



LAKE IN THE HILLS, ILLINOIS

EAA Chapter 790

Winds Aloft

Lake in the Hills, Illinois



790.eaachapter.org

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From Mike Monreal, Chapter 790 President

We had a great banquet February 22nd. The food and conversations were both enjoyable. Please let us know what you thought by completing [this survey](#) by Monday, March 17.

Special thanks go to our outstanding speaker Captain Laura Savino, who came from Washington, D.C. to present to us. Her talk about the 1977 Tenerife collision of two 747s was riveting and heartbreaking. Laura provided a detailed reconstruction of the accident based on her post-accident friendship with Pan Am First Officer William Bragg. The accident analysis highlighted the vital importance of using standard phraseology in radio communications and contributed to industry-wide adoption of crew resource management.

After the presentation, the 2024 chapter service awards were presented, recognizing the volunteer efforts of:

- Matt Van Bergen – President
- Dave Stokes – Vice President
- Paul Ranieri – Treasurer, Fly-Out Coordinator, Young Eagles Coordinator
- Randy Sweet – Secretary
- Lon Danek – Board
- Pat Crawford – Board
- Tom LeGates – Board, Website
- Tom Solar – Ray Aviation Scholarship Director
- John Kinyon – Newsletter & MVP
- Ron Liebmann – Flight Advisor, Technical Counselor
- Mike Perkins – Flight Advisor, Technical Counselor
- Ole Sindberg – Flight Advisor, Technical Counselor



Mike and Matt

Leadership Opportunities

Chapter member (and 3CK manager) Lou Zaragoza has volunteered to lead the Youth in Aviation program, to engage and encourage young people to be interested and involved in aviation. Thanks, Lou!

Many hands make [ultra]light work. Could you bring yours to one of these positions?

- Director/Board member at large – help steer the airship
- Safety Officer – ensure safety at Young Eagles events, promote safety awareness
- Social Media – expand communications to social media to engage more (and younger) people

Volunteers make our chapter *fly*! Please [contact me](#) for more info. Thanks!

mike

Flown West



Long-time chapter 790 member, director, and web editor **Tom LeGates** slipped the surly bonds of earth on February 11, 2025. His [obituary](#) includes this tribute:

“Flight was one of Tom’s treasured hobbies. He was an experienced private pilot and dedicated many years of service to the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), where he was a long-standing member of EAA Chapter 790. He looked forward to the annual AirVenture fly-in at Oshkosh, and spent many happy Julys volunteering his time, talent, effort (and sweat, dust and bug bites too!) at the event.”

Tom's celebration of life will be Saturday, March 29, 2025 from 1pm to 4pm at the Tree of Life Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 5603 Bull Valley Road, McHenry, IL 60050. In lieu of flowers the family asks you to please consider making a [donation to the EAA Young Eagles program](#) to help the next generation experience the joy of flight.

