



2026 Leadership

President:

Art Woods

Vice President

Gilbert Merriman

Secretary:

Diana Volker

Treasurer

John DeWitt

Board Members

Alex Basinger

Lance Hunter

Kyle Reinhardt

Joyce Woods

George Young

Standing Committees

Membership

Gwen Walcott

membership@eaa179.org

Land of Enchantment

Fly-In (LOEFI)

Sean Babbitt

loefi@eaa179.org

Double Eagle Aviation

Academy (DEAA)

Jim Kessler

deaa@eaa179.org

Young Eagles

Jim Kessler, Lance Hunter

youngeagles@eaa179.org

Publicity

Lance Hunter, Kyle Reinhardt

Scholarships

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scholarships@eaa179.org

IMC Club

John DeWitt, Barry Harper

imc-club@eaa179.org

Flight Advisors

Jim Kessler

Lee Otto

Mark Sturm

Technical Counselors

David Otero

Emilio Verastegui

Gwen Walcott

Fly-Outs

Mark Wilson

Storage Locker

TBD

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EAA Chapter 179

7401 Atrisco Vista Blvd NW #179

Albuquerque, NM 87120

Ver X-09/xx/25



Upcoming Events

January 17, 2026, 10AM - IMC Club (AEG City Bldg)

January 26-30, 2026 - [EAA Homebuilders Week](#) (online)

February 21, 2026 —next [Young Eagles Rally](#) (note change)

March 3, 2026 - Chapter Board Meeting (6:30pm via Zoom)

September 26, 2026 - Land of Enchantment Fly-In

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

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Notes from Our President

Art Woods



Thanks to many of you for sharing my excitement at receiving the Wright Brothers Award – 50 years of safe flight!

I solo'd in 1973 at the age of 16. My Dad earned his license when I was about 6 years old, so I grew up aviating. I have a private certificate with single engine & multi-engine land, instrument and tailwheel endorsement.

And a never used Part 107 “drone” certificate. I'm also a proud member of Chile Flight – formation flight team using Van's experimental fully aerobatic airplanes.

Chapter President? Yeah, I know, what was I thinking?!! Fill the shoes of the 2025 Chapter President?? Not easy! I've known her for a few years, she lives close by, and yes, she'll always be involved in the Chapter. No problem!!

Our Board transition meeting was held January 10th where past and continuing officers/directors and those coming into their role this year exchanged ideas to make our chapter even better.

I'm always amazed at the list on the first page of the Newsletter. From tech counselors & flight advisors to webmaster and newsletter editor. And everything in-between. Is there room for you to get involved? YES.

The incredible and vast volunteer effort is what makes Chapter 179 successful. And the donors enable the Chapter to ensure there is a next generation of aviation nuts. Read Rowan's scholarship article to see what impact we've had!! The future of aviation is BRIGHT.

What about 2026?

Young Eagles -- same old; same old?? Not!! Beaming big smiles on kids who have flown 5 to even 10 times and on those who had never been airborne before. Makes for a warm & fuzzy feeling on the inside.

NEW Scholarship offering for 2026!! Thanks to Linda Henderson, we will offer a scholarship for someone over 25 years old. It can be used for anything from wanting to learn to fly to being a mechanic or controller. The annual scholarship application window for both UNDER and OVER 25 is open until February 15th.

Dates for our two most significant events, LOEFI and DEAA, are set.

Join us at the airport or see us at a Chapter Gathering! Looking forward to another great year!!

Arthur Woods
President, EAA Chapter 179
chapter@eaa179.org



Notes from the Editor

George Young, an “old” pilot

See page XXXX for resources online.

Recently I've come across numerous Facebook posts on VORs, which brought back many fond memories. Back *in the day*, I first learned (and used) pilotage navigation; it was easy and reliable for my first cross-countries: USAFA to La Junta and back to Pine Valley Airstrip -follow highways, fly towards Pikes Peak on the last leg, visible from 70 miles away. Later in Ohio I learned that pilotage navigation was difficult – so many trees and the roads went in all directions, not the grid pattern like ‘out west’. I even got lost during a checkout at the Aero Club at Wright Field.

VORs then became navigation aid of choice. I enjoyed planning cross-countries, trips from Ohio to Kansas to visit family. Starting with a sectional chart, I would identify the string of stations along the route, then build a station-by-station flight plan with frequencies, radials, and distances. Following that plan became very easy, with contact with Flight Service Stations for position reports and updated weather along the way.

Does the airplane you fly even have a VOR receiver and display? GPS is great, but ... oh .. the Good Ole Days.

