



# THE STROBE

EAA 512 Placerville

July 21

## Prez Sez...

ORGANIZATIONS DIE,  
OSHKOSH REBOUNDS AND  
SCHOLARSHIPS FLOURISH!

Last month I received a message from Dick Wampach that the SVPA (Sacramento Valley Pilots Association) was being disbanded after 73 years. The board of directors voted to dissolve the club due to insufficient membership to sustain the organization. Their last order of business was to determine what to do with the remaining funds. The board generously voted to divide the funds, \$2306, equally between three EAA chapters, Chapter 52, Chapter 512 and Vintage Chapter 25.

As I was preparing to write on a subject for this month's newsletter, EAA headquarters helped with this article indented below.

*July 2021 - Your overall paid membership number is the No. 1 indicator of your chapter's health. You'll frequently hear us say "If you're not growing, you're dying." It is important to always be focused on membership retention and growth. If you do nothing, the chapter will inevitably dwindle away.*

## GENERAL MEETING

*At the EAA 512 Hangar*

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm

*Happy Hour, Picnic, and Meeting*

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*It may surprise you just how quickly a chapter can go from strong and vibrant to struggling to survive. An 80%-member retention rate is the industry average for a typical non-profit. With that in mind, look at the following diagram*

*which shows membership loss over a five-year period:*

Year	Start of Year Members	Retention Rate	End of Year Members
2017	100	80%	80
2018	80	80%	64
2019	64	80%	51
2020	51	80%	41
2021	41	80%	33

Sobering, isn't it? What can we, chapter 512, do to avoid getting to this point? How can we maintain and grow your membership? EAA headquarters says "It's not as difficult as you might think."

Start by creating a specific goal. Whether it's simply to maintain your current membership number, gain five new members, or 25, having a reasonable, measurable goal can make all the difference. It's a lot easier to get somewhere when you know where you're going!

A look at the number of EAA members and the number of chapter members shows that there is tremendous potential for growth in chapters. EAA currently has around 232,000 members. Out of this number, only about 15% are chapter members. The remaining 85% are the low-hanging fruit when it comes to recruiting new members to your chapter. Besides already meeting the requirement that chapter members be members of EAA, you know they already have some interest in aviation. All they need to do is pay your chapter dues and they are all set! It's up to you to draw them in.

Based off of a survey of EAA members, there are two main reasons folks do not join chapters. First, they were either not aware there was a chapter nearby or they were never invited to join. Hopefully this is not the case with our chapter, but it is worth consideration. How visible is our chapter? Do people around the airport and in the community know we exist? What actions have you taken to spread the

word about your chapter? Have you taken steps to actively prospect for new members and add them to your mailing list? Do you take opportunities to regularly invite folks to your chapter?

One Answer: Our pancake breakfast has been an enormous success this year. Three Saturdays down, three to go. Each one building on the next. Even the weekend of the Fourth of July did not deter people from coming out.

EAA further states... The second reason people do not join chapters is due to a lack of activity. Put another way, the chapter simply does not provide enough value to the prospective member to make it worth the time and effort for them to be a part. What is our chapter doing to provide value to our current members? Remember that membership retention is every bit as important as recruiting new members. However, providing value to our current members is often part of drawing new members. Satisfied members are more likely to help promote our chapter to their friends and acquaintances. Do you know what your members are interested in? Are you engaging in a variety of activities that cover a range of interests? It's OK to find a niche that is your chapter's "specialty" but be open to change and new ideas as your membership changes over time.

# General Meeting

*At the EAA 512 Hangar*  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm.

*Happy hour, Picnic, and Meeting*

When it comes to chapters, remember that activity equals success. Don't forget that EAA has many turn-key programs available to your chapter that reach different age groups and interests. You can check these out [here](#). While these give you a solid starting point, you are encouraged to be creative and come up with your own events and programs that are unique to your chapter.

