

EAA Chapter 81 Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 1100 at the Ryan Field meeting room by President Ray Puckett.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made and passed to waive the reading of the April 11 Meeting Minutes. Big surprise.

Treasurer's Report: Kevin Byers would like to know whether there is any interest in our making up a new set of Chapter 81 patches. It was suggested that we might have a competition for the design of a new patch, as the previous one seems to have the wing of the airplane on a different plane (pun intended) from the rest of the aircraft. Name tags can currently be purchased from another EAA chapter for \$9 each. Bob Holliday has connections with both Tuller Trophy and Melissa's Embroidery. The patch could also be placed on a shirt or a hat. We will consider the possibilities and make a decision at the June 13 meeting.

Visitors:

Paul Anderson is an Air Force pilot (both helicopter and the Grumman A-6 Intruder jet), a recent member of Chapter 81, and he flew an RV-7 from North Carolina.

Tanner Hogue is new to EAA.

Mathew Bradwill just graduated from high school and was a student at Southern Arizona Teen Aviation, participating in the building of an RV-12. He is applying for an EAA Ray Scholarship. He plans to join the Coast Guard and wants to become a helicopter mechanic.

Josiah Ortiz is a Chapter 81 member and recently attended an IMC/VMC Club meeting; he was one of 25 attendees, an excellent turnout.

Natalie Butts, our new Pancake Breakfast Coordinator, had a successful first event this morning, ably assisted by her daughter Jaden and volunteer Bob Miller. Natalie also helped out with ground control in the concurrent Young Eagles fly-out.

Other Stuff: Bob Holliday informed us that the donated Zenith parts were sold and will be picked up on May 17.

Alan LaFever, our Scholarships Coordinator, says that his RV-10 is 90% done: the avionics are installed and it will soon be on its wheels. His other airplane, an RV-9A suffered some damage in Santa Fe: the wind grabbed his rudder, banged it to the stop, and put a crease in it. He had to fly home with about 20 pounds of pressure on the left rudder pedal. He will build a new rudder.

Tim Tarris has finished building his Curtiss JN-4 Jenny replica (in five months!) and has entered Phase I testing. He has taxi-tested it twice, once with a fifteen knot crosswind. Although the Jenny has toe brakes, it also has a big tail and tends to weather cock. Tim nearly won.

The Arizona Safety Action Team (ASAG) meeting provided news that the plan to extend Ryan Field taxiway Bravo is at the 60% development stage. The purpose is to mitigate the "hot spot" at the intersection of Bravo and runway 33/15. It can be done in 6 months working at night or in a year working partial days with some runway closures. Marana Airport received approval for construction of its proposed control tower. It has already passed its Environmental Impact Study and is now awaiting funding.

We flew 16 Young Eagles today, with three cancellations, bring our year-to-date total to 46 flights.

Jim Keown reminds us that Chapter camping registration opens on May 1. Chapter 81 has already registered with 4 participants. For those who are participating in chapter camping can setup on July 11 at no additional charge. He still has some room in his vehicle to carry gear for those flying in. This year will feature the only flying PB4-Y Privateer, a highly-modified Consolidated B-24 bomber, which last flew with the Coast Guard in 1958. You may have seen it at the Antique Aircraft Association Cactus Fly-Ins at Casa Grande, where it is hangared. Also featured will be a Douglas DC-6 airliner (four radial engines) and the P-38 Lightning, twin-engined fighter of WW II.

Tonight the Pima Air and Space Museum will be hosting Parts and Props Beer Fest, with live music; a meal ticket costs \$70.

Jessica Cox, the first pilot born without arms, will be installed at the Arizona Aviation Hall of Fame on May 15.

Jaden Butts volunteers at the Pima Air and Space Museum with simulators and was just awarded the first Ray Scholarship of this year via Chapter 81. She says that she can get up to ten people at a time into the museum free of charge.

Alan Hobson, our Eagle Flights Coordinator, reported our biggest month yet with 4 adults flown.

Steve Solomon informed us that Rainbow Aviation will do an on-site class for local chapters for the 2-day Light Sport Inspection workshop. Chapter 81 is now on the list to bring them here in 2027. To do so, we will have to reserve hotel space for 3-4 days. One option might be a Hilton Hotel, as they are known to donate space to non-profits. There would be 20 spots at \$550 per person. This is not the two-week Maintenance Workshop. The new MOSAIC rules increase the utility of these ratings, as many more aircraft now fall into the Light Sport category.

Next was the EAA Chapter Video Magazine presentation, with Charlie Becker, informing us that EAA members with the Travel Passport can now visit the Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville, Oregon free of charge, providing that you live more than 90 miles from McMinnville and more than 9 miles from the EAA Museum at Oshkosh, Wisconsin. I know, it doesn't make any sense to me either. More than \$13 Million has been paid by the Ray Foundation for scholarships. Charlie says that 78% of EAA chapters have been awarded Ray Scholarships, and the goal is 80%. Recipients must solo within 3 months of receiving the scholarship, and finish within 12 months. This is the 8th year for the scholarships and 245 have been approved. He suggests that local chapters choose strong candidates rather than just push to find a recipient. The Chapter Tool Crib can provide 30% off the cost of tools, up to a total of \$300 per year. Examples of covered tools are scales, borescopes, and prop balancers (we have acquired all 3 using this program).

Meeting was adjourned at 1220. The next meeting will be held at the Ryan Field conference room on Saturday, June 13 at 1100.

Respectfully Submitted by
Secretary Bob Miller