



**March 2025**

### **From the Prez:**

Recently I had the opportunity to attend an EAA Leadership Boot Camp in Chandler. It was a full day event with lots of questions and cross talk for about 20 regional chapter leaders. While the seminar was oriented to chapter leadership, I think that the universality of the agenda is interesting for all chapter members. Below I have summarized the key points of the seminar in the hopes that it may inspire members to ask the important questions and partner in making our chapter better.

### **HALLMARKS OF SUCCESSFUL CHAPTERS**

1. Quality Leadership – motivated officers with the right skill set
2. Have a Strategic Plan – *“if you don’t know where you’re going, any road will take you there”*
3. Remember, first and foremost, we are a social organization, and food is key to socializing
4. Have Quality Monthly Gatherings that motivate people to return
5. Be financially Responsible – have a budget, follow it
6. Have a Growth Mindset – be positive and find a way
7. Understand, Recognize, and Reward Your Volunteers
8. Marketing and Promotion
  - a. ACTIVITY = SUCCESS. A vibrant activity schedule was the #1 attraction for members



## **EAA Chapter 776**

[\(Email chapter officers\)](#)

**Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635 Area  
Code 520**

President: [Greg Loughran](#)  
[\(757\) 282-9391](#)

Vice President: [Jason Steinberg](#)  
[\(520\) 266-0859](#)

Secretary: [George Clarke](#)  
[\(520\)-459-0012](#)

Treasurer: [Jon Nelson](#)  
[\(520\) 559-2315](#)

Director: [Cliff Van Vleet](#)  
[\(520\) 378-2517](#)

Director: [Chris Daley](#)  
[\(602\) 515-8752](#)

Director & Newsletter Editor [Larry Portouw](#)

Young Eagles Coordinator: [Larry Portouw](#)  
[\(520\)-249-8744](#)

## **Upcoming Events**

[EAA Ch 776 meeting, March 11th, 2025,](#)  
[6pm at the KFHU Terminal Building](#)

Coolidge Fly-in b'fast. 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday

Grapevine camping/BBQ 3d Saturday

Casa Grande fly-in b'fast 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday

[Arizona Pilot's Association \(APA\) Calendar](#)

[APA Newsletter](#)

[New Mexico Pilot's Association Calendar](#)

[This Day in Aviation](#)

- b. Quote from Chapter 1 *“Do cool and awesome things and they will come”*
- c. Polls show that Word of Mouth is the most pervasive way that chapters get known
- d. EAA maintains a nationwide events calendar with over 1000 aviation events annually.
- e. Newsletter – another highly effective way to extend outreach to a wider audience
- f. Chapter website – EAA maintains a page for each chapter but we can build our own. The website should be built to attract new members as well as to keep current members informed.

## **CHAPTER PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES** (EAA.org/Chapters/Resources)

1. Young Eagles – a program for kids 8 to 17 to experience a flight in a GA airplane
2. Flying Start is the adult version of Y.E. All the same rules apply except for parental signature
3. Eagle Flights is an individualized program to introduce adults to flying and can be equated to a Discovery Flight as offered by many flight schools
4. Young Eagles Workshops – a way to keep kids engaged in aviation before or after their flight. EAA sells kits to use in the workshops. One kit has materials for 10 kids to participate; kits cost \$45 each
5. Young Eagles Build and Fly – in partnership with the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA), kids build and fly a RC airplane. There are two levels of kits: a foam aircraft (\$350) and a wood structure aircraft (\$450). Kits contain all materials including the RC components.
6. Aviation Summer Camp – another way to keep kids engaged after their flight. Each camp is sponsored and conducted by the chapter and normally lasts 2 weeks. EAA can provide all syllabus and materials.
7. Ray Scholarships – about 200 per year are awarded by EAA HQ upon the recommendations of the chapters. The scholarship is up to \$12,000 per student for flight training
8. Flight Advisor and Tech Counselors. Candidates are recommended by the chapter and approved by EAA HQ.

