



February 2024

From the Prez:

As we charge into 2024 I trust ya'll have all made this most important New Year's Resolution; I resolve to support EAA Chapter 776 by faithful attendance at monthly chapter meetings and endeavors and provide volunteer labor to accomplish our plans. Your chapter leaders spend considerable time planning, arranging, scheming, and plotting things and seeing your cheerful noses in attendance at chapter events is our most visible means of judging how successful we are. PS: This is a repeat from last month and I may continue to insert it each month to encourage attendance at chapter meetings.

Back to business:

The February 2024 Chapter meeting will be conducted in the baggage claim area of the airport terminal Tuesday, Feb 13, 2024, starting at 6 PM. We will begin with a potluck social lasting half hour or so with paper plates, plastic table ware and utensils and cups provided. Bring your own drinks if you desire something more substantial than water.

Having just encouraged you to attend the February meeting, I inform you that I may be absent from the meeting – at least I think I may be. I am scheduled to have cataract surgery on my right eye earlier that day, so, acting on the advice of a previous recipient of the surgery (Bud Frazee!) I will not guarantee that I will attend. If I am doing well, I may show up eye patch and all. I will wait and see. I mention here that Jon Nelson is planning for the same eye fixes a few days



EAA Chapter 776

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Upcoming Events

[EAA Ch 776 meeting 13 February, 6 PM](#)
[at the Terminal Building. Potluck.](#)

Pilot gathering, Saturday, 24 February
9am at P04, Bisbee Muni

16 March AM Roy's fly-in breakfast at
Tombstone, P29

Coolidge Fly-in breakfast. 1st Saturday

Grapevine camping/BBQ 3d Saturday

Casa Grande fly-in breakfast 4th Saturday

[Arizona Pilot's Association \(APA\) Calendar](#)

[APA Newsletter](#)

[New Mexico Pilot's Association Calendar](#)

[This Day in Aviation](#)

earlier than me. I am not the first one to receive this miracle and along with Bud, Carole and Vince and all you others who have done it (Ben Middleton if memory serves) I look forward to better vision. Pretty soon we will have a whole lot of folks seeing like teenagers again!

George Clarke has agreed to conduct the meeting. Apart from what George has in mind, the program will be another Jon Nelson power point teaching video of one of his transit flights between Alaska and the lower 48s. Please come and be both entertained and educated on flying across Canada starting in Alaska and ending in the USA.

Last month I failed to hand out the annual EAA Chapter Service Awards and Certificates for 2023 so I will hand them over to George to present to last year's leaders along with the following explanation from EAA HQ: "It is our honor and privilege to recognize your leaders and chapter members who have given extensively of their time and talents to strengthen your local chapter and the EAA vision. As the year comes to an end, please reflect back on the accomplishments, friendships, and impact your chapter made in 2023. These special moments are made possible through the hard work and dedication of your chapter and its leaders."

Chapter elections were formalized at the December meeting. All officer holders were unanimously re-elected ---But Wait ---Halt, stand by here! I have been informed I was asleep at the switch (old railroad term) and not paying attention after Chris Daley queried me why he was left out of the voting for a position on the Board of Directors. I can only plead guilty to this oversight. To make amends I have asked Ben Middleton if we had done it right would he have chosen not to be a candidate. He said yes and that he will resign the position immediately allowing chapter members to elect Chris on to the Board of Directors at our next chapter meeting. So, George will conduct a vote to

anoint Chris Daley as a new Board of Directors member. Chris is a newly semi-retired computer web site guru who moved to the border from the Phoenix area with an astonishingly painted bright (International Orange) light sport Aeroprakt airplane built in Kiev, Ukraine – one of the last ones to make its way out before their current war started. Chris has flown Young Eagles for us already and will be an asset to the Board.

The [Buckeye Air Fair](#) February 16-18 is getting even closer. Due to my eyeball overhaul, I will not be flying the Tri-Pacer this year. Instead, I will ride co-pilot with Carole in our trusty Buick automobile.

And the [Cactus State Fly-In](#) and Hot Rod show will follow closely on March 1-3.

We are having some movement in the Young Eagles area. I will defer the reporting to Larry, but mark your calendars for an October 12 YE rally in Douglas, AZ. Their runway resurfacing is finished, and the Douglas Rotary is rarin' to restart our rallies.

Excellence: EAA stands for family, high standards, and cleanliness. Paul Poberezny

Fly Safe,

Cliff



Cliff's favorite airplane for February 2024 is the General Dynamics B-58 Hustler.



Young Eagles

Douglas Rotary YE Rally, 12 October 2024 at KDUG, Douglas Muni. If you can fly or help with ground ops, please email Larry Portouw.

