



## CHAPTER 613

Franklin County State Airport (KFSO)

Swanton, Vermont

**May 2025**

### Message from our Chapter President – John Fitzgerald

Greetings All,

First of all, thank you to all the volunteer's that came out to clean our Aviation Center this past Saturday. It was a record turnout, and the barbeque was even better. Let's all get together more often!

FYI, if you haven't been to the Airport there is new sewer and water going in and the contractors are digging up in front of the FBO and the Aviation Center. So be careful, you may have to park in a different location around the airport. Our Aviation Center will be hooking up to municipal water and sewer in the near future.



This the season for Flying and Young Eagle Day is coming up June 21. So, if you would like to fly young Eagles, please make sure you have done the EAA youth training and background check. We have had over a hundred kids show up in the past. If you have any questions, just reach out to Miguel Marin.

Chris Chicoine, our activities director, is working on fun stuff for the summer so stay tuned. We are gearing up to some good ole times. If you have some ideas reach out to Chris.

I received your responses to the 2024 Chapter questionnaire that I had asked all of you to fill out at the end of 2024. I would like to thank all of you who took the time to do so. The survey results were very informative, so thanks again. I will be working with our officers and directors on responding and implementing feedback from the survey. Our goal is to make sure that Chapter 613 meets the needs and expectations of our members!

Thanks again to all that makes our Chapter the best! We have a lot going on and I can't thank you all enough. I am really enjoying being retired and I am able to spend more time at the airport. I have been reunited with the Youth Aviation Scholarship Committee, and I have found there is a ton of work going on there, with great results from our youth aviators. It takes a tremendous amount of work, dedication and sponsorship to run a successful program like the one that we have.

Wishing you clear skies and good times ahead!

John FitzGerald, Chapter President

## **April French Toast/Pancake Breakfast**

By Marge Butterfield

What a nice turnout we had for the April 13<sup>th</sup> pancake breakfast. In addition to pancakes, we also made French toast and Marge Butterfield cooked up a ham. Everything went very smoothly, thanks to the amazing volunteers who helped cook. Youth scholar, Ian Bradette did a great job cooking up sausages, making French toast and pancakes. Disa Tatro was also constantly busy keeping up with the demand cooking the French toast and pancakes. Shirley Fitzgerald stepped up to the plate, (or should I say, stove!) making her famous scrambled eggs. Marge Butterfield prepped the French toast. John Butterfield was busy keeping up with the demand for coffee and refilling supplies for butter and OJ. Treasurer, Bethany Fronhofer, was busy greeting everyone as they came by to pay for their breakfast. We are grateful to the kitchen cleanup crew: Disa Tatro, Shirley Fitzgerald, Greg “Papa” Adams, who is the grandfather of youth scholar, Mya Adams, Nicoletta Salvatore and Steve Gulick. Steve Gulick also was able to stay on to help John and Shirley Fitzgerald and John and Marge Butterfield clean up the dining area. Everyone enjoyed the food and camaraderie for our last pancake breakfast until November.

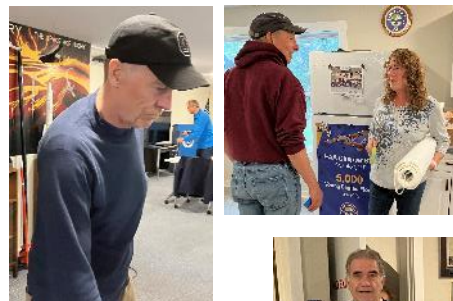
Following the breakfast, President, John Fitzgerald, thanked everyone for coming and also spoke about how much Donald and Earl Taylor did in building and maintaining the Taylor Aviation Center, for which we are all so grateful.