## **MONEY & FINANCE**

1. People like to give money to good ideas, especially those with a good track record
2. Know WHY your chapter needs money before designing a system to earn it
3. Dues should not be the sole source of chapter income. At our current dues rate, 776 cannot even cover the annual fee to EAA HQ without dipping into additional funds (18 members at \$10 per year equals \$180 per year; annual EAA fee is \$437)
4. Suggested events include: Pancake breakfast, Auctions, 50/50 raffles, Summer Camp for kids, hosting a Tri-motor or B-25 visit
5. Hosting dual events can increase donation. It is acceptable to have a donations jar at chapter events as long as the donations are not conditioned on a Y.E. flight.
6. Partner with local businesses for a non-profit night. The chapter provides volunteers to the business in exchange for X% of the profit

7. Build or restore aircraft for resale. This could also be used as a Y.E. project during the build. EAA HQ routinely receives donations of aircraft and can re-donate one to a chapter for restoration and sale. Contact EAA to get on their recipient's list
8. EAA strongly recommends that every chapter be a 501(c)(3) organization. This is not the same as being a Not for Profit entity under Arizona law. Without 501(c)(3) status the chapter is subject to federal income tax and cannot offer tax deductions for donors
9. EAA also recommends that every chapter have a budget, a Balance Sheet, and a Profit and Loss Statement. EAA retains a tax attorney for consultations by chapters
10. EAA provides event insurance for chapter sponsored events, to include recurring events like monthly gatherings.

I hope that the foregoing has got you thinking, as it has me. Just remember, the hardest part about getting something done is to decide to do it.

Be Safe!

*Greg Loughran*



## Young Eagles

We canceled a Young Eagles rally on March 1st for German exchange students from Sierra Vista's sister city in Radebuel, Germany because of high winds. Because of their schedule, they were unable to reschedule. Standby, because we have another group wanting to schedule a rally. More to follow...

David Leiting, EAA Eagles Program Manager, has informed us that we flew 150 Young Eagles in 2024 and earned \$750 in Young Eagles credits. What to do with the credit will be a future meeting topic.



## EAA CHAPTER 776 THE SKY ISLAND EAGLES 11 Feb 2025 Minutes

The Chapter meeting was held at the Sierra Vista terminal building at 6 PM on the second Tuesday of the month. Those members in attendance were George Clarke, Anne Ballinger, Ben Middleton, Cliff and Carole Van Vleet, Michelle Snodgrass, Angelo Petropolis, Dennis and Diane McMahon, Vince Pujalte, Jon Nelson, Greg Loughran, Jason Steinberg, and John Lakatos. Guests were Clark Sandager (EAA Ch 13 member), Greg Harrell (LAAF ATC Chief), TJ Taijeron (LAAF Base Operations Manager), and spouses Wanda Petropolis and Kristan Pujalte.

Following the pot-luck supper and some visiting time, Greg Loughran called the meeting to order. Secretary Clarke asked that the January meeting minutes, as published in the February newsletter, be accepted; a motion was made and the motion sustained by all members present.

At this point our President asked that our guest speaker Greg Harrell come forward, introduce himself, and present his talk on Airspace at Fort Huachuca and how to make the best use of it, ATC, and some new things that are going on at Libby.

Greg is a very interesting and informed speaker, and it is always a pleasure to listen to his presentations. He has a no-nonsense way of reducing the regulations and information he is offering to you in a manner that cuts through the jargon and leaves you with an understanding of the subject. Greg also brought TJ Taijeron into the conversation at various points to explain just what Base Opps did also. Following Greg's talk, both he and TJ stayed to take questions, and our group had quite a few.

Next up Loughran gave a quick report of some of the items discussed by the chapter's Board at their February meeting. Those items were the offer of one of our members to give the chapter his Sky Raider II Light Sport aircraft to be used as a static display and teaching tool when needed. Another topic covered was the need for more volunteers at our events and what could be done to enhance that. There was also some discussion of our chapter funding and what measures might be needed in the future to increase it.

Since Greg was the only City Transportation Commission member in attendance it fell on him to make that report also. The commission has approved a resolution to look into bringing back some kind of City sponsored Airport Open House with at least partial funding from the city. The commission acknowledges that it is late in the fiscal year planning for next year (starts in July) but that it is worth starting to gather the information necessary.

