

THE STROBE



EAA 512 Placerville

September 21

Prez Sez...

BREAKING NEWS: August 16, Airport shut down as Caldor fire rages out of control

Since the August Strobe, forest fires continue to rage on the west coast. The difference is the fires are now local. We are not even half-way through the fire season and statewide, the total acreage burned is greater than 2020, the prior record.

Our chapter gathering on August 18 was cancelled due to the fire and thick smoke at the airport. The fire that started four days earlier on August 14 about 13 miles to the southeast of the airport was clearly visible from the airport. The next day, helicopters started to arrive and establish a base of operations for their arial assault in the canyon near Omo Ranch Road. The fire quickly spread up the dry canyon, pushed by the southwesterly winds and extreme dry humidity. Residence of Grizzly Flat and Somerset were given orders to evacuate immediately in the early morning hours.

For the next thirty days, if you turned on the radio or local TV, you would hear a constant

GENERAL MEETING

At the EAA 512 Hangar

Wednesday 15th at 6pm

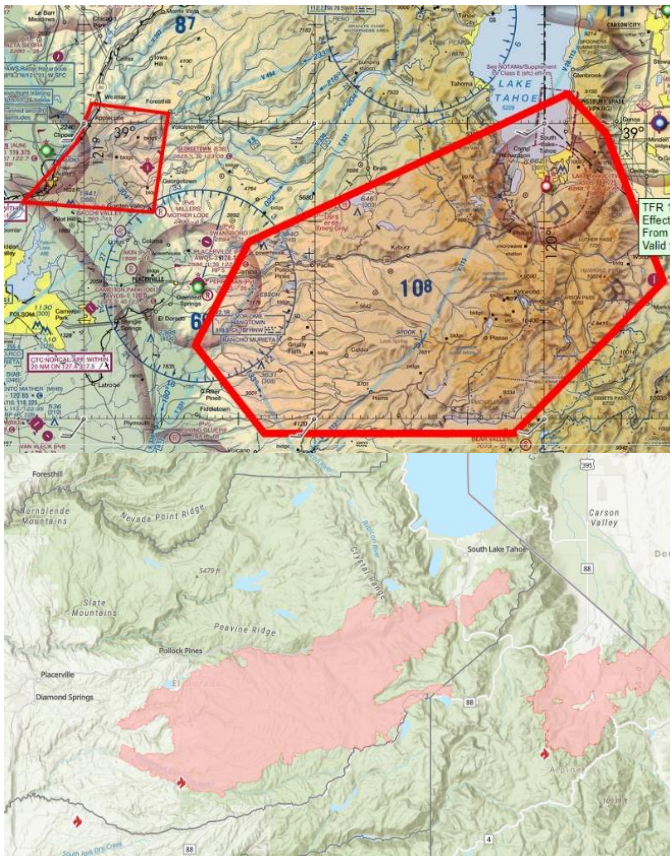
Happy Hour, Picnic, and Meeting

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Prez Sez *p. 1-5*
- ◆ CA Capital Airshow *p. 6*
- ◆ RV Panel Upgrade VII *p. 7-8*
- ◆ Memes & Things *p. 9-10*
- ◆ Contacts & Calendar *p. 11-12*
- ◆ Minutes *p. 13-15*

barrage of warnings, road closures, air quality reports, structures destroyed, percent containment and acres burned. The CalFire website displays a map showing the extent of the fire and the battle lines as the fire advances

to the northeast along Hwy 50 and the American River canyon.



- August 14-24: The Caldor fire threatens and has displaced more than 25,000 people in El Dorado County with 126,000 acres burned and 450 structures destroyed since the fire started on August 14. Now ten days in and no estimate of containment. Highway 50 deserted and closed at Sly Park to Meyers.
- August 25-31: A big concern grows to keep the fire out of the Tahoe Basin. With only 11% containment on August 25, the distance travelled from the origin to the current fire line near Kyburz is greater than the distance remaining, 20 miles to the rim of the Tahoe Basin. It would be a national tragedy if that boundary is breached. There is a vigorous debate if the agencies prosecuting the fire could have done more to extinguish the fire in the beginning.

