



HIGH SIERRA FLYER

Newsletter of Sierra Chapter 403
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the resurrection of the Chapter's newsletter. Many members have asked for it, and it's been a long time coming. We need your feedback to know if it's providing the info you want and whether it's worth the effort to produce it. This first one may be rather long because we want to bring you up to speed. The name comes from the old newsletter published in the 1980s.

The Board's intent here is to keep you, the membership of Sierra Chapter 403, better informed as to what is going on in your Chapter and hopefully generate more involvement in the Chapter by you, the general members.

As we develop the newsletter over the first few issues, it will likely change as the editor finds a flow and content that works. This development period is an opportunity for you to have a say as to what you'd like to see in your newsletter.

I am excited for this addition to our Chapter and look forward to your input and comments.

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

EAA National and Chapter 403 are volunteer organizations. By becoming a member, you are tasked with promoting aviation to the general public. This obligation especially applies to youth and the future of aviation. For those of us that have been blessed with the opportunity to fly, giving back is a privilege that should not be taken lightly.

Membership dues do not cover the operating costs of current programs. Volunteers make up the

difference. This is the case with EAA National and Chapter 403.

I joined 403 in the Spring of 2018. Since that time, I have made many wonderful friends and acquaintances. These friendships have been solidified during my work as a volunteer with the Chapter. With that said, I would like to invite more of our members to consider a volunteer position. There are many open positions which require a little time and would work around your schedule. I know that it is difficult to make commitments with our busy lives. Perhaps you would like to share a position or serve as backup. We would love to have some people who could cover several of the less time consuming positions.

So the next time you are enjoying a meal or just a cup of coffee at the Chapter House, please look around. It takes an incredible effort to maintain our facilities and programs. For instance, it takes approximately fifty-two man hours per month just to have Friday lunch.

When I review our Chapter membership and accomplishments, it is not boasting to say that Sierra Chapter 403 is one of the best chapters. Let's continue the tradition by building our programs and expanding our aviation community.

Some of the positions available:

- Historian
- Pancake Breakfast Crew / Backup
- Fly-Out / Fly-In Coordinator
- Media Coordinator
- Lunch Crew / Backup
- Youth Activities Coordinator
- Young Eagles Ground Crew and Backup

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- VMC Club Coordinator
- Eagle Flight Coordinator
- Young Eagles Build and Fly Coordinator
- Young Eagles Workshops Program Coordinator
- Membership Coordinator
- Flight Advisor
- Technical Counselor
- Info Tech / Web Specialist

- 22 Mar 0800-1000: Coffee & Donuts
- 28 Mar 1100-1230: Lunch
- 29 Mar 0800-1000: Coffee & Donuts

FROM THE TREASURER

I will apologize upfront for making this first installment rather long. It is my intent to inform you about some of the financial requirements to running a chapter, in particular, our Chapter.

We started off 2025 with the following balances:

- Wells Fargo Checking: \$4,194.90
- Wells Fargo Savings: \$25,364.64
- PayPal: \$26.20

We finished 2024 with a NET income of \$9,571.62. That may sound good, but it is due primarily to several windfalls that we cannot count on in the future. The first was a generous unrestricted donation by Walter and Andrea Hobbs for \$5k. Please thank them when you see them for this extraordinary level of support to the Chapter. The second was the sale of the Chapter's Zodiac project which brought in \$5k for 2024 and will continue to bring in an additional \$1k per year until 2029. Finally, the Airport Authority gave the Chapter \$1,500 for our efforts in organizing and leading the Airport Open House. We also received a \$500 donation from Jim Nunnelee and a \$100 donation from Bruce Gray. In 2023, we had a NET LOSS of about \$3k.

What does Sierra Chapter 403 cost?

EAA National requires us to renew our charter and insurance every year (in December for the following year). For 2025, that cost \$1,586. National also requires that we be a 501c3 nonprofit business. That, in turn, requires us to renew a business license and a solicitation registration with the Nevada Secretary of State's office each year. And, of course, Carson City likes to collect property and real estate taxes from us. Nonprofits are NOT

With an eye to the future, we are also looking for members who can shadow current board members to learn from and give input to the current board. These members would become the cadre for future boards.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss how you can contribute, please contact me.

FROM THE SECRETARY

Minutes of Board and special meetings are posted in the Chapter House for your review.