## A Fun Filled Aviation Center Cleanup Day and Barbecue! By Marge Butterfield

Thanks to our amazing volunteers, ***Dave Witkowski, Nicoletta Salvatore, Chas Ryan, Gabi Moye, Jacob LaFramboise, Frank (Gib) Gibney, John and Shirley Fitzgerald, Gregory Delaportas, Steve Couzelis, Chris and Jess Chicoine, Ning Cai, Youth Scholar Quintin Burton and his father, Bjorn Burton and John and Marge Butterfield***, we had a great annual cleanup day at the Taylor Aviation Center! Working as a team we accomplished so much in just a few hours. Following the cleanup, we had a BBQ. The Chapter had some hot dogs and rolls on hand, and thanks to Gabi Moye we also had pork ribs and pork chops cooked on the grill. Gabi also provided potato salad, a variety of chocolates and a special German cake. Nicoletta Salvatore made a cucumber salad, Marge Butterfield made baked beans and cookies, and Chas Ryan brought some potato chips, and Chris and Jess brought some drinks. Nobody went hungry! We all really enjoyed our day.



# Green Mountain Poker Run

Chris Chicoine, Chapter Activities Director

Happy May everybody! I was just reading an article about the lovely weather Vermont has been experiencing on the weekends and I'm shocked. We haven't seen a completely sunny weekend since mid-December....shocking. I'm optimistically making plans for this summer and fall with good weather in mind.

My big announcement:



2025 Green Mountain Poker Run



Saturday, August 16th rain date August 30th



Check-in: 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM



Starting Location: Rutland–Southern Vermont Regional Airport (KRUT)





Join the Vermont Aviators Association for the 2025 Green Mountain Poker Run—a thrilling aviation adventure across Vermont!



Start your day at Rutland Regional (KRUT) with bagels, donuts, coffee, and other essential breakfast goodies.



The poker run begins at 12:00 PM, when participants will receive their first playing card and take off for a scenic and fun-filled journey:

1.  Middlebury State Airport (6B0) – Pick up your second card
2.  Caledonia County Airport (KCDA) – Grab a quick snack and your third card
3.  Northeast Kingdom International Airport (KEFK) – Collect your fourth card
4.  Franklin County State Airport (KFSO) – Finish strong with your fifth and final card, hang around for the BBQ



Best hand wins! Prizes and bragging rights await.

Bring your plane, your poker face, and your sense of adventure!



**EAA Chapter 613**  
**Youth Aviation Program**  
**Corner**  
**May 2025**



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**Beth White**

This month, I want to take a moment to express deep gratitude to the many families and individuals who have created foundations in the spirit of giving—especially the Ray Foundation. Their support is more than financial—it's transformational.

Thanks to the generosity of programs like the Ray Aviation Scholarship, EAA Chapter 613 has helped 16 young aviators earn their private pilot licenses before graduating high school. That's an extraordinary milestone in just eight years of dedicated programming—and 43% of those recipients are young women, far surpassing national averages.

This year, we're proud to celebrate another class of youth aviators graduating in June. Every single one of them is heading into an aviation-related postsecondary pathway—whether they're training to become A&P mechanics or pursuing professional pilot careers. There is much to be proud of.

As you'll read in this month's newsletter, many of our students are now receiving life-changing scholarships thanks to the tireless work of champions like our "Scholarship Wrangler," Granny, and the unwavering commitment of our youth and their families, who put tremendous effort into each application. The support they've received from our chapter is setting them up for success—not just in aviation, but in life.

We are doing more than training pilots and mechanics. We're building a strong, interconnected aviation family—one that lifts each other up and launches young people into futures full of possibility. Sending out a heartfelt thank you to our Youth Aviation Committee members who advocate every day to expand access, build pathways, and support the dreams of our next generation of aviators.

We extend a special thanks to Ray Kirk for donating his helicopter to the Youth Aviation program to be used for fundraising – this generous donation will help keep our aviators flying. There are several meaningful ways to support EAA Chapter 613 and help us continue building pathways for the next generation of aviators. Tax-deductible donations can be made by mailing a check, designating a gift through a donor-advised fund, or remembering Chapter 613 in your legacy planning. If you have an airplane, airplane kit, or other valuable item you'd like to donate, we also gratefully accept in-kind donations that can be sold or parted out to benefit our programs. We also will do all of the legwork for you to sell your airplane for a 4-5% commission that will go directly to our program. Every contribution—large or small—directly supports youth scholarships, flight training, and hands-on aviation education in our community.

