



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 2 Number 12 | March 2026



Mike Hardison performs a graceful dismount after a winter flight as Eli, Lauren, and Andrea supervise.

With Mike out of the way, Abby has an easy time scooting out onto the wing.



Andrea tries out the RV7 for fit and comfort. She approves.



BUILD LOG EXCERPTS

Dayton Murdock shared the build log for his beautiful RV-4 as an example of documenting an Experimental / Amateur-Built (EAB) project. His empennage chapter begins with the repair of “hangar rash” that occurred to the left elevator.

Chapter 6 Empennage

Section 6 Re-Building left elevator Date 3/18/06

Today I started the re-build on my left elevator. The trailing edge was damage by a falling ladder while being storage in my hanger i.e. (hangar rash). The first order of business is to belt sand the top of my work bench to remove all bumps and areas that may scratch the new skin.

(Image) 00-0335 &00-336



Section 6 Re-Building left elevator Date 3/19/06

I center punched all the rivets around the frame and then carefully drilled them out with a #40 drill. After drilling the frame I removed the skin from the frame with the stiffeners in place. To drill the stiffeners I spread the skin to place one side on top of my workbench with stiffeners down. As I removed the stiffener I recorded its location. To use the skin for a pattern I had to flatten the rivet dimples on the inside of the skin with a backing plate and hammer.

(Image) 00-0340&00-342



TREASURER'S REPORT

Significant Transactions & Activity,
excerpted from Treasurer Report for
February 2026

- a. The Chapter received a \$1,513 windfall from the Airport Authority from 2025 Open House proceeds.
- b. February 14 Pancake Breakfast grossed \$258.
- c. February 28 Lunch grossed \$286.
- d. Eight members renewed their dues.

Balances as of 02MAR2026

1. Wells Fargo Savings: \$72,372.61
2. Wells Fargo Checking: \$2,325.84
3. PayPal: \$998.93

Total cash accounts: \$75,697.38 (\$2,085 restricted for Ray Scholarship)



EDITOR'S NOTEPAD

In about 1988 or 89, I took a ground school class at Palomar College in San Diego County, California. Before class one night, I spotted an unusual VW beetle at the curb with a body that appeared to be made of small-diameter tubing covered with fabric and dope!

The owner was present, and he was happily answering the questions of a small group of interested students. He showed us one of the hotrod VW magazines of the day, which featured his unique creation in a special article.

Recently, I remembered that encounter but hadn't yet started researching to figure out who the builder was.

Then at our March 2026 general meeting, I heard a snippet of a conversation in the background. Something like, "...replaced the steel body with welded tubing and fabric..."

Could it be? The man talking was Ron Sutton. I asked him, "Are you talking about a VW beetle?" "Yes," he said. "Did you have the car at Palomar College in about 1989?" "Yes!" "Was it the cover photo on a VW magazine?" "YES!"

It was amazing to discover that Ron and I had met in Southern California almost 40 years ago! It's a small world, indeed!

Steve Radcliffe shared these photos of one of the Coulson Martin Mars flying boat fire attack tankers that he took back in 2016. (more info: <https://martinmars.com/>)

"The aircraft was huge as you can see by comparison with the Cessna 180 on floats in the foreground. The cockpit was very roomy and it did not include the engineers station. We were taken out to the Mars in a 25 foot tender as they could not moor near the shore. They did a water drop at Wittman Field (Oshkosh) which was spectacular at over a mile long!"

(video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNRu6JyoE8Y>





Larry & Eli perform
preflight checklist.



Enjoying an
afternoon flight.

VMC CLUB

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



IMC CLUB

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



MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED: Wooden propeller to fit the old Continental A65 engine that Jim Nunelee's three young students are assembling. Any condition, any diameter, and any pitch is OK.

FOR SALE: Rotax 914 MQ1 Predator Engine. \$17,500.

2016 Drone Conversion by the U.S. Government. 135 to 140hp. Log Book shows 362 hours.

For more information, please call Ev Young at his home phone.
775-434-7424

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Robert Grant, 915-241-1330

Vice President

Mike Hardison, 858-774-1060

Secretary

Randy Vogelgesang, 530-545-1876

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

Larry Jones, 661-810-5272

Young Eagles Coordinator

Larry Crapo, 775-853-9049

Ray Scholarship Coordinator

Marlys Pryor, 914-498-1731

IMC Club

Tim Rowe, 775-233-8008

Technical Counselor

Jim Nunnelee, 775-790-1396

Pancake Breakfast Coordinator

Larry Grant, 775-842-0493

Thanks to our Volunteers!

IT / Web

Mike Zieba, 775-343-5948

Simulator Coordinator

To Be Determined.

Newsletter

Gary B Swift, 775-790-6723