



CHAPTER 613

Franklin County State Airport (KFSO)

Swanton, Vermont

March 2025

Message from Our Chapter President

****Greetings, Fellow Aviators!**

As we look to the skies, we're reminded of the spirit that unites us—our shared passion for aviation and the camaraderie that makes our chapter soar. This month has been filled with exciting updates, inspiring stories, and a few upcoming events we can't wait to share with you all.

****A Frosty Celebration to Remember****

A big round of applause and heartfelt thanks to Chris and Jess Chicoine for orchestrating the spectacular comeback of our beloved Cabin Fever Frolic! Their hard work and dedication brought our chapter together for an unforgettable evening of laughter, camaraderie, and winter fun. Thank you, Chris and Jess, for making this cherished tradition shine once more!

****Mark Your Calendars – March is Full of Fun and real Maple Syrup!**

****Pancake Breakfast**, Join us on Sunday, March 16, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the Taylor Aviation Center, Franklin County Airport, for our much-loved Pancake Breakfast! Fuel up on delicious pancakes, bacon, eggs, and of course our annual corned beef hash and connect with fellow members over coffee and conversation. Don't forget to wear your best green—it's a St. Patrick's Day-themed celebration!

****Chapter Board Meeting**: Our March Chapter Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20th at 7:00 pm, via Zoom. Active Chapter 613 members are welcome to attend. Please let Marge or I know if you would like to join us and we will send you the log-in information.

****A Big Thank You to Our Volunteers!** To all of our wonderful volunteers—thank you for making our chapter the incredible community it is. Your hard work, dedication, and passion keep us soaring to new heights. Together, we've built something truly special, and I'm looking forward to an amazing summer that is just around the corner.

See you all soon

John FitzGerald , Chapter President



Pancake Breakfast — Sunday, March 16th!

Please join us for our Chapter 613 March Pancake Breakfast on March 16th!. 9-11 AM

Where: EAA Chapter 613 Aviation Center, Franklin County State Airport (KFSO)

What: Pancakes (with or without blueberries), sausage, bacon, corned beef hash, maple syrup, scrambled eggs, coffee, orange juice.

Prices: Breakfast: \$8.00,

Breakfast with Three 50/50 Raffle Tickets: \$10.00. Raffle Tickets only: \$1.00 each or Six for \$5.00.

We look forward to seeing you there!!!

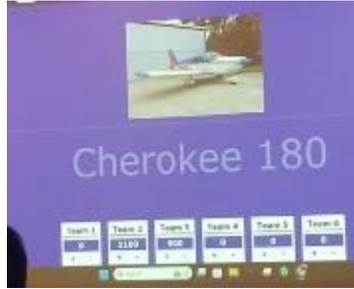


EAA Chapter 613 "Cabin Fever Frolic"

By Marge Butterfield

Cabin Fever Frolic, organized by Activities Director, Chris Chicoine, on March 1st was an amazing fun time. For those of you who couldn't make it, I have to say you certainly missed a wonderful evening. We all met at the Burlington Beer Company at 5:00. Chris, with the help of his wife, Jess, had the tables set up with favors of plastic and foam paper airplanes and decals. The food menu was varied and very good. After everyone had eaten, Chris and Jess hosted three games of Aviation Themed Jeopardy. Chris had a lot of categories and questions he made up, which were fun for the six color coded teams who played. We all had such a good time, and the evening just seemed to "fly by". Thank you, Chris and Jess!! (Thanks also to Bonnie Pease and Zoe Brosky for sharing their photos!)

Name this plane	Aviation Movies	Airplane Parts	Word Scramble	V What?
100	100	100	100	100
200	200	200	200	200
300	300	300	300	300
	400	400	400	400
			500	500

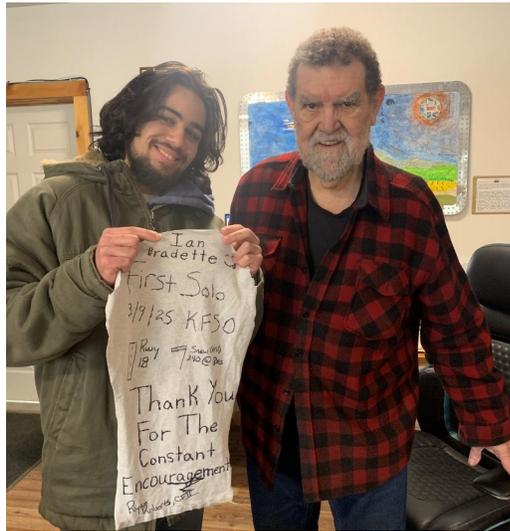


More Photos from Cabin Fever Frolic!



Congratulations to Ian Bradette who Soloed at FSO on March 9th!

