

EAA 908 HYLITES

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR EAA CHAPTER 908
SAINT LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

President's Corner



Membership: As of January we have 86 members paid.

If you have a friend or know of anyone interested in EAA or flying in general, invite them out to see our facility.

Mark Your calendar;

March 16, 2024 0800 908 BOD meeting

March 16,2024 0930 908 Safety meeting

March 16, 2024 1000 908 GM meeting

March 30,2024 Young Eagles rally (Open)

Guest Speaker Bill Harrelson new member , builder of 3 experimental aircraft & pilot



Officers:

President	Mike Ketchpaw 772-766-6957
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Director	Jerry Groendyke 772-418-7506
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WEB Site:

www.908.eaachapter.org
Webmaster: Tina Gouin

Chapter Clubhouse:
3100 Industrial Ave 3
Fort Pierce, FL 34946
Phone - (772) 489-0420

KFPR, east end use Taxiway

President's Corner - (continued)

★ APP self serve fuel out of service during construction in that area. This may take several months. APP is giving us discounts with the fuel service truck. They will service fuel at EAA ramp. **Check your fuel receipts to make sure your getting the proper fuel price.**

★ We had 8 boyscouts from troop 420 attend our Young Eagle rally last Saturday 3-9-24. We changed up our normal formate to get the flying portion done early because of high forecasted winds. Because the scouts were working on their aviation merit badge we spent extra time with the ground schools to give them more in-depth information than normal. Many thanks to the volunteers for the help needed to fly these scouts.

President's Corner - (continued)

The master plan is to have individual security ID badges to allow us to pass through our gates, both drive through and walk through. As soon as more information is available I'll pass it along.



Pages 4 & 5 have information from the airport regarding the progress of becoming compliant with the FAA and TSA requirements to get the airport up to the standards that are required to become part 139 compliant. (commercial air service)

Newsletter Editor: Mike Ketchpaw - email to: ketch15@bellsouth.com

All articles and pictures are the credit of the Editor, Mike Ketchpaw, unless otherwise noted.

Many thanks to those that contributed. Anyone with stories, news, trips, aircraft projects, bios of members, etc. can share it with the world through *HYLITES*, as we archive the recent issues on the web. We have not copyrighted anything in the past, but may work up something in the future. Generally,

ST. LUCIE COUNTY — Treasure Coast International Airport has made significant progress over the last year in its efforts to bring commercial flights here, Airport Director Cameron Howard said Tuesday.

An inspection last month by the Federal Aviation Administration found all concerns noted in last year's inspection at the county-owned airport near Fort Pierce had been addressed, Howard told county commissioners.

Night and day' difference

An FAA inspector remarked that the difference was "night and day" between the April 2023 inspection and the February 2024 one, according to Howard.

Specifically, the 2023 inspection noted a number of what Howard later said in an email were "minor issues," including improving security and lighting operations, such as improved fencing and a reduced number of entrances and gates along the perimeter fence. The 2024 inspection found all of those issues corrected.

The FAA has approved the facility's airport certification manual, airport emergency plan and wildlife hazard management plan, Howard said. Still outstanding is the final FAA approval for commercial status.

The airport has also filed its application with the Transportation Security Administration.

"FAA is reviewing all of the data gathered from the inspection last month. We are awaiting direction from the FAA for next steps," Howard said in the email.

If the airport is able to get all of its boxes checked with the federal agencies, it be ready to begin marketing itself to commercial airlines.

Those conversations could be ongoing congruently with the FAA and TSA applications. As [TCPalm first reported](#) late last year, the county attempted to lure Breeze Airways to the airport in early 2022, even without yet securing commercial status. Breeze ultimately announced about six months after those conversations ended that it would begin flying out of Vero Beach. **In that unsuccessful courtship, the county, the local Economic Development Council and Breeze negotiated a 12-month confidentiality agreement. If similar agreements are in place now, any communications likely would be shielded from state public-records laws.**

Terminal renovation underway

One ongoing project, on which Howard also updated the commissioners Tuesday, could help lure a new airline. The airport is in the design phases of a \$1.5 million terminal renovation, Howard said.

In the conversations with Breeze, under a previous airport director, the idea of a new terminal was pitched to the airline. This renovation would not be that, but it would be squarely aimed at future commercial service.

"The renovation is to make room for TSA, airline ticketing and passenger seating," Howard said in the email. County officials have said they do not know when they'll hear from the FAA about a decision on commercial status.

The airport already has an international designation, as it has Customs and Border Protection facilities, currently used by private and charter flights coming from other countries such as The Bahamas.

Around the Patch (Mike Ketchpaw)

Board of Directors Meetings: The Chapter's BOD meets have been changed to the 3rd Saturday @8:00am at the clubhouse, unless otherwise noted. **Next BOD meeting Mar 16,2024 0800**

The use of the Chapter Hangar: The procedure for scheduling use of the Chapter's hangar will be to call Mike Ketchpaw at (772) 770-9928 or 772-766-6957 in order to maintain coordinated use of the hangar. No other method is authorized.

Young Eagles Rally

March 30, 2024

This will be an open to the public rally.



Need volunteers, Pilots, ground support, and registration. Sign up at club house or contact Mike 772-766-6957