



THE SKY ISLAND EAGLES



December 2024



From the Prez:

Continuing Resolution: **I resolve to support EAA Chapter 776 by attendance at monthly chapter meetings and functions and provide volunteer labor to accomplish our plans. Please participate and make your chapter leaders happy to see your cheerful noses in attendance at chapter events.**

The next Chapter meeting will be in the front room of the terminal in the baggage claim area Tuesday, Dec 10, 2024 at 6:00 pm. We will start with a potluck social for a half hour then continue to the business and pleasure meeting.

First for this month is the report on our American Heritage Girls plus additional recruits YE Rally of Nov 16, 2024. Three pilots flew 16 Young Eagles on a beautiful Saturday morning. We were short, again, of ground personnel, something that will require future attention if we are to continue supporting the YE program! We have no future events planned at this time.

Pilot	Nov 16	Pilot Total
Angelo Petropolis	6	15
Chris Daley	3	18
Cliff Van Vleet	7	1416
Total:	16	

The November election results are in and, Hallelujah! we succeeded in electing new



EAA Chapter 776

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

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

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

Vice President: [Paul Brick](#)
(520)-591-5396

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

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

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

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

Director: [Larry Portouw](#)

Young Eagles Coordinator: [Larry Portouw](#)

Newsletter Editor: [Larry Portouw](#)
(520)-249-8744

Upcoming Events

[EAA Ch 776 meeting December 10th, 6pm](#)
[at the Terminal Building](#)

**Pilot Gathering @ Wilcox/Cochise County
P33 0900 on 14 December**

Coolidge Fly-in b'fast. 1st Saturday

Grapevine camping/BBQ 3d Saturday

Casa Grande fly-in b'fast 4th Saturday

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

[APA Newsletter](#)

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

[This Day in Aviation](#)

officers; president Greg Loughran, Vice President Jason Steinberg, Secretary George Clarke, Treasurer Jon Nelson, directors Chris Daley, Larry Portouw, Cliff Van Vleet, and newsletter editor Larry Portouw. I express my appreciation for the privilege of leading the chapter and extend to the new top administrators best wishes as you lead us forth into the future with renewed vigor and determination. THANK YOU. Please support them and their efforts to bring new vitality and fellowship into our chapter.

It is noteworthy that the chapter has prospered due to our emphasis on the very successful Young Eagles program but now that program is suffering severely due to the age-out of our older pilots and volunteers. In contrast, over the years, the Chapter has never had a surplus of airplane builders so efforts to scratch the itch of the few that were doing original work have been deficient. Now, we have accumulated several new members (Greg Loughran, Jason Steinberg, Joe Spurgeon, Chris Daley to name four) interested in building airplanes and/or supporting builders, so we look forward to a whole new era and area of chapter involvement. (The newsletter masthead will be updated in the January newsletter-ed)

Some items to be considered by our incoming officers include (1) our continued support of Cheri McGunagle and the Arizona EAA Flight Academy scholarship program. (2) Local scholarships in support of Jersey Joe's bequeathment are still desirable. (3) With new officers leading our chapter, the opportunity arises for the chapter to perhaps as an incentive subsidize travel expenses for our new officers to attend an official EAA Chapter Leadership Boot Camp on Saturday, February 15, 2005, hosted by EAA Chapter 1614 at the Stellar Airpark (P19). "This free one-day workshop will help you grow your chapter and become a strong leader. We'll cover a variety of topics that are important to you. e.g. chapter activities, member recruitment, chapter marketing,

social media presence, chapter management, media and public relations, fundraising."

Welcome back Dick and Olivia Decker from Washington state. Dennis and Dianne McMahon from Montana are expected soon. Dick's next Saturday fly out is Saturday 14 December at Wilcox/Cochise County ([P33](#)) at 9:00 AM as usual. The 21st gathering at the Whetstone airstrip has been postponed because it conflicts with the AZPA Grapevine gathering.

I wish you all well, and though I am not there with you, I am with you in spirit...

Paul Poberezny

Safe flying,

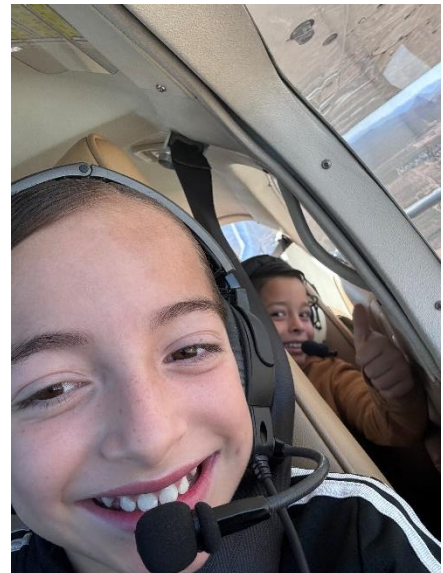
Cliff



Young Eagles

We've had a successful year of events kindling the dream of flight in kids.

