



# EAA485

December 2025—Panhandle Pelicans

**RIGHT THERE!  
FAR 91.113 (D) (4) !!  
A SLEIGH HAS THE RIGHT-OF-WAY  
OVER ALL OTHER AIR TRAFFIC!**



# PRESIDENT'S NOTES

I'm writing this first paragraph the day after our Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meetings. Donna and DeWitt Barker started the morning off with a spirited VMC/IMC Meeting. Then we covered a wide array of topics at the main membership meeting. Around thirty members attended. Most attendees hung around for our lunch + offering. Recaps of 2025 activity in all chapter programs were provided. See 2025 RECAP slide in this newsletter. Also see the updated photos of the chapter Thatcher build project on [eaa485.org](http://eaa485.org), MEMBERS PROJECTS. We discussed potential guest speakers and field trips for 2026. See slides attached. I'm always looking for more good aviation-themed speakers or local field trips. Let me know of your ideas. Most important to me was that we conducted all our 2025 chapter-related flying activity SAFELY.

A BIG THANK-YOU TO ALL 2025 VOLUNTEERS! Whether you served in a chapter position, flew Young Eagles, helped as a Ground Volunteer, worked on clubhouse projects, the chapter build project or whatever, your help did not go unnoticed.

For those not aware, the Girls in Aviation event was postponed to Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, due to the government shutdown, then cancelled altogether. The concern was that the government might shut down again Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> and again close the Navy Museum. It is now re-scheduled for next fall Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Clubhouse update: The contractor has started to deliver new roof parts. Expect to be contacted when the roof is completed with work dates/times for interior painting.

I made a remark in the November newsletter that we will take "two months off" during the holidays. What the President meant to say was two months off between Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> and Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> meetings.

There will be NO December Chapter Meeting or Holiday Gathering. We will reconvene Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR to all!

Ralph

# 2025 EAA 485 RECAP

- No Aircraft Accidents / Incidents
- Membership Growth: 68 Paying, 18 Honorable, 9 Student, and 6 Life = 101 Official Members. An all-time high.
- Two new Ray Scholarships awarded (\$24,000 value)
- 90+\_Young Eagles Flown
- AIRCRAFT BUILD PROJECTS: Thatcher Chapter Build Project Progressed. Duane Thiessen (Zenith CH750), Scott Swanson (Zenith CH750), Mark Watson (Hatz Bi-plane), Others?
- Field Trips to National Museum of Naval of Naval Aviation, PNS Tower/Approach, Chappie James Flight Academy, Paradigm Parachutes
- Guest Speakers: Mark Rogers (B-52), Lt. Joe Buis (Local Military Airspace Use), Eric Goldman (Local ATC Concerns), Virgil Zetterlind (New Sport Pilot Rules)
- Positive Publicity with EAA
- Clubhouse Improvements: New Heat Pump, bigger TVs

**THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR VOLUNTEERISM!**

# Possible 2026 Guest Speakers

Aviation Insurance Agent

Retired SR-71 Pilot

Sean Londrigan, Sr, USAF V-22 Osprey Development Briefing

AOPA Airport Reps for PNS and/or JKA

Kevin Kropp, PSC Student Services Advisor, Aviation Mechanics

Dr.Scott Rossow, DO, DABR, CFII, FAA Deputy Regional Flight Surgeon, Central Region

# Possible 2026 Field Trips

Kevin Kropp, ST Engineering at PNS

AIRBUS at BFM

Continental Motors aircraft engine factory Mobile  
Museum of Naval Aviation



## ▶ 2026 | SHOW SCHEDULE

### MARCH

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- 14 | NAF El Centro, CA | NAF El Centro Festival of Flight
- 21 - 22 | NAS Lemoore, CA | NAS Lemoore Air Show
- 28 - 29 | NAS Meridian, MS | NAS Meridian Air Show

### APRIL

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- 11 - 12 | Cocoa Beach, FL | Air-Space Expo
- 18 - 19 | NAS Kingsville, TX | Wings Over South Texas
- 25 - 26 | Vidalia, GA | Vidalia Onion Festival Air Show

### MAY

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- 2 - 3 | JB Charleston, SC | Charleston Air Show "Heroes of Flight"
- 9 - 10 | MCAS Cherry Point, NC | MCAS Cherry Point Air Show
- 16 - 17 | Vero Beach, FL | Vero Beach Air Show
- 20 - 22 | Annapolis, MD | U.S. Naval Academy Air Show / Flyover
- 23 - 24 | Harrisburg (Middletown), PA | Air Dot Show Harrisburg

### JUNE

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- 6 - 7 | Chesterfield, MO | Spirit of St. Louis Air Show & STEM Expo
- 13 - 14 | Dayton, OH | CenterPoint Energy Dayton Air Show
- 20 - 21 | Patuxent River, MD | 75th Anniversary Air Expo
- 27 - 28 | Baltimore, MD | MD Fleet Week & Fly Over Baltimore

