

THE STROBE



EAA 512

Placerville, CA

December 2023

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:

chapters.eaa.org/ea512/contact-us



Dates To Remember

December 20-Christmas Party 5:30-8:30pm

****Gift Exchange Optional, Meat is provided
Please bring a side dish or dessert to share**

HAPPY NEW FLYING YEAR 2024 !

January 9-IMC/VMC 7pm ****Questions contact
greg.stein777@gmail.com**

January 10-Board Meeting 7pm

January 17-General Meeting 7pm

January 20-Adopt-A-Highway 8:30am

****Volunteers must contact Judi prior at**

judieaa512@gmail.com

*Many Thanks to our Wonderful Volunteers,
some who quietly yet diligently work unnoticed
behind the scenes !*



PREZ SEZ by Jim Wilson

Happy Holidays

As the year winds to an end and we prepare for our traditional holiday party on December 20, I will hand the stick over to Tim Sullivan, our president elect. He will preside over the board of directors' meetings and lead the chapter for the next year.

This is a good time to remember our history and highlight events of the year.

The Chapter - As a non-profit organization and one of over 900 chapters of the EAA, we can stand proud of our chapter, its members, and their commitment to the **Spirit of Aviation**.

To chapter newcomers, the Experimental Aircraft Association was founded in 1953 as a grass-roots association of plane builders. The organization has evolved over the years and is not limited to experimental aircraft. Every aircraft owner, pilot or aviation enthusiast is welcome to join the organization. EAA has grown to over 400,000 members. Chapter 512 organized and filed 501 (5) (3)



Adopt-A-Highway Volunteers

status with the State of California with a charter in 1974. The hangar was erected in 1978 and Placerville and surrounding communities joined the chapter.

In 1978, Bob O'Hara appointed a Hangar Building Committee to present an appeal to the Airports Director of El Dorado County for a site to build the E.A.A. Chapter 512 hangar.

Membership - We have had steady growth in membership since our founding in 1974 when 10 pilots were required to form the chapter. By 1978, the number grew to 35. Today, our membership count is 77, nearly twice the national average of 43. Every year we ask members to pay a modest \$20 dues to renew membership in the chapter. If you joined under a six-month free trial as a Prospect, it is time to join national at eaa.org and pay the annual dues to the chapter.

Membership is more than just a head count. The real measure is the participation of members, and the enthusiasm they bring to the chapter.

Our programs -

Pancake Breakfast has become a tradition at Placerville airport and brings the community together beginning in April. For seven consecutive months we open the hangar at dawn on the first Saturday each month in good weather and bad. The crew puts out a great breakfast to the satisfaction of 150 guests and a dozen or more planes with hungry pilots.

Young Eagles events attract kids and parents to the airport every summer in June and October. Over the years, the chapter has flown over 2,000 kids over the past 30 years. Our young eagle coordinators, Jim Pinkowski and Judi Gordon and the ground crew help orchestrate successful events every year from briefing the pilots to processing the paperwork and ushering the kids and parents to and from the planes. We flew over 60 kids in 2023.

Young Eagles Build and Fly is a new program started this year by Dale Kral and Jim Vonderwerth. They lead a group of young builders to assemble a KT-40 60-inch Remote Control electric model airplane. They gather on a Saturday each month and will fly the plane in the spring at the Sacramento Area Modelers club near Mather Field. The young pilots are getting stick time on the RC flight simulator to develop their skills and prepare for first flight.

Adopt-A-Highway program completed our first year of collecting trash on Highway 50 in both directions from Cameron Park Dr. to Cambridge Dr. This program has provided a steady source of income to support scholarships and hangar improvements.

The Ray Aviation Scholarship and **Sunny Atkins Scholarship** programs have been a big success with \$66,500 in scholarship money awarded to local high school students since 2020.

Pilots in training We have seen a growth of family members who are pursuing their dreams of becoming

pilots and experiencing the joy of aviation. In the last two years, Ben Varozza graduated from high school, started training at Placerville and completed his flight training at Florida Tech in Melbourne, FL.

Sam Garcia followed suit and is in the final stage of his flight training for his private pilot certificate.

Hunter Sites is due for his checkride at Sacramento Executive at Advanced International Aviation Academy.

Engaging Youth in Aviation

It all starts here with the desire to build planes and become pilots. Jim Vonderwerth and two sons Trent and Zack, and Lawson under the instruction of Dale lay out the wing ribs of a 60-inch balsa RC model. Over the years Dale built many model planes before he started his current full-scale RV-6 project. The challenge for Dale is to keep the boy's attention because they want to get flight time on the RC flight simulator. Dale has the same problem splitting his time between RV building and flying his Cherokee.

Final Approach to Landing

This is my last Strobe article and the end of three, one-year terms as chapter president. I have enjoyed the friendships and comradery of belonging to an active chapter. I am taking a leave of absence and will turn over my duties and responsibilities to my successors for Ray Scholarship coordinator, Young Eagles coordinator, Adopt-A-Highway, Pancake Breakfast Coordinator and Web Editor.



Special Thanks to Jim Wilson

Thank you for sharing your love and enthusiasm in aviation along with your dedicated leadership to our EAA Chapter 512 !



Young Eagles Build & Fly Photos



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 a word document without font changes or special spacing & send photos, graphs, and diagrams separately!*

*Thanks,
The Editor*



Special Request
John MacPherson is looking to have any old or expired SF Sectionals you may have laying around.
Contact him ASAP (530) 626-4334

Contacts

Board of Directors

President

Jim Wilson (916) 337-6700
james.wilson.consulting@gmail.com

Vice President

Jim Pinkowski (916) 952-7354 jamespinkowski@comcast.net

Secretary

Robert Bulaga
rbulaga@sbcglobal.net

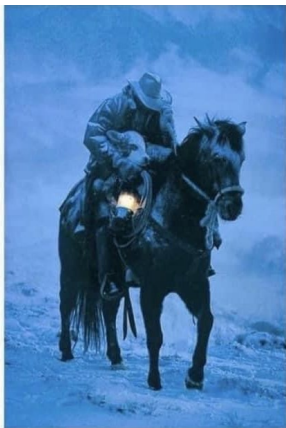
Treasurer

Judi Gordon (847) 414-7773
judieaa512@gmail.com

General Directors

Dick Wampach (530) 677-8251
rwampach@att.net

Neil Robinson (916) 600-6175
fewhairs@pacbell.net



Cowboys would put a lantern on their saddle at night so they could find the trail when they were far from home. This was early Saddle Light Navigation.

Chapter Committee Chairmen

Membership Administrator

Sam Garcia
(530) 409 7145

Young Eagles Coordinator

Jim Pinkowski (916) 952-7354
jamespinkowski@comcast.net

Webmaster

Jim Wilson (916) 337-6700
james.wilson.consulting@gmail.com

Editor

Audrey Brand (530) 409-4468
more_right_rudder@yahoo.com

EAA Flight Advisor

Hal Stephens (530) 263-3699
aerohal@comcast.net

EAA Technical Counselors

FAASTeam Coordinator
Dick Wampach (530) 677-8251
rwampach@att.net
Glenn Gordon 847-414-7773
glenn@glennSGordon.com

IMC/VMC Coordinator

Greg Stein (916) 862-0175
greg.stein777@gmail.com

Fundraising

Tracey Fremd
t.fremd@gmail.com