

Links to Dreams



Volume 1, Issue 12

December 2024

President's Comments:

Dear friends,

What a year! As we wrap up 2024 and enter our third year, I want to thank everyone for their passion and dedication to building our thriving EAA Chapter. This year brought two Young Eagles events, three workshop weekends, inspiring aviation presentations from fellow members, and the launch of our Speaker Series with CW5 (Ret) Doug Englen's gripping recount of the raid on Osama bin Laden's compound, available to watch on GMC's YouTube channel.

The board has decided to extend its term for another year, with chapter elections set for November 2025. Our rapidly growing Chapter is grateful for our volunteers, including Jim Bedsole, our new EAA VMC Club Coordinator, who will launch the program in 2025. VMC Club meetings will be held on the **first Thursday** of each month, starting **January 2nd**. Pilots and aspiring pilots are encouraged to join! Details on the meeting time and place are in the News section.

Our monthly Meetings and Social Gatherings are becoming quite popular, and last month's get-together was no exception. On November 18th Mark Hall presented a briefing on Aircraft Homebuilding. Mark is an EAA Chapter 1685 member, EAA Young Eagles Volunteer Pilot and Lake Country Flying Club cofounder, who is building his own Van's RV-14a. Have a look at our News section for more interesting information about his presentation and the Flying Club.

Speaking of get-togethers, please note that our **December 16, 2024** Meeting and Social Gathering has been cancelled and that the **January 20, 2025** meeting will be virtual – so if you are interested in joining the meeting, please email us at: info@eaa1685.org to receive a Teams Link. On **February 17, 2025**, we will resume normal in-person meetings.

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.

In 2025, alongside our monthly events, we are planning Discovery Flights for both youth and adults; hosting EAA programs like Flying Start or Eagle Flights; and featuring a vintage EAA aircraft for panoramic flights. Check our website events page for updates and ensure we have your email for bi-monthly newsletters, starting in February. Stay tuned for exciting plans ahead!

In last month's newsletter, we hinted at exciting news about our EAA Young Eagles Coordinator, Roberto Hornung, and his Baldwin High School students. Roberto took aviation students to PSI, an FAA drone testing center, where they earned their FAA Commercial Drone Pilot's Licenses! This includes Dale Rice, Caleb Mulcahy, and Johntavious Mosley—both Dale and Johntavious are past Young Eagles participants. At our October Social Gathering, Roberto briefed us on FAA Part 107 drone certification, while Dale shared his journey, from his first Discovery Flight in April to using EAA Flight Plan benefits like AeroEducate Academy. On November 12th, after passing their exams, the group visited Middle Georgia State University and explored the flight simulators. Check out the full article on these accomplished young pilots at the end of this newsletter!

We are on the right track in bringing people together and inspiring our community to embrace aviation—especially our youth, who are not only having fun but also dreaming of careers in aviation! This progress wouldn't be possible without the generous support of our amazing volunteers, the Baldwin County Commission, the Baldwin Regional Airport Advisory Board, FBO management, Georgia Military College leadership and staff, and all of you, our supporters and donors. We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with joy, good health, and accomplishments!

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

Happy Holidays!
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/eaa1685>.

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 Kickoff

We are excited to announce the kickoff of the EAA Chapter 1685 VMC Club in 2025! As part of EAA's aviation safety initiatives, EAA offers both VMC and IMC Clubs as a way to help maintain pilot proficiency. Our Chapter is starting with a VMC Club and will eventually offer both VMC and IMC Club meetings. Jim Bedsole is currently serving as our VMC Club Coordinator.

The purpose of EAA VMC Clubs is to build proficiency for pilots flying under visual flight rules conditions. These clubs are extensions of local EAA Chapters and offer monthly meetings where pilots can network and share knowledge and experience. The meetings use real-world scenarios to engage members and allow a free exchange of information that improves awareness, skills, and solid aviation decision-making.

