



HIGH SIERRA FLYER

Newsletter of Sierra Chapter 403

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

CHANGE: To make or become different; to undergo transformation, transition, or substitution; to exchange, switch, or replace with another.

No matter how you want to define it nobody likes change. Change is hard, change is scary, change is uncomfortable..... Change is inevitable. The Greek philosopher Heraclitus is credited with the phrase "The only constant in life is change."

Sierra Chapter 403 has gone through many changes over its more than five decades. From its start of bouncing from house to house, and hangar to hangar for meetings, to having a hangar, and then a chapter house. From multiple members' build projects, and fly-out BBQ's, to a more stationary and

sedentary existence of a social club. All of which has made 403 an excellent chapter.

Over the next few months Chapter 403 will again be going through some changes. Many of you may not be happy with changing things (see paragraph two), but for our chapter to continue to grow, we must move forward. All the changes that are coming are for the purpose of getting more of our younger members, and members with children more involved in chapter activities.

"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most adaptable to change" ...Anonymous

Through this time, I hope you all will keep an open mind and work to adapt to these changes.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

"Times they are a-changin" Bob Dylan

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

The Ray Scholarship committee finished their work on 27 Feb. The committee had two difficult tasks: first, to make time in their busy schedules to volunteer, and second, to interview and rank four strong candidates for the scholarship. Thank you to my fellow committee members: Randy Vogelgesang, Misty Ambrose, Colleen Chapman, and Ian Murdock.

All the candidates were strong and ranged in experience from only Young Eagle flights to nearing their check-ride. Ms. Rowdy Miller rose to the top to receive the Ray Scholarship worth \$12k. Since all the candidates were strong, the Board decided to award each runner-up \$1,000 toward flight training on a reimbursement basis.

When you see them, congratulate these young adults and encourage them to press forward. It is no easy task to sit in front of a panel of five judges asking you questions.

FROM THE SECRETARY

I've had several requests for Board Meeting minutes these past few months. The minutes for each Regular and Special Board meeting are posted in the Chapter House on the bulletin board. Historical

minutes are kept on file and available to all Chapter Members.

Speaking of Chapter members, as we register new members, the Member List remains a fluid document and is updated monthly. As we bring our renewal season to a close, we will be posting the list on the member side of the website and striving to update it on a monthly basis. I will continue to provide hard copy lists at the Chapter House for those who prefer the "old school" method. Please remember to let me know if you have a change to any of your contact information.

Member name badges have been updated and will be at the Chapter House. Please leave your badge at the Chapter House after each event. The badges are magnetic, if you require a pin back for medical reasons, for example a pacemaker, please let me know.

Thank you for your continued engagement, it is our members that make this chapter strong.

Upcoming events:

- 6 – 19 Mar: Chapter House Closed
- 20 Mar 1800: IMC Club
- 27 Mar 1700: VMC Club

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

FROM THE TREASURER

Balances as of 1 Mar:

- Wells Fargo Checking: \$4,328.45
- Wells Fargo Savings: \$77,365.40
- PayPal: \$1,622.63

Total cash accounts: \$83,316.48

On 27 Feb, the Chapter was awarded \$1,065 in Young Eagles credits for Young Eagles flown in 2024. These credits expire 31 Dec 2025.

GONE WEST

With a heavy heart, we announce that one of our own, Fred Webb, has gone west.

Frederick "Fred" Bruce Webb, born on January 15, 1947, passed away peacefully at his home in Pahrump, Nevada, on January 11, 2025, surrounded by his loving wife, Mellene, and his youngest daughter, Nicole.



Fred grew up in Marin County, California with his parents and two older brothers. Fred loved music his entire life - his first record was a 45 RPM by Buddy Holly (A side "Peggy Sue" and B Side "Everyday"). Fred was always a big fan of the Eagles, and also loved playing drums in many jam sessions with Mellene on guitar and other friends playing together.

