



# EEA 485

April 2025—Panhandle Pelicans

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Visit page 7 for an awesome update on how the first-ever Pre Sun and Fun Air Race directed by Lou Toth turned out!

Pictured is participant and race mentor Jim Wilson in his RV-8.

# PRESIDENT'S NOTES

First, a big THANK YOU to Mark Rogers for running the March 8th meeting. After shoulder replacement surgery on February 25th, I just couldn't muster the energy to run a meeting just eleven days later. Recovery is progressing on schedule and I look forward to returning for the April 12th meeting. There is still lots of rehab ahead with three to six months total recovery time. Also thanks to Mark for taking an online EAA Chapter Leadership course. This helps ensure that we maintain our chapter GOLD status for the next five years.

Mark Rogers made a request for all members to wear their name tags. Please do! We have become a rather large organization, and it sure helps to get to know each other quicker. We are starting a fifteen to twenty minute new member orientation, run by our Secretary Jacob Abston, to be conducted after each meeting.

The results of the 2024 anonymous Chapter Survey were received from EAA recently. I'll briefly cover that at the meeting. As I write this, we are still awaiting confirmation that we retained our GOLD status in 2024. GOLD is the highest level an EAA chapter can attain, is a big positive for us, and reflects our great overall volunteerism and programs.

We will highlight another great recent accomplishment at the April meeting. Mark mentioned this at the March meeting, but the individual involved, Brian Harris, was not there. He will be in attendance at the April meeting, heading up the burger crew no less! Brian recently got his CFI certificate. He already had his A&P certificate. Brian was our second Ray Scholarship winner in late 2019. EAA National can't tell me how many of the 630 pilots who were Ray Scholars have achieved this feat. But I would bet no more than a handful. Well done, Brian!

Speaking of the upcoming April 12th meeting, it will be HISTORIC! For the first time ever, we will award two Ray Scholarships simultaneously. This was enabled by our decision as a chapter to pay for 25% of the cost. That would be a maximum of  $\$3000 + \$3000 = \$6000$ . If either or both Ray 2025 Scholars spend significantly less than the \$12,000 scholarship amount, the chapter portion may be reduced. We are highly motivated to help them finish under budget!

See you April 12th!

—Ralph

# RAY AVIATION UPDATE



It has been a busy month for our chapter and the Ray Scholarship.

March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swanson, Mark Rogers, and Craig Spoke met and interviewed ten amazing young people to select two for our 2025 Ray Scholar awardees. **Lillian Bannon** and **Webber Cantin** were the two who stood out from the others. During the April 12<sup>th</sup> chapter meeting we will conduct the official presentation of the awards. Lily will be training at Pensacola Air and Webber will train at Lightning Aviation in Foley.

**Sophia Almond** has been flying as wind and weather permits. She is working on her solo cross country flights.

**Samantha Watkins** had some great news on Monday March 17<sup>th</sup>. **SHE PASSED HER INSTRUMENT CHECK RIDE!!!!!!** Congratulations to Samantha.

—Craig Spoke

## March 8th, 2025 Secretary Report

VMC: Electrical failure

IMC: Autopilot issues

General Membership Meeting

Officers Reports

May 10: Local military airspace briefing

June 14: Tentative Paradigm Parachute  
tour after meetings

—Secretary Jacob Abston

Ray Scholarship

Lily and Webber are our two 2025 Ray  
Scholarship winners.

Anonymous Scholarship

Sean Londrigan and Cody Stebbins are  
both moving right along.

