

EAA Chapter 81 Meeting Minutes  
March 14, 2026

Meeting was called to order by President Ray Puckett at the Ryan Field conference room at 1105.

Visitors: Bill Foraker is an assistant Air Operations manager at Airventure Oshkosh. There are five air shows planned already for this year.

Owen Scott is a newly-minted CFII who has just joined EAA.

Ali Sarsak is at his first Chapter 81 meeting. He is working on his Instrument Rating.

Maryann McClellan is a UFO: a 90 year-old United Flying Octogenarian (Nonagenarian?). She also belongs to EAA Chapter 1111 in Kelso, Washington and is a Commercial Pilot.

Brian Martin has been an EAA member since 1976 and flies mostly ultralights.

Secretary's Report and Treasurer's Report were waived with a motion from the floor which was seconded and passed.

Other Stuff: President Puckett reminded us that we still need a Pancake Breakfast Coordinator to take the place of Steve Hulland who has retired from this office due to medical issues, both personal and family. There does not need to be a PB connected to each Young Eagles event; 3 or 4 per year per year would be enough and they do not need to correspond with YE events.

Young Eagles Coordinator Martin Themas informed us that 20 YEs were signed up for this morning, although only 16 showed up. We will probably pause for the summer. Jim Keown offers a hot-weather alternative: he has builders' kits which could be assemble under our supervision in the air-conditioned conference room.

Eagle Flight Coordinator Alan Hobson achieved a Chapter 81 milestone when

Treasurer Kevin Byers flew our first Eagle Flight with adult Rikki Mailer on March 11.

Tim Tarris updated us on his Curtiss “Jenny” replica build: The wings are covered and yellow. He is planning on moving to an airport in 2-3 weeks. He invited us to visit his Oro Valley current build site at 9291 N. Calle Buena Vista on Saturday March 28 at noon. President Puckett will send out an all-hands email.

Steve Hulland brought us up to speed on the situation with our Gleim simulator and the TIA site in the Civil Air Patrol building. There has been disagreement among CAP leaders; Steve has a meeting scheduled with one of them and will let us know the results. In the meantime, the sim still is available at the Southern Arizona Teen Aviation build hangar in Oro Valley during build hours of 3-6 PM on Sundays and 5:30-8:30 PM on Mondays. Edmond Dion informed us that the Tucson Airport Authority (TAA) has an air-conditioned room at Ryan Field that might be available to us. President Puckett will look into it.

There will be a Pilot-Controller forum at the Ryan Field conference room on Wednesday 3/25 from noon until 2 PM. It can also be attended via Zoom.

Our intrepid Chapter 81 president once again struggled with and overcame technical difficulties in presenting the monthly EAA Chapter Video. National EAA is promoting a new sweepstakes fund-raiser with the Grand Prize a new Ford F150 Raptor. Tickets are available in blocks of 18 for \$25. The EAA Bylaws were updated utilizing Form 1014 tax reporting. There will be a Donations webinar. Young Eagles credit can be used to buy EAA Merchandise. Sun ‘n Fun, the second-biggest Fly-In event will be coming up in April (14-19). On Wednesday, April 15 there will be a Chapter Leader gathering. Regarding The World’s biggest aviation event, AirVenture, Weekend Work are already started as set-up takes months. EAA provides food, water, and gloves, and work credit can buy day passes at the event. The Vintage Aircraft Association will be celebrating its 80th anniversary, dating from the 1946 aircraft boom (bust?)

Project Milestones: Eric Witherspoon has finished the vertical stabilizer on his Bruce King BK-13 project. He has had several parts laser-cut at \$9 per part. This is done by mail-order website: order the 4130 steel, parts precision-cut, 4-day turn-around!

Bob Miller brought us up-to-date on his Kitfox project. One of his factory fiberglass fuel tanks was warped and had to be reshaped with a heat gun and a permanent fabricated aluminum clamp. The other had to have the side flanges trimmed to fit between two wing ribs. He has also completed trimming six false ribs and bonding them to the bottoms of the tanks so that the row of bottom false ribs now continues all the way from wingtip to wing root on both sides. Next task: plumbing the fuel system.

Airventure Camping: Jim Keown informed us that he now has three campers signed-up for Chapter Camping at Airventure Oshkosh. Cost for one week is \$378, non-refundable. Jim is driving down and has room to carry some stuff for those flying in. Get your stuff to Jim three days before he leaves. Jim will also be going to Sun 'n Fun in April.

Award: David Schiffman won the award for Most Valuable Participant, and has also received an Honorary Membership which does not require renewal. He had already paid for this year's Chapter 81 membership and refused to accept a refund, instead donating it to the chapter.

Presentation: Bill Foraker ([flyinsob@gmail.com](mailto:flyinsob@gmail.com)) has had a Piper Comanche 250 and a North American AT-6 Texan, which he describes as the fastest way to turn money into noise. He boasts of having used his WW II Ford Jeep (many say superior to the Willys version) to tow the Blue Angels Comp Cart (and has the photo to prove it). He informed us that Airventure 2025 featured 361 warbirds and 7001 attendees. There were an average of 108 take-offs and landings per hour during the one-week event at The World's Busiest Airport (for that week only). The surrounding airspace is interesting, to say the least, as there are 5 airports within 5 nautical miles. There were 13 air shows in 7 days. Bill does all the schedules for air shows except for the Twilight Fight Fest, and does all the checking on medicals for the performers. His presentation was accompanied by a wonderful slide show. Bill offered to return with another presentation, this on How to Plan, Organize, and Do an Air Show. His talk was very well received and he will certainly be invited to return for his second presentation.

Meeting was adjourned at 1205. The next meeting will take place at the Ryan Field conference room on Saturday April 11 at 1100.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Secretary Bob Miller