EAA Chapter 81 Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2026

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

Secretary's Report: Nobody wanted to have the Minutes of the September 12 meeting read. Again. They are available on a link from the September newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: There was nothing special to report. Full details of the Treasurer's Report can be found on our website eaa81.org.

Visitor:

Darryl Davis Rosas was a member of EAA Chapter 1445 in Chandler, AZ, and is working on his pilot ratings.

Project Updates:

Brian Martig has a materials kit for a Murphy Renegade Spirit biplane. He also has two wings for a Mariner, presumably the Experimental fabric-covered single-seat amphibious biplane.

Chris Wellborn is trying to assemble a wiring harness for his Kitfox project. He is using high-temp wiring under the cowl.

Other Stuff:

Kudos to Natalie Butts and daughter Jayden Couch for another successful Pancake Breakfast. They are actually making a profit, which goes into our treasury.

The combined IMC/VMC Club met last Thursday at the La Cholla Airpark clubhouse. Leader Alexander Kocksch made sauerkraut and sausages in celebration of Oktoberfest.

Chapter 81 Young Eagles Lead Martin Thomas reported that 9 pilots flew 20 Young Eagles today, 124 Year-To-Date.

We have made one more Eagle Flight since the last update.

Jeremy and Rachael Blackketter reported that their first LSRI (Light Sport Repairman Inspection) 2-day class is filled; the next class will be in November.

Alan LaFever, our Ray Scholarship Leader reported that Matthew Bradwell soloed and received the $3,600 scholarship from national EAA. Jayden Couch also soloed, received the same along with $1,500 from Chapter 81 after her recent solo. President Puckett has made a spreadsheet for Ray Scholarships, which offer each student a total of $9,000 from national EAA and $3,000 from Chapter

81. There is a required schedule, anticipating the first solo within 3 months, passing the Written Examination within 6 months. and passing the Private Pilot Checkride within 1 year.

Jim Keown wants to know whether there is interest in a Chapter Tour of Xerocraft, a local company which offers classes in machining, TIG (Tungsten Inert Gas) and MIG (Metal Inert Gas) welding, wood-working, 3-D printing, and even jewelry-making. A show of hands demonstrated considerable interest. Jim will set up a tour. Xerocraft is in downtown Tucson.

Young Eagles Leader Martin Thomas reminded us that no one set up the FlightAware flight tracker in our conference room as we had discussed previously. The idea was to let the parents of our Young Eagles track the flights of their kids on the TV. Several volunteers committed to making sure that this is in place for the next event.

The very first production Boeing 787 Dreamliner is now on display at Pima Air and Space Museum.

Chapter election news: Steve Zigelstein has taken a turn for the worse in his battle with cancer and will not be able to continue to serve as VP of Chapter 81. Jose Flores has thrown his hat into the ring to take his place. George Snyder is stepping down from being a Director as well as Chapter Hangar Manager. Bob "Doc" Holliday may step up for one or both positions. Nominations and elections will take place at the November meeting.

Ray Puckett summarized the EAA Chapter Newsletter video, then began his slide show featuring This Month in Aviation History. Nominations are open for Volunteer of the Year from all chapters, and a chapter is sought to supply pedal planes for KidVenture.

Tim Tarris provided a video presentation regarding his tragically interrupted attempt to fly his Curtiss JN-4 Jenny replica to all 48 contiguous states on the way to Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia for the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. He was the victim of a "wind incident" *after* he successfully landed in Colorado; 45 MPH crosswind gusts exceeded the capability of the Jenny, which has under-wing bows which limit its ability to roll into the crosswind. It shot back up into the air, stalled, and cartwheeled. Tim is still recovering from his severe injuries and cannot actually recall the crash nor the following week in the hospital. The Jenny was totaled but will be repaired sufficiently to become a static playground feature. Our hats are off to Tim and we are sure glad that he was able to come back to us to tell the tale.

The final announcement was that there will be a Marty Party at the hanger of Marty Fleischhower (first row of hangars north of MobileAire) immediately after the meeting. Marty will be manning the grill for burgers and dogs, and there will be other foodstuffs, everything gratis. All are invited.

Meeting was adjourned at 1200. The next meeting will be held at the Ryan Field conference room at 1100 on Saturday, November 14, accompanied by a Pancake Breakfast and a Young Eagles event.

Respectfully Submitted by
Secretary Bob Miller