In a survey of Chapter 1685 members that expressed an initial interest in participating in a VMC Club, the majority opted to meet on a weekday evening as the preferred time. The Chapter 1685 VMC Club will meet monthly on the first Thursday beginning on January 2, 2025. Meetings will begin at 6:00pm, but you can plan to arrive any time after 5:30pm. The meetings will be held at the Sebastian Cove Airport (32GA) at Lake Oconee at the airstrip home of coordinator Jim Bedsole at 116 Rockwell Dr., Eatonton, GA 31024. We will have light refreshments available.

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: January 2, 2025 (every first Thursday).

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

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](#)

EAA Young Eagles Participants Become Licensed Commercial Drone Pilots!

Some Baldwin High School students have an extra reason to celebrate this year. These young men are now licensed commercial drone pilots, with some already planning to start their own businesses! Join us in congratulating EAA Chapter 1685 Young Eagles participants Johntavious Mosley, Dale Rice, and their colleague Caleb Mulcahy on this impressive milestone. Their aviation teacher and Young Eagles Coordinator, Roberto Hornung, is truly making a difference. Well done, everyone! Baldwin High School published an article about this exciting achievement, which you can find at the end of this newsletter.



Roberto Hornung
at Baldwin High School



Johntavious Mosley,
EAA Young Eagles Rally
participant, April 2024



Dale Rice at our Social Gathering
October 2024



Another great Chapter Social Gathering just took place!

We had a fun and interesting Social Gathering last month. Mark Hall, a Chapter member from Greene County, presented a discussion on airplane homebuilding.

He shared his experience and milestones since starting his kit plane project in 2022. Like many fellow Chapter members, Mark is one of the admirable people who have embraced the thrill—and challenge—of building an airplane on their own.

In his presentation, Mark highlighted some of the benefits of building your own experimental aircraft:



- ✓ Cost: about 1/3 -1/4 of an equivalent new certified aircraft.
- ✓ The builder can perform all maintenance.
- ✓ Non-Builder owners can perform all maintenance except annual condition inspection.
- ✓ Repairs: parts are significantly less expensive.
- ✓ Customization: avionics, interior, accessories.
- ✓ Avionics redundancy.
- ✓ Safety.
- ✓ 4 or even 5-point Harnesses.
- ✓ Parachutes.
- ✓ Brand new airplane.
- ✓ Performance.



Mark Hall and his RV-14a

Mark is expecting to have his new Van's RV-14a flying as soon as next year!

In the meantime, he enjoys flying the Piper Archer II and the Piper Dakota at the Lake Country Flying Club with his wife, Vicki. Speaking of the club, our friends and Chapter members from Greene County Regional Airport (3J7) in Greensboro are looking to expand its membership base. If you are interested in learning more about the benefits of joining, please contact Mark Hall at: lcfc3j7@gmail.com.



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!

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 following changes:

December 16, 2024 meeting has been cancelled. Enjoy your Holiday!

January 20, 2025 meeting will be virtual - If you are interested in joining, email: info@ea1685.org to receive a Teams Link.

The next in-person Meeting and Social Gathering will be on **February 17, 2025**, starting with refreshments from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm, followed by a Chapter update and a special presentation.

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 2024, you can do so using the following website: <https://square.link/u/WFzaZ7jj>

Thank you for your support!

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: @ea1685

Instagram: [ea1685](https://www.instagram.com/ea1685)

Facebook: [ea1685](https://www.facebook.com/ea1685)



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](#)

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



Featured Chapter Member: Kalina Milani

After a year of other Featured Chapter Members – my husband Andy told me it was my turn... so here it is!

A lifelong passion for aviation has guided my journey in a career path filled with challenges and opportunities. Growing up in Recife, Brazil, I was fascinated by airplanes from an early age. Trips to the airport with my family and visits to the local flying club with my brother only fueled this fascination. Despite my enthusiasm, becoming a pilot wasn't encouraged—it was seen as an unusual path for women. Even so, I couldn't let go of the dream.

As a teenager, I spent a few years in Charleston, South Carolina. This experience taught me independence and gave me the chance to fully immerse myself in the English language, building a foundation that would later serve me well. When I returned to Brazil, I faced significant challenges entering the aviation field, as opportunities were scarce. I began by working in airport ground operations and as cabin crew, using these roles as steppingstones while earning the certifications needed to pursue my dream of flying.

