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**Special points of interest:**

Our next gathering will be in Saturday February 15 at 6:00 pm. IMC/VMC Clubs meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Next Young Eagles Rally & pancake breakfast is Saturday, April 19, 2025. We're always looking for good ideas for programs. Please contact Chris St. Germain with your information.



**THREEPEAT?**

Yes, I know: this is not directly related to Chapter 91, EAA, or even aviation. But it's our local team, and we are mighty proud of them. Plus, the Chiefs do fly when they go to road games, so it's not totally off topic. Whichever way we want to spin it, just this one time we're going to feature and pay homage to our great football team and wish them the very best in today's Super Bowl LIX in New Orleans. A win earns us a new record for consecutive victories. So, GO CHIEFS! You'll make us proud.

- President: **Rob Schmitt**
- Vice President and Young Eagles Coordinator: **Chris St. Germain**
- Secretary: **Becca Danik**
- Treasurer: **Sandy Rice**
- Board: **Jim Brady, Paul Rodriguez, Larry Rhoads, Phil Ishmael**
- Tech Counselors: **Bill Gill, Mark Burrow, & John Rice.**
- Flight Advisor: **Bill Gill**
- Program Chairman: **Chris St. Germain**
- Maintenance: **Tom Licata**
- Newsletter: **Bruce Hood**
- Web Editor: **James Perkins**
- Eagle Flight Coordinator: **Matt Williams**

EAA Chapter 91, Lee's Summit Municipal Airport (KLXT)  
Lee's Summit, Missouri

# President's Corner

EAA Chapter 91 president Rob Schmitt

We had a major snow event in January that shut down the airport and the access to our chapter's hangars for several days. Clearing away the snow in front of our hangars is a Chapter responsibility. It is a pretty rare event when this occurs, but I would like to set up a volunteer team to tackle this next time it occurs. Please contact me to be added to the response team. If you have just a snow shovel or possibility a truck with a blade and would like help out, that would be appreciated. I don't think this will happen very often, but Mother Nature is in charge, not us.

It's time for our annual awards banquet! Once again, we will be having a wonderful catered meal from Nadler's Catering. We have an awesome guest speaker set up so please join us! If you haven't sent me your RSVP, please do so by February 10. Please call, text, or email me at [robert7721@aol.com](mailto:robert7721@aol.com) or 816 309-0099. The cost will be \$20 per person. We will also be raffling off some great gifts at the banquet so bring some cash along for that as well!

The chapter is applying for another Ray Scholarship in 2025 and should know by the end of February. Applications are now open, and if you are interested, please contact Jim Brady at [brady13381@aol.com](mailto:brady13381@aol.com), or me.

Upcoming Chapter 91 highlights include:

- IMC/VMC Club: Monday, February 10 at 7 pm. In-person only.
- Annual Chapter Awards Banquet, Saturday February 15, 6 pm.
- Date for next board meeting: Monday, March 3, 7 pm.



# **EAA CHAPTER 91 GATHERING**

## **MINUTES**

**January 20, 2025**

- I. The meeting and pizza social was called to order by President Rob Schmitt and following a warm welcome, he led us in the Pilot's Prayer. Delicious pizza was enjoyed by all and once everyone was eating, Rob reminded everyone about our upcoming banquet in February. If you are interested in attending, please make sure you RSVP! Dave Sizoo, an experienced test pilot, will be our presenter, so it should be an exciting program. Jim Brady presented updates on the Ray Scholarship and that the chapter will be hearing back in the next few months if we have been awarded a slot. He requests that all applications be submitted to the chapter by the end of February. Rob reminded all that the next Hedrick Scholarship window will be in March of 2025.
  
- II. Calendar: February board meeting: Monday, February 3, 7 pm.  
IMC/VMC Club: Monday, February 10, 7 pm. February banquet/gathering/awards program: Saturday, February 15, 6 pm.