George Young
Newsletter Editor & Webmaster
newsletter@eaa179.org



January Chapter Gathering



Tuesday, January 20, 2026

BJ's Restaurant @ Cottonwood Mall

5:00 PM – No host dinner social

6:15 PM – Intros, Program

Arrive anytime from 5pm; dinner not required.

Program: Over New Mexico and the Southwest, by Jeff Gilkey

Jeff has been involved in aviation most of his life. He flew hanggliders in Calif and NM in the 80's and 90's, including over 200 flights from the Sandia Crest. He studied aerospace engineering in college, and worked on navigation, guidance and control systems at Sandia Labs, retiring in 2016. Since 2004, he's flown his experimental light sport weight-shift control aircraft or "trike", logging >2500 hours on cross country trips into nearly every corner of New Mexico and surrounding states. For Jeff, the trike is the perfect flying machine, combining the intuitive natural wing controls of a hangglider, and the long distance, low speed cruise capability of an efficient engine with a large gas tank.

Jeff serves as Secretary of the Board of the New Mexico Pilots Association (NMPA). He writes an "Obscure and Scenic New Mexico" column for their newsletter. Jeff enjoys the pilot camaraderie met through the NMPA and believes it is a great way to create a network of friendly flying contacts across the state.



Jeff has been happily married to his wife Amy for 46 years, with 2 amazing adult daughters, Nyssa and Lindsay. Jeff has also raised a series of golden retrievers. He always wanted to fly with his dog in the back seat, but knowing that would terrify them, he opted for a life-sized toy dog.

**Where: BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse at Cottonwood Mall
10000 Coors Blvd NW, Albuquerque**

Directions: Take North or South bound 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. Anyone welcome. **We hope to see you there!***



Chapter Holiday Party - RECAP December Gathering



For our holiday party, we gathered at Fiesta Azul, a new restaurant with an authentic Mexican flair. A mostly social evening, it was great food and great fun.

As outgoing President, Joyce recognized chapter leaders including officers, board members, and committee leaders, presenting them with certificates and pins provided by the EAA Chapters office.

Rowan Phlieger was named "2025 Chapter MVP", recognizing her significant contributions as Scholarship Committee Co-Chair and mentor, successfully engaging young people in the chapter.

Following these presentations Jim Kessler played emcee for the traditional gift exchange for those who opted in.

One especially creative gift was a framed compilation of LOEFI posters. As one of the last gifts opened, Rowan escaped having this gift stolen. Guess who brought it?

Well, George Young is the keeper of past LOEFI magnets and business cards. He may have to go into production—it is really cool.

Happy New Year everyone!





Membership

Gwen Walcott, Membership Chair



It is the time of the year for your membership dues to be renewed.

Per Article V, Section 2 of the Chapter Bylaws, membership renewal dues are required for the period of January thru December of the Membership Year and are payable from December of the previous year thru

March of the present year. Dues paid outside of that period are NOT pro-rated. Membership runs only from January thru December of a given year.

Membership with the National EAA organization is also required to be current (but runs from the date of payment until the following year of the same date).

We hope that you plan on renewing for this present year.

Please submit your dues (\$20 for individual membership or \$30 for Family membership.)

Payment of Chapter dues can be made:

– Online thru payment via Paypal, Debit, or Credit Card for 1, 3, or 5 year terms. ==> see: <https://eaa179.org/membership/>

– By snail mail Send your check payable to “EAA 179”; Double Eagle II Airport; 7401 Atrisco Vista Blvd NW #179; Albuquerque, NM 87120. Include your eMail address.

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

Please also forward your EAA National Membership Number (located on your Membership ID Card) to: membership@eaa179.org regardless of whether you pay by check or Paypal/Credit Card.

Thank you for being a member of The Experimental Aircraft Association and Chapter 179.



Contact Gwen to
Get Your Name Tag

Gwen Walcott
Membership Coordinator
eMail: membership@eaa179.org
web: eaa179.org/membership



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!

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, January 17, 2026 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 City of Albuquerque Maintenance Building Conference Room **NOTE CHANGE!**

Directions: Enter the gate straight ahead from the last stop sign before turning left towards main airport parking lot. City building is the first building on your left. Security will hold this gate open from 9:15—9:45.

OR Join Remotely via ZOOM: Register in advance for Zoom access info here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/m9nYQmZIQ6O0dhF7eqCzqw>

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 instructions

See you there!