At the time, only one airline in Brazil employed women pilots and my dream airline, VARIG Brazilian Airlines, wasn't one of them. That changed in 1990 when, after a rigorous nine-month national selection process, I was selected alongside another female candidate. A few months later, we began training at VARIG's flight academy. By 1992, I was flying the B737-300 as a First Officer, later transitioning to the B777. These experiences helped me grow as a professional, but they also highlighted the unique challenges women face in the industry. Recognizing these obstacles, I teamed up with other women in aviation to create a mentoring group called *Aviadoras*.



At VARIG's aeronautical academy, Porto Alegre, Brazil. 1991



My favorite aircraft, the B777-300ER

As VARIG faced financial struggles and career opportunities became limited, I explored options abroad. In 2006, I joined Emirates Airlines as their first woman Bpilot, eventually becoming the airline's first woman captain. These years expanded my horizons and deepened my understanding of aviation, but they also reinvigorated my desire to assist young women in aspiring to technical and leadership roles in aviation.

In 2018, with the help of 13 amazing women, we established *Aviadoras* as a nonprofit organization. Today, we have over 400 members and focus on mentorship, scholarships, and professional guidance for women in aviation and STEM. So far, we have awarded 60 scholarships, and by March 2025, during our annual convention in São Paulo, we hope to gift at least 40 more.

In 2016, my husband Andy and I left the UAE (United Arab Emirates), eventually settling in Milledgeville, Georgia, on Lake Sinclair. It was the best decision

we ever made. Being part of the Baldwin County Airport Advisory Committee and participating in our local EAA Chapter has been incredibly rewarding. As a retired airline pilot, I enjoy flying more than ever – as organizations such as EAA and AOPA help make general aviation in America so much fun! We love flying around this beautiful country – all thanks to our partnership in a Van's RV-10 with our Chapter's treasurer Kirk Bauer, and our friend Bill Thomasson, the aircraft builder.



N824E is 'plane' fun!

EAA has brought us immense joy, from the smiles of our Young Eagles participants to the friendships that make this community feel like home. We look forward to making new friends and watching our Chapter grow!

Happy Holidays!

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

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>

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



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>

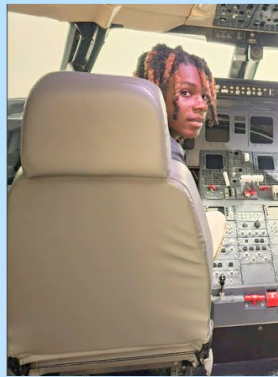
**Please spread the word and help us bring together our grassroots community of aviators, enthusiasts, innovators
and bring our younger generation closer to aviation!
See you all soon!**



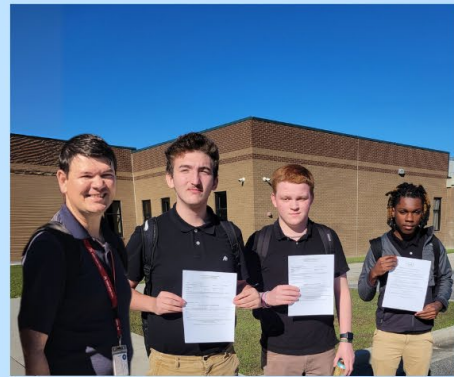
Baldwin High School Commercial Drone Pilots



Caleb Mulcahy
Dale Rice



Johntavious Mosley



Roberto Hornung
Instructor

Three Baldwin High School students—Dale Rice, Caleb Mulcahy, and Johntavious Mosley—have made history by passing the FAA Commercial Drone Pilot Test, becoming the first from their school to achieve this milestone. On November 12, the students, accompanied by their instructor Roberto Hornung, traveled to Middle Georgia State University in Eastman to take the test. They were praised for their professionalism and success, and afterward, were given a tour of the college, further expanding their knowledge of the field. With TSA background checks expected to take seven days, the students are on track to become fully certified drone pilots and are now ready to enter the rapidly growing field of unmanned aerial systems (UAS).