



January 2025 Newsletter

From the President

Change of schedule!!

Before anything else, I am forced to change our regular meeting schedule!! We will meet one week later, January 16, (the night after the IMC/VMC Zoom) due to a multitude of problems and a need for most individual members to make sure they will schedule attending our first meeting of the year.



Why do you need to attend??

2024 was an up and down year for our chapter. Aside from the continuing enthusiasm and staffing for our Young Eagles events, a full schedule for our KUGN Tower Tour, and over 40 attendees for our traditional end-of-the-year dinner party, our general attendance was poor. On average, excepting Young Eagles, our attendance for regular monthly meetings was under seventeen people. This included officers and speakers, so the number of regular members was even lower. At present, our membership total is 83 members. This assumes all who paid chapter dues in 2024 will again become dues payers. In early January, many have not yet done so. History would suggest most members' dues will dribble in over the next quarter. (Information on payment is later in this letter).

Yet paying chapter dues is only the beginning of membership. Participation and attendance are truly the measure. People join EAA chapters for many reasons. Learning to fly, building or buying an airplane, finding knowledgeable people for maintenance or a hangar or to fly a biannual, sharing good stories or something of the sort. In short, being a member of a chapter is meeting and being involved with others who share your interest and can provide you with ideas, resources, etc. And there is also the social component, of being with and around people who are your friends, hanging out at the hangar, as it were.

So, again, why do you need to attend?

I've been involved with EAA for nearly 20 years, and on the board in some capacity for perhaps a third of that. Over that time, the continuing weakness of our chapter has been programs; what are we going to do for each monthly meeting? What do people want to hear, or see, or do? On top of the nuts and bolts of running a chapter, determining this and organizing the results has been the most difficult part of being a board member, and especially the president. We often fall short.

What will convince members to spend precious free time supporting EAA chapter activities? EAA Oshkosh does annual member surveys on such things, and sends the chapter results to us. Although my statistician friend tells me a 10% response is good, it echoes our attendance rates, and is only generally good as guidance.

So, again, why do you need to attend?

Given that we seem not to be attracting a significant number of our members, the board believes that we need to fully involve the general membership at a much higher level in determining our activities. We don't seem to be able to do it alone.

So, next Thursday, January 16th, here is the expectation. 1) Come to our usual meeting place, with some idea of your wants and needs that would keep you active. (Yes, there will be pizza). 2) We will divide the attending group by their individual interests, and they will be sent off to their own space to discuss and consider what sort of meeting activity would be appropriate to support and improve their interests. 3) Come to a conclusion as to what that activity would be, and be prepared to flesh it out and be the primary people who make it happen. 4) Choose a possible date (or dates) in the schedule. 5) Make it happen.

Below is a short listing of non-existent extensions to current programs with good participation, or some things that might not be as big a stretch as one would think. *This is not an all-inclusive list, just a start!*

For **Young Eagles** – organize, staff and execute the *non-flying components* of the program, especially those that can be accomplished in our non-flying season. These include Build & Fly, AeroEducate and the Young Eagles Workshop programs, all of which are about learning.

In addition, Tim Buckley and I have been looking at the chapter becoming approved to apply for possible **Ray Scholarships**. We need to be approved first as a chapter, before we apply for a scholarship for one of our older Young Eagles. The program requires a mentor for any young person selected, who is a coach as well as the person handling the scholarship and its use in paying for flight school.

Eagle flights – individual free flights for adults, which include building some sort of helping relationship, becoming a mentor, not just a single flight.

A chapter effort to **build a simple kit plane or a replica**, as was done in the past. There are several possible routes for this to take. It could be a way to help train builders, or young people. As we are not allowed to own a completed airplane as a chapter, this would have to be structured correctly.

A formal ground school for serious possible new pilots, run by appropriate members with appropriate licenses, and ending in the required sign-off for new pilots. Could charge and use proceeds in many possible ways, including paying the flight instructors doing this.

I'm sure there are more.

Finding and implementing ways to make our chapter more visible to and valuable for potential members.

Dues

Dues!! Yes, dues are now up. There is no change in the amount, \$25 for individuals, \$35 for families. What is different is that we now have a method to do this all online!

These are the links:

[EAA Chapter 414 Online Dues Payment](#) or below

- Family dues: <https://link.clover.com/urlshortener/HwYmgd>
- Individual dues: <https://link.clover.com/urlshortener/tBdYNB>

If you have trouble with either, contact our treasurer, **Matt Koschak, 847 630-8281**, or send your payment as a check made out to **EAA Chapter 414** to Matt at

23391 Birchwood Lane,
Deerfield, IL 60015-1256.

If perhaps you were a member whose membership expired in 2023, you are still in the system, and paying the 2025 dues will reactivate your membership!

IMC/VMC

EAA Chapter 414 IMC/VMC Club - Too far to glide

- Topic: VFR flight and aircraft operations
- Wednesday January 15, 2025 at 19:00 Central Daylight Time

A private pilot rents a Piper PA-28-180F to make a 348nm VFR flight from Boulder City, CO (KBVU) to Derby Field in Lovelock, NV (KLOL). Flying at 8,500 feet MSL and tracking VORs the flight is going according to plan until about 15 nm from the destination. After the pilot initiates a descent the engine loses power and the pilot has to quickly decide what to do next.

We will watch the scenario video and discuss how we could have managed this situation if it happened to one of us and how we could prevent this happening. Participants of all experience levels are encouraged to contribute and share their knowledge and ideas.

This event qualifies for 1 basic phase WINGS knowledge credit in Knowledge Topic 2 - Aircraft Operations.

Zoom Details

- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82746650186?pwd=UYZf83l6Fe7agTXyU1oV5hv7yZThGp.1>
- Meeting ID: 827 4665 0186
- Passcode: 990225

Hosted by Beth Rehm
Chapter 414 IMC/VMC Coordinator
FAASTeam Representative
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(847) 530-8014

Miscellany

- Alexander Samoylovich has a 25 foot by 25 foot hanger at KBUU Burlington, and is looking to lease some part of it. samoylovich@gmail.com, (408) 306-8664.
- The rumors are true. My Ranger is for sale. Numbers below.

As always, comments or suggestions on anything are always welcome.

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EAA 414 VMC/IMC CLUB



Chapter 414 VMC/IMC clubs are monthly meetings where real scenarios are presented followed by group discussion, with the goal of promoting safety by sharing knowledge and experience.

Meetings held **third Wednesday of the month**. All skill levels welcome. For information, visit chapters.eaa.org/ea414/vmc-club or email Beth Rehm bethrehm27@gmail.com



Upcoming Events

See chapters.eaa.org/ea414/event-calendar for event details. All are welcome at our chapter meeting and IMC/VMC Club events regardless of skill level. New or prospective chapter members are especially encouraged to attend!

IMC/VMC Club

Wed 01/15, 7pm

[Zoom link](#)

Meeting ID: 827 4665 0186 / Passcode: 990225

Chapter meeting

Thu 01/16, 7pm

Board of directors meeting

Thu 01/30, 7:30pm

From the Web

[XB-1 First Supersonic Flight](#). "Boom Supersonic made history when its XB-1 prototype jet broke the sound barrier for the first time."



DUES & MEMBERSHIP

[Pay online](#) or send dues to

Matt Koschak
23391 N. Birchwood Lane
Deerfield, IL 60015-1256

Make checks payable to
EAA Chapter 414