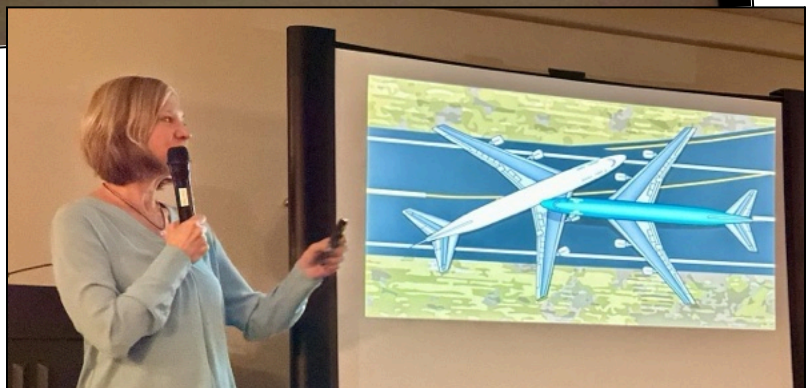
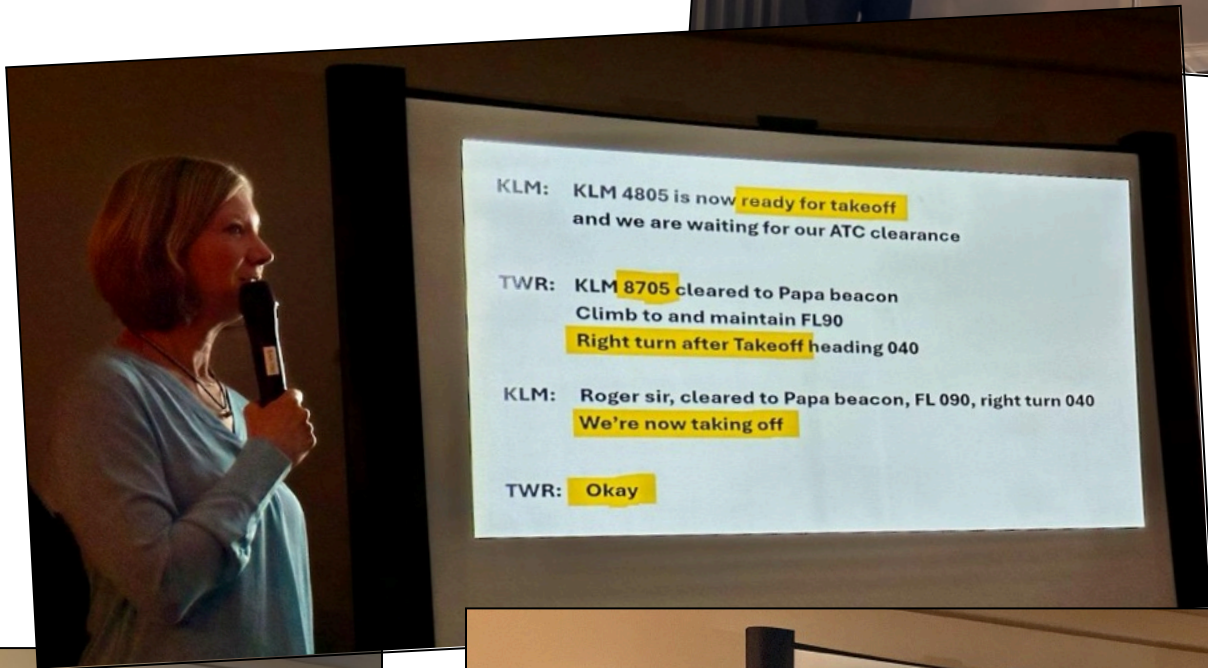
Tailwinds, Tom.

February 15 Fly-Out Recap: Bessie’s Restaurant, Janesville (KJVL)

With IFR conditions and no alternate filed, 790 Dispatcher Paul Ranieri directed us to go missed, hold at TAYOR, and expect further clearance on March 15. Maybe we can take an online instrument rating course while we hold. On March 15 will it be “dive and drive” ... or just “drive”? 🙄

February 22 Banquet

Tenerife presentation by Captain Laura Savino



2024 Chapter Service Awards



MC Matt



Randy – Secretary



Tom – Ray Scholarship



Attendees enjoyed the evening. We'll do it again next year!



Dave – Director



Ron – TC & Advisor



John – Newsletter

March 15 Fly-Out to Reedsburg ([C35](#))

Bessie's seems to be perpetually socked in, so this month we'll meet at **Reedsburg Family Restaurant on Saturday, March 15 at 10:00**. Aircraft parking and the terminal are at the northwest corner of the airport, and the restaurant is a [short walk across Route 23 to the strip mall](#) on the left. Monitor email for updates, and please reply-all to say you are going, or to offer or request a ride. See you there!



March 25 Chapter Gathering

Sid Levin will discuss the 1967 USS Forrestal disaster which damaged the aircraft carrier, damaged and destroyed aircraft, and caused 295 casualties. Join us **Tuesday, March 25 at the LITH airport office**. We will begin at **18:45**, but come early and enjoy some good aviation conversation!