The highlight was the return of the Douglas Rally which we capped with a make-up event for kids that didn't get to fly on the main day. A special thanks to



Carole for her many years of yeoman's work in making these events successful and to Cliff for keeping the program alive in the chapter for all these years. The chapter has

flown ~**9104** kids (1416 by Cliff!) over the years.



We got off to a slow start in 2024, but here's a Summary with 147 kids flown plus some individual one-off flights:

Event	Date	# Flown
Douglas	Oct 12 th	100
KFHU Home School	Oct 26 th	11
Douglas	Nov 9 th	20
KFHU Am Heritage	Nov 16 th	16



EAA CHAPTER 776 THE SKY ISLAND EAGLES Minutes

EAA Chapter 776 12 Nov 2024 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held at the City of Sierra Vista Terminal at 1800. Members in attendance were George Clarke, Cliff and Carole Van Vleet, Ben Middleton, Joe Spurgeon, Larry Portouw, Gale Nellans, Paul Brick, Anne Ballinger, Jon Nelson, Chris Daley, Greg Loughran, and Jason Steinberg. Following our usual socializing and potluck, Cliff called the meeting to order. After the Pledge of Allegiance, and having no guests, Cliff called for the Secretary's report.

Secretary Clarke asked that the October meeting minutes, as published in the November Newsletter, be accepted. A motion to do so was made, seconded, and approved by those in attendance.

Cliff then asked Treasurer Nelson for his report, and he did so, reporting that the chapter had \$1,417.54 in the chapter checking account, \$6,801.56 in the Young Eagle checking account, and \$15,137.19 in the Young Eagle 9- month savings certificate.

Secretary Clarke reminded the members that EAA 2025 calendars were now available at a reduced price of \$8.00 each plus shipping if we ordered 10 or more. Only four folks were interested in purchasing a calendar this year so there will not be a chapter order.

At this point Cliff recognized Gale to talk about a light sport he is selling. Gale is selling his Ridge Runner and the trailer that he has for it. It has had the rear seat removed and has a 65hp engine. Gale also put forth the idea of the chapter making use of this aircraft as a working display for kids at Young Eagle Rallies.

Young Eagle report was up next. At the rally/Rotary breakfast in Douglas on 12

October, with 7 aircraft, we flew 100 kids in 44 sorties. We had 2 pilots from our chapter, 2 pilots from Cochise College, 1 pilot from Glendale, and 1 pilot from Vail. On 26 October the chapter flew 11 kids (home schoolers) from Sierra Vista with 4 aircraft in 8 sorties. All 4 pilots were from our chapter. On 9 November 2024 the chapter went back to Douglas to fly some of the kids that did not get a chance to fly in October due to unfavorable winds stopping our rally. Though we had been told to expect about 40 kids, only half showed up. So, this time we flew 20 kids in 14 sorties with 4 pilots from Sierra Vista and 1 pilot from Douglas.

One final note regarding the Young Eagle program, the Douglas Rotary has made a donation of \$500.00 to our chapter to use as we like. After some discussion, the members decided to just deposit the check into the chapter checking account until the chapter decides what to do with it. That discussion included a donation to Cochise College, a donation to the state Young Eagle coordinator, Cheri McGunagle, for use in the Youth Camps in Oshkosh, reimbursement of travel costs for pilots that fly in from other counties/chapters, or chapter use in devising a video product to show kids during a Young Eagle rally.

Sierra Vista City Transportation Commission Meeting report. Greg Loughran and Joe Spurgeon reported that only two things pertained to the airport. One was about the plans for designation of FHU as a Space Port for "recovery only" of a small platform to be launched from Florida. They are looking at a 2028 completion date for the certification. It was also mentioned that each recovery would require a 3-hour window shut-down of the airport. The second one was the military civilian representative reiterating the Army's intention to close runway 03/21 by 2025 and use the surface as a taxiway only.

Cliff reminded the members that for the last few years we have been sending Cheri

McGunagle \$1,000.00 to use in the EAA Youth Camp programs at Oshkosh and that he would like to continue with that if the members concurred. The members will vote on this proposal next month.

At this time Cliff opened the floor to questions, personal information, and ideas from the members concerning chapter officer elections. Several members expressed the desire to run for various offices and that brought on more discussion. One member put forth the idea that maybe we needed to wait one more month to vote and, in the meantime, try and determine what direction the chapter was to take. There was some discussion about this, but in the end, it was decided to move on with the election as planned. Finally, George Clarke put forth the following ballot as a motion, it was seconded and approved by unanimous vote of the members present. The ballot presented and approved was:

Greg Loughran – President

Jason Steinberg – Vice President

Jon Nelson- Treasurer

George Clarke – Secretary

Chris Daley – Board Member

Cliff Van Vleet – Board Member

Larry Portouw – Board Member

Larry Portouw – Editor

Chris Daley was also given the extra duty of facilitating our chapter meeting presentations with topics and guests that would be of interest to not only our members, but also pilots within the area that are not EAA members. Chris will work with our new president on this.

