



www.eaa471.org

May 2025

President's Message

Steve West

For anyone who was unable to attend Katelyn's get-together at Hangar 3 last month, you really missed out! Our Newsletter Editor is truly a force of nature. As planning was underway to celebrate her visit with a hamburger and hot dog meal, Katelyn extended an invitation to her friend, Lead Solo pilot Maj Jeff 'Simmer' Downie, to join us. I must say that I had a low expectation for such a visit, and hoped that Katelyn wouldn't be too upset if he couldn't attend. Surely the demands for a Thunderbird pilot in town for the Air Show on a Saturday evening are very high....

What can I say? Not only did Maj Downie attend, but he also brought Wing Commander and Flight Leader Col Nathan 'Sheik' Malafa, and Opposing Solo pilot Maj Laney 'Rogue' Schol! They actually stayed for a while, enduring a deafening rainstorm in the hangar, posing for selfies, partaking in the burgers and hot dogs, and conversing with everyone, including myself. In speaking with each of them, I was immediately impressed with the quality of these individuals. They truly represent the United States Air Force in all the best ways. Needless to say, a great time was had by all, and thanks go to the Black Sheep, Lon Beasley and Audie Gill for putting this event together. Again, Katelyn, you're awesome!

On a personal note, I recently completed a flight review. While I feel that I performed the flight portion of the review satisfactorily, I definitely saw the need for improvement in a few areas. As someone who does not fly as often as I should, I know that this improvement only comes from practice and repetition. I have no excuse not to fly more often. The Cherokee is sitting in the hangar ready to go, decent flying days are abundant, and several decent airports with great fuel prices surround us. Please feel free to remind me to get airborne more often! We will have our monthly breakfast and chapter meeting this Saturday, the 10th. Our normal but wonderfully filling menu will be available, and I look forward to seeing all of you there! ~ Steve

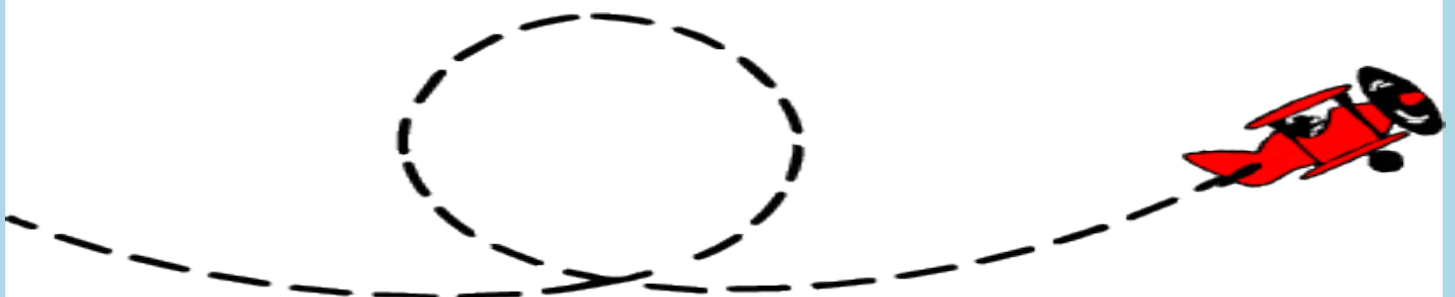
Now Let's Get Down to Business!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR CHAPTER HANGAR TENANTS

from the desk of Transportation Services Director Don Green

Effective as of Friday, April 25th, access to the EAA Hangars through the gate on Navajo Trail and the FedEx gate will be limited. Until further notice, access through those gate will be from 6:00am through 8:00pm only. Outside of that access period, the gate pressure switches on the inside of the fence will also be deactivated so you will not be able to leave without assistance from airport personnel. This is due to required testing of the security system. Not sure at this point how long it will last. Once again, access and egress will be limited to 6:00am through 8:00pm only.

After these hours if anyone needs access to their aircraft you can be escorted by a line person from the south east side.



Midland EAA Chapter Poker Run

JOIN THE FUN WITH EAA CHAPTER 123

EAA AVIATION 123 POKER RUN



& FLY-IN

MAY 3, 2025

What & How
Fly to 5 designated airports in any order, collecting a card at each one. Finish at the final airport to collect your last card. The best poker hand wins! Want better odds? Buy multiple hands - up to 3.

