

Links to Dreams



Volume 2, Issue 1

February 2025

President's Comments:

Hello friends!

A new year has begun! As we start 2025 and 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 for all age groups.

In this bimonthly newsletter you will find a wrap-up on our latest get-togethers. 2025 started with the launch of our monthly VMC Club meetings, which happened on January 2nd; and later in the January, we had our first virtual chapter gathering – which was a great way to accommodate our Chapter members who are away for the Winter.

Speaking of get-togethers, please note that our February gathering will be virtual, on **February 17th** and our next in person social gathering will take place on **March 17th**. You can read the details about our upcoming monthly social gatherings in the News section below.

As we mentioned in our December newsletter, alongside our monthly events, we are planning introductory flights for both youth and adults this year. This year we will start 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. You will learn all about this EAA program in this newsletter.

Please check out our member spotlight this month. You will get to know the very kind and dedicated Maryllis Wolfgang – the person who is always present at our events, making sure we capture the emotions through images of the excitement on our members faces.

Below you will find an update on the progress made by Baldwin High School's aerospace class. Some students already have earned their commercial drone flying licenses and by the look of things, a few more are already being lined up!

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 so as 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 **February 6th** 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: February 6th, March 6th, April 3rd**, etc.

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

EAA Chapter 1685 Links to Dreams and Baldwin High School Aerospace Class News



Our board member-at-large and Baldwin High School Aerospace Class teacher Roberto Hornung is thrilled to welcome 75 boys and 11 girls in all 3 levels of this year's Aerospace Class! His class is ready! His aviation Lab currently has 3 flight simulators, 2 brand new Drones and he can count on 2 of his former students who have returned to assist him teaching other students. His aerospace class just started a hands-on drone maintenance practical course, where they repair the drones that perform an average of 75 to 100 flights daily. His students are also running an Air Traffic Control (ATC) simulation class, where they experience what an ATC environment entails. At one of our Chapter Social Gatherings in 2024, we enjoyed a very interesting presentation by Roberto and one of his students, Dale Rice, who is now a fully licensed commercial drone pilot. Roberto told us that one of his New Year's resolutions was to license another 4 Commercial Drone Pilots and 25 Recreational Drone Pilots by the end of May. We are counting on that! It is so rewarding for all of us at Chapter 1685 to witness such a transformation in our youth community. Well done, Roberto!

EAA Eagle Flights Program is coming in May!

That's right! The much-awaited EAA introductory flight experience dedicated to our adults will be offered for the first time by our Chapter on May 17th! Make sure to check out our calendar of events on our website and our social media for more details, as we will be opening applications in April. 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: May 17, 2025

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

EAA introductory flights: eaa.org



Our First Winter Chapter Virtual Gathering was Fun!

The idea of getting together virtually during the winter months turned out to be a winner this year! We had a good turnout and had fun catching up with each other and learning and sharing experiences. And with the recent snow, we had much to discuss about winter flying. What a surprise that was! We enjoyed the virtual setting so much that we decided to do the same in February. So, Chapter members, please make sure to verify your inbox or spam filter and check for a Teams Meeting invitation from our Secretary's business email account (Andy Milani). This month's Virtual Gathering will take place on **February 17, 2025**, with a shortened duration, starting at **5:30pm** and ending at **6:30pm**.

Please note that our next **in-person Social Gathering** will be on **March 17, 2025** at our normal hours: **5:30pm to 7:30pm**. Please mark your calendars and get ready for our **Spring** activities, starting with the **March Social Gathering** and our very first Discovery Flights program for adults in **May**.

WHAT: EAA Chapter 1685 Virtual Gathering

WHEN: February 17, 2025

WHERE: Microsoft Teams Meeting

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 **March 17, 2025**, starting with refreshments from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm, followed by a Chapter update and a special presentation.

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 SportAir Workshops, 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: Maryllis Wolfgang

I am not a pilot. I have a fear of heights. I love airplanes, I love to fly and I love airfields. I love watching other people enjoy the aviation environment, especially young people.

Watching my husband Jim's excitement as he took his first flying lessons was great fun. First flight, first solo, tearing of the shirt, and first certification were all steps I enjoyed as an observer.

We first got involved with the Baldwin County Regional Airport in 1985. That is when Jim and 2 others created Air Sinclair, Inc to operate the airfield's first fixed base operation (FBO). The early days were fun as the men developed the business. I became the office manager, housekeeper and chef. I kept the files, invoices, bills – and cleaned and swept and dusted. I was the FBO's girl Friday and housewife. I learned to respond on the Unicom. The most fun was bringing in homemade chocolate chip cookies. What started as a couple dozen per week became several dozen per day! Sadly, we eventually turned to store bought except when there were holidays and special events. There were the usual FBO daily residents. They would come and chat or read the newspaper or books and just hang out. Of course, they enjoyed coffee from their mug hung on the wall for safe keeping. I enjoyed those casual relaxed friendships.

Over the years I've watched the development and improvements to Baldwin County Regional Airport. The new terminal and landscaping, extensions to the runway, development of beautiful and visually pleasing matching hangars, fencing around the airport for the safety of both aviators and the neighborhood – keeping out curious children, pets and wildlife. At the same time, I watched activities increase at BCRA with fly-ins, and events like bringing in EAA's B17 and providing (with local donations and support) rides for residents of the Georgia War Veterans Home. We hosted bi-wings, Chinooks, Blackhawks and Navions. It is very rewarding when students from local grade schools and colleges come, tour and learn about opportunities. Families come and have a picnic and watch planes land and depart. Grandpa and Grandmother wait "patiently" for their children to fly in with that special cargo – grandkids.

My involvement in the recently created rewarding, advancing my long interest people take their first flight in planes exhilarating. They walk to the plane with smiles and tears of joy, not to mention their children take this big step. They will The weekend fun camps allow a more come away with seeds of possibilities in through careers in aviation. They learn much more. All this generously provided knowledgeable volunteers. Monthly time to socialize, have some light speaker. There is excitement as they



EAA Chapter 1685 has been especially in youth education. Seeing young generously provided by local pilots is expressions of anxiety and return with the joy families express as they watch NEVER forget their first experience. in-depth learning experience. They the many opportunities available about weather and navigating and so by a team of enthusiastic and chapter meetings provide an enjoyable refreshments and listen to a guest (we) plan for more fun times ahead.

My 40 year association with BCRA and more recent position as EAA Chapter 1685 member and photographer has enabled me to develop friendships and opportunities I could never have imagined. Who would think a non-pilot would be such an aviation enthusiast. Of course, it doesn't hurt when Jim takes me for junkets to wonderful places like the Bahamas, St. Croix and the frigid north in our little flying machine. I look forward to seeing where life takes us all.

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
- Eagle Flights 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