Jon Nelson was asked for his Treasurer Report which he made as follows: Chapter checking \$1,592.54, Young Eagle checking \$6,802.43, and Young Eagle certificate \$15,345.30.

For those ready for a breakfast, Roy is having one at Tombstone this Saturday starting at 0900. (This was cancelled because of safety issue from an overwhelming response. -ed)

Buckeye is this weekend and the chapter will be flying some German exchange students on Saturday the 1st of March. The speaker for our next chapter meeting will be Brandon Armstrong (local A&P and AET). A brief mention of the EAA's "Learn to Fly" day coming up for those chapters that want to participate.

In closing, Greg reminded us that the next chapter meeting was on Tuesday evening, the 11<sup>th</sup> of March at 1800 in the City Terminal. With that the meeting was adjourned.



## **EAA CHAPTER 776**

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

### **February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

#### **Attending**

Greg Loughran, President  
Jason Steinberg, V.P.

Clifford Van Vleet, Director  
Chris Daley, Director  
George Clarke, Secretary

#### **Absent**

Jon Nelson, Treasurer  
Larry Portouw, Y.E.

Meeting called to order at 4:30 PM by Greg Loughran. Greg took the minutes as George Clarke would not arrive until later.

1. The first item on the agenda was a presentation by Gale Nellans about his intention to donate an aircraft to the chapter. The aircraft in question is a Skyraider II, N438JC, a single seat light sport STOL aircraft sporting a 65 HP Jabiru engine. The

aircraft has folding wings and comes with its own fully enclosed trailer. It is the intent of both the chapter and Gale that the aircraft be used strictly for educational purposes. An obvious opportunity would be to entertain kids waiting to fly at Y.E. rallies. Since EAA rules prohibit chapters from owning airworthy aircraft, it must be accepted by the chapter as a ground training aid or ownership must be passed to a third-party individual or organization. Jason Steinberg has volunteered to be the interim person if the board votes to proceed in that direction. We have a verbal agreement with the donor to accept the aircraft on one of those two options and will proceed to the transfer as soon as the board votes on the preferred method of acquisition.

**ACTION ITEM:** Board members are requested to review this matter and be prepared to vote their preference NLT the next board meeting.

2. The board then moved on to open discussions on the SWOT survey taken last month. The conversation focused mainly on how the chapter can interact more with the community, both civil and aeronautical, to help expand our membership. All agreed that Young Eagles is our core mission, and we should use that, and Eagle Flights, as our entrée into these communities. Members highlighted the fact that our membership is rapidly aging out and that it will become progressively more difficult for us to support larger Y.E. events without more pilot participation.

**ACTION ITEM:** We must dig more deeply into these SWOT items to come up with a list of priorities and develop an action plan.

3. There was a brief discussion on inspiring more members, or even outsiders, to take up building an aircraft. Several of our current

members have experience in building and should be encouraged to lend their talents to the endeavor. There was general support for naming at least one Tech Counselor and one Flight Advisor.

**ACTION ITEM:** Greg to research through EAA how to set this up and report back to the board.

4. The board then pivoted to a discussion of finances and our ability to fund the activities needed to increase membership. Related to the Young Eagles subject, the board cautiously agreed that we must better define what constitutes a valid Y.E. expenditure that would allow us to tap the fenced funds we have in investments. As we prepare a budget, we must be open to considering augmented sources of fund raising. The obvious first step is to look at raising our dues.

**ACTION ITEM:** Be prepared at the next board meeting to discuss in more depth how we can use our funding to achieve our objectives

5. This was the first board meeting to be held in conjunction with the regular monthly chapter meetings. All members agreed that this arrangement does not allow us to discuss subjects at any length and creates a sense of unnecessary pressure.

**ACTION ITEM:** Members voted to move the next and subsequent board meetings to 1:00 PM either on a Tuesday or a Thursday and not coincident with any regular chapter meetings. **Board Members:** NLT the end of this month (February), make your inputs as to the desired day to hold the monthly board meeting. I personally have no conflicts with either day and will conform to the choice of you, the members.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM. Our next BoD meeting will be on March 6th at 1:00 pm.

