

High Sierra Flyer

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Don Siebern in RV-8 built by Wayne Berg

EAA Sierra Chapter 403
2500 E College Parkway
Carson City, NV 89706

Address Correction Requested

Chris & Merry Romine
320 McClellan Drive
Washoe Valley, NV 89704

EAA SIERRA CHAPTER 403 OFFICERS FOR 2006

		(775) Area Code
President	Chris Romine	849-7959
Vice President	John Grub	885-1945
Secretary	Merry Romine	849-7959
Treasurer	Steve Silva	887-0532
Directors:	Warren Fields	358-6904
	Bruce Gray	246-2401
	Edie Grub	885-1945
	Mike Reynolds	885-0434
<u>Committees:</u>		
Reno Air Races	Steve & Donna Silva	887-0532
Breakfast Coordinator	Tommie Dee Lindsey	887-1216
Flight Advisor	Warren Fields	358-6904
Flight Advisor	Ron Sutton	882-1662
Technical Counselor	Mack Murphree	246-9364
Technical Counselor	Ron Sutton	882-1662
Website Administrator	Jacki Montgomery	230-2294
Young Eagles Coordinators	Merry Romine	849-7959
	Mike Reynolds	885-0434
Newsletter Editors	Judy Berg	267-5431
	Sandra Erb	883-6494

Chapter 403 Schedule

Chapter Meeting	First Wednesday	Potluck 6:00 p.m.	Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Executive Committee	Third Thursday	6:00 p.m.	
Builders Meeting	Call or check website for schedule		
Pancake Breakfast	Third Saturday	9:00 to 11:00 a.m.	
Coffee & Donuts	Saturday	9:00 to 11:00 a.m.	
	(When we don't have pancakes)		

*Unless noted, all meetings are at the chapter building, 2500 E. College Parkway, Carson City, Nevada 89706

Website: <http://eaa403.org>

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



BY JB

Don Siebern has been a member of Chapter 403 for six years. He was born near Cincinnati, Ohio and when he was 16 the family moved to a farm in Sabina where he lived for three years before joining the Army Air Corps in 1942. He went to power turret school for the P-61 but ended up in a night fighter squadron. He applied to Aviation Cadet Training to be a pilot, navigator or bombardier in 1943 and attended college in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania where he received his first 10 hours of dual flying in a J3 Cub. He was sent back to the Classification Center in Nashville for three months before finishing his preflight in Mississippi, and then went to Ocala, Florida for primary training. While flying with the chief flight instructor he found out they were cutting back so Don ended up in gunnery school and was assigned to a B-24 crew.

After three years and three months he was discharged and went to Ohio State University in Columbus on the GI Bill majoring in agriculture. Don joined the Naval Reserve while attending Ohio State but didn't go to monthly meetings. After he graduated in 1950 he moved to Idaho, only to be called to active duty and spending two years in Jacksonville, Florida assembling mockups at an Ordnance Training School. When Don got out of the Navy he returned to farming in Goshen, Ohio, got married and eventually turned the farm into a golf course which he sold in 1974. They moved to Colorado in 1975 for the climate and skiing and divorced in 1977. Don lived in Frisco for 12 years working in a ski shop and construction, he lived in Steamboat Springs for 13 years working at Ramada and Walmart..

Don learned to fly in the J3-Cub and then a Stearman, and got his certificate in 1947 before going into the Navy. Over the years he has belonged to flying clubs and has flown an Apache, Bonanza, Cessna 182 and Piper Cherokee. While living in Steamboat Springs Don started building a Polliwagen which was one of the first fiberglass homebuilt airplanes. It was two place with retractable gear and a VW engine. He had finished shaping two pieces of the fuselage when the designer went bankrupt and Don ended up throwing it into a dumpster in 1979.

