



2024 Leadership

President:

Jim Kessler

Vice President

Lance Hunter

Secretary:

Joyce Woods

Treasurer:

John DeWitt

Board Members

Doug Dingman
Emilio Verastegui
Mark Wilson
Mike Wirstrom
George Young

Standing Committees

Membership

Gwen Walcott
membership@eaal179.org

Land of Enchantment Fly-In (LOEFI)

TBD
loefi@eaal179.org

Double Eagle Aviation Academy (DEAA)

Joyce Woods/Jim Kessler
deaa@eaal179.org

Young Eagles

Michael Tolle
youngeagles@eaal179.org

Publicity

Kyle Reinhardt

Scholarships

Art Woods, Rowan Phlieger
scholarships@eaal179.org

IMC Club

John DeWitt, Barry Harper
imc-club@eaal179.org

Flight Advisors

Jim Kessler
Lee Otto
Mark Sturm

Technical Counselors

David Otero
Emilio Verastegui
Gwen Walcott

Fly-Outs

Mark Wilson

Storage Locker

TBD

Reimer Aircraft Factory

Lee Otto

Newsletter & WebMaster

George Young
newsletter@eaal179.org
webmaster@eaal179.org

General eMail

chapter@eaal179.org

Snail Mail

EAA Chapter 179
7401 Atrisco Vista Blvd NW #179
Albuquerque, NM 87120-6601

Upcoming Events & Chapter Gatherings

- Sep 17 – [Chapter Gathering](#)
- Sep 20 – [LOEFI Setup \(KAEG\)](#)
- Sep 21 – [Land of Enchantment Fly-In \(KAEG\)](#)
- Oct 3 – Chapter Board Meeting (ZOOM)
- Oct 15 – Chapter Gathering
- Oct 19 – [Young Eagles \(KAEG\)](#)
- Nov 9 – [Young Eagles \(KAEG\)](#)

And check [NMPA web site](#) for other events around New Mexico

September 2024

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Throughout the newsletter, blue underlined text indicates a hyperlink – click it to “take you there”.



Notes from our President

Jim Kessler, President



These are the best flying days of the year. As the temperature goes down and the winds remain calm, we can enjoy the blue skies of New Mexico and beyond. Let's get out there and enjoy.

I'll tell the Breezy crash story after the NTSB finishes its investigation. It has been postponed until the third week in October, now.

The Young Eagles Rally on September 7th was a big success. We had great weather for flying and plenty of Young Eagles to fly. Special thanks to Michael Tolle for his leadership. Michael is stepping down as Young Eagles Coordinator, and he will be missed. Art Woods is stepping in to finish the year as coordinator. We'll need a new coordinator for next year. Don't be afraid to step up. It is one of the most rewarding positions in the chapter.

The pedal plane project is in the paint shop at Dan Herschel's hangar. I've seen a picture of the propeller and spinner, and they look beautiful. Special thanks to the people who have made this happen: Joe Martinez, Doug Volker and Mark Sturm. The painters are Emilio Verastegui and Dan. The upholstery for the seat is being provided by House of Covers. This is going to be one classy machine.

We are totally gearing up for LOEFI. Signage will start going up on Monday, and we've got meetings with the airport manager and Bode this week. If you haven't signed up for your favorite LOEFI position, now is the time. Here is the link to Signup Genius.

[EAA Chapter 179: 2024 Land Of Enchantment Fly-In \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)

[We have a few more spots to fill.](#)

This month's Gathering is at BJ's restaurant on September 17th. The speaker this month is Emily Sisneros. She'll be talking about the FAA and space operations.

Keep the canopy side up,

Jim Kessler
President, EAA Chapter 179
chapter@eaa179.org

Chapter Board Meeting Summary, Sep 3, 2024

Joyce Woods, Secretary

Your Board of Directors meets every other month, on the first or second Tuesday. We review financials, past meeting minutes, and committee reports. Notable this month were plans for the remainder of the year, including:

- We need a Christmas party location, tentatively December 17. We may have grown beyond the room at Tomasita's. *Any ideas?*
- A Nominating Committee was established to recommend a slate of officers for calendar 2025. Lance Hunter, Doug Dingman, and Joyce Woods will serve this year. If you are interested, let any of them know, as they will be looking for folks interested to get involved. It's a great opportunity to get involved and influence what we do in our chapter. All four offices are open, (President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer) plus we need a new Young Eagles Coordinator. Well, we have told John DeWitt he's doing such a great job, he's in it for life. So actually the Treasurer position is filled.
- MikeTolle is stepping down from the Young Eagle Coordinator role after a successful Sept 7 event. The Board expressed gratitude for Mike's leadership and attentiveness. Art Woods will assume the role through year-end. If anyone is even mildly interested, come see what the job entails during the Oct/Nov events.

We reviewed a few details to assure a successful Land of Enchantment Fly In (LOEFI). Our last planning meeting is Tues Sept 10 at 6:30 via Zoom. Contact Joyce for the link if you want to join. A few details:

- We got approval to start hangar cleaning at 8am Wednesday, Sept 18. It really needs work this year! Lance Hunter is leading this so if you're available and want to help, let him know. Thus we may start actual setup earlier on Friday if we don't have to clean first.
- The City is committed to help despite several personnel changes lately. Lance, Emilio, and Mike Tolle will meet with them Monday Sept 16 for final arrangements. They are arranging for porta-potties—a significant cost avoidance for us.
- The Pedal Plane. WOW, it will be completed in time. Amazing feat, given the late kit delivery. Chapter members came through!
- Emilio has submitted the event permit application to the city.
- George is attending the CAP marshalling class to give an overview of LOEFI.
- We may have Boy Scouts to help with Parking and other roles.
- Sign Ups of volunteers on Sign Up Genius are attracting new volunteers, as we hoped!

Land of Enchantment Fly-In 2024

By Joyce Woods



EAA Chapter 179 members and friends

Are you ready for our biggest event of the year?

Many hands make light work. . . and we can ALWAYS use more hands.

If we weren't building on over 30 years of experience, it would be impossible to pull off an airport event like we do, attracting thousands. But

we have experienced members who have made it happen for many years. As Konrad Werner likes to say, *"it's not our first rodeo!"* And we get better and better at it, every year.

Many long time members have chaired this event. You can tell who they are, because their hair is either gray or they have no hair left. Believe it or not, we have a "LOEFI Handbook" which one of our newer volunteers pulled out to review the other day and commented, "this is really extensive! Impressive!" Yup, both Dan Horschel and Eric Goldman did major overhauls of our documentation. However, many long time volunteers just show up and do their job, and voila! A successful LOEFI!