As we were wrapping up this month's Chapter Newsletter, we received the wonderful news that Ian Bradette completed his first solo today. Congratulations Ian, you've worked long and hard for this moment, and we are so happy for you!!!





EAA Chapter 613
Youth Aviator Program Corner
March 2025



Beth White

Celebrating Miranda Gallagher's Next Chapter

At a time when we could all use a little extra good news, I am filled with joy and deep gratitude to celebrate an incredible milestone for our remarkable youth aviator—Miranda Gallagher. This fall, she will be heading to Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) on a full Air Force ROTC scholarship, a testament to her hard work, her family's unwavering support, and the power of hands-on learning and mentorship.



Miranda's aviation journey began at just 11 years old when she attended a STEM summer camp at Franklin County Airport. A flyer for a free Young Eagle flight led her to EAA Chapter 613, where fate had it that her first experience in a small airplane was with me, in Charlie, my green and white Cessna 150. From that moment, her enthusiasm was undeniable, and she embraced every opportunity to learn and grow.

Her parents played a crucial role, seeking out every possible way to support her passion. They enrolled her in our aviation summer camp at the Taylor Aviation Center and, when COVID shut the world down, George Coy and I took her under our wings. Miranda spent part of her time interning with me at Big Picture Learning, helping organize virtual aviation gatherings, while also working alongside George in the hangar, where she thrived under the mentorship of those who called his space home.

When it came time for high school, Miranda set her sights on Big Picture South Burlington, the only program that offered personalized, real-world learning. Despite long odds—six students were ahead of her for a single open lottery spot—she stayed determined. Through persistence and advocacy, she got the call the day before school started and secured her place with a standout interview.

Miranda Gallagher (Continued)

At Big Picture, Miranda flourished, learning to advocate for herself, create opportunities where none existed, and embrace challenges. In her second year, she secured a prestigious internship at BETA Technologies through the Harbor Freight Fellowship Initiative, making her one of the youngest interns they've had, aside from the Clark kids who grew up there.

Over the years, Miranda transformed from a shy middle schooler into a confident, eloquent leader. I'll never forget the countless hours she, her mom, and I spent practicing speeches—her early struggles, George's concerned reports from her first exhibition of learning, and then, the turning point when she found her voice. That voice eventually led her to be featured in the PBS Brief But Spectacular Future of Education series, highlighting mentorship and real-world learning.

She has since become a key leader in our aviation community, speaking at conferences, pitching to funders, mentoring young builders in our Women Build Planes program, and working on projects like the AN-2 restoration. Through it all, she has embodied the spirit of learning by doing.

What makes her journey even more special is that, at first, Miranda wasn't interested in college. Those who know me know I never push college for all—I simply support young people in making the best choices for themselves. Over time, Miranda discovered aeronautical engineering as a pathway that excited her, and she pursued it with the same dedication she's brought to aviation.

Now, as she finishes her private pilot's license through the Ray Scholarship while balancing early college, our Rans S-21 build, and extracurriculars from robotics to fencing, she is stepping fully into her role as a mentor and leader.

Miranda has been a part of my daily and weekly life since she was 12. The thought of her heading off to college brings a bitter-sweet, empty-nest feeling—I can only imagine how her parents feel. Yet, as much as I will miss her, I know she'll return with even greater expertise, ready to contribute to our aviation community in new ways.

We're lucky that she's staying in New England, and we're already looking forward to seeing her during breaks—flying in for open-hangar events, sharing all she's learning, and continuing to inspire the next generation.

To everyone who played a role in Miranda's journey—mentors, funders, friends—you know who you are. Thank you for believing in her and for being part of her story. This is just the beginning!

EAA Chapter 613 Youth Flyers: Reflections from Flight Training

Calla Senasac, High School Aviator, Ray Scholar, Mechanic-in-Training

Hi everyone! This has been a busy month for me with my new job at United as a ramp agent and school. I'm loving my job and although the hours are long and it's physically intensive, it's really fun to see another aspect of aviation and I'm learning lots of new things about a variety of aircraft!

Abby Demar High School Aviator, Ray Scholar, Mechanic-in-Training

February has flown by this year like it always does. And with not too many good weather days I didn't do much flying so I focused on my college search instead. I visited both Florida Institute of Technology (Florida Tech) and Jacksonville University. While both these schools were great along with the others on my list, I have decided to attend Florida Tech! They have a phenomenal program with great opportunities and internships available to their students and not to mention it's in the sunshine state. There will definitely be plenty of good weather days!

During this past month my family and I also took an impromptu trip to Cancun to get some much needed vitamin D. With my check ride coming up I will be taking every opportunity to get up and fly and when I'm not looking to the sky I will have my head down in a book studying.