Barry Harper & John DeWitt
IMC Club Coordinators, EAA 179
eMail: imc-club@eaa179.org
web: eaa179.org/imc-club





Young Eagles

Jim Kessler & Lance Hunter, Young Eagles Coordinators



Dates are set for 2026 Young Eagle's events.

The registration window opens about 2 weeks prior to each rally. Please visit our website the Friday night before the rally to see if we had to cancel, or maybe just delay the start, for weather – windy, extreme cold or even snow!

During the colder months we usually start at 8 AM and by the heat of the summer we move the start time 7:30 AM.

Feb 21 (note change), Mar 14, Apr 11, May 9

Jun 6 (DEAA registered youth only)

Aug 8, Sep 12, Oct 10.

Jim Kessler & Lance Hunter
Young Eagles Coordinators
eMail: youngeagles@eaa179.org
web: <https://eaa179.org/youngeagles/>



The Push is on for 2.5 Million Young Eagles

EAA Staff



EAA's Young Eagles program, which over three decades has become the largest youth aviation education program ever created, is focusing its efforts on reaching 2.5 million Young Eagles flown by EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2026.

EAA is offering recognition for Young Eagles pilots who join the "25 for 2.5" campaign to reach 2.5 million Young Eagles in the coming months. In addition, participating EAA chapters that assist in new volunteer pilot recruitment will be eligible for extra Young Eagles credits that can be used to obtain further resources for Young Eagles rallies or cover tuition fees of deserving youths for the EAA Air Academy residence camp held each summer in Oshkosh.

Fly 25 for 2.5: Volunteer Young Eagles pilots who fly 25 Young Eagles or more from October 1, 2025, through July 31, 2026, will be awarded a limited-edition commemorative cap to thank you for your participation in helping us hit this significant milestone.

More information regarding these recognition levels and incentives is available at EAA.org/Fly25YE.



EAA Chapter 179 Board Meeting Summary

Diana Volker, Secretary

On January 10, 2026, incoming and outgoing Board members met for our annual transition Board meeting at the city maintenance facility conference room at Double Eagle II Airport. Participants included: Art Woods, Gilbert Merriman, Diana Volker, John DeWitt, George Young, Kyle Reinhardt, Alex Basinger, Joyce Woods, Doug Dingman, Mark Wilson, Gwen Walcott, and Sean Babbitt.

John DeWitt presented the treasurer's report. Our financials are in good shape, thanks to generous donors and a successful Fly-In. Among others, we received an incredible outpouring of memorial gifts in memory of Tandra Hicks.

Doug Dingman presented a draft budget based on income and spending over the last 3 years. They were commended for the detail provided to support the Board's decisions. A preliminary budget was approved, pending further planning, particularly for the Land of Enchantment Fly-In. Included is a new \$5000 scholarship for candidates over 25 years of age.

Upcoming programs are scheduled through March. Member Mike Paxson will present on 3D Printing in February. In March, we present our Scholarship Awards. These gatherings are scheduled to be at BJ's at Cottonwood Mall.

The Board would like to identify a meeting location closer to I-25 to ease access for east side members. If anyone has ideas, please contact any Board member.

Gwen Walcott reported that 2025 chapter membership reached 160 members, the highest in recent history.

The Board approved purchase of a pedal plane kit. Team leader and volunteers are not yet identified, nor is the kit selected. If you want to help, let us know!

There will be a Flying Start event on Sunday, February 1, organized by Mia Alderete to provide information on pilot training, certification paths, and interact with experienced pilots and instructors.

We have a great year planned! Dates are set for Chapter gatherings, Young Eagles events, DEAA, and LOEFI. *Visit our website!*



Chapter 179 Scholarship Tidbits— 2025 Year in Review

Rowan Phlieger, Scholarship Coordinator

What a year it has been! 2025 was the second year that I had the privilege of working with Art Woods as Scholarship Co-Chairs. We met so many new young people who are interested in aviation, and we also were surrounded by our consistent and hard working student members that we have known for the last couple years. We have been beyond impressed with this group and couldn't be more excited to select the 2026 scholarship recipients. I thought it was only fitting to give a 2025 recap to ring out the year.

January

- 2025 Scholarship window opened.
- Mia Alderete became a CFII (Certified Flight Instructor Instrument)!

February

- Dominic Martinez (2024 Ray Scholar) passed his PPL Checkride!
- 2025 scholarship recipients were selected.

March

- Ava Diaz (2024 Ray Scholar) completed her first solo and FAA Written Exam!

April

- Recipients were announced at Chapter meeting (due to canceled March meeting).
- Mia Alderete started flight instructing at the Aero Guard on base.