[Growth in 2023 Young Eagles stats \(EAA\)](#)



EAA CHAPTER 776 THE SKY ISLAND EAGLES January 2024 Minutes

The EAA Chapter 776 meeting was held at the Sierra Vista Terminal at 1800 on Tuesday the 9th. Those in attendance were George Clarke, Anne Ballinger, Ben Middleton, Dennis and Diane McMahon, Cliff and Carole Van Vleet, Paul Brick, Chris Daley, Angelo Petropolis, Bud Frazee, Jon Nelson, Joe Spurgeon, Dave Dicky, and Vince Pujalte. There were 15 of us to enjoy the many goodies of the potluck.

Very quickly Cliff took us through the Pledge of Allegiance, the welcome and introductions, the Secretary's (George Clarke) report and membership acceptance of last month's minutes, and the Treasurer's (Jon Nelson) report of \$21,803.60 in chapter savings and \$895.64 in chapter checking. Jon also reported the chapter now had 14 members that had paid their 2024 dues.

There was no new Young Eagles information to report.

Joe Spurgeon gave us a report of the last Sierra Vista Transportation Committee meeting. Those that attended the Airport walk-around had come away with a little more understanding of the needs and problems facing us at the airport. Joe also had some feedback as to the civilian side's

likelihood of ever getting some kind of automatic/24/7 weather reporting system. The City cannot use [SayWeather](#) because it is not FAA approved and all of the 5 FAA approved systems are costing around \$300K each these days. This will require the City to budget more funds for a system than they had previously approved in the past. Stay tuned.

Cliff gave us a brief report on his attendance at the fly-in at Bisbee last Saturday – it was cold but he enjoyed it (the coffee and donuts helped). Cliff then handed out a written report from Dick Decker.

This is a short summary of the written report from Dick Decker and the first Southeast Arizona Pilot Get-Together held at Bisbee Airport on Saturday the 6th of Jan 2024. Dick says that some 22 folks signed up via email or in the Bisbee Airport register and of those in attendance around 12 were very interested in continuing a monthly get-together at either Bisbee, Tombstone, Douglas, Benson, Whetstone, or Sierra Vista on the first Saturday morning of the month. The next get-together would be on the 3rd of Feb at Bisbee. A rainy/cold day would move the site from the terminal building to Eric's hangar at Bisbee. Dick says he was encouraged by the turnout and hopes this will turn into something that will continue.

Cliff then reminded us that the Buckeye Air Fair was coming up the 16-17th of Feb and that the Cactus Fly-in was right after that at Casa Grande on the 2nd of March.

The reason for the speedy movement through the opening remarks came next with a very enlightening discussion and video presented by Jon Nelson on "The Impossible Turn". This was especially timely as one individual (Richard Spadden), who had been one of the participants in the video, had recently died in what appears to have been a real, engine out, turn back to the runway attempt. There has been nothing official from the government yet, but it looks like this may

have been an attempt to return to the airport. The discussion was not about what Spadden may have, or have not, done, but about what each of us might do in similar circumstances. Sobering thoughts and the need to plan ahead.

Before closing the meeting, Cliff confirmed that the 13th of Feb was the date for the next chapter meeting and that it would be a potluck at the terminal at 1800.



Education Corner

1) With respect to the certification of aircraft, which is a class of aircraft?

- a. Normal, utility, acrobatic, limited.
- b. Transport, restricted, provisional.
- c. Airplane, rotorcraft, glider, balloon.

2) A Third-Class Medical Certificate is issued to a 36-year-old pilot on August 10, this year. To exercise the privileges of a Private Pilot Certificate, the medical certificate will be valid until midnight on

- a. August 31, 5 years later.
- b. August 31, 3 years later.
- c. August 10, 3 years later.

3) When making routine transponder code changes, pilots should avoid inadvertent selection of which codes?

- a. 7500, 7600, 7700.
- b. 0700, 1700, 7000.
- c. 1200, 1500, 7000.

4) Wingtip vortices are created only when an aircraft is

- a. Operating at high airspeeds.
- b. Developing lift.
- c. Heavily loaded.

5) What should be the indication on the magnetic compass as you roll into a standard rate turn to the right from a south heading in the Northern Hemisphere?

- a. The compass will initially indicate a turn to the left.
- b. The compass will remain on south for a short time, then gradually catch up to the magnetic heading of the airplane.
- c. The compass will indicate a turn to the right, but at a faster rate than is actually occurring.

6) Which instrument is affected if the pitot tube is blocked?

