



Runway

15



The Monthly Newsletter for Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 1541, Lincoln, California

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On the Horizon: Calendar of Events

For the most up-to-date information, go to the chapter website: <https://eaa1541.org/>

Date	Topic
Thursday January 8, 2026 7-8 pm	IMC/VMC club online "What Would You Do? scenarios" FAA Wings credit available
Saturday January 10 11-1 pm	Second Saturday BBQ lunch Program: Marty Maisel presents <i>Hollywood and Aviation</i>
Saturday, January 17, 2026 8:00a – 12n	KLHM Vintage Aircraft Display day Airport main ramp

EAA CHAPTER 1541 INFORMATION

Meetings	Usually the second Saturday of each month held at KLHM Hangar S-12. Details available on the website.
E-mail	eaa1541@gmail.com
Website	https://eaa1541.org
Mailing Address	EAA chapter 1541, PO Box 1126, Lincoln, CA 95648
Chapter Hangar	Hangar S-12, Lincoln Airport
President	Scott Thompson
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Penny Mach
Treasurer	Scott Whelan
Chapter Board of Directors	Paul Darbo Jim Hughes Lesa McArdle Jeremy Preece Josh Smith
Membership	Chapter dues: \$30 per year for individuals and families; \$300 for gold



President's Corner



Well, here we are close to wrapping up 2025. Our last event of the year will be the Holiday Party to be held at BJ's Restaurant in Roseville on Wednesday, December 10. We'll take a holiday break after that but jump back into our normal schedule in January.

As 2025 draws to a close, I'll use a few words to look back and a few to look forward. First off, though, I'll note that the Holiday Party the chapter held at BJ's Restaurant on December 10th was, by all my measures anyway, a great success. We had about fifty attendees, and all appeared to be having a good time through the evening. The food was great, and we had wine generously donated by Bruce Estes. We held our first ever aviation trivia contest, put together by Penny Mach, that ended the evening on a fun note. And, the chapter received a large

donation to our scholarship fund from the City of Lincoln and the Lincoln Area Chamber of Commerce (see elsewhere in this newsletter for those details).

But, looking back on 2025, we had some notable happenings:

- We flew 89 Young Eagles over six rallies during the year.
- We had some great presentations at our gatherings including one by Taigh Ramey in April that detailed his involvement with the making of the Masters of the Air miniseries.
- We completed our EAA Build and Fly RC model project and successfully flew it.
- We sponsored two young people to attend the Air Academy summer camp in Oshkosh.
- We are administering our 2025 Ray Aviation scholar as she works toward completing her flight training for a private pilot certificate.
- We held a well-attended IFR Mini-Symposium in March that featured an ATC controller from NORCAL TRACON.
- We hosted two Airport User's Meetings for the city and airport users.
- We continue to host our popular IMC/VMC Club Zoom meetings each month.
- We participated in the city's Wings and Wheels airport event in August with ramp help, an informational booth, and providing flight simulator experiences for young people.

There was much more activity that went on routinely, including our monthly newsletter (that you're now reading) and fine breakfast and lunch meals prepared by our cooking team headed by Scott Whelan.

Now, looking forward to 2026, here are some of my expectations for our chapter:

- We hope to sponsor two Ray Aviation Scholars in 2026 by taking advantage of an EAA program whereby the chapter pays 25% of the scholarship cost, with the Ray program picking up the larger 75% portion.
- We plan to offer the opportunity to sponsor two young people for the Air Academy summer camps in Oshkosh.

- We're putting together what I hope will be some interesting programs for this year's
- gatherings...see more about this below.
- We'll participate again in the city's Wings and Wheels event.
- We'll make a concerted effort to add to our chapter leadership looking ahead to the years to come.
- We'll continue to report on the happenings of the airport with new hangars, new projects, new revenue possibilities, and other things coming down final approach.

I will mention here that the chapter is primarily limited these days by a shortage of volunteers who have a passion for a particular subject and will work to make something happen around that. If you're that person...I want to talk to you. Whether it is to put together a technical program on electrical wiring, or how to fly a Bay Tour, or tell the story of building your airplane...yes, we have room for that. Our 2026 program schedule beyond January is wide open...so if you have something to say that will interest our aviation compatriots, please, talk to me.

And, I mentioned developing leadership for the chapter. As in most volunteer organizations, it takes a few folks with the vision and dedication to keep things moving forward. We're fortunate in having a board of directors and officers that satisfy that need. However, our chapter's Vice President position has remained vacant this past year, and we can always use some new ideas and perspectives in our leadership. Looking forward to the end of 2026 when we elect a new board and new officers, I ask that if you have an interest or a passion in helping move the chapter forward, please talk to me. You can respond to our chapter's email and I'll get back in contact with you.