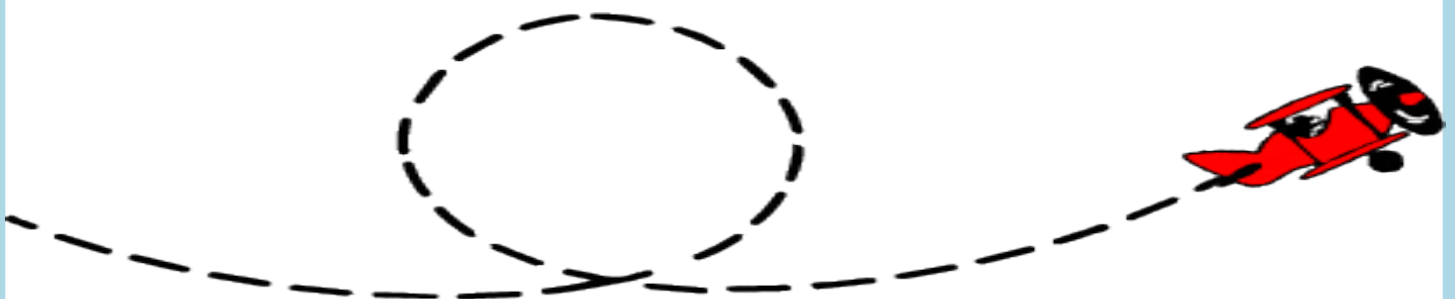


REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES LUNCH
HAMBURGERS AND HOT DOGS



Scan the QR code to register and get more details or click <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea123/poker-run-details---registration>

GRAND PRIZE FOR WINNING HAND & DOOR PRIZES



Learn to Fly Week

EAA Learn to Fly Week Returns May 13-17, 2025, and will be filled with 15 great webinars focused on helping folks achieve their dream of flight with topics from the very beginning (How to begin your flight training) to the Examiner advice for acing the check ride and everything in between and much more!

There is no doubt, whether it was at the barbershop or doctor's office, when you've talked about your love for aviation, you've been met with this response: "I have always wanted to learn to fly, but..." Or "I started my ground school years ago and took a few lessons, but..."

It is a story as old as time: Aspiring aviators have the desire, but extenuating circumstances are preventing them from pursuing their dream of flight. Here at EAA, we know there is an opportunity to turn these dreamers into doers.

EAA's mission is to "grow participation in aviation by sharing The Spirit of Aviation." This mission is fully embraced by EAA's 300,000-plus members and 900 local chapters. Though we can't break down every barrier, finding an organization and group of members more well - equipped to help aspiring aviators find their place in the sky is hard.

Through EAA's vast library of educational materials and local chapter advocates, the organization is perfectly placed to help grow the pilot population.

To further the efforts of growing the aviation community, EAA Learn to Fly Week, supported by Sporty's Pilot Shop, is returning on May 13-17, 2025!

The week will consist of three straight days of educational and interactive webinars. Topics will range from how to get started in flight training to tips for passing the FAA written exam, how to save time and money in flight training, strategies for the checkride, pinch-hitter presentations, and so much more!

Representatives from EAA, Sporty's Pilot Shop, Redbird, TakeFlight Interactive, and designated pilot examiners nationwide will present this wide range of webinars.

Following each presentation, attendees will have time for Q&A with the presenters.

The final day of Learn to Fly Week, May 17, 2025, will play host to chapter Flying Start events across the country. Flying Start events are open - house style activities that introduce local aspiring pilots to the local knowledge, tools, and connections that they need to accomplish their goal of becoming a pilot.

During the Flying Start event, chapter members will break down the perceived barriers common to the non - aviation community that prevent people from pursuing their pilot certificate.

Following a short presentation from the chapter and local flight instructors about learning to fly, Flying Start attendees are paired with an Eagle Flight mentor pilot for a free introductory flight. After the flight, the attendee will receive a free six-month trial EAA membership! Flying Start participants will walk away from the event with an "I can do this" point of view, and a clear understanding of "how flying can fit into my life," and "what I can do with this hobby."