## **SNOW SHOVELERS REQUESTED**

Just in case you may have missed Rob's request of snow shovelers, please take another look at the "President's Corner" column on Page 2. Thanks to our recent weather conditions, a new need has been discovered. If you can help, please contact Rob. His information is in that column. Thank you as always for your generous assistance.



Our next meeting of the VMC Club will be **Monday, February 10th at 7:00 p.m.**

We have often talked about the NASA report, the pilot's get-out-of-jail-free card. This is the self-report that lets the FAA know, anonymously, that you did something not quite right that you think other pilots should know about, but you really don't want to incriminate yourself. Did you ever wonder where those reports go? And how they might help us become safer pilots?

**We meet at the Chapter 91 EAA hangar** at the Lee's Summit Airport. Driving directions - take I-470 to Exit 9, Douglas Drive / Lee's Summit Drive, and turn north. At the bottom of the hill, turn right and follow the road to the end. The Larry Young Eagle hangar is on the west side of the parking lot next to the Cessna on a Post.

There is no cost to sit in on our monthly meetings. IMC membership is free to EAA members and guests. Not an EAA member? Ask me about a free six-month EAA membership.

Chris Hope, CFI-I, IMC Club Facilitator  
2018 FAA Flight Instructor of the Year, Central Region

## **LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM**

Last month's program did not exist since the chapter met at Summit Pizza for our annual pizza night gathering. While your intrepid reporter and editor was not there, and my trusty helpers forgot to take pictures, we are unable to document the event. But reports indicate some thirty to forty members and significant others attended. That's a decent turnout for a wintertime activity, and we understand it was very well received – both by our members and the staff at Summit Pizza.

In fact, a casual mention at our recent board meeting indicated encouragement to hold the event at this location again next year. So, if you (like I did) missed this one, stay tuned, because it looks like it may repeat again in 2026. If that's too long to wait, I'm sure the Summit Pizza folks would love to have you stop in for an intermittent sampling.

## **THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM**

For February's banquet, our speaker will top off the evening with some fascinating stories because he is a highly accomplished test pilot. David Sizoo has performed this test-pilot function on a wide range of fixed-wing, rotary-wing, and powered-lift aircraft. He currently works for the FAA and has test flown multiple Advanced Air Mobility and eVTOL aircraft. The truth is he has worked with more than two hundred different aircraft, so this talk promises to be entertaining. Some certification testing includes Gulfstream jets; the Cirrus Vision Jet, including Emergency Autoland by Garmin; the Zeppelin NT Fly by Wire Airship; Gamebird Composites Aerobatic GB1; Extra 330 LT; gliders including Stemme S12, ASK 21, DG 1000 motorglider; and seaplanes including ICON A5, Pilatus PC12 turboprop, PC24 business Jet, Daher TBM 940, Robinson R44 and R66 helicopters; and all electric propulsion Advanced Air Mobility aircraft from Beta, Joby, and Archer.

He has flown multiple new technologies on military aircraft including F16 Viper, Harrier AV-8B, and the F18 Hornet. New technologies tested on GA aircraft include a fly-by-wire Navion, a Cessna 182 with artificial Intelligence guidance, and automatic ground collision avoidance on a NASA Cirrus SR22. And if he needs to score a few extra points, he has served as production/functional test pilot for A10s, F16s, Robinson helicopters, Cessna aircraft, Cirrus aircraft, and Gulfstream. If that's not enough aviation for you, I don't know where else you'd find it! We are looking forward to meeting and hearing about David's incredible list of achievements on Saturday, February 15, starting at six p.m. at the Larry Young Eagle Hangar. We hope you will join us.

# **BANQUET MENU AND ACTIVITIES**

For the past several years, Chapter 91 has welcomed the skilled cooking and serving skills from Nadler's Catering. So again for 2025, we welcome back these fine ladies who spend their Saturday evenings helping make us happy. They have proven themselves to be outstanding at what they do, and we are pleased to reward them with our business. So, when you come on Saturday, February 15, please pass along a well-deserved thank-you to these fine folks. We really do appreciate their efforts.

