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WELCOME

Hello EAA Chapter Members and Friends,

Welcome to our July newsletter! As we soar into the heart of summer, we find ourselves filled with gratitude and pride. July is a month of celebration, not only for the warmth and long days it brings but also for the freedom we cherish. As we prepare to honor Independence Day, let us remember and give thanks to those who have fought and continue to fight for the liberties we enjoy today.

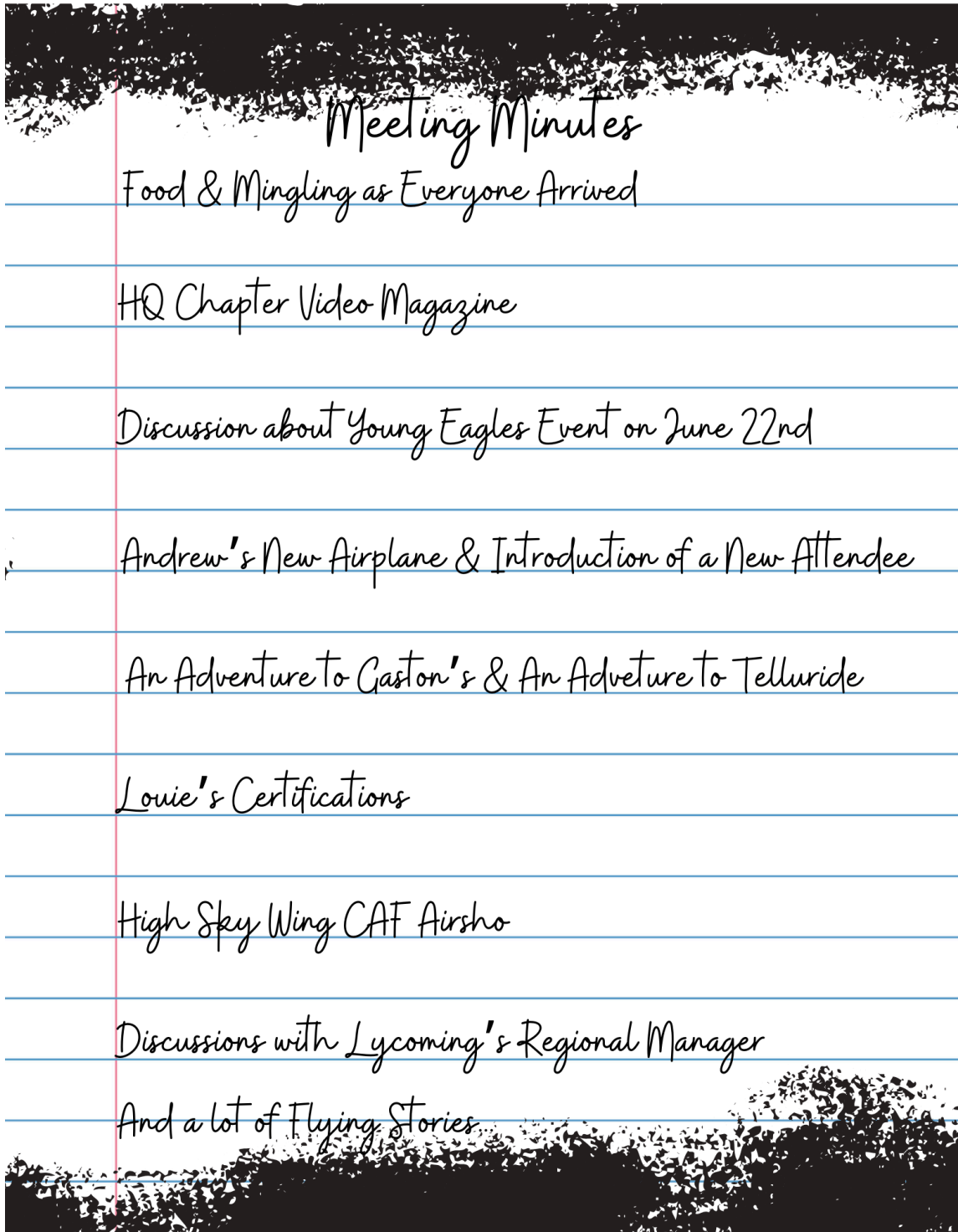
In this edition, you'll find exciting updates on upcoming events, highlights from recent gatherings, and inspiring stories from our fellow aviators. Whether you're building, flying, or dreaming about your next adventure in the skies, we hope this newsletter fuels your passion and keeps you connected with our vibrant EAA community.