- Sept 1, South Lake Tahoe is evacuated as the fire moves briskly to Echo Summit on Hwy 50 and crests the summit and threatens the homes in Christmas Valley on Hwy 89. This is only the second fire in California history to cross over the Pacific Crest Trail.
- Sept 6, Caldor fire has displaced more than 50,000 people in El Dorado County with 216,400 acres burned and over 600 structures destroyed. Containment is 44%. Highway 50 is still closed from Sly Park to Meyers.
- Sept 8, Containment is 50% with 217,569 acres burned. Residences return to South Lake Tahoe as the containment lines hold.

The number of people at the airport impacted by the fire is unknown at this time, both those forced to evacuate their residence and aircraft owners grounded by the Notam. The airport is closed by 30 helicopters operating from the field, landing on taxiways and runways, rotter blades churning dust and weeds like a giant weed whacker. Morning visibility as low as ¼ mile improves to 6 plus depending on the time of day or direction of wind.

A TFR is in place 3 miles to the east of the airport. This brings back memories of the King Fire in 2010. The airport was under siege by the same agencies but local flight operations were not severely impacted. The airport then remained open with an FAA mobile control tower.

TFR 1/1906: Flight Hazard
Effective: 9/5 19:45Z to 9/30 04:00Z
From SFC to 13500
Valid for 23 days

As one of the evacuee's forced to leave my home in Pollock Pines, the nearest the fire approached was 5 miles. My home was in the

mandatory evacuation zone but not immediately threatened. I am worried about the next fire as two fires came within striking distance in the last 10 years. The police will not allow residence to re-enter their homes if the fire threatens the Hwy 50 corridor. I can understand the concern for looting, but how long before we can return? (I was able to go home on Sept. 31.)

I got to experience what it means to be homeless as did other airport tenants who had to evacuate. Thanks to my friends and family who offered a room, a shower and a meal, the disruption was minimal. If there is a long-term displacement, more than a month or two, where would we all go? There is virtually no affordable housing in the Placerville area before the fire. I guess I can try the Walmart parking lot or look for an empty lot only to be evicted by the police. Forget about camping in the national forest, as all national forests in California are closed to the public.

I guess I will watch the evening news to take my mind off the near crisis, the state of the wildfire. What happened to the crisis on the U.S. border? Or the state of the homeless in California being debated by gubernatorial candidates as a recall election nears. Will I be counted as homeless now? Maybe I will contemplate moving out of state, but I can't sell my house, nor could new owners afford fire insurance. I tell myself, relax, take a deep breath, wait for the next crisis coming tomorrow that will make all my troubles go away. Wait, those are lyrics to a Beatles song, "Yesterday, all my troubles seemed so far away, now it looks as though they're here to stay, Oh, I believe in yesterday".

Yesterday, Aug 25, As I watch the national cable news in astonishment, the current administration said we would evacuate Kabul by Aug 31 and pull all troops out of Afghanistan. But wait, what about the thousands of Americans left behind after closing two air bases, including Bagram AB. Our European allies expressed outrage over the lack of a coherent plan. British parliament rebuked a US president for the first time in history. We surrendered 70 billion dollars in equipment, including 20,000 Humvees and 20 helicopters and high-tech drones for the AFGHAN army who dropped their weapons and ran. Now the Taliban controls the country and those weapons. Things are spiraling out of control and the president turns his back and exits a press conference without answering a single question. Disgusting.

NEWSFLASH: KABUL Yesterday, Aug 26, explosives go off killing two hundred people at two gates at the Kabul airport halting Americans and fugitives from boarding C-17 aircraft. Sadly, thirteen brave American soldiers lost their lives in this, what many leaders and historians call the worst foreign policy blunder in American history. Elections do have consequences.

NEWSFLASH: FIRE marches east to within 10 miles of the Tahoe Basin. Air support intensifies with DC-10, C-130 and other large bombers as they attempt to slow the advance of the fire.

