

Links to Dreams



Volume 2, Issue 2

April-May 2025

President's Comments:

Hello friends!

As we shake off winter and start into Spring 2025, we enter our third year. I want to thank everyone for their passion and dedication to our thriving EAA Chapter. We are very excited to spend another year filled with opportunities for socializing and exciting aviation activities.

In this bimonthly newsletter you will find a wrap-up of our latest get-togethers. 2025 started with the launch of our monthly VMC Club meetings, which continue on the first Thursday of each month. We hope to see you at the next one on 1 May at Jim Bedsole's house in Sebastian Cove.

Speaking of get-togethers, please note that our next gathering is April 21st at the FBO Conference Room. We will have a representative from our local aerospace company - Qarbon Aerospace – who will give us insights to the products and services they provide here in our local community. You can read the details about our upcoming monthly social gatherings in the News section below.

As we mentioned previously, we are planning introductory flights for both youth and adults this year. This year we are starting in the spring with the adults first, and our young flyers will enjoy their Discovery Flights in the fall. The introductory flights for adults are called Eagle Flights. Check out this newsletter for information on our **17 May Eagle Flights**. Make sure to register soon!

Also...Please check out our member spotlight this month. You will get to know the very kind and dedicated Ted Zarkowsky – a wonderful gentleman with many years living in our local community.

Our Chapter brings people together—whether you fly, build, restore, or simply love aviation, you are welcome here! Invite your friends, donate, and share your ideas at our Social Gatherings.

We are on the right track in bringing people together and inspiring our community to embrace aviation—both our youth and our adults. Please make sure to tell your friends and family about your EAA Chapter 1685 – and join us!

And be sure to check out the flyer for the Lake Country Flying Club on the last page.

We hope to see you at our upcoming events in the New Year!

Fly Safe!
Kalina Milani

Have you been to our website? It has all the information on how to become a member of our Chapter, make a donation – and more! Please visit <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea1685>.

Our Chapter Mission: To grow participation in aviation by promoting and supporting recreational flying in our community and inspiring the next generation of aviation enthusiasts.



CHAPTER NEWS

Chapter 1685 VMC Club is Here

Jim Bedsole, our VMC Club Coordinator, inaugurated Chapter 1685's EAA VMC Club by kicking off its first monthly meeting on January 2nd at his lovely Sebastian Cove airpark home. It was a fun and engaging experience with Jim's interesting scenario that had everyone involved and anxious to tackle the next aviation 'conundrum'. This program is part of EAA's aviation safety initiatives to help maintain pilot proficiency. Our Chapter is purposely beginning with a VMC Club to eventually offer both VMC and IMC Club meetings.

As pilots, we aim to build proficiency and our Chapter's VMC Club meetings are a great way for us to network and share our knowledge and experience. The meetings organically allow a free exchange of information that improves awareness, skills, and solid aviation decision-making.

Please join us on **May 1st** for our next Chapter 1685 VMC Club meeting. These monthly meetings begin at **6:00pm**, but you can plan to arrive any time after **5:30pm**. The details about the next upcoming meetings are below. Feel free to bring your favorite drink!

We hope to have a great turnout. If you have any questions, you can contact Jim Bedsole at 706-817-3480.

WHAT: EAA Chapter 1685 VMC Club monthly meetings.

WHEN: Every first **Thursday: May 1st, June 5th**, etc.

WHERE: 116 Rockwell Dr., Eatonton, GA 31024, Sebastian Cove Airport (32GA) at Lake Oconee.

EAA Chapter 1685 Links to Dreams March Gathering



The Chapter's March gathering featured our beloved FBO Manager Mr Bruce Hood. Bruce outlined the many duties and responsibilities of the FBO Manager at Baldwin County Regional Airport. His talk was very eye-opening as many of us had no idea how expansive the responsibilities are to keep our 'little' airport viable and to service the many aircraft that take off and land each and every day. Thank you, Bruce!

EAA Flying Start Program - EAA Eagle Flights are coming in May!

That's right! **EAA International Learn To Fly Day is 17 May 2025** – the same day as **Armed Forces Day!** This much-awaited program provides an introductory flight experience dedicated to our adults – the first time our Chapter is hosting this event. Make sure to check out our calendar of events on our website for the details, and our social media as well.