Fly high and stay safe! ✈️





Chapter Meeting Details





Chapter Highlights: Part I

Louie, the Hospice and Patient Dog: This story may be a little off-topic from our usual flying adventures, but at EAA, we value volunteering and donating our time, and this story fits right in with that spirit.

Meet Louie, John's lovable Goldendoodle. Louie is not just any dog; he's a certified therapy dog with the Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD). In addition to his certification, Louie volunteers for the Midland Memorial Auxiliary group and serves as a Hospice Hound volunteer, bringing joy and comfort to sick patients at our local hospital.



The Healing Power of Louie: Louie, who was born on Valentine's Day and is now three years old, has been with John since he was a puppy. His visits are a highlight for many patients, providing a much-needed boost to their spirits. The presence of a friendly, loving dog like Louie can reduce stress, lower blood pressure, and alleviate feelings of loneliness and depression. For patients facing serious illnesses or nearing the end of their lives, a visit from Louie can bring moments of happiness and a sense of normalcy.

Patients look forward to Louie's visits. His wagging tail, soft fur, and gentle nature create an atmosphere of warmth and care. For some, Louie's visit is the highlight of their day, providing comfort and companionship that goes beyond words.

Volunteering Beyond Aviation: John's dedication to training and working with Louie is a beautiful example of how we can make a difference in our community. Volunteering and giving back can take many forms, and John and Louie's work is a touching reminder of the impact we can have on the lives of others.

Let's celebrate the spirit of volunteering that defines our EAA chapter, whether it's flying Young Eagles or bringing joy to those in need through the companionship of a special dog like Louie.

Thank you, John and Louie, for your inspiring work and for reminding us of the many ways we can contribute to the well-being of our community. ✈️

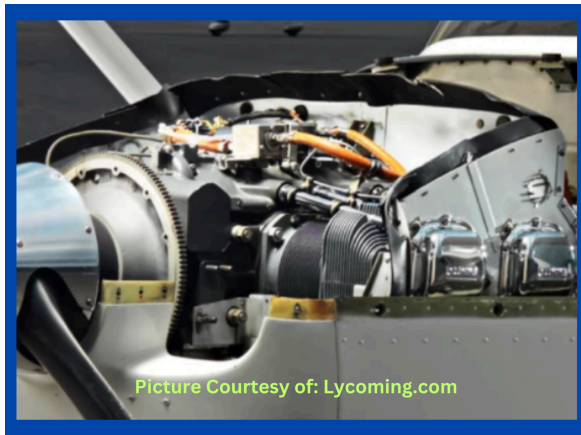


Chapter Highlights: Part II

A Visit from James Tripp of Lycoming Engines: This month, we had the pleasure of welcoming an unexpected but very exciting guest to our chapter meeting. James Tripp, the Regional Manager for Lycoming Engines, joined us and shared some valuable insights into the world of aviation engines.

Insights from Lycoming Engines: James provided an in-depth update on the status of engines for both certified and experimental aircraft. He noted that certified engines currently have long lead times, which has been a challenge for many. However, for experimental engines, such as the Thunderbolt, the lead times are even longer. This information was crucial for those planning their builds and needing to schedule accordingly.

He also explained how Lycoming works closely with the local union in Pennsylvania to keep mechanics and technicians employed and engaged in the manufacturing process. Despite facing significant challenges, Lycoming is committed to their customers, workforce and has invested in new manufacturing equipment which is key in increasing production to meet the demand.



James has been with [Lycoming](#) for 12 years and covers a very broad area. It has been difficult for him to get out to many different areas of the region, but that is what he is focusing on now. He wants to get the word out that Lycoming is still here and building engines as fast as they can.

We are grateful to James for taking the time to visit and share his knowledge with our chapter. His discussion with our chapter was not only informative but also inspiring, reminding us of the importance of staying informed and engaged with the latest developments in aviation technology.

Thank you, James, for an excellent presentation and for your continued contributions to the aviation community. ✈️



Defining Moments

Young Eagles Event: Soaring Success on June 22nd

Our [Young Eagles](#) event on June 22nd was a fantastic success, with a total of 14 [Young Eagles](#) and 3 parents taking to the skies. The event kicked off at 8:30 AM and wrapped up by noon, filled with many smiles and a bit of apprehension from some, but overall, it was an incredible experience for everyone involved.

