

Prez Sez by Jim Wilson

## Higher Education! The sky is the limit.

Congratulations to our Ray Aviation Scholar **Sam Garcia** who passed his FAA written exam with a very good score. His next phase of training will be to complete cross-country, night flying and prepare for his check-ride late summer or fall.

Congratulations to our Ray Aviation Scholar **Hunter Sites** for his solo flight on June 15, 2023 at the Sacramento Executive airport.

Congratulations to our Ray Aviation Scholar **Ben Varozza** for getting his endorsement for a checkride in Florida scheduled for June 28, 2023.

Congratulations to our member **Jason Brand** for his hard work, years of self-study and preparation to earn his A & P certificate. He spent two weeks of intense study at a school in Tennessee and passed all the tests and oral exams.

## Young Eagles

The June 10 Young Eagle flight was a big success flying 28 kids and 4 adult Eagle flights. Thanks to all the pilots and ground crew for a job well done. Faced with a shortage of chapter pilots, our friends from LHM and O61 came to our rescue, including Lorin Ponton, Dug Smith, Chris Silva and Randy Owensby. Chapter pilots Dale Kral, John McPherson, Jim Pinkowski and Hal Stephens each flew between 3 and 6 flights amid passing rain showers and cumulus clouds to the east. Two new pilots came to the event but could not fly until they complete the Youth Protection course and background check, a requirement of all YE pilots.

## YE Build and Fly Program

As a result of the Young Eagle flights, the Thomas boys, Rex and Grant got their first flight in a small plane. Grant flew with Dale and the topic of RC model planes was discussed and became the subject of an email to Jim and Dale from their parents, Angela and Dane. This common interest was the seed to start the chapter's Young Eagle Build and Fly Program, an intensive RC model building and flying initiative to introduce youth to aircraft construction and the fundamentals of flight.

This is a chapter modeling "program-in-a-box" designed for EAA chapters to partner with local Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) clubs to engage Young Eagles participants and other youth.

The chapter has already purchased the RC kit to build and fly a SIG KT-40 model plane built from

balsa wood and fabric wings. Dale and Jim are planning to conduct a workshop to start in October after the pancake breakfast and Young Eagle flight. We will enroll kids aged 8 to 17 to build the RC plane in the chapter hangar loft. The workshop will be limited to 6 kids. We anticipate about 24 hours over a 6-to-8-week period. The workshop would include time in the chapter RC flight simulator before going to the Sacramento Area Modelers RC field near Mather Field. Contact Jim Wilson to enroll.

# We flew 28 Young Eagles and 4 Eagles for a total of 32 flights!

## By Judi Gordon

At 0700 on the morning of June 10, 2023, weather reports called for clear below 12,000' and 10+ SM visibility, with calm winds. Our reality ended up quite different.

The day started with verga, which put Tim Sullivan in the Longeze out of the running for the day. Pilots started arriving in light rain, and we had to delay our launch to wait the weather out. At least it was



changing fairly rapidly. We had two periods of flyable weather, interrupted by a short period of significant winds, grounding one of the pilots. The fussy 9-year old, who turned down his opportunity to fly in one of the 3 gyroplanes, was still being choosey about which fixed wing he really wanted to fly in. I explained to him that the weather was threatening to shut us down entirely for the day, so if he wanted to fly at all, he'd better take the chance he has. He still managed to leave pouting, because he flew back seat, while his older sister flew front seat. We'll hope for a little personal growth for the young man between now and our next Young Eagles event in October.

Since I've become a Big Sister with the Big Brothers, Big Sisters Association of America, I keep my eyes and ears open for all kinds of opportunities for my Little Sister (and her biological little sister). They are the two pictured here, along with their pilot, Lorin Pontin. This was my Little's very first time in the air at all, and she loved it. Both these kids have volunteered at every pancake breakfast we've had, since I met them. In total, we flew 5 Littles on Saturday, and it was such a great experience that they would never have been able to have without the support of the BBBS program, EAA's Young Eagles program, all the volunteers, and of course their wonderful pilots who donate

their time, planes, and resources to this great cause.

This inspired another member of our chapter, Michael Brown, to donate tickets to the Capitol Air Show to the Littles that flew. In total, Michael has donated tickets that will cover 18 youth under the age of 16, plus 3 adults. Thank you Michael!

In our pre-planning meeting, we identified an area of our program that could be improved upon, which is that we generally fail to identify those kids that are extremely motivated to continue in their aviation journey, so that we can follow up with them. We approached our member and YE volunteer, Tracey

Fremd, and explained our challenge. Tracey is the perfect person to engage one-on-one with the kids right after their flight. Tracey developed a

kid-friendly questionnaire, with questions like "What was your favorite thing about your first flight? Would you like to be a pilot some day? Are you ready to pursue the next steps?" Of the 28 Young Eagles we flew, 54% indicated significant interest in continuing. I call that an amazing success!

We picked up three new 6-month memberships, and 2 paid memberships from participants.

Our Young Eagles program is something we should all be truly proud of.