Perhaps you are part of a large chapter and feel that the threat of dwindling membership is not too much of a concern for you. Don't be so comfortable that you are willing to rest on the laurels of those who went before you and put in the work to get the chapter to where it is today. Don't squander the investment they put in. Be proactive and keep those membership numbers up! Maybe you're part of a struggling chapter. You can begin taking the steps to turn the chapter around today! It will take hard work and dedication but success is possible and EAA stands ready to help!

Organizations like SVPA have life cycles, but their exist is fragile and finite. No organization is exempt from this inevitable cycle of life, unless it actively takes steps to counter the process. A typical EAA chapter is no different. With a strong national organization, EAA has 245,000 members, 900+ chapters world-wide. But every year, chapters are disbanded and new ones are formed.

**Question:** What does it take for a chapter to survive and thrive?

**Answer:** New membership! Members who are engaged, participate in activities, show interest in chapter events. Each member brings strength to the organization.

Chapter 512 has grown an astonishing 30% since the first of the year from 80 to 105 members. But more importantly, our

membership includes young people, new pilots seeking flight training, or furthering their pilot skills and advanced training.

## OSHKOSH 2021

The chapter will have a strong presence at Oshkosh this year. With over a dozen chapter members planning to attend the show, and friends of chapter members all converging on Oshkosh to share the experience. For over half of the people, it will be their first trip to Oshkosh. For me, this is my 4th trip and I am just a rookie. Bob O'Hara, our beloved founder of Chapter 512, made 27 pilgrimages to Oshkosh. I was privileged to share one of those trips with Bob in 2017. His advice for arrival: "You need to arrive the day before the day before" the show opens to see all the aircraft as they arrive... land on the blue dot, the green dot, the black dot.

## July "Changing of the Scholar Guard"

This fourth of July weekend, I attended a celebration and farewell to Andrew Gordon, who reported to U.S. Air Force "Boot Camp" this week to fulfill his four-year enlistment to become an air traffic controller. Andrew was chapter 512's Ray Aviation Scholar recipient in 2020. It was about one year ago when we selected Andrew, and I was at his house with his parents, Judi and Glenn. I came to announce to Andrew that we selected him for a \$7,500 Ray Aviation Scholarship. And before I could complete the sentence, Andrew said he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and was due to ship out in early 2021. My jaw dropped, and I said to Andrew, "I don't think you can do both. You got to choose one or the other".

Well, Andrew accepted the scholarship and began his flight training, then took a short vacation to Illinois and returned to Cameron Park to resume training. And then came COVID during the summer of 2020, the schedule was



interrupted with numerous days of poor visibility due to severe forest fires. Flight delays meant lost time, retraining and more dollars to achieve the desired result, a sport pilot certificate.

But as I write this article, Andrew proved me wrong! He completed his flight training and reported to active duty as a U.S. Air Force enlistee just days later. A **BIG CONGRATULATIONS** to Andrew Gordon for achieving his goal of Sport Pilot Certificate and joining the Air Force. I said he could not do both, and I was wrong. He did both!

### **NEW SCHOLAR FOR 2021**

Not every chapter gets a back-to-back scholar, but chapter 512 did. Our new scholar, Jaeger Ruckman, was "approved" by the EAA National scholarship committee. The EAA 512 Scholarship Committee found it to be a challenge to select a scholar and choose a flight school. Our experience has been that the cost of local flight schools is exceptionally high or the distance to the nearest alternative is too great. I have been an advocate for the formation of a local Placerville based flying club and have talked about this for several years especially since Placerville Aviation, the local

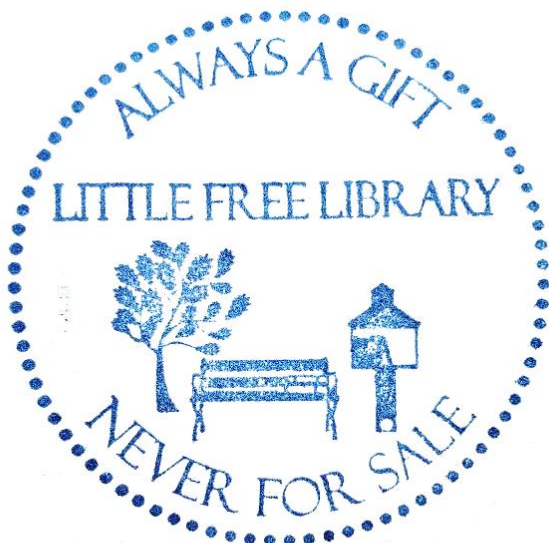
FBO/flight school, closed shop over 2 years ago.