NEWSFLASH: WASHINGTON HEADLINES- Congress voted along party lines to pass a 3.5 trillion-dollar infrastructure bill to add to the national debt. This will drive inflation is up. Another crisis hits the gulf with Hurricane Ida and cripples US oil production. Rebuilding after Ida will be costly. Experts blame the

pandemic and climate change. Supply chain disruptions have made the cost of building materials about 30% higher than they were before the pandemic.

A political operative for a past president once said, "Never let a good crisis go to waste". Switch channels for news flash: FLOOD, FIRE, INFLATION, ILLEGALS, HOMELESS, AFGANASTAN, CRIME, PANDEMIC, LEADERSHIP....

I feel our nation is deeply divided and is vulnerable to another attack with weak leadership. Yesterday's crisis is supplanted by another crisis du jour. We have no shortage of crisis, just change the channel, and hear a different and conflicting opinion.

Today is Labor Day, Sept 6, I have been home 6 days. The fire has reached the Tahoe basin, 216,500 acres have burned with 43% containment. Residence of the City of South Lake Tahoe are returning home and the fire is held at bay a short distance to the south on the flanks of the Heavenly Valley Ski area. Our pancake breakfast on Saturday was cancelled due to the fire and airport security not allowing public access to the airport. The tempo of operations has slowed slightly but still over 25 helicopters operate from the field.



NOTAM closed Placerville until September 9.

AIRPORT OPENS SEPT 9 AT 8 PM!

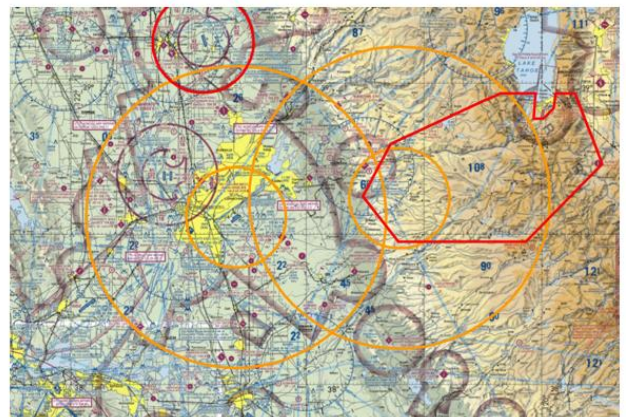
This is the 20-year anniversary of 9-11. I served in the US Navy during the end of the Vietnam War and remember the cold war of nuclear deterrence and the policy of assured nuclear destruction between the US and USSR. I feel the tempo of events, local and global, has never been greater than now. What lies around the corner? What crisis looms or will explode in the days, weeks, or year ahead?

NEVER FORGET 9-11

NOW LET'S GET BACK TO FLYING!

NEWSFLASH: BUT WAIT, ANOTHER TFR OVER PLACERVILLE. Thank goodness, It is for the President and he is coming to inspect the fire. I feel so much better.

TFR OVER SACRAMENTO, CA ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021



Click the image above to interact with the TFR in iFlightPlanner for AOPA

NOTAM [FDC 1/6717](#)

A NOTAM has been published that will affect flight in the area during President Biden's planned visit.

TOBIAS KLEIN: The chapter scholar recipient, Tobias Klein, is performing a 100-hour inspection on a light sport aircraft with Foothill Flight Center mechanic. Tobias is attending Sacramento City College Aeronautics school at McClellan Park.



Jim Wilson

General Meeting

At the EAA 512 Hangar
Wednesday 15th at 6pm.

Happy hour, Picnic, and Meeting

IN MEMORY OF BOB O'HARA ON THIS 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF 9-11

Colleen O'Hara sent this picture of the red barn on her Idaho ranch. She finished the restoration and painted the flag to remember her father who enjoyed working in the barn the last year of his life. Bob died at the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2019.



CALIFORNIA CAPITAL AIRSHOW WELCOMES FLY-IN PILOTS

The California Capital Airshow is coming back strong for 2021 on September 25 & 26, and pilots are welcome to fly-in and enjoy the show! Fly-in pilots are requested to buy advance tickets at a 10% discount as tickets will not be sold at the event. Fly-in pilots may purchase avgas at cost at the Sacramento Jet Center. Due to CODID concerns there will be no Fly-In Chalet this year and ticket sales are limited (but still available).