The excitement was palpable as our young participants got the opportunity to soar through the skies, experiencing the thrill of flight for the first time. The smiles and expressions of appreciation from these young individuals were a testament to the impact of this program, providing them with the experience of a lifetime.

A huge thank you goes out to our dedicated pilots who made this event possible: John Carnett, John Crain, Joe Gamertsfelder, and Kelly Gayneau. They generously provided their planes, fuel, and time to fly our Young Eagles. Your contributions are invaluable, and we are deeply grateful for your support.

We also want to extend our gratitude to our ground support team, whose efforts were crucial to the event's success. Eddie Buck, Andrew McCarthy, Macon McDonald, and Charlie Spence ensured everything ran smoothly on the ground, from organizing the participants to ensuring safety protocols were followed.

Events like these highlight the spirit of our EAA chapter, bringing together volunteers and aviation enthusiasts to inspire the next generation of pilots. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and resources to make this event a memorable one for our [Young Eagles](#). ✈️





On the Horizon

Exciting Events Ahead

As we move into the summer months, there's a lot to look forward to in the world of aviation and within our EAA chapter.

Oshkosh [AirVenture](#): July 22nd - July 28th

This month marks a significant event for all aviation enthusiasts: Oshkosh [AirVenture](#)! Scheduled from July 22nd through July 28th, this annual gathering is the largest aviation event in the world, bringing together pilots, aircraft owners, and aviation enthusiasts from around the globe. Whether you're attending in person or following the highlights online, AirVenture promises a week filled with incredible airshows, informative workshops, and a chance to connect with fellow aviation lovers. Don't miss out on this extraordinary celebration of flight!

High Sky Wing Commemorative Air Force [AirSho](#): September 7th & 8th

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for the High Sky Wing Commemorative Air Force [AirSho](#), taking place on September 7th and 8th. This local event is always a favorite, featuring historical aircraft, thrilling aerobatic performances, and a chance to see aviation history come to life. It's an event not to be missed, offering something for everyone in the family.

Fall Young Eagles Event Discussions

In addition to these exciting events, we're also beginning discussions for our Fall Young Eagles Event. These events are a cornerstone of our chapter's activities, providing young individuals with the opportunity to experience the wonder of flight. If you're interested in volunteering or have suggestions for making this event even more impactful, please reach out to our planning committee. Your involvement and ideas are what make these events a success. ✈️



Plane Fun: Special Edition

Remembering Hobbs Army Airfield: This month, we are excited to highlight a remarkable tribute to the rich aviation history of our region: the life-size metal art of a B-17 on the Lovington Highway, known as “Fortress of the Plains.” This intriguing piece, created by Brian Norwood of Jal, New Mexico, serves as a memorial to the Hobbs Army Airfield. The city of Hobbs commissioned this incredible artwork, which stands as a testament to the area's significant contribution during World War II. You can learn more about its construction at [Brian Norwood Art](https://briannorwoodart.com/fortress_on_the_plains).



Picture courtesy of:

https://briannorwoodart.com/fortress_on_the_plains

Preserving History: The City of Hobbs has made substantial efforts to keep the memory of the Hobbs Army Airfield alive. One such initiative is the free book, “Keep ‘Em Flying,” which details the construction, operation, and post-war history of the airfield. This book offers an in-depth look at the airfield’s pivotal role during the war and is available for download [here](#).

The Hobbs Army Airfield was not only a central hub but also supported six auxiliary airfields used for training purposes. These auxiliary fields included:

