



HIGH SIERRA FLYER

Newsletter of Sierra Chapter 403

2500 East College Parkway, Carson City, NV 89706

+1-858-774-1060 | contact@eaa403.us | eaa403.us

Volume 1 Number 8 | September 2025

FROM THE PRESIDENT -Elections

Well folks it's that time of year when you all get to directly participate in the chapter by voting for the 2026 Board. This year the nominating committee will be headed by Trish Jones, (as she is stepping down as secretary), and whoever she recruits to help her.

The nominating process is quite simple, anyone in the chapter can nominate any member for any of the board positions, including themselves. The only caveat is that you must be a voting member of the chapter to be on the Board.

There are seven board members, four officers, and three members at large. The officers are, President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Duties and responsibilities of board members will be covered later.

The nominating committee will be taking nominations from now until the middle of October. Voting will then take place, ending on the day of the November board meeting, where votes will be tallied, and the 2026 Board will be announced at the Christmas brunch.

I encourage everyone to take a look at where Sierra Chapter 403 is today and think about where you want the Chapter to go in the future, and then submit nominations, and vote for the Board you think will best take it there.

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

-Fun in the Idaho back country

We departed KCXP at 8am. Four aircraft headed to our first stop at Gooding Idaho. It was a smooth two hour flight and after topping off fuel we were ready to get to our overnight destination.

The grass strip at Smiley Creek is 4900 by 150 ft and sits in a wide valley at 7200 ft. elevation. Flight lead "Bucko" took us low through a mountain pass to set up the approach.



Smiley Creek

This would not be the only "bobsled run" of this trip. Banking side to side through

the canyon led us to a perfect descent into the valley. After a bumpy landing, it was time to set up camp next to the runway.

Camping is always nice when there is a restaurant bar across the street! Later that evening we planned our flight for the next day's breakfast.

I had heard about Big Creek. It is nestled in a tight canyon. You lose sight of the airstrip on downwind. Then there is a knoll partially blocking final. This is a one way in, one way out airstrip.

The runway is sloped at one end. Land uphill and it slows your rollout. Later you take off downhill like a ski jump. I have been working on my confidence and skills to land at Big Creek for two months, and today is the day!

Once again the approach is through a tight canyon. Another bobsled ride. Airspeed is good as I just clear the trees on short final. My touchdown point is nearly halfway down the runway as the first half is fairly rough. I drop in with a big bounce, but I am on centerline and make a good recovery.

We did not stay long because the restaurant was closed. Oh well. We are off to McCall Idaho for fuel. The other aircraft went to breakfast at Stanley Idaho. I declined due to cross winds. We met back at Smiley Creek for another night of camping.

It was a lot of adventure for a two day trip. For me, I had the chance to add two new grass strips to my logbook!

FROM THE SECRETARY

-More on elections

As previously discussed, nominations have opened for the 2026 Chapter 403 Board of Directors. The Board consists of the Executive Officers and three additional Directors at large. Per our By-Laws, family members cannot serve in board positions concurrently. The following is a description of the Board positions.

The **President** is chairperson of the Board. The President may call special meetings of the Board or general membership. In case of the absence of the Treasurer, the President may execute checks for expenditures authorized by the Board.

The **Vice President** is vested with all the authority of the President and shall perform duties of the President in case of the President's absence, disability, or inability. The Vice President shall annually either recruit a Certified Public Accountant or appropriate group of members to audit financial records of the Chapter.

The **Secretary** shall be responsible for all administrative tasks as they pertain to operations, including but not limited to rosters, minutes, and records.

The **Treasurer** shall pay all expenses approved by the Board. The Treasurer shall receive and deposit all funds in a federally insured financial institution approved by the Board. The Treasurer shall be responsible for accurate financial records, including but not limited to banking, tax, and insurance records.

Directors-at-Large are voting members of the Board and serve as needed, as committee or event Chairs.

Members may nominate another voting member or themselves for any position. Nominees will be contacted by the Nomination Committee to confirm their acceptance of the nomination. Please send nominations to:
Secretaryeaa403@gmail.com

The Nomination/Voting Schedule is as follows:

Nomination Period: September 3 - October 15, 2025

Voting Period: October 20 - November 10, 2025

Vote Count: November Board Meeting

As discussed at the September 3rd general meeting, volunteers are needed to "host" the monthly general meetings. Volunteers need only sign up for one month at a time. Volunteer hosts will arrive at 5:30 pm and set-up for the general meeting and ensure that all clean-up is complete. Three volunteers are needed each month. If

you can volunteer for any of the upcoming general meetings, please email Secretaryeaa4503@gmail.com.

FROM THE TREASURER

Balances as of 1 Sep:

- Savings: \$72,369.03
- Checking: \$5,646.81
- PayPal: \$295.20

The pancake breakfast with our Young Eagles Rally on 16 Aug was the largest on record and netted the Chapter \$510.40.

Gillian Murdock completed a detailed audit of the Chapter's financial records back to January 2024. She gave us an overall rating of A- with recommendations on procedures and record keeping, as well as some Quickbooks tips. She found no signs of malfeasance.