I can't wait for our next event in October!

Thank you again to all our amazing volunteers, and if you're not involved yet, what the heck are you waiting for?

## Volunteer! EAA Young Eagle Event

Saturday's event was threatened by atypical weather that arrived with thunder & light rain. Winds turned moderate and after the dark cell passed over, we proceeded forward with plans to fly. Hurray, we did not have to cancel.

Volunteer pilots were flying Piper, Cessna, Mooney, Zennith, and Gyro's. As you can see in these photos, Savannah received her first open cockpit flight in a gyro.

We are very thankful for the amazing pilots who volunteer their time and share their aircrafts (especially with the price of fuel), bringing abundant smiles and special memories with the hope in sparking that everlasting, aviation "bug".

Pilots pride themselves in being able to name an aircraft by sight and often by sound so test your skills and see if you can name the aircraft on page 1?



## Visit to Pensacola Air Museum By Jim Golding

My squadron, VP-204, originated in Pensacola Florida. I decided to visit where they started long before I joined them. With many emails back and forth with the head archivist Bonnie Town (USMC) Ordnance department, I was given permission to visit the base. The problem being that the airbase was closed to civilians. I explained that I was a WWII vet and finally was given permission.



One of the 500 lb bombs that the plane carried.

I decided to fly out, spend 3 days for my vacation. I left Sacramento on February 27 and was supposed to get to Pensacola that evening. As things go these days, my flight was delayed In Dallas that afternoon due to a problem with the airplane. After several hours sitting in the plane, it was determined that we would have to go to Pensacola on a different airplane. We deplaned after 11 pm and were sent to a hotel for the night.

I was supposed to arrive In Pensacola at 10:30 pm on the 27th, catch some sleep and be at the airbase at 9:00 on the 28th. As a result of the delay, I missed my appointment with the base commander and the chili cook off that was taking place that day.

When I did get to the base at 2:00 pm, Bonnie was waiting for me! She spent the next 2 ½ hours showing me around the museum personally. This museum is huge having 2 very large buildings. Then as the museum was closing, asked me to have dinner with her and her parents. An invitation that I couldn't turn down.

She picked me up at my hotel, took me to a very nice restaurant where her parents were waiting, It was a wonderful end to a very trying trip. I have added a few pictures that I took during my tour and also a picture of my tour guide.





Bonnie Town and myself standing in front of the P40





Several Long ez and Cozy Rutans stopped at our June pancake breakfast enroute to a Columbia Fly-In.



Senior citizens drove their even more senior Fords to enjoy breakfast at the Chapter 512 hangar.



Thank you to all our volunteers who made this pancake breakfast a success!

# AirVenture 2023



How many days left? Click the link to find out! <u>https://www.FunPlacesToFly.com/</u> <u>airventurecountdown.htm</u> If you've never been, you're going to want to go. If you've gone before, you already know that you want to go again!

As of the writing of this article, we have 15 people camping with EAA 512, with another 6 staying in other accommodations. We have secured campsites very close to the gates, so you don't need to hike for miles or catch a bus to get to and from the campsite.

I have answers to most of your camping at AirVenture questions, so hit me up!

Important dates:

6/15/2023: Early bird registration closes. Visit <u>https://www.eaa.org/airventure/eaa-airventure-tickets</u> to get your wristbands!

6/22/2023: Registration for chapter camping closes. If you're planning to camp with

the chapter (and you're going to want to!), be sure to contact Judi at <u>judieaa512@gmail.com</u> well in advance.

Prices are as follows:

Per tent: \$102

Per car: \$102

Per RV/camper: \$306

Rather than be packed in like sardines, as we have in the past, we are limiting the campsites to one RV/camper, or 2 tents plus one car, or 3 tents. If you want your very own campsite, you can book that for \$306 total.

In order to reserve your spot, payment must be received by Judi no later than 6/22/2023.

- Judi Gordon



# **Dates to Remember!**

## June 17 Saturday

Adopt-A-Highway 8:30-11:30

\*Contact Judi Gordon

June 21 Wednesday

Picnic/Potluck 6pm

General Meeting 7pm

\*Guest speaker: Steve, FAA Controller.

June 31 Friday

Hangar Clean-Up 1-3pm

Prepare for Pancake Breakfast

July 1 Saturday

Pancake Breakfast 8-11

Display Day 9-1 (sign in)

July 2 Sunday

Display Day 9-1 (sign in)

July 12 Wednesday

Board Meeting 6pm

## **Attention ALL:**

Have you recently been on an aviation adventure? Are you making progress on an aircraft building project? Please share your experiences with photos. We'd love to hear from you!

Sincerely,

The Editor

More\_right\_rudder@yahoo.com

\*Please send text & photos separately for the sanity of our editor!





Our next Adopt-A-Highway Day is June 17. It's almost always on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Do not just show up without contacting Judi first, as there is required training. Please email Judi at <u>judieaa512@gmail.com</u> if you are interested in volunteering.



## Rare footage of a vegan plane refueling



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