Fly-In pilots are requested to please preregister on-line to assure our ability to accommodate you and provide airshow arrival and departure procedures:

<https://californiacapitalairshow.com/fly-in-to-the-show/>

This year's airshow features a world-class lineup including but not limited to:

- The USAF Thunderbirds and RCAF Canadian Snowbirds 9-ship aerobatic team
- F35 Joint Strike Fighters
- The F18 Super Hornet Demonstration Team
- Aaron Fitzgerald and the Red Bull Aerobatic Helicopter
- The Red Bull Air Force with Kirby Chamblis in the Red Bull Edge 540
- The 350mph Shockwave Jet Truck
- Kent Pietsch in the Interstate Cadette
- Jim Peitz in the Aerobatic Bonaza
- The Planes of Fame
- Military aircraft on ground display
- plus special active military aircraft to be announced...

Now that the smoke is dissipating, come and eat your next hundred-dollar hamburger at the California Capital Airshow!!!

Vultures Row Aviation Hiring Warbird Restoration Mechanics

Vultures Row Aviation is a WWII Aircraft Restoration Facility located on the Cameron Park Airport, CA. We specialize in Warbird restorations and airframe components and are looking to hire aircraft mechanics with aircraft sheet metal experience for our Aircraft Restoration position.

We're working on restoring numerous WWII Corsairs and need to grow our employee base. We are prepared to interview immediately and hire ASAP. We have plenty of work for the next 15 years. This is a great opportunity to grow your aviation career!

We are looking for people who have 1+ years' experience fabricating airframe parts and building aircraft sub-assemblies using sheet metal tools and equipment. You will be repairing and fabricating new parts from original parts, blueprints and engineering drawings. Warbird experience is preferred. Experience with hydraulic and electrical systems, aircraft fabric, painting, or aircraft assembly or final assembly is a bonus but not required. Attention to detail is a must. A&P preferred. You must be able to bring your own hand tools to the job.

See what we do on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/VulturesRowAviation

For more information or to submit a resume, contact Carol Wahl by email at

carol@vulturesrowaviation.com

Or call: 530-676-9245.

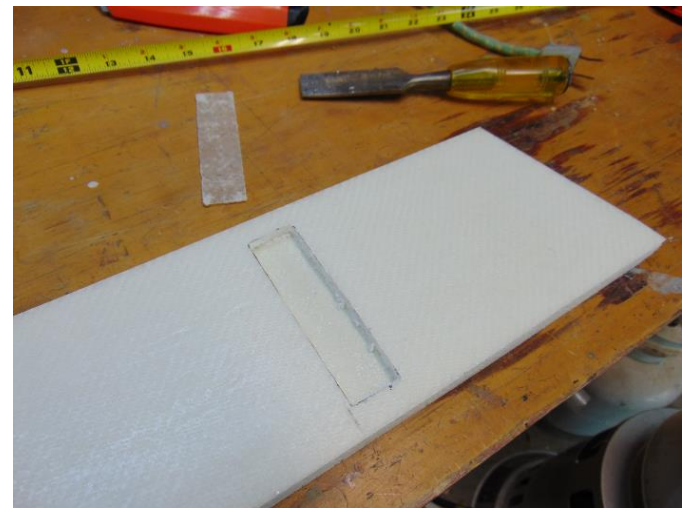
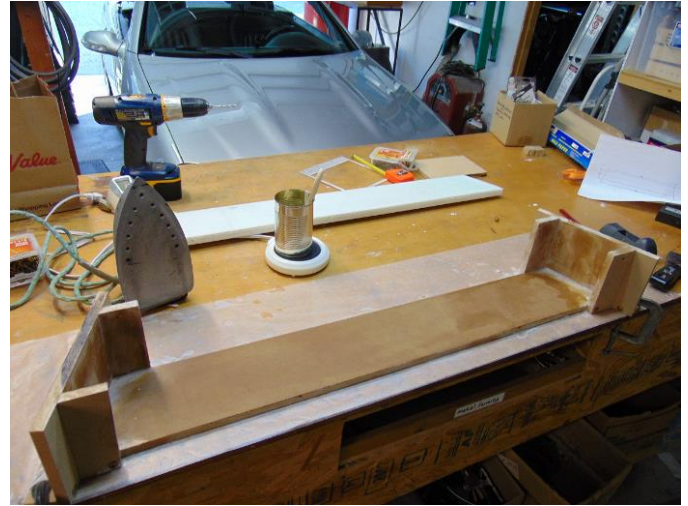
RV-7A Panel Upgrade – Part 7

