

# Links to Dreams



Volume 1, Issue 5

May 2024

## President's Comments:

Dear Lake Country friends,

It is with great pleasure that I write this note for the May issue of our Newsletter! As you will learn in more detail through the links provided in the News section of this Newsletter, our EAA Chapter and its team of volunteers delivered two significant and very worthy events last month during our Spring Aviation Weekend. Testimonials from parents who attended these events indicate that many of our local youth are now very inspired and interested in the various fields in aviation, both in the civilian and military spectrum.

Our first event happened on the evening of 19 April, at the Goldstein Center for the Performing Arts at Georgia Military College (GMC) here in Milledgeville. The facial expressions on the attendees, including over 300 GMC Corps of Cadets and local community members, was one of complete awe – as CW5 (Ret) Doug Englen delivered his first-hand account of the raid on Osama bin Laden's compound in 2011. Doug not only shared fascinating details of that raid, but he also spoke about a rescue event where he led two massive MH-47G Chinook Army helicopters on an "extraction" of a wounded Special Forces soldier.

And on the morning of Saturday, 20 April, our Chapter hosted its first EAA Young Eagles Rally for kids aged 8 to 17.

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

We had over 24 youngsters sign up online, filling the available spaces in a matter of hours.

Our Young Eagles flew aboard three separate airplanes: a Cessna 172, a Piper P-28 Dakota and a Vans RV-10. These Discovery Flights were generously donated by owners and Chapter members, whose smiles and excitement were only surpassed by the kids themselves.

I want to extend a big Thank You on behalf of our Chapter to all those who helped organize and deliver these two great events: our Chapter volunteers, GMC's President LTG (Ret) Bill Caldwell - and his team, Jim Wolfgang - Chairman of the Baldwin County Regional Airport Advisory Committee, Mr. Bruce Hood, airport FBO manager, Maryllis Wolfgang, our volunteer photographer, Roberto Hornung - our Young Eagles Coordinator and a devoted aviation teacher at Baldwin County High School, Mr. Mark Craddock and his Boy Scout Troop 124, and of course, our Young Eagles pilots, Tom Osborne, Mark Hall and Kirk Bauer – our May featured Chapter member.

Please spread the word about our Chapter and join us. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Kalina Milani

**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

### EAA Chapter 1685's first Speaker Series presentation "My Story in Army Aviation" was incredible!

Our first speaker series event was headlined by U.S. Army Special Operation Aviation flight leader CW5 (Ret) Doug Englen. Co-hosted by the Georgia Military College (GMC), our speaker attracted an interested audience who were visibly appreciative of the historic nature of his experiences. GMC has kindly recorded the full presentation and made it available for us on its YouTube channel on this link: [Video Here](#)



CW5 Doug Englen at the Goldstein Theater, GMC in Milledgeville on April 19, 2024.

### Baldwin County Regional Airport has its very first EAA Young Eagles Rally!

24 kids took part in the opportunity of a lifetime! These fortunate kids who managed to get a ride were aged between 8 and 17 and flew over Lake Sinclair and downtown Milledgeville - all free of cost thanks to the generosity of our Chapter members. You can read a few testimonials at The Union-Recorder's recent article "Young Eagles", available here: [https://unionrecorder-cnhi.newsmemory.com/?publink=267d78357\\_134d2a0](https://unionrecorder-cnhi.newsmemory.com/?publink=267d78357_134d2a0)



Left: Mark Hall takes Young Eagles on Lake Country Flying Club's PA-28.

Right: Our fliers and Kirk Bauer's Vans RV-10.



## Did You Know?

As a *Links to Dreams Young Eagles* participant, our young fliers are getting access to:

- EAA's free student membership
- Academy of Model Aircrafts (AMA) membership
- Sporty's ground school
- Free first flight lesson
- Ability to apply for an EAA flight training scholarship (up to \$10,000)

Please spread the word and help us bring our younger generation closer to aviation!

Did you also 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!

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 SportAir Workshops, EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, and more!



## WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A VOLUNTEER?

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

- Become a member of our Board of Directors (such as: Web Editor, Membership Coordinator and more)
- Young Eagles Build and Fly
- Young Eagle & Eagle Flights
- Youth Builds
- Fly-ins, Cookouts, Pancake Breakfasts
- Homebuilding & Restoration Presenter
- EAA Safety Programs Flight Advisor, Technical Counselor
- EAA Aviation Education Seminars
- IMC / VMC Club







## Featured Chapter Member: Kirk Bauer

Kirk Bauer is the treasurer of Chapter 1685 and took his first flight lesson approximately four years ago, recently passing 500 hours of flight time. Kirk always wanted to be a pilot, but he'll be the first to tell you that he also has way too many hobbies. It only took the right amount of extra money, free time, and the elimination of some other hobbies to make it happen.

His long delay before starting flight training may be even more surprising if you knew his background in aviation. As a child, Kirk had an intense interest in everything related to aviation and space flight. This was fostered by a father who was an Air Traffic Controller; and by his growing up very close to March Air Force Base and annually watching its incredible air show.



Kirk received a BS in Computer Engineering from Georgia Tech and enjoyed being president of the Georgia Tech Sport Parachute Club. He was a very active skydiver throughout college and for many years afterward, accumulating over 1,600 total jumps. As a skydiver, Kirk's primary interest was Canopy Relative Work, which led to him being part of four different world records over a ten-year timespan. Specifically, in 2007, Kirk was part of the world's largest canopy formation consisting of 100 jumpers under parachutes in a diamond formation. To date, that record has never been broken. You can watch it here: [https://youtu.be/wCTzQ9j90nA?si=efYQaFlrM\\_mvjich](https://youtu.be/wCTzQ9j90nA?si=efYQaFlrM_mvjich)



Kirk has watched several family members become pilots over the years. His younger brother is a captain at Jet Blue, his sister-in-law is a Blackhawk pilot, and his brother-in-law recently graduated from the Navy Flight School. In 2020, Kirk decided it was his turn, and he began flight lessons with the Yellow Jacket Flying Club out of KPDK. Interesting fact: Kirk's first skydive and Kirk's first solo flight both took place at Covington Municipal Airport (CVC).

Today, Kirk is an instrument-rated private pilot. He has a partnership in a Van's RV-10

along with his good friend Bill Thomasson (who built the RV-10), and Kalina Milani – our Chapter president. He enjoys taking friends and family on trips all along the East coast, having made trips to places such as New York City, Madison WI, Dallas, Austin, the Florida Keys, and the Bahamas.

Kirk is also working on building his own RV-10 in his home workshop. He is making good progress but has quite a bit of work ahead of him as he has completed about 400 hours – with about 2,000 hours remaining. He is planning to attend Air Venture 2024 for the second time this year where the professional sessions will help provide valuable insights for his project.

Kirk has lived in six different states covering all four corners of the country. In 2022, Kirk moved to Milledgeville and lives with his wife Rachel and his two daughters, Ellery (12) and Clara (10). Kirk works from home as an executive at a small software company and when he isn't flying or working on his airplane, he enjoys traveling with his family. Kirk has visited 49 states and 74 countries across six continents. Although he has retired from skydiving, he has many other hobbies, including technology, strategy board games, SCUBA diving, snow skiing, and water skiing.





## SHARE YOUR STORY!

Share your aviation story with us and help inspire others! Send your story to: [info@eaa1685.org](mailto: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

### MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SOCIAL GATHERINGS:

Our meetings take place at our airport at 5:30pm every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. Please send us a note if you have any questions: [info@eaa1685.org](mailto:info@eaa1685.org)

### 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 for 2023 or 2024, you can do so using the following website: <https://square.link/u/WFzaZ7jj>  
Thank you all 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), 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>

### BUCKET LIST ALERT!

Air Venture 2024 Oshkosh, WI will take place from July 22-28, 2024. Many Chapter members are planning to attend. If you would like to join them, please let us know.

**Stay tuned for the dates of our next events!  
A workshop for our kids is tentatively scheduled for August, right after  
*Air Venture 2024!***