The menu for our banquet is as follows:

- Tossed Salad w/ Dressings
- Green Bean Casserole
- Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- Assorted Rolls & Breads
- BBQ Beef Brisket
- Deboned Smoked Turkey
- Assorted Desserts
- Beverages

We are pleased to announce that this year's price per attendee is being held at \$20, which makes this dinner especially economical compared to going to a restaurant. Being able to hold it at our own facility is an added bonus.

When you arrive Saturday evening, you may pay your tab at the door. (Should you forget your wallet, I'm sure the Nadler's folks will welcome your help with the KP duties. We understand the dish soap is mild and really kind to your hands.) You may also BYOB if you would like. The evening will start with a social hour followed by dinner, a brief business meeting, our speaker, and the results of our raffle. We hope you are able to join us for this popular annual event.

## **BANQUET SETUP HELP SOUGHT**

With our annual banquet providing the background for our February gathering, the chapter is looking for some help in moving airplanes and arranging and setting up the tables and chairs. That will happen around one o'clock on February 15 – the day of the gathering. We know the chapter has many highly experienced airplane wranglers and setup specialists, so we are hoping you will step up for this event. If you can help out, please contact Rob Schmitt at [robert7721@aol.com](mailto:robert7721@aol.com) or by phone or text at 816 309-0099. Your assistance, as always, is greatly appreciated.

## BANQUET RAFFLE ITEMS



Our February banquet and awards program continues to please attendees with a great meal, an interesting speaker, and some pretty impressive raffle prizes. Again, this year, our own world-class aviation artist, Phil Schmidt, has donated a gorgeous print for this purpose. The newest one is a stunning FA-18 Hornet streaking across the canvas. I'll bet Phil would be pleased to paint your aircraft for you, too. So, you might ask Phil how that works when you come February 15.



Hattie Cunningham is providing a gorgeous hand-made quilt. The design is called "Propeller," and she said the actual quilting stitches are sewn in a propeller-like motif. A closer examination of the actual piece should clarify exactly how that looks. Clearly, Hattie is a talented quilter, and this should prove very popular among bidders. Get your bids ready for some serious competition.



John and Sandy Rice are donating a beautiful bag/carry case from Lightspeed Headsets. Sandy was explaining a bit about it, but I failed to write the details down, so rest assured there is more to this than my meager explanation. It is a very high-quality item, and you will most certainly want to examine it closely at the banquet. Somebody's going to love this one.

# SCHOLARSHIP UDATES

## Ray Scholarship

Jim Brady, our Ray Scholarship coordinator, reported that he is waiting to find out if the chapter will receive another scholarship slot for 2025. With our impressive history, we have every reason to assume that will be the case, but we never know until headquarters gives the nod.

Jim has made the assumption that we will win that honored prize again, and based on that, has moved forward requesting applications from well-qualified young people eager to earn the prize. So far, he's had three or four responses, so we're off to a good start. He has been careful to clarify the situation, however, so as not to misrepresent our status. Everyone seems to be understanding and we look forward to reviewing the applicants. Each year, the competition gets stiffer, with every applicant being of such a high quality, it's difficult for the selection committee to decide. But that's a nice problem to have! We are looking forward to Jim's March announcement that Chapter 91 has received another Ray Scholarship slot for the coming year.

## Hedrick Scholarship

Rob Schmitt recently brought us up to date on the status of several past Hedrick scholars. This is the chapter's private program which provides \$1,500 for up to two applicants twice a year. The spring term is quickly approaching, so if you know of deserving pilots or pilot wannabes, please make them aware of this scholarship. The money is not as generous as the Ray Scholarship, but it's also not as restrictive. The Hedrick applies to anyone, regardless of age, and can be used for any phase of flight, including such things as a tailwheel endorsement, or even moving to another rating. For more information, please contact Rob at robert7721 or 816 909-0099.

