

EAA Chapter 81 SkyWriter

Our Newsletter for Aug 2026

Chapter Officers

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president81@eaa81.org

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vp81@eaa81.org

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sec81@eaa81.org

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treas81@eaa81.org

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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 August Chapter Meeting

Our next meeting will be Saturday, 8 Aug 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 July can be viewed [here](#).

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

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

Our July Chapter Meeting

The July meeting was held on Saturday the 11th in the Ryan Field Administration building meeting room.

President Ray Puckett gave an update on providing Zoom service for our meetings. Zoom offers ½ price subscriptions to IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, and that may be the way to get remote participation capability. A decision is expected soon to implement a plan.

Member Bill Foraker gave an update on airshow planning for AirVenture 2026.

Member Steve Solomon gave an update on EAA81 hosting Rainbow Aviation's 2-day Light Sport Repairman Inspection (LSRI) Course. While they

charge \$525 for the course at their Kingsville, MO headquarters and their WA and PA class sites, they charge \$725-750 if they come to an EAA chapter hosted site.

To bring the class to Tucson there are several conditions to be met on classroom condition and proximity to hotels and restaurants, as well as a minimum of 20 participants. A show of hands indicated that seven of those in our conference room would like to attend. According to Steve, there is possibility that Rainbow could try to come to Tucson in the next couple of months, but there are no firm plans right now.

Chapter 81 Gleim Simulator Update

There was a discussion on what to do with the Chapter 81 Gleim simulator. Siting the sim with the CAP at KTUC is now off the table. VP Steve Zigelstein suggested that we look into purchasing a toy-hauler type travel trailer. Toy-haulers have a rear wall that folds down into a loading ramp. That feature would make it easy to load and set up the simulator. A travel trailer would also provide electrical power (generator or shore power hook-up), would have a bathroom, and offer climate control. President Ray Puckett thought it was a good idea, and suggested we canvas the chapter membership to see if anyone had an old toy-hauler trailer they might like to donate to the chapter.so, if you have a toy-hauler type travel trailer you can donate to Chapter 81, please contact Ray at president81@eaa81.org or call/text him at (815) 751-1751.

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

EAA 81 Breakfast Team

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

EAA81 13 July 2026 Young Eagles Event

Our EAA 81 volunteers flew 11 Young Eagles on Saturday morning, 70 so far this year, adding to EAAs

effort to fly 2.5 million Young Eagles by AirVenture 2026.

Total EAA Young Eagles Flown: 2,500,431 — Stats as of July 27, 2026!

Our next Young Eagles Event

Our next Young Eagles event is planned for **Saturday, 8 Aug 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>

Information Related to the New LSRI Privileges

After doing some amateur research on the FAA website, here is some additional information that goes along with using the LSRI certificate. Once the class is complete, the newly minted LSRI must present the class certificate to their local FSDO (Flight Standards District Office) to record them as class graduates and certificated repairman. From the Scottsdale FSDO website, it appears that this is done in-person at the FSDO office. It was reported at the August Chapter meeting that it can take one to two months to get an appointment and complete the process. Since this certificate allows the holder to sign off the condition inspection only for ELSA and E-AB aircraft that they own, the FAA issued special aircraft operating limitations document for the specific airplane needs to be checked to see what the requirements are for signing off the condition inspection, as they may need to be updated to accommodate the new LSRI rules.

Most E-AB Special Operating Limitation documents will say something like “An experimental aircraft builder certified as a repairman for this aircraft under FAA 14 CFR section 65.104 or an appropriately rated FAA-certified mechanic may perform the condition inspection required by these operating limitations.” As written, this would not include the new LSRI Repairman. Further, the FAA website [here](#), says:

An EAB’s Operating limitations may limit who can perform the EAB annual condition inspection

- The aircraft owner (or authorized agent) may request amended operating limitations from the FAA.
- EAB operating limitations issued after January 30, 2026, are revised to include a light-sport repairman as a person authorized to perform the annual condition inspection.
- Inspection-rated repairmen are always limited to inspecting only aircraft they own

Therefore, another hurdle before sighing off your plane's condition inspection might be to get revised Special Operating Limitations for your plane from your local FSDO.

