

EAA Chapter 81 SkyWriter

Our Newsletter for February 2026

Chapter Officers

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president81@eaa81.org

Vice President – Steve Zigelstein (308) 383-9786
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Secretary - Bob Miller (520) 322-0677
sec81@eaa81.org

Treasurer - Kevin Byers (810) 543-0791
treas81@eaa81.org

Director and Hangar Manager - George Snyder (520)
661-2127 hangar81@eaa81.org

Director - Lynn Wesley (520) 883-8588
lwesley7@hughes.net

Director – James Keown (520) 334-7662
vtuq@yahoo.com

Director - Erik Fjerstad (520) 345-6621
web81@eaa81.org

Website: [EAA Chapter 81](#)

Facebook: facebook.com/eaa81.org

Chapter Dues

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 February Chapter Meeting

Our next meeting will be Saturday, 14 February 2026 and will be held in the Ryan Field Administration building meeting room at **11:00 AM**. We are also having a Young Eagles Event and are planning on a Pancake Breakfast which will run concurrently from 8:00 to 10:30 AM.

Watch the website for further information [here](#).

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

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

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

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

Our January Chapter Meeting

The January meeting was held on Saturday the 10th in the Ryan Field Administration building meeting room.

Chapter President Ray Puckett presided over the election of the Board of Directors (BOD): The four elected Officers are automatically board members. Those present voted for George Snyder, Jim Keown, and Past-President Erik Fjerstad for the board as Directors. Lynn Wesley will be asked whether he wants to remain on the BOD.

Alexander Kocksch the IMC (Instrument Meteorological Conditions) Club Lead reported that at the January IMC Club meeting they decided to organize a VMC (Visual Meteorological Conditions)

Club as well. Initially, the two clubs will be combined and there will be an open discussion. The next meeting will be on February 5 (first Thursday) at the La Cholla Airpark Clubhouse. Food is at 6 PM and the meeting from 6:30-8 PM.

EAA81 Eagle Flights Program

Alan Hobson, our chapter Eagles Flight Coordinator is looking for volunteers to execute the program. Information on the program, including becoming a Chapter volunteer is on the EAA website [here](#), you will need to be logged into the EAA website to access it. If you are interested in volunteering to be an Eagle Flights pilot, mentor, or ground crew, please contact our chapter's Eagle Flights Coordinator, Alan Hobson, at 480-560-7506 or alanjhobson@yahoo.com.

Pancake Breakfast Trailer

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.

Airventure 2026 Camping

Jim Keown is gathering names of EAA81 members interested in attending and having a dedicated Chapter 81 camping area at AirVenture 2026. Contact Jim at vtuq@yahoo.com.

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

EAA81 January 2026 Young Eagles Event

.....was canceled for high wind and low temperatures.

EAA81 January Pancake Breakfast Event

....and so was the breakfast.

Our next Young Eagles Event

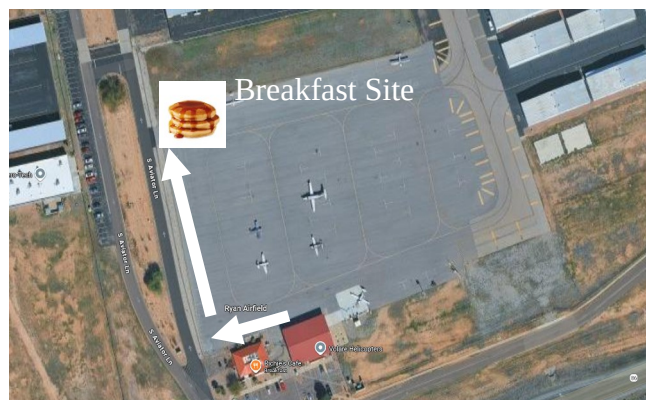
Our next Young Eagles event is planned for **Saturday, 14 Feb 2026!** The flights will start at 8:00 AM and end when we run out of Young Eagles, usually around 10:30. Martin needs pilots and ground crew to pull it

off. Contact Martin to volunteer [here](#), or call/text him at (520) 977-7054.

Our next Pancake Breakfast

There is a pancake breakfast planned for **Saturday, 14 Feb 26** along with the YE event. While the breakfast is free to all, donations are accepted. Potential diners can utilize cash or Zelle to make a donation. Zelle donations should be made to president81@eaa81.org. Please be sure to note what the donation is for in the Zelle notes. Steve Hlland will need volunteers so contact him at aztaildragger@gmail.com. Please do not wait until the last few days to volunteer.