The need for a flying club at our airport is certain and would serve the local community with affordable flight training. Both EAA and AOPA promote flying clubs with their own initiatives. While chapters may not form or be associated with a flying club, members of a chapter may form a flying club. That is my desire as a chapter leader, to start a flying club to lower the cost of flight instruction. With the help of one of our members, I hope to start a club in the next three to six months, a non-equity club will be formed as a 501(c)(7) with rules, articles of incorporation, officers and all the requisite elements.

The plan is to return from Oshkosh and for Will Mathews, CFI, to pick up a Cessna 150 in eastern Washington. If all goes well, Jaeger and others will have a trainer to start instruction on the ramp at the Placerville airport by early August.

By Jim Wilson





Placerville Airport - PVF  
 "Old Hangtown"  
 EAA Chapter 512

## Little Free Library

Did you know EAA 512 has a Little Free Library? We do! It's the little yellow box at the airport by the county office. We are a charter member with the nonprofit Little Free Library. Exactly, what is a Little Free Library? Little Free Library's vision is to expand access to free books for all through a global network of volunteer-led book sharing boxes. All the books in EAA 512's library are aviation related and completely free. Today there are 100,000 registered Little Free Libraries in all fifty states and 108 countries from Argentina to Zambia, even the South Pole, Antarctica!

Last year, the library sales and charity book events where books for the Little Free Library could be purchased, didn't occur because of the pandemic. We actually ran out of books. Supportive EAA members kept the library stocked with magazines - but there were no books. This is where the EAA Little Free Library could use your help. Tired of dusting bookshelves filled with aviation books? Ready

to part with some of your collection, but want it to go to someone whose passion for aviation is on par with yours? Please consider donating to EAA's Little Free Library. Can't part with all of your books right now? Consider gifting a few - the Little Free Library always needs books. We take fiction, nonfiction, paperbacks, hard bound, and everything in between. I can pick them up anywhere of your choosing, meet you at the airport or whatever works best for you.

Feel free to email me at [dharmawebber@gmail.com](mailto:dharmawebber@gmail.com), or text me at 530.417.4008.

Recently, the Placerville Public Library has started selling used books again. The Little Free Library is now lightly stocked - please stop by and see if we have anything that piques your interest!

By Dharma Webber





# 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](https://www.facebook.com/VulturesRowAviation)

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

[carol@vulturesrowaviation.com](mailto:carol@vulturesrowaviation.com)

Or call: 530-676-9245.

When two pilots recognize  
each other on my frequency



## AIRCRAFT DISPLAYS

### PLACERVILLE AIRPORT

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

9AM-1PM

AUG 7, 8  
SEPT 4, 5

Sponsored by EAA  
Chapter 512

SATURDAY DISPLAY HELD WITH  
EAA 512'S PANCAKE BREAKFASTS

Owners must sign-in their aircraft

# Contacts

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## Editor's Notes

(therefore notable)

Add value to the newsletter; contribute your own stuff. The Strobe is produced by your content. Anyone can do it. It's easy, it's fun, it's publishable.

Email Submission [to Helen] at:

**more\_right\_rudder@yahoo.com**

## EMAIL SHALL INCLUDE

1. **Content** (article, doc, link, image, meme)
2. **Title** (or I'll be creative on your behalf)
3. **Credit** (known or unknown)

**No PDF's** (no longer a new rule)

**DEADLINE 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY**  
of each Month  
(rare exceptions)

# ATTENTION

New members who would like 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](mailto:greeneggs2spam@yahoo.com)



The crusty old-timer captain is breaking in a brand-new navigator.

The captain opens his briefcase, pulls out a .38 and rests it on the glare panel. He asks the navigator, "Know what this is for?"