## **SUMMIT TECHNICAL ACADEMY VISIT PENDING**

Summit Technical Academy had originally planned to visit Chapter 91 in late fall of last year, but technical difficulties caused a delay in that plan. While we have not yet finalized the event for the new year, we are tentatively looking at April 11. This is not set in stone, however, so please don't make any plans just yet. We will keep you informed as things firm up. By necessity, it will need to be on a school day, so be thinking accordingly.

Summit Technical Academy is a local program that links many of the area's higher-level students with career-aligning interests in several areas; aviation happens to be one of those. In the past, we have hosted this group and demonstrated a number of building and flying activities that have caused the top people to want to come back again. This year, we are hoping to include a Young Eagles type of day into the curriculum. That is guaranteed to improve the popularity.

Obviously, presenters and additional help will be needed, so we will provide the appropriate notifications as they become available. Chapter 91 is looking forward to greeting this ambitious and bright group of kids very soon.

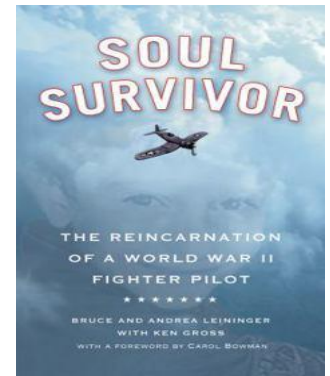


## **Book Review – Soul Survivor**

**By Bruce and Andrea Leininger with Ken Gross,  
Grand Central Publishing 2009**

*Review by Chris Hope, Master CFI*

“Soul Survivor” is a book that has and will continue to generate comment. Not too surprising, the internet is full of comments: many heated, some foul, regarding the authors, the subject matter, and seemingly anyone related to the story. Is it a hoax? Is it the account of well-meaning but misguided parents? Or is it, in fact, exactly what it says it is – a mom and dad’s search for truth about their son through a very unusual situation?



The story involves James Leininger, two years old when the story opens, and his parents, Bruce and Andrea. To Andrea’s horror, young James awakes in the middle of the night screaming for no apparent reason. What kind of nightmare can a two-year old experience? As time goes by, the nightmares continue – not every night, but often.

As James ages, he becomes enamored with aircraft. But not just aircraft in general: he becomes captivated by the Corsair, a US Navy plane used in the Pacific theater in World War II. His nightmares continue. Over the next few years, he talks about a particular ship and particular pilots. And he screams to have the fire put out so that he might live.

The conclusion that his parents slowly reach is that James is actually reliving the last minutes of the life of James Huston, a Navy fighter pilot who died in World War II. For Bruce and Andrea, two people with an unshakable belief in the Christian notion of life everlasting after death, the concept of reincarnation is unacceptable, and the thought that their own son is himself a reincarnation even more so.

The story is told straightforwardly with less emotion than I would have expressed had it happened to me. The authors draw no conclusions, make no predictions. They merely relate the events of two years of their young son’s life.

Whether you approach this book as a parent, as a person of faith, or merely as an aviator, you will find it worth your time.

*Chris loves to read, write, and fly, but not necessarily in that order.  
You can reach him at: [Thehopes-chris@kc.rr.com](mailto:Thehopes-chris@kc.rr.com)*

# SOARING WITH EAGLES

By Earl Downs

Conquering the skies has been a dream of mankind for as long as history has been recorded. The bird has been revered and venerated by countless cultures for its power to soar with freedom. The freedom of flight is often associated with the freedom of one's soul.

Think about it: many of the expressions we use every day are based on the belief that to fly through the skies is to achieve something very special. We routinely use such expressions as "To be free as a bird," "to soar with the eagles," "To be lifted on high," or "Reach for the skies" to represent achievement or excellence. Mankind's first successful flight changed the world and the words we use today.

