

EAA Chapter 81 SkyWriter

Our Newsletter for July 2026

Chapter Officers

President – Ray Puckett (815) 751-1751
president81@eaa81.org

Vice President – Steve Zigelstein (308) 383-9786
vp81@eaa81.org

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 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 July Chapter Meeting

Our next meeting will be Saturday, 11 July 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 ~9:00 AM.

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

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

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

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

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

Our June Chapter Meeting

The June meeting was held on Saturday the 13th in the Ryan Field Administration building meeting room.

President Ray gave a very timely presentation on Density Altitude and summer flying in southeast Arizona. A summary by Bob Miller is below.

During monsoon season, increased humidity can increase the density altitude; Ryan Field is at 2,419 feet MSL (above Mean Sea Level). At 100° F and humid, the density altitude can be 6,000 feet! Other factors that contribute to hazardous summer flying include: thermals, dust devils, turbulence, wind-shear, mountain waves, and overheating of the instruments, the engine, and the pilot. The minimum recommended horizontal distance from a dust devil is 200 feet; we

recommend 1,000 feet. Ask John Dale what happened when he flew into one in, of all things, a Cub! Mitigation of risk: fly in the early morning or at night if you are appropriately trained, equipped, and current. Know your aircraft. Reduce takeoff weight. Use the full runway. Lean your engine(s) properly. Stay hydrated. Use weather resources. Avoid late afternoon or evening flights (monsoon risk).

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

EAA 81 Breakfast Team

Chapter Member Natalie Butts along with her volunteers, put on a breakfast buffet in the meeting room that both chapter members and the Young Eagles participants thoroughly enjoyed.

EAA81 13 June 2026 Young Eagles Event

Our EAA 81 volunteers flew 13 Young Eagles on Saturday morning, adding to EAAs effort to fly 2.5 million Young Eagles by AirVenture 2026.

Our next Young Eagles Event

Our next Young Eagles event is planned for **Saturday, 11 July 2026**. The flights will start at 7:00 AM and ends when we run out of Young Eagles, planned for around 9:00 AM due to the heat. 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>

Tim Tarris Update

Earlier in June, Erik sent out an update on Tim Tarris' monumental, but sadly unsuccessful effort to fly his Jenny replica to Langley AFB VA by the 4th of July.



Tim apparently encountered high winds while attempting to land at Lamar CO (KLAA). Tim is recovering at last report.

More information and comments can be found [here](#).

Falcon Field Landing Fees - The Saga Continues

The City of Mesa has been named in a federal lawsuit filed by two flight schools, CAE Aviation Academy and Thrust Flight Properties, challenging the implementation of landing fees at Falcon Field. The city declared the lawsuits to lack legal merit and announced it will not delay the landing fee program.

In early June, AOPA made public a letter to the City of Mesa by the FAA Office of Airport Compliance, Director Michael Helvey that said the agency has “significant concerns” about the plan, and asked the City to delay implementation of their landing fee plan while the FAA conducts an investigation. The complete AOPA article and the FAA letter can be viewed [here](#).

To date, the City is pressing ahead with implementation of landing fees as soon as their vendor can get the data collection system in place, currently estimated to be late July or early August 2026.

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.

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.

Flight Instructor Update: Recency of Experience Requirements Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit.

Wednesday, July 8, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Prof. H. Paul Shuch

Historically, flight instructor certificates were issued for a period of 24 calendar months, and specific training or activity levels were required for their renewal. Two years ago, a significant rule change occurred. Now, flight instructor certificates (like pilot certificates) never expire. However, to remain active, a CFI must now satisfy a recency of experience requirement. As the last of the two-year CFI certificates are just now expiring, it's time to review this rule change. In this webinar Prof. H. Paul Shuch explores ways for CFIs to satisfy the current recency of experience requirements. 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 – Natalie Butts Lead. 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 is 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.

No IMC Club Meeting this month or next, see you in September!

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://flysnf.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 mgthomas007@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>