One, Two, Tray

Well, I'm finally starting to get back on track with my panel upgrade after yet another delay for medical reasons. Hopefully the last for a while.

In my last installment, way back in the May issue 🙄, I had finally "finished" the main wiring loom on the benchtop and was starting to do the detail work for transferring everything to the airframe. On my old panel, wiring was attached to primary and sub-structure more-or-less randomly wherever there was a convenient spot. Over time, this grew into a rat's nest of overlapping and intertwined wires. This time around I'm making use of a cable tray to provide a dedicated location for the wire runs as well as mounting points for various electronic modules.

The cable tray will be a flat horizontal fiberglass panel that will fit behind and level with the bottom edge to the instrument panel. Using some medium density fiberboard (MDF) scrap I had laying around, I made temporary mold in which to lay up the fiberglass for the cable tray. A piece of half-inch Styrofoam was trimmed to the mold (the angle ends will fit against the cockpit top side rails). Three layers of fiberglass were laid up on the top and bottom surfaces of the foam panel and the edges trimmed to match. Several rectangular slots were cut in the bottom of the panel, and the Styrofoam cut away to the bottom side of the top layer. The slots were glassed in in to create recessed pockets and hard mounting surfaces for nutplates.



Holes were drilled through for the nutplate locations. These will be used later to attach cable clamps to secure the wire runs. Nutplates are mounted in the recesses on the underside of the cable tray. Rivets were not squeezed; instead, they were dipped in resin and set in

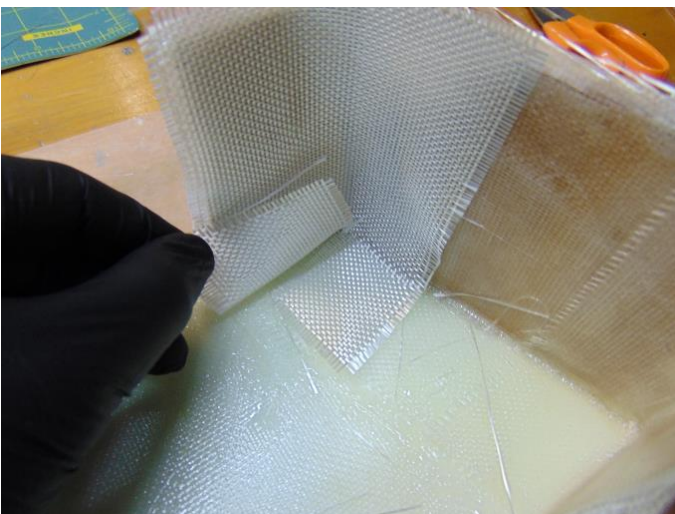


the foam panel was reinserted into the mold. Several more layers of glass were laid on top of the mold, and the mounting "ears", and the lower glass layers wrapped around the sides to form the complete cable tray.

The cable tray was loosely placed in final position. Further modifications will be needed to clear the backside of the breaker panels, add a base for mounting relays, a home for my ADS-B Out transmitter, then final trim before permanent installation.