Fred always dreamed of becoming a pilot. He joined the United States Air Force in 1966, and earned his private pilot's license in Arizona in 1970. During this time, he also graduated from Arizona State University, class of 1974. Fred served in the Air Force a total of 16 years, first as a flight instructor and later as a fighter pilot, before transitioning to a distinguished career as a commercial airline pilot. He retired as a Captain for United Airlines after decades of dedication to the skies. In 2020, Fred was honored with the FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award for over 50 years of safe piloting; a testament to his exceptional skill and commitment.

Everyone who loved Fred knew of his lifelong passion for flying, racing, and boating - the faster and louder the better. He embraced life with boundless energy, laughter, and a spirit of adventure. Fred was always ready to lend a helping hand, volunteering with numerous community organizations and offering friendship to everyone he met.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Fred is survived by his beloved wife of 25 years, Mellene Webb; his daughters Teresa Dozier and Nicole Zahri (Mourad); and his cherished grandchildren Nicholas Dozier, Lena Zahri, and Zakariya Zahri. He also leaves behind his brothers Timothy Charles Frank Webb (Kuen Webb) and Thomas Steven Webb (Myrna Stewart), as well as his niece Joy Dolcini and nephews Timothy (Kristy) and Thomas Webb.



WHAT'S NEW

Flown 2,135 Young Eagles...

Our very own Michael Golden penned an article titled "The Red Devil Lives On" which we were going to include in the newsletter. But Michael submitted the article to EAA National which they just published on their website. So rather than reprint it, here is the link, check it out:

<https://inspire.eaa.org/2025/02/27/the-red-devil-lives-on/>

First Flight



After more than fifteen, yes 15 years, N1396N, formerly known as the "Chapter Zodiac Project" made its first flight on 18 Feb 2025. Our Chapter President, Robert Grant, was the test pilot who delivered this new little aircraft while proud father, Larry Jones, looked on. It was a clear, cold, calm morning; perfect for first flight. Dayton Murdock flew the chase plane, examining the new little bird for any signs of trouble on the outside. Fortunately, the test flight went well and put the first hour in the logbook. However, upon returning to the pattern for landing, a departing aircraft almost took Dayton out of the sky. This aircraft was not on the radio, not on ADSB, and cut crosswind at midfield. Let us all remember to announce our intentions and positions to make ourselves seen. It helps everyone's situational awareness and improves safety.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Chapter House Maintenance