See AC 65-32B Certification of Repairman (Light Sport) [here](#) for more information, and [here](#) for information on amending special operating limitations.

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.

....and remember, EAA members can access all archived webinars. Learn something new today! Click [here](#).

[O-Rings](#)

Wednesday, August 5, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Mike Busch

A series of recent accidents, some involving in-flight fires, has called attention to the fact that many of our vintage aircraft have O-rings and gaskets in their fuel systems that are 30 to 50 years old. Newer, more durable, and more reliable fluorosilicone materials have supplanted these old-fashioned nitrile rubber seals. In this webinar, Mike Busch offers a short history of the development of improved elastomeric seals, and discusses the importance of upgrading our O-rings and gaskets in the context of unleaded avgas.

[Inside the Instrument Rating Checkride: From a DPE's Perspective](#) Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit

Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Catherine Cavagnaro

Join us for an in-depth session designed to bridge the gap between training and testing. In this webinar, Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE) Catherine Cavagnaro will share practical insights to help better prepare for the instrument rating checkride. We'll cover common areas of misunderstanding, effective training strategies, examiner expectations, and best practices for passing the checkride. Whether you're a CFI or pilot preparing for the test, this session will sharpen your checkride preparation approach and provide actionable guidance you can put to work immediately. Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit.

[Precursor to Emergency: Prioritizing for Success](#) Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit

Wednesday, August 19, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Tom Turner

Many inflight emergencies begin with anomalies that give you time to react and minimize the impact. American Bonanza Society ASF Executive Director Tom Turner will review three NTSB reports as examples. We'll look at possible decision points in each scenario and suggest ways to prioritize your

actions for success. Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit.

[General Aviation Accidents: Trends, Causes, and Safety Insights \(2015–2025\)](#) Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit

Wednesday, August 26, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Ken Solosky
This webinar provides a comprehensive analysis of general aviation accident trends over the last decade. Ken Solosky will review key data on accident rates, common causes, and emerging patterns from 2015 to 2025. We will discuss the contributing factors behind these accidents, from pilot errors to mechanical failures, and highlight safety improvements made in recent years. The session will also focus on practical steps pilots can take to prevent accidents, improve operational safety, and enhance awareness of critical risk factors in general aviation. 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 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, 7-11 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, 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/>

10th Annual Gila Regional Fly-in, September 4-6, 2026 Reserve Airport (T16) in the Gila National Forest NM. Click [here](#) for more info.



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>

Flabob Veterans Celebration 14 Nov 2026 Flabob Airport, Riverside CA (KRIR) <https://www.flabobairport.org/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/>

Wings over Camarillo 16-17 Aug 2026 at Camarillo Airport CA (KCMR) <https://wingsovercamarillo.com/>



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

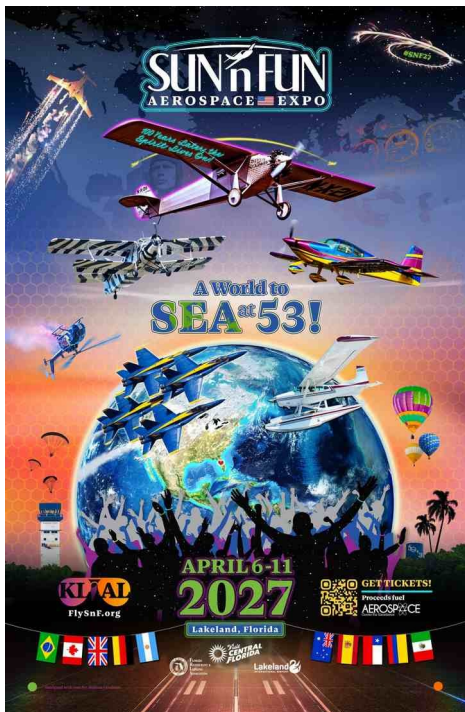


Buckeye Airfair – 26-28 February 2027 Buckeye Airport AZ (KBXK) Click [here](#) for more info.

Yuma MCAS Airshow – 13 March 2027 Yuma AZ.
<https://www.yumaairshow.com/>



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



EAA AirVenture 2026 (OSH) – 26 July – 1 Aug 2027.
<https://www.eaa.org/airventure>

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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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 in 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>