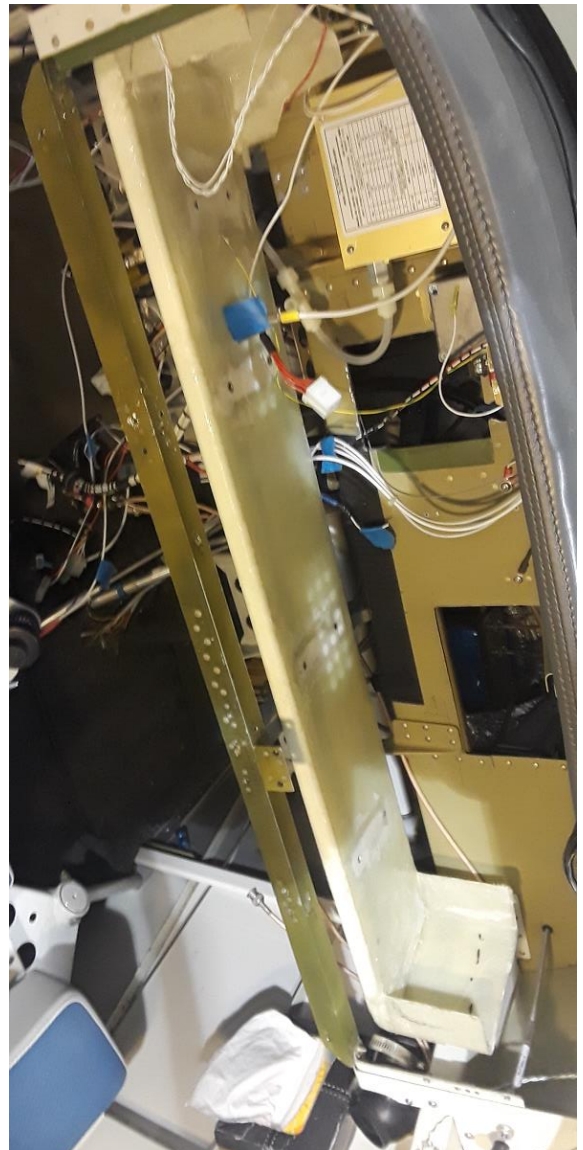
Next up: fitting the instrument panel segments.

By Al Herron



place to guarantee nutplates can't rotate under torque. Dry flox was used to encapsulate each nutplate, providing additional security.

Two layers of fiberglass were laid into the bottom of the mold, and with the resin still wet





About Sept 7, 8:30am looking eastward. KPVF and downtown Placerville is in the lower right.

Credit: Tim Riley, director of The Recreational Aviation Foundation

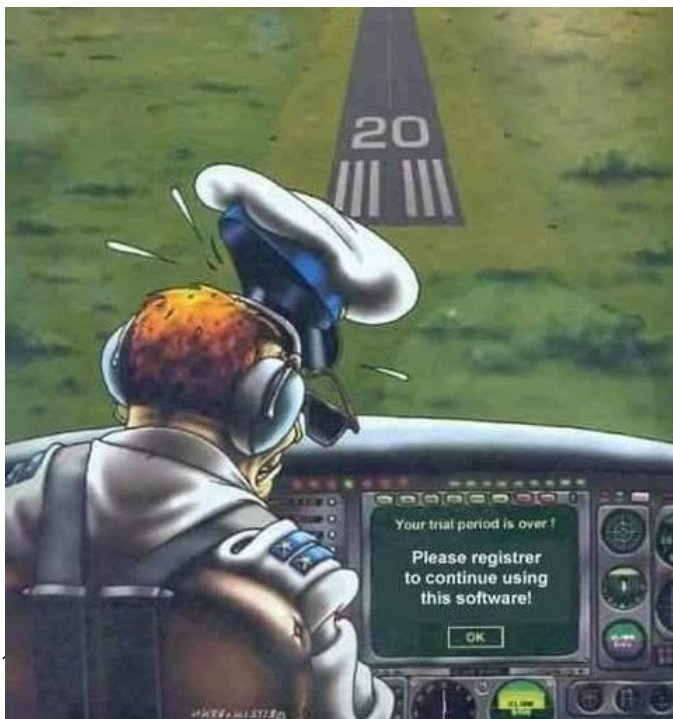
Sent in by Jason Brand



Name Badges

New members who would like one or those needing a new name badge: We will be placing an order after the general meeting for custom magnetic chapter name badges at 12.50/ea. We will have a sign-up sheet available at the pancake breakfast and general meeting. Place your order before the end of the month!

Contact Audrey via text at 530-409-4468 or email greeneggs2spam@yahoo.com



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Editor's Notes

(Chaos!)

