EAA Chapter 81 SkyWriter

Our Newsletter for November 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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lwesley7@hughes.net

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Facebook: facebook.com/eaa81.org

It's Chapter Dues Season!

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.

As preciously announced, fellow member and our Chapter Vice President, Steve Zigelstein passed away Monday night, 12-13 Oct 2026 after battling cancer since December 2025. Steve was an Air Force veteran. He leaves behind his wife of 42 years and their three daughters.

Our November Chapter Meeting

Our next meeting will be Saturday, 14 Nov 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. (Yes, we wrote this last month, but we really mean it this time! ...I Hope -Editor)** Come prepared to volunteer! We are also having a Young Eagles Event which will run from 7:30 to ~10:00 AM, and Natelie and her volunteers will have a breakfast buffet in the meeting room.

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 Oct can be viewed here .

The latest Chapter 81 financial statement is here.

Past chapter and board meeting minutes can be viewed here.

Our October Chapter Meeting

The Oct meeting was held on Saturday the 10th in the Ryan Field Administration building meeting room.

Alan LaFever, our Ray Scholarship Leader reported that Matthew Bradwell soloed and received the $3,600 scholarship from national EAA. Jayden Couch also soloed, received the same along with $1,500 from Chapter 81 after her recent solo.

President Ray Puckett has a spreadsheet for tracking the Ray Scholarships, which offer each student a total of $9,000 from EAA HQ and $3,000 from Chapter 81. There is a required schedule, anticipating the first solo within 3 months, passing the Written Examination within 6 months. and passing the Private Pilot Checkride within 1 year.

Jim Keown canvased the meeting attendees to see if there is interest in a Chapter Tour of Xerocraft, a local company which offers classes in machining, TIG (Tungsten Inert Gas) and MIG (Metal Inert Gas) welding, wood-working, 3-D printing, and metal working. A show of hands demonstrated considerable interest. Jim said he will contact Xerocraft to set up a tour. Xerocraft is in downtown Tucson. Visit their website here for more information on what they do and how to get there.

Tim Tarris gave a presentation regarding his attempt to fly his scaled down Curtiss JN-4 Jenny replica to all 48 contiguous states on the way to Joint Base Langley-Eustis – Air Force (Formerly known as Langley Air Force Base) in Hampton, Virginia for the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. He was unfortunately, the victim of a “wind incident” *after* he successfully landed in Lamar Colorado on 10 June 2026. A 45 MPH crosswind gust exceeded the capability of the replica Jenny to correct for the gust. The gust lifted “Jenny” back up into the air, she stalled, and cartwheeled into the ground off the side of the runway. Tim is still recovering from his severe injuries and cannot actually recall the crash nor the following week in the Prowers Medical Center. When Tim originally arrived in the Emergency Department, he was wearing a commemorative shirt bearing his name, the America 250 logo and a 100th anniversary patch honoring the U.S. Army Air Corps. According to the Prowers ER, during trauma care, clothing often must be cut away quickly. ER personnel recognized that the shirt might have special meaning; it was removed without damage. Prowers ER staff then had it laundered and returned it to Tim and his wife Vicky. Tim wore that shirt to our Chapter Meeting. The Jenny was totaled but will be repaired sufficiently to become a static playground feature. Our hats are off to Tim and we are sure glad that he was able to come back to us to tell the tale.

The complete meeting minutes can be viewed here.

EAA81 10 Oct 2026 Young Eagles Event

Our EAA 81 volunteers flew 20 Young Eagles on Saturday morning. Thank-you volunteers!

Our next Young Eagles Event

Our next Young Eagles event is planned for **Saturday, 14 Nov 2026.** The flights will start at 7:30 AM and ends when we run out of Young Eagles, planned for around 10:00 AM. 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.

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.

The Tomcat

Tuesday, November 10, 2026, 7 p.m. CST with Trever Wilson
Join us for an overview of one of the most famous Navy fighters ever to grace the skies. We will also have a special guest joining us to talk about their time flying the aircraft.

EAA Ray Aviation Scholarship – Update for 2027

Tuesday, November 17, 2026, 7 p.m. CST with Chris Gauger
The Ray Aviation Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship program to help young people learn to fly. Funded by the Ray Foundation, managed by EAA headquarters, and administered by EAA chapters, this program has allowed over 800 youths to obtain their pilot certificates to date. Christopher Gauger from the EAA Chapters staff will provide an overview of this successful program for both newcomers and those already familiar with the program.

Cognitive Overload! Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit.

Wednesday, November 18, 2026, 7 p.m. CST with Brian Sagi
As pilots, we know that when we exceed a wing's critical angle of attack, the wing will stall and lose lift.

Likewise, a pilot's mind has a cognitive load threshold which, once exceeded, will result in degradation of the pilot's performance. In some cases, performance degradation caused by cognitive overload can be severe enough to result in a pilot's loss of control of their aircraft. In this webinar, CFI Brian Sagi will explore cognitive overload in pilots, what causes it, and how to reduce our likelihood of encountering it. We will also learn how to recognize the onset of cognitive overload and discuss practical strategies for managing cognitive load while staying in command of our aircraft at all times.

Diesel Versus UL

Wednesday, December 2, 2026, 7 p.m. CST with Mike Busch
Diesel engines burning Jet-A promise a clean escape from the unleaded-avgas mess — no lead, better fuel efficiency, and a fuel that's already on the ramp. So why hasn't the piston fleet switched? Mike Busch surveys the current diesel contenders (Continental's CD-series, Austro's AE300/330, DeltaHawk's DHK180, and Piper's new Seminole DX) and weighs their real trade-offs: useful-load penalties, six-figure conversion costs, limited STC coverage, and different maintenance demands. With the FAA signaling the 2030 unleaded deadline may slip, he makes the case for whom diesel makes sense for today — and why it's still a niche solution for most owners.



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

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.

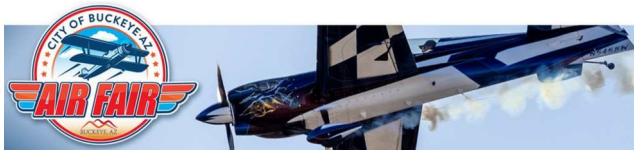
Monthly EAA IMC (and now VMC too) Club meeting is held every 1st Thursday at 6:30 PM (except for July and August) at the La Cholla Airpark Clubhouse (57AZ) 1777 W Cessna Way, Oro Valley, AZ**,** same location. https://chapters.eaa.org/eaa81/eaa-sponsored-clubs/imc-club Click here to confirm the meeting date.

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

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



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



Cactus Fly-in Case Grande AZ (CGZ) 6 Mar 2026. http://www.cactusflyin.org/



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

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.

Keystone Aero

Light Sport Repairman Inspection - Aircraft Class
Keystone Aero LLC (Chapter 81 members Jeremy and Rachael Blackketter) had their first 16-hour Light Sport Repairman Inspection class on 17-18 Oct. Eight of the ten students were from EAA81.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. Classes are held at Flying Diamond Airpark (6AZ8). Visit their website

to learn more about the course and class schedules. https://keystoneaerollc.com/

Classified Ads

Classified Ads are also located at the Chapter 81 website useful-information-for-members. Ads run for three months and can be 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


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