It seems that aviation success stories abound with brother teams. There are the Wright brothers, the Loughhead (Lockheed) brothers, and the Cessna brothers as examples. Mankind's first serious quest for flight was also started by a brother team when, in 1782, the French brothers Joseph and Etienne Montgolfier decided to break the bonds of Earth.

One account relating to how the Montgolfier brothers got started with their hot air balloon experiments claims that while Joseph was burning trash, he noticed that if paper was added to the fire, it sometimes rose unburned along with the smoke. They attributed the lifting they witnessed to the smoke, not the hot air. They believed that more smoke produced more lift. Obviously, they were producing more heat when they generated increased smoke, which resulted in the increased lift. They also experimented with another lifting medium called "phlogiston," or "inflammable air," which had recently been discovered. Today we know this gas as hydrogen. Their early hydrogen experiments failed due to leaky containers, so they continued their experiments with smoke (Smart decision).

Our space program must have taken a chapter from the Montgolfier flight manual. Remember, our first space travelers were animals, not Humans. By June of 1783, the two brothers were flying large "unmanned" smoke balloons made of varnished silk. Not yet sure of the effects flight would have on a living being, the first air travelers in a man-made flying contraption were a sheep, a duck, and a rooster. Maybe we should change the expression to "to soar with the sheep"! Well, maybe not.

Their balloon also "stank to high heaven" (another flight expression) because the fuel that gave off the most smoke was fat-saturated wool, wet brush, and manure. For the first flight to carry a human aloft, the King of France suggested

## **SOARING WITH EAGLES - *continued***

that they “volunteer” prisoners. Prisoners were, after all, in high supply and it would give the guy who operated the guillotine a day off. However, this was too good a chance for notoriety and the aristocracy took over. In November 1783, volunteers Francois Pilatre de Rozier and the Marquis d’Arlandes, two noblemen, rose from a park in Paris to become the first men to truly fly free through the air. The balloon was called an Aerostat and the fearless passengers were called Aeronauts.

The new American ambassador to France observed many of the early French balloon experiments. His interest led to early experimentation in aeronautics in our infant country. His name was Benjamin Franklin. A new age and a new vocabulary were born.

## **CHAPTER HAS A NEW FACEBOOK PAGE**

by Hattie Cunningham

Something I often hear during Young Eagles events is a parent saying, "I had no idea you did this." Say what you will about social media, it is an effective and simple way to reach a desired audience. Our new Facebook (FB) page will be a way to promote what we do to the general public and attract other aviation enthusiasts to the chapter. The chapter's FB page can be found by entering "EAA Chapter 91" in the FB search bar. If you want chapter posts to appear in your feed, click the "Follow" link.

There are three admins for the page: Rob Schmitt, Chris St. Germain and me. We will monitor the content being posted to ensure it supports the mission of EAA and the chapter. Any spam posts will be removed. That being said, feel free to post your pictures, stories, information of interest, items for sale, etc. I'll be adding 2025 events when the dates are finalized by the board and will upload chapter newsletters and event pictures as they are available.

We hope this new Facebook page will help in spreading the word about Chapter 91. It's your page, so please feel free to use it. Oh, and tell your friends!

EAA CHAPTER 91 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2025

Please print and complete this form. Return it with your check to the chapter mailbox in the Blue Hangar or to the address below. Applications will also be available at chapter meetings.

New \_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_ 6 month complimentary / trial membership \_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If renewal and none of the information below has changed, check here \_\_\_\_\_. Please confirm EAA number sign and date form.

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ NOTE: The newsletter will be distributed via email.