### JULY

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- 5 - 6 | Wantagh, NY | Four-Leaf Air Show
- 11 - 12 | Brunswick, ME | Great State of Maine Air Show
- 18 | Pensacola Beach, FL | Pensacola Beach Air Show

### AUGUST

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- 1 - 2 | Seattle, WA | Boeing Seafair Air Show
- 8 - 9 | Anchorage, AK | Arctic Thunder Air Show & Open House
- 15 - 16 | McMinnville, OR | Oregon International Air Show
- 22 - 23 | Billings, MT | Yellowstone International Air Show
- 29 - 30 | Chicago, IL | 68th Annual Chicago Air & Water Show

### SEPTEMBER

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- 5 - 7 | Cleveland, OH | Cleveland National Air Show
- 19 - 20 | Virginia Beach, VA | NAS Oceana Air Show
- 25 - 27 | San Diego, CA | MCAS Miramar Air Show

### OCTOBER

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- 3 - 4 | Grand Junction, CO | Grand Junction Air Show
- 10 - 11 | San Francisco, CA | San Francisco Fleet Week
- 17 - 18 | NAS Jacksonville, FL | NAS Jacksonville Air Show
- 24 - 25 | El Paso, TX | Amigo Airshow
- 31 | Peachtree City, GA | Air Dot Show Atlanta

### NOVEMBER

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- 1 | Peachtree City, GA | Air Dot Show Atlanta
- 6 - 7 | NAS Pensacola, FL | Blue Angels Homecoming Air Show

# RAY AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP

## December Report

**Lily Bannon** is steadily continuing her training. She has completed her night flying requirements and has flown 2 solo cross-country flights. She is scheduled for her long solo cross-country flight on Saturday. After completing her cross country, she needs two hours of simulated IMC and to prepare for her check ride.

## 2026 Ray Scholarship Program Processes

Here's the timeline we can expect:

The chapter applied for two matching scholarships. (November 2025)

Chapter is awarded a scholarship by EAA in January 2026.

Chapter request scholars to submit applications and receives applications from interested candidates. (February 2026)

Chapter nominates its scholar • Chapter scholarship committee interviews and vets candidates, then selects nominees. (March 2026)

Scholar submits their application to EAA (by EOM March 2026): • EAA reviews and approves new scholars at the beginning of each month.

EAA approves scholar and notifies chapter: target April 2026

—Scott Swanson



  
**Webinars**  
INTERACTIVE | EDUCATIONAL | MOBILE

Our [November and December webinars](#) are here! You will find many FAA WINGS credit and AMT credit presentations, safe flying strategies, and more! We're sure you'll find a presentation to enjoy! Preregistration is recommended, as space is limited.

# FALLSTREAK HOLES:

## What's that funny hole in the clouds?

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DENNIS K. JOHNSON

AOPA

MAY 1, 2025

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Standing outside your hangar, gazing skyward, have you ever seen an unusually sharp hole in the cloud deck above? If you have, was it circular, elliptical, or possibly square or rectangular?



There are times when these holes look so odd, so neatly cut through the clouds that some people believe they are evidence of a UFO arrival, or perhaps a departure with cows aboard. Personally, I think it's a sign for me to take off in search of pancakes, not ET.

You can champion the UFO theory or demonstrate your vast meteorological knowledge by explaining to your fellow pilots that this unusual phenomenon is known as a fallstreak hole, sometimes also called a hole punch cloud, cloud canal, skypunch, or cloud hole. Or, to sound extra brainy, you could identify it as a "cavum," a Latin word that means "cavity."

Fallstreak holes sometimes appear in mid- to high-level cirrocumulus or altocumulus clouds, common clouds that are primarily composed of supercooled water droplets, which is water that is below the freezing point, but still remains liquid. Below freezing, but not frozen?

How's that work? As Professor Proton would tell us, water normally freezes at 32 degrees Fahrenheit (0 degrees Celsius), but there are exceptions. Water suspended in very clean air can be chilled below 32 degrees F and still remain liquid, a process known as "supercooling."

In addition to cold temperatures, water usually requires small particles—impurities such as dust, pollution, fungal spores, or even tiny bacteria—to act as nucleation points on which the ice crystals can form. Without these particles, water can remain liquid in sub-freezing temperatures, becoming "supercooled." This can happen at high altitudes where there are few particles to trigger the crystallization. However, this supercooled water is also very unstable and will flash-freeze when disturbed or suddenly cooled further.

Supercooling occurs frequently in the atmosphere. Altocumulus clouds, which are common in the mid-altitudes, are usually composed of supercooled water droplets at about 5 degrees F. These clouds cover about eight percent of the Earth at any time.

According to NOAA, fallstreak holes are formed when an aircraft passes through these types of clouds. The aircraft's movement causes the air flowing over its wings and fuselage to expand and cool, a process known as adiabatic cooling. Jet wings can cool the air by as much as 36 degrees F, causing the supercooled water droplets to freeze into tiny ice crystals without the help of airborne particles.

