

EAA Chapter 81 SkyWriter

Our Newsletter for September 2026

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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 September Chapter Meeting

Our next meeting will be Saturday, 12 Sep 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 Aug can be viewed [here](#) when available.

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

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

Our August Chapter Meeting

The Aug meeting was held on Saturday the 8th in the Ryan Field Administration building meeting room. The complete meeting minutes can be viewed [here](#) When available.

EAA81 8 Aug 2026 Young Eagles Event

Our EAA 81 volunteers flew 10 Young Eagles on Saturday morning. Thank-you volunteers!

Our next Young Eagles Event

Our next Young Eagles event is planned for **Saturday, 12 Sep 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>

An Update on Using LSRI Privileges

With the discussions we've been having about the Rainbow Light Sport Repairman Inspection class, I decided to look into how to use those privileges on my own (your Chapter 81 Newsletter Editor's) Experimental Amateur Built (E-AB) Wag-A-Bond that I own, but did not build. The first step was to check what my plane's Special Operating Limitations said about who could sign off a condition inspection. As expected, as it was issued in 2005, it required either the builder (holding a Repairman Certificate), or an A&P. The Special Operating Limitations needed to be changed to conform to the new MOSAIC rules (14 CFR 21.191g) allowing LSRI certified repairman to sign off the condition inspection. The process to get an updated Special Operating Limitation letter is to submit a request through the local FSDO (Scottsdale for me). Their website is [here](#). To be specific, I submitted an FAA Form 8130-6 to amend the special operating limitations for my Wag-A-Bond Traveler, an E-AB, that under MOSAIC, now qualifies as Light Sport, to allow Light Sport Repairmen to sign-off the condition inspection, in addition to the builder/repairmen and A&Ps.

I made the request Wednesday 29 July 2026, submitted through the FAA SPLASH website [here](#). I was contacted promptly by John Kautz, Principal Maintenance Inspector at the Scottsdale FSDO. Over the course of the next week we fixed an omission, and added wording to my 8130-6 to make it correct. To have the new Mosaic rules apply to my Traveler, I also needed a new Special Airworthiness Certificate to move the plane from being an EAB to a Light Sport EAB. By 3 Aug 26, it was done. We were planning a trip and would be gone from 8-19 August, but on 20 Aug, at 0900, John showed up at our home at Flying Diamond Airpark to deliver my new Special Operating Limitations letter and new Special Airworthiness Certificate. Thank-you John!now if I can only figure out how to get into a LSRI class.

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](#).

Two Out of Three Ain't Bad

Wednesday, September 2, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Mike Busch

The traditional fix for weak cylinder compression in GA maintenance is removal for repair or replacement. But modern techniques like lapping exhaust valves in place or a solvent flush on piston rings often resolve it without that cost and risk. Usually — not always. In this webinar, Mike Busch walks through his Cessna 310's latest annual, where three of 12 cylinders showed weak compression. Lapping in place fixed two; the third had to come off. Two out of three ain't bad.

Thomas Betow Collection

Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Hope Strope
EAA Aviation Museum Collections Curator Hope

Stropes will discuss the work being done to preserve the legacy of Thomas Betow, a local World War II navigator, sharing his experience in the war and his struggle to return home.

Rotax Maintenance — That Dreaded 5-Year Rubber Ordeal Qualifies for FAA WINGS and AMT credit

Wednesday, September 9, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Prof. H. Paul Shuch

The Rotax 900 series engine is becoming increasingly popular in light aircraft. These true 21st century designs are noted for their reliability, fuel efficiency, and excellent power-to-weight ratio. Rotax maintenance manuals mandate complete replacement of all rubber engine components every five years. This requirement is costly, time consuming, and absolutely essential. In this WINGS and AMT award eligible webinar, an experienced Rotax mechanic will walk you through both the regulation and the process. Qualifies for FAA WINGS and AMT credit.

Custom Checklist Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit

Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Larry Bothe

Almost every aircraft owner, and every CFI, should have a customized checklist for the airplane they usually fly or use for instruction. Airplanes change, but the checklist never does. The checklist needs to reflect what is in the airplane today; not when it left the factory. Factory checklists assume the pilot already knows how to fly. Students are lost. Master CFI Larry Bothe will tell you how to create a custom checklist that will make your job as a CFI a whole lot easier, make your students feel good about themselves, and owners of older airplanes will stop missing little details about their expensive new-fangled avionics. Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit.

Electronic Ignition for General Aviation

Wednesday, September 23, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Michael Kobyluk

A discussion about electronic ignition for general aviation aircraft, including the science, the benefits, and whether it makes sense. Electroair President

Michael Kobyluk will take us through the science of electronic ignition in today's aircraft. He will also discuss the potential benefits and evaluate whether upgrading makes sense.

The ABCs of Pilot Deviations

Wednesday, September 30, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Edward J. Page

This webinar aviation lawyer Edward J. Page will explain the basics involved in pilot deviations: what they are, what the FAA says about them, how they occur, and how to avoid them. Also covered will be how to deal with deviations once they occur (including whether or not to file a NASA ASRS report); what to say in the ASRS report; and dealing with the NTSB, the FAA, insurance claims, employers, and the emotional toll involved. Finally, there will be a review of the basics of the FAA enforcement action process, including highlighting important pieces of FAA Order 2150.3C, the FAA's Compliance and Enforcement Program.



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.

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.

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>



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 (KCMA) <https://wingsovercamarillo.com/>



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

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/>



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

Notice

EAA Chapter 81 member Jeff Bowers is a new IA and is available to help members out with Annual Inspections and/or Condition Inspections. Contact Jeff at jsrewob@hotmail.com or 520-331-4639.

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

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

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>