May

- Ava Diaz passed her PPL Checkride!

June

- We met a lot of great future students (and hopefully future scholarship recipients) at Double Eagle Aviation Academy.
- Orion Francis received his Powerplant designation and became an A&P mechanic!

July

- Ava Diaz and Daniel Kiehne attended EAA's week-long Advanced Air Academy in Oshkosh.
- Jocelyn Muniz completed training to receive her tail wheel endorsement.

August

- Gabriel Pohl (2025 Ray Scholar) and Stephan James completed their FAA Written Exams!
- Jocelyn Muniz passed her CFI Checkride!

September

- Stephan James received the Cadet Wings CAP Scholarship!
- We had a ton of awesome student volunteers at LOEFI.
- Ava Diaz passed her Instrument Rating Checkride!
- Orion Francis started working at 10 Tanker as a mechanic on their DC-10s.

October

- Gabriel Pohl started flight training at Del Sol
- Ava Diaz passed her Commercial Checkride!

November

- Ava Diaz passed her CFI & CFII Checkride!
- Isabella Baldanado received the Cadet Wings CAP Scholarship!

December

- Gabriel Pohl completed his first solo at Del Sol on Dec 17, 2025, coincident with the anniversary of Orville and Wilbur's First Flight
- Ava Diaz passed her Commercial Multi-Engine Checkride and also became a MEI (Multi-Engine Instructor)!
- Matthew Croshaw passed his PPL Checkride!
- Jocelyn Muniz and Mia Alderete, relatively new CFIs, each soloed their first students in December!

We have a lot more to accomplish in 2026 and we can't wait to get started! Please encourage those around you to apply for our scholarship program and spread the word!

Scholarship Recipients' Accomplishments – 2025

Written – 3	Instrument – 1	A&P – 1
Solo – 2	CFI – 1	ME – 1
PPL – 3	CFII – 2	MEI – 1

Rowan Phlieger
Scholarship Chair

(Continued on page 7)

Chapter 179 Scholarship Tidbits (continued)

by Gabe Pohl & Matt Croshaw, Scholarship Recipients

(Continued from page 6)



Two past scholarship recipients obtained CFI Ratings in 2025 – Jocelyn Muniz and Mia Alderete. Each of them quickly began putting their skills to work, successfully soloing their first students in December.

From Gabriel Pohl:

My first solo flight is a day I'll remember forever. Flying completely alone on my birthday was an incredible experience, and it wouldn't have been possible without Chapter 179 and everyone who came out to support me. Thank you!

Gabe Pohl
2025 Ray Scholar

Gabe Pohl's First Solo on Dec 17, 2025, coincident with the anniversary of Orville and Wilbur's First Flight.

Congrats to both Gabe and his CFI, Jocelyn Muniz!



Gabe's fan club.

From Matthew Croshaw:

It's been over a year and a half of flight training to become a pilot, and I was primarily just waiting until I turned 17 to be eligible. Eventually, I achieved all my requirements, and my birthday came around.

I picked December 29th to do my checkride; however, due to weather conditions, it got pushed a day later to the 30th at 7am. I woke up that day and showed up 30 minutes early. After a bunch of paperwork, we began the oral, which I did quite well on. My DPE was Lauren Chavez, an educator at the Albuquerque Aviation Academy. We continued the checkride with the flight portion, the part I was a bit more nervous about, but all the maneuvers went well, and I nailed my short field landing, right on the thousand-foot markers.

On the taxi back to the ramp, Lauren informed me that I had passed, and from there she printed out the long-awaited certificate. The checkride as a whole was a lot easier than I imagined, and I do feel like I did overstudy. And, just like many people I've talked to, I did not sleep well the night before. But overall, I'm excited to finally officially be a pilot, and I'm currently taking family members up!

Thanks,

Matthew Croshaw
Todd Blue Memorial Scholarship Recipient



Matthew receiving his Private Pilot Certificate from DPE Dr Chavez.

Rowan Phlieger & Mark Sturm
Scholarship Coordinators
eMail: scholarships@eaa179.org
web: eaa179.org/scholarships

Accepting Scholarship Applications

Deadline Feb 15, 2026

Albuquerque Chapter 179 of the Experimental Aircraft Association awards scholarships annually to candidates pursuing aviation education as a career or hobby including flight training, A&P certification, or other activities for applicants' intent on entering an aviation-related occupation.

We also accept applications for full tuition to attend EAA's Air Academy in Oshkosh, WI. We have two seats reserved in the "Explore Aviation Camp", July 14-22 (overlaps with AirVenture).

