



THE STROBE

Photo by A. Brand

EAA 512

Placerville, CA

February 2024

Welcome to the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 512

Join us every third Wednesday of the month at 7pm on the Placerville Airport. We meet at the EAA 512, green Quonset hangar. Bring your aviation enthusiasm and we will do our best to answer your questions and share the many opportunities the EAA has to offer our aviation community. Contact us at: eea512pvf@gmail.com

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**If you are interested in volunteering,
we would love to hear from you!**

eea512pvf@gmail.com



Build & Fly Model

Memberships are Due!

Pay with PayPal use [PayPal.ME/EEA512](https://www.paypal.com/EEA512)

or mail a check to:

Chapter Hangar

3484 Airport Rd

Placerville, CA 95667

President's Column

Dear Chapter Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and high spirits. As we navigate through 2024, I am honored to once again address you as your president and share some important updates and reflections.

First and foremost, it is with a heavy heart that I inform you of the loss of one of our fellow aviators Nancy Stephens. This newsletter includes a full story of Nancy's life of which EAA 512 was a large part. Her absence leaves a void that will be deeply felt. In memory of Nancy, we will be organizing a memorial event on March 16th at the chapter hangar to celebrate her life and honor the impact she had on our club. See more details within this newsletter.

While we mourn the loss of a cherished member, we must also look towards the future with optimism and enthusiasm. The upcoming months are filled with exciting events and activities designed to foster aviation and camaraderie. Check out the activities and Fly -out calendars.

Your active participation in these events will not only strengthen the bonds within our club but also contribute to the vibrant and inclusive community we aim to cultivate. We are looking for a few more volunteers to join our team to help with some programs which include grant writing and fund raising, and the newsletter. These programs are both rewarding and very important. Contact myself or any board member if you are able to help out.

I want to express my gratitude for your continued support and participation in making our chapter thrive. Together, we will honor the memory of our lost member, celebrate our shared successes, and look forward to a future filled with exciting activities.

Thank you for being an integral part of our chapter.

Warm regards, Tim Sullivan

Announcements



Volunteers Still Needed to Fill these Committees

-Grant/Fundraising Committee

-Chapter Merchandise

Please donate your recycled cans and bottles to our chapter. Drop off at the General Meeting or contact us and we can get you in touch with Hal Stephens.

We are in need of a BBQ if you have one to donate for our chapter picnics starting this April.

If you would like to post an event to the attention of our membership, please contact Jim Pinkowski or Michael Zwijacz. eea512pvf@gmail.com



Placerville Airport Historical Aircraft Display Days

Free to the Public

2024 Schedule First Saturday & Sunday

8AM-12 Noon - Sign in at the EAA Hangar

April 6,7 May 4,5 June 1,2

July 6,7 Aug 3,4 Sept 7,8

Make up days Oct 5,6

Join the EAA for their famous

Pancake Breakfast first Saturday

April-October 8-11AM EAA Hangar



Upcoming Aviation Related Events

If you would like to post an event to the attention of our membership, please contact Jim Pinkowski or Michael Zwijacz. Here's what we have:

February 22; Thursday; 11:00 AM PST; AOPA

Rusty Pilots Online Webinar https://www.faasafety.gov/SPANS/event_details.aspx?eid=126577&caller=/SPANS/events/EventList.aspx

February 22, Thursday; 19:00-20:00 PST; **When**

are you Too Old To Fly Online Webinar; https://www.faasafety.gov/SPANS/event_details.aspx?eid=126601&caller=/SPANS/events/EventList.aspx

February 26; Monday; 17:30 – 19:30 PST;

Weather Forecasts for Truckee Airport and How to Assess the Risk of Different Systems; Truckee Tahoe Airport (KTRK), Terminal Community Room A, 10356 Airport Rd.; Truckee, CA 96161; (organized by FAA).

March 3, Sunday, 10:00 – 1600: **Oakland Aviation Museum Open Cockpit Days;** Oakland Aviation Museum; KOAK (91.8 nM from KSAC).

March 16-17, Saturday-Sunday; 09:00 (gate), 11:00 (show): **Wings over Solano;** Travis AFB (not a fly-in event).

Come Fly with Me!

