

# EAA CHAPTER 879 Newsletter

## April 2023

**Notice to Chapter Members** - Volunteer opportunities may still be available for our Young Eagles Rally on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Contact Ben Plowman if interested [bwpagr@yahoo.com](mailto:bwpagr@yahoo.com). You may also volunteer Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup> at our regular meeting.

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAKE RIDGE AERO PARK

8NC8 is the official ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) designation for Lake Ridge Aero Park. Lake Ridge Aero Park, located in Durham, North Carolina, has a rich history dating back to the 1940s. Dan Bryan originally built the airfield by converting farmland into runways 6/24



*Woody Woodall - Woodall Flying Service*

and runway 14/32. The airport has served as a base for private pilot operations since its inception.

Over the years, Lake Ridge, as it

is known now, was initially called Pharris Field and has had several names and owners throughout its history. Runway 6/24 was eventually decommissioned to make room for Falls Lake. The airport has hosted three flight schools: Wilkins Flying Service, Woodall Flying Service, and Empire Aviation including one that EAA 879 member Woody Woodall headed in the late sixties.



*Lake Ridge Aero Park - Runway 14*

On December 4, 2020, Paul Rovegno II and his brother Daniel Rovegno purchased the airfield and continued operating it as Lake Ridge Aero Park. The name, Lake Ridge Aero

Park, was adopted in 1976 after Sterling Gann acquired the airport. The Rovegno brothers have worked hard to improve the airfield, and make other improvements to the infrastructure. Today, Lake Ridge Aero Park is a thriving aviation community home to many pilots and aviation enthusiasts. The Rovegno brothers also host two annual fly-ins at the airport.

In addition to operating the airfield, the Rovegnos are also members of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 879, based at Lake Ridge Aero Park. The EAA is a national organization that promotes aviation and provides support and resources to pilots and aircraft enthusiasts. Chapter 879, a local chapter of the EAA, is among many active and vibrant chapters in the region.

Chapter 879 hosts monthly meetings as well as breakfast and lunch events throughout the year. The chapter plans to host other aviation-related activities as opportunities arise. The chapter also provides support and resources to local pilots, offering workshops and training programs to help pilots improve their skills and knowledge.

Lake Ridge Aero Park in Durham, North Carolina has a long and storied history, and it continues to be an important part of Durham and the aviation community. The Rovegno brothers, their friends, and families has worked hard to improve and maintain the airfield, and their efforts have paid off, evidenced by successful fly-ins. With the support of the EAA Chapter 879, Lake Ridge Aero Park is sure to continue to be a hub for aviation enthusiasts for many years to come.

Sources: <https://www.lakeridgeaeropark.com>

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## **EAA Announces Inaugural Learn to Fly Week – May 15 to 20**

Aspiring aviators will have the opportunity to discover multiple pathways to becoming a pilot as EAA presents its inaugural Learn to Fly Week on May 15-20.



Beginning May 15th, expert flight instructors and representatives from various aviation organizations will present free, interactive webinars. These webinars will cover topics from starting flight training, saving time and money in flight training, preparing for the FAA written exam, to passing the checkride, and so much more. While the live showing of these presentations will be open to the public, the recordings will be archived for EAA members to view at their convenience.

Learn to Fly Week will conclude on Saturday, May 20, with Flying Start events hosted at chapters across the country. EAA's Flying Start program allows EAA chapters to welcome, encourage, and educate new aviation enthusiasts about the fun, freedom, and accessibility of personal aviation in their local area. Following a short presentation about learning to fly, attendees will be offered a free introductory Eagle Flight to experience the spirit of aviation firsthand.

“Becoming a pilot is a dream for many, but few know where to start their journey. Learn to Fly Week was created to help encourage aspiring pilots to take action and begin the pilot training process,” said David Leiting, EAA Eagles Program Manager. “Our goal is to show attendees how accessible achieving their dream actually is.” Leiting also added that inspiration from this event stemmed from packed forums at the Learn to Fly Center at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2022, as well as the success of other EAA virtual events like Homebuilders Week and Virtual Ultralight Days.



Combining the educational forums from the Learn to Fly Center and the connections and inspiration found at Flying Start events, EAA Learn to Fly Week is the latest effort in the ongoing effort to help aspiring pilots achieve their dream of flight.

Sporty's Pilot Shop is the presenting sponsor of Learn to Fly Week. Sporty's will be participating in multiple webinars and offering product discounts during the week.

Full webinar schedule and more details on Learn to Fly Week can be found at [EAA.org/LTFWeek](https://EAA.org/LTFWeek).

# ABOUT YOUNG EAGLES

## Young Eagles



Founded in 1992, the Young Eagles program is dedicated to giving youth ages 8–17, an opportunity to go flying in a general aviation airplane. These flights are offered free of charge and are made possible through the generosity of EAA member volunteers.

It's the only program of its kind, with the sole mission to introduce and inspire kids in the world of aviation.

Today, the Young Eagles program has flown over 2 million kids.

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## Contribute to this Newsletter

No one can make every meeting. That is why our newsletter is essential. It also provides an opportunity for members to share stories we find "Pictures are worth a thousand words". on your phone or in your photo gallery.



one of the reasons why our chapter newsletter is essential is the opportunity to engage members and non-members with entertaining or informative content. It is said, Share the story behind that great picture

Send your announcements and/or, story & picture(s) to [frank@ewhitecap.com](mailto:frank@ewhitecap.com) for inclusion in an upcoming Chapter 879 newsletter.

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# Mark your Calendar

- *April 22, – Chapter 879 Young Eagle Rally - Lake Ridge (8NC8)*
  - *April 29, - Danville Regional AP (DAN)*
  - *June 3, - Raleigh Executive Jetport (TTA)*
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<b>EAA 879</b>	<b>Meetings:</b> Every 2nd Saturday 10:00 AM
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**Location:**

Lake Ridge Airport - FBO Bldg  
100 Citation Circle  
Durham, NC 27704