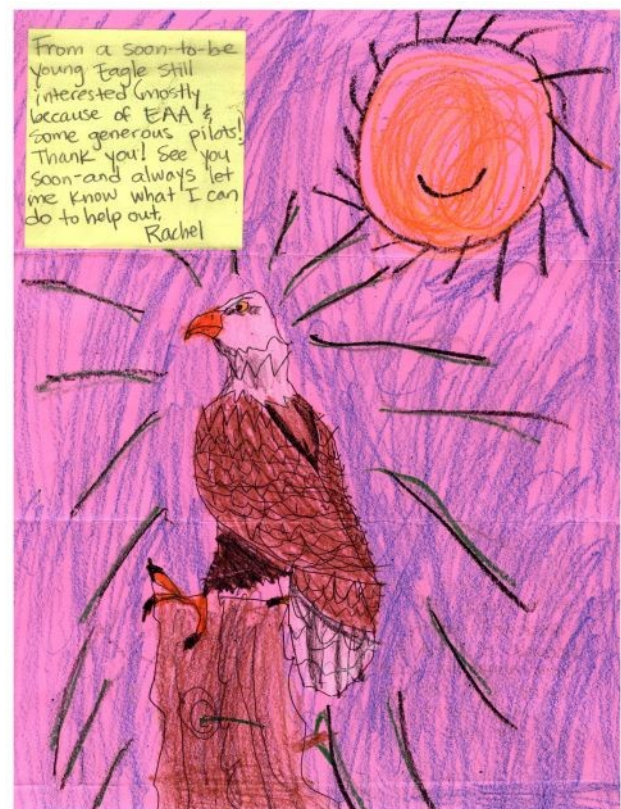
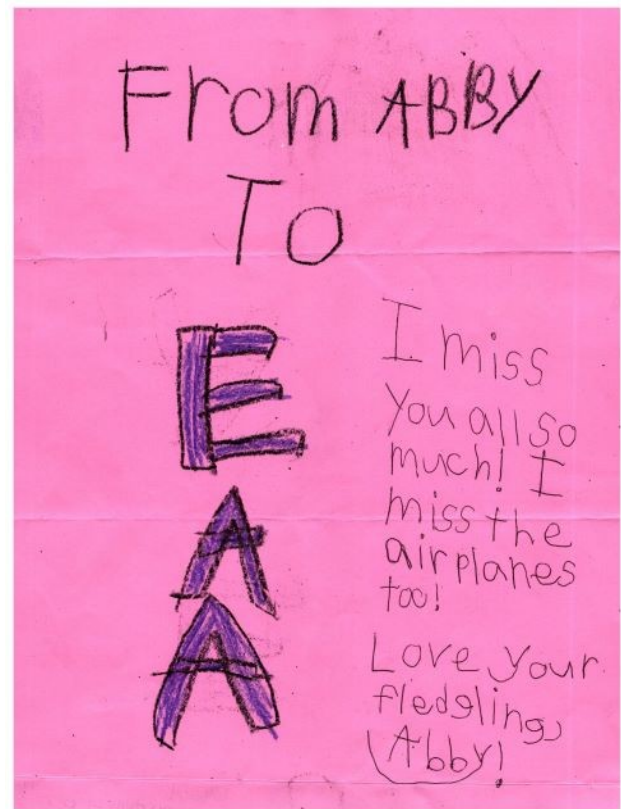
The Chapter House is closed 6 – 19 March. The floor will be professionally resurfaced and new base cabinets installed. Please don't enter unless you're directly involved with the work.

YOUNG EAGLES

Spring is nearly upon us, and it brings with it the beginning of a new Young Eagles season. The members of this chapter have historically contributed to the continued success of this exciting program through their commitment of time and resources. It has been exciting to see the number of students who have continued their dream of becoming a pilot after experiencing a Young Eagle flight, including our recent scholarship applicants.

As a reminder, the Chapter receives \$5.00 credit for each Young Eagle flight, funds that are used to send a student to the annual Air Academy in Oshkosh, WI. Our goal this year is 266 flights, with your help we will easily meet that goal. Events are tentatively scheduled for the second Saturday of each month beginning in April.

Volunteer positions include registrations, ramp safety, dispatch, and pancake breakfast aides. Please email me at secretaryeaa403@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.



THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

VMC CLUB

No updates.

IMC CLUB

From club coordinator, Tim Rowe: The group meets the third Thursday of every month at 6pm in the Chapter House. This month, it will be on 20 Mar 2025.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

No updates.

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

No updates.

MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

No updates.

FROM THE EDITOR



In the previous issue, I closed with a glider pilot's blessing, "Green Air." This came from an early version of the Variometer, which is an instrument initially used in balloons, and then adapted for use in gliders.

A "vario" acts as a sensitive Vertical Speed Indicator, indicating when air either leaves a flask when climbing or enters the flask when descending due to differences between outside air pressure and the pressure inside the flask.

In early varios, two small rosebush pith pellets were used to indicate whether air was leaving the flask (while climbing) or entering the flask (while descending).

These two pellets were dyed. If the green pellet moved, it indicated that you were climbing in lift. If the red pellet moved, it indicated that you were descending in sink.

So wishing someone "Green Air!" means that you are wishing them LIFT!

INFO TECH & WEBSITE

Our website is at <https://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.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

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, etc. 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 this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAVqD14UYtvzZs0osJXX3MQ>.

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