A couple years ago, we initiated the SIGN UP Genius to get more organized. Do you think we can get the old timers to sign up online? Nope, they just SHOW UP. So with some coaxing, by this 3rd year, we have a pretty good showing on the SIGNUPS. And it's awesome how many newer volunteers have stepped up to help. By the way, have you SIGNED UP yet? Don't sweat if you're the only one for a task. Some of those repeat volunteers will be there. The more we have on any task, the more opportunity for everyone to take a break and enjoy the show.

Land of Enchantment Fly In - Sept 21

Want to Volunteer?

Click to review positions available, Sign Up today!



It truly is rewarding and fun to be involved in this chapter, especially as we proudly host our community at the airport for LOEFI — so if you've not yet signed up, please consider doing so. Or mimic an old timer, and just "SHOW UP!" Once you see what's happening, you'll want to find a way to pitch in and help. Oh—and if you want to see the handbook, let me know.

EAA 179's 34th Annual Land of Enchantment Fly-In

Saturday, September 21, 2024

7AM Gates Open; 8AM Opening Ceremony

FREE Admission & Parking

Have a plane? We invite you to share it!

Pilots and Aircraft Owners: we'd love to see you AND your aircraft — YOU MAKE THE SHOW! Let us know if you have a show plane for our main ramp planning. Then stop at the Pilot Registration booth (by the new fuel farm) and register for awards that Saturday. Not only can you enter for judging, you also receive unique LOEFI pilot gifts and we count you in!

AIRCRAFT AWARDS: Best Plans Built; Best Kit Built, Contemporary (1971 – present); Classic (prior to 1971); LSA/Trike; Warbird; Most Distant Fly-in, People's Choice; LOEFI Grand Champion (judge's choice). Awards presented between 1230-1300.

What's up this year?

Raffles! We'll raffle **two Southwest Airlines tickets** for domestic travel. And thanks to our "Can Do" spirited volunteers, there's a Beech **Staggerwing PEDAL PLANE!** Photos coming soon—it's being painted as we write! Especially with late arrival of the kit, it's been a true team effort!

Aviation Fun for all Ages, as we always advertise. We're expanding our teen and adult area, including more flight simulators, radio practice and other aviation learning activities from our Aviation Academy. Builders' Square includes aircraft building technique demos, 3D printing, and a chance to pull a rivet!

Fly-In Aircraft: Those who've previously attended know that the Chile Flight appears for our Opening Ceremony. I'm hearing this year that another surprise formation arrival is planning to join us. Although not an airshow—there always seem to be surprises, to our delight!!!

Exhibit Hall: Thirty confirmed exhibitors—expect another great show!

Fly-Mart: We collect aviation treasures year round and have sell them to benefit our charitable causes, primarily scholarships. If you have items to donate, bring them to the Exhibit Hall hangar on Friday, Sept 20 or by 8am on 21st.

Pilot Safety Seminar: Flying New Mexico's Backcountry, by Ron Keller, New Mexico Pilots Association, 0830— 9:45

GIRLS IN AVIATION Day is again hosted by the Women in Aviation local chapter (WAI-LOE) so you'll see their participants out and about. Registration for their event is required. ([Pre-register HERE](#))

THANKS to all our generous sponsors and exhibitors who've committed to date. If you know someone who'd like to participate, it's not too late! Let us know.

Notes from the Editor

George Young

A Flight to Mystic Bluffs Fly In

I was invited to fly with Lanny Tinning in his Rallye to NMPA's Mystic Bluffs Fly-In on August 17th. He has invited me in past years, and I've enjoyed the flight and fly in, maybe this year more than the others.

For starters, with an early morning departure, heading west from Mid Valley, the low angle of the sun embellishes the sometimes fascinating scenery of New Mexico.

- First, the row of extinct volcanos just 10 miles or so west of Los Lunas. And 'tho a hazy morning, I could see the Rio Puerco meandering from the north and on the horizon Mesa Prieta and Mesa Chivato.

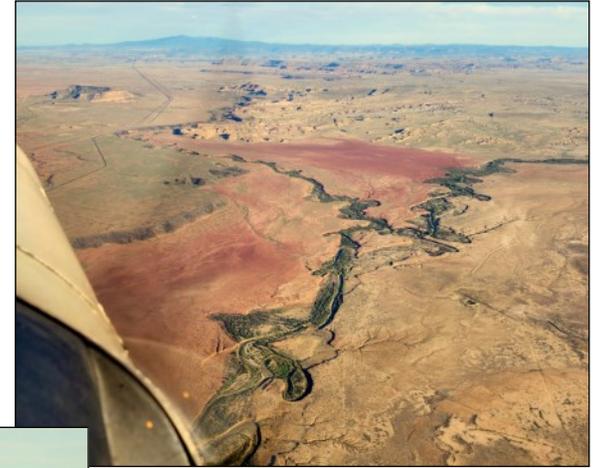


- And soon, looking down on one of the volcanos, with a long shadow from the early morning sun.

- Beyond the plains, the escarpment into the Rio Puerco Valley.



- Here, a section of the Rio Puerco valley, large, twisting arroyo. And red surface to add color to the scene.



- Further along, another Rio, the arroyo bottom covered in green (juniper?).

- Leaving the open plains behind, and after flying over the lava beds of El Malpais, we fly over Bonita Canyon in the southeast corner of the Zuni Mountains. (Note: the name "Bonita" Canyon is an excellent fit—the canyon is beautiful on the ground.)



(Continued on page 5)

Notes from the Editor

George Young

(Continued from page 4)

The Mystic Bluffs Airport (NM56) is a dirt strip near Ramah, NM. It is located in a beautiful setting – a valley (verdant green this year) surrounded by multi-layer cliffs on the west and south, and the Zuni mountains to the north and east. The Fly In is sponsored by NMPA, with Perry Null pulling it all together, and supported by Cindy Crawford (owner) and the Timberlake Community. Thanks to all!

- On rollout, landing on runway 6, with earlier arrivals parked along the south side of the airstrip.
- Some 20 aircraft attended from all around New Mexico.



- Our own Arnold Bronson was asked to do the honors, holding the flag for the opening ceremonies.
- After a great breakfast served by our hosts ... to avoid blowing dust onto other airplanes and the breakfast tent, the Rallye was towed to the end of runway 26 before engine start.



- On takeoff roll, runway 24, towards the edge of the mesa 1 mile distant and 600 feet above field elevation. It makes for short finals on runway 6 and early turns to crosswind on runway 24.



