

# EAA Chapter 81 SkyWriter

Our Newsletter for December 2025

## **Chapter Officers**

President – Ray Puckett (815) 751-1751

[president81@eaa81.org](mailto:president81@eaa81.org)

Vice President – Steve Zigelstein (308) 383-9786

[vp81@eaa81.org](mailto:vp81@eaa81.org)

Secretary - Bob Miller (520) 322-0677

[sec81@eaa81.org](mailto:sec81@eaa81.org)

Treasurer - Kevin Byers (810) 543-0791

[treas81@eaa81.org](mailto:treas81@eaa81.org)

Director and Hangar Manager - George Snyder (520)

661-2127 [hangar81@eaa81.org](mailto:hangar81@eaa81.org)

Director - Lynn Wesley (520) 883-8588

[lwesley7@hughes.net](mailto:lwesley7@hughes.net)

Director – James Keown (520) 334-7662

[vtuq@yahoo.com](mailto:vtuq@yahoo.com)

Director and Web Editor - Erik Fjerstad (520) 345-

6621 [web81@eaa81.org](mailto:web81@eaa81.org)

**Website:** [EAA Chapter 81](http://EAA Chapter 81)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/eaa81.org](https://facebook.com/eaa81.org)

## **It's Chapter Dues Time!**

Dues are \$20 per year. Visit [join-or-renew](#) to see how to pay electronically. If by check, made payable to "EAA Chapter 81" and bring it to a chapter meeting or mail it to the Treasurer at:

Kevin Byers  
3721 W El Moraga Pl, Tucson, AZ 85745

Please make sure to include your contact information on your check or electronic payment!

Do not send payment to the newsletter editor.



## **Our December Chapter Meeting at 11:00 AM**

Our next meeting will be Saturday, 13 December 2025 and will be held in the Ryan Field Administration building meeting room at **11:00 AM**. The delay is to accommodate the Young Eagles Event and Pancake Breakfast which runs from 8:00 to 10:00 AM. Following the Chapter meeting will be the Chapter Holiday Party starting at 1PM. Watch the website for further information [here](#).

For directions to the meeting location, click [here](#).

Meeting Minutes for November can be viewed [here](#).

The latest Chapter 81 financial statement is [here](#).

Past chapter and board meeting minutes can be viewed [here](#).

## **Our October Chapter Meeting**

The November meeting was held on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> in the usual location. Martin Thomas held a Young Eagles event preceding the meeting, and there was a Board of Directors meeting at 1030, also prior to the chapter meeting.

A decision made at the BOD meeting was to team with the Tucson Civil Air Patrol and move the recently acquired flight simulator to the CAP building at Tucson International Airport. This would be a dedicated climate-controlled room with 24/7 access at no cost to Chapter 81. Safeguards and security measures will be put in place to assure that properly supervised training sessions would be available to all

our members, as well as the members of the local CAP. As SATA members who have taken Young Eagles flights are also Junior Members of Chapter 81, they too would be eligible to use the simulator under proper adult supervision. The SATA facility is where the simulator was previously set-up.

Alan Hobson volunteered to run the Chapter's Eagles Flight, a long vacant chapter volunteer position. This EAA program compliments the Young Eagles program by providing introductory flights to adults who are interested in aviation careers. You can contact Alan at [alanjhobson@yahoo.com](mailto:alanjhobson@yahoo.com).

The Chapter is asking for a volunteer to store the Pancake Breakfast Trailer inside when not in use. The trailer is 17 feet long and 8 feet wide. If anyone has room in their hangar to house the trailer, please contact Steve Hlland at [aztaildragger@gmail.com](mailto:aztaildragger@gmail.com).

Airventure Camping: Jim Keown is gathering names of EAA81 members interested in attending and having a dedicated Chapter 81 camping area at next summers AirVenture. Contact Jim at [vtuq@yahoo.com](mailto:vtuq@yahoo.com).

Erik Fjerstad gave a presentation on "Engine Options for Kit-built Airplanes". The presentation is available on the chapter website [here](#).

The complete meeting minutes can be viewed [here](#).

### **Our next Young Eagles Event**

Our next Young Eagles event is planned for **Saturday, 13 Dec 2025!** The flights will run from 8:00-10:00. Martin needs pilots and ground crew to pull it off. Contact Martin to volunteer [here](#), or call/text him at (520) 977-7054.