"No, sir," replies the newbie.

"I use it on navigators that get us lost," explains the captain, winking at his first officer.

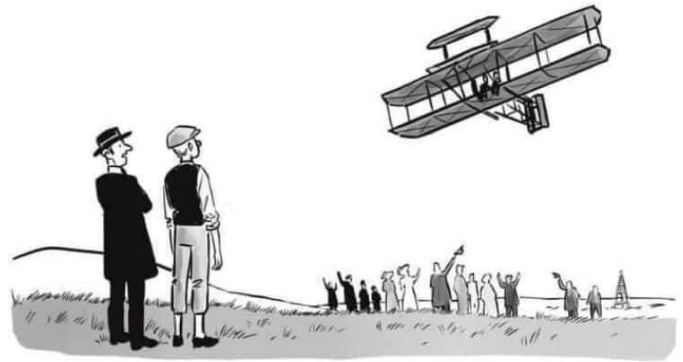
The navigator then opens his briefcase, pulls out a .45 and sets it on his chart table.

"What's THAT for?" queries the surprised captain.

"Well, sir," replies the navigator, "I'll know we're lost before you will."

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

Contact Al Herron at:  
[herronpvf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:herronpvf@sbcglobal.net)



"Well, what I see is my bike not getting fixed."



Money can't buy happiness but, tears dry a lot faster in a TBM..

- unknown





# AUGUST 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 IMC/VMC 7pm EAA Hangar	4	5	6	7 EAA 512 Pancakes + Display Day 8am
8 Display Day 8am	9	10	11 EAA 512 Board Meeting	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 EAA 512 General Meeting 6pm	19	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](http://www.ordinarypencils.com)



Ordinary Pencils

**EAA Chapter 512**  
**Monthly Board of Directors**  
**MINUTES**  
**July 14, 2021**

**Meeting called to order at: 7:18 p.m. by: Jim Wilson**

**Board Members Present:**

Jim Wilson, *President*

Jim Pinkowski, *Vice President*

Judi Gordon, *Treasurer*

Rob Bulaga, *Secretary*

John Crocker, *General Director*

Dave Lugert, *General Director*

**Others Present:**

Dick Wampach

Glenn Gordon

**Business from the Floor, Changes to Agenda**

- Jim Wilson is buying a 1972 Cessna 150 and is forming a flying club with it. The club will be limited to 5 members, one or two of which can be student pilots. The Board had a lengthy discussion on how the club can encourage and support the recruitment of new members to our Chapter.

**Approval of Minutes** - approved

**Board Member Reports**

○ **Jim Wilson – President**

■ **Another successful pancake breakfast July 3**

- Serving over 125 people, 18 airplanes flew in. Gross revenues **\$1033**. \$834 breakfast, \$15 gear, donations \$185. Our next pancake breakfast will be on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

■ **Ray Aviation Scholarship update**

● **ANDREW GORDON - 2020 RAY SCHOLAR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION**

- Check ride was flown on June 23. Local DPE not available. Don Bradley contacted DPE in southern Oregon. Dustin Jones and Andrew flew the 3 hour flight for the oral exam and check-ride the next morning and returned to PVF for the picnic and general meeting.
- Andrew completed his Recreational Pilot license in 11½ months. The length of time was exacerbated by COVID-19 and epic forest fires with poor visibility in all of California.
- The final report to National was completed with a total cost of \$19,200 reported .

● **JAEGER RUCKMAN - 2021 RAY SCHOLAR**

- Jaeger was officially awarded a \$10,000 scholarship on July 8. EAA will transfer the first installment of \$4,000 to the Chapter's account.

■ **Sonny Atkins Scholarship awards**

- **Nathan West** passed the FAA written exam with a score of 88%. A \$1500 check for flight training was delivered to Foothills Flight Center in late May. Since FCC has shut down operations, they returned the money to the Chapter.
- Jim Wilson made a motion to award **Andrew Gordon** \$2500 from the Sonny Atkins Scholarship for his successful completion of this license. John Crocker seconded the motion, which passed the Board unanimously.
- The **Chapter flight simulator** operating system was upgraded to Windows 10. Additionally, a new, 32", curved monitor replaced the three, 27" monitors we were using. The center monitor of those three had broken. Total cost for the upgrades was \$794.64.