March 23, Saturday; lets plan to meet up around 11:00 AM PST at the Two-Niner Diner in the Petaluma Airport (O69) for the inaugural

2024 Chapter 512 \$100 Hamburger Fly-Out! Future fly-Outs will occur every 4-th Saturday of the month. New venue suggestions are always welcome; please contact Jim Pinkowski or Michael Zwijacz with questions and/or comments.

National EAA Flying Start Event

May 18; Saturday; Chapter 512 will be hosting a **Flying Start Event** to coincide with the EAA National flying Start Event day. Flying Start attempts to provide for adults the same thing the Young Eagles program provides to youths, namely; motivations to pursue the dream of flight along with ways and means to obtain a pilot certification. If you know someone 18 years of age or older who is or may be interested in learning to fly, please invite them to sign up for our flying start event and put them in contact with me (Jim Pinkowski) in order to pre-register.

If this Chapter can motivate 5 or more individuals to attend our Flying Start event, we will receive additional promotional support from EAA, and be given two weekly passes for EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2004! Believe me, this is huge, so get out there and shake the trees to see how many prospects we can sign-up!

Participants will view a short presentation prepared by EAA National, and be given an opportunity to take an Eagle Flight with a Chapter pilot volunteer! Accordingly, we will need members to fly our Eagles, so we will be soliciting volunteer pilots within and outside our chapter. Experienced Young Eagle pilots are already familiar with what this entails, so if you are in this group, please consider volunteering and I would sincerely appreciate it!

Garmin Discontinues Factory Support for the GNS 430-530 Nav-Com

Garmin is no longer making replacement parts for the popular GNS 430-530 series Nav-Coms, so when the current parts inventory is depleted, that's it! This series design is now 25 or more years old, so Garmin is encouraging current users to consider upgrading to a more contemporary designs such as the GTN 650.

GAMI G100UL becoming available in California this year

General Aviation Modifications Inc. (GAMI) announced that Vitol Aviation is currently in commercial-scale production of G100UL, which is expected to be distributed on the West Coast in the first half of this year, especially to those airports which have recently been prohibited from handling leaded avgas.

Adopt-A-Highway Update

We've been meeting as a group on the 3rd Saturday of the month (weather permitting) for highway cleanup. We have a lot of fun, build camaraderie, do some good for the planet, some good for our chapter, and get a little exercise.

Our contracts with CalTrans are for 5 years, and began in November 2022. We have a contract for 2 miles of Highway 50 eastbound, and for 2 miles of Highway 50 westbound, approximately between the McDonalds on Coach Lane, and Yummy Dumplings on Cambridge. Food motivated? Not ME!

To date, we have successfully completed 15 out of 15 potential months, and CalTrans has paid our Chapter \$7,000!

When you see our chapter member, John Vybiral, please give him a pat on the back. He has been at 100% of our cleanups to date! Thank you John!

In January, we had 3 new participants: Mary McGee, Jeff Hakala, and Tom Webber. It was Jeff's birthday, and we celebrated with birthday donuts, because a guy who's willing to pick up trash on his birthday is showing true commitment and deserves special treatment!

Interested in joining us? Please email aaa512pvf@gmail.com with "Adopt-A-Highway" in the subject line. We'd love to have you!

-Judi Gordon



Do you know any 11 - 14 year-olds interested in aviation?

Our Treasurer, Judi Gordon, will be holding a mini "Ground School" for kids passionate about aviation, but still a bit too young to start official lessons. The topics will be taught at an age-appropriate level, and will be engaging and interactive. Meetings will be at her home in Cameron Park, on a quarterly basis. Lessons will be followed by snacks, and an aviation-related movie.

Contact Judi at eea512pvf@gmail.com



Time is Ticking...

We already have 8 people planning to attend, and expect the number to at least double by the time Whitman Field is again home to the "The World's Busiest Control Tower"!

We book a Chapter campsite each year, and have an amazing time camping together and bonding as a group. The location of our campsite is always in a premier spot, with no need to spend precious hours on a school bus going between the campsite and the entrance.