You do not want to miss this fantastic opportunity offered by your EAA Chapter 1685, thanks to the generosity of our pilots and the help of our kind volunteers. Remember to tell your family and friends!

EAA's Eagle Flights® is a free introductory flight experience and informal mentoring program designed to welcome and encourage adults who want to discover flying, but don't know how or where to take that first step. It begins with a hands-on introduction, where you'll fly with a local EAA-member pilot who will let you follow along at the controls of the airplane to get a feel for what being a pilot is all about. After the flight, he or she can help you learn more about how to get involved in your local aviation community, including the next steps you can take on the path to becoming a pilot. The best part? The whole experience is free. No sales. No pressure. Just a whole lot of fun and education with a big take-home point: Your dream of flying is a lot closer than you think.



WHAT: EAA Chapter 1685 Eagle Flights.

WHEN: **Saturday May 17, 2025**

WHERE: Baldwin County Regional Airport (KMLJ)
216 Airport Rd., Milledgeville, GA 31061.

HOW: Register at: <https://flyingstart.org/?818>

Slots are limited. Make sure to sign up early to guarantee your slot!



Monthly Social Gatherings

Our get-together takes place at our airport from **5:30 pm to 7:30 pm** every 3rd Monday of the month.

Please note:

The next in-person Meeting and Social Gathering will be on **April 21st, 2025**, starting with refreshments from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm, followed by a Chapter update and a special presentation by Qarbon Aerospace – a local aerospace product and service company.

Spread the word and invite your friends to join EAA Chapter 1685!

Did you know that our EAA Chapter is here for anyone interested in everything aviation, not just pilots and aircraft builders? Come and join us by becoming a member! Please visit <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea1685>.

This Chapter can offer our members a free 6-month EAA general trial membership. It includes the full set of EAA membership benefits at no cost, and as newcomers, they will:

- Receive *EAA Sport Aviation* magazine
- Have access to the members-only area of EAA's website
- Obtain membership discounts on programs such as EAA Virtual Flight Academy and Sporty's Video Tips Library, career planning and job search resources, hotels, car rental and products discounts, EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, and more!
- Free access to nearly 400 museums worldwide!

Student Membership

Student Membership for EAA Young Eagles includes:

- EAA's free student membership
- Academy of Model Aircraft (AMA) membership
- Sporty's ground school
- Free first flight lesson
- Ability to apply for an EAA flight training scholarship (up to \$11,000)

Young Eagles Flight Plan

- ☒ Step 1 – Become a Young Eagle
- ☐ Step 2 – EAA Student Membership
- ☐ Step 3 – EAA AeroEducate
- ☐ Step 4 – Sporty's Learn to Fly Course (\$299 value)
- ☐ Step 5 – First Flight Lesson (\$200 value)
 - Written Exam Reimbursement (\$175 Value)

EAA Chapter 1685 Young Eagles

If you are an EAA Student member, please click below to join our Chapter:

[EAA Chapter 1685 membership form](#)



Featured Chapter Member: Ted Zarkowsky

My attraction to aviation and flying started when I was very young. I was one of those kids that liked building plastic models. I eventually progressed to building balsa wood control line gas powered models – flying them in circles in the back yard. Eventually, I raised my skill levels higher by building radio control planes. I can't tell you how many times I got in trouble with my parents as my hobby got in the way of doing my schoolwork.

When in High School in the early 70's, I remember to this day when my father, who worked at Grumman Aerospace, took me to a plant to see aircraft under construction. I will never forget seeing the assembly of a Lunar Excursion Module (LEM)!

Going out on the flight line, I took the opportunity to sit in the aircraft cockpit of an OV-1 Mohawk and an HU-16 Albatross. Even though I was already interested in aviation, this was the hook that made me yearn to fly and start a career in the aircraft business.

I was accepted to Nathaniel Hawthorn College in New Hampshire and obtained my flight certificates along with a Bachelor of Science degree in business. At the time, this school was considered to be the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University of the north. When I graduated in 1976, if you didn't have a degree, adequate



flight time, or military experience, it was very difficult to get into the airlines. As I was trying to build time, I took a job in Savannah at Grumman American (now Gulfstream Aerospace) – in the customer service and warranty department. This was when I became a company pilot for the light aircraft division, in addition to administering warranty claims. As I flew light aircraft around the country, I initially thought that I was only building time to ultimately apply for an airline job. But I really liked the engineering, maintenance, and business aspects of the

aviation industry. And as I married and began a family, I found myself hired as a company pilot at the Milledgeville plant, flying to Grumman plants up and down the east coast. I also began helping at the airfield FBO with charter flights. My career of over 40 years in aviation entailed all aspects of aviation - including program management and working on many commercial and military aircraft.