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency contact name/phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Aircraft owned or project: \_\_\_\_\_

Mark any of the following that you'd like to volunteer for to assist EAA Chapter 91:

Take a turn to clean and set up meeting room \_\_\_\_ Take a turn to mow \_\_\_\_ Take turn to trim \_\_\_\_

Help take care of plants and bushes \_\_\_\_ Help at pancake breakfasts/lunches \_\_\_\_

Pilot at Young Eagles rallies \_\_\_\_ Ground help for Young Eagles \_\_\_\_ Young Eagle Build & Fly (RC) project \_\_\_\_

Serve on the board or a committee \_\_\_\_ Help with chapter projects \_\_\_\_

I HEREBY AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF MY NAME /ADDRESS FOR INTERNAL CHAPTER 91 ROSTER DISTRIBUTION

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK FOR \$36 FOR 2025 DUES PAYABLE TO:

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RENEWALS SHOULD BE RETURNED BY FEBRUARY 15, 2025

Dues may be prorated the first year of membership only at the rate of \$3 per month remaining in the year. Payments may also be made using PayPal at the chapter's website located at <https://eaachapter91.org/>

# EAA Chapter 91 Annual Planning Calendar for 2025

Jan 6 Board Mtg  
Jan 13 IMC/VMC Club  
Jan 20 Chapter Gathering/Pizza night Summit  
Pizza. 6 pm.

Feb 3 Board Mtg  
Feb 10 IMC/VMC Club  
Feb 15 Chapter Gathering/Banquet 6 pm.

March 3 Board Mtg  
March 10 IMC/VMC Club  
March 17 Chapter Gathering

April 7 Board Mtg  
April 14 IMC/VMC Club  
April 12 Hangar Cleanup day  
April 18 Hangar Setup/Pot Luck Dinner  
April 19 Young Eagle Rally and Pancake  
Breakfast  
April 21 Chapter Gathering

May 5 Board Mtg  
May 12 IMC/VMC Club  
May 16 Hangar Setup/Pot Luck  
May 17 Young Eagle Rally and Pancake  
Breakfast  
May 19 Chapter Gathering

June 2 Board Mtg  
June 9 IMC/VMC Club  
June 16 Chapter Gathering  
June 20 Hangar Setup/Pot Luck  
June 21 Young Eagle Rally and Pancake  
Breakfast

July 7 Board Mtg  
July 14 IMC/VMC Club  
July 20-27 AirVenture 2025. No Gathering or  
YE this month

Aug 4 Board Mtg  
Aug 11 IMC/VMC Club  
Aug 15 Hanger Setup/Potluck  
Aug 16 Young Eagle Rally and Pancake  
Breakfast.  
Aug 18 Chapter Gathering

Sep 2 Board Mtg (Tuesday)  
Sep 8 IMC/VMC Club

Sep 15 Chapter Gathering.  
Sept 19 Hangar Setup/Pot Luck  
Sept 20 Young Eagle Rally and Pancake  
Breakfast

Oct 6 Board Mtg  
Oct 13 IMC/VMC Club  
Oct 17 Hangar Setup/Pot Luck  
Oct 18 Young Eagle Rally and Pancake  
Breakfast  
Oct 20 Chapter Gathering

Nov 3 Board Mtg  
Nov 10 IMC/VMC Club  
Nov 17 Chapter Gathering

Dec 1 Board Mtg  
Dec 8 IMC/VMC Club  
Dec 15 Chapter Gathering/Annual Chili Dinner

***NOTE: Prepared by Robert Schmitt, President,  
EAA 91.***

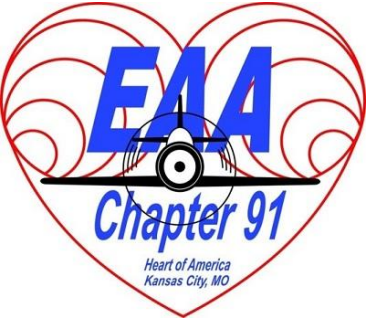
## ***“Wild Cards”***

- ***Workshops:-Topics and dates TBD***
- ***Construction Projects/Maintenance***
- ***EAA Trimotor, B17, B25***
- ***Flying Start.***

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**THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**  
**EAA CHAPTER 91**  
**February 9, 2025**



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