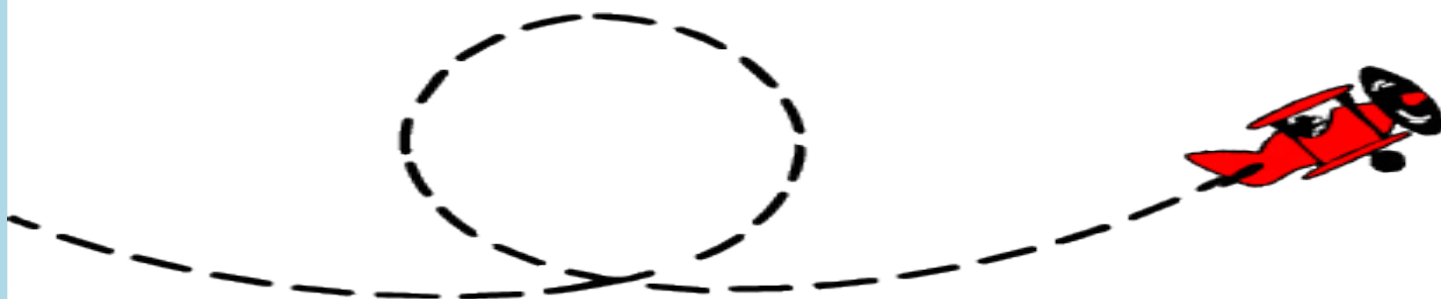
Whether you're in the midst of your flight training journey or just thinking about getting started, we know you'll value EAA Learn to Fly Week.

You can learn more and register at www.EAA.org/LTFWeek



Learn To Fly Week

Date	Time	Title	Presenters
5/13/25	1 p.m. CDT	Stop Dreaming and Start Flying – Flight Training First Steps	David Leiting
	2:30 p.m. CDT	Kick Start your Flight Training with Virtual Flight Instruction	Brandon Seltz
	4 p.m. CDT	How to Save Time and Money in Flight Training	Larry Bothe
	5:30 p.m. CDT	Aircraft Options for Flight Training and Beyond	Tim Hoversten
	7 p.m. CDT	Maximizing Your Flight Training with FAA Approved Simulators	Josh Harnagel
5/14/25	1 p.m. CDT	Navigating Pilot Certificates, Medical Requirements, and Privileges	Tom Charpentier
	2:30 p.m. CDT	Learning to Fly with a Flight Simulator	Chris McGonegle
	4 p.m. CDT	Pass Your Checkride (Part 1 of 2) – The Oral	Larry Bothe
	5:30 p.m. CDT	Getting Started in Soaring	Scott Manley
	7 p.m. CDT	Pinch Hitter Preview - Progressing from Passenger to PIC	Prof. H. Paul Shuch
5/15/25	1 p.m. CDT	How to Pass the Private Pilot FAA Written Test in Less Time	Bret Koebe
	2:30 p.m. CDT	FAA Medical Certification and You	Tom Charpentier
	4 p.m. CDT	Pass Your Checkride (Part 2 of 2) – The Practical Exam	Larry Bothe
	5:30 p.m. CDT	Getting Started in Helicopters	Joe Norris



Mr. Derryberry's Flying Machine

By Jay Moore

Ninety years ago, in 1935, Abilene airport manager Louis Derryberry, with help from his mechanic friend Lee Cox, built an open - cockpit airplane from scratch. The fabric - covered flying machine with 10-foot wooden wings was powered by a Ford Model-A engine generating a mere 37 horsepower and a top speed of 85 mph. The two - seat plane was registered as "Alder - Derryberry No. 1." (Cecil Alder worked with Derryberry at the airport and, presumably, had a hand in the project since the plane was titled as "Alder - Derryberry " and not "Cox - Derryberry." However, newspaper articles only mention Cox, not Alder, as the co - builder. These are the intrigues that keep historians up at night.)

Derryberry and Cox flew the plane for the first time on October 13, 1935. It was used to instruct Abilene's wanna - be - pilots (including my grandfather) and, during the Great Depression, the blue and white Alder - Derryberry plane was a common sight in the Taylor County skies. By the time Derryberry left Abilene to serve our country in 1942, Alder - Derryberry No. 1 was owned by someone in Lubbock.