- Leaving Mystic Bluffs eastbound to Mid Valley. It is such a beautiful setting (and NMPA does a great job preparing the dirt airstrip each year).

A couple of take-aways from this year's attendance at the Mystic Bluffs Fly In:

- New Mexico is a –beautiful– place to explore from the air, even in other than flying/touring in an ultra-light (kudos to Jeff Gilkey and his videos from his ultra-light tours).
- It is worth the time to go beyond the Rio Puerco and the “practice area” close to Double Eagle, to see other features and landscapes that abound around New Mexico.
- Also, it is a treat to fly in the right seat, not responsible as a pilot to control the airplane and to navigate, free to look at the sights below.
 - Lanny did invite me to fly the Rallye back to Mid Valley and he commented after landing how much he enjoyed the freedom to give attention to “seeing the sights”.

George Young
Newsletter Editor & Webmaster
newsletter@eaa179.org

September Chapter Gathering

by Joyce Woods



Tuesday, September 17, 2024

BJ's Restaurant @ Cottonwood Mall

From 5:15 PM – “No host” dinner social

6:15 PM – Introductions & Presentation

Program: Overview of FAA Commercial Space Office, Licensing Process and Operations, by Emily Sisneros

Come learn who the FAA Office of Commercial Space is, what they do and how commercial space operations can impact the local flying area. When you hear "FAA" most think of pilots and air traffic control. The Office of Commercial Space Transportation is one of five lines of business within the FAA that many aren't aware of. This presentation will give an overview of the office as well as commercial space operations in this region.

Emily Sisneros has worked for the FAA for 33 years, starting as an Air Traffic Controller at ABQ ARTCC, then moving on to Traffic Management Coordinator, Airspace Specialist and now works for FAA Headquarters in the Office of Commercial Space Transportation integrating commercial space operations into the National Airspace System. She is a private pilot, Chapter 179 member, and has flown for Civil Air Patrol.

Where: BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse at Cottonwood Mall

10000 Coors Blvd NW, Albuquerque

Directions: North or South bound on Coors Blvd to Cottonwood Mall. Take the Cottonwood Loop to the south end of the parking lot. BJ's is in a separate building.

Monthly Chapter Gatherings offer time to network, with programs centered on exchanging experiences and ideas about aviation – airplanes, flying, and flying activities – rather than the chapter business which is addressed in bimonthly Board meetings.

*Arrive anytime from 5:15 but dinner is not required. **We hope to see you there!***

August Chapter Gathering—RECAP

by Joyce Woods

With many just back from a week in Oshkosh, enjoying AirVenture 2024, we started with a slideshow of travel photos.

Besides Oshkosh adventures, Emilio Verastegui and Barry Kromer took a side trip in Emilio's Bonanza to Michigan's spectacular Mackinac Island. It's a special place that's only accessible by boat or airplane. They took a taxi (horse drawn carriage) to town and toured the famous Grand Hotel.

Art and I shared pics including a meetup in the Blue Barn with Alex Martinez, who attended EAA's Air Academy and Konrad Werner's New Mexico cookout. Then a colorful impromptu New Mexico meet up at Red Oak, IA on the return trip. Ken Summers of Edgewood and Art's RV, plus Mike Rehberg in his RV4. So two Chile Flight pilots and two Zia planes. All heading home for some green chile!



Alex Martinez thanked members for supporting his trip to Oshkosh and the opportunity to attend AirVenture. Apparently he impressed some military recruiters with his video game prowess. He explained what they did at Air Academy and showed off the results of his projects including a wood wing rib, fiberglass clipboard, riveted box, and a very cool (heavy) welded metal cube!!!! Somehow he got it all home!

Lee Otto presented the story of attending the Pietenpol reunion at Brodhead enroute to Oshkosh, and then seeing various airplanes at Oshkosh on display. He noted several aspects to consider as our chapter restores the project now residing in the Reimer Hangar (RAF). Various engine choices have been used and Lee found the perfect round engine that would look really cool — but could price the aircraft beyond any other Pietenpol builder's imagination. See, the Pietenpol is a “poor man's airplane” and the builder community is proud of that. Well, Lee concluded we have some decisions to make.

It was a lively evening with a totally full house! Joe Martinez transported the Pedal Plane in progress from the airport so everyone could see it. It had to be moved to free up the last table — we had a crowd! It was an extra special

night with FIVE DEAA alums present! Yes, Stephan James, Ava Diaz, Lucas Hoekstra, Isabella Baldonado, and Alex Martinez attended, most with parents in tow. As they introduced themselves to everyone, each gave updates on their flying endeavors and WOW! Every one had a story to tell. Great fun! Look for each of them volunteering with LOEFI!



Pedal Plane Nears Completion

- Joyce Woods
secretary@eaa179.org

IMC Club Meeting

Barry Harper and John DeWitt, IMC Club Coordinators



Sharpen your Instrument Flying Skills!

The chapter IMC Club meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at Double Eagle II Airport, still a hybrid session (in person or remote). Anyone welcome!

Note: NO September 2024 Meeting!

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, Oct 19; 9:30—11:00 AM

IMC Club sessions provide an open discussion based on instrument flying scenarios. Discussions provide a good review of essentials for IMC flight plus a fun way to meet and learn from other instrument pilots.

- **Participate in-person at Double Eagle II Airport** in the Bode Aviation conference room, 2nd floor, next to the café. Optional: meet others at the café prior for breakfast or after for lunch.
- **OR Join Remotely via ZOOM:**
Register in advance for Zoom access info here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpf-6pqjssGtITYMRq33E4RQf9hpG3sEuH>

You will receive a confirmation email with the meeting Zoom link.

If you'd like FAA Safety WINGS credit, please also register through the WINGS announcement as follows, or sign in-person at the meeting.

- Visit the FAAST [Seminars & Webinars page for Events at KAEG](#).
- Scroll to the bottom and select the *IMC Club Meeting*.
- Follow "Registration Info" instructions

See you there!

Barry Harper & John DeWitt
IMC Club Coordinators, EAA 179



Membership

Gwen Walcott, Membership Chair



Seeking New Members

We are seeking new members.

We always welcome new members no matter the time of year.

Please consider joining the 90 plus individuals who are registered as members for 2024.

The dues payments help fund scholarships, pay our national EAA fees and enable the Chapter to offer fantastic programs throughout the year.

Annual dues are \$20 for an individual member and \$30 for a family (spouse and children under 18).

Dues are not prorated for partial year payments. Also note that separate membership and dues payments are required to the National Organization (<https://eaa.org>) of which we are a representative part.

