

# EAA Chapter 81 SkyWriter

Our Newsletter for March 2026

## **Chapter Officers**

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**Website:** [EAA Chapter 81](#)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/eaa81.org](https://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 March Chapter Meeting**

Our next meeting will be Saturday, 14 March 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 February can be viewed [here](#).

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

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

## **Our February Chapter Meeting**

The February meeting was held on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> in the Ryan Field Administration building meeting room.

## **Thunder & Lightning**

Mike Stringfellow gave a presentation on Thunder and Lightning. The presentation was very detailed and informative. Mike presented a few myths about lightning and some corresponding facts:

Myth “Facts”

- People struck by lightning always die - 90% of those struck survive

- Lightning burns folks to a crispy critter - Severe burns are rare, although nerve damage can occur.
- Persons struck by lightning carry a charge and are dangerous to touch. – Not true!

Check the Chapter website for the complete presentation [here](#). It may not be loaded yet.

### Around the United States at 65 MPH



Our second speaker, Tim Tarris, is building a 3/4 scale replica of the Curtiss JN-4 “Jenny”, the predominant WW I pilot trainer. His plan is to depart Tucson in April and land in all 48 contiguous United States, ending at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia on July 2 in time to celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States of America (dated from the signing of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776). See Tim’s article on the EAA website [here](#).

### Pancake Breakfast Coordinator

Steve Hlland is experiencing some medical challenges that prevent him for continuing to organize and run our Chapter’s Pancake Breakfasts. We need a volunteer to pick up the reigns from Steve to keep our pancake breakfasts happening.

The Chapter is also 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 you can volunteer to be Pancake Breakfast Coordinator or have room in your hangar or garage to house the trailer, please contact Ray Puckett at [president81@eaa81.org](mailto:president81@eaa81.org).

### EAA Ray Scholarships

Alan LaFever, our Scholarships Coordinator, has succeeded in obtaining a second Ray Scholarship from EAA. The first was \$12,000, awarded to Oliver Russell, a graduate from Southern Arizona Teen Aviation. Oliver passed his Private Pilot test at the end of 2025. The second Ray Scholarship is also \$12,000, but national EAA pays \$9,000 and Chapter 81 will provide the remaining \$3,000. This makes our chapter eligible for another two Ray Scholarships for the 2026!

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

### Chapter 81 AirVenture 2026 Camping

The EAA will be accepting reservations for chapter camping shortly. Chapter 81 has met the minimum requirements for a campsite. We currently have three more campsites available. Once we make our reservation, we can no longer accept any more campers, so this will be the last message sent informing the chapter membership with of the opportunity to participate in chapter camping. Also, if you receive free volunteer camping you can still participate in chapter camping and you are addition to the chapter participants. For example, if we have 6 chapter members participating and 3 volunteers, we can then have 9 campsites, 3 of which will be free. Below are some of the program policies of chapter camping and for more detail follow the link below:

1. Reserved campsites with free camping 7 days before Oshkosh.
  - a. (No more driving around looking for a location)
2. You need not be an EAA member to camp just to reserve a campsite.
  - a. (Family and friends can camp with you)

3. Those who fly in can also participate in chapter camping

a. (I may be willing to transport camping gear for those who fly in commercial or private aircraft if certain conditions are met.)

4. Camping is limited to general camping areas.

5. Sites can be reserved sometime in March and is based on priority given to those who pay first.

6. Once payment is made it is nonrefundable.

Chapter Camping at AirVenture | EAA

If you have any questions you can phone or text me 520-334-7662, or e-mail me at [vtuq@yahoo.com](mailto:vtuq@yahoo.com) with the subject line camping.

Jim Keown

#### **EAA81 February 2026 Young Eagles Event**

Our EAA 81 volunteers flew 14 Young Eagles on a beautiful-for-flying Saturday morning.



Kevin loading his Long-Eze with an excited Young Eagle



Martin and his Cozy III posing for the proud parents of their Young Eagle.

#### **EAA81 February Pancake Breakfast Event**

Despite Steve Hulland being on sick call, a hearty group of volunteers were able to prepare breakfasts for (mostly) the folks volunteering and participating in the Young Eagles event.

#### **Our next Young Eagles Event**

Our next Young Eagles event is planned for **Saturday, 14 Mar 2026!** The flights will start at 8:00 AM and end when we run out of Young Eagles, usually around 10:30. We currently have 18 registered and one on the wait list. 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 Mar 26** along with the YE event, if we can get enough volunteers. 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](mailto:president81@eaa81.org). Please be sure to note what the donation is for in the Zelle notes. Steve Hulland will need volunteers so contact him at [aztaildragger@gmail.com](mailto: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**

The Mesa City Council decision on the Falcon Field landing fee proposal was delayed to allow more time for public comment. The Mesa Audit & Finance Committee has the proposal on their March 5, 2026 study session agenda to “Hear a presentation, discuss, and provide a recommendation on the proposed fees and charges for the Falcon Field department.”

The AZ Pilots Association is reporting that the subject will be on the agendas of the City Council Study Session on March 12, 2026, and the City Council Meeting for a vote on March 23, 2026, although the agendas for these meeting have not been posted on the Mesa City Council calendar as of this writing.

**AZ Legislation HB.2210 - Prohibition on ADS-B-Based Fees**

Aviation Safety Advisory Group (ASAG) member C.J. DeVries has been working with the Arizona Legislature to introduce state legislation to prohibit the use of ADS-B to calculate, generate, or collect fees from aircraft owners or operators while operating in Arizona airspace. HB.2210 was introduced to the AZ House on 9 January 2026. There is an electronic petition to show your support for this legislation. If you would like to, you can sign the petition [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.