Louis Earl Derryberry was born in 1902 and saw his first airplane in 1911 at the Palo Pinto County Fair. After watching a Blériot monoplane soar overhead, the young " Derry " was bitten by the aviation bug and would spend the rest of his life in and around the world of airplanes.

Coming to Abilene to attend Simmons College, Derry shined shoes while still finding time to play trombone in the inaugural Cowboy Band and earning a spot on the baseball team as a pitcher. After leaving Simmons, Derry enlisted in the United States Air Service Flying School at Kelly Air Field in San Antonio. He would graduate the following year with a rather bashful new school friend, Charles Lindbergh. Returning to Abilene, Derry operated Abilene's first airport the privately - owned Kinsolving Field, located 180 acres near the present Abilene Zoo and he stayed on to manage the field after the city purchased it in 1929 following a civic burst of aviation enthusiasm kick - started by a visit from Derry's flying school chum, Lucky Lindy.

When the plane was finished in 1935, an 11 - year - old Abilene boy named Jerry Ferrel, who also happened to be the grandson of former Abilene Mayor E. N. Kirby, looked up in the Abilene sky to see the one - of - a - kind, Alder - Derryberry flying machine gracefully gliding overhead.

Just as Louis Derryberry had been smitten by an urge to fly when he was a boy, Jerry Ferrel was equally spellbound.

Seven decades later, after a lifetime of flying and restoring planes, 82-year-old Ferrel then living in Temple spotted an ad in an airplane trade publication advertising a " 1935 Alder - Derryberry " plane for sale. The startled aircraft aficionado doubted it was the same plane but took a chance and made a quick trip to Bartlesville, Oklahoma, to see if he had stumbled upon the object of his boyhood fascination. Though no longer recognizable as an airplane, the disassembled collection of over 50 parts was indeed the plane he first saw as a boy. He bought the memory without a moment of hesitation.

Jerry Ferrel spent the next three years researching and painstakingly rebuilding the custom - built Abilene - born plane. Finally, on March 24, 2009, 74 years after he first spotted the same plane, Jerry Ferrel took the controls and, once again, lifted Louis Derryberry's magical machine up into the wild blue yonder.

Following the meticulous reclamation of his childhood enthrallment and nodding to his boyhood hometown, Jerry Ferrel generously donated Alder - Derryberry No. 1 to the City of Abilene in 2011. Now on display only several hundred yards from where Louis Derryberry and Lee Cox fabricated the flying machine, this bit of local aviation history is found just inside the doors of the Abilene airport terminal, suspended above the staircase.

In 2011, the City of Abilene honored Jerry Ferrel by giving him a key to the city. Mr. Ferrel passed away in 2020 at the age of 96. Louis Derryberry died in 1985.



9 year old Van White with the Alder - Derryberry in Lubbock TX. Van's Father purchased it from Derryberry.



Jerry Ferrel taking Alder - Derryberry aloft, 2009

Hanging up from the ceiling in Abilene Regional Airport



**LET THE FUN
BEGIN!!!**



History Overhead: B-29 Superfortress 'Doc' lands in Abilene

A B - 29 Superfortress nicknamed 'Doc' landed safely at Abilene Regional Airport on April 16th 2025 ahead of it's performance at Dyess Wings over West Texas Airshow that took place over Easter weekend.

In addition to Doc's performances and being on static display during the Wings over West Texas Airshow Doc was parked at Abilene Regional Airport before and after the show selling private flight opportunities and tours that were able to be purchased through the Doc's Friends Website. Proceeds from private flights support the maintenance and operation of the plane and the non-profit organization that owns it.

During this time KTAB/KRBC caught up with Chief Pilot Mark Novak for a look inside the historic aircraft and into its decades - long journey from the assembly line to today. Constructed in Wichita, Kansas, in 1945, Doc served alongside a number of other B-29's, a squadron known as 'The Seven Dwarfs', in many non - active combat roles for the U.S. Air Force. Novak says it was in 1956 that the Airforce gave a large group of B-29's, including Doc, to the Navy to be used as target practice. For 42 years, Doc sat on that target range in the Mojave Desert. The condition of the aircraft visibly deteriorated over that time.

Then in 1987, a man by the name of Tony Mazzolini rediscovered Doc.