To join, simply go online, to <https://eaa179.org/membership/> where you can submit your dues payment by Paypal or credit card, or you may send a check (include your name, address, EAA National Membership number, a contact phone number, and email address) payable to "EAA Chapter 179" and mail it to:

EAA Chapter 179; 7401 Atrisco Vista Blvd NW #179; Albuquerque, NM 87120.

If you pay by credit card or Paypal, also forward your EAA National Membership Number (on your ID card) to membership@EAA179.org.

Those who need to join or renew their National EAA membership should visit: <https://www.eaa.org/join.aspx>

Gwen Walcott
Membership Coordinator
membership@eaa179.org

Want to Contribute? Like what we're doing? You Can Help!

We appreciate donations of any amount to our main scholarship fund or specific memorial funds. Chapter 179 is a 501c(3) tax exempt charitable organization.

You may donate online via credit card or PayPal, or send us a check made out to "EAA 179 Scholarship" and send to: EAA 179; 7401 Atrisco Vista Blvd NW #179, Albuquerque, NM 87120".

If desired, you may designate a specific fund including, "Randy & Susie Reimer Memorial Fund", Rick Richter Memorial Fund, "Doc" Weaver Memorial Leadership Scholarship, or the "Jay Schmitt Memorial Scholarship".

Young Eagles

Mike Tolle, Young Eagles Coordinator



The September Young Eagles rally marks the end of my tenure as Young Eagles Coordinator. Art Woods will be taking my place. God bless that man. Next time you see him at the airport, please offer to buy him lunch or wash his airplane. I'm off to Texas to take care of family business.

I was gratified earlier in the week to hear Lance tell me the weather was looking good for Saturday's rally. I watched 3 of them get canceled last spring due to weather. That's no fun, because a lot of preparation goes into these rallies, and it's a huge let-down to the parents, kids, and pilots. Fortunately, the weather played exceptionally nice and it was a beautiful, sunny, cool day with little to no breeze. Perfect day for flying.

Overall, the operation was executed smoothly, though not quite the perfection I wanted to see on my last rally. Sometimes computer systems like to act up during critical times in your life and show you who's boss – this time it was the printer that produces any waivers or certificates. Amazing how one glitch can slow things down and make it seem like the Chapter's never run a rally before. Oh, the humanity.

Nevertheless, the Chapter flew 63 Young Eagles of which 21 were first-timers. We had at least 5 walk-ins that we were able give them flights. In It's a good day when we can safely fly that many kids and put a smile on peoples' faces. Heck, even the snack table was a success with all the goodies getting eaten up and a minor profit in the donations jar.

I want to end with a few observations over my time as Young Eagles Coordinator

1. These success of these events depend on a set of experienced volunteers. It's great for any Member to come out the day of the event, to help out with "traffic control" (out onto the ramp, or visits to the RAF to see the Air Camper project), to share your flying stories, and to see the results – smiles on the faces of kids AND parents (sometimes grandparents too). A successful event depends also trained and experienced volunteers who make it a smooth-functioning, well-oiled machine. This Chapter is blessed to have so many good people doing their best to ensure a successful rally. I am thankful for their support.

2. My goal has been to present a well-planned, well-executed rally that keeps folks as happy as possible with few mishaps. It's a tricky business to keep the kids, the parents, the pilots, and the ground volunteers happy. There are many expectations which are not always in 100% alignment. It's a testament to the expertise of this Chapter when we come close to keeping everyone happy.

In closing, I expect Art and Joyce will put the experimentation back into EAA when they run the rallies going forward. No doubt a few tweaks can bring greater success to the program. Please give them all of your support. This is a public-facing program, and we can really encourage young people to pursue aviation when we do things well.

Mike Tolle
Young Eagles Coordinator
youngeagles@eaa179.org





Part of a Day with Young Eagles

George Young, Young Eagles Volunteer

A follow-up to Mike's column, here's a photo story focusing on what happens when the family (and kids) "meet their airplane" & pilot (Kurt Winkler).



Meeting the Pilot



Who wants to go first?



All Aboard



Photo Op: Settling in the cockpit



Photo Op: Have a good flight



Photo Op: Logbooks, for the record



After the flights, presenting the certificate and logbooks 'for the record'.



Key volunteers Jacob, Stephan, & Leah

Scholarship Recipient Update and Another Kudos

Art Woods, Scholarship Co-Chair

Another Ray Scholar Success!

Christian Guerra earns Private Pilot Certificate

Our Chapter is ecstatic, proud & delighted to announce that our 5th Ray Scholarship recipient, Christian Guerra, passed his checkride in August. He was awarded the Ray in November 2023.

Christian achieved this feat with 54 hours of logged time. We also thank Daniel, a Bode instructor, for his guidance to get Christian through the PPL program. Doc Chavez was the Designated Pilot Examiner for his checkride.

**CONGRATULATIONS
CHRISTIAN!!**



About the Ray Scholarship Program

Chapter 179 has qualified for participation in EAA's Ray Aviation Scholarship program for the past six years (2019–2024), enabling us to support flight students age 16—19 through their Private Pilot check ride.

Successful candidates are youth who are energetically engaged in aviation activities such as enrolled in or completed aviation education courses, who participate in local aviation related organizations, who are enthusiastic to become a pilot and who can make it a priority.

Martin Di Stefano Awarded CFI

Martin joined Chapter 179 in 2020 with a Steen Skybolt byplane.

His Skybolt won the LOEFI People's Choice award in 2022.

Martin reported recently that he has completed the requirements to become a CFI. Congratulations, Martin.

"I completed my CFI check ride on Saturday with Mr. VeneKlausen up in Santa Fe. I completed my training at the Kirtland Aero Club over the span of two months, and ended up waiting another THREE months for the check ride. While I am currently looking for flying jobs across the country, I'm happy to help out if any chapter members need a CFI for flight reviews (or anything else) while I'm still in the Albuquerque area. "



Ray Scholar's First Solo

Pirep: Dominic Martinez First Solo

Last month we reported on the quick progress of Dominic Martinez, another of our Ray Scholars, towards achieving his goals. Dominic sent us his own report describing his first solo flight:

"The morning of the solo was very calm, an exciting but calm morning. I took off and things seemed nice and smooth, no complications, which felt like a sign. After my instructor had me do 3 landings at Double Eagle we landed and he left the plane. Now it was just me, I was feeling nervous but determined and excited at the same time. I taxied to the runway and took off. The first approach was too high so I went around, which got me a little nervous, but with some self talk and a trip around the pattern the next landing was better and it felt relieving, it gave me a new replenished confidence that I was able to do this. After one last landing I taxied back to the ramp. It felt so good to accomplish being able to fly the plane on my own, I felt like I could do anything."

