EAA Chapter 81 SkyWriter

Our Newsletter for October 2026

Chapter Officers
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president81@eaa81.org

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

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sec81@eaa81.org

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lwesley7@hughes.net

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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 October Chapter Meeting

Our next meeting will be Saturday, 10 Oct 2026 and will be held in the Ryan Field Administration building meeting room at 11:00 AM. **At this meeting we will hold the election of Chapter 81 Officers and Directors. We will need a new Vice-President and a new Director and Hangar manager.** Come prepared to volunteer! Tim Tarris has offered to provide a mission debrief on his cross country flight in his 3/4 scale replica Jenny. We are also having a Young Eagles Event which will run from 7:00 to ~9:00 AM.

If you cannot attend in person, you can now participate via Zoom!

Ray Puckett is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: EAA81 Zoom Meeting
Time: Oct 11, 2026 10:45 AM Arizona
Every month on the 11 of the month, until Mar 11, 2027, 6 occurrence(s)
Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.
Monthly:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEsfu2sqTkiHdWZt-0-C295vGuuFUmxTuc8/ics?icsToken=DETOuQCi1ADM0zFB8QAALAAAAOVcTAxVTVl9SVvIGP_Emc21bWaNyX_7t3PmgpuVhyzl1rQTmOilxXGTP0G4lRjRhiUZZMIND-dTwKhIvzAwMDAwMg&meetingMasterEventId=9T8h_WzqR76MZaJ4cUDuhw

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85194472871?pwd=rW69SJxRbmfcqVbaCKsz8R8txxaOtJ.1

Meeting ID: 851 9447 2871
Passcode: 399394

One tap mobile
+12532158782,,85194472871#,,,,*399394# US (Tacoma)
+13462487799,,85194472871#,,,,*399394# US (Houston)

Join by SIP
• 85194472871@zoomcrc.com

Join instructions
https://us06web.zoom.us/meetings/85194472871/invitations?signature=n1twPZfu0k20KIllc-hW-0m-HELTDc1kH0uJdUEbl7Q

Watch the website for further information here.

For directions to the meeting location, click here.

Meeting Minutes for Sep 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 September Chapter Meeting

The Sep meeting was held on Saturday the 12th in the Ryan Field Administration building meeting room.

After a brief discussion it was decided that next summer, when the Young Eagles are flying early and stopping early, we will revert to having the Chapter meeting start at 10 AM. Until then we stay with 11 AM.

We're still looking for a toy-hauler trailer for the simulator. We do have a place to store it when we can find one.

Eric Witherspoon gave a presentation on his attendance at AirVenture. Eric had a very methodical approach to the visit, maximizing what he got to see in the time available.

The complete meeting minutes can be viewed here.

EAA81 12 Sep 2026 Young Eagles Event

Our EAA 81 volunteers flew 11 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 7:30 AM and ends when we run out of Young Eagles, planned for around 10:00 AM. Currently we have 26 Young Eagles registered. 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.

….and remember, EAA members can access all archived webinars. Learn something new today! Click here.

SAM I Am

Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 7 p.m.
Savvy has built SAM (Shadow Account Manager), an AI assistant that quietly watches over every maintenance ticket alongside Savvy's human account managers. SAM audits conversations for unanswered questions, flags frustrated clients, researches ADs and hard-to-find parts, and nudges HAMs when tickets are stalling — all without replacing human judgment. In this webinar, Mike Busch shares how SAM came to be, what it's already doing in alpha testing, and why he believes AI won't replace aviation maintenance expertise but will turbocharge it.

Engle Collection

Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Hope Stropes
USAF General Joe Engle flew everything from homebuilt airplanes and warbirds to the X-15 rocket plane and Space Shuttle. Join us as Hope Stropes and Jeanie Engle discuss Joe’s life and his exhibit at the museum.

Getting Started With iFly EFB

Wednesday, October 28, 2026, 7 p.m. CDT with Walter Boyd
Learn how an EFB can simplify planning and reduce cockpit workload. This webinar Walter Boyd will provide an introduction to iFly EFB, including:

- Navigating the moving map and essential controls
- Finding airport, chart, and weather information
- Creating and editing a route
- Reviewing terrain, airspace, weather, and airport information
- Following the active flight plan and monitoring progress
- Using traffic, weather, alerts, and navigation information in flight
- Choosing charts, map layers, instruments, and data displays
- Adapting iFly EFB to different aircraft, pilots, and missions

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Continental Drift

Wednesday, November 4, 2026, 7 p.m. CST with Mike Busch
Continental Aerospace is coming home. After 15 years of Chinese state ownership under AVIC, private equity firm Arcline Investment Management is buying Continental for roughly $535 million — the same firm that bought Hartzell Propeller in 2023. In this webinar, Mike Busch unpacks why the deal happened now, what Arcline's Hartzell playbook (talent retained, prices raised) suggests for Continental owners, and whether Cirrus and other AVIC-owned GA assets could be next. He also weighs the real trade-off: likely higher parts prices ahead, against the supply-chain security of an engine maker no longer tied to a geopolitical wild card.



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 - Alan LaFever lead. This team identifies and plans means of furthering members knowledge in aviation, construction, and maintenance skills. Applications for scholarships are available. Contact Alan at alan.lafever@gmail.com 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/eaa81.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/eaa81/eaa-sponsored-clubs/imc-club Click here to confirm the meeting date.

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

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/

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

SKYFIESTA
LAS CRUCES ~ NEW MEXICO
AIR RACES • AIRSHOW • EXPO • FESTIVAL
SATURDAY•OCTOBER•17•2026 • 9 AM • 3 PM • LAS CRUCES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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/

YUMA AIRSHOW

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

Notices

New IA in the Chapter

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.

EAA81 Members Approved to Conduct LSRI Class

Keystone Aero LLC (Jeremy and Rachael Blackketter) has announced that they have received approval from the FAA to conduct the 16-hour Light Sport Repairman Inspection class. This is the class that allows you to conduct and sign-off the condition inspection on a Light Sport – Amateur Built aircraft that you did not build, but now own. (Remember, you may need to update your Special Operating Limitations if you have a E-AB airplane that qualifies for Light Sport under MOSAIC. See the September Newsletter article on how to do that.) The inaugural October class is full, and is being held at Flying Diamond Airpark (6AZ8).

Visit their website to learn more about the course and to pre-register for the November class.

Don't Forget To Use Code: LocalFirst

https://keystoneaerollc.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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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. (Sep)

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 – *Need a new volunteer for this position!* 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