Please contact Judi Gordon to indicate your interest in attending, and for help in coordinating logistics, should you need it!

eea512pvf@gmail.com

If you have something aviation related you'd like to present at our General Meetings, we would love to hear from you! We are looking for you to share a 15-20 minute presentation and some time for Q&A if needed. Please contact us at the email above!

ATTENTION: *If you have a build project update, have recently flown into a place with an air museum or some great food, or would like to share your aviation experiences & knowledge, please submit your content and photos to more_right_rudder@yahoo.com*

We would love to hear from you!

****Helpful Pro-Submission Hint for a Happy Editor- Send typed content via word document no font changes or special spacing & send photos, graphs, and diagrams separately as a jpeg!***

Submissions are due day after the general meeting!

*Thanks,
The Editor*

IMC/VMC Volunteer Needed

Greg Stein is looking for someone to help facilitate leading the IMC/VMC Discussion the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm. He has done an amazing job making every effort to keep this going along with his busy flying schedule.

In Memory of Nancy Kay Stephens

By Denise Stephens

Nancy Kay Stephens passed away peacefully at her home with her husband, daughter, and granddaughter by her side in Placerville, California on January 27, 2024, at the age of 86. Nancy was the only child of Gilbert and Yvonne Ludtke of Cody, Wyoming.

Growing up in Cody, Nancy enjoyed going to the Cody rodeos which were a half-mile walk up the hillside trail to the fairgrounds. The rodeos were held in the spring, summer and fall and became her passion as a young lady.

Her parents owned and operated the Cody Bus Line and Heart Mountain Hotel during the years after World War II. Nancy's parents opened the Jeep dealership in Cody and later sold the bus line to Continental Trailways and sold the hotel and Jeep dealership and moved to Billings, Montana in the early 1950s. Nancy graduated from Billings High School and enrolled at Montana State College in Bozeman, Montana majoring in education.

WHEN HAROLD MET NANCY... It was at the freshman social dance that Nancy met her future husband Harold Stephens who was also a Montana State freshman. As Hal described the dance, he spotted this young lady across the floor and strolled over to ask her for a dance. She obliged him for their first dance. As he returned across the floor, another gentleman moved in for a dance. With determination, he returned to dance with her again and again not to let go!

And that was the beginning of a long relationship that crisscrossed many states and decades of travel, by road and later by air through 65 years of love, devotion, and marriage.

After graduation in three years, Nancy taught third grade in Helena, Montana for a year, Upon Hal's graduation from Montana State College in Industrial Arts, they married in the Catholic Church in Helena on August 8, 1959.

After they departed on their honeymoon trip in their 1958 Volkswagen Bug. The VW Beetle was a new imported car from Germany that became the rage in the



late 50s and early 60s. Owners would wave to each other passing down the highway. Hal and Nancy set out on their western states journey to Seattle, camping on the Oregon coast on their way to San Francisco. Their return trip crossed the San Joaquin Valley and on to Lake Tahoe and Salt Lake City before they turned north to visit family in Montana. They each started their new teaching careers in Baker, Montana.

It was a cold winter in Baker when they chose to head back to California and become teachers in the central valley near Modesto in the small farming town of Ceres on highway 99. Nancy taught third grade for eleven years. Hal taught radio electronics, mechanical and architectural drawing at Ceres High School from 1961 to 1971.

In 1962, Hal met Herb Foreman, a teacher and pilot who owned a Piper PA-12. Hal earned his commercial and CFI rating and gave flight instruction at the Modesto flight service operator.

In 1970, Hal took a position with the California Teachers Association in the South Bay. During Hal's first two years, he commuted to the Bay Area during the week while Nancy was raising their children Denise and Mark.

The family moved to San Jose in 1973. Nancy worked as

a substitute teacher until she accepted a staff position at Blossom Ridge Teachers Professional Center where she worked alongside Hal who served as Executive Director of the teachers center.

Hal recalls a flight to Great Falls MT with the family in their Cessna 170 as they struggled to climb over a mountain range. They returned to the field and met a 182 pilot who was returning to Great Falls. They split up to lighten the load and all met later in the afternoon at their destination.



Nancy was his reliable co-pilot, always ready to take the controls, or assist with navigation. Nancy herself earned a private pilot certificate.