CONGRATULATIONS DOMINIC!!



Young Eagles to Private Pilot

From Paula, a Proud Mom

We received this eMail a few days ago:

"I hope you don't me sharing this Proud Mom moment.

In February 2019, I took my kids to their first [Young Eagles](#) event, where volunteer pilots take kids aged 8-17 on a free flight in their private planes. That sparked an interest in my son, Caleb, who had just turned 12. I couldn't be more proud of all of his hard work and just had to share! "

Thanks, Ken Summers, for forwarding this example of the influence of EAA's Young Eagles program has on our youth. (Ed.)



Building a Pedal Plane—Update
Jim Kessler & Mark Sturm, Project Leaders



Assembly of this year's Pedal Staggerwing 2024 is complete and it is ready to paint. Is it not a beauty? Some lucky family will take it home from LOEFI.



See the latest on our [Staggerwing 2024 on page 17.](#)

Kudos go to:

Joe Martinez and Doug Volker, "came in early, worked tirelessly for 4 weeks". (Mark Sturm)

Mike Paxson, ".. works of art .. 3D printing of engine and instrument panel". (And builder of pedal planes the last 2 LOEFIs)

Emilio Verastegui and Dan Horschel will be painting it in time for the Raffle at LOEFI.

Jim & Mark, ".. kept project moving .. Recruited "worker bees" .. Insured resources were on hand .. (and more)."

Great job, yall. (Ed.)

Meet Our Members

Another in the series of –occasional- biographies of our Chapter Members. Ed.

Jim Kessler's Story

I'm originally from central NY. My uncle took me flying when I was six years old, and I was hooked. I was totally *in* when I learned that a person could actually make a living as a pilot.

I took my first flying lessons while in high school, but my funds ran out about the time I was ready to solo.

After I graduated from college, I married my wife Pam and went off to The Basic School in Quantico, VA, to be a Marine officer and then to Pensacola, FL, for flight school. I was chosen to be a CH-46E pilot (helicopter, little brother of the Chinook) and we moved to Jacksonville, NC, for advanced training. I was then assigned to the tactical CH-46 squadron, HMM-162.

I did two six-month deployments aboard ships (LHAs). After four years in North Carolina, I was selected to attend the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. By then we had two sons, and in Monterey we would have a third. I graduated from NPS with a master's degree in electrical engineering and off we went to Washington, DC, where I procured radios and other communications equipment for the Marine Corps. After three long years in DC, I was assigned to the USS Saipan as the Helicopter Direction Center Officer and the senior Marine stationed on the ship.

This is affectionately called a payback tour because I was given the good deal of going to school, which I will say was about the greatest deal I could ask for.

After three years and two deployments to the Mediterranean aboard the Saipan, neither of which actually stayed in the Med very long due to hostilities in West Africa and the Middle East, we returned to Jacksonville, NC. I was assigned to my old tactical squadron HMM-162, and I deployed two more times from there, once for another Mediterranean float, which again did not stay in the Med, but ended up in East Africa, and a second winter deployment to Norway for a little cold-weather fun.

My final job in the Marine Corps was as the Officer-In-Charge of the fleet introduction team for the MV-22, Osprey. For a year and a half, I became a thorn in the side for most folks who thought the Osprey was just another helicopter that could go fast.

I retired from the Marine Corps in 1997 and worked for a small engineering firm doing industrial upgrades to manufacturing equipment. Generally, we took old equipment and automated it, but occasionally we designed new equipment. I did that for two years and then was invited to be a simulator instructor for the V-22. I could not pass that up.

I worked as a simulator instructor for three years and was invited to be the project manager for the development of computer-based training for the Osprey for both the pilots and the maintainers. There were so few people qualified that I think I might have been their only applicant. I built courseware for three years and then went back to being a simulator instructor in the V-22 for two more years years.

One day the XO (Executive Officer) of the V-22 training squadron came into the office and asked if any of us would like to be production test pilots for the Osprey in Amarillo, TX. I think the Amarillo, TX, part of that statement kept everyone but me from offering up their services. However, whether I was the only applicant or not, three months later we were in Amarillo, TX and I was a production test pilot for an aircraft in which I had 2600 simulator hours and 0 flight time.

During my first flight, I said to the pilot in command, "This feels just like the simulator."

I did production test for six years until I had a bout with a heart issue and lost my medical certificate, so I looked around for jobs and was hired at Kirtland AFB as a simulator instructor for the Osprey. I was the only applicant.

And that is how Jim and Pam Kessler came to live in Rio Rancho, NM. That is only part of the story though.

I started building my RV-6 as soon as we moved back to Jacksonville, NC, in 1992. I worked on it on Sunday afternoons with my good friend and mentor Mark Thoman, whom some of you have met. Mark is a storyteller of the highest caliber and regaled me with stories for years as we built my airplane. On one of those Sunday afternoons, Mark informed me that Bell had hired him to be the lead V-22 simulator instructor and he was the one who invited me to become a contract simulator instructor for the Osprey.

In 2008, when I was hired as a production test pilot, my airplane was still far from complete. In fact, I still had not put on the landing gear. So we (and the we here is a little less enthusiastic than most of the other we's were) bought a truck and trailer and dragged my airplane out to Amarillo, TX. Here Miss Pam told me that I was to "finish that airplane before we moved again." That doesn't sound like too much to ask, but when it has already been 15 years, one tends to believe the project will never end.

This is where the story takes a new turn. All of my old building partners were 1500 miles away, but every night after dinner, I was herded out to the garage to "work on that airplane." I actually got more done in the next three years than I had in any previous six years. Miss Pam was called upon to buck rivets and hold a variety of tools and components while I completed the airplane. I flew it for the first time on April 27, 2011.

I have about 600 hours in my RV-6 and have flown it to NY, NC, FL, ID, WY, AZ, NV, TX and CA.

Some of you might be asking yourself why I have become the chapter president. The answer is simple. Again, I was the only applicant.

I hope to see you around the airport.

Grace & peace,
Jim Kessler

Spaceport Fly-In, September 8th

Joyce Woods



GA ramp on arrival: (right). Photo by Daisy Belmares-Ortega

A super turnout at the Spaceport of chapter members and aircraft from Double Eagle II Airport! See more photos posted on Facebook. Here's a few.

