



THE TAILDRAGGER

MARCH 2024

LAKE PALESTINE EAA CHAPTER 972

Hello all and welcome to our March newsletter.

First, I would like to thank Lindy and Brent for hosting our February meeting. Hopefully we didn't cause too much trouble, so we get invited back. 😊

A few things of interest from the EAA headquarters that I would like to share:

There is a nationwide "Flying Start" event that EAA is encouraging chapters to host on May 18th. If we are interested it will count towards our chapter activities and in addition, they are offering 2 adult weekly tickets to AirVenture in July.

If you are interested, there is new option to attend an EAA Leadership Boot Camp ONLINE. It is this March 5 & 6th and allows you to get a good feeling for what the roles and requirements are for developing and maintaining our chapter. You do not have to be an officer to be a leader within the chapter, just a desire to contribute, also any of our members who register and attend count towards our chapter activities account.

Congrats to Gayla and the team for another successful Young Eagle event at Jacksonville. In addition we were also able to fly Caden's parents as Eagle Flights that day. Some of us went to Lufkin for lunch after and had a bumpy ride home. 🚗

We have three items to determine this upcoming meeting, so please be prepared to discuss and contribute your ideas.

Topic 1 - Dave Mason scholarship. Topics to discuss are the amount and what the fund should be used for.

Topic 2 - Planning support for the Ultralight Fly In & Gumbo June 1st.



Lake Palestine Tx



Topic 3 - Do we host a "Flying Start" event.

In other news, we were donated a very large EAA OSHKOSH Wall Banner for our future auction. I am still looking for contributions for the auction. Tentatively planning on the auction taking place at the September meeting, but open to suggestions.

We are also looking for other members to host our meetings. This month our meeting is at Grif & Gayla Leary's hangar, but I will have a signup sheet for our future meetings. Let's spread the wealth around a little, so if you can host a meeting, please consider signing up to host one of the meetings. We can supply the tables and chairs.

For the March meeting, I will be bringing BBQ brisket as the meat. Please let me know by Wednesday March 6th if you plan on attending so I can be sure to buy enough for everyone.

There will be a EAA Officers meeting at the Kearney's house on Mar 10 at 2:00 pm. All are welcome.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our March gathering.

The program will be video about air racer Steve Hinton.

Blue sky and fair winds.

John



Eagle's Nest

Total Young Eagles Flown: 2,362,900 — Stats as of Mar. 1, 2024



Hey Team

What a wonderful Young Eagles Rally! It went so smoothly, and I want to thank EVERYONE! We can't do it without you. I was saddened by the Helo leaving so quickly. I didn't get the chance to see them or thank them, I hope you did it for me. Once again, we had a young man from San Antonio to come fly with us. He is a 6th grader and hats off to Mom for driving so far just for a 30-minute experience. He did bring a friend with him, and both were sporting their flight suit's. This is exactly what makes our efforts such a joy. We had 30 youth sign up, and we flew about 13 plus finally taking up our volunteers that have never been flying with us before. What a wonderful Young Eagles Rally! It went so smoothly, and I want to thank EVERYONE! We can't do it without you. I was saddened by the Helo leaving so quickly. I didn't get the chance to see them or thank them, I hope you did it for me. Once again, we had a young man from San Antonio to come fly with us. He is a 6th grader and hats off to Mom for driving so far just for a 30-minute experience. He did bring a friend with him, and both were sporting their flight suit's. This is exactly what makes our efforts such a joy. We had 30 youth sign up, and we flew about 13 plus finally taking up our volunteers that have never been flying with us before.

I finally had to let Amie go. It's been a year and eight months. HQ has been more than understanding. Here is a copy of what Amie said response to letting her go:

That is totally understandable! After I broke my knee, I understood that trying to stretch the scholarship any farther would already be a big ask, so I am so thankful for what you and the chapter have been able to do for me! I will continue to pursue my PPL and I have ben discussion with Mrs. Boucher about finding a solid CFI I can get lessons from for ground school since I never really had a teacher for ground and doing it on my own has been a challenge. Now that I am able to work again, I will be able to pay for a teacher and plane rentals and my upcoming tests, but I am so SO grateful and appreciative of all the work and effort you and Bo and the group has done for me!!! I would not be where I am today without y'all, and I am so glad that you all have been a part of this journey! It will not end with the scholarship, and I hope you know that I am not discouraged from pursuing my license! Thank you so very much for all of your support!