Below is the location on the Ryan Field transient ramp where Steve and his volunteers set up.



Access the site from our meeting location by walking along the west side of the ramp to the northwest corner of the ramp. Stay clear of the aircraft movement area.

Update on Falcon Field Proposing Landing Fees to the Mesa City Council

Falcon Field management has posted their report to the Mesa City Council on fee restructuring, to include landing fees. The report was on the agenda for the 9 February City Council meeting, but has been delayed to allow more time for public comment. A new date has not been announced as of this writing. The full text of the report with the proposed landing fees can be seen [here](#). The fee restructuring is needed in order to continue to keep Falcon field self-sufficient, i.e. not need funding from the City of Mesa General Fund, according to the report.

Parachute Operations in the Phoenix-Tucson Area

There are lots! Marana, Pinal, Eloy, Casa Grande, and Coolidge are only some of the airfields that host civilian and military parachute training on a regular basis. The FAA Safety website hosts a paper titled “15 Key Points of Military Parachute Training – for Pilots”. The paper lists facts about military training jumps and actions pilots can take to increase the safety of operating in the vicinity of jump operations. The paper can be viewed [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.

[Training Savvy Mechanics](#) | Qualifies for FAA WINGS and AMT credit

Wednesday, February 4th, 2026, 7 p.m. CST with Mike Busch

In this webinar, Mike Busch A&P/IA introduces an innovative, new 8-hour video-based online training course for aviation maintenance technicians, trainees, and students. Its purpose is to introduce them to the

latest methods, techniques, and practices of modern, evidence-based, reliability-centered maintenance and data-driven diagnostic methods. This training is free of charge and has been FAA-accepted for IA renewal credit. Maintenance-involved aircraft owners can benefit from this training, too. Qualifies for FAA WINGS and AMT credit.

[The de Havilland Mosquito](#)

Tuesday, February 10th, 2026, 7 p.m. CST with Chris Henry

Join EAA Aviation Museum Director Chris Henry as he talks about the de Havilland Mosquito, the legendary British bomber that was used in daring raids all through WWII. We will talk all about the rare survivor of this type currently in the care of the EAA museum.

[Tailwheel Flying Techniques](#) | Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit

Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 7 p.m. CST with Steve Krog

This presentation will cover the basics of flying a tailwheel aircraft. Although some theory will be reviewed, the aim is to outline practical techniques as well as answering some of the age-old questions regarding flying a tailwheel aircraft, such as whether wheel or three-point is the better landing method to use. Steve Krog runs a flight school providing Piper Cub instruction and will share his vast tailwheel teaching experience and identify common errors and provide suggestions for techniques to safely fly tailwheel airplanes. 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 on any of our chapter teams.

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.

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). Please support him in his efforts by providing him with material and useful feedback. He can be contacted at 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 EAA program to provide orientation flights for adults. Contact Alan at alanjhobson@yahoo.com.

Webmaster - Jose Flores lead. Contact Jose with material and useful feedback at josefflo@gmail.com.

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

IFR Club and VFR 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. Alexander is in the process of setting up a VFR Club also. See the article above.

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. Get there early is better than later, they tend to start closeing down about 9:30. 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 2026. <https://copperstateflyin.com/>

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

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) <http://www.cactusflyin.org/>



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/#>

The Great Sedona Fly-In '26 - 2 May 2026 Sedona Airport (SEZ). <https://sedonaairport.org/upcoming-events>

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

Apple Valley Air and Car Show



Saturday, October 11, 2025
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Apple Valley Airport (APV), CA

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. (Dec)

Greg Duncan
520-331-9180

gduncan6000@gmail.com

For Sale Vans RV7A

Located in Bisbee, advertised for \$160,000.

Owner – Max Mirot



Contact – 520.236.9644 or titansmoons@yahoo.com

Here is a link to Trade-A-Plane https://www.trade-a-plane.com/search?category_level1=Single+Engine+Piston&make=VAN S&model=RV-7A&listing_id=2451386&s-type=aircraft (Dec)

Chapter Points of Contact

Young Eagles – EAA Young Eagles Program - Martin Thomas (520) 977-7054 or mjthomas007@gmail.com

Eagles - EAA program to provide orientation flights for adults. Contact Alan Hobson at 480-560-7506 or alanjhobson@yahoo.com.

Hangar Manager - George Snyder 520-661-2127 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
- Charles Valade Phone: 586-7074032 Email: 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 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) 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>