Young Eagles

Young Eagles Rally on Apr 19

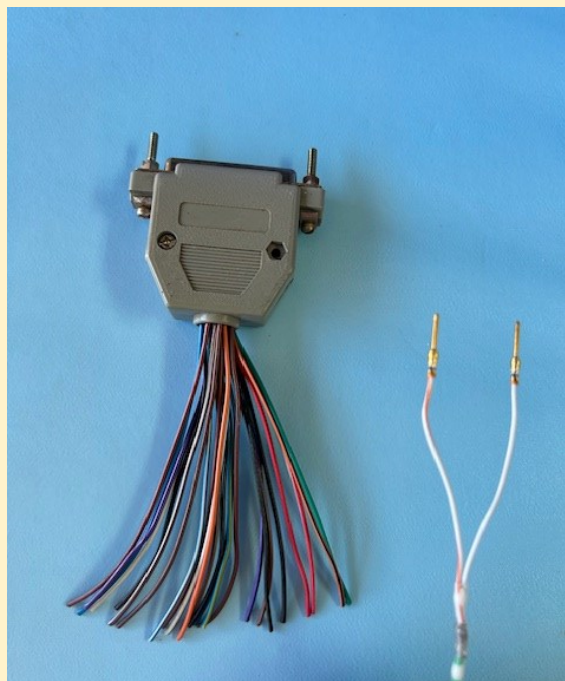
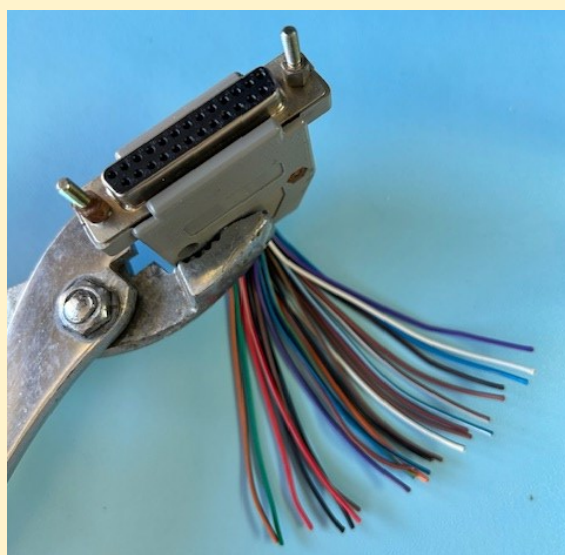
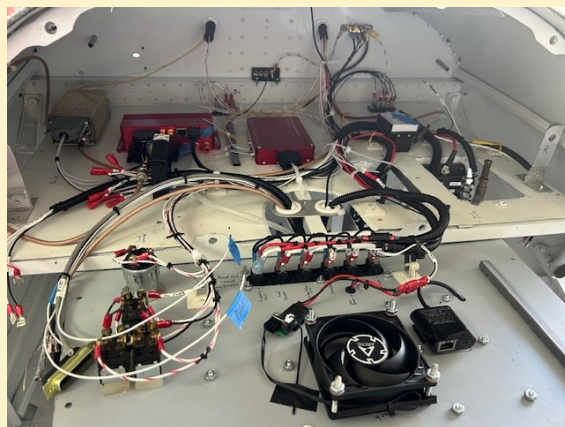
# DRANO'S ZENITH 750 UPDATE

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I'm progressing but have not had much time to dedicate to my building efforts for a couple weeks. Basically, I am still working on my EE....as in my Electronics Epiphany. Recently I was challenged with figuring out how to bring two wire communication bundles, each with six small wires, from the microphone and headphone jacks to the D-sub connector on the back of the radio. The challenge is not what has to be done but how to do it! It is surprising how little online information there is on this even in the EAA builders instructional video library which I highly encourage all of you to explore.

D-sub connectors....interesting name. According to Wikipedia the name stems from the fact that "D" is the rough shape of the metal sleeve that slides into the receiver on the component. "Sub" is short for subminiature because of the nature of the connections...they are really small. As you can see in the picture there are a lot of small wires into one of these things and each wire has a very small male or female metal attachment that must be put on depending on which end of the wire cable the D-sub is. These connectors are standard stuff for Radios, Transponders, and any EFIS setup so there is no way around them. Lots of intricate small wires and my two big thumbs make for a process filled with very colorful metaphors.

Attaching the small metal ends requires a special tool and is pretty straight forward but some of these wires have to join other wires to communicate in two different D-sub pins or two wires to the same pin. Examples are the Press To Talk wire having to join the Mic wire input, another example is where they share a common ground inside the D-sub connector. My point here is that there are several times where multiple wires have to be spliced before entering the D-sub which creates another challenge.....spicing small, 20 or 22 gauge wires because there is so little wire for the typical crimp splice to hold onto.