The amount and number of scholarship grants are determined each year and contingent on available funding. Recipients will be notified and awarded at our March 17th Chapter Gathering.

For the first time ever, we invite adults over the age of 25 years old to apply. So, no matter your age or goals in aviation, we encourage you to apply!

For more details and the link to the Application Form, go to:

[2026 EAA Chapter 179 Scholarship Program](#)

Call for Chapter 179 - Scholarship Donors

We're proud of our recipients and enjoy sharing in their successes!

As our 2025 Scholarship program is well underway, it's a good time to consider contributing. Chapter 179 scholarships are funded by a combination of donations and from funds from activities throughout the year.

We appreciate donations of any amount to our Chapter 179 Scholarship fund, to extend EAA's Ray Scholar Fund, or in past member Memorial funds. Your specific wishes may be designated in the optional notes at the top.

You can donate online via Paypal or Credit Card:

Or send a check to:

EAA 179 Scholarships
Double Eagle II Airport
7401 Atrisco Vista Blvd NW #179
Albuquerque, NM 87120-6601.

Donate



EAA Chapter 179 is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization.



EAA CHAPTER 179 2026 AVIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Dreaming of becoming a pilot or getting an additional rating? EAA can help your aviation dreams become a reality.

Scholarships for flight training, A&P, or aviation related education scholarship.

No membership required to apply, open to ALL ages from 15 years old. Must be a resident of New Mexico, preferably in the Albuquerque area.

Application deadline February 15th. Scholarship amounts will vary.

Check out our website to apply, for more information, and application tips!



APPLICATION

The scholarship window will open January 2nd, 2026.

Submit your application by February 15th, 2026 to be considered.

COMMUNITY

Find an incredible & supportive community in the ABQ area for student pilots, mechanics, and more. Join us for monthly meeting and activities.

We have given out over \$100,000 worth of scholarships in the last 10 years, and helped every level of aviator from student pilot to ATP.

LOCAL RESOURCES

We will help guide and mentor you in your training and provide you with resources to aid in your success.



For More Information
eaa179.org/scholarships



Click on the image to download a .pdf file.

Career Fairs – EAA Youth Outreach ...2026

Kevin Frick



Our new year brings a new opportunity for Chapter 179 to inform and inspire youngsters to the world of aviation. Along those lines, Youth Outreach Coordinator, Kevin Frick, already has two career fairs on the agenda, starting in February. Chapter volunteers are always welcome to participate by manning a booth and fielding enthusiastic interest from many of the kids.

The first career fair will be on Thursday, February 5 at the Robert F. Kennedy High School. This will be a unique gathering exclusive for Seniors from three different area high schools. It will be sponsored by Junior Achievement and scheduled from 0900-1200.

The next event is set for Friday, February 20 at the Albuquerque School of Excellence, near Lomas and Tramway. This event will have students from elementary thru high school. It is scheduled from 0815-1415. Though some of the youngsters will be quite young, it will still be a good chance to talk about airplanes. Many of these kids will be at the perfect age for both Young Eagles and DEAA!

So, think about it. If you would like to help out for these or other outreach opportunities, please contact Kevin via eMail at chapter@eaa179.org. Thank you.



Smiles all around is a common reaction that we saw at last year's career fairs, including this one at the East San Jose elementary school.



Youth outreach activities also include doing a detailed aircraft preflight. EAA member GARY WILLIAMS had a group of scouts last year learning firsthand of what a thorough preflight looks like.

Introducing New Board Members

New column this year – introducing New Members—tell us your story!

Gilbert Merriman

- First solo flight at Spangdahlem Air Base, 1968.
- Due to rotation back to the USA I did not continue my pilot training until years later.
- I got my PPL in 1976, and continued to add the following:
 - Instrument Rating, 05/77
 - Commercial, 04/78
 - Multi-Engine Land, 6/78
 - CFI, 10/78
 - MEL-CFI, 02/79
 - CFII, 09/79
 - Cessna Citation Type Rating, 03/80
- Then I had a huge break in my flying because of a job change and relocation. I got back into flying in 2021 and added the following and still fly occasionally
 - Tailwheel Endorsement: 01/24

Alex Basinger

- I got into aviation primarily as a career change. I thought I'd like flying because I love driving every type of vehicle I get in/on. My father and grandfather were also pilots.
- I took a discovery flight and never looked back. I've been flying for 3.5 years. I'm a CFI, Commercial SEL/MEL with Instrument rating, High Performance and Complex endorsements



New Board Members

Alex Basinger
Art Woods
Gilbert Merriman

*Not pictured:
Kyle Reinhardt*



Homebuilders Week

LEARN. BUILD. FLY.