### **Our next Pancake Breakfast**

There will be a pancake breakfast **Saturday, 13 Dec 25** along with the YE event. Steve Hlland will need volunteers so please contact him at [aztaildragger@gmail.com](mailto:aztaildragger@gmail.com).

### **EAA81 Holiday Party**

The annual Chapter Holiday party will follow our December monthly chapter meeting on December 13th at 1 pm in the Ryan Field conference room. This event will be a potluck lunch and feature your favorite holiday dish to share. Please RSVP if you're going to attend (and intend to bring a guest) and let Ken know what you plan to bring - a main dish, side dish, or dessert. The Chapter will provide drinks and place settings. The event is by RSVP only, email Ken at [kenandkati200@gmail.com](mailto:kenandkati200@gmail.com) by Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup> if you wish to participate.



### **EAA81 November 2025 Young Eagles Event**

The EAA81 Young Eagles event held just prior to the chapter meeting had twelve Young Eagles registered for the morning's event, with eight flying and four no-shows. Thank-you to all the volunteers who made it happen!



## Falcon Field to Propose Landing Fees to the City Council

The Arizona Pilots Association reports that the City of Mesa had convened a stakeholders committee earlier this year to “evaluate the issues surrounding training flights, including noise impacts, safety concerns, fuel emissions and potential mitigation strategies – landing fees among them. Falcon Field announced in November that they would propose the implementation of landing fees in early 2026. The Falcon Field proposal for changes to their fee structure will be forwarded to the City Council and scheduled for a vote, based on current published agendas for the city council meetings, this proposal will most likely come up for a vote in the Monday, December 8, City Council meeting. You can read the entire article [here](#).

The Green Dot is the home of EAA podcasts. It features EAA news, general aviation topics, history, personal experiences from the hosts and a variety of guests, and anything fun, interesting, or cool in and around the world of flight.



Click on the link below for a listing of available podcasts, they are great for long drives.

<https://inspire.eaa.org/eaas-green-dot-podcast/>

You can listen to the podcasts on your computer, or on your phone by downloading the EAA podcast application for Android or Apple phones [here](#).

## EAA Webinars

These live, informative, and interactive webinars, allow you to easily attend a session from anywhere, anytime, using a compatible computer or mobile device! Registration is required, and space is limited.

---

[Quantifying Maintenance Risk](#) | Qualifies for FAA

WINGS and AMT credit

Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025, 7:00 p.m. CST with Mike Busch

How much more dangerous are GA airplanes to fly during the first hours after maintenance? In this webinar, Mike Busch A&P/IA discusses a fascinating study based on 17 years of NTSB accident and incident data that attempts to quantify the risk of maintenance-induced failures. Mike presents the conclusions of this study and discusses why current maintenance regulations and practices are actually making our aircraft measurably less safe than they could be. Qualifies for FAA WINGS and AMT credit.

---

[Threat & Error Management](#) | Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit

Wednesday, December 10th, 2025, 7:00 p.m. CST with Ken Solosky

Aviation Threat and Error Management (TEM) is a safety framework for pilots to proactively identify, manage, and mitigate risks during flight by recognizing threats, managing errors, and preventing undesired aircraft states. The goal is to maintain safety margins by breaking the "accident chain" of accumulating threats and errors before they lead to accidents. Join Ken Solosky as he presents these lifesaving safety concepts. Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit.

---

[First Things First: Starting Your Cross-Country Flight the Right Way](#) | Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit

Wednesday, December 17th, 2025, 7 p.m. CST with Catherine Cavagnaro

Even on the clearest, most beautiful flying days, pilots can find themselves in unexpected trouble soon after takeoff. Every year, accidents occur when visual flight rules (VFR) pilots rely too heavily on “see and avoid” judgment rather than sound preflight and departure planning. Terrain, obstacles, and airspace complexities don’t disappear just because the sky is blue. FAA CFI and DPE, Catherine Cavagnaro, will explore how applying elements of instrument flight rules (IFR) departure procedures can make any cross-country flight, VFR or IFR, safer and more predictable. You’ll

learn how to interpret departure procedures, recognize when and how to use them, and incorporate obstacle departure concepts into your visual flight planning, including:

- Why “good weather” can sometimes encourage poor decision-making.
- How IFR departure procedures are designed, and how they can help all pilots.
- Practical ways to use departure planning tools and charts for situational awareness.
- Simple strategies for building safer habits before the wheels even leave the ground.