Cliff then thanked all of the new officers for stepping up and volunteering and for the memberships' support of them.

At the call to the membership, Larry Portouw agreed to stay on as Young Eagle coordinator. With Carole Van Vleet retiring as

“Young Eagle Everything but the ramp” for real, at the end of this December, Chris Daley thanked her very much from all of us for her long and dedicated service and stated flatly that the chapter would find someone else this time and not keep bringing her out of retirement. Joe Spurgeon will remain as Ramp Boss and Safety Officer.

Cliff reminded us of the 10 Dec 2024 date for the next meeting, once again at 1800 in the City Terminal, and closed the meeting.



Education Corner

Dec 2024 Pilot Quiz

1) Test data indicate that ice, snow, or frost having a thickness and roughness similar to medium or coarse sandpaper on the leading edge and upper surface of an airfoil can

- a. reduce lift by as much as 50 percent and increase drag by as much as 50 percent.
- b. increase drag and reduce lift by as much as 25 percent.
- c. reduce lift by as much as 30 percent and increase drag by 40 percent.

2) Under which condition will pressure altitude be equal to true altitude?

- a. When indicated altitude is equal to the pressure altitude.
- b. When the atmospheric pressure is 29.92 inches Hg.
- c. When standard atmospheric conditions exist.

3) The pressure altitude at a given location is indicated on the altimeter after the altimeter is set to

- a. 29.92 inches Hg.

- b. the current altimeter setting.
- c. the field elevation.

4) If severe turbulence is encountered during your VFR flight, the airplane should be slowed to the design maneuvering speed because the

- a. maneuverability of the airplane will be increased.
- b. airplane will stall at a lower angle of attack, giving an increased margin of safety.
- c. amount of excess load that can be imposed on the wing will be decreased.

5) What effect does haze have on the ability to see traffic or terrain features during flight?

- a. Haze causes the eyes to focus at infinity, making terrain features harder to see.
- b. Haze creates the illusion of being a greater distance than actual from the runway and causes pilots to fly a lower approach.
- c. The eyes tend to overwork in haze and do not detect relative movement easily.

6) Steady precipitation, in contrast to showers, preceding a front is an indication of

- a. stratiform clouds with moderate turbulence.
- b. stratiform clouds with little or no turbulence.
- c. cumuliform clouds with little or no turbulence.

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



Safety Corner

-Angelo Petropolis

I'd like to share a safety issue that I must admit was not in the forefront of my "radar" during takeoffs, landings, or ground operations.

Yesterday, I listened in on enlightening Pro Tips for Pilots, FFAST Safety seminar video entitled "[Caution! Helicopter Wake Turbulence - The Invisible Threat!](#)"

I do not recall having received much, or any instruction for that matter, during my PPL training regarding the potential hazards of helicopter wake turbulence. The wake turbulence instruction I recall learning about has always focused on the hazards of taking off or landing behind large, heavy, fixed wing airplanes. Tower controllers usually warn pilots about this. However, I have yet to hear a tower controller call out "caution, wake turbulence" for a helicopter take off.

This seminar emphasized that rotary wing aircraft create a wake turbulence around and behind them that can be violent. Wind outflows of up to 52mph are possible within 3 rotor diameters during hovering. They say to think of a helicopter as a man-made moving microburst.

Several sobering videos of accidents, or near accidents, related to this hazard were played.

A summary screen shot from the seminar follows:

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

What To Share

A helicopter is a man-made moving microburst

Stay three rotor diameters away while at a hover

Helicopters in forward flight create violent wake turbulence behind. Treat them the same as heavy fixed wing aircraft.

Remember the 3-3-2 Rule 3 Rotor Disc/3 Miles/2 minutes

Helo wake turbulence and a C-120. [Video](#)



News and Links

AirVenture 2025 will be 21-27 July, and tickets have gone on sale. [Tickets](#).

Watch for an announcement of when the Mars flying boat that is going to the Pima Air Museum will land on Roosevelt Reservoir. This [video](#) is of highspeed taxi test in BC in preparation for a flight from BC, to San Francisco, Sand Diego and Roosevelt Reservoir.

Runway rubber removal. [Video](#)

VFR into [congested airspace](#).

[FAA updates and changes to Basic Med.](#)



For SALE

Your editor has sold his Tri-Pacer project and happy about the reclaimed hangar space.

The Super DC-3 at Benson was inspected and engines run a few weeks ago. Unknown if it is sold.

