



# HIGH SIERRA FLYER

Newsletter of Sierra Chapter 403

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sierra Chapter 403 has gone through some significant changes over the first half of this year, including adding many new members to our ranks. So far, all chapter activities have been held in the chapter house (we're no longer carting tables and chairs to and from the terminal building).

We've reduced our financial liabilities to a point where the chapter can run with just the money raised by pancake breakfasts, Saturday lunches and membership dues.

The Board's purpose is to keep the chapter viable. This is accomplished through sustaining our membership, good financial management, and effectively organizing chapter activities.

Our goal is to align chapter activities to be in line with the needs of our general membership.

I would like to invite you all (especially new members) to provide us with input on what you'd like to see the chapter doing. This is your chance to steer the chapter in a direction that you want to see it go.

Please write to the newsletter editor or contact any board member with your ideas or to just let us know how you think things in the chapter are going. The only limitation to what Sierra Chapter 403 can accomplish is based on money and volunteers!

Newsletter Editor Email  
[newsletter@eaa403.us](mailto:newsletter@eaa403.us)

## FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



*Walter and Andrea Hobbs*

Walt and Andrea joined chapter 403 eight years ago. They moved to Carson City and were looking to stay involved in the EAA after being in two other chapters while they lived in Southern California.

Though neither is a rated pilot, they have a strong enthusiasm for aviation. Both Walt and Andrea have stick time in a Rutan Long-EZ. The couple had considered building an RV-9A at one time, but life got in the way.

Andrea has a master's degree in history. She taught graphic design and did some

consulting. She is an artist and painter specializing in watercolors.

Walter has a degree in computer science. He loves math and physics and worked for many years at the Rand Corporation.

The couple originally met on a ski bus going to Mammoth. Their first date was a game of tennis. There is some controversy about who won that match, but they hit it off and the rest is history.

After many decades of playing tennis, they prefer pickle ball now. Whether skiing, hiking, or biking, the couple loves living in the Eastern Sierra.

Walter and Andrea Hobbs have been very supportive of our chapter. They enjoy our social activities and Walt served as chapter 403 treasurer for five years.

## FROM THE SECRETARY

We are slowly approaching 100 paid members! It has been exciting to meet our new members, many of whom are fairly new to the aviation world. I receive many questions regarding membership levels, so as a reminder, our levels are as follows:

**Regular:** Anyone who pays dues and is a current member of national EAA; afforded full voting rights and can hold

any elected or appointed position in the Chapter. (\$40)

**Family:** Any family that pays appropriate dues and are current family members of national EAA. Family members 18 or older are afforded full voting rights and can hold any elected or appointed position in the Chapter. (\$60)

**Friends of EAA:** Anyone who pays friends dues in support of Chapter activities. They shall have no voting rights nor hold any elected or appointed position in the Chapter and are not required to join national EAA. (\$25)

**Student:** Anyone who pays student dues. They shall have no voting rights nor hold any elected or appointed positions in the Chapter. They are not required to join national EAA. (\$10)

Remember to check our online calendar for upcoming events:

<https://eaa403.us/index.php/calendar#year=2025&month=6&day=29&view=month>

## FROM THE TREASURER

Balances as of 1 June:

- Savings: \$75,367.21
- Checking: \$1,059.09
- PayPal: \$2,777.94

Thanks to our Volunteers!

Welcome to new members who joined in May:

- Samuel Birchill – Regular
- Chris Bueltel – Family
- Anrush Agrawal – Student

So far this year, the Chapter awarded one Ray Matching Scholarship for \$12k (\$9k from national and \$3k from the Chapter) and three Chapter scholarships of \$1k each:

- Ray – Rowdy Miller
- Chapter – Diego Madani
- Chapter – Julia Williams
- Chapter – Grady Hane

Detailed monthly Treasurer reports are posted in the Chapter House and available by email upon request.

## WHAT'S NEW

**Congratulations to Ryan Crapo!**



Ryan recently graduated from Southern Utah University receiving a BS in Aviation Science with a fixed-wing emphasis and his commercial and multi-engine pilot licenses. He finished all that in three years.

Ryan Started with our Chapter's Young Eagles Program when he was 11. He also has his glider pilot license and endorsements for tail wheel, high altitude, etc.

Sky's the limit for Ryan...

### **Chapter House**

We recently added a small concrete patch to the former mud puddle area at the east side of the chapter patio. This will be a nice location for our propane grill during cookouts.



## **GUEST SPEAKER**



Our guest speaker for the May General meeting was retired aerospace engineer Marlys Pryor. She shared some interesting

stories from her extensive experience in test programs for large aircraft gas turbine engines with General Electric and Rolls Royce, as well as enjoying many globetrotting adventures as side-benefits of her job.

Marlys stays active in retirement by volunteering with the nonprofit Sierra Nevada Journeys organization, which brings science based education to elementary school students.

## **VMC CLUB**

The group meets the fourth Thursday of every month at 1800 in the Chapter House.

## **IMC CLUB**

The group meets the third Thursday of every month at 1800 in the Chapter House.



## YOUNG EAGLES

We are happy to welcome back Larry Crapo and Amy Kosey (Crapo) as the coordinators for the Young Eagles. Larry and Trish Jones are stepping back as coordinators but will continue to assist in this exciting program.

We are always in need of pilots, if you know a pilot interested in flying Young Eagles, please refer them to our Chapter. As a reminder, the requirements are as follows:

Five Steps to Becoming a Young Eagles Pilot (from EAA.org)

1. Be a current EAA member
2. Complete [EAA's Youth Protection Training and background check](#)
3. [Join an EAA chapter](#) near you to participate in a chapter-hosted Young Eagles rally. Or - If you prefer to conduct one-off flights, you can [order your own Young Eagles supplies](#)
4. Prior to the Young Eagles flight, ensure you meet all of the pilot requirements and follow the guidelines listed below
5. Complete a Young Eagles registration form before the flight, signed by you and a parent or legal guardian

Our next Young Eagles event is scheduled for Saturday, June 14, 2025. We look forward to seeing you there!

### May 10th Young Eagles Rally

Here are some photos from our May 10th Young Eagles Rally...



Thanks to our Volunteers!



But the event turned into a teachable moment, with some lively discussions and ground school topics.



*Good advice for first time flyers*



*RC model of Navy T-28 trainer*

## FLYING START

In May, we had an event to introduce interested adults to flying (officially part of the EAA Eagle Flights program). Unfortunately, the planned flights didn't happen due to very gusty conditions.



*Arts and Crafts for the young'uns*

Thanks to our Volunteers!



*Attentive audience*

## MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

Mike Reynolds has a rented domicile and a car for the upcoming AirVenture in Oshkosh (week of July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025).

He also owns a hangar and is looking to make a deal to get your aircraft indoors and protected!

If you are interested in either (or both) of these offers, contact him at 775-315-9411.

## FROM THE EDITOR

As part of blowing out the cobwebs toward regaining currency, I recently participated in AOPA's Rusty Pilots webinar. It was an excellent refresher and counts toward FAA Safety Team (FAAST) Wings credit.

You don't need to be a pilot to participate in these online training events, and they can also be useful for people like our members, who are thinking about becoming pilots.

Note: EAA also offers webinars, and I participated in a nice online module on aircraft wiring earlier this year.

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

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