Whether you’re a student pilot preparing for your first long cross-country or an experienced aviator looking to sharpen your cross-country planning, this session will give you the tools to make your next flight start off safely, confidently, and smartly. Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit.



### FAA Wings Program Webinars & Courses -

There are many, and are often the same webinar as listed above in the EAA section, only jointly hosted with the EAA and FAA, see:  
<https://www.faasafety.gov/spans/events/eventlist.aspx>

### Volunteer Opportunities!

Volunteers are what make our chapter function. Without you volunteering we cannot accomplish anything. Please volunteer to help!

**VFR Club** – Need a volunteer to organize and host a chapter VMC club, with monthly meetings. The meetings use real-world scenarios to engage members, and allow a free exchange of information that improves awareness and skills. For more info click [here](#).

### Chapter Teams

**Educational Development** - Eric Witherspoon lead. This team identifies and plans means of furthering members knowledge in aviation, construction, and maintenance skills. Applications for scholarships are available. Contact Eric. Scholarship application information is [here](#).

**Pancake Breakfast Team** – Steve Hulland lead. If you would like to volunteer for our next breakfast contact Steve at [aztaildragger@gmail.com](mailto:aztaildragger@gmail.com).

**Resource Planning** – Milt Ames is lead with Lynn Wesley as deputy. This team is developing financial plans and manages the planning of chapter funds and expenditures.

**Membership Development** – Erik Fjerstad lead. This team identifies, and plan means of acquiring new members.

**Facebook** – Ken Ballenger manages the chapter’s Facebook page ([facebook.com/ea81.org](https://facebook.com/ea81.org)). Please support him in his efforts by providing him with material and useful feedback. He can be contacted at [KenandKatietoo@gmail.com](mailto:KenandKatietoo@gmail.com)

**Young Eagles** - Martin Thomas lead. Information on how to become a YE pilot or ground volunteer and to complete the required training is [here](#). To register for a YE flight for your young eagle, click [here](#). Contact Martin to volunteer [here](#), or call/text him at (520) 977-7054.

**Eagle Flight Program** – Alan Hobson lead. This is the program to provide orientation flights for adults. Contact Alan at [alanjhobson@yahoo.com](mailto:alanjhobson@yahoo.com).

**Webmaster** - Jose Flores lead. Contact Jose with material and useful feedback at [josefflo@gmail.com](mailto:josefflo@gmail.com).

**Open House** - Bill Grahn, lead. This team focuses on execution of open houses.

**IFR Club** – Alexander Kocksch lead. The IMC Club's purpose is to promote instrument flying, proficiency, and safety. Click [here](#) for more info and if you want to become involved.

### Destinations

This a list of local places to fly to, mostly for that \$100 \$200 pancake you've been craving. It's best to check the event website and your bank account before departure to make sure the trip has not been canceled by them or your spouse.

Coolidge Monthly Fly-in Breakfast- First Saturday of the month, Nov-Apr, 7:30-10:00, resumes 1 Nov 2025 for the season. Click [here](#) for info.

Casa Grande (CGZ) Monthly Fly-in Breakfast – Last Saturday of the month (26 Oct 25), 7-10 AM, in the air-conditioned terminal building. Click [here](#) for more info.

### Up-Coming Airshows/Fly-Ins/Events

It's best to check the event website before departure to make sure the event has not been canceled.

Copperstate Fly-in is in the process of rebuilding it's organization and are looking for volunteers to help bring the fly-in back. At this time nothing is scheduled for 2025. <https://copperstateflyin.com/>

Monthly EAA IMC Club meeting is every 1st Thursday (4 Dec 2025) at 6:30 PM (except for July and August) at the La Cholla Airpark Clubhouse (57AZ) 1777 W Cessna Way, Oro Valley, AZ <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea81/ea81-sponsored-clubs/imc-club>

Wickenburg Fly-in & Classic Car Show 17 Jan 2026 9:00-12:00 (E25) [Wickenburg Fly-in](#)

Buckeye Air Fair – 14-15 Feb 2026 (BXK) <https://www.buckeyeaz.gov/community/residents/events-in-buckeye/buckeye-air-fair/air-show>

Cactus Fly-in - 7-8 Mar 2026, Casa Grande Airport (CGZ)

Yuma Airshow, 14 Mar 2026, MCAS Yuma, AZ <https://www.yumaairshow.com/>

Luke AFB Airshow, Glendale AZ. 21-22 Mar 2026. <https://www.lukedays.com/>

Sun N Fun 2025 – 14-19 April 2026 Lakeland FL (LAL) <https://flsynf.org/#>

EAA AirVenture 2026 (OSH) – 20 – 26 July 2026. <https://www.eaa.org/airventure>

### **Classified Ads**

Classified Ads are also located at the Chapter 81 website [useful-information-for-members](#). Ads run for three months unless renewed.

