

Chapter News

Pike's Peak Flyer

The Voice of EAA 72

<https://eaa72.org>

December 2024

Chapter News—Let's Get Going!

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we look back over this past year, there's been many changes and losses that we've experienced together. I'm going to start with one of our most recent events. As many of you are aware, Jim fell from a ladder at his home very recently. He was released from the hospital Thursday and should be recovering at home now. He broke his spine in two places; his lower back and his neck, which involved four different vertebrae. He's been recovering at St. Francis Hospital by Powers and Woodmen and lost his phone while there, which is one of the reasons a lot of us have been unable to talk with him recently. I doubt that loss of contact will last very long once he gets settled and gets a new phone. He needs our prayers and support as he continues his physical therapy and returns to our chapter. Give him a call at home once he gets settled, I know he's anxious to talk to everyone.

We started the year strongly with our membership renewals, just as we do every year. But as that was concluding, we lost one of our most beloved Chapter members. I don't know how everyone has dealt with the loss of Esther Smith, but it hit me especially hard. I had visited Esther just a couple of days before she was gone. Her spirit was high, but she was frustrated with being stuck there for her treatments and rehab. Since then, we've had to lean on each other and spread out her duties, it's taken several chapter members to step up and fill those shoes. She did so many things for this chapter, not the least of which was her secretary position on the Board. She managed tracking our membership, a major portion of the cooking, all the inventory for our food supplies, she managed the kitchen with an iron fist, and most of all she kept us all on our toes. She was diligent in keeping our minutes for the board, and she held a tight grip on our financials. She really did try and do it all. She did too much, and I think we've all realized that no single person needs to do that much, nor should we try. I believe we've done her proud with everything we're doing now for this Chapter. We are not doing it "Esther's way," so I guarantee we'd butt heads with her over the processes we're employing. But we're getting things done and that's the important thing to remember. She'd respect our work and even endorse it after a bit of "discussion."

We're focusing on our builders, and we managed to get two meetings set up this past year directly focused on the building process. Those two events were for sheet metal riveting and fiberglass work. We're starting next year off by focusing on the inspection and tracking portion of building. January's meeting will be a "Meet your tech counselor" course. Doug and Steve have confirmed their participation and we're still working on getting Fred to confirm his attendance. We started out the year with one EAA Technical Counselor and now we have three.

We had a wonderful year for Young Eagle flights. I don't recall exactly how many we had in total, but I was told that we were averaging between 30-35 flights each time we had an event. Our goal is to fly 25 flights per event, and we've smashed that goal. I would like to put out a grateful thank you to Jeff Hyatt for all his efforts this past year. I don't know if everyone is aware, but Jeff has elected to move onto greater things and is passing the torch to Raquel Dominguez. Raquel will be taking over for all of Jeff's duties in organizing and running our Young Eagles program. If you haven't yet met Raquel, she's heavily involved in aviation and will be a fantastic asset to our chapter moving forward. I can't think of better hands to leave the Young Eagles program to.

We had a tremendous showing for our annual Chili cookoff last month. We had eight fantastic entries. Richard Martin took first place, Doug Dal Soglio took second place, and Greg Sipes took third place. We elected a new Secretary to our board. So, I'd like to give a very warm welcome to Alec Hamilton for volunteering to be our new Secretary. Please congratulate him on this position when you run into him in the future.

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As many of you are aware, there was a large physical change to the MLAA hangar back in September and October. So please join me in thanking the MLAA Board and Aerolab for help in organizing and financing the repair to the MLAA hangar. We've already seen a decrease in our utilities from those repairs. The building is now secure, and we can trust in many years of use from these efforts. We still have a few smaller projects to tackle over the next year, updating the south and west exterior first floor doors are at the top of that list.

We had a wonderful Christmas party this year on 7 Dec 2024. We're incredibly lucky that we had another volunteer that stepped up to be our Event Coordinator, Heidi Ingalls. Our Christmas Party would have been a shell of success this year, had it not been for Heidi's tremendous efforts. She spearheaded the efforts in organizing and purchasing many of our supplies, desserts, and food. The last couple of Christmas Parties we've had were hosted at the Patty Jewett golf course. Those parties got pricey over time, and many of you indicated to the board that we needed to do something about that cost. We listened to and decided to host it at the MLAA Hangar this year. We had initially planned to have the party in the hangar, and if we had had more people, then we would have been forced to do that. There were 50 people initially signed up for the party and four of those were unable to attend. We instead decided to have the party upstairs where we normally meet. We requested help cleaning and setting up, and there was a huge show of volunteers for that effort. I can't thank you all enough for volunteering.

We elected to have the food provided by Honey Baked Ham. The menu consisted of two large spiral cut hams, two platters of roasted turkey breast, one platter of smoked turkey breast, Maple Sweet Potato Soufflé, Tuscan-style Broccoli, Green Bean Casserole, Cheesy Potatoes Au Gratin, and Hawaiian sweet rolls. The desserts were a large platter of cookies, a dozen gluten free donuts, Apple, Pumpkin, and mixed berry pies. The food was wonderful, and I'll admit that we needed more quantity for those delicious sides, they went fast. We've made a note of that, and we'll make sure to get more next year. I'm getting hungry just writing this, and I'm confident you're going to be eating shortly after reading this.