I've recently discovered that no one reads this. But hey, if you want something published or have something to share, it'll probably end up in the newsletter. Thanks to this month's producers!

Email Submission [to Helen] at:

more_right_rudder@yahoo.com

EMAIL SHALL INCLUDE

1. **Content** (article, doc, link, image, meme)
2. **Credit** (author known or unknown)

No PDF's (please)

Deadline for submissions Oct 15th

Have an article you'd like to submit but not confident about your writing skills? **Free proofreading available on request.**

Contact Al Herron at:
herronpvmf@sbcglobal.net

OCTOBER 2021

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | Pancake Breakfast (Make-up) 2 |
| 3 | 4 | IMC/VMC 7pm EAA Hangar 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | EAA 512 Board Meeting 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | EAA 512 General Meeting 6pm 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |



GREETING CARDS

Timeless and original aviation-themed greeting cards. 20% of the proceeds go to EAA 512, and the art is locally painted by a chapter member, Helen Brand.

Support the EAA 512 and keep in touch with friends and family this summer!

SHOP AVIATION CARDS

www.ordinarypencils.com



Ordinary Pencils

**EAA Chapter 512
Monthly Board of Directors
Minutes
Sept 8, 2021**

Meeting called to order at: 7:02 p.m. by: Jim Wilson

Board Members Present (Zoom Meeting):

Jim Wilson, *President*
Judi Gordon, *Treasurer*
Rob Bulaga, *Secretary*

Dave Lugert, *General Director*
Al Herron, *Past President*

Others Present:

John McPherson

Dick Wampach

Business from the Floor, Changes to Agenda

- **The treasurer's monthly report for 7/31 mistakenly used 8/31 numbers. Here are the correct numbers for 7/31:**
 - Banking account balances as of 07/30/2021:
 - Cash and checks on hand: \$4,389.10
 - Chase Checking # 6001: \$15,457.15 (\$9,997.10 of the total is earmarked for scholarship funds of which \$1,500 is earmarked for Aidan Andrews, and \$1,500 is earmarked for Nathan West)
 - Chase Savings # 8668: \$2,922.32 (Airport security account held in trust. Not property of EAA 512)
 - Current total: \$19,846.25 plus \$2,922.32 in Airport Security Account.

Approval of Minutes – approved

Board Member Reports

- **Jim Wilson – President**
 - **Cops 'n Rodders**
 - The event is scheduled for 9/18, 9am -3pm. They want to know if EAA 512 will participate. Jim and Judi will check to see if our Scholars are available. If so, Jim will bring down the fight simulator and our Scholars will demonstrate/operate it.
 - **Caldor Fire**
 - Due to firefighting activity and closure of the airport, we were forced to cancel the September pancake breakfast, by order of the CalFire boss. Thirty helicopters are operating from the airport, including multiple support vehicles, fuel trucks, water trucks and maintenance crews. A TFR 1/1906 effective to 9/30 from SFC to 13500. extends from 3 miles east of the airport south and east beyond the NEVADA border.
 - September IMC/VMC meeting was also cancelled.
 - NOTAM #08/190 AIRPORT CLOSED 0824 to 0908
 - TFR 1/1906 EFFECTIVE 9/5 TO 9/30 0400Z FROM SFC TO 13500, VALID FOR 23 DAYS
 - The trucks bringing fuel and water to the firefighting helicopters used both the east and west gates to the airport. These heavy trucks have damaged the roadway and taxiway. Be careful when using these areas.
 - Audry reports the airport will open 9/9 at 8 PM.
 - **Ray Aviation Scholarship**
 - **Jaeger Ruckman - 2021 RAY SCHOLAR**
 - Student Pilot Certificate signed-off by Michael Radomsky (Judi's brother)

The first installment, \$4000, of Jaeger's \$10,000 scholarship will be transferred into the