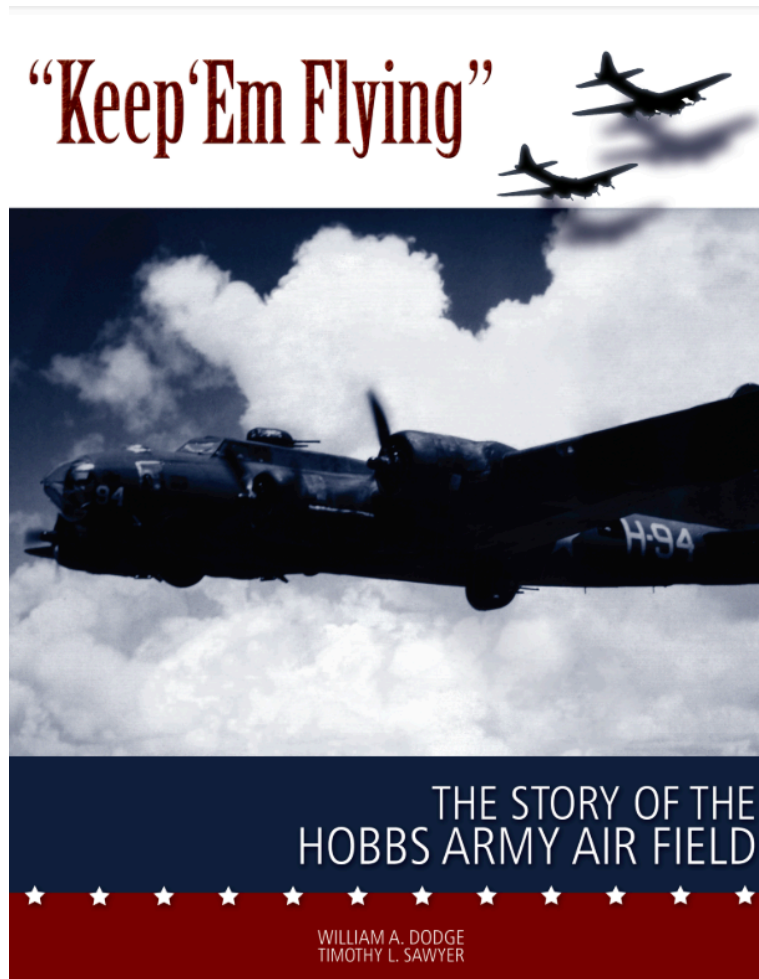
- **[Knowles Aux #1](#):** Located 14 miles northeast of Hobbs AAF.
- **Hobbs Aux #2:** Situated east of Lovington.
- **Hobbs Aux #3:** Southwest of Lovington.
- **[Hobbs Aux #4](#):** 19 miles west of Hobbs AAF.
- **[Wink Aux](#):** 3.5 miles WNW of Wink, TX, later reused as Winkler County Airport.
- **[Hobbs Municipal Aux #6](#):** 5 miles south of Hobbs AAF, later reused as Lea County Regional Airport.



For those interested in exploring these sites further, the fun and informative website, Abandoned & Little-Known Airfields, provides detailed documentation of these fields. You can visit it [here](#).

A Legacy Worth Remembering: The history of the Hobbs Army Airfield and its auxiliary fields is a fascinating chapter in the broader story of World War II aviation. While a full history of activities around Hobbs during WWII is beyond the scope of this brief, the resources mentioned provide an excellent starting point for those eager to delve deeper into the area's rich aviation legacy.

In commemorating the Hobbs Army Airfield, we honor the legacy of those who served and trained there, ensuring that their contributions to our nation's history are never forgotten. ✈️





Final Flight Notes

As we wrap up this month's newsletter, let's take a moment to reflect on the unique journey that each flight represents. Our shared passion for aviation brings us together, and it's this community spirit that keeps us soaring. As we enjoy the summer skies, let's continue to prioritize safety and support each other in our flying adventures.

Safety Tips for July:

Runway Safety: Always be vigilant for Foreign Object Debris (FOD) on the runway. Small objects can cause significant damage, so a thorough pre-flight check of your departure path is essential.

Cockpit Organization: Keep your cockpit tidy and organized. Loose items can become hazards during turbulence or abrupt maneuvers. Ensure all equipment is securely stowed and accessible.

Pilot Fatigue: Summer activities can be exhausting. Be mindful of your physical condition and ensure you are well-rested before flying. Fatigue can impair your decision-making and reaction times.

Passenger Briefing: Always brief your passengers on safety procedures, including the use of seat belts, emergency exits, and the location of safety equipment. Make sure they understand the importance of staying calm and following instructions in an emergency.

Weight and Balance: Pay extra attention to weight and balance calculations, especially with varying passenger loads and baggage. Overloading can adversely affect aircraft performance and handling.

Insect Control: Summer means more insects. Ensure your aircraft's vents, intakes, and control surfaces are clear of insect nests and debris. Regularly inspect and clean these areas to avoid any obstructions.