We had a ton of ham and turkey left over. So, we froze most of the ham and those will end up being served in one of our meeting's meals, probably as sliders. As everyone was aware, there were no leftovers for the sides. A good portion of ham and the remaining turkey was sent to Jim Stewards family as they deal with his injuries. Hopefully, that lightened their load, and they could spend more time with Jim. He's got a lot of physical therapy to deal with over these next few months. So please send him some good vibes, some prayers, and give him a call and wish him well when you get a chance.

Some of the annual awards we've given out in the past were for 1) Volunteer of the Year, 2) Member of the Year, 3) Pete Gonzalez Spirit award, 4) Young Eagles Pilot of the Year, and occasionally we've given out the 5) Lifetime Achievement Award. There was some big turmoil with Jim getting injured and I did my best to contact everyone and settle these awards. Here's what we produced:

Volunteer of the Year is awarded to Patty Martin for selflessly stepping up to cover the loss of Esther and continuing in that role until we managed to find her replacement last month. Patty's many other efforts are for helping with hosting the IMC/VMC meetings and setting up our A/V for our many meetings. She was never elected as Secretary but fulfilled those duties wonderfully and continued to do so until a new Secretary was elected last month.

Member of the Year has been awarded to Jeff Hyatt for his enormous efforts in hosting and running our Young Eagles events this past year. We will miss him and wish him all the best in this next chapter of his life.

Pete Gonzales Spirit of the Year is awarded to Richard Martin. Richard was initially slated for Member of the year, and this was discussed with several members of the board. I swapped that out at the last minute because I believe that one of the cornerstones for Experimental Aviation is training; even while building, we're training and learning. Richard's devotion to our Chapter's training programs, IMC/VMC and now the Simulator, have shown his diligence in putting together a comprehensive training program that any chapter would be proud of. He truly embodies the spirit of aviation.

Lifetime Achievement Award was awarded posthumously to Esther Smith. Jim and I discussed this, and we both agreed that we don't have to award this every year. We also agreed that it needs to be for someone who truly shines in aviation and our Chapter. So, I put forth this proposal to the Christmas Party attendees, as potential recognition,

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and I received overwhelming endorsement by everyone there. Esther was a cornerstone to our Chapter in so many ways and it's important for future members to know the legacy she leaves behind. She cared deeply for this Chapter, and it showed in her passion for doing things the right way, even if you couldn't see that immediately or at that moment.

The **Young Eagle Pilot of the Year** achievement was not settled by the time I finished writing this letter, so that will be posted and/or announced in our next newsletter or meeting.

Don't forget that our annual membership renewals are due by 31 December 2024. Greg Wolff is our membership coordinator now and you can find his contact details on the last page of this newsletter or on our website. For those of you that are not aware, we've added a new membership renewal option for three years that only costs \$90, so that'll save you \$5 per year.

Please have a wonderful Christmas and New Year's if I don't see you at our next Coffee and Donuts this weekend. Thank you all for your efforts,



Bill Epperson,
Vice-President, Bruce McCombs EAA Chapter 72

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------|
| • Dec. 14 | Coffee & Donuts, MLAA Hangar | 9-11 am |
| • Jan. 11 | Coffee & Donuts, MLAA Hangar | 9-11 am |
| • Jan. 18 | EAA Chapter Meeting, MLAA Hangar, Tech. Advisors | 11 am |
| • Jan. 27-31 | EAA Homebuilder's Week Online Free Seminars | Daily |

EAA 72.5

November 16, 2024 at 6:11 PM



EAA 72.5

EAA 72.5 is a program that involves kids who want to fly a plane

EAA 72.5 is a program that involves kids who want to fly a plane when they grow up! There are a lot of hands-on activities to get kids involved into planes. Things like building RC planes, watching Aerolab build their planes, talking to the towers at the COS airport and do a tour are just some of the ideas for activities. Meetings will happen on every 3rd Saturday of every month, and it will be from 10:00 am – 11:00 am and then we will join the EAA 72 meeting after ours. After both meetings end, lunch is typically served for those that want to stay, for a small donation. These meetings will be held at the EAA 72 building at Meadow Lake Airport, 13550 Piper Lane Peyton, Colorado.

EAA 72.5 is a program for kids that are interested in not only flying planes, but maybe being a pilot when they grow up. EAA 72.5 will have interactive activities like building and flying an RC airplane. We will also be taking field trips to places like going to the World War II Museum, and going to talk to the control tower at the COS Airport! We will have guest speakers like

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people from the Air Force base or people who do aerobatic competitions come talk to us about what they do for a living. We also have two RC planes that have been purchased with money from the chapter. These are the EKadet, and the Piper Cub. We will be building them and hopefully flying them at the RC airport in Peyton, Colorado. We will also be flying drones! Or maybe learning about the different parts of a plane, or how to do maintenance on planes.