- Chapter's account. As of 9/7 we are still waiting for that payment.
- Scholarship Training Agreement signatures from student (Jaeger), CFI (Will Mathews) and coordinator (Jim) have been submitted.
- Due to the TFR flight instruction has been delayed. Instruction is anticipated to start Sep 10 in C-150.
- **Second 2021 RAY SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCED**
 - In an August email, EAA offered chapters a second 2021 Ray Scholarship if they have identified a scholar. Jim contacted Aiden Andrews and offered him a \$10,000 scholarship if approved by EAA National. Online application must be completed before the end of October.
- **Sonny Atkins Scholarship awards**
 - **Aidan Andrews**
 - If Aidan gets the second 2021 Ray Scholarship, that will be in addition to the \$1500 that we have already awarded him under our Sonny Atkins Scholarship.
 - Aidan's flight instructor wants him to complete ground school before starting flight instruction.
 - **Nathan West**
 - Nathan was awarded \$1,500 toward completion of his private pilot certificate.
 - Will Mathews and Nathan need to review ACS to complete private pilot requirements and prepare for his check ride.
 - **Tobias Klein**
 - Tobias was awarded a \$500 scholarship. He is attending Sacramento City College working on the Aeronautics A & P program.
- **New Tech Counselor** – EAA national has approved Glenn Gordon as a Technical Counselor.
- **Flying Club**
 - Jim Wilson purchased a Cessna 150L for the purpose of providing local limited flight instruction and aircraft rental to 5 chapter members. He submitted an application for Great Planes LLC, and obtained an EIN number for tax purposes and establishing a business. The formation of a flying club is under review. A flying club requires a board of directors, monthly meetings, articles of incorporation, by-laws, scheduling and administration. The first year of operation will be limited to five pilots. If, after one year, there is interest in a club of 10 or more members, a flying club could be formally established.
- **Property Tax** – A check for \$416.65 has been issued for our El Dorado County Unsecured Property Tax.
- **Chapter Asset Sale** - Jeromy Gutenberger wishes to purchase the chapter flatbed trailer. A motion to sell the trailer for \$400 was made (Jim Wilson), seconded (Dave Lugert), and approved.
- **Chapter Goals**
 - **Achieved**
 - Sitecore website improved
 - Chapter reopened activities in May.
 - Pancake Breakfasts and Display Days reopened in May.
 - 5/15: Flying Start
 - In-person membership meetings reopened in May.
 - In-person BOD meetings reopened in June.
 - 6/12 YE event
 - Hangar stairwell improvement.
 - **Ongoing**
 - Grow membership
 - No new members in the last month. Current membership stands at 116 people.
 - Lou Carmona, purchaser of an RV14A emp kit and member of 1476 RIU, wants to join 512.
 - Hangar improvement projects:

- Study replacement of hangar Skylights with an alternative to corrugated fiberglass.
- Paint new steps and baseboard grey.
- Remove current loft wall and rail and replace loft rail with new posts and wire.
Prepare material list and estimate: Lumber, Zinzer 123 primer, Navy grey paint and bolts, est. \$350.
- **General Meeting Presentation**
 - The trip to Oshkosh - Jim Wilson, Glenn Gordon
 - Kristin Rose Taylor - Independence OR Ray Scholar glider pilot
- **Upcoming Events**
 - 10/9: Young Eagles
- **Judi Gordon – Treasurer, Membership**
 - Banking account balances as of 08/31/2021:
 - Cash and checks on hand: \$5,259.60
 - Chase Checking # 6001: \$13,093.33 (\$9,997.10 of the total is earmarked for scholarship funds of which \$1,500 is earmarked for Aidan Andrews, and \$1,500 is earmarked for Nathan Prince)
 - Chase Savings # 8668: \$2,922.34 (Airport security account held in trust. Not property of EAA 512)
 - Current total: \$18,352.93 plus \$2,922.34 in Airport Security Account.
- **Rob Bulaga – Secretary**
 - Capital Air Show, Sept 24, 25, 26. Jim Pinkowski should place an announcement in the Strobe and discuss it at the September General Meeting.

Committee Reports

- **Fundraising** – Judi Gordon – The Julie Clark silent auction will be discussed at the September General Meeting.
- **Scholarship** – Dave Lugert, John Crocker, Jim Wilson, Judi Gordon – no new report

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m. by: Jim Wilson