The New Mexico Spaceport America opened registration for an Open House and Fly-In, but limited arrivals to 40 aircraft and assigned timeslots. They maxed out public drive-in tickets (free) as well!

Doug and Diana Volker drove in, and were on hand to greet us on arrival, along with the full team of long-time LOEFI ramp Civil Air Patrol volunteers led by senior members, Dan McGregor and James McKelvey.



Beautiful RV7 from Las Cruces.
GA ramp reflection in main Spaceport hangar



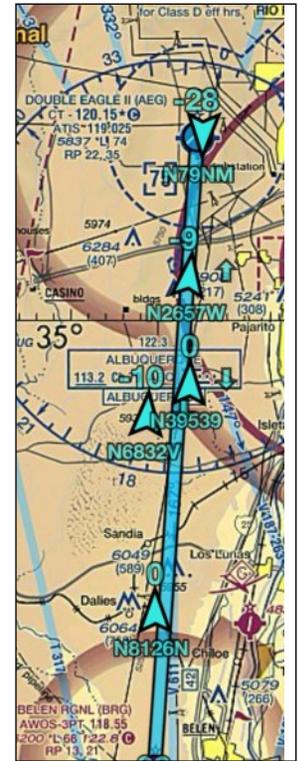
Daisy Ortega, Joyce Woods, & Diana Volker



Mark Wilson Flying "Miss Blu"



Art Woods arrives with student pilot Ava Diaz



Double Eagle II caravan returns home



Dan McGregor, Civil Air Patrol



Kyle, Jessica, and Amelia Reinhardt arriving



Student pilots Ava Diaz & Daisy Belmares Ortega, checking out the NMANG helicopter

Barry Kromer's Adventure

Emilio Verastegui

This adventure actually had its beginnings at Oshkosh 2024. Barry Kromer, our former Young Eagles Coordinator, flew with me to Oshkosh. He was moaning about selling his airplane, his much beloved 1972 Cherokee 140, to his current place of work, a flight school called Aloft Aviation, located on Hyannis Airport, KHYA. Oshkosh presents many ways to spend your money and Barry found a possible outlet at the Zenith Aircraft display booth. He really liked the Cruiser model best of all but was reluctant to spend money on a new kit. He will gladly tell you that he is a thrifty Scotsman!

After returning home, he began his search for a Cruiser project that had not been completed. To his amazement, he found a possible candidate in Manchester, TN right away. As I was going to be traveling home from Knoxville and passing nearby, he asked if I would be kind enough to stop in to see it and determine if it was a viable project. I did stop in and looked it over. I thought it could become his next airplane, after some additional work and some dedicated time and money. He will have to buy an engine and prop at some point, since they are not part of the package. While mostly complete otherwise, it does have some minor damage due to some of the completed parts being tossed around by high winds from a nearby recent tornado! Now his task was to get it home to Massachusetts...

I flew SW Airlines to meet Barry in Nashville, TN on 9/4/24. After securing his rental car, we drove down to Manchester. The following day, we drove over to the project owners house so Barry could get his first look at what he hoped would be his new project. After a long and careful inspection, a hand was extended and a check was exchanged, then, voila, Barry be-



Barry at Oshkosh, sitting in the Zenith company Cruiser demonstrator



came the new owner. The now previous owner, Rodger, already had the fuselage ready to load on the soon to arrive transport equipment.

There had been some discussion with the shipping company as to whether Barry would have an enclosed truck or a flat-bed trailer. In the end, after many emails, telephone calls, gnashing of teeth and wringing of hands, they sent a long flat-bed trailer. The driver and flat-bed trailer arrived at 1100 Thursday morning. By 1300, it was all loaded up, tied down and wrapped as best as possible.

Then the driver and his load were off and running to Massachusetts and the Chatham airport, KCQX. Barry has a hangar rented there, where he plans to complete his project. Wish him luck - it is not climate controlled and, as I recall, winters can be cold on the Cape! The driver said he would be at the Chatham airport, ready to offload, by 0900 Saturday morning. Barry has called several Cape Cod pilot friends to help with that task.

Since we were finished with our primary task, the loading of the Zenith project for transport, and we had several hours of daylight left, Barry and I decided to drive over to the Beechcraft Heritage Museum, located just off the Tullahoma airport. It was a short 20 minute drive to the southwest.



(Continued on page 15)

Barry Kromer's Adventure (continued)

Emilio Verastegui

(Continued from page 14)

The entrance fee was a minor distraction for a couple of seasoned pilots like ourselves, but what a treat the museum turned out to be! The museum consists of several beautiful buildings/hangars full of meticulously restored Beechcraft airplanes of all models, from Travel Airs, Beech 17s, Beech 18s, Bonanzas, up to and including a Beech Starship. It was much more than I anticipated and it definitely gave a great history lesson about the Beechcraft company and its history. I only wish we had had more time before the doors closed. If you ever find yourself in that part of the country, please make an effort to explore this museum. It is well worth the time and small fee. Even if you are not a Beechcraft aficionado, you'll be happy that you stopped in to see what's there!

By Friday morning, 9/6/24, he and I were driving back to Nashville to catch our respective return flights home. I wish him luck and I expect to see progress or near completion by next year's Oshkosh!

Emilio, a pilot



(Continued on page 16)

Barry Kromer's Adventure (epilog)

Barry Kromer

(Continued from page 15)

Here's "the rest of the story" that Emilio submitted on my new-to-me Zenith 750 Cruiser.

After Emilio and I departed ways at KBNA airport to head home, I later that day texted the driver to confirm that he would be at KCQX (Chatham, MA) to unload the airplane project at my hangar, for 0900 local on Saturday the 7th. I was a bit nervous, since I received no reply. I had warned him that the roads here are really not trucker friendly, especially the two 100 year old bridges over the Cape Cod Canal.

I was relieved when I did get a text on Saturday morning that he was here on the Cape, and that he actually slept in the parking lot where I told him we would meet to access the airport.

I sent out a message for help, which I had previously sent out a "heads up" grovelling request for help. Two people showed up to help. The airport manager did instruct the crew at the FBO to lend a hand so they were also assisting.



It took an hour to unload which included undoing all the straps over the airplane parts.

The assembled 750 Cruiser is now resting peacefully (nose up, as it is in need of an engine), the wings are resting on saw horses and the remainder of parts are resting on the floor.

I have also started my hostile buy out takeover of Aircraft Spruce by starting to buy all the bits and pieces I need to have to complete the assembly. According to the seller the airplane is 68% finished.

Pictures are attached. Questions are appreciated, as are any building advice. This project is all Emilio's fault.