January 26–30, 2026

Join EAA for the sixth-annual [EAA Homebuilders Week](https://www.eaa.org/HomebuildersWeek) online event. Experts from every corner of the homebuilt aircraft community will bring their knowledge and information to builders everywhere through free interactive webinars.

Homebuilders Week is a tremendous learning opportunity that celebrates the legacy of EAA founder Paul Poberezny. As he often said, using hand and mind to create aircraft that allow us to enjoy the personal freedom of flight! [SIGN UP at EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek](https://www.eaa.org/HomebuildersWeek)



Homebuilders Week Schedule

January 26 - 30, 2026

Homebuilders Week Schedule of Events

To sign up: [EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek](https://www.eaa.org/HomebuildersWeek)

Time CST	Monday 1/26/2026	Tuesday 1/27/2026	Wednesday 1/28/2026	Thursday 1/29/2026	Friday 1/30/2026
11:30-12:45	Building an Aircraft: What You Need to Know - Charlie Becker	Wiring Basics - Dick Koehler	Flight Testing 101 - Paul Dye	Amateur-Built Aircraft Certification Process - Joe Norris	Staying Alive: Analysis of Homebuilt Fatal Accidents - Dan Berry
1:00-2:15	Composite Construction Basics - Scott VanderVeen	Fabric Covering Basics - Austin Jones	TIG Welding - Charlie Becker & Shaun Walker	Insuring Your Homebuilt - Jim Stewart	Fly the Wing: AOA Demystified - Mike Vaccaro
2:30-3:45	EAA Advocacy Update - Jack J. Pelton, Sean Elliott & Rob Hackman	Sheet Metal Basics - Mike Dooley	Hardware for Homebuilts - Dick Koehler	Sonex Aircraft Update - Mark Schaible	Zenith Aircraft Kits & Plans - Sebastian Heintz
4:00-5:15	Getting Your Project Finished and Flying - Vic Syracuse	Dynon Avionics - Michael Schofield	Advanced Flight Systems - Rob Hickman	Garmin Experimental Avionics Solutions - Brad Brensing	Weight & Balance - Joe Norris
5:30-6:45	Panel Planning and Wiring - Marc Ausman	Painting Your Plane: DIY or Use an Expert? - Craig Barnett & Ken Reese	Condition Inspections: Who & How - Brian Carpenter	Buying a Used Homebuilt - Vic Syracuse	Can Homebuilt Accident Rates Be Fairly Compared? - Ron Wanttaja
7:00-8:15	Van's Aircraft RV-15 Update - Marc Cook & Rian Johnson	Propeller Selection for Homebuilts - Steve Boser	Lessons From 200,000 Borescope Images - Mike Busch	Lycoming Engine Installation - Judson Rupert	Common Builder & Maintenance Errors - Vic Syracuse

Sponsored by





In the News and Other Interesting Topics

The Editor ... and you?

OK, This article has become bigger than fits on one page. So there is now an overflow page. And I invite you, friend readers, to send me links to resources of interest to you and others.

KABQ Safety Council

- From Wendy Smith, KABQ tower:: The Local Safety Council at the ABQ tower has opened an e-mail address just for pilot feedback/suggestions/questions: KABQ.safety@gmail.com

General Aviation News (repeat)

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

FAA FAASTeam

- **** [FAA Safety Briefing Magazine](#) >> [Check It Out](#)
 - This month's feature: *Weather Tech and Automation*
- FAAST Webinars: A list of many great topics; most qualify the attendee for WINGS credits. Go to [Seminars & Webinars](#), select Show only Webinars, then [Search]
- NEW** NTSB Safety Alert: [See and Be Seen: Your Life Depends on It](#)
- NEW** Reference Data: [FAA Fact Book](#), and [Airport Data & Information Portal](#)



Federal Aviation
Administration

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)
- [How ATC Really Works](#) (A Pilot Friendly Manual)
- [Pilot Exercise Program](#) (another Pilot-Friendly Manual)
- "Secrets from a tailwheel pilot" - [Tailwheel Checkout Course with Patty Wagstaff](#)
- [Basic Aerobatics with Patty Wagstaff](#) (video)
- Recent Pilots Tip of the Week (**New in each issue**)
 - [Staying Hydrated](#)
 - [VV in a METAR](#)
 - [Adjusting Speeds for Weight](#)
 - [Our Best Tips, Articles, and Videos](#)
 - [Simple Leaning Method](#)