Upcoming events:

- 1 Feb 0800-1000: Coffee & Donuts
- 5 Feb 1800: General Meeting with guest speaker TBD
- 7 Feb 1100-1230: Lunch
- 8 Feb 0800-1000: Coffee & Donuts
- 14 Feb 1100-1230: Lunch
- 14 Feb 1300: Board Meeting
- 15 Feb 0800-1000: Coffee & Donuts
- 20 Feb 1800: IMC Club
- 21 Feb 1100-1230: Lunch
- 22 Feb 0800-1000: Coffee & Donuts
- 28 Feb 1100-1230: Lunch
- 1 Mar 0800-1000: Coffee & Donuts
- 5 Mar 1800: General Meeting with guest speaker Paul Dye to talk about being a Designated Airworthiness Representative
- 7 Mar 1100-1230: Lunch
- 8 Mar 0800-1000: Coffee & Donuts
- 14 Mar 1100-1230: Lunch
- 15 Mar 0700: Pancake Breakfast
- 20 Mar 1800: IMC Club
- 21 Mar 1100-1230: Lunch

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exempted from ALL taxes. The additional state expenses are about \$400.

What does our presence on the airport cost?

For our Chapter House, we pay \$2,400 each year for the ground lease and an additional \$1,600 for utilities.

In case you're not already aware, the Chapter has a hangar which was purchased in 2020 for \$30k. This transaction was based on a twelve year promissory note at three percent annual interest with the original owner. The Chapter still owes \$19k for this purchase. We pay \$250 per month toward this loan (\$3k annually). We pay an additional \$1,200 per year for the ground lease that the hangar sits on. We also pay an additional \$450 per year for electricity in the hangar.

Without including additional repair and maintenance expenses, it currently costs about \$10,636 annually to exist as a chapter on the airport.

Where do we get our funds?

We typically collect about \$1,300 in dues each year as membership fluctuates. As you by now see, that doesn't come close to covering our expenses. The rest of our income is derived primarily from food sales and individual donations. In 2024, we made \$7,899.80 from food sales, about \$8k from donations, and about \$800 from merchandise sales.

Detailed monthly financial reports are posted in the Chapter House for your review. If you would like any copies emailed to you, please let me know.

What about the future?

While the Board would like to improve and grow youth and member activities, changes and future plans at the airport pose a significant challenge and risk to the Chapter. We were at risk of losing our home in the next six years, but Michael Golden

convinced the Airport Authority to give us fifteen years from now. Nevertheless, it is something we need to start planning for now. As personnel change at the airport, so too may our situation. Financially, we need to start preparing for that challenge now by growing a contingency fund.

So, please promptly pay your dues, and if you think we are heading in the right direction, please consider making a donation in addition to your dues. You can make an unrestricted donation, or restrict it for a specific purpose. Your donations are tax deductible and we can provide you with a donation receipt. As a minimum, please support our lunches and pancake breakfasts while enjoying the company of fellow aviation enthusiasts.

YOUNG EAGLES

The Young Eagles program is on hiatus until Spring. We had a successful 2024 with 199 event flights and 14 individual flights. We anticipate \$995 to \$1,065 in Young Eagle credits earned with national.

Some additional numbers:

- Girls: 61
- Boys: 149
- First Flight: 121
- Returns: 83

Thank you to all our Young Eagle Pilots and support volunteers. It doesn't happen without you!

Stuart Harrington was the winner of our \$250 year-end raffle for Young Eagle pilots. He kindly donated the entire amount to the Chapter.

SCHOLARSHIP COORDINATOR

The Chapter was awarded a matching Ray Scholarship for 2025 worth up to \$12k. As a matching scholarship, national will cover 75%

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while the Chapter covers 25%. The total amount is adjusted by national based on the experience of the selected student.

The Board developed a selection process which involves a committee made up of two Board members, two general members, and an outside person who is not a member of the Chapter.

The process includes:

- Outreach for interested students
- Provision of application packets to potential applicants
- Review of submitted packets
- Interviews with parents and applicants
- Final Selection

Separate emails will go out specifically concerning the Ray Scholarship.

IMC CLUB

The Instrument Meteorological Conditions (IMC) Club is intended to promote instrument flying proficiency and safety. It is educational “hangar flying” at its best.

The IMC Club resumed meetings on 23 Jan and usually meets on the third Thursday of the month at 1800 in the Chapter House.

January’s scenario was: You’ve taken an over the counter cold medication containing diphenhydramine, which may cause various symptoms including drowsiness. The dosage is 50 mg every 6 hours as needed. If you plan to fly, what is the minimum time you should wait after taking a dose for the medication to be out of your system? Talk to Tim Rowe if you want to know the answer.

INFO TECH / WEB

Our website is at <http://eaa403.us>. It is a useful source of information, announcements, and calendar of events. We do our best to keep it updated and it is a continual work in progress.

You can renew or start your membership through the website and we will eventually make merchandise available through the site.

A benefit of membership, if you want it, is a Chapter branded email such as *firstname.lastname@eaa403.us* and access to the Chapter’s cloud services. Our cloud services provide you with a private cloud area for yourself and access to current and archived Chapter files. These files will include not only documents, but books, periodicals, training videos, and general videos; an online Chapter library.