PIPER CUB:

The Piper Cub was purchased by EAA chapter 72 for the 72.5 club. This RC will probably need parts that need to be bought. This has been opened and partly put together but some of the parts of the plane are missing.



EKADET:

The EKadet is custom made for the Young Eagles and has the picture of the Young Eagles symbol on the tail. The EKadet is still in the box and as far as we know, all of the parts are still in the box and ready to be built.

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, OR CONCERNS?

If you have any comments, questions, or any concerns please contact:

LEXI PARSONS, Chapter 72.5 Coordinator

Phone number: (719) -638-2999

Email: dakooldave@sbcglobal.net

THANK YOU AND KEEP FLYING!

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Mark Your Calendars - Homebuilders Week Is Back!

Join us January 27-31 to learn all about building your own aircraft. Experts from every corner of the homebuilt aircraft community will share their knowledge and best practices through free, interactive webinars.

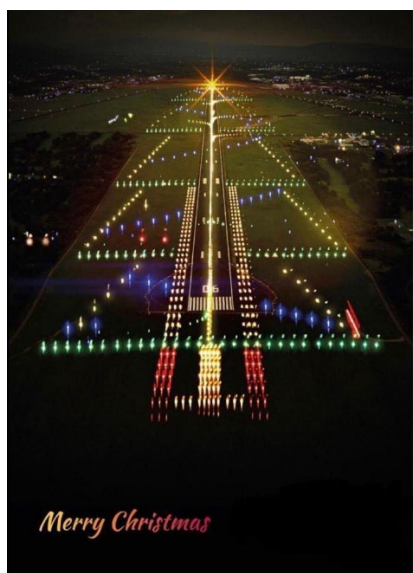
Webinars will cover topics including sheet metal basics, panel wiring, kit selection, buying parts, and more! Some of the live webinars also qualify for credit in the FAA WINGS or AMT awards programs.

Check out the upcoming schedule and save your spot today!

[Register Today](#)

Chapter memberships expire 31 December 2024 and we will be accepting dues for 2025 on Saturday at Coffee and Donuts gathering in the MLAA hangar. Memberships are \$35 per year or \$90 for three years.

Greg Wolff, Membership Coordinator



Chapter Financials

*Thank you for supporting
these EAA Chapter 72
members!*

EAA BRUCE MCCOMBS CHAPTER 72 TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 12/01/2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11/30/2024	Checking Balance	\$11,511.83
11/30/2024	Scholarship Account	\$13,876.46
11/30/2024	Savings Account	\$31,974.42

A Travel

Advantage



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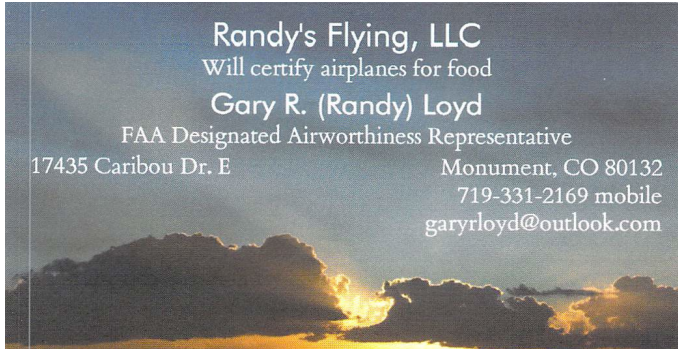
**FILL OUT FAA FORM 8500-8
USE PASSWORD AND SUBMIT
PRINT OUT 8500-8 IF ABLE
BRING IN FORM AND CONFIRMATION #**

Chapter Meeting

Date: Jan. 18, 2025

Time: 11:00

Topic: Tech. Advisors, Doug Dal Soglio, Steve Fessler, and Fred Carter. Followed by Soup Luncheon.



Randy's Flying, LLC
Will certify airplanes for food

Gary R. (Randy) Loyd
FAA Designated Airworthiness Representative

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MEADOW LAKE AIRPORT - COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

Next Meeting Jan. 18, 2025

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Visit our website: <https://caa72.org>

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About our Chapter

The Bruce McCombs EAA Chapter 72 meets at Meadow Lake Airport. Meetings are held on 3rd Saturday of each month with a breakfast or lunch. Look for the calendar of events to highlight special chapter activities like Young Eagle Rallies, fly-outs, and other chapter sponsored events. The Chapter Newsletter is published monthly, normally emailed, and available on the website a few days before each meeting. Readers are encouraged to contribute articles, photos, etc. by submitting them to the Newsletter Editor by the first Saturday of each month.

Annual membership is \$35 or 3 years for \$90 . Send to: Membership chairman Greg Wolff, 19773 Kenshaw Ct. Monument, CO 80132.