Get Ready for Young Eagles Rallies

Now that we have sprung forward let's start thinking about good flying weather, getting proficient, and Young Eagles rallies! It's only 6 weeks until our first rally of 2025. Our rally dates and locations are:

- Saturday, May 3, 08:30 at Lake in the Hills Airport
- Saturday, June 7, 08:30 at Schaumburg Airport
- Saturday, August 2, 08:30 at Lake in the Hills Airport
- Saturday, October 4, 08:30 at Schaumburg Airport



We meet at the airport at 08:00 to set up, and then welcome our guests at 08:30. There's more on [our Young Eagles page](#) and the [EAA Young Eagles page](#).

We are looking for pilots and ground crew to help with registration, ramp safety, and [aircraft marshaling](#). Our Young Eagles Coordinator is Paul Ranieri (847-997-0135, p.ranieri comcast.net). It's a rewarding experience to introduce kids to flying and inspire them to consider careers in aviation. Join us in offering youth ages 8-17 the opportunity to experience The Spirit of Aviation® by becoming a Young Eagles volunteer today!

My Bio – Tom LeGates

My flying adventures began on the west coast, with my private pilot license in 1967. I added my instrument rating to that in 1996. Aircraft ownership (partnerships) include a Navion in the early '70s and a K model Bonanza for 4 years beginning in 1999. The Bonanza was in great shape with a sophisticated instrument panel. The Navion should have gone straight to the restoration shop for extensive work – it was really a junker. My partner and I were not particularly knowledgeable in picking aircraft at the time – I've learned a lot in the years since. Aside from my Bonanza hours, most of my Midwest flying has been with the club based at Westosha airport in Wilmot, Wisconsin.



I joined Chapter 790 in the early '90s, when meetings were in the basement of a bank in Barrington, and Kitfox projects were all the rage. Ron Liebmann even brought his engine in to a meeting for us to admire. I have been active with the chapter, volunteering at Young Eagle rallies all along, and more recently at our pancake breakfast fundraisers. I have participated on the board of directors for many years, and currently hold positions of treasurer and web editor. They say you meet the nicest people in EAA chapters, and 790 has been a shining example of that for me.

Oshkosh has been a part of my life for 4 decades now. I began going there for convention for 1 day or weekend trips in the mid '80s (it was hard to get there from the west coast!). I began volunteering there in the mid '90s, and have since worked my way up to yearly 2-week camping/volunteering stints. Primarily I have spent my time as a Forums host providing audio-visual support for Forum speakers, and at the KidVenture campus, helping get the venue set up for convention week.

Excerpted from "Meet Our Members" in the [January 2018 issue of Winds Aloft](#).

Tom LeGates Remembered – Tom Solar

Tom was a quiet man who shunned the limelight, yet was a cornerstone of our chapter and aviation.

I've known Tom since I joined the chapter about 30 years ago. He co-owned a Bonanza with Lon Danek until his health issue materialized. Tom would fly Young Eagles and later on would participate in the office work at our Young Eagles rallies at Lake in the Hills Airport.

Tom always assisted with the newsletter, either as a newsletter editor or participant in the monthly newsletter parties at Jay and Abbie's house. This was prior to sending out the newsletters via email. Tom would bring the printer pages, member labels, stapler, stamps, and tape. We would sit around Abbie's living room table collating, folding, stapling, attaching the labels and stamps and taping the tops of the folded newsletters. He would then take them and send them off to the post office. This occurred every month, and Tom attended the monthly board meetings and chapter meetings as well.

Tom also was on the pancake breakfast committee and assisted in both the set up and take down of the event. He would attend the chapter's work weekends. One weekend he and I volunteered to take apart a couple of the interiors of the bath houses at Camp Scholler. My back was sore for a week after that event.



He would hold a holiday party at his house. I remember the chatty twins. He also held the chapter poker run committee meetings at his house.

