



HIGH SIERRA FLYER

Newsletter of Sierra Chapter 403

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Looking for more input in 2006

It's January 2026, the holidays are behind us and it's the beginning of a promising new year. Sierra Chapter 403's newsletter has been going for about a year now and I bet y'all are getting pretty tired of reading the ramblings' of just a few contributors.

This year we would like to encourage the rest of the chapter members to contribute articles to the newsletter. It can be anything you want, stories about experiences you had while flying, close calls, a situation you learned something from, something unusual you saw from the air, as a mechanic something scary you found during an inspection, or just anything you think others could learn from or just enjoy hearing about.

If you would like to submit an article or even just a nice photo for the newsletter, you may do so by email to the editor at: gary.swift@eaa403.us. I'd like to hear what y'all have to say.

Thanks for the assist, Robert! -editor-

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Journey to a homebuilt aircraft Part 2

In the last newsletter, I told you that I had decided to build the Barracuda. It is an all wood, 2 seat, 250 horsepower retractable gear aircraft.

I was on my way to see Mr. Bill Beuthe to see his Barracuda and buy a set of plans – hoping that today I would get my first ride in a homebuilt aircraft.

Driving north on the I-15 near Temecula California my hopes were dashed as I

was in the middle of a downpour. But as I approached Ernst field thirty minutes later, the rain had let up.

I met Mr. Beuthe and he mentioned that it did not look like a good flying day.

Ernst Field is a dirt strip and was not looking good after the rain. Bill showed me around his hangar where he had his completed Barracuda and another one in progress. He then invited me to lunch at his house which was just up the hill overlooking the runway.

Two hours had gone by , so we went down and walked the runway. It was wet but solid. Bill said we were good to go flying.

Ernst Field is narrow dirt runway next to a creek with tall bushes. As Bill pushed the throttle forward I felt incredible acceleration. Soon we were lifting off and the bushes at the edge of the runway were whizzing by at almost 100mph.

Initial climb was showing 2,000 feet per minute. We settled into a laidback cruise at 3,500 feet at 195 mph! Bill let me have the stick, but this was not a Cherokee.

The controls were quick and responsive but intuitive. Bill continued the demo flight with slow flight and the gentle stall

that the Barracuda was designed for. I was sold.

I was on my way home with a set of Barracuda plans. I very quickly made an order from Aircraft Spruce. Working with wood was interesting.

Steaming and forming spruce is not easy but after a few months I had the structure for a vertical stabilizer and rudder.

Boom! Life happened and I found myself with no place to build an aircraft. The Barracuda has a 24 foot one piece wing. It was now 2001 and the project was stalled.

To be continued...

FROM THE SECRETARY

We owe Trish Jones our thanks for her years of dedicated service. Now it's time to welcome Randy Vogelgesang to the position.

Watch this space for input from our new Secretary!

FROM THE TREASURER

Current Assets as of 31 December 2025:

- 1) Wells Fargo Savings: \$72,371.45
- 2) Wells Fargo Checking: \$2,468.07
- 3) PayPal Account: \$135.74

Total cash accounts: \$74,975.26*

*\$2,085 is restricted (reserved) for the Ray Aviation Scholarship Fund.

Liabilities & Equity

Retained Earnings:	\$34,264.74
Net Income:	\$40,710.52
Total Equity:	\$74,975.26

WHAT'S NEW

New member gets a new plane!

It's a 2010 RV-6 with an O-320-B2B. I welcome any and all who want to look at it and give their opinion.

Jon Appelt
jappelt57@gmail.com
M 702-577-8732

She's a beauty! -editor-

VMC CLUB

The VMC Club meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at 1800 in the Chapter House. Dale Smith leads the group.

IMC CLUB

The IMC Club meets on the third Thursday of every month at 1800 in the Chapter House. Tim Rowe leads the group.





CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our chapter's annual Christmas Brunch was held at the Plaza Hotel Event Center and was a December highlight for many of our members.

After an excellent brunch, Trish Jones and Robert Grant hosted the events, including having our Life Members stand for recognition.



Gus Young did a great job facilitating the Gift Exchange (and Steal!) and the distribution of Door Prizes.



MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Rotax 914 MQ1 Predator Engine. \$17,500.

2016 Drone Conversion by the U.S. Government. 135 to 140hp.

Log Book shows 362 hours.

For more information, please call Ev Young at his home phone.
775-434-7424

FROM THE EDITOR

I finally tracked down a Gyroplane CFI in Cave Junction, Oregon and booked training in May to complete my add-on rating. The CFI's name is Wolf Emonds, and he runs a flight school called "Captain Drake's Family Aerial Adventures." We will be training in an open-cockpit tandem Magni M-16.



Thanks to our Volunteers!

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