



WELCOME

As we approach the close of another fantastic year, it's the perfect time to look back on all we've accomplished together. From memorable fly-ins to Young Eagles events and new members joining our chapter, 2024 has been a year full of camaraderie, learning, and, of course, great flights. Each event, meeting, and project reminds us of the strong community we've built—a community that keeps growing with every new adventure we share.

This month, let's celebrate our chapter's highlights and the friendships that make it all possible. Here's to the experiences we've enjoyed this year and the exciting plans already in the works for 2025.

Thank you for being part of our journey and making this a year to remember. Here's to blue skies ahead! ✈

December 14, 2024

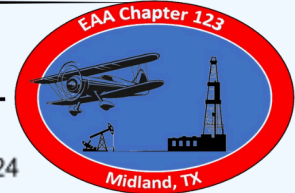
EAA Chapter 123 Holiday Gathering

Eddie Bucks Strip

7TX7

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM





November Chapter Meeting Minutes

Food and Fellowship: Members enjoyed good food and mingling, setting the stage for an engaging and productive meeting.

Special Presentations: John Carnett shared captivating photos of the recent rocket launch from South Padre. He also did a brief presentation on the EAA's e-Magazine highlighting valuable resources available to members.

Young Eagles Program: Macon McDonald, John Carnett, Kelly Gayneaux, and Dr. Tim Campagna volunteered as pilots or ground crew for our upcoming Young Eagles event. We're grateful for their commitment to inspiring the next generation of aviators!

New Pilot Achievement: Congratulations to Jason for earning his Private Pilot License!

Holiday Gathering Announcement: This year's holiday gathering is confirmed for December 14th at Eddie's place (7TX7) from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Come join us for a festive celebration!

Member Spotlights & Trips: Mike shared stories about his recent trip back home to California.

We welcomed Ashley, an air traffic controller, Paul's girlfriend, to the meeting.

Gaston's Adventure: John shared tales of their backcountry flying and fishing trip to Gaston's White River Resort. He was accompanied by two other planes, with Jason and Tina, Kelvin, and Dr. Campagna.

Lunch in Lajitas: John and Eddie recapped their memorable flight to Lajitas for lunch.

Planning for 2025: Discussions were held on elections for 2025. Members discussed donation efforts for the coming year. Ideas for a cookout or fly-in event were proposed, with a possible pancake breakfast or gathering in mid-March 2025. ✈️



2024 Year in Review

As we look back on 2024, it's amazing to see how much our chapter has grown and the milestones we've achieved together. From expanding our community to hosting events and inspiring the next generation of aviators, this year has been one to remember. Here's a look at our chapter's highlights:

Chapter Growth and Engagement

- **Facebook Growth:** Our Facebook following grew from 113 to 230! This growth has helped us connect with even more aviation enthusiasts, keeping everyone informed and engaged with chapter news and events.
- **Website Refresh:** This year, we launched a newly updated chapter website, making it easier for members and visitors to access event information, sign up for activities, and read our monthly newsletters.
- **Monthly Newsletters:** We successfully published 12 monthly newsletters filled with chapter updates, aviation stories, event reminders, and safety tips. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to making these newsletters informative and engaging!

Young Eagles Program

- **Young Eagles Flown:** Our Young Eagles program continues to spark excitement among young aspiring pilots. Thanks to our dedicated pilots and volunteers, many young people experienced the joy of flight for the first time this year.

2024 Month-by-Month Highlights

- **January:** We kicked off the year with a New Year's Fly-In, welcoming new members and setting a great tone for 2024. The fly-in actually took place at the end of December.
- **March:** A special Young Eagles event had an impressive turnout, with many Young Eagles taking to the skies.
- **July:** Celebrated the anniversary of the moon landing with a memorable fly-in to Crane County Airport, followed by a visit to the CAF Desert Squadron's annual car show.
- **September:** The "Fly Into Fall" event at Midland Airpark brought out families and aviation enthusiasts.



- **November:** At our annual chapter meeting, we reflected on the year's achievements and began setting our sights on an exciting year ahead in 2025.

Looking Ahead

Thank you to each member who has contributed time, enthusiasm, and dedication to make this year unforgettable. As we prepare for 2025, we're excited for the adventures, learning, and camaraderie that await us. ✈

[Click here to view on the web](#)

Meet Key Members!



Paul Valenstein, President

Hey there, I have been around planes since I was a baby, but I officially got my license in 2010. I'm a lifetime EAA member, and aside from controlling, I love to experience all the different sorts of aircraft I can get my hands on.

Click [HERE](#) to contact Paul via email



John Carnett, Vice President

Hello, I earned my private pilot license in 2002, and since then I added my instrument and seaplane ratings as well as getting my tail wheel endorsement. I currently fly a Carbon Cub FX-3 and a Columbia 400. I enjoy introducing people to general aviation through the EAA Eagle and Young Eagle programs.

Click [HERE](#) to contact John via email



Tim Campagna, Secretary/Treasurer

Hello, I've been a private pilot since 2000. I fly a Columbia 400 for the last 10 years, and I've been an EAA member since 2006. I really enjoy flying Young Eagles 🇺🇸!

Click [HERE](#) to contact Tim via email



Andrew McCarthy, Young Eagle/Eagle Coordinator

Hey there, I've earned my private pilot certificate in 2011. I've flown a variety of aircraft with most of my time in a Cessna 150 and a Flight Design CTSW. I've been an EAA member since 2014, and I've been supporting the Young Eagles program on the ground and in the air for almost a decade.