When the board approved setting up a chapter website, Tom volunteered and took over that responsibility. He updated our site and kept current on both the chapter's and EAA's new and improved processes. Thanks to Tom, many years of our chapter's newsletters can be [found there](#).

Tom also participated in the Ambassador Program affiliated with our chapter at Oshkosh. He was there all week assisting Jay and Abbie Friddell and Lon Danek with ensuring the Forums tent was properly available for keynote speakers such as Paul Poberezny, Bob Hoover, Chuck Yeager, Edsel Ford III, Harrison Ford, Dick Cole (copilot of plane #1 with Jimmy Doolittle on the Doolittle Raid), and many more. He would bring his camper up and stay a week at our designated chapter camping spot.

I considered Tom a good friend and will miss him dearly.



The Bender House is once again ours for the weekend. Ladies who attend can expect other (and probably nicer) accommodations. And, the Volunteer Cafeteria is available for three meals on Saturday plus breakfast and lunch Sunday. What more could one ask?

Ray Aviation Scholarship – Tom Solar

I have been privileged to have been the Ray Aviation Scholarship Director for Chapter 790 these last four years. We have received three \$10,000 grants from EAA to help fund a youngster age 16-19 (age 15 for a glider rating) for their Aviation Training goal. The objective of this program is for the candidate to acquire their pilot's license. This program is for the serious dedicated student and parents.

The process begins by the Chapter Scholarship Director requesting a scholarship grant from EAA. There is a limited number awarded each year. The grant pays for flight training only and not ground school, materials or headsets. Fortunately, however, three noise cancelling headsets have been awarded to all three 790 candidates from EAA through Lightspeed, a \$900 offer. These are requested part way through the pilot's training program and are not always granted.



The choice of a candidate is the most important aspect of applying for any scholarship and it usually is headed by small chapter committee interviews with both candidates and parents. It takes dedication, lots of initiative, and parental support. It required that the candidate attend and participate in monthly chapter gatherings. Pictures and a candidate's write up about his/her flight training experience is required. The chapter's Ray Aviation Scholarship Director will help mentor the student and track the necessary milestone requirements through the EAA Ray portal.

A student pilot certificate must be obtained prior to any flight training. This can be obtained through many local flight schools or can be applied for on line through the FAA website. An FAA Medical must be obtained.

Ground school can be managed in various ways and is not a prerequisite for taking flight lessons. A Young Eagle can obtain, through EAA and Sporty's Pilot Shop, a student pilot ground school video program for free, merely by applying. This, however, is not sufficient and I strongly suggest other material such as Gleim's Private Pilot FAA Knowledge Test Prep or the King School of CDs for greater in-depth understanding. Also, Ground School courses are available through many local flight schools. These are rather inexpensive and usually attendance is at night and may be the choice for one who is not a book worm. There are sample tests in these programs and I strongly suggest a 90% or better grade be obtained prior to taking the written test. Study those questions missed and retake the prep test.



A pilot's license can be obtained quite easily through the flying months of May through October. Consistent study and scheduling flight lessons at least three times per week or more is strongly suggested. Weather will be the controlling entity. The more often one goes up the faster and less expensive the learning experience will be. One of the scholarship requirements is that the student and parents be prepared to cover additional flight training fees. This point cannot be emphasized too strongly. The flight fees are per hour along with the charge for the flight instructor. These can easily amount to \$200/hour or more depending on the school choice. The FAA requires a minimum of 40 flight hours; however, most students need 60 or more flight hours before the check ride.

The written test fee, which today is \$175, must be covered by the student. Upon passing the written test the EAA will reimburse a designated amount. The written test is usually required prior to soloing and again is dependent on the flight school. Your solo will be one of the most remembered events in your life. Embrace it.

The final check ride can be \$500 or more depending on the choice of the FAA designated examiner. The check ride consists of answering questions, to see if the student has a basic understanding of the rules and procedures of flying, and then a flight consisting of various aspects of flight. The FAA website specifies which items will be required, and the flight school will help you understand those requirements.