Sam Longstreet, Grade 9, Mechanic and Pilot in Training

This month I have not done too much up at Franklin county but I hope I can get a flying lesson in soon. I have done some of the Sporty's online course recently. I also did not get the BETA internship but it was because I applied for the college internship instead of the high school job shadow which I will be signing up for. I hope to get back to it coming into this spring.

Ian Bradette, High School Aviator, Mechanic-in-Training

For me, this month has been one of opportunity. Finally, after over a year and two months, my medical certificate has finally arrived in the mail! This was the last key I have been needing to finally pursue my pilot's license.



I have gotten back into flying, and have my first solo flight scheduled for Sunday March 9th. In my first big step towards getting my license, I'd like to thank everyone who has helped me get to the point I am at, including Beth White and George Coy, as well as all of my flight instructors over my journey so far, Bob Bronges, Kyle Bedard, Michael, and Ryan Roberts.

This aviation community has put me on track to becoming a pilot by the age of 17, and I couldn't have had so many unique opportunities anywhere else. Special thanks to George for being my biggest support. Your actions and those of the community are never taken for granted. I hope everyone else has had a month as good as mine. **And, this just in, Ian soloed today! Check out the photos on Page 4!**

Mya Adams, Pilot and Mechanic-in-Training

I haven't been able to make it to Franklin County Airport this month. With this being said I would like to dedicate my part in the newsletter to all the people in EAA Chapter 613 who have supported me in my journey in aviation. I would like to thank George for always being there if we have any questions about the plane build or any questions regarding flights. I would like to thank Granny for finding so many scholarships for people to apply for to help them pay for their education and flight training. I would like to thank Ed for being my first flight instructor and believing that I have a real potential in the aviation field. I want to thank Bob for being my current flight instructor and being understanding during our flight lessons and making sure I understand what he is explaining....even if he has to repeat it a few times. I want to thank Beth for her support for me in the build and outside the build and I also want to thank her for getting me connected with everyone in EAA Chapter 613. I want to thank John for being an active part of EAA Chapter 613 and sharing his comedy with us. Lastly I want to thank everyone in Habitat for Aviation and everyone who supports it. Everyone is so supportive and caring and is like a family to me. EAA Chapter 613 has been the best thing I have ever found and I can not express how much I love it. It has given me so many opportunities that I wouldn't have gotten anywhere else, it has taught me so many things that I wouldn't learn in a classroom and it has allowed me to meet and have connections with some of the best people I have ever known.

Niko Cueno, High School Aviator

Although I haven't been able to fly this past month with winter taking its hold, I figured it's a good time to reflect on my journey in aviation and to thank those who have made it all possible. As a 14 year old kid I was terrified of just about everything-chiefly, heights. Undoubtedly, some luck led me to an unofficial discovery flight in my uncle's Cessna 177RG, while I was visiting him in Florida, and I loved it. My first flight in a small plane was such a frightening experience for me, that looking back, I'm fascinated by my eagerness to get back up in the air.

Back at home, in Vermont, I quickly learned how expensive flying was. Despite my constant itch to go flying, I didn't see how it was possible. My instructors at VFA had difficulty understanding me when I said I could only do a short flight each week in order to keep up with expenses, and I didn't understand why they resisted the idea; they knew that my rate of improvement would suffer with a lack of consistency in the air. But I had to work for every flight.

During COVID I would spend much of my daily routine on my neighbors farm stacking wood, smoothing pastures, and building massive fire pits out of hand-collected sticks that would leave my skin covered by hundreds of tiny red welts. My parents were in the process of getting divorced, and I knew I couldn't ask them for money. As I began my flight lessons, I started to multiply my hours worked. Yet, despite finding new work mowing lawns, and even with the occasional one hour of flight time treat from my visiting Seattle uncle, I was quickly running out of money. The process was unsustainable, and I didn't see how I could continue.

(Continued on next page)

Niko Cueno, High School Aviator (Continued)

One day, my mom spotted a Young Eagle flight online at Franklin County Airport, which was located just a little far from my Williston house in Swanton, Vermont. I'll admit I wasn't in need of a discovery flight, but rather, was looking for any and all possibilities to get in the air without the expenses that would come with it. My timid 14 year old self sat in the car as my mom spoke with the EAA chapter, in hopes of finding me more affordable flight lessons. She said that some people named Beth and George would help me learn to fly and my heart soared, but there were still things I wasn't sure about.

How was I going to get to lessons with the airport being so far—who was going to drive me?