Safe landings.
Barry Kromer



(Many will remember Barry and Carol as active members of 179 before moving to Massachusetts. 'Tis great to stay in touch with them. Ed.)

Notes From Our Tower Manager

Gerald Valdez, Air Traffic Manager, Double Eagle II

To Our Airport Users,

Runway incursions remain a serious concern nationally. One important component of our ongoing efforts to improve surface safety at AEG Airport involves conducting a Runway Safety Action Team (RSAT) meeting at least once each year. In conjunction with airport management, we will be conducting a local RSAT meeting on Sep 25, 2024. The meeting is scheduled at 11am MST and will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams. Meeting details are below.

The purpose of this RSAT meeting is to unite those individuals and organizations that are actively involved in air traffic operations and movement of aircraft, vehicles and equipment on the Airport Operations Area (AOA). We look for participation from all major airport interests including tenants, fixed base operators, airport operations and maintenance personnel. Participants are asked to help develop recommendations and solutions to enhance surface safety. Those recommendations serve as the foundation for a site-specific Runway Safety Action Plan. You are cordially invited to join us.

Your participation is important, and your input is welcomed. Please RSVP to the Gerald Valdez at AEG@RVAInc.com. Include the name, organization, phone number and email address of those who will be attending.

If you have questions or need more information, please let me know. I can be reached at 505-352-5595 and/or AEG@RVAInc.com.

Gerald Valdez
Air Traffic Manager, Double Eagle II FCT
AEG Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT)

Check Out the RAF Entrance Door

Ask David O., and it shall be done!



A Great Addition to our presence at Double Eagle II
Thank you Dave!!

Latest on the LOEFI 2024 Pedal Plane "Staggerwing"

Dan Horschel & Emilio Verastegui



Our Master Painting Team have given our "Staggerwing" a magnificent coat of paint. To quote Emilio: "... the public will be astonished and astounded. Bravo, Dan for the painting .. and to those members who built it."



Recurring Events for Chapter 179
Check the [Newsletter](#) and [Web](#) for changes)

Chapter Gatherings

3rd Tuesday evenings, usually at a restaurant in Albuquerque.

See the current [Newsletter](#)

March – Scholarships, November – Annual Meeting, & December – Holiday Gathering

Chapter Board Meetings

Normally the First Tuesday of Odd Months via ZOOM

IMC Club

Third Saturdays at Double Eagle II (KAEG) and via ZOOM

Land of Enchantment Fly-In (LOEFI)

A weekend in late September

Double Eagle Aviation Academy (DEAA)

First full week in June

Young Eagles Flights

Monthly each spring and fall. Follow our web site and current [Newsletter](#) for details.

Wanted to Buy

Barry Kromer

Good day!

I am currently working on building a Zenith CH750 Cruiser project airplane. I am looking to power it with a Continental O-200. Alternately I could use a Lycoming O-235, but the Continental weighs less, and there are more of them around.

If you hear of one for sale that is in usable flight condition--for a reasonable price (hah), I would appreciate it if you would let me know with the contact information.

Thanks for any assistance!

Barry Kromer
cbkromer@yahoo.com

Upcoming Aviation Events (hosted by others) & New Mexico EAA Chapter Activities

A listing of aviation events of interest around New Mexico. If you know of others, please send the information to newsletter@eaa179.org.

- Weekly** Lobo Wing of the CAF Lunch, Saturdays at noon (0E0)
(hangar at east end of Moriarty Airport, \$7 donation requested)
- Monthly** [Chapter 555 Pancake Breakfast](#), 3rd Sundays ([KLRU](#))

- Oct 5—13 Albuquerque Intl Balloon Fiesta
Oct 19-20 Las Cruces Aerospace Expo & Airshow (KLRU)
Oct 20 Los Lunas Chapter 530 Fly-In (E98)

Also Check NMPA's "[Upcoming Events](#)"
and Check EAA 691's "[Upcoming Events](#)"



Support your Chapter

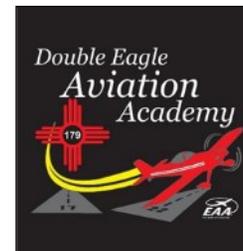
Joyce Woods

Proud to be a Member?
Want a Chapter 179 shirt?

Two designs available by special order.
Contact Joyce at secretary@eaa179.org with your SIZE.
Payment due on receipt of shirts. Proceeds benefit our chapter programs.

DEAA T Shirts
Design on shirt front
\$15 each
(men's or women's sizes available,
no pockets)

Chapter 179 Polo shirt
Gray with embroidered logo on left breast.
\$28 each. Add Pocket (\$2)
for sizes 2XL and above, add \$2.



In the News and Other Interesting Topics

The Editor ... and you?

General Aviation News (repeat)

- New Edition of [Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge](#)

FAA FAASTeam

- [FAA Safety Briefing Magazine](#)
- FAAST Webinars: Review list of many great topics; most qualify the attendee for WINGS credits. Go to [Seminars & Webinars](#), select "Show only Webinars", then [Search]
 - [Flying the New Mexico Backcountry](#), SEMINAR AT LOEFI.

Pilot Workshops—[sign up here to receive these via email](#)

- [Welcome to The Pilot's Tip of the Week](#) (PDFs & videos) (extracts from online courses and manuals)
- Recent Tips:
 - [Digital and Paper Logbooks](#)
 - [Why FAA Leters to Airmen Matter](#)
 - [Can a VFR Pilot Survive in IMC?](#)
 - [Do You Have the NOTAMS?](#)



EAA

- [Webinars](#) – EAA & Aircraft Spruce present a constant flow of Webinars that cover virtually all topics aviation, from building [to](#) flying to flight rules. And many qualify you for WINGS Credits. Check out the schedule; perhaps you will find one or more to your interest.

NMPA

- [September 2024 NMPA Newsletter](#) – As usual, great articles and news by and for local pilots



Facebook

- New: [Student Pilots Group](#), with many instructional articles
- A new group on Facebook, [Fly New Mexico](#), Dave Otero, Administrator. Posts from group members about pilots and flying activities in New Mexico
- A great Facebook space: [Commemorative Air Force](#)
- Another fascinating Facebook space: [National Museum of the U.S. Air Force](#).



In case you are traveling

- Leisure + Travel - [10 Best Aviation Museums Around the US](#)

Touring New Mexico

- [Volcanic Sheep August 27 2024](#) (great YouTube video in ultralight from DE II and a tour around the Rio Puerco)

Individual Chapter Donors

Gold Level

Brandon Fryar	Joyce Schmitt
Ron and Debbie Harmon	Lanny Sigler
Dan & Janice Horschel	Emilio Verastegui
Reimer Memorial Fund	Scott Weaver
Matthew & Kristi Reimer	Art & Joyce Woods

Thank You For Your Support

For information on Sponsoring EAA Chapter 179, visit <https://eaa179.org/sponsor>.