Click [HERE](#) to contact Andrew via email



Member Spotlight:
Eddie Buck and His
Powered Parachute
Adventures

Eddie Buck, a longtime member of EAA Chapter 123, has a unique and thrilling way of taking to the skies: a powered parachute. With years of experience flying these machines, Eddie has become an expert in this specialized area of aviation, and he's often seen gliding over the landscape in his brightly colored chute as the sun dips below the horizon.

Powered parachutes offer a one-of-a-kind flying experience, combining the exhilaration of open-air flight with the tranquility of soaring at low altitudes. Unlike traditional aircraft, powered parachutes have a canopy that allows for slower, more controlled flights—perfect for taking in scenic views and enjoying the peaceful moments up in the air.

Eddie's passion for powered parachutes reflects his adventurous spirit and love for innovation. He's a valued member of our chapter, always willing to share his knowledge and enthusiasm with anyone curious about this less common side of aviation. His dedication not only inspires others but also showcases the diverse ways our members engage with flying.





[A Little Something Extra](#)

For those who enjoy a good history story, I highly recommend checking out this YouTube video set at Corsicana Municipal Airport. It's an engaging and fascinating story that dives deep into the area's rich aviation history. The video is about two hours long, but it's well worth the time. Simply click below to watch it on YouTube.

[Click Here](#)



Outmatched by the warring powers of Europe and Asia during WWII, in 1939, the U.S. Army Air Corps started training thousands of pilots to take on the Axis alliance. This documentary reveals how an old tank farm could become a Field of Valor during World War Two.

Stars: Gary Farley, Sarah Farley, Vern Foster, Dr. Tommy Stringer



Final Flight Notes

1. **Winter Weather Readiness:** With colder temperatures setting in, prepare for winter flying conditions. Ice, snow, and frost can impact your aircraft's performance, so be sure to inspect surfaces thoroughly before each flight. Monitor weather updates closely, and be prepared to change plans if conditions shift..
2. **Battery Health:** Cold weather can affect battery performance, making it essential to keep your aircraft's battery in good shape. Store batteries in warmer environments when possible, and consider carrying a backup for portable avionics or other essential equipment.
3. **Emergency Equipment Check:** Start the new year prepared by double-checking your emergency equipment. Verify that items like first aid kits, fire extinguishers, and emergency locator transmitters are operational and well-stocked. Replace any expired items and ensure everything is easily accessible.
4. **Night Flight Precautions:** Shorter days mean more flying at dusk or night. Make sure all lighting systems are in working order, and keep a reliable flashlight on board. Adjust your night-flying mindset—remember that landmarks, obstacles, and terrain are harder to see, so plan routes accordingly.
5. **Post-Flight Inspection:** After a flight, especially in challenging weather, perform a thorough post-flight inspection. Check for any signs of wear, icing, or other issues that may need attention before the next flight. A few minutes of inspection can help prevent bigger issues down the road. →

Closing Message

As we close out another incredible year, it's a great time to reflect on all the memories, milestones, and new friendships that have made 2024 special. From our chapter events to memorable fly-ins, we've shared experiences that remind us of the strong community and passion for aviation that bring us together.



Thank you to every member who's contributed time, energy, and enthusiasm to our chapter. Your commitment and camaraderie are what make this group so special. Here's to a safe, fulfilling, and inspiring new year ahead—may 2025 bring even more adventures, learning, and moments to remember.

Wishing everyone blue skies and smooth landings in the year to come. Fly safe, and see you next year! ✈️

[Click here to view on the web](#)

Young Eagles



Founded in 1992, the Young Eagles program is dedicated to giving youth ages 8–17, an opportunity to go flying in a general aviation airplane. These flights are offered free of charge and are made possible through the generosity of EAA member volunteers.

It's the only program of its kind, with the sole mission to introduce and inspire kids in the world of aviation.

Today, the Young Eagles program has flown over 2 million kids.

For more information from EAA headquarters about the Young Eagles program, visit www.young eagles.org

If you would like more information from our local chapter, please click [HERE](#) to contact our Young Eagles Coordinator, Andrew McCarthy.

Requirements to fly Young Eagles:

The Young Eagles pilot requirements are basic, but **MUST** be followed:

1. Be a current EAA® member and hold an appropriate airman's certificate (sport pilot or greater).
2. Possess a current medical certificate (if applicable).
3. Be current to carry passengers in the aircraft you plan to use.
4. Have a current flight review.
5. Complete the Young Eagles registration form before the flight, including parent or legal guardian signature, and pilot signature.
6. Conduct flights in an aircraft that is in airworthy condition.
7. Have aircraft passenger liability insurance for the aircraft used (owned, rented, or borrowed) with \$100,000 per seat coverage.
8. Adhere to all applicable Federal Air Regulations (FARs).
9. Complete both the online training and basic background check as a part of EAA's Youth Protection Policy. For more information visit EAA.org/YouthProtection.

Young Eagles Coordinator

Name: Andrew McCarthy

City: Midland



Community Corner

Call for Contributions: We're always looking for fresh ideas and perspectives to enrich our EAA chapter community! Whether you have a story to share, an event to announce, or an aviation-related topic you're passionate about, we invite you to contribute to our newsletter. Your input helps us create content that resonates with our members and fosters a sense of belonging within our aviation family. Have a suggestion for a future event, workshop, or project? Want to share your aviation journey or highlight a fellow member's accomplishments? We'd love to hear from you! To submit your contributions or ideas, please email kjgayneaux@gmail.com. Let's soar together and make our EAA chapter's future as bright as the skies above! ✈️