My desire to fly has never diminished after all these years and I still love getting into the front seat.

Keep Flying!

Ted Zarkowsky



SHARE YOUR STORY!

Share your aviation story with us and help inspire others! Send your story to: info@eaa1685.org and you will be featured in one of our upcoming Newsletters soon. Remember, your aviation story may be just what someone else needed to hear to fulfill their dream in aviation.



Other Items of Interest

A Note from Treasurer Kirk Bauer

Hello fellow Chapter members! I just want to give everyone a gentle reminder that our local chapter relies on your dues to fund operations. The EAA mothership does not provide any resources. Consequently, our chapter dues are separate from our payments to EAA. If you have not yet paid your dues, you can do so using the following website: <https://square.link/u/WFzaZ7jj>

Thank you for your support!

Full time Flight School:

A Full time Flight School is operational at the Baldwin County Regional Airport! Horizon Aviation, headquartered at Falcon Field Atlanta Regional Airport (KFFC), and is allocating a full-time aircraft and Flight Instructor here at KMLJ for those interested in pursuing their passion for aviation.

Please contact them directly and get ready to soar! Horizon Aviation: (470) 332-0787. <http://www.HorizonAviationGA.com>

EAA Chapter 1685's Technical Counselor

Please join us as we thank Vice President Jim Payne for volunteering to be our Technical Counselor. EAA Technical Counselors are experienced airplane builders, restorers, and mechanics who volunteer their time with other EAA members who are in the process of building or restoring their own aircraft. Among many things, Jim is an experienced A&P mechanic and is building the world's smallest twin-engine aircraft, the *Cri-Cri*. You can learn more about this impressive project by following his YouTube channel: [CriKit Aviation](#)

Would you like to be a volunteer or a mentor?

Please let us know if you would like to be a volunteer or mentor in any of these areas:

- Newsletter Editor
- Membership Coordinator
- EAA Safety Programs Flight Advisor
- EAA Aviation Education Seminars
- IMC Club Mentor





Support our Chapter with your donation by scanning this QR code:



Follow Chapter 1685 on Social Media!

Please follow us, like and share our Instagram and Facebook pages: @ [eaa1685](#)

Thank you, volunteers!



Some of our members, friends and volunteers: left to right, from front to back: Roberto Hornung, Kirk Bauer, Mark Hall, Leth Hornung, Julius Richards, Kadian Leslie, Kalina Milani, Danielle Payne, Andrew Strickland, Eli Robinson, Ken Greenwood, Andy Milani and Jim Payne

Questions?

Please feel free to contact us at:

EAA 1685

President: Kalina Milani

Contact: (256) 457-9671

Email: info@eaa1685.org

Website: <https://chapters.eaa.org/eaa1685>

Please spread the word and help us bring together our grassroots community of aviators, enthusiasts, innovators and bring our younger generation closer to aviation!

See you all soon!

**COME FLY
WITH US!**



Lake Country Flying Club

**Current Pilots, Rusty Pilots,
Student Pilots
New, Old & Not Yet Pilots**

**EQUITY MEMBERSHIPS
AVAILABLE**

Contact Chapter Member

Mark Hall at lcfc3j7@gmail.com

Ever Dream of *Learning to Fly?*



If you've ever dreamed about flying, this **free informational meeting** will help you get off to a Flying Start!

- Experience recreational aviation firsthand with a free introductory flight
- Get practical answers to your questions about learning to fly
- Discover what you can do with a pilot certificate
- Learn about your local EAA chapter, airport, and flight training options
- Meet other people who share and support your interest in aviation

Event Information

Hosted by EAA Chapter 1685

When: Saturday, May 17, 2025

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Where: Baldwin County Regional Airport

216 Airport Road NE
Milledgeville, GA 31061

Contact Information

Name: Andrew Milani

Phone Number: 910-273-0956

Email: milaniandy@gmail.com

Website: Chapters.EAA.org/EAA1685