Finally, in summary, thanks to all for a good year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Scott Thompson
EAA chapter 1541 President



Second Saturday Gathering on January 10

Our January 2026 Second Saturday gathering will be a BBQ Lunch with a program set for Saturday, January 10, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be burgers and fixings created by our excellent cooking team. \$10 per person or \$25 for families...and Gold Members eat for free! (For more information about Gold Memberships...ask at the check-in table on Saturday) If you plan to eat lunch, get in line early...we expect to close the grill at 11:45...so eat early and often.



Our free flight simulators will be up and running for young and old alike. Experience a bit of literal hangar flying.

Our planned program for January will be presented by chapter member and aviation historian Marty Maisel on ***Hollywood and Aviation*** - a review of the link from the early years to the current time.

Program will begin at about 12:00 after a very short little chapter meeting.



Please Complete the 2025 EAA Chapter Member Survey

The 2025 EAA Chapter Member Survey is available for all chapter members. This is a short online survey that takes about five minutes...just five minutes...to complete. The **deadline** for participation is coming up...**Wednesday, December 31**. The survey is conducted by the national EAA and the results are provided as feedback to our leadership group. It gives us an idea if we are meeting the needs of our chapter's members. If you have not yet done so and you are an EAA and Chapter 1541 member, please take a few minutes to complete the survey. [This is the link to the survey](#). Thanks for your help.

[Take the Survey Now](#)

After the surveys are finalized, chapter officers will receive their chapter's results to better understand the thoughts from chapter members who elected to participate in the survey. Use the survey feedback to improve the chapter experience for your local members. Additionally, this annual survey provides EAA with a snapshot of the types of events and programs chapter members want. The survey will also be used to provide EAA Chapter Recognition Credit to all chapters who meet the minimum survey criteria found [here](#).



Chapter Receives \$7,500 Donation for Youth Scholarship

Our chapter is very grateful to receive a donation of \$7,500 from the City of Lincoln and the Lincoln Area Chamber of Commerce that will be added to our youth scholarship fund. The donated funds come as a result of the very successful airport Wings and Wheels event held this past August, sponsored by the city and the chamber. The donation was presented to us by City of Council member and Wings and Wheels chairman (and chapter member) Richard Pearl at our Holiday Party held earlier in December.



Our chapter's Richard and Susan Bristow Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund is administered by us to provide scholarship and grant opportunities to young people pursuing serious aviation goals. There are many recipients of our scholarship efforts, but this specific \$7,500 donation will enable the chapter to sponsor two Ray Aviation scholars in 2026. The normal Ray Aviation scholarship program provides recipients with \$12,000 toward flight training, and is limited to selected chapters and only granted to one per chapter. An enhanced scholarship program, though, allows the chapter to provide 25% of the funding for the scholarship and, in that case, allows for two Ray Aviation scholars for the chapter. We have applied to that EAA program to administer two scholarships for 2026. More information is forthcoming soon about the application process for those interested.

Membership Update

New Members:

Please welcome the following new members to EAA Chapter 1541:

Jason A.: Jason has been invited to our January meeting and we look forward to seeing him at our chapter events.

Membership Renewal:

Just a reminder that chapter membership renewals for 2026 are due January 1st! Annual membership dues in 2026 will remain at \$30 for both individual and family memberships. We will continue to offer an individual Gold membership at \$300. Visit our chapter website today, renew your membership, and check that off your 2026 "To Do List". We thank you for your continued support of our chapter.

Treasurer's Report

Members: As of November 30th, our chapter membership stands at 220, including 12 Gold memberships.

Dues Reminder: Just a friendly reminder for those who haven't paid your dues yet, now's the time. You can renew on-line using [PayPal](#), mail a check to our PO Box, or in person at any chapter meeting. This is also a good time to verify your EAA National membership is also up to date. Thank you again for your support

Ray Scholar: As of November 30th, the balance is - \$2,959.00. The October training expenses were \$2,274.00

Activity:**R&S Scholarship fund:**

Increases – income from the donation buckets at the lunch meeting and recycling income – \$149.50, including the sale of a donated bomber jacket \$80.00.
Decreases – No Activity

Hangar fund: No Activity

Chapter's fund:

Increases – Member Dues \$ 840.00, Meal sales \$100.00, PrePaid Holiday Party \$1,375.00
Decreases – Food costs \$ 128.78, New audio board for the hangar \$80.38. Muffins and Juice for the Young Eagles event \$44.98.