[Savvy Savings](#)

Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 7 p.m. CST with Mike Busch  
 For the past 18 years, Savvy Aviation has helped thousands of aircraft owners reduce maintenance costs using a data-driven, on-condition, reliability-centered approach. We say "no" to any work the shop recommends that is not demonstrably necessary to make the aircraft safe, reliable, and legal. But we never tracked how much money these owners saved until recently. Now we have begun recording these savings, and the results are quite interesting, as Mike Busch explains in this webinar.

[Rules, Ratings, and Conditions: Digesting the Alphabet Soup](#) | Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit

Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Prof. H. Paul Shuch  
 Aviation terminology is characterized by a sometimes overwhelming abundance of acronyms and abbreviations. Many flight students find deciphering

this strange language to be more challenging than learning to manipulate the controls. In this FAA Safety Team WINGS webinar, longtime flight instructor Prof. H. Paul Shuch tries to make some sense of the alphabet soup. Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit.

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### [Young Eagles Coordinator Onboarding 2026](#)

Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with David Leiting

Learn the ins and outs of the Young Eagles coordinator position during this live webinar with Q&A. EAA staff will cover a wide range of topics including rally planning, online registration, and basic coordinator duties.

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### [IFR Procedures](#) | Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit

Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Ryan Koch

Join Ryan Koch from PilotWorkshops.com as he looks at three common IFR procedures and how they're designed and used in real-world IFR flying. Ryan will discuss the underlying design criteria, FAA guidance, and ATC practices that shape them, with an emphasis on how that knowledge can inform practical PIC strategies and techniques. Topics covered include VCOAs, vectors-to-final, and advisory ("+V") approach guidance. Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit.

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### [Planning a Flying Start Event 101](#)

Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with David Leiting

May 16 is International Learn to Fly Day, and your chapter is invited to participate by hosting a Flying Start event! Join this live webinar, and we'll review how to plan the perfect Flying Start event. Topics covered will include event planning, event best practices, and what resources EAA provides to simplify the hosting process for chapters.

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### [Upset Prevention and Recovery Training \(UPRT\): Are You Ready for the Unexpected?](#) | Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit

Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Andrea

Germanetti, Patty Wagstaff, and Allan Moore Learn what upset prevention and recovery training (UPRT) is, and what it isn't. FAASTeam representative Andrea Germanetti will lead a practical, safety-driven program that equips pilots to prevent and recover from inflight upsets, using real-world scenarios and evidence-based techniques. Discover the benefits of in-aircraft training to enhance positive responses to physiological and psychological effects. This presentation will unpack the key elements that make UPRT effective, and you'll have the opportunity to hear from one of the world's leading UPRT training providers, Patty Wagstaff and Mr. Moore from Patty Wagstaff Aviation Safety in St. Augustine, Florida. Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit.

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### [Logbook Deception](#) | Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit

Wednesday, April 1, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Mike Busch

FAA regulations are quite clear about what information aircraft maintenance records must contain. Two separate rules define the contents of records of inspections and records of other work like repairs, alterations, and overhauls. But as Mike Busch explains in this webinar, most logbook entries memorializing annual inspections are works of fiction that don't comply with either rule. Mike ends with an appeal to mechanics to change how they make these entries, so they describe what actually happened. Qualifies for FAA WINGS and AMT credit.

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## 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** – If you would like to volunteer to organize and run our Pancake Breakfast team or just to volunteer to help at our next breakfast contact Ray at [president81@eaa81.org](mailto:president81@eaa81.org)

**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/eaa81.org](https://facebook.com/eaa81.org)). Please support him in his efforts by providing him with material and useful feedback. He can be contacted at [KenandKatieToo@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:alanjhobson@yahoo.com).

**Webmaster** - Jose Flores lead. Contact Jose with material and useful feedback at [josefflo@gmail.com](mailto: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 also in the process of setting up a VFR Club.

### 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 closing down about 9:30. Click [here](#) for info. (Note: Due to the conflict with the Cactus Fly-in on the same date, the Mar 26 event may be canceled, so check before flight.)

Casa Grande (CGZ) Monthly Fly-in Breakfast – Last Saturday of the month, 7-10 AM, in the air-conditioned terminal building. Click [here](#) for more info. Note: Sometimes the fly-in does not get added to the City of Casa Grande calendar until just before the event, so check before flight.

### 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>

Cactus Fly-in - 7 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 2026 – 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 10, 2026 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Apple Valley Airport (APV), CA <https://applevalleyairshow.com/>

## Classified Ads

Classified Ads are also located at the Chapter 81 website [useful-information-for-members](#). Ads run for three months unless renewed.

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### 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](mailto:gduncan6000@gmail.com)

## Chapter Points of Contact

**Young Eagles** – EAA Young Eagles Program - Martin Thomas (520) 977-7054 or [mgthomas007@gmail.com](mailto:mgthomas007@gmail.com)

**Eagles** - EAA program to provide orientation flights for adults. Contact Alan Hobson at 480-560-7506 or [alanjhobson@yahoo.com](mailto:alanjhobson@yahoo.com).

**Hangar Manager** - George Snyder 520-661-2127 [azflyboy01@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:eric626m@yahoo.com)
- Charles Valade Phone: 586-7074032 Email: [bd4flyer@netzero.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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>