The big family bicentennial trip in 1976 in a Cessna 210 crisscrossed the United States over a 4-week period from San Jose to Montana, and east with stops in Missouri, Nashville, and up the Atlantic Coast. Nancy and the kid's job was to plan the route for fuel stops, and motel or camp sites along the route. A visit to the nation's capital was on the bucket list. At a fuel stop, Hal made a phone call to the FAA to get clearance to land in the Washington D.C. area to visit the museums.

They continued to Boston before crossing over Niagara Falls where they encountered adverse weather conditions. A close lightning strike persuaded Hal to call the FAA with a request- "Get us down at the nearest field". When the weather cleared, they continued their journey to the Oshkosh airshow where a problem with the landing gear developed.

On the final flight to San Jose with a fuel stop in Salt Lake City, a mechanical problem required pumping the gear

up and down. It was a long day before landing at their home field in San Jose. In those days before modern electronics and GPS, Nancy was an excellent co-pilot managing the charts, and navigating the plane on course.

In their retirement, Nancy and Hal choose Placerville as a great field to operate. They bought a home within blocks of the airfield and built a hangar where they could enjoy aviation artifacts and artwork. The big box hangar had the appearance of a museum with a collection of civilian and military aircraft pictures and models. The hangar on the west end was a friendly place for visitors to relax.

Nancy became an active member of many Placerville philanthropic organizations including the Elks Emblem Lodge and Shakespeare Club of Placerville. Nancy enjoyed participating in these organizations, socializing with members and meeting new friends.

She was a member of the Placerville EAA Experimental Aircraft Association. Many weekends and vacations were spent flying to various destinations around the country with the Cessna 170 club.

Nancy is survived by her husband of 65 years Harold Stephens and her daughter Denise Holm (Mark Holm) and son Mark Stephens. She leaves behind two granddaughters whom she adored, Juliette and Vanessa Holm.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Nancy's memory to the organizations that she was passionate about. A celebration of life is planned for March 16th, 2-5 pm at the EAA Hangar.



Calendar of Events 2024

Eyes out of the Cockpit!

February

21 - General Meeting/Presentation EAA Hangar 7pm

March

3 - KOAK Oakland Aviation Museum Open Cockpit Day Fly In

5 - IMC/VMC EAA Hangar 7pm

10 - Build & Fly Model

13 - BOD Meeting 6pm

16 - Adopt-A-Highway 8:30am

16 - Celebration of Life; Nancy Stephens 2-5pm

EAA Hangar

16/17 - Wings Over Solano (non-fly in at Travis AFB)

20 - General Meeting/Presentation EAA Hangar 7pm

30 - Hangar/Garden Clean Up Day/Pancake Breakfast

Preparation 8am-1pm Lunch Provided

April

2 - IMC/VMC EAA Hangar 7pm

6 - Pancake Breakfast 8-11am/Display 8am-12 Noon

7 - Display 8am-12 Noon

10 - BOD Meeting 6pm

17 - General Meeting/Presentation EAA Hangar 7pm

20 - Adopt-A-Highway 8:30am

May

4 - Pancake Breakfast 8-11am/Display 8am-12 Noon

5 - Display Day 8am-12 Noon

6 - IMC/VMC Meeting EAA Hangar 7pm

8 - BOD Meeting 6pm

15 - General Meeting/Picnic/Presentation 5:30pm

18 - Fly Start EAA National Ages 18 and Up

18 - Adopt-A-Highway ???

June

1 - Pancake Breakfast 8-11am/Display 8am-12 Noon

2 - Display Day 8am-12 Noon

16 - Adopt-A-Highway

29 - Young Eagles PVF

July

6 - Pancake Breakfast/Vintage Display 8-11am

7 - Display Day 8am-12 Noon

22-28 - EAA Air Venture 2024 Oshkosh

August

3 - Pancake Breakfast/Display 8-11am

4 - Display Day 8am-12 Noon

4 - Display 8am-12 Noon

Lost & Found

Jim lost a pair of black leather gloves at the hangar recently. If you find them, please email to: eea512pvf@gmail.com

Impress her with something expensive for Valentine's Day



Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers, some who work quietly yet diligently behind the scenes!