### **For Sale: Zenith CH750 STOL Kit**



It is an edition 1 (1320 lb gross weight) that I purchased from the original builder and have been going through doing the structural updates to edition 2/3, so gross weight will be 1440 lbs utility. Fuselage still needs updated cabin frame. New firewall parts need assembled and installed to complete Fuselage structure. Wings and tail built by original owner were shipped to him after edition 2 was available but unable to verify with Zenith if they are edition 1 or 2. So they will need to be opened up to verify some parts in the spars are indeed the edition 2 structural updates from

Zenith. Dual stick option, dual brake cylinders, redesigned brake pedals to achieve the correct mechanical ratio specified by Matco. 406 elt, altimeter, 20-140 mph airspeed, vertical card compass, Dynon D180 with new super bright screen. Com and transponder antennas. 8" Matco wheels. I have both the edition 1 and edition 3 drawings with it's serial number issued from Zenith to do the build to edition 3 specs. No firewall forward parts. Asking \$25K, this kit new from Zenith as optioned is \$40,124.50. It's at my home near KRYN just west of Tucson, AZ. (Sep)  
Greg Duncan  
520-331-9180  
[gduncan6000@gmail.com](mailto:gduncan6000@gmail.com)

### Free to a Good Home



Main gear wheel pants as removed from a Piper PA-22 Tri-Pacer. Made of fiberglass. Contact Bill Grahn  
[bs7128m@netscape.net](mailto:bs7128m@netscape.net)

### Chapter Points of Contact

#### Chapter 81 Youth Programs

- Young Eagles – EAA Young Eagles Program - Martin Thomas (520) 977-7054 [mghthomas007@gmail.com](mailto:mghthomas007@gmail.com)
- Eagle Flights - EAA Eagle Flights Program Erik Fjerstad (520) 345-6621- [erikfjer@gmail.com](mailto:erikfjer@gmail.com)

**Hangar Manager** - George Snyder 520-661-2127 [azflyboy01@yahoo.com](mailto:azflyboy01@yahoo.com) For information on using the chapter hangar click here: [Hangar Use Policy](#).

### Technical Counselors

- Eric Witherspoon Phone: 520-2895353 Email: [eric626m@yahoo.com](mailto:eric626m@yahoo.com)
- Charles Valade Phone: 586-7074032 Email: [bd4flyer@netzero.net](mailto:bd4flyer@netzero.net)

**EAA Chapter 81 Skywriter** Please send items of interest, classified ads, photos of chapter events, etc. to: Bill Grahn – Newsletter Editor [newsletter81@eaa81.org](mailto:newsletter81@eaa81.org) Remember to put EAA81 in the subject line of the email so it won't get discarded.

### Chapter Website Information

The Chapter Website ([www.eaa81.org](http://www.eaa81.org)) provides a lot of information. Here are the links from the main page for you to check out.

[About Us](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Membership - Join or Renew](#)

[Donate to Chapter 81](#)

[Event Calendar](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[Useful Information for Members](#)

[Youth Programs](#)

[Member Builder Support](#)

[EAA Sponsored Clubs](#)

[Member Projects and Photos](#)

Here is an expansion of the “Useful Information for Members” link, including info on the hangar, classifieds, directions, and how to order a name tag.

Classified - Equipment, Airplanes, Services, wanted or available [Classified Listings](#)

Directions to Ryan Airfield Admin Building (regular meeting location) [Meeting Room Location](#)

Directions to Chapter Hangar at Ryan Airfield [Hangar Directions](#)

Hangar Utilization Form, to work on a project in the Chapter's Hangar [Hangar Use Form](#)

Chapter Promotional handout - [Tri-Fold handout](#)

Collection of Presentations made on aviation topics for builders and enthusiasts  
[Presentations](#)

Corporate Documents (Articles and Bylaws)  
[Corporate Docs](#)

Order your Official Chapter Name Tag /  
Badge <https://www.eaachapter1095store.com>