- a. Altimeter.
- b. Airspeed indicator.
- c. Vertical speed indicator.

Answers: 1) c, 2) a, 3) a, 4) b, 5) c, and 6) b.



Safety Corner

It's still very much winter, and icing has recently been a significant threat in Arizona as these storms pass through. Get a good weather briefing and stay clear of visible moisture.

Summer is just around the corner with the specter of our usual high density altitudes. This is a good piece on DA and performance on [Bold Method](#). Keep in mind that your actual service ceiling will be defined by DA, not indicated altitude. It is not uncommon with high pressure and above standard temperatures for DA to be thousands of feet higher than indicated altitude. The same goes for O2 and your body. O2 regulators

should be set to DA, not what the altimeter show.



News and Links

Dick Decker has started a monthly fly-in social gathering. His report of last month's gathering is below followed by an announcement of the next event.

We met again at Bisbee Airport with another beautiful but chilly day.

13 pilots showed up and 4 aircraft flew in. Brian Ulmer showed us his STOL modifications he made on his C172 and we all got to admire the beautiful workmanship and paint job on Bob Carter's C170.



Bob flew the furthest coming down from Mesa Falcon Field....he also landed at my dirt strip afterwards then we flew over to visit with Brian at Whetstone.

We had lots of donuts, brownies, cheesecake, and cookies left over!

With your generous contributions, I'll purchase a couple coffee carafes that will make pouring easier and should keep the coffee warmer longer.

I sure enjoy meeting, talking and learning from all you guys and gals and I hope you enjoy these coffee get-togethers as well. 😊 😊

Please let me know if you have any suggestions or improvements to make them better. -[Dick](#)

The next gathering:

9:00 AM Saturday 24 February 2024

Pilot Get-Together at **Bisbee Airport (P04)** at the Terminal Building Pilot Lounge

Drive-in or Fly-In (but flying is more fun)

FREE Coffee and sweets provided.

WHY? Do YOU feel the need to fly somewhere – but where?

OR would you like to meet a few pilots for conversation?

We will meet approximately monthly? It would be great if you can be there! Feel free to invite others.

The idea is just to meet other local pilots and swap information and stories and keep it VERY informal – NOT a meeting.

But if someone suggests flying somewhere just for fun, a few of us might decide to go as well.

There is a Courtesy Car available to drive into Bisbee but it's First-come basis/no reservation.

If you have never landed at Bisbee (P04), here's some basic info:

Runway 17/35 paved; 6,000 ft long;

LEFT patterns at 5,800 ft MSL; CTAF 122.80.

Also a dirt runway 02/20, 2,650 ft long; LEFT pattern; (usually only used if a strong cross-wind on the main runway)

AVGAS (self-serve) is usually available.

Eric & Sheryl Swisher operate a Flight School so say "Hi" to them and point any potential student pilots their way.

Call, email or text me if you have questions.

[Dick Decker](#)

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email: <mailto:ddecker@portouw.com>

Other News

- Jamming of the very weak GPS signals has been a problem for many years,

particularly OCONUS, but meaconing (spoofing) is a growing problem. GPS (and ADS-B) have no encryption making them very vulnerable to spoofing. [Video on GPS spoofing.](#)

- [New ADOT Airport Development Guidelines](#)
- ADOT aircraft registrations no longer come with a sticker.



For SALE

Aircraft Builders Tool Sale

Steve Dickinson has sold his RV-9 and is cleaning out his hangar. This is a great opportunity to add to your tool collection. Download/view Steve's flyer with pictures of items for sale [HERE](#).

RV Builder's tool and Equipment Sale

One day only sale!

Hangar 27, KFHU, Libby Field, Sierra Vista, AZ.

Saturday, Feb. 10, 9AM to 3PM

Contact Steve for more info: 425-429-4915 or <mailto:sjdickinson@msn.com>

Ten years of building and five years of flying have produced a great number of quality tools. and equipment. Everything must go. If you are a builder, this sale is made for you. If you are already flying, take advantage of the many discounted pilot supplies.

View or download a list of items for sale [HERE](#).



Editor's notes: Two readers have reported that when they click on document links in the newsletter or in the transmitting email, that they are being asked to

login to their Microsoft account. With so few reports, I can't tell if this is because the recipient has an account and it recognizes their email address, or if it is doing this to everyone. PLEASE report stuff that doesn't seem to work right to me. If this is happening to anyone that *doesn't* have a Microsoft account, I'll look for another storage solution.

Please submit input, to include articles, pictures, and upcoming events before the end of the month to Larry Portouw, aviator@portouw.com. We would also like to identify an author for a Safety Corner submission each month.