Thanks to my beautiful grandma, Oma Linda, who didn't mind waiting out a 2 hour flight lesson with a book in hand within the confines of her blue Prius, and the extreme generosity of the EAA chapter, I was now managing to fly frequently enough to where I was improving. I was nailing my steep turns, but my landings needed some work. Today, learning to further refine my landings and maneuvers as I reach the finale of my Private Pilot training, I remember the muddy kid that couldn't wait to go up and do one set of steep turns. I know I couldn't have done any of it without the chapter. George and Beth White have been so extremely generous, and not only have I learned to fly, but I've learned about how much good these amazing people do, and I hope to do the same one day.

Owen Mongeon, Pilot and Mechanic-in-Training

Unfortunately the weather during the month of February did not cooperate. All of my flight lessons were canceled. But on the other hand I spent my time working on ground training and applied to more scholarships. I look forward to spring coming and the weather that comes with it to fly more.

Miranda Gallagher, High School Aviator

This month I've been able to fly a bit more. I've been working on flying in and out of BTW so I can work on communicating at a towered airport. Habitat for Aviation was invited to the VT Banker's Association Women in Leadership Conference and we presented the "Women Build Planes" Project. We have a few more events coming up so I'm looking forward to those. The build is coming along slowly but surely and we are working on the wing skins right now. Looking forward to the upcoming month and seeing everyone at the next pancake breakfast.

Plastic Modelers' Show in Williston, VT—April 12th, 9am—5 pm

CAN-AM Con 2025 is once again hosted by IPMS/Champlain Valley and the Mount Mansfield Modelers Association. The show will feature added categories for Vignettes and Real Space this year.

Location: The Williston Armory, 7846 Williston Road, Williston, VT 05495

IPMS/USA is the United States Branch of the International Plastic Modelers' Society, whose roots can be traced to the startup of the first IPMS National Branch during the 1960's in Great Britain. In 1964 a US-based modeler applied for a charter to start the US Branch. In the ensuing 4 decades, IPMS/USA has become a 5,000 member, all-volunteer organization dedicated to promoting the modeling hobby while providing a venue for modelers to share their skills in a social setting, along with friendly but spirited competition in the form of local, regional, and national contests and conventions. IPMS/USA maintains one of the largest and most-visited public websites in the modeling community (ipmsusa.org). A members-Forum allows discussion of specific topics of interest amongst our membership.

Online Chapter Membership Application and Renewals Made Easy!

Yes, you can renew and apply for, Chapter 613 membership online with our new easy-to-access links found on our website.

Simply click on the following link: [Join or Renew Your Chapter Membership](#) and it will take you to the “Join or Renew Your Chapter Membership” page on our Chapter website. On this page, you will see three links which are:

- ⇒ Join EAA Chapter 613 as a new member: [Join EAA Chapter 613 - Google Forms](#)
- ⇒ Renew your existing membership: [Renew Your Chapter 613 Membership - Google Forms](#)
- ⇒ Pay your dues, and optional flight training device fee, via credit card: [EAA Chapter 613 - 2025 Dues - Cheddar Up](#)
- ⇒ There are also instructions on how to pay via check or cash.

Thank you again for supporting our Chapter through your membership!!!

Minutes of the February 25th Chapter 613 Board Meeting

Minutes of this meeting are posted on the Chapter 613 website and can be accessed by clicking on the following link:

[250225 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

Members are encouraged to review these meeting minutes and contact any officer for more information. The decisions made by the Chapter Officers will be considered final after the next Board Meeting, unless a member requests that decisions be tabled at the meeting for further discussion by the entire membership.

Scholarships Available

- Capt. Sax scholarships, given in honor of Capt. John J. Sax, USMC: <https://captisaxfoundation.org/> **Due June 15th**
- NOTCH Scholarship/Located in Vermont – Even if you’re only 15 you can apply to this one! **Due April 18th** <https://notchvt.org/notch-scholarship-fund/>
- **The American Legion Post 1819** (for High School Graduates) **Due March 31st** <https://www.legionpost1819.org/scholarships/>

Are you thinking about purchasing a new headset? EAA Chapter 613 Youth Aviator Program is honored to be an affiliate of Light-speed Aviation. This means, with every Delta Zulu sold through our dedicated URL or QR code, EAA Chapter 613 will receive a donation of 10% of the headset value for our youth programming. Please share this far and wide and help our youth access opportunities to fly! <https://tinyurl.com/EAA613Lightspeed>

Upcoming Chapter 613 Summer Events

Here is the initial list of Chapter 613 events being planned for this summer.

- Saturday, May 17: Learn to Fly Day at KFSO
- Saturday, June 21st: Young Eagle Rally at KFSO
- Tuesday, June 24th: “Girls on the Rise” at KFSO
- Saturday, September 13: Young Eagle Rally at KPBG

You can always check events on our Chapter Calendar <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea613/calendar-of-events>

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Secretary

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John Butterfield—Newsletter Editor

EAA CHAPTER 613

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

March 2025