We control the servers to ensure your and the Chapter’s privacy. No outside organization like Apple, Microsoft, Google, or Yahoo can scrape your data for information. All connections to our servers are encrypted.

Don’t forget to check out our YouTube Channel which can be accessed through the website or directly at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAVqD14UYtvzZs0osJXX3MQ>.

We can definitely use some backup in this area by any tech savvy members or any member wanting to learn this stuff. Let us know if you’re willing to help out.

We also welcome your input, feedback, and content for these efforts. Please let us know if you want to take advantage of these benefits. We’ll be happy to create the accounts for you.

WHAT’S NEW

2024 Board members all decided to volunteer for another year and were all re-elected. Your Board remains the same for 2025.

At a January special meeting, in order to strengthen our financial position, the Board decided to sell the Chapter Hangar. Board member Dayton Murdock is leading that effort.

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This action will generate some capitol for the Chapter and reduce our annual expenses by about \$5k.

Until the Zodiac project moved into the hangar last year, the hangar was primarily used as a storage dumping ground for the Chapter without generating enough income to cover costs. With that in mind, before you decide to donate any unused items to the Chapter, tell the Vice President what you have and let him make a determination whether or not the Chapter can use them. It took a lot of work to unclutter the Chapter and space will be limited when the hangar is gone.

Another decision the Board made to strengthen our financial position was to raise the price of dues and lunch as follows:

- Lunch: from \$9 to \$10
- Regular Membership: from \$36 to \$40
- Family Membership: from \$55 to \$60
- Friend Membership: from \$25 to \$30
- Student Membership: remains \$10

Work resumes on the Chapter's Simulation Room in the Chapter House. Our goal is to have a setup certified as a BATD (Basic Aviation Training Device) and AATD (Advanced Aviation Training Device) for use by members, scholarship recipients, and potentially Young Eagles.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

We currently have a small group of teenagers who meet Saturday mornings with Jim Nunnelee and Mike Hardison to learn about aircraft construction and other STEM related areas. One of these teenagers, Logan, was selected to attend EAA's Air Academy this Summer. Diego Madani attended the 2024 Air Academy.

This extra effort by Jim and Mike is the seed of a youth program we want to grow. If you can help or teach a specific area, please let Jim and Mike know. You don't have to be there every Saturday, but if we have enough volunteers, we can teach

the kids (and more kids) something every Saturday while volunteers are only having to participate in one or more each month.

With the help of the local High Sierra Radio Control Club, we will conduct a Young Eagle Build and Fly Program this year which will be done as a weekend day camp. Details to be provided in separate email blasts.

ADVICE AND COMMENT

1% of Doubt?

Doubt has no business in your airplane. If doubt has entered the cockpit, it must be asked to leave immediately.

- You're in the cockpit ready to start the engine – you were distracted by a phone call during preflight – you're almost 100% sure you put that oil cap back on but you have 1% of doubt. Get your lazy ass out of the seat and confirm it. A lot less embarrassing than taking off with it still sitting on top of the engine!
- ATC gives you a new frequency – you're almost 100% sure what it was but he was talking real fast and you have 1% of doubt. Just ask him to confirm it; ain't no big deal.
- ATC gives you a new altitude and you read it back. As you set it in the autopilot, 1% of doubt creeps in because you got distracted by a discussion about the new KTM motorcycle. Just ask ATC to confirm it. No big deal. It won't make you sound stupid. **There are no stupid questions in flying!**
- Make it a habit to always confirm that 1% of doubt. It could save your ass someday. **No doubt!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS

None.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

None.

FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings from South Carson Valley! I'm a non-current Private Pilot (ASEL, Glider) who joined our chapter in November. I have already met some of you at Friday lunches and at the one monthly meeting I've attended so far. I look forward to meeting the rest of you in person as our paths continue to cross.

Over the next several years, I look forward to adding a Gyroplane rating and contributing to our chapter by editing the newsletter to share interesting and useful updates with our members. Mike Zieba is helping me to get started with this issue, and I anticipate taking the reins for following issues.

I have edited other publications, including the 1-26 Association Newsletter (for Schweizer 1-26 glider enthusiasts). In my experience, the one thing that enhances newsletters the most is photos sent in by members!

So, in addition to asking you for tips on news items, I also request that you send in any photos that you care to share. Shots of PEOPLE (doing stuff) are the most compelling and are much more useful than a shot of a tiny dot in a big sky.

I will close with a glider pilot's blessing, which I will explain in a future issue.

Green Air!
=gary=

CURRENT 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 Jones, 661-810-5272
Ray Scholarship Coordinator: Mike Hardison
IMC Club: Tim Rowe, 775-233-8008
Technical Counselor: Jim Nunnelee, 775-790-1396
Pancake Breakfast Coordinator: Larry Grant, 775-842-0493
IT / Web: Mike Zieba
Newsletter: Gary Swift / Mike Zieba