He hatched a plan to restore the old war bird and began contacting the appropriate government agencies.

In 1998 Mazzolini and his group were able to gain possession of Doc, it was then that they began the difficult task of towing the decades old fuselage out of the desert. It would be two more years until Doc saw any more activity. For Mazzolini, the restoration proved too difficult and the project was taken up by the group now known as 'Doc's Friends', a non - profit that still owns the aircraft today. "There were just under 4,000 B-29s built during WWII... This is a Wichita-built bird... It came too late to go over to the war. Became part of a radar calibration squadron," Novak explained. " Our group got control of it in the year 2000. Broke it into seven big pieces, trucked it to Wichita, " said Novak. A massive transportation effort saw the aircraft disassembled and taken back to Wichita, Kansas on flat bed trucks. Now sitting just a few hundred feet from the site it was constructed, Doc was ready for restoration. 'Doc's Friends' spent the next 16 years getting the historic plane airworthy once more and in 2016 it took its first flight in over 60 years. " I tell everybody that flying the airplane is like driving a pickup truck on a gravel road. " Novak said. As Chief Pilot, Novak has had the pleasure of flying Doc to airshow after airshow in cities across the country. He makes up a crew of 6 that it takes to operate the plane.

While it is a large task to bring such an old plane to the skies, Novak says the educational and historical benefit of their operation far outweighs any difficulty. " If this airplane was sitting in a museum. My thing I like to say is 1/10th of 1 percent would come to a museum to see it... Our mantra is, we want to honor the men who flew them the women who built them. We want to educate. And we also want to connect with the next generation. "



Photos Courtesy of Jeff Randall



Thunder in the Hangar

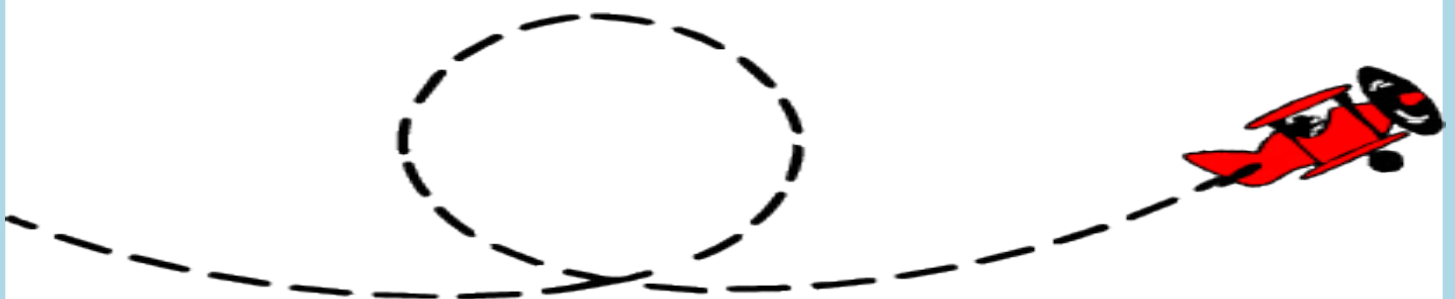
On the evening of Saturday, April 19th, 2025, Chapter 471 and Black Sheep Productions gathered at the hangar for a hamburger and hot dog BBQ, celebrating a return visit of their Newsletter Editor in Chief. Little did most of them know their Newsletter Editor in Chief had something very exciting and special up her sleeve for them that night. Not only did she show up, but she brought a few surprise guests that only a handful of members knew about. These special guests are known as the Air Force Thunderbird pilots.

Lt Col Nathan Malafa (Thunderbird #1, whose callsign is Sheik, also known as Boss)
Maj. Jeff Downie (Thunderbird #5, whose callsign is Simmer) and
Maj. Laney Schol (Thunderbird #6, whose callsign is Rogue) passed the message to me that they all had a blast! (Despite the worst weather ever.)



Special thank you to the Black Sheep Squadron for providing and cooking the hamburgers and hot dogs, they were delicious! So delicious, Simmer liked his hamburger so much that he asked if he could have another one! A bigger thank you goes out to EAA Chapter 471 for helping me host the Air Force Thunderbirds at our Chapter 471 hangar! I would also like to thank the Air Force Thunderbirds for joining us! It was my and EAA Chapter 471's pleasure to host y'all!

