

Well, it is getting to the end of Summer per the calendar, with Fall knocking on our door, although we in Florida don't live by the calendar, it's time to start up and see our friends.

Our first membership meeting is this Thursday, and breakfast and Young Eagle flight is Saturday. I apologies for getting this out late. Others and I thought it was next week, this happens I guess when we get older and have no concept of what day it is. (Retired folks)

It has been very busy at the EAA hanger, we have started to clean up the loft area, this is for the use of several projects in the works. John Cahill, Debbie Snavelly and Floyd Adams doing the heavy lifting and a lot of sweat. We have purchased several power and air hose reels to be installed overhead and on side beams. We have purchased numerous school lockers, and they are in place to be used by the school kids and EAA members. A purchase order is in process for a mini-split air conditioner to be installed in the loft.

We have been working exhaustingly with the Highlands School board on a contract. The main issue currently is General Liability (GL) insurance, so we the members will be covered. I hope to see this happen shortly.

We will be working hand in hand with Danielle Erwin, Assist Superintendent, she is the Curriculum & Instruction Secondary Programs director. Ms. Erwin is responsible for the High School Program Students currently utilizing our hanger. She is my (EAA) liaison with any issues concerning the school program. We have a great relationship as well with Dr. Longshore, Superintendent, Highlands County School System. We also will be working with Scott Morgan, Career and Technical education (CTE), Highlands County School, when it comes to safety issues we have found in the shop and surrounding areas.

Jamie Bateman, Executive Director for the Institutional Advancement for South Florida State College reached out to me last week. A benefactor donated them a home-built airplane, (I will know this week what type) and she wants us to accept this on his behalf. The Benefactor was an advocate for aviation and youth. This is great news for the EAA Chapter. She told me that most pieces are still wrapped in shipping paper. We will take possession of it in the next few weeks.

As for the Young Eagle program, we were presented with a banner from EAA national, we have reached 1000 flights milestone.

To touch on the status of our Scholarship students, Logan Nagy (EAA Ray Scholar 2022) has completed his cross-county training and has soloed, Dylan Bond (EAA Ray Scholar 2023) has soloed. Ty Johnson has passed his FAA written examination and will begin flight training soon.

I hope everyone has had a wonderful Summer; I am excited for the coming year; we have many projects and plans in the making, to make this the best EAA Chapter.

Michael Rohrer, AKA Groot

President, Heartland EAA Chapter 1240