Chapter 81 Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2026

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

Secretary's Report: As Secretary Bob Miller had not been present at the August 8 meeting, and President Puckett had tried to take the Minutes in his place, the spotlight moved to Ray, who proclaimed that there was nothing to report. Thank goodness nobody insisted on the reading of the Minutes.

Treasurer's Report: One of our T-Bills matured and was reinvested. A full accounting of our treasury can be found on our website EAA81.org.

Visitor: Vito Adragna used to fly the right seat of a General Dynamics swing-wing F-111 Aardvark, named for its long nose, in the Air Force. That's right, this Vietnam-era fighter-bomber had side-by-side seating!

Project Updates:

Rick Cote has received the Lycoming IO-390 engine and its propeller last week for his RV-14 project.

Chris Wellborn found a muffler for the Rotax 582 in his Kitfox project. Unfortunately, the mounting angle of this particular muffler was wrong for his project. Chris found a muffler shop able to correct the angle.

Alan LaFever reported that the engine is mounted and the avionics are all working on his RV-10 project; however, he is still struggling with the cowling.

Steve Solomon is looking for help; he needs a CFI or experienced Challenger pilot to teach him how to fly his Quad Cities Challenger LSA.

Young Eagles Update: We flew 12 Young Eagles this morning, for a total of 92 so far this year. A change was proposed for the chapter meeting schedule, due to the long wait between the 7AM start of the summer YE events and the 11AM start of the chapter meetings. How about having the summer chapter meetings start at 10AM and the winter meetings at the present 11AM as winter YE flights start later? A show-of-hands vote confirmed approval of this proposal. Watch for communications from President Puckett for when these changes will take place.

Ray Scholarship Update: Alan LaFever reported that SATA student Matthew Gradwell soloed last week, and Jayden Couch is close to her solo as well.

Other Stuff:

Chapter 81elections are coming up in October. VP Steve Zigelstein has had cancer surgery and is doing well; he should be able to return and assume his duties. Ray Puckett is willing to continue as

President, Bob Miller as Secretary, and Kevin Byers as Treasurer, but of course, the chapter can vote in replacements if it so wishes. George Snyder is OK with remaining on the BOD, but is seeking a replacement for the office of Chapter Hangar Manager.

Ray is taking pictures of the Fisher Celebrity biplane donated to our chapter; he has a potential buyer in California.

We are still looking into a Toy Hauler trailer to serve as a portable home for our Gleim simulator, The trailer should be 12 feet long or longer. Alan LaFever makes a case for keeping the sim at the Southern Arizona Teen Aviation build hanger in Oro Valley, where the Ray Scholars are using it regularly. He states that any Chapter 81 member can have access to it throughout the week simply by calling SATA founder Alan Muhs (520) 247-6232 and making a scheduling request. Both alternatives are under consideration.

In lieu of presenting the usual EAA Chapter Newsletter Video this month (of course it's going to be all about the terrific success of Airventure this year), President Puckett provided a slide show about this month in aviation; however he did go over some Airventure 50th Anniversary highlights:

The Camp Scholler Pancake Breakfast was hugely successful.

EAA achieved its goal of flying 2.5 million Young Eagles two days before the start of Airventure.

Ground has been broken for the Discovery Park next to the Blue Barn at Whitman Field, Oshkosh. Kidventure will be moving there, as well as an Aero-Education Center.

The parking lot serving the Ryan Field conference room will be torn up starting in October and remain so through at least December; we are looking into work-arounds for our meetings.

Jim Keown has a Young Eagles workshop kit (small mechanical projects for YEs to assemble); is there any interest in doing this?

Eric Witherspoon attended Airventure and presented a picture show of what he saw.

And finally, our own Bill Foraker was featured in a one-page article on page 122 of the August 2026 issue of Sport Aviation.

Meeting was adjourned at 1200. The next meeting will be at the Ryan Field conference room on Saturday October 10 at 1100.

Respectfully Submitted by
Secretary Bob Miller