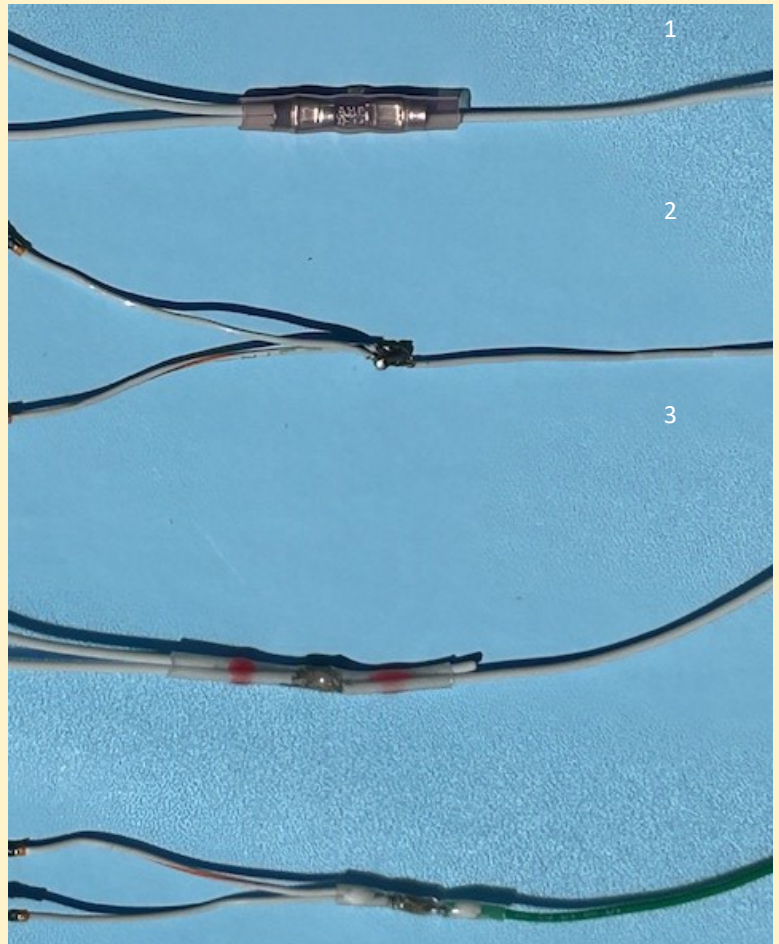
# DRANO'S ZENITH 750 UPDATE

OK, what are the options? Pictured are three options I considered. The top one is the standard butt splice. It works if you are careful but when you must do a lot of them, they take up a lot of room and they are, well, butt ugly. The second one pictured is to hand solder the wires together then cover them with heat shrink (heat shrink no pictured here). I was not born with the “soldering gene”. I’m no good at it and have trouble getting a consistently good quality solder joint so I’m leery of going down this path. The bottom two joints in the picture are Solder Wire Connectors and the opinion of these things is polar even among experts. Talk to one A&P and he will tell you don’t use them, they are not dependable. Talk to another A&P and it is all they ever use.

Basically, these Solder Wire Connectors are translucent shrink wrap with a soft solder ring inside. You strip the ends of the wires you want to join, stick them in from either end of the connector till they are inside the soft solder ring then heat them up with a hot air gun on high till the solder ring melts into the wires, thereby joining them inside the heat shrink. The heat shrink also tightens up to stabilize the connection.

I tried several and had reasonably good luck with them so this is the option I will be using to make the splices necessary for my communication D-sub connectors. We will see. Winston Churchill once said, “An optimist is wrong as often as a pessimist, but the optimist has a lot more fun.” I choose to be optimistic with this approach and I will keep you informed.

—Drano



# Young Eagles Event

We're thrilled to host our next Young Eagles Rally on Saturday, April 19th from 9:00 AM to around noon (weather depending) at the EAA Chapter 485 House. This exciting event gives youth ages 8–17 the chance to experience their first flight in a general aviation aircraft — completely free of charge!

This is part of the EAA Young Eagles program, a national initiative started in 1992 by the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) to introduce kids to the world of aviation. Since its launch, the program has flown over 2.3 million Young Eagles thanks to the generosity of volunteer pilots and EAA chapters across the country.

At the event, each participant will:

- Take a local flight in a general aviation aircraft with a certified volunteer pilot
- Learn about aircraft instruments, safety, and how airplanes fly
- Receive an official Young Eagles certificate and a logbook signed by their pilot
- Get free access to EAA's Learn to Fly resources, including Sporty's Complete Flight Training course (a \$250 value— free!)

## Volunteer Help Needed!

To make this event a success, we're calling on pilots, registration volunteers, aircraft marshals, and participant escorts to step up and help inspire the next generation of aviators. No experience necessary — just a willingness to help and share the joy of flight!