*Greg Loughran*



## Education Corner

- 1) Which clouds have the greatest turbulence?
  - a. Towering cumulus.
  - b. Altocumulus castellanus.
  - c. Cumulonimbus.
- 2) If you fly into severe turbulence, which flight condition should you attempt to maintain?
  - a. Level flight attitude.
  - b. Constant altitude and constant airspeed.
  - c. Constant airspeed (VA).
- 3) Which type of NOTAM deals with runway conditions?
  - a. Chart Supplements U.S. and FDC NOTAMs.
  - b. SAA NOTAM
  - c. NOTAM (D).
- 4) ATC has approved your request for VFR-on-top while on an IFR clearance. Therefore, you
  - a. should set your transponder to code 1200.
  - b. must fly appropriate VFR altitudes.
  - c. must fly appropriate IFR altitudes.
- 5) An aircraft which is equipped with an Electronic Flight Display (EFD) can
  - a. offer new capabilities and simplify the basic flying task.

- b. improve flight awareness by allowing the pilot to simply watch for alerts.
  - c. compensate for an airman's lack of skill or knowledge.
- 6) In which publication can the VOR receiver ground checkpoint(s) for a particular airport be found?
- a. En Route Low Altitude Chart.
  - b. Airman's Information Manual.
  - c. Airport/Facility Directory.

Answers: 1) c, 2) a, 3) c, 4) b, 5) a, and 6) c.



## Safety Corner

### Is your ADS-B Working?

The screenshot shows the FAA's ADS-B Aircraft Performance Monitor interface. At the top is the FAA logo and the title 'Federal Aviation Administration ADS-B Aircraft Performance Monitor'. Below this is a section titled 'Public ADS-B Performance Report'. It displays the following information: Broadcast ICAO: A997CB (52313713), Tail Number: N717TV, ADS-B ID: N717TV, and Period: 01/15/2025 19:14:46 - 01/15/2025 19:54:01. A red message states: 'Aircraft is currently on the No Services Aircraft List and was on the list during the operation.' Below this is an 'Operation Analysis Overview' section with a sub-section 'Analysis' showing 'Airborne 1090' with a checked box.

It turns out that ATC may not tell you if your ADS-B out is not working properly and neither does the FAA. You just get put on a, "No services aircraft list."

[AvWeb Video](#)

[FAA ADS-B Report Request](#)

Glide distance rings are now common in laptop apps and some panel MFDs. Here a good video about them and how to use them. From [AOPA](#) on YouTube.





## News and Links



This is an interesting full documentary on aircraft restorers that is worth a watch. It is curious that Kermit Weeks is not included, but he already has a sizable YouTube presence. Via AvWeb: [The Restorers](#).

The FAA issued a rather onerous **rudder AD** for nearly all fabric covered Piper's. There is a good overview of it on YouTube, [HERE](#).



### For SALE

Two David Clark 4 place intercoms,

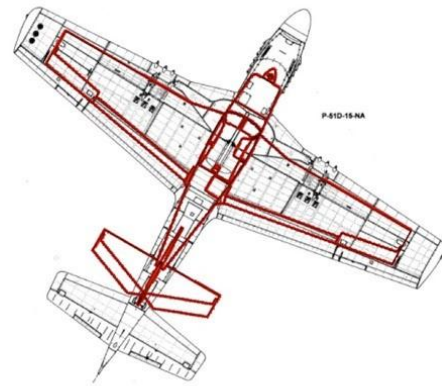


a vacuum horizon gyro that needs an rebuild, and an KMA intercom with marker beacon receiver.



Contact [Larry](#) if intersted. Best Offer.

**Editor's notes:** Please submit input, to include articles, pictures, items for sale, and upcoming events before the end of the month to Larry Portouw, [aviator@portouw.com](mailto:aviator@portouw.com). If you have a submission for a Safety Corner article, please send it to [aviator@portouw.com](mailto:aviator@portouw.com).



*Mooney overlaid on a P-51 to scale.*