EAA

- *** Are you affected by MOSAIC? EAA's news: [MOSAIC Implementations—FAA Releases Updated Advisory Circulars](#)
- [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 of interest to you.
 - Current Interest: [Sport Pilot 2.0: Are You Ready](#), Oct 22, 2025
- [EAA's Chapter Video Magazines](#) (monthly)
- EAA's [eHotline](#), Announcements for Air Venture/Oshkosh and more
- And many manuals, such as [Checkride Insights: Private Pilot](#)



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Quick Links to Chapter Website

Web Site:	www.eaa179.org
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Chapter Facebook:	www.facebook.com/EAA179
Members Facebook:	www.facebook.com/groups/ www.eaa179.org

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.

[Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 179](#) is our outlet to the public. Anyone can go to this page and see information about the Chapter and its activities.

[EAA Chapter 179 New Mexico](#) is a Private GROUP. Only users who have joined have access to it. It will have up-to-date information and Members can participate with their own 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



In the News and Other Interesting Topics (continued)

The Editor ... and you?

(Continued from page 11)

NMPA

- [December 2025 NMPA Newsletter](#)
- Advocacy report by Joyce Woods: "Falcon Field Landing Fee proposal and the Congressional Pilot and Aircraft Protection Act (SB 2175) which would prevent airports from billing solely based on ADSB data", [NMPA Newsletter](#), page 6.
- Jeff Gilkey: "Prieta Monolith", [NMPA Newsletter](#), page 11..
- Visit the [NMPA web site](#) for the latest about their activities



Facebook

- [Student Pilots Group](#), with many instructional articles
- A Facebook group for local flying: [Fly New Mexico](#), Dave Otero, Administrator.
- Great Facebook spaces: [Commemorative Air Force](#) & [National Museum of the U.S. Air Force](#), [Pima Air and Space Museum](#) (& [Facebook](#))
- **NEW FINDS:** Some great resources to keep your "aviation knowledge" up to date:
 - [Aviation Knowledge](#), a Facebook thread presenting a variety of topics, to for budding pilots or refresh knowledge: (examples below, click to see original on Facebook)
 - [Aviation Update](#), another publisher of info for pilots, some basic, some more advanced
 - [Boldmethod](#). A variety of posts for new and experienced pilots, small and large aircraft
 - [The Sky's The Limit](#), another Facebook thread presenting many interesting facts and perspectives – weather, airplanes, aviation, and more.
 - **NEW:** From [Pilot Institute](#):
 - [Instrument Cross-Check](#)
 - **NEW:** From [Flying Knuckleheads](#)
 - [Engine Simulation](#)



ABOUT VORs – a sampling of online resources on Facebook

- [Aviation Update](#)
- [TACAN & VOR — The Radio Beacons Pilots Follow Through the Sky](#)
- [How Does VOR Work?](#)
- [Boldmethod](#)
- [7 Things You Should Know About VOR Navigation](#)
- [Chief Meteorologist Gary Stephenson](#)
- [Highways in the Sky](#)

- [Exam Revolution.com](#)
- [The VOR Indicator/Display](#)
- [Pilotinstitute](#)
- [Free VOR Simulator](#)
- [King Schools](#)
- [This will be on your test!](#) (video explanation)
- [And Many videos on YouTube](#)



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 ([KLRLU](#))

Newsletters [EAA 555, July Newsletter](#)

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



Recurring Events for Chapter 179

Check the [Newsletter](#) and [Web](#) for details)

Chapter Gatherings

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

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

Chapter Board Meetings

Typically the First Tuesday of Odd Months via ZOOM—check newsletter

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 & fall



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BRONZE SPONSORS - LOEFI 2025

\$100 - \$499

Airway Heritage Museum—KGNT
AirMedCare Network-Guardian
Commemorative Air Force, Lobo Wing
High Country Air Service
Merlin Aviation, Moriarty
New Mexico Aero Service
Recreational Aviation Foundation
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UNMH Lifeguard Emergency Air Services

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Food Trucks

Alitas de Pollo
Cerealsly Sweet
Loaded Lemon ABQ
One Stop Chill 'n Fill
Pop-Pop's Italian Ice

Garmin



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](#))
- [1570 Santa Teresa, KDNA](#)

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 \(KDNA\)](#)



Seeking Assistance, Looking for or Offering Items for Sale

Starting a new column, a place for people seeking assistance with a project, looking for or offering for sale something "aviation"

From Russ Gritz, EAA 1306, 01/09/2026

Friends, neighbors, and fellow pilots:

As you all know we lost our friend, fellow pilot, and 1N1 resident Ned Derickson this past September. The time has come to start liquidating his assets, so we will be having a "hangar sale", Saturday, January 17, starting at 9:00 AM and running through 2:00 PM or whenever we sell out.