■ **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.
- **Ongoing**
  - Grow membership. 10 new members added so far in 2021.
  - Hangar improvement projects:
    - New stairwell completed.
    - Study replacement of hangar Skylights with an alternative to corrugated fiberglass.
    - Remove current loft wall and rail and replace loft rail with new posts and wire at 3.
  - Airport support: Audrey Brand was hired by the county and officially started work on July 6 as assistant to Jeremy.
- **Upcoming Events**
  - 10/9: Young Eagles
- **Jim Pinkowski – Vice President**
  - **Young Eagles** – We had a good debrief from the YE event. There is a short list of action items that can be implemented to improve our next event. Dave Lugert has provided inputs and insights into what Chapter 292 does for their YE events. The Board approved reimbursement of \$35 for printing expenses that Jim incurred supporting this last YE event.
  - **WYFY** – Jim is trying to set up an extender so that we can hold Zoom conferences in our hangar. This will allow us to access presentation speakers from around the country.
  - **Guest Speaker** – At the July 21 General Meeting, Audrey and Jason Brand will give an informal slide presentation of their recent flight to the back-country of Idaho.
- **Judi Gordon – Treasurer, Membership**
  - Banking account balances as of 06/30/2021:
    - Cash and checks on hand: \$3,680.10
    - 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 Prince)
    - Chase Savings # 8668: \$2,922.32 (Airport security account held in trust. Not property of EAA 512)
    - Current total: \$19,137.25 plus \$2,922.32 in Airport Security Account.
  - SVPA has shut down its operations and donated its funds to various aviation organization in the area. Our chapter has received 1/3 of their funds.

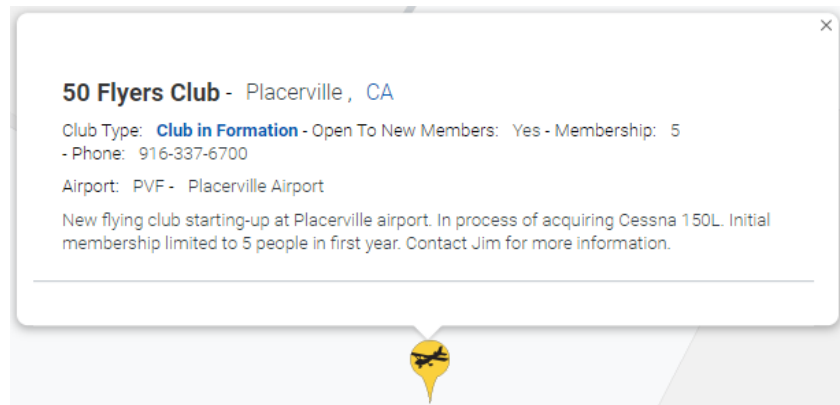
### **Committee Reports**

- **Fundraising – Judi Gordon**
  - The silent auction for a 30 minute flight with Julie Clark had no bids. We are changing this fund raiser to a raffle. Tickets will be available at the next General Meeting. 4 tickets have already been sold to Board Members. We will need to register with the state of California to hold the raffle.
  - We need a fundraising committee. The Scholarship Committee (Dave Lugert, John Crocker, Jim Wilson, Judi Gordon) will form the core of the fundraising committee, but we need more volunteers.
- **AirVenture 2021 Planning - Judi Gordon**
  - 20 people attending so far, with 14 camping in 9 tents and 6 staying in hotels or camper vans. We have booked 4 Chapter campsites.
  - We were not a winner in the AirVenture Pancake Breakfast lottery.

### **Comments, Announcements, and Other Business**



- One of our **Pancake Breakfast Signs** has gone missing. Dick Wampach will get a new sign made.
- Jim Wilson has listed in new flying club in the **AOPA Flying Club Finder**.



Meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m. by: Jim Wilson