As the crystals form, they absorb nearby water droplets, growing until they are heavy enough to fall from the cloud, leaving a hole behind. These ice crystals can sometimes be seen falling as virga. I assume the name "fallstreak" comes from the feathery wisps of ice crystals that are sometimes seen falling from the cloud hole. While you're explaining fallstreak holes to everyone at the office party, you can add that virga (sometimes called a dry storm) is precipitation that evaporates or sublimates before reaching the ground. At high altitudes, virga is usually composed of ice crystals which melt into rain before evaporating above the ground.

Sometimes you'll see very elongated fallstreak holes and these are known as "canal clouds." Whether the hole is circular or elliptical depends on the cloud thickness, air temperature, horizontal wind shear, and the aircraft's vertical speed. Both descending and ascending aircraft—including jets and propeller airplanes—can trigger fallstreak and canal clouds. I've seen cloud holes with straight sides in the shape of a rectangle and you can find photographs online showing square holes. Because of these unusual appearances and their rarity, fallstreak holes have sometimes been attributed to UFOs. By whom, I don't know.

In the past, scientists observed this phenomenon and mentioned it in scientific journals, speculating about their creation, but it wasn't until the twenty-first century that anyone really investigated. Sensible research by sensible scientists at the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (a nonprofit association of universities that provide research and education in atmospheric and related sciences) determined that fallstreak holes are caused by airplanes, not ET. They also learned that when airplanes pass through clouds at a steep angle, smaller, circular holes appear, whereas if they cruised through the wispy stuff at a shallow angle, then longer elliptical "canal clouds" resulted. They reported that almost any aircraft type from jumbo jets to private jets, military aircraft, and turboprops can produce fallstreak holes. They didn't mention the effect of flying saucers.

# Before Thanksgiving



# After Thanksgiving



## EAA and Local Chapter Sites

[EAA 485](#)

[EAA HDQTRS](#)

[EAA 416](#)

[Interesting Links](#)

[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](#)

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 turn south on Aileron Avenue and enter at the main airport entrance. Turn right at the dumpsters and follow the single-lane paved road. Just short of the blue aircraft hangars, turn left. Our white clubhouse is at the end on the left. If the main airport entrance gate is locked, continue south on Aileron Avenue to the end and turn left into the back gate. Open and close the gate behind you. Make a right once past the blue hangars. You'll see our white clubhouse at the end on the left.

For more info contact:

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

## 2025 Officers and Committee Chairmen

**President:** [Ralph Moser](#)  
(847) 736-4603

**Vice President:** [Mark Rogers](#)

**Tech Counselor/Flight Advisor:** (251) 228-0356

**Secretary:** [Jacob Abston](#)  
(251)424-5004

**Treasurer/Membership:** [Kaydee MacDonald](#)

**Ray Scholarship Coordinator:** [Scott Swanson](#)  
(309)-267-9710

**Young Eagles Coordinator:** [Eric Goldman](#)  
(317) 910-2513

**Webmaster:** [Doug Francisco](#)  
(850) 453-5501

**VMC Club /** [Donna and DeWitt Barker](#)

**IMC Club** (850) 572-0288

**Newsletter Editor:** [Courtney Wielander](#)

**Tech Counselor** [John McKiernan](#)  
**Flight Advisor** (850) 291-4134

**Thatcher CX4 Build**





Home Of The  
PANHANDLE PELICANS

EAA 485 Pensacola, FL

EAA 485  
news

## Santa's Pre- Christmas flight check:

Santa Claus, like all pilots, gets regular visits from the Federal Aviation Administration, and the FAA examiner arrived last week for the pre-Christmas flight check.

In preparation, Santa had the elves wash the sled and bathe all the reindeer. Santa got his logbook out and made sure all his paperwork was in order. He knew they would examine all his equipment and truly put Santa's flying skills to the test...

The examiner walked slowly around the sled. He checked the reindeer harnesses, the landing gear, and Rudolph's nose. He painstakingly reviewed Santa's weight and balance calculations for the sled's enormous payload.

Finally, they were ready for the checkride. Santa got in and fastened his seatbelt and shoulder harness and checked the compass. Then the examiner hopped in carrying, to Santa's surprise, a shotgun.

"What's that for?!?" asked Santa incredulously.

The examiner winked and said, "I'm not supposed to tell you this ahead of time," as he leaned over to whisper in Santa's ear, "but you're gonna lose an engine on takeoff."

**Next chapter meeting is:**

**Saturday, January 10th, 2025**

### Upcoming Events

#### (CHAPTER EVENTS IN CAPS):

**January 10<sup>th</sup>, MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS + Guest Speaker**

**February 14<sup>th</sup>, MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS – Program TBA**

**March 14<sup>th</sup>, MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS – Program TBA**

**April 11<sup>th</sup>, MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS – Program TBA**

**April, Date TBA, SPRING YOUNG EAGLES RALLY**

**April 14-19, Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo, Lakeland, FL**

**July 20-26<sup>th</sup>, Air Venture, Oshkosh, WI**