

# CATFISH SQUADRON

## EAA CHAPTER 797

Live Oak, Florida

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## Chapter 797 Meeting: The Monthly Meeting is April 19, 2025



Sunrise @ Sun & Fun

*Editor*

## From The Top

WOW! What a busy month. I made several trips to Sun & Fun, and what a great time it was seeing everyone there. Made some new friends and had a chance to catch up with some we had not seen in a while. If you haven't had an opportunity to attend this event you're missing out on a lot of Fun. Lots of new stuff, great classes and some wonderful air

There were great drone shows and lots of jet action.

Here at home, our hanger sale at James Culp's hanger collected about \$150 dollars in donations that his daughter, Aleron, generously gave to our chapter. His airplane was also purchased by none other than Al Frazier, our very own Sonex test pilot.

Stephanie Speers has successfully hosted her very first Young Eagles event with a great turn out and is looking forward to her next one.

Squire has new runway lights. The Wild Flower Festival is May 10 next month and we need volunteers to assist in this event.

Don Johnson has the simulator up and running. Don't miss the update as he brings us all up to speed on this important piece of equipment he has made available for all of us to learn on. Offering training on various airplanes, VFR and IFR hands in and much more cost effective than flying.

Don't forget our breakfast this Saturday and be sure to check out the progress that is being made on our very own 797 Flyer by the dedicated build crew abs our Tech Councilor Allen Rice. Hope to see you there.

*Ed Conrad, Chapter President*

**EAA 797 Morning Fly-In  
Pancake Breakfast  
Is on April 19, 2025**



## News Wanted!

This is your newsletter. I am very happy to see that several people have stepped forward with their experiences to fill these pages. Let us know how your project is going or where you've been. It's your newsletter, let's make it about you.



## VMC Club

Greg Boyette led a discussion on cockpit distractions from modern auxiliary devices.

A quick search of the topic brings up many sources for self examination.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vzzHVjNBjY>

is a video about rotorcraft pilots, but the lessons are the same. The key takeaway for me was the vital seconds it takes to reorient ourselves between our distracting device and our situational awareness.

Lithium batteries can also present a danger when we try to keep our devices charged. The cheap little lighter socket charger we get for our car may not be a good choice for your cockpit. There are very expensive panel mount USB charging ports that may seem like wasteful spending, but they have sophisticated electronics to detect overcharging and other possibly dangerous conditions.

Radiant Tech makes this one for about \$115.

If that sounds expensive, wait until you do a search. Then juxtapose that price against an electrical fire or burning lithium in your cockpit.

The other topic broached in the discussion was how you choose an emergency landing spot.



*Editor*



## Unairworthy



Here's an archive full of great information for HomeBuilders.

Do you match lugs to bolt sizes? How are your crimping skills? Proper connections are safe connections.

<https://www.kitplanes.com/unairworthy-archive/>

## Sun & Fun 2025

S&F 2025 is in the books. With mornings starting out with Breakfast in a cup and beautiful sunrises, first day chaos settled into daily rhythm.

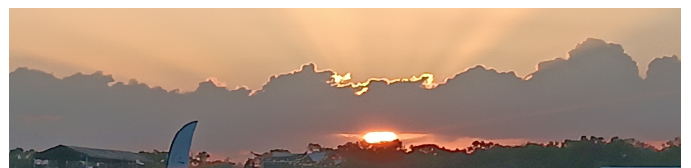
Chuck Ahearn and Dick Koenig dropped by to recognize volunteers that had many years of service.



It's good to see the organization hand out atta-boys to volunteers. It may not seem like much, but simply being noticed is appreciated.

I played my part and helped out for another year. I hope to have stats and such next month.

*Editor*



## Extreme Experimental

Electric powered aircraft appeared at S&F 2025. Demonstrations of a personal EVTOL were performed at the ultralight field by HELIX.

Sikorsky also is building an autonomous EVTOL for small and local cargo operations.



I've seen charging stations at airports already, so they're not as far off as we may think.

*Editor*

## Redbird Flight Sim

Redbird TD2 Simulator is up and running at 797. Instructors have been advised and will be getting their orientations.

Talk to your Instrument Instructor and he can teach you how to use it for Initial instrument, to maintain regular currency, and to update Proficiency if you've lost currency (Instrument Proficiency Check).

Use is for current members of EAA 797 (so pay your dues), and cost is \$25/hr on the hobbs.

A portion of the cost goes to EAA 797, and a like amount is donated to the SVAA (Suwannee Valley Aero Academy).

For more info, or if your Instructor needs info, the POC is Don Johnson, preferably by email at [ids49@comcast.net](mailto:ids49@comcast.net) or text at 954-465-4857.

*Don Johnson*



Generic Picture for illustration

## WiFi

EAA chapter 797 now has WiFi available in the clubhouse. To log on...

Network: EAA\_797  
Password: Chapter797

*Editor*

## 797 Flyer Update

Hi Everyone:

Attached is the 10 month progress report for the 797 Flyer chapter project. I hope that you find it interesting and will consider adding your support to help us complete this cool light sport airplane.

Thanks,

*Allen Rice  
Project Manager*

*The report pdf will be added to the back of this newsletter.*

*Editor*

## Tailwind

I'm sure that I missed something or someone and I welcome healthy criticism. You can send comments, questions, ideas or articles to:  
[dave@davesflyin](mailto:dave@davesflyin)



## Local Events

Remember the wildflower festival on May 10, at Heritage Park and the Hurricane preparedness event on May 7 at Live Oak WalMart. For more info on these events: (386) 362-2771

Brought to you by your local civic organizations.

EAA 797 is expected to be bringing the kiddie rides on May 10... Volunteers needed.



# **The 797 Flyer STATUS REPORT**

April 15, 2025

Hard to believe that it's been 10 months since our chapter builders took on the 797 Flyer project. So, we wanted to give a report of what we have accomplished.



Last June 2024, president Ed and treasurer Pete came to an agreement for the generous donation of a Skyraider 2 kit that Pete had obtained years ago. Ed had envisioned a light sport chapproject with 3 goals in mind: (1) to build camaraderie among our members, (2) to foster a sense of accomplishment, and (3) to learn some new airplane building skills. So, with a \$3000 grant from our Board, we were suddenly thrust into the kit building experience.

## **GETTING STARTED**

June 2024- Inspected the partially built project and found a dangerous, unairworthy wing design and construction, damaged landing gear, wing struts, and fuselage longerons. The proven Kitfox style wing was replaced with the first builder's own unairworthy design. The previous builder also disposed of critical parts from the kit manufacturer. These



parts have been designed, prototyped, and fabricated by our build team.



## **BUILDING PROGRESS**

So far, the 797 build team has logged 462 hours on the 2-place tandem seat project. To date, new wings, ailerons, flaps, landing gear, and flap mechanism have been built following the original Skyraider 2 design. Currently we are designing the flap and aileron hinges, brackets, fiberglass leading edges, building an

elevator trim tab, and repairing/replacing the longerons, main gear hinges, damaged bungee suspension structure, damaged wing lift struts, and weld in the missing seat frames.

### COMING UP SOON

Once the airframe is completed, we will tackle the big ticket items: covering, paint, tires, engine and propeller. OMG! Needless to say, with the cost of materials being what they are, the original \$3000 grant has been exhausted and we are now continuing the project with generous donations from our chapter members. I'm proud to say that our 4 person build team has donated over \$750 toward the project so far.



### BECOME A 797 FLYER ANGEL!

If you would like to support the 797 Flyer and help us complete the project, just let me or our treasurer Pete know. Donations are tax deductible and much appreciated.

Thanks,

Allen Rice, Project Manager