## Important Note for Returning Participants:

If your child has flown with the Young Eagles program before, we kindly ask that you wait until the last two weeks before the event to register, to allow as many first-timers as possible to experience the magic of flight.

Whether you're a parent, pilot, aviation enthusiast, or first-time volunteer — we'd love to have you join us.

## Event Details:

Date: Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>

Time: 9:00 AM – Noon-ish (weather permitting)

Location: EAA Chapter 485 House

Who Can Fly: Youth ages 8–17 (with parent/guardian present for sign-in)

For questions, registration, or to volunteer, please contact: Eric Goldman at [YoungEagles485@gmail.com](mailto:YoungEagles485@gmail.com).

Let's share the skies and create unforgettable memories for the next generation!



BENEFITS EAA CHAPTER 5  
FIRST-CLASS TRIP to

# PARIS

## AIR SHOW

The 55th International  
Paris Air Show  
at Le Bourget  
Parc des Exposition  
June 20-23, 2025

Winner receives:

- Four first-class tickets from anywhere in the US.
- Private airport transfers to and from your hotel.
- Four nights at the Four Seasons Hotel George V Includes an American breakfast each day.
- Four 3-day public passes to the Paris Air Show.

Drawing on May 3rd,  
6:00pm

Visit [EAA5.org](http://EAA5.org)  
for full details  
and conditions





# Pre-Fun 145 Air Race

## An Exciting Lineup of Events

The Pre-Fun 145 Air Race on Saturday 29 March 2025 at Crestview Airport was a thrilling event for aviation enthusiasts and competitors alike. This first ever air race brought together some of the best pilots and aircraft from around the nation, promising a spectacle of speed, skill, and precision just before the SUN n' FUN Expo at Lakeland Florida. Although impending weather limited the number of racers the results by class were exceptional:

<i>The Crestview "Pre Sun 'n Fun" 145 - 29 March 2025</i>																
Number of Racers	Start Order	Race #	Last Name	First Name	Aircraft	Tail Number	Class	L or S Course	Speeds MPH	Start Time	Finish Time	Elapsed Time	Speed (MPH)	Speed (KTS)	"Pre-Fun" CEW 145 Distance	
5	2	2	Hammer	Steve	Lancair Legacy	N32M2	Sport	L	271	9:46:18	10:22:40	0:36:22	274.85	238.83	166.55	SM
4	1	91	Hammer	Bruce	Glassair 1 TD	N91LH	Sport FX	L	276	9:45:53	10:22:37	0:36:44	272.10	236.45	144.76	NM
1	3	27	Wilson	Jim	RV-8	N1981J	RV Gold	L	225	9:46:50	10:31:42	0:44:52	222.78	193.59		
7	4	81	McKenny	Kevin	Cozy MK IV	N484BD	FX Gold	L	190	9:47:25	10:39:18	0:51:53	192.65	167.41		
3	6	701	Wadsworth	Van	Mooney M20E	N2701W	FAC3RG	L	184	9:48:43	10:43:20	0:54:37	183.01	159.03		
6	5	16	Bergen	Mike	Bonanza	N8798R	FAC2RG	L	184	9:48:06	10:48:43	1:00:35	164.98	143.37		
2	7	130	Toth	Lou	Sonex	N130FN	Sportman	S	100	9:49:33	10:38:39	0:49:06	106.97	92.96	87.54	SM
	8															
	9															
	10														76.07	NM

### Notable Events:

- New racer Kevin McKenny welded and repaired a broken exhaust hanger the night before flying to the race and put his race number on the bottom of the port wing when he arrived! Masterful effort!
- The Hammer Brothers provided an exciting race with only 22 seconds difference between them. Foreflight & ADS-B Exchange tracking was projected at the FBO and the observers were enthralled!
- Mike Bergen proved that a Bonanza can carry almost as much camping gear as a C 130...
- As a first ever race Jim & Donna Wilson were the perfect mentors, and all of the shirts designed by Donna were sold out! Could not ask for a better result except for maybe a little better weather...

Lou Toth

Race Director

Pre-Fun 145

# Pre-Fun 145 Air Race - Notable Events

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New racer Kevin McKenny welded and repaired a broken exhaust hangar the night before flying to the race and put his race number on the bottom of the port wing when he arrived! Masterful effort!