Quick Links to Chapter Website

Web Site:	www.eaa179.org
Young Eagles:	www.eaa179.org/youngeagles
IMC Club:	www.eaa179.org/imc-club
DEAA:	www.eaa179.org/deaa
LOEFI:	www.loefi.org
Scholarships:	www.eaa179.org/scholarships
Newsletters:	www.eaa179.org/newsletters
Calendar:	www.eaa179.org/calendar
Membership:	www.eaa179.org/membership
Contacts:	www.eaa179.org/contacts
Facebook:	www.facebook.com/EAA179

SPECIAL NOTE: Chapter 179 on Facebook

Lance Hunter, Chapter Publicity

For those of you who follow things on Facebook, we have two spaces, one, a Facebook PAGE, directed to the public and the other a Facebook GROUP for Members and others closely associated with the Chapter.

The original space, [Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 179](#), a PAGE that was created years ago as our outlet to the public. Anyone can go to this page and see information about the Chapter and its activities.

Created a year ago, [EAA Chapter 179 New Mexico](#), is a Private GROUP. Only users who have joined the GROUP have access to it. It will have more complete and up-to-date information will be published and Members can participate with posts and in dialogs via "Likes", comments, and replies.

Lance Hunter and Kyle Reinhardt are our lead FaceBookMasters, who manage both and keep Chapter information up to date. Contact them with questions or ideas.

Thanks to our Major Sponsors for your generous support!

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\$10,000 and up



TURQUOISE SPONSOR
\$2000 and up



GOLD SPONSORS
\$1000 and up



BRONZE SPONSORS
\$100 and up



Bolder Flight Systems



General Aviation Modifications, Inc.
engineering the future of general aviation



High Country Air Service



JETMED

Providing FAA flight physicals and aviator medical advocacy with attentive, proactive and concierge-level service

For information on Sponsoring EAA Chapter 179, visit <https://eaa179.org/sponsor>.

NM Aviation and Other Organizations and Resources Of Interest

The Editor

There are many organizations serving aviation interests in New Mexico. These include EAA Chapters and other such organizations, but also government agencies and commercial enterprises. In future months I plan to present a synopsis of the significance of some of these resources, what is interesting about them or what they offer in the way of enhancing our flying experiences.

This is a starter list of organizations that I have tracked down. If you know of others or have corrections or updates, please send me eMail at newsletter@eaa179.org. And if you use any of these regularly, please consider providing a synopsis and review. Thanks.

NM EAA Chapters

- [1306](#), Edgewood, 1N1
- [530](#), Los Lunas, E98
- [691](#), Los Alamos, KLAM & KSAF (Green Chile Chapter)
- [251](#), Alamogordo, KALM (& [Facebook](#))
- [555](#), Las Cruces, KLRU (Triple Nickel Chapter) (& [Facebook](#))
- [1193](#), Roswell, ROW (Aliens Chapter)
- [1570](#) Santa Teresa, KDNA
- [1615](#), Truth or Consequences, KTCS

New Mexico Organizations

- [New Mexico Pilots Association](#) (NMPA) (& [Facebook](#))
- [Fly New Mexico! Facebook Group](#) - started by David Otero. Ask to Join!
- [New Mexico Airstrip Network](#) (NMAN)
- [NMDOT Aviation Division](#)
- [New Mexico Airport Managers Association](#)
- [Lobo Wing of the CAF](#) (& [Facebook](#))
- [Rio Grande Norte 99s Facebook Group](#) (Ask to Join!)
- [Tuskegee Airmen \(local chapter\)](#) (& [Facebook](#))
- [Albuquerque Soaring Club](#) (& [Facebook](#))
- [Women in Aviation Intl - Land of Enchantment Chapter](#) (& [Facebook](#))

National and Other State Organizations of Interest

- [Experimental Aircraft Association \(EAA\)](#) (& [Facebook](#))
- [Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association \(AOPA\)](#) (& [Facebook](#))
- [Recreational Aviation Foundation \(RAF\)](#) (& [Facebook](#))
- [Ninety-Nines](#) (& [Facebook](#))
- [Angel Flight](#)
- [Air Care Alliance](#)
- [Emergency Volunteer Air Corps](#)
- [LightHawk](#) (& [Facebook](#))
- [Arizona Pilot's Association](#) (& [Facebook](#))
- [Colorado Pilots Association](#) (& [Facebook](#))

Online Resources

- [FAASafety.gov](#)
- [Kitplanes \(eMail subscription\)](#)
- [Pilots Workshop \(& eMail subscription\)](#)
- [Social Flight & eMail subscription](#)
- [AVweb – AVWeb Flash](#)
- [AOPA News & Media – AOPA Newsletters](#)
- [Barnstormers – Barnstormers eFlyer](#)
- [GA News Digital Edition](#)
- [On Facebook](#)
 - [Fly New Mexico](#)
 - [The Aviator's Lounge](#)

EAA Resources

- [Hints for Homebuilders](#)
- [Learn to Fly!](#)
- [Pilot Proficiency](#)
- [Become a Young Eagle Volunteer!](#)
- [AirVenture—Oshkosh](#)

eMail Resources (Subscriptions)

- [FAA Safety Team](#) – Safer Skies Through Education
Log in to your account, then go to Account Preferences.
- [AOPA ePilot](#) and [AOPA Aviation eBrief](#)
- [AVwebflash](#)

Cultural Web Sites

- [National Museum of the United States Air Force](#) (& [Facebook](#))
- [National Museum of Nuclear Science & History](#)
- [US Southwest Soaring Museum](#) (& [Facebook](#))
- [Spaceport America](#)
- [National Aviation Hall of Fame \(nee Air Force Museum\)](#)
- [National Air and Space Museum](#)
- [The Wheels Museum](#),
- [War Eagles Museum, Santa Teresa \(KDNA\)](#)

Land of Enchantment Fly-In

September 21, 2024 7am - 2pm

Double Eagle II Airport (KAEG) - Albuquerque, NM



LOEFI.ORG



Hosted by EAA Chapter 179

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING Aircraft Displays Youth Activities
Live Music Food Trucks Car Clubs Exhibitors



Clicking on the image to download a PDF of the poster.
[Click here](#) to go to the LOEFI website.