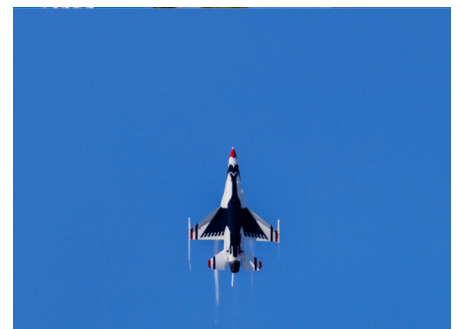
Despite the weather, it was a huge success! I hope those in attendance enjoyed meeting the Thunderbirds as much as I enjoyed the Thunderbirds getting to meet all of y'all. In the words of Jeff Clements, Chapter 471 ROCKS!!!! FYI, the Thunderbirds will be at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi, on November 1st and 2nd for another Thunder Over the Sound. Feel free to come visit and join me! We have room in the hangar and a room for you to stay available!



Wings Over West Texas Airshow 2025

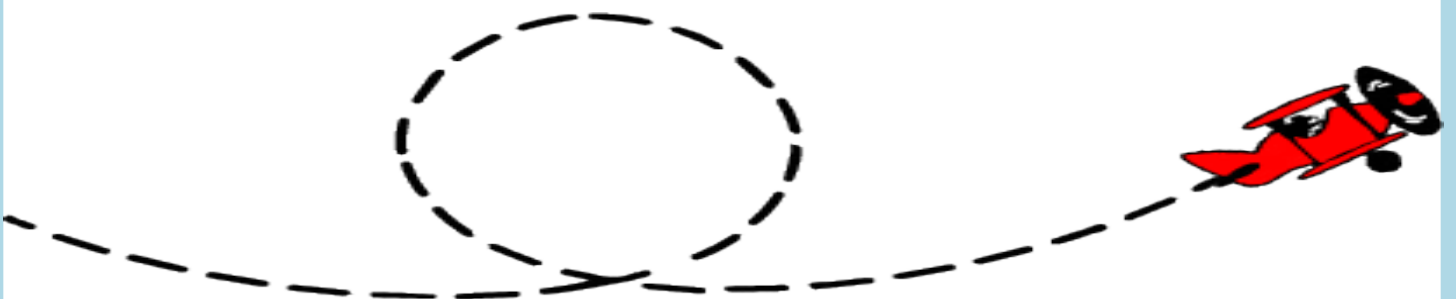
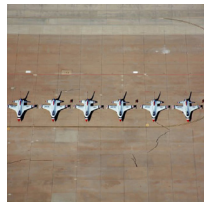


*Photo's Below Courtesy of
Steve West's Nephew Caleb Boren*



A Bird's Eye View of Dyess's Ramp after a Weekend of Airshow Fun Before Departures Begin

Photos Courtesy of Jeff Randall



The Homebuilders of Chapter 471 Progress Reports

Builder: Benjamin Wiford

Aircraft: Zenith CH650B

Engine: Viking 150

Avionics: Dynon with Garmin Radio

Build Start: September 2021

Total Build Time: 690 Hours



Next Step: flight control cables.

After the April Breakfast Meeting some of Chapter 471's finest helped Chapter 471 Member Benjamin Wiford get the wings onto his Zenith CH650B airplane. From there he trimmed the wing skins to get the right fit and got the wings fully bolted onto the fuselage and is currently working on fitting and installing the ailerons and flaps.



Builder: Raymond Jornd

Aircraft: RV - 10

Work has begun on assembling the trim tabs.