**Scholarships Available**

- Capt. Sax scholarships, given in honor of Capt. John J. Sax, USMC: <https://capt.saxfoundation.org/>  
**Due June 15th**

**Are you thinking about purchasing a new headset?** EAA Chapter 613 Youth Aviator Program is honored to be an affiliate of Lightspeed 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>

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### **EAA Chapter 613 Youth Flyers: Reflections from Flight Training**

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

Hi Everyone! I hope all of you have been having a pleasant month; it's finally spring and the leaves are out and the birds are chirping. I finished all my finals a couple of days ago, which means I'm done with high school! The feeling is certainly bittersweet, and I'm sure it will hit harder in a month when I officially graduate. One exciting thing that has happened this month is that we started dimpling the wing skin after weeks of preparation, and next week we will be countersinking the wing spars. I can't describe to you how excited I am to complete the wings, which is coming up soon! Other than that, I've been working, and being a ramp agent is so cool because you're right at the forefront of aviation and as close to the planes as you can be, plus I get to interact with the pilots who are usually super nice and happy to have a conversation with you. One note I will make for anyone planning on traveling is, don't fly through Newark! They have construction, and there are tons of delays to and from the airport.

#### **Sam Longstreet, Grade 9, Mechanic and Pilot in Training**

This past month I have been getting back into flying lessons. I recently had a flight lesson after almost three months without flying, it was a bit of a review lesson at first but I picked right back up where I left off three months ago really fast. After some review I worked more on having full control of landings including changing my speed while maintaining decent rate and using slips to increase decent rate and counteract wind. I am also planning to help out my instructor with some airplane related work in the future so now I have some aviation work to do too to keep up with that. This past month has been great and I am rediscovering why I love aviation so much.

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

Happy spring wonderful aviation people! This month has been super inspirational for me, and I am getting so close to my check ride! Over the last month, I have done a couple of solo flights, one to Plattsburgh and one to Morrisville. As always, the views are great and the smiles are wide. As I build up my solo hours, I am also preparing for my oral exam and check ride, which I intend to schedule after I get close to meeting my solo hour criteria. With summer in the forecast, I believe that I will be able to start logging more hours very soon as the winter and spring have been bringing in low ceilings, wind, and precipitation, making it quite difficult to find a chance to fly.

Aside from my flying ventures, I also got accepted into Husky Technologies CNC machinist academy to work there as a machinist this summer! I am quite excited to see what type of opportunities it will bring, and I will definitely talk more about it once I start. Moreover, I also intend to get my part 107 license to start flying drones for hire next year. I think it is an achievable endeavor for me, and I'd love to still do work related to aviation. Overall, a great month, and I hope all of you are doing well too. Happy flying!



**Ishir Agarwal, Ray Scholar, Aviator, UND Student**

2025 has brought on some adventures and surprises I never thought I would experience. To keep this entry within fourteen pages, I'll just share the biggest highlights over the past few months of my life! The biggest update in my aviation career so far is that I am now a certified commercial pilot! I literally cannot believe that it's actually a reality, and I still think it's WAY too funny when I tell people that I am a commercial pilot and they ask me "so do you fly Boeing or Airbus?" Of course I say Boeing!

