

EAA Chapter 81 SkyWriter

Our Newsletter for June 2026

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Chapter Dues

Dues are \$20 per year. Visit [join-or-renew](#) to see how to pay by Zelle. 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 June Chapter Meeting

Our next meeting will be Saturday, 13 June 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 which will run from 7:00 to ~10:00 AM.

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

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

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

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

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

Our May Chapter Meeting

The May meeting was held on Saturday the 9th in the Ryan Field Administration building meeting room.

Treasurer Kevin Byers noted that the Chapter was almost out of EAA 81 patches. He had looked into getting more, but found that our Chapter patch was expensive to duplicate and that we had no digital design. There ensued a discussion on how to move forward and a suggestion was made that we have a competition for the design of a new patch. If we had a new digital design the patch could also be embroidered on a shirt or a hat. The idea was tabled and will be put on the agenda for further discussion and maybe a decision at the June meeting.

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

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

FAA Wings Program Meeting at Ryan

There was a "Hybrid Ryan Field (KRYN) Local Runway Safety Action Team Meeting" on Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at the Ryan Field conference room. The main speaker was Geoff Kusel, KRYN Air Traffic Manager. Geoff reviewed the statistics for the three levels of runway incursions, improper instruction read-backs, and pilots generally not following tower instructions. One construction item discussed was a plan to extend Ryan Field taxiway Bravo west to mitigate the "hot spot" violations at the intersection of Bravo and runway 33/15. The plan is proceeding through the design phase and then needs to be funded, so it will not happen anytime soon, but is in the works. It was noted that Marana Airport received approval for construction of a control tower. It has already passed its design phase, Environmental Impact Study and is now awaiting funding. There were handouts at the meeting specific to operations in and around Ryan Field, including the RYN Pilot Checklist, and the RYN recommended NW entry procedures. Both are available [here](#).

New Arizona Aviation Hall of Fame Member

Congratulations to EAA 81 member [Jessica Cox](#) upon her May 15, 2026, induction into the Arizona Aviation Hall of Fame! The Hall of Fame is located within the Pima Air & Space Museum.

Light Sport Maintenance – Inspection Rating Class

Member Steve Solomon gave an update on his discussions with [Rainbow Aviation](#), one of only two FAA approved schools for the Light Sport Mechanic - Inspection class. Rainbow will do an on-site class for local EAA chapters for the 2-day Light Sport Mechanic-Inspection (LSMI) workshop, however there are caveats and conditions. Click [here](#) for a brief description of the Light Sport Mechanic certificate and the difference between the two available ratings. Chapter 81 is now on the candidate list to bring the LSMI class here in 2027. To do so, we will have to

reserve hotel space for 3-4 days (however, Rainbow won't commit to what days). There are typically 20 spots at \$550 per person available per class. Classes fill up almost instantly. Your Newsletter Editor has been on Rainbow's waiting list for the 2-day class at any of their three locations since MOSAIC came out last summer. Completion of this 16 hour course will allow owners of Experimental - Amateur Built aircraft that they own, but did not build, to sign-off the condition inspection on their aircraft (only their aircraft). The FAA AC 65-32A that covers these privileges is [here](#). The FAA also has a website to help clarify the Light Sport Repairman Certificate (with its two different ratings), it can be found [here](#). You be the judge of how much clarity it provides.

EAA 81 Breakfast Team

Chapter Member Natalie Butts, who has picked up the Pancake Breakfast team reins from Steve Hulland, along with her volunteers, put on a breakfast buffet in the meeting room that both the Young Eagles participants and the Wright Flight folks thoroughly enjoyed. It's amazing how fast 5th graders can make food disappear.

EAA81 9 May 2026 Young Eagles Event

Our EAA 81 volunteers flew 16 Young Eagles on Saturday morning.

Our next Young Eagles Event

Our next Young Eagles event is planned for **Saturday, 13 June 2026**. The flights will start at 7:00 AM and end when we run out of Young Eagles, usually around 10:00. Martin needs pilots and ground crew to pull it off. Contact Martin to volunteer [here](#), or call/text him at (520) 977-7054.

<https://www.eaachapters.org/event-details/YE3439F1S>

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.

[DIY Parts](#)

Wednesday, June 03, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Mike Busch

The majority of the GA fleet is now more than 40 years old. Most of us fly vintage aircraft for which repair parts are becoming unobtainable or absurdly expensive. Our salvation lies in owner-produced parts or mechanic-produced parts. In this webinar, Mike Busch reviews the latest regulations and legal interpretations on this subject, and offers some real-world examples of how these rules help keep vintage aircraft flying.

[The Frank Borman Collection](#)

Tuesday, June 09, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Chris Henry

The 1960s was one of the most ambitious periods in the history of American space flight. EAA Aviation Museum Director Chris Henry will walk us through the life of astronaut Frank Borman and how his collection found a home at EAA.