In 2000 Don moved to Nevada to get out of tax happy Colorado and he lives in Topaz Ranch Estates. He has worked the graveyard shift at Walmart for six years, and if you shop early in the morning you might run into him as he pushes the huge floor polisher up and down the aisles.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Biggest Little Chapter

September may have been a defining month for our chapter. As they say in sports, we played big for our size. Donna and Steve Silva miraculously managed a diverse group of more than 200 volunteers for eight days at the Reno Air Races that included an enthusiastic core team of Sierra Chapter 403 members. Most of the same members gathered at Fallon Municipal Airport a week earlier to support the introduction of flight to 26 wide-eyed Young Eagles and their friends and families. Hosting activities requiring many volunteers is always a challenge, even in our cozy chapter house on our home field. But these were "away games" including travel and logistical obstacles that require additional planning, coordination, inconvenience, personal commitment, and oftentimes, some imagination.

The Silvas' contributions to the Air Races are becoming legendary. And I think that they would readily admit that without the loyalty of 403's active members their jobs would become much more difficult, if not impossible, and certainly less enjoyable. Sometimes key responsibilities just must be handled by people on the inside no matter how high the quality of outside volunteer help may be. Rusty Wells flew hundreds of miles in his relatively spacious C182RG to help provide first flights to kids, and our Mike Reynolds convinced him to make the trip. Spike Duncan was advised by "outsiders" not to fly his pristine Velocity into Fallon because of the poor runway surface (pushers are more sensitive to "gravel" runways) but even ended up giving a couple of youngsters a second flight because they wanted to fly in the "spaceship". Mike Jimenez was ready to fly home when a late arrival asked for a ride. "Aw, sure" was his response for the umpteenth time this month. That's what we're talking about!

Nominations Are Now Open

We must vote in a new slate of officers and directors at the November meeting. Bob Stroub, Stan Roberts and Donna Silva have volunteered to form the nominating committee. Please indicate directly to them your interest in taking your chapter participation to the next level. If you have a nominee that agrees to serve, also let one of them know. We have an exciting and challenging year ahead of us. Think about the best way you can contribute and then don't be shy!

Chris

RENO AIR RACES

Thanks to everyone who came out to Stead to help with the Reno Air Races. We had over 200 volunteers over the eight days of the event and Steve and Donna Silva did an excellent job coordinating everything. Thanks to Sandra Erb for handling the food service and we appreciated all the donated side dishes and desserts that made our luncheons extra tasty.



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 4 Monthly meeting at the chapter building.
Potluck 6:00 p.m. meeting 7:00 p.m.

Twenty-Six Young Eagles Take Flight at Fallon

Seven pilots and many ground support volunteers brought the excitement of first flight in small airplanes to 26 young people at Fallon Municipal Airport on September 9. Organized by Gary Hall, Mike Reynolds and Merry Romine, the joint EAA Chapter 403 and Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Indian Tribe activity brought the Young Eagles program to a community not otherwise able to experience aviation the way we do. A generous contribution by the tribal council helped defray the cost of avgas while breakfast and lunch were also provided to the participants. All Young Eagles were presented with framed certificates and pictures of them with the aircraft and pilot while a local newspaper reporter chronicled the unique event.

Bob and Audrey Stroub handled dispatch and registration while Mike, Merry, Bob Dickinson, Tommy Dee and Chris Romine provided ground support and certificate generation.

David McClelland and Joe Raphael canceled other commitments to fly their beautiful RV-6A's, complete with a crowd-pleasing, high-speed, low-altitude fly-by (I mean, go-around, Mr. FAA). Jacki Montgomery, Gary Hall and Mike Jimenez demonstrated multiple perfect landings in their Cherokees while Rusty Wells flew the most Young Eagles in his "complex" Cessna 182RG. Spike Duncan was the kids' favorite with his pristine space age Velocity (once they were convinced that it could actually fly) A great time was had by all.

Merry

NEW MEMBERS

We have two more new members to welcome to Chapter 403. Please join us on a Saturday morning and one of our upcoming meetings. We look forward to your participation.

Ritch Heffner, Dayton
John McGrath, Silver Springs