Pictured immediately below are Kevin McKenny and his Cozy Mk IV.



The Hammer Brothers provided an exciting race with only 22 seconds difference between them. Foreflight & ADS-B Exchange tracking was projected at the FBO and the observers were enthralled!



Steve Hammer in his Lancair Legacy

# Pre-Fun 145 Air Race - Notable Events

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Bruce Hammer and his Glasair 1TD



Mike Bergen proved that a Bonanza can carry almost as much camping gear as a C 130...



# Pre-Fun 145 Air Race - Notable Events

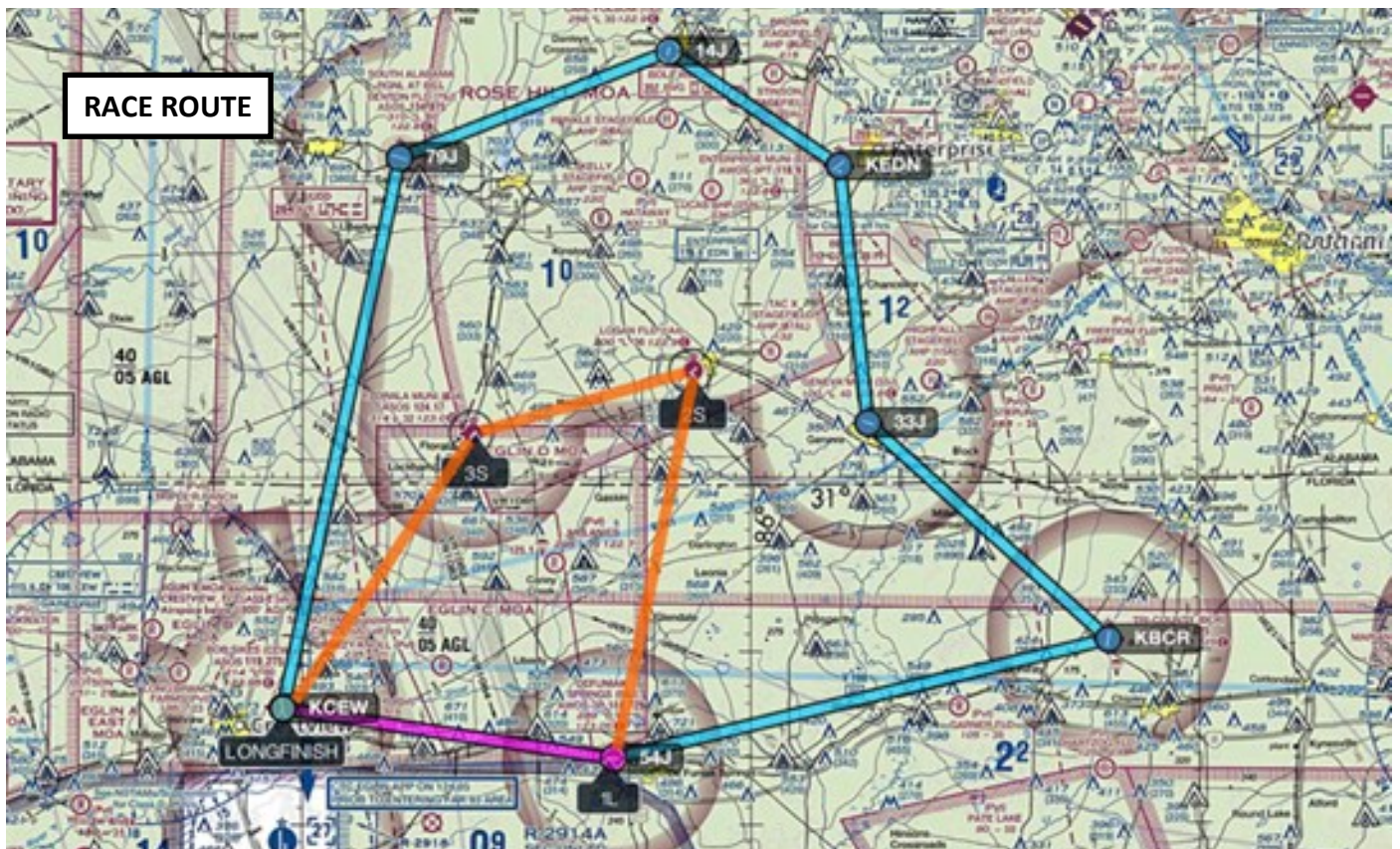


As a first ever race Jim & Donna Wilson were the perfect mentors, and all the shirts designed by Donna were sold out! Could not ask for a better result—except for maybe a little better weather...