Webinars

INTERACTIVE | EDUCATIONAL | MOBILE

EAA WEBINARS SCHEDULE

May Webinars

Date	Time	Title	Presenters
5/6/25	7 p.m. CDT	The Gee Bee	Chris Henry and Amelia Anderson
5/7/25	7 p.m. CDT	Security Violation	Mike Busch
5/21/25	7 p.m. CDT	IFR Approach: From Cruise to the Initial Approach Fix	
5/28/25	7 p.m. CDT	Stall and Spin Avoidance	Gordon Penner

June Webinars

6/4/25	12 p.m. CDT	EAA Young Eagles Build and Fly Program for Chapters	Serena Brouillette
6/10/25	7 p.m. CDT	The P-30	Amelia Anderson and Chris Henry
6/11/25	12 p.m. CDT	EAA Young Eagles Workshops: Youth Day Camp Program for Chapters	Serena Brouillette
	7 p.m. CDT	All You Wanted to Know About Stalls (and How to Teach Them)	Brian Sagi
6/18/25	7 p.m. CDT	Tips for Flying Into EAA AirVenture 2025	Fred Stadler
6/25/25	7 p.m. CDT	Ultralight/Homebuilt Rotorcraft Arrival Procedures - AirVenture 2025	Mark Spang
6/26/25	7 p.m. CDT	EAA AirVenture 2025 Features and Attractions	Rick Larsen and Sean Elliott

If you are interested in any of these webinars you can register for them by clicking the link below.

https://www.eaa.org/eee/news-and-publications/eee-webinars?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTnpkbVpUUTFaR1Ez-TUdabClsluQiOiJ2cWsybWJsZ3BMb0ZnNmYzYn-hwclM3SEhPNDgzdTZvMTkSnh6WWFudEt5UkdYcUZG-ZzY2ZStPY0ZCbXhmZ0s3WmxUcUUYblg5UU9YTUQwck-VOTGoyWFp0dU3k0aDBPaGVIVFpCUTRFaVwvZlwwS-jRmZWdLY0tlQThlbkh1eENuln0%3D

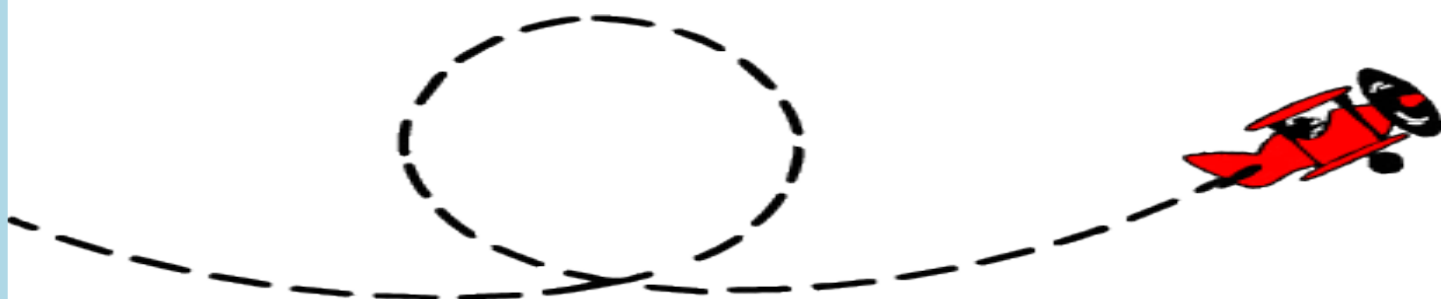
In The Bat Cave



Work is progressing on Batman's (Audie Gill's) Legal Eagle while him and Robin (Lon Beasley) wait on favorable weather to test crash Robin's (Lon Beasley's) Legal Eagle. Batman's (Audie Gill's) Legal Eagle has been painted, had engine hung and wings are in the covering stage with the help of an unwanted friend. (See photo below!) (The unwanted friend is not Lon Beasley.)



BE VERY VIGILANT AS THIS IS NOT THE FIRST RATTLESNAKE WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED AT THE BATCAVE OR IN AND AROUND THE NW SIDE OF THE AIRPORT.



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facebook

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Visit our Website: eaa471.org

Email: abilene.eaa.471@gmail.com

2025 Chapter Officers:

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Vice President: Steve Harbison

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Lon Beasley

Bobby Richardson

Category III Directors:

David Bradshaw

Gary Potter

Charlotte Rhodes

Technical Advisor: Chris Ulibarri

Young Eagles Advisor:

Bobby Richardson

Newsletter Editor: Katelyn Petty

Web Page Manager: Steve Krazer

Flight Advisor: Gary Potter



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DON'T FORGET

NEXT MONTHLY BREAKFAST

SATURDAY MAY 10 9:00 . A.M. HANGAR 3