This scholarship is meant for the serious young student who is a self-starter to pursue and follow through on their dream of flight. Learn more about the [Ray Aviation Scholarship](#).



Megan's newly-earned lapel pin!





Chapter 790 Calendar

Sat, Mar 15	10:00	Breakfast fly-out to Reedsburg (C35)	Watch for emails
Tue, Mar 25	18:45-21:00	Chapter gathering	3CK airport office
Sat, Apr 19	09:00	Breakfast fly-out	Watch for emails
Tue, Apr 22	18:45-21:00	Chapter gathering	3CK airport office
Sat, May 3	08:30	Young Eagles at 3CK Lake in the Hills	Watch for emails
Sat, May 17	09:00	Breakfast fly-out	Watch for emails
Sat, May 17	All day	Chicago Area 99s' Aviation Day for Girls	3CK (more: chicagoarea99s.org)
Tue, May 27	18:00-21:00	Chapter gathering and BBQ	3CK hangar P60
Sat, Jun 7	08:30	Young Eagles at 06C Schaumburg	Watch for emails
Sat, Jun 21	09:00	Breakfast fly-out	Watch for emails
Tue, Jun 24	18:00-21:00	Chapter gathering and BBQ	3CK hangar P60
Mon, Jul 21 - Sun Jul 27		AirVenture 2025 "Endless Possibilities"	(no chapter events in July)

EAA's calendar of events is at eaa.org/eaa/events. You can search by event categories and the distance from a location, a state, or a date range. Events you add to your itinerary are at eaa.org/eaa/myitinerary.

Chapter 790 gatherings are held the fourth Tuesday of every month. The gatherings are generally held at the Lake in the Hills Airport Office at 18:45. From May until October, the gatherings begin with a cookout at 18:00 in hangar P-60. Mike will keep everyone posted via email of exact times, location, guest speakers, etc. The Board meets the 2nd half of each month. Contact Mike Monreal if you have business for the Board.

Fly-outs are a great way to enjoy a Saturday morning and some camaraderie. They are held the third Saturday of the month, usually at 09:00. If the weather isn't satisfactory, it will be rescheduled to the following Saturday. Paul Ranieri will keep everyone posted as to the destination and time via email. If you are going, have an extra seat, or are interested in going and need a seat, please respond to Paul's group email.

Young Eagle events are held the first Saturday of May, June, August, and October at either Schaumburg Airport or Lake in the Hills Airport. There is no better way for kids to get some flying experience. Before each event, chapter members will receive an email outlining the various volunteer opportunities. These consist of the registration area for kids and their parents, being on the ramp to park airplanes, and flying the kids of course!



Volunteers Make Our Chapter *Fly!*

BOARD MEMBERS

President	Mike Monreal	815-222-9228	sedanflyer gmail.com
Vice President	Sid Levin	847-769-0313	sidney.levin comcast.net
Treasurer	Paul Ranieri	847-997-0135	p.ranieri comcast.net
Secretary	Gregg Dubin	847-293-0395	wxfan1978 gmail.com
Director	Pat Crawford	847-370-8179	patc elginmedi.com
Director	<i>volunteer needed</i>		
Director	<i>volunteer needed</i>		

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Safety Officer	<i>volunteer needed</i>		
Shop Visits	Pat Crawford	847-370-8179	patc elginmedi.com
Social Media	<i>volunteer needed</i>		
Website	<i>volunteer needed</i>		
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TC & FA	Mike Perkins	217-725-0628	flybyewire454 protonmail.com
TC & FA	Ole Sindberg	847-826-1935	olesindberg935 gmail.com

Chapter 790 members are a group of aviation enthusiasts, aircraft builders, and pilots who get together with like minded people to share ideas, exchange information, encourage safety, serve the local aviation community and have a lot of fun doing so. Whether you fly, build, restore or simply enjoy airplanes and aviation, you are welcome to attend our events and join our chapter. Recent newsletters: chapters.eaa.org/ea790/newsletters.