Pictured on the left is Jim with his RV-8. Donna was a great help coaching the timing crew.



Donna Wilson is on the far right.



## EAA and Local Chapter Sites

[EAA 485](#)

[EAA HDQTRS](#)

[Interesting Links](#)

[Blue Angel 360 Way cool](#)

[Making the First Airbus 220 Time Lapse](#)

[Jetman Unleashed in Dubai](#)

[Boeing 737 Time Lapse Build](#)

[F-18 Low Level](#)

[High Speed Carrier Maneuvering](#)

[Miscellaneous](#)

[1800wxbrief.com](#)

[FAA Notams](#)

[Barnstormers](#)

[Skyvector.com](#) Flight Planning, Charts

[AirNav.com](#) Airport info, Fuel Prices

[EAA 1265](#)

[EAA 108](#)

## 2025 Officers and Committee Chairmen

<b>President:</b>	<a href="#">Ralph Moser</a> (847) 736-4603
<b>Vice President:</b>	<a href="#">Mark Rogers</a> (251) 228-0356
<b>Tech Counselor</b>	
<b>Flight Advisor:</b>	
<b>Secretary:</b>	<a href="#">Jacob Abston</a> (251)424-5004
<b>Treasurer/Membership:</b>	<a href="#">Scott Swanson</a> (309)267-9710 711 Marlinspike Dr. Pensacola, FL 32507
<b>Ray Scholarship Coordinator:</b>	<a href="#">Craig Spoke</a> (251) 550-5795
<b>Young Eagles Coordinator:</b>	<a href="#">Eric Goldman</a> (317) 910-2513
<b>Webmaster:</b>	<a href="#">Doug Francisco</a> (850) 453-5501

Normally meetings will be held at [Roscoe Field Airport \(82J\) \(Uni 122.8\)](#) on the **Second Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM unless otherwise posted. If flying in, check NAS Pensacola (KNPA) NOTAMS for possible TFRs and the [Roscoe Field Airport website](#) under the Arrivals tab for important arrival and departure information.**

Driving: From Hwy 98 go past the main airport entrance and take the next left. Go thru the gate and make a left on the gravel road. Make a right past the T hangars you'll see our building down on the left side. Anyone interested in sharing general aviation, aircraft building, maintaining and restoring is welcome.

For more info contact:

[Ralph Moser](#) (847) 736-4603





Home Of The  
PANHANDLE PELICANS

EAA 485 Pensacola, FL

## Chapter Meetings:

**Saturday, April 12th, 2025**

**08:30-09:30, VMC/IMC Club Meeting.**

**09:45-10:30, General Membership Meeting:**

**Pledge**

**Guests**

**Officers Reports: Vice-President,  
Secretary, Treasurer/Membership**

**Ray Scholarship – Craig Spoke**

**Young Eagles – Eric Goldman**

**Member Build Projects Update**

**Ray Scholarship & Ray 2025  
Scholarship Awards—Craig Spoke**

**Cheeseburger Lunch**

## CHAPTER DUES:

For those who haven't gotten around to paying dues yet—it's \$25 per year as usual and can be paid during the meetings or mailed to [Scott Swanson](#).

Scott Swanson

711 Marlinspike Dr.

Pensacola, FL 32507

## Upcoming Events

(CHAPTER EVENTS IN CAPS):

**April 19th, SPRING YOUNG EAGLES RALLY**

**May 3rd, Roy E. Ray Fly-In (5R7)**

**May 10th, MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS +  
Local Military Airspace Briefing**

**July 9-12th, Red White & Blues Pensacola Beach  
Airshow**

**July 12th, MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS**

**July 12-13, Pensacola Beach Air Show**

**June 14th, MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS +  
Paradigm Parachutes Tour (tentative)**

**July 21-27th, Air Venture Oshkosh [https://  
www.eaa.org/airventure](https://www.eaa.org/airventure)**

**Aug. 9th, MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS**

**August 16-17, AOPA Fly-In, Akron, OH (KAKR).  
“Props and Pistons Festival”**

**September 10-14th, National Championship Air  
Races (KROW). <https://airrace.org>**