Jean and I had a discrepancy of \$28.00 in the accounts. I had to transfer the \$28.00 from regular checking to the scholarship account to mail a check back to HQ in the amount of \$1265.65 for the remainder of the scholarship money for Amie.

Caden has had 2 lessons from Ric Morrison at KJSO. Ric says he is doing very well. We only have one more 3-hour lesson paid for and then we may have to borrow from the general funds to pay Ric until Caden solos. And of course, pay it back to the general funds. We are now on our 4th CFI and they all, understandably, want to reevaluate him. This has cost us dearly. I did get a refund check from his last CFI in the amount of \$180.00. I would have used this for Amie but I figured we need to keep it in Caden's' funds and to keep a little padding in the account.

We have another Young Eagles event coming up Saturday, March 23rd. This is the Rose City Young Marines. A group of young students ages 8-18 that is training to someday become Marines. I feel honored to

be flying this group. If you want to read up go to: <https://www.mcltyler.com> It is very impressive.

<https://www.eaa.org/ea/youth/youth-protection-policy-and-program>

Gayla



President, John Kearney
johnkearney@att.net

Vice President, Randy Gentry
rg939887@gmail.com

Young Eagles Coord. Gayla Leary
gaylaleary@hotmail.com

Secretary, Brenda Culver
Secretaryeaa972@gmail.com

Treasurer, Jean Kearney
jeankearney@att.net

Webmaster, Les Homan
homanles@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor, Les Homan
homanles@yahoo.com

Robbie Culver
robbie_culver@icloud.com





“Virtual Hangar Night”

Robbie Culver

Before moving to Aero Estates, Brenda and I were members of a different EAA Chapter (461) in Bolingbrook, IL. I have personally been a member of more EAA Chapters than I can count (I tried and my guess is 12 or 13) and every chapter is different. Being in a large metropolitan area, 461 had a diverse membership and a lot of youth interested in aviation.

A few years ago, the chapter received a Pietenpol project as a donation, and began efforts to complete the build. To make a long story short, it exceeded the expertise and skillset of the members (including us) and the project was passed on to the Illinois Aviation Museum (IAM) a couple of hangars down the taxiway.

But what came of that was something named “Hangar Night.” Every Thursday night from 7 pm to 9 pm, a group of members gathered in the chapter hangar to initially work on the Pietenpol, and eventually work on other projects - some more successful than others. Since many in attendance were youth interested in aviation, it became apparent more focused activities were required to maintain their interest. In fact, one of our more energetic youth quite pointedly asked me “What are we going to do this evening? I am tired of watching the adults hang out and talk.”

Point taken.

Following that, I started creating topics for discussion and writing a lesson plan for the evening. Now, first of all I am not a flight or ground instructor, so I began every lesson with a strong statement that emphasized that. But my real job (the one that pays for airplanes, airpark homes, and my photography addiction) is to write training materials for a big tech company and teach our employees and customers how our stuff works.

At first, it was hard to figure out where to start. We had 8 year olds crazy about airplanes, a Ray Aviation Scholar well into his flight training, and everyone in between. So, I started at the beginning and went from there, taking input from our group as to what they wanted to learn. I wrote the training from the FAA source documentation - all of it available for free, online - and various articles I found. Much like my real job, I focused on interpreting the FAA wording into stuff people could absorb and remember.

What began as a dozen adults and 4 or 5 kids grew - one evening we had 30 people, on a Thursday evening, at the airport. What a great way to get people inspired about aviation! We talked about airport traffic patterns and airport operations. We discussed what was involved in flight planning and how to use an E6B flight calculator - old school whiz wheel style. IAM had one of those gigantic E6B trainers and one evening, with the help of my son Josh, I stood in front of our friends and extended family doing flight planning problems on an E6B the size of a small table. One evening we pulled a bunch of airplanes out on the ramp and just talked about them with the kids, let them sit in them, and move the controls. A couple of evenings we dispensed with the lectures and took some of them flying.