The location will be at the west end commercial hangars at 1N1, Row 5, hangar 9. This is immediately opposite of my hangar on row 4, and opposite John Lorenz's "Red Door" hangar. If you need an address use 18 Aircraft Lane in Google maps and it will get you there.

Be prepared to make a generous offer for the items you are interested in, as the proceeds go to the family. Please bring cash or a local check and settle up on the spot. You will need to take the items with you.

There is too much to list, but some of the items include:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| • FN Standing firearm safe | • A number of hand tools |
| • Commercial-grade kettle corn maker | • Small power tools |
| • Ultralight | • Band saw |
| • Two partially completed experimental aircraft | • Drill press |
| • John Deere Gator | • Older avionics |
| • Power washer | • Various airplane parts |
| • Power sweepers | • Lots of other goodies. |
| | • Jig saw |
| | • Welder |

Pass the word around, and let's make this a good turn out! This will be a hard time for all of us but let's keep pulling together and focus on remembering our friend and helping the family. Reach out to me with any questions.

See you there,

Russ Gritz, <jerichod505@gmail.com>, cell:505-470-2926

Jericho Data Systems, PO Box 640, Edgewood, NM 87015

From Isabella Baldonado, EAA 179, 01/02/2026

Any of you who already know—and for those who may not—my brothers and I are cadets in Civil Air Patrol. I wanted to share a quick recruiting note. Our Eagle Squadron is currently looking for volunteer pilots who may be interested in serving with CAP.

If you know any adult pilots who might be interested in giving back through aviation—especially through emergency services, aerospace education, or mentoring cadets—we would really appreciate you helping spread the word. We'd be happy to talk with anyone who wants more information.

Our Commander can be reached at: (505)379-7243 or via eMail: james.mckelvey@nmcap.us

Thank you,
Isabella Baldonado, <angelabaldonado@yahoo.com>

Also, the Squadron is hosting an Open House at Kirtland on Feb 26, 1830-2100. See the Flyer here Page xxxx.

A request from Bob Acree, 10./29/2025

I have a box of aircraft wire cable removed from a learjet during inspection, also a few other parts. If anyone is interested in these have them contact me at my email.

Bob Acree, <noxqq@yahoo.com>

From Amaryllis Khat, EAA 691, 10/14/2025

I'm writing to your chapter on behalf of my Pulsar XP project. I had an offer from another EAA member to finish the plane for me. I would have jumped on the chance however the cost of shipping the plane out of state was unaffordable.

A friend put me up to writing to other more local EAA chapters to see if there was someone closer who would like to help me to bring the aircraft to airworthy again. It needs about 12-16 weeks, a winter Project for a reasonable paycheck.

Amaryllis, <cloudwerks.aak@gmail.com>

From Joshua Hogancamp, 10/11/2025

I'm considering buying an RV-4. Can anyone at the EAA Chapter 179 recommend between a 150, 160, or 180 hp engine? I worry that the 150 or 160 hp engines won't have enough to maneuver at the altitudes in NM. Thanks!

Josh <jrhogancamp@gmail.com>

Eagle Squadron Open House



Leadership • Aerospace • Emergency Services

Time: Feb 26th, 1830–2100

Location: 4500 Biggs Ave SE, Building 926, Kirtland AFB, NM 87117



Discover Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, and learn how our cadet program helps young people grow into confident leaders. Cadets develop discipline, teamwork, and leadership skills while gaining hands-on experience in aerospace education and emergency services.

From aviation and STEM to search and rescue, disaster response, and communications, CAP offers real-world training and meaningful opportunities to serve the community.

This open house is perfect for youth interested in aviation, leadership, or STEM, as well as parents and community members who want to learn more. All are welcome — come see what Civil Air Patrol is all about!



Scan here to
reserve your spot!



<https://forms.office.com/r/gFD1DtQnVx>

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

DEAA T-Shirts

Design on shirt front

\$15 each

(men's or women's
sizes available,
no pockets)



Chapter 179 Polo Shirts

Gray with embroidered
logo on left breast.

\$28 each.

Add Pocket (\$2)



Two designs available

Contact Joyce at chapter@eaa179.org with your SIZE.

Payment due on receipt of shirts. Any proceeds benefit our chapter programs.

Click on the image to
download a .pdf file.