Financial records and detailed monthly reports are kept in the Chapter House and available to all members for review.

VMC CLUB

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

IMC CLUB

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

YOUNG EAGLES

The Chapter held a Young Eagles Rally on 16 Aug. We flew 71 Young Eagles in 11 airplanes. The next rally is 27 Sep.



Pilot Ryan Crapo getting his Young Eagles



Preflight Pose



Ryan and Young Eagles ready to go!

Ryan Crapo started in the Young Eagles Program at 11 years old and is now one of our pilots.

WHAT'S NEW

-Elko Sky Fair

What promises to be a day of entertainment and enjoyment awaits on Saturday September 13th. After a ten year hiatus, Elko Sky Fair is returning, bigger & better than ever before. Admission is FREE, and the event

Thanks to our Volunteers!

promises to be a good time to be had by all. If you're looking for a good reason to fly on the 13th of September, this would be an excellent choice. 100LL will be discounted off the trucks to match the self serve price in Elko. Please consider joining us in Elko on September 13th.

<http://elkoskyfair.com/>

MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

Gary Childers has two projects for sale:

1. Bowers Flybaby
2. Mitchell U2 with Rotax 277

Email him at lloydllc2@gmail.com and he'll send you more info and builder's logs in PDF format.

Sandy Munns has a project for sale:



EAA Acrosport single seat, with EAA Biplane wings (two ailerons, rather than

four). Mostly complete. Needs engine, fabric, final assembly. Includes: completely welded fuselage, tail feathers; LG legs with Cleveland wheels and brakes; two engine mounts, one dynafocal, one standard; fuel tank and smoke oil/or header fuel tank; fiberglass turtle deck; Cabane strut completed; all four wings completed; Scott tailwheel; all control linkages; fiberglass turtleneck complete; sheet metal and nose bowl for cowling complete. Includes EAA biplane and AcroSport plans. All original work done by an A&P mechanic. I don't have the time, \$\$, or a place to finish it, so it has to go. \$1,500 OBO. Lycoming O-320 rebuildable core available separately.

Contact Sandy at 775-224-3473 for more details or to see it.

Torry and Sandy Johnson have an RV9-A for sale which they purchased from Shade Tree Aviation at KCXP in 2020. Mike Hardison and other EAA403 members were very helpful with a pre-buy once-over. While located in southern AZ (KOLS), they fly into KCXP regularly and would be happy to bring the plane north should a serious buyer be interested in taking a look.

2007 VANS RV9-A * Asking \$129,900 *
2007 RV9-A, Mattituck (Lycoming) TMX
O-320 160 hp engine with 1,135 TT on
engine / airframe, jaw-dropping
Advanced Flight Systems 10" Skyview

HDX VFR Advanced Panel, Dual E-MAG P Model w/alt (with auto 4-lead kit), 2020-Compliant ADS-B Out, new ELT, Angle-of-Attack On-Screen Display, Garmin GMA245A audio panel with Bluetooth, new tires and tubes, freshly painted fiberglass, retractable canopy sun shade, engine pre-heater, engine trickle charger, no damage or history of hail, Condition inspection performed July 2025.

Contact

Torry (775.790.4637) or Sandy Johnson (775.720.9565).

FROM THE EDITOR

-Two weeks in Texas

I spent the first half of August in Blum, Texas, about 30 miles south of Ft. Worth. My goal was to get some basic training in gyroplanes with fifth-generation dairy farmer, Craig McFerson, at "Fainting Goat Airport" on his farm.

We used Craig's personal Auto Gyro MTO Classic, powered by a carbureted Rotax 912, that Craig turbocharged, bumping its power up to something like 135 hp.



Auto Gyro MTO Classic gyroplane

I ended up with just shy of 12 hours of dual instruction, with 120 takeoffs and landings. One huge time saving with operating out of a private airstrip is that you can fly very abbreviated patterns as there is no other traffic to cause potential conflicts.

I still haven't soloed but made good progress this summer. Will keep at it and let you know how the training goes.

I'll be in Minnesota for the month of September building a Gyro Technic single-seater kit at the factory near Mankato, southwest of the Twin Cities.



Thanks to our Volunteers!

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Robert Grant, 915-241-1330

Vice President

Mike Hardison, 858-774-1060

Secretary

Patricia Jones, 661-733-6364

Treasurer

Mike Zieba, 775-343-5948

Board at Large

David Baird, 785-648-0141

Board at Large

Dayton Murdock, 775-721-9476

Board at Large

Randy Vogelgesang, 530-545-1876

Young Eagles Coordinator

Larry Crapo, 310-200-1912

Ray Scholarship Coordinator

Mike Hardison, 858-774-1060

IMC Club

Tim Rowe, 775-233-8008

VMC Club

Dale Smith, 858-212-1896

Technical Counselor

Jim Nunnelee, 775-790-1396

Dayton Murdock, 775-721-9476

Pancake Breakfast Coordinator

Larry Grant, 775-842-0493

IT / Web

Mike Zieba, 775-343-5948

Newsletter

Gary B Swift, 775-790-6723