Aside from my flying, life has been as busy as it can get and I absolutely love it. I am extremely proud of the work that me and my crew at EAA Chapter 1342 have done, and yes, don't worry, I'm about to tell you all of it. First of all, our IMC/VMC club monthly series has far exceeded the expectations I or anyone else had, and it is all thanks to the highly experienced and passionate speakers we have at UND. One meeting at a time, we are training to be safer pilots and it is possible because of EAA's overwhelming platform. Additionally, our initiative to get kids looking to the skies with a twinkle in their eyes have propelled us to lead six incredibly successful Young Eagles Workshops throughout the semester! We had over 60 kids in total enjoy hands-on activities including hot-air balloon making, wing-rib construction, and so much more! We are determined to stay connected with them in the future and help them navigate this crazy industry. On top of all of that, we were extremely thrilled to welcome YouTube sensation and United 757/767 First Officer Swayne Martin back to 1342 for an exciting presentation on his career so far. It was so motivating to see Swayne light up the stage and talk about all he has done as such a young pilot, and I'm so glad we were able to set that up for our Chapter members! Not going to lie, I was definitely nervous when he walked in the room but getting to shake hands with him, take photos together, and even have dinner with him afterwards was life-changing for me, as he was a huge reason for why I got into aviation. I could keep rambling about Chapter 1342 and our plans for Oshkosh, but I can't be taking the whole newsletter.

In the midst of everything else going on, I am extremely proud to have been elected as the 2025-2026 John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences Aerospace Senator for UND Student Government! Being able to represent the entire aerospace student population is so exciting to me, and I literally cannot wait to start making positive changes that our students need and want. Although I have never held a position in student government before, this opportunity is a true stepping stone to grow leadership, communication, and organizational skills so that I can better serve our student body!

Alright, that is enough from me, I PROMISE! I am just counting down the days for when I will be back in Vermont and able to see all the Chapter 613 people again. For now, I will sign off and see you all in the skies!

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

I got my license!!! I'm officially a pilot! After a long year and a few months of studying and training I can now say it has all paid off. The days leading up to my checkride were more stressful than actually taking the test which was surprising. The examiner told me I had one heck of an oral exam and that my radio calls and cross country navigation were exceptional, as well—I was super glad to hear that. I took my checkride over my school break so it was fun to get back to school and be able to tell my teachers the good news after having them wait in suspense.

Aside from my checkride and becoming a pilot, I have had some other great news within the past month. EAA National has awarded me a \$5,000 scholarship for my post secondary flight training and I won a \$1,000 scholarship from my school as well! So far this has been the best month of the year, filled with lots of fun times and good news. I would like to give special thanks to the EAA and the Ray Foundation for making this all possible. I am honored to have been selected for their flight training scholarship and am forever grateful for the opportunity they have provided!



### **Mya Adams, Pilot and Mechanic-in-Training**

This last month I got a new instructor, Brody Hammond, who came up through EAA Chapter 613, since Bob left to fly for Cape Air. Brody and I have done a couple flights but not too many due to weather. Since we haven't been able to fly much I have been focusing on Sporty's a lot. Another thing I want to bring up is the fact that I got a \$10,000 scholarship from the EAA for flights or schooling, so thank you so much for that!

### **Owen Mongeon, Pilot and Mechanic-in-Training**

During the past month I started flying with my new instructor. I was also able to get my car repaired, and so now I am flying consistently again. It feels great to be back to flying and making my way through the journey towards becoming a private pilot.

### **Niko Cueno, High School Aviator**

It's a rainy weekend, a perfect time to be studying for AP exams at home. Right now I'm just delighted to be finishing off my senior year, so I can finally shift my attention towards getting my Private Pilot's License. My aviation goals for after I ace my AP exams are to get up soloing and do the studying and IACRA stuff that I need for my checkride. Examiners look a bit busy (big surprise there), so I could be looking at a June check ride, which would be a good middle ground to where I can be prepared but not have to stretch out my flight currency any more than necessary. My other goal is to work when I can to afford the hefty examiner fee.

In my last flight, I was excited to feel like I was finally getting the short-field landings down. I realized I wasn't understanding the procedure as well as I needed to, and after gaining some clarity on what I needed to do, things came along. I've learned a lot about myself as a learner and how I learn best in the past few months, and it has helped me massively. If I could redo my flight training with the structure I know I needed now, I'd be a different pilot. But nonetheless, my approaches are really thanking my progress with my energy management skills that seemed to come together last flight, and I'm looking forward to practicing checkride procedures during my solo time.



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