Radio Etiquette: Maintain good radio etiquette to ensure clear and effective communication. Speak clearly, concisely, and listen attentively. This reduces the risk of misunderstandings and keeps everyone in the airspace informed.

By incorporating these practices, we can enjoy a safe and rewarding flying season. Let's continue to share our experiences, learn from each other, and celebrate the freedom of flight.

Happy flying and blue skies to all! ✈️



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!

We look forward to an exciting 2024 and we are wanting to **grow our organization** to share aviation with more great folks in our community. We are currently updating our website, and I encourage you to check it out at chapters.eaa.org/ea123. If you are not already a member of our Facebook group, I also encourage you to join there as well facebook.com/groups/ea123.

Stay updated with any last-minute changes, join the conversation and receive timely updates regarding our meetings and events.

We look forward to seeing familiar faces and extending a warm welcome to newcomers at our future meetings! See you there!

Call for a Dedicated Volunteer

We are currently seeking a dedicated volunteer to step into the role of Young Eagles/Eagles Coordinator. This is a fantastic opportunity to inspire the next generation of aviators and contribute to our chapter's ongoing success. Responsibilities include organizing rallies, coordinating with pilots and young participants, and fostering a love for aviation within our community. Andrew has provided a comprehensive document outlining the tasks associated with this role, which will be included in this newsletter. If you're passionate about aviation and interested in this rewarding position, please reach out to us for more details, mccarthy.ac@gmail.com. [Skip to the Responsibilities Document by CLICKING HERE!](#) ✈️



Young Eagles Coordinator – EAA Chapter 123 - Description of Role

General duties

1. Build and maintain a list of participants for upcoming events in the order that they registered (to avoid line-jumping). This pool of future participants is the basis of the local Young Eagles (YE) program. It allows you to quickly form a YE Rally with 15-20 participating kids.
2. Respond in a timely fashion via email, Facebook, text and phone to discuss YE and Eagles programs and direct participants to the appropriate sign-up location online or add them to the list for upcoming events.
3. Follow all EAA rules and guidelines for the EAA program

Pre-event

Refer to EAA's Rally Planning Checklist: [YE GeneralSupport 2023 Digital YEHandbook](#)

1. Choose a date for the next YE event, in consultation with chapter pilots and volunteers
2. Gather a list of pilots who are available and willing to fly kids on the selected date (be sure the pilots meet requirements to fly YE)
3. Obtain permission from the FBO or location where the Young Eagles rally will be held and confirm with airport that no other major events are planned that might impact the YE rally (we have used Floris Flight Services at KMDD for the last several events – John Carnett typically asks Floris for permission).
4. Create a Young Eagles event on the yeday.org website (when you are working from a pre-registration list, I highly recommend you create a “Private Event” to avoid line-jumping)
5. Apply for free YE event insurance through the EAA website at least 30 days before the event
6. Order supplies: ensure printed materials are available for the event (in case iPad app doesn't work, paper copies of waiver will be required). Extra copies are a good idea because of writing errors made by parents and by EAA volunteers.
 - a. Young Eagles Registration and Waiver Form (Rev 06/21)
 - b. Young Eagles Engagement Guide
 - c. Young Eagles Promotional Brochure
 - d. Young Eagles Logbook
 - e. Young Eagles Certificate
 - f. Parent Ride-along liability form
7. When the event is confirmed (# of pilots committed, weather looks ok), begin to fill the event by calling or texting YE parents and directing them to the yeday.org website to sign up. This is best done 1-2 weeks prior to the event.

Event

1. Arrive ~1 hour before the first scheduled YE flight and set up laptop, printer, and iPad. Log onto Wi-Fi.



2. Arrange paperwork on table
3. Greet arriving parents and YE's
4. Ensure parents sign the waiver(s) needed, either on the iPad app or on paper
5. Match each YE with a pilot
6. Fill out logbooks and YE certificates
7. Greet returning YE's and parents and hand over the logbook and certificate, and explain the benefits available for free (see back of logbook for code)

Post-event

1. If paper forms were used, confirm all info was filled out on the forms (pilot info including EAA #)
2. Mail paper forms to the EAA
3. Provide post-event statistics to chapter leadership

Description of Role by EAA Chapter 123 YE Coordinator Andrew McCarthy, 5/13/2024

The End