[Ultralight/Homebuilt Rotorcraft Arrival Procedures - AirVenture 2026](#)

Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Mark Spang

Flying into the ultralight/homebuilt rotorcraft grass runway at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2026 requires compliance with the FAA-issued NOTICE. Mark Spang will discuss the NOTICE arrival and departure procedures specific to the Fun Fly Zone grass runway on the south end of the airport used by ultralights/lightplanes and homebuilt rotorcraft.

[EAA AirVenture 2026 Features and Attractions](#)

Tuesday, June 16, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Rick Larsen and Sean Elliott

Join this webinar to learn about what to expect at AirVenture 2026. Rick Larsen, EAA vice president of communities, member programs and AirVenture features and attractions, and Sean Elliott, vice president of advocacy and safety will discuss the latest news on what to expect at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2026.

[Tips for Flying Into EAA AirVenture 2026](#)

Wednesday, June 17, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Fred Stadler

Learn all about the 2026 AirVenture NOTICE arrival procedures. This presentation will be especially helpful for someone who has not flown into AirVenture before. EAA's volunteer NOTICE chairman, Fred Stadler, describes FAA required procedures and shares useful tips for reducing pilot workload when flying into Oshkosh for AirVenture 2026.

[Recreational Aerobatics: The Basics](#)

Monday, June 22, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Gordon Penner

This webinar will cover how to perform safe, gentle aerobatics, regardless of whether your aircraft has an inverted fuel/oil system.

[Recreational Aerobatics: The Basics](#)

Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Nina

Stewart

Learn more about working with your school to create an aerobatic program as well as flying as part of that team.

[Aerodynamics and Aerobatics](#)

Wednesday, June 24, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Dagmar Kress

Understand how the four forces of flight — lift, weight, thrust, and drag — are influenced by aerobatic maneuvers.

[Changing Mounts: Aerobatics in Airplanes New to You](#)

Thursday, June 25, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Michael Lents

A discussion on preparing, transitioning, and extracting performance from different aerobatic aircraft in the recreational and competitive arena.

[Beyond the Basics: Competition, U.S. Teams, and Air Shows](#)

Friday, June 26, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Britt Lincoln
Discover the journey from private pilot to competing in aerobatic contests, representing the U.S. at the world competition level, and thrilling spectators while performing air show aerobatics.

[Coupling Crisis](#)

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

In 2023, the FAA issued an AD affecting 20 percent of the piston aircraft fleet. It required the replacement of spot-welded multi-segment V-band clamps and couplings that connect turbochargers to tailpipes. The supply of these clamps immediately dried up, leaving owners between a rock (the FAA) and a hard place (the supply chain). In this webinar, Mike Busch discusses how the AD process is supposed to work, why it sometimes doesn't, and what aircraft owners

can do about it.



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 – Natalie Butts is our new coordinator for the team. Please support Natalie by volunteering. Contact Natalie at Buttsnat123@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 also including VFR Club topics in the meeting. Alexander can be reached at alexanderkocksch@live.com

Destinations

This a list of local places to fly to, mostly for that \$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, is over for the season, see you in November!

Casa Grande (CGZ) Monthly Fly-in Breakfast – Last Saturday of the month, 7-10 AM, in the air-conditioned terminal building. Click [here](#) and search by month to confirm the event is happening. 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.

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> and <https://groups.io/g/IMCClubTucson>

Arizona Aviation Safety Group - 3rd Wednesday of the month Zoom meeting. <https://asagaz.org/>

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



National Championship Air Races & Airshow – 16-20
Sep 2026 Rosewell NM <https://airrace.org/attending-the-races/plan-your-trip/>



Sedona Wings and Wheels, 10 Oct 2026 Sedona
Airport (SEZ) <https://sedonaairport.org/upcoming-events>

Apple Valley Air and Car Show - Saturday, October
10, 2026 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Apple Valley Airport (APV),
CA <https://applevalleyairshow.com/>

Sky Fiesta Air Races & Airshow Las Cruces
International Airport NM – 17 Oct 2026, 9 AM – 3
PM.



Sun-N-Fun 2027 – 6-11 April 2027 Lakeland FL
(LAL) <https://flsynf.org/#>

Classified Ads

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

Wanted

In search of:

- KRYN Hangar or Hangar Space
- KRYN Office or Classroom Space

- Cessna 172

If you have any of these or know of someone who
does, please contact, or have that person get in contact
with chapter member Alan Hobson at 480-560-7506.
Alan is a CFII who has been working with many
students including some of our chapter's EAA Ray
Scholarship recipients, and is need of some dedicated
space and airplane. (May)

Chapter Points of Contact

Young Eagles – EAA Young Eagles Program - Martin
Thomas (520) 977-7054 or mghthomas007@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.eachapter1095store.com>