Account Balances:

Hangar Fund	<i>Ending Balance</i>	\$ 30,216.48
R&S Scholarship Fund	<i>Ending Balance</i>	\$ 19,882.03
General Fund	<i>Ending Balance</i>	\$ 20,753.36
Ray Scholar Fund	<i>Ending Balance</i>	\$ (2,959.00)
Balance of all accounts	<i>November 30, 2025</i>	<hr/> \$ 67,892.87

Aviation thought for the month: Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good flight

Respectfully Submitted,
Scott Whelan
Treasurer
EAA Chapter 1541

EAA Air Academy Summer Camp 2026



EAA Air Academy is a great opportunity for youth ages 14-18 to attend summer camp and be immersed in everything aviation. Camps are broken into two age groups: 14-15 and 16-18. EAA Air Academy is a 6 or 9 day residential camp held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin starting as early as June 11 and ending August 1. Two camps overlap with AirVenture, and campers experience the excitement of attending events on the AirVenture grounds.

Chapter 1541 has been sponsoring youth to attend Air Academy each year since 2019. This year we are looking for youth who are willing to make a commitment to represent our chapter at Air Academy. Youth will be asked to complete an application, volunteer at chapter activities, assure they will attend the camp dates assigned, and present to the membership a short program about their experience upon their return.

If this sounds like something you or your family member would be interested in, please review the information about Air Academy 2026 on the EAA national website: eaa.org/AirAcademy. Once you have thoroughly reviewed the website information, send the chapter an email stating your interest and include the camp title and date you are interested in, youth's name, age, and birthdate, and a contact e-mail and phone number for a parent. A chapter member will then contact you with directions on completing a chapter sponsorship application. **Application deadline is January 31, 2026.**



Ninety Years Ago: DC-3 First Flew

We can't let December pass without recognizing that the first flight of the venerable Douglas DC-3 occurred on December 17, 1935. (That date was just 32 years after the first powered flight conducted by the Wright Brothers.)

Everybody remotely connected with aviation knows what a DC-3 is, but as a recap, it is recognized as the first of the modern airliners...all metal, twin-engine monoplane, with modern features such as retractable landing gear and controllable pitch propellers, carrying 21 passengers plus crew. It was the first airliner that could actually make money for the airlines without having to rely on air mail subsidies. And, it could actually sustain flight on one engine...not very well, but it could.



The DC-3 flew as an active airliner for the majors through the 1940s, and with cargo and feeder carriers through the 1980s. It soldiered on through World War II, Korea, and Vietnam as the C-47 flying missions never envisioned by the designers at Santa Monica in 1935. And it flew specialized missions for numerous government, corporate, and private organizations.

There are still dozens out there flying, some actually still earning money for its owners, but most are now airshow queens.

Project Updates and Adventures

Brent Smith writes:

Finally got the ruddervator cables re-tensioned and their turnbuckles safetied, so the fixes to Menehune's tail are done with full ruddervator travel and re-indexed trim. Time to put the seat back in, the pod and canopy back on and do a new W & B.

Brent



Chapter member **Paul Cannon** (on the left) happily accepted a freshly minted FAA Airworthiness certificate for his "23 years in the making" Kitfox Lite Squared aircraft, from Designated Airworthiness Representative Richard "Dilly" Dilbeck (shown on the right in the picture) on Thursday, December 18th.



Paul first purchased the complete kit along with Rotax 912 ULS engine and prop in 2002 while on active duty in the Army, and after working on it for a few weeks stored it away in his garage until attending the January 2025 EAA 1541 chapter meeting. There he met tech counselor

Dan Masys, who made a house call to check on the condition of the two-decade old kit components.

Since everything was in good condition, Paul and Dan then decided to turn the kit into an airplane. Beginning the project on January 24th of this year, Paul learned dozens of new first-time builder skills, including teaching himself how to do Oratex fabric covering and personally doing the covering of the wings, fuselage and all of the other flying surfaces. Together they went through the not-very-detailed 2002 instructions to assemble the airframe and systems, and install the still-in-the-factory box Rotax engine and Warp Drive prop. Dan led the design, fabrication and installation of electrical and avionics systems, which included some leftover "glass cockpit" displays from his RV-10. Chapter youth member Bhuvan Datta worked on installing wing wiring for the uAvionix ADS-B out and wingtip strobes, and Dan Doman designed and installed custom brackets to support the engine cowling. A fine team effort.

The Kitfox can be seen with its wings folded in the EAA hangar. Phase 1 flight testing will begin as soon as weather permits.

Just for Holiday Laughs