As we did these lessons, I applied things I learned from each session to make the next one better. Key point - when you have a student pilot in attendance who is literally a math genius, it is best to re-interpret the way the FAA explains things like determining true course. The Pilots Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge states $TC \pm WCA = TH \pm V = MH \pm D = CH$ (page 16-20).

I quickly discovered that our math genius quite accurately pointed out the way that is written is completely incorrect. Shocking, I know.

It was part way into this process that Brenda began taking flying lessons in our 1945 Aeronca Champ “*Charlotte*” and also doing the Sporty’s online ground school. As we watched the videos, reviewed the topics and discussed the lessons, I used that to add to the presentations.

Aero Estates is not Bolingbrook’s Clow International airport (thankfully!!), and EAA 972 is not EAA 461 - different geographical area, different people, different environment. There is no way we could do here what we did there.

But after we moved, we left behind a fantastic group of youth - including 461’s latest Ray Scholar - who honestly no longer got the support they did before we left. So, we made Hangar Night virtual. Using Zoom, we are able to host Hangar Night for anyone interested - adults, youth, pilots or just aviation-minded folks - and do so without trying to get everyone to T25 on a weeknight. I would love it if we did that - met in a hangar and were there together - but again, different realities here. I continue to mentor several of 461’s kids from afar.

I would love it if more chapter members joined us - especially if they could share their aviation journey for those in attendance. At our most recent Young Eagles rally, we had kids from as far away as Houston, San Antonio, and Barksdale AFB in Louisiana. (I took the son of an Air Force wing vice-commander for a ride in the Champ. No pressure...) Several parents and youth expressed interest in the idea.

If we can, I would like to start scheduling a regular “Virtual Hangar Night” and maybe combine it with in-person also once we move into our new hangar home. I hope y’all will join us!

VIRTUAL HANGAR NIGHT



Blue skies

Robbie



INTERESTED IN THE HISTORY OF AERO ESTATES T25:

Thanks to Tommy Boudreau we have some events from Aero Estates back in 1987. Hard to believe no trees, a fly inn and air races here.

I copied the DVD to computer and copied the part that had to do with Aero Estates:

Here is the You Tube link. I also added the long URL location below.

YouTube URL: <https://youtu.be/jPtaytmtBzs>

YOUR Articles needed

This Newsletter is YOUR Newsletter. I put the articles in it, but you have to write them. Your Chapter needs your Contributions. Please share your experiences, skills, wisdoms, photos, humor and announcements with our membership. What may be common knowledge to you, may be priceless for a new pilot or builder. Even if you are not a Pulitzer level author — send me your words. Robbie or I will buff up the grammar if needed. Send input to homanles@yahoo.com.

2024 UP COMING EVENTS

Here is a Calendar so far.

March 14th, 5:30 EAA chapter meeting

April 6th, Saturday, Gumbo at the lake

April 11th, 5:30 EAA chapter meeting

May 4th, Saturday, Gumbo at the lake

May 9th, 5:30 EAA chapter meeting

June 1st. Saturday, Gumbo at the lake

June 1st Ultralight Fly Inn

June 13th, 5:30 EAA chapter meeting

July 6th, Gumbo at the lake

July 11th, 5:30 EAA chapter meeting

August 8th, 5:30 EAA chapter meeting

September 1st, Saturday, Gumbo at the lake

September 7th, 5:30 EAA chapter meeting

October 5th, Saturday, Gumbo at the lake

October 10th, 5:30 EAA chapter meeting

November 14th, 5:30 EAA chapter meeting

NEXT Meeting will be at The Leary's hanger

THURSDAY, March 14th, 5:30. Food will be BBQ
Brisket.



We have a Chapter Website: The URL is:

<https://chapters.eaa.org/ea972>

We are working on updating and modifying the website to meet our chapter needs and persona. We need to add pictures of members projects, and projects they are working on, building and or flying as well as the aircraft we fly. The EAA makes this available to all EAA chapters and each chapter can then modify to make it what they need. We can use this to help announce YE flights, runway Gumbo, Poker run, Events and past news letters. By the way, if you have any old information, newsletters, ETC involving the chapter please get it to me and I can