency of that program. He then decided to refine his formation flying skills at a clinic based in the central valley.

At the urging of local War-Bird guru Lynn Hunt, Dane became the owner of a Mustang P51. The plane he ultimately purchased is Kimberly Kay. This purchase necessitated he travel back to Florida for P51 training. After qualifying, he was finally able to return home and solo his own plane.

Dane believes in sharing his aviation passion with his family. This included flying cross-county to Oshkosh with his daughter riding in the make-shift rear seat. To round out his collection he then acquired a Stearman trainer. Dane reported that this plane is posing the biggest challenge to master. His plan is to curate a collection of planes that represent the training progression of most World War 2 pilots.

Meeting Adjourned- 8:45pm

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## Chapter 124 Contact Information

**President:** Dominic Cerniglio (24/25) (310) 628-9008  
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**Secretary:** Dave Franco (24/25) (707) 494-4259  
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George Marshall (23/24) 707 293 4583  
John Swanstrom (24/25) 707 758 9017  
John Fluno (23/24) 707 315 5524  
Jeremiah James (24/25) 707 291 8445

**Membership:** Dave Franco (707) 494-4259

**Facilities Chairman:** Larry Rengstorf (707) 570-5267

### Facilities Committee:

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Mike Tovani (707) 838-1891  
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**Librarian:** Walt Ferris (415) 482-8331

**EAA Chapter 124**  
**5550 Windsor Road**  
**Windsor, CA 95492**

Chapter meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. FOOD (\$7 sometimes \$10) AND SOCIALIZING (free) from 6:15 to 7:00 pm. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Directions: The site is located on the west side of Sonoma County Airport. Take the Shiloh Road exit from Highway 101 in northern Santa Rosa. Turn left at the stop light (west) and continue to a "T" intersection. Turn left again and follow the road to the EAA sign on the left.

Members are invited to submit articles of interest. You will be notified whether or not an article will appear in the current issue.

Please email articles to: eaa124newsletter@sonic.net  
 or mail to: Stuart Deal  
 430 Secretariat Ct  
 Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 20th of each month. Articles submitted after that date will be included in the newsletter at the discretion of the editor. All articles are copyrighted. To reproduce any article, please contact the editor.

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