

EAA Chapter 81
December Meeting – 12/13/2025

Meeting called to order at 11:10 by President Ray Puckett in the Ryan administration building meeting room.

Meeting Minutes for November approved and available on the website. Chapter financials also on the website.

Visitors:

- Chris Welborn, currently building a Kitfox
- Brett Wallick, flying a C172

Member project updates:

- Eric Witherspoon has completed the fuselage mockup for his Bruce King monowing project
- Alan LaFever (the chapter's Ray Scholar coordinator) has made significant progress on his RV10 project and is currently relocating it to Ryan Airfield for final assembly.

Young Eagle Event – Martin Thomas, our YE Coordinator, summarized the event that concluded just prior to this meeting: 24 YE reservations were made, 2 cancellations were received prior to Saturday, and there were 4 no-shows, for a total of 18 flights. President Puckett and Martin Thomas will arrange for “digital” YE applications by acquiring a tablet and printer (to be reimbursed by EAA from YE “points) for use during the event, facilitating on-line registration with automatic form-filling for YE participants and YE pilots.

Pancake Breakfast Event – The chapter held a PCB coincident with the YE event the morning of the meeting. While the breakfast is free to all, donations are encouraged as fundraising is important. Potential diners can utilize cash or Zelle to make the donation. Zelle donations should be made to president81@eaa81.org. There is a tension between advertising the event for increasing donations at the expense of more aircraft traffic. The board needs to consider this – probably advertising and more traffic would be a good idea.

Scholarships – Alan LaFeer, the chapter's Scholarship coordinator, reported that previous chapter scholarship recipient Joselynn Reynolds training has “stalled”. Alan will provide an update on her plans and progress at the next meeting. Our first Ray Scholarship recipient, Oliver Russell, is making preparations for his check ride which needs to be done prior to 12/31/2025. Alan will provide an update at the next meeting. There was a general consensus that performance expectations of both students and instructors need to be conveyed to prevent what often becomes inefficient training leading to many hours of training beyond what is required and needed when there is proper motivation. (Students with good continuity of instruction and dedication of time can solo in less than 10 hours, but without such focus and continuity it can take much more time leading to a financially untenable situation for the student considering available funding.)

Eagle Flights Update - new coordinator Alan Hobson has been researching the EAA information on the Eagle Flight program (introductory flights for 18+ years of age) and is asking for volunteers to participate. Contact him at alanjhobson@yahoo.com.

Simulator Update – the chapter is arranging for space with the Civil Air Patrol in their facility and drawing up the operational rules on access, etc. Use will require a checkout and cannot be utilized for commercial purposes except for a member's use with an instructor during training. The simulator is currently at SATA's primary construction facility and will be moved once the agreement with CAP is secured.

The next meeting (January 10) will include an overview and discussion of EFBs (electronic flight books). President Puckett intends to present the use of Foreflight, and after the meeting member George Jenson will lead those interested to his Ryan hangar to review his EFB solution.

Finally, an effort will be undertaken to review and update the chapter bylaws, managed by the Board.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:10.

Respectfully, (and for the ill and absent Robert Miller, Secretary), Erik Fjerstad