



# The Flying Wire



May 2026

Volume 65 Issue 5

## Chapter 124 Experimental Aircraft Association

**Next Chapter Meeting: Wednesday, May 6**

**Dinner – 6:15 pm \$15**

**General Meeting – 7:00 pm**

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## Program: May 6 Meeting

### Speaker: Carl Molesworth and the History of the Curtiss P-40 P-40

Carl Molesworth is the author of 15 non-fiction books covering various aspects of World War II aviation. He specializes in telling the stories of American and Chinese fighter units in the China-Burma-India theater during World War II and in the operations of the Curtiss P-40 worldwide.

A graduate of the University of Maryland Baltimore County with a bachelor's degree in English and minor in History, Molesworth was an award-winning journalist for 35 years before transitioning to full-time book writing.

He has an encyclopedic knowledge of the CBI and Flying Tigers and their wartime history. He's an expert on the history of the Curtis P-40 and has a ton of great stories to tell! It's sure to be a great night!



**Dinner Menu:** Our May dinner is Make your own Super Burritos with all the fixings, Salad, and a choice of Mexican Chocolate Cupcakes or Coconut Cupcakes. **All for \$15!**



# News and Updates

## How to Keep Our Chapter Looking Good!



EAA 124's Facilities Manager **Mike Tovani** was spotted hard at work recently, doing an overhaul on the Chapter's riding lawn mower!

After many years of neglected maintenance, Mike is bringing this gem back to its original splendor. Besides servicing and changing all the fluids and filters, he's performing major surgery on the mower deck and steering assemblies. What an ace!

It's a LOT of work keeping the Chapter grounds mowed and looking good and keeping track of all the paperwork and minutiae going on with 124. We appreciate everything Mike does and are grateful to have him on the job!



## Meet Our 2026 Ray Scholar: Brayden Hall!



Chapter 124 was again awarded a Ray Scholar aviation scholarship this year, following the successful shepherding of our first from 2025, when **Sam James** got his license. This year we had another excellent crop of keen applicants and after much debate (because the others were very good too), we selected this season's lucky recipient, **Brayden Hall**.

Brayden is 19 years old and has already accrued over 25 hours flying at his own expense. He's been attending the Chapter and looks forward to interacting with pilots and other Chapter members as he embarks on his journey of learning to fly. As happened last year, we will be expecting him to stand up at Chapter meetings and tell us how it's going and we look forward to the reports.

Please wish him well and help him along the path!

## EAA124 Has Two Brand New Pilots!

**BIG CONGRATULATIONS!!** to Chapter Members **Alyssa Lane** and **Conner Cummings** on both achieving their Private Pilot License! All those hours of study and in the air paid off!!

Alyssa attended the EAA Ground school and began her flight training at Mike Smith Aviation in December 2025. She took her checkride on April 14, 2026.



Conner also attended the EAA ground school and completed his checkride on April 18, 2026.



## FOR SALE: Build a Lancair Legacy

*Submitted by Andy Werback*

Have you ever thought about building your own airplane? Seriously? If so, how about a Lancair Legacy – 2 seats, fast, fun. Click [here](#) to find out more.

I worked with Travis (who posted the For Sale ad) on his Legacy some years back, and I would love to do it again. It is a bit of work, but I'd be glad to help here and there. You would need a few parts, like engine, prop, avionics, but that's all doable. I knew the present owner (he provided some advice for my kit), and I knew the original owner – the workmanship was incredible.

Take a look!



*It looks fast, even on a trailer. Most of the bodywork has been done.*



*Room for two, comfortably*



*Hydraulic lines installed*



*Wings are all closed out, in primer*

## **FOR SALE**

GRACO HVLP V-Comp air sprayer. Complete with 50' hose, nozzle, pressurized paint pot. Good condition. 120VAC, high efficiency air compressor. Good for general spray painting, will do houses and barns nicely, set of nozzles for different paints, oils, etc.

**\$500 OBO.**



Interested?

Contact **Andy Werback** at  
[Andyw54\\_punt@earthlink.net](mailto:Andyw54_punt@earthlink.net)

# SNORT

**By Andy Werback**

Some interesting things were located at the Naval Ordnance Test (NOTS) Station, China Lake, CA. Now known as the Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS), it had gunnery and bombing ranges in support of World War II projects. Initially, NOTS was an extension of research being conducted by Cal Tech – California Institute of Technology, in Pasadena, CA. They had been using a mountainous ravine for some testing but needed wide-open spaces in the middle of nowhere for fast airplanes and bombing ranges. Inyokern was just the place.

And a SNORT track is located there. Supersonic Naval Ordnance Research Track. Supersonic – pretty darn fast. Naval Ordnance – Rockets that get launched from airplanes and bombs that get dropped from airplanes. Test track – about 4.1 miles of regular gage railway. Very straight. With a water brake basin to stop whatever is going down the track. Research – experiments, pictures, lots of data.

Typically, a railroad car (rocket sleds) would be rocket-propelled down the track, and the experimental payload would be launched with many cameras recording the exact sequences and results. Remember the JATO rockets? Lots of them. Or Zuni rockets. And not just supersonic - Mach 5 anybody? That's a lot of acceleration and deceleration in four miles.



*This sled is just getting started.*



*And this is the water brake deacceleration*

Sometimes, the object is to simply get something going supersonic so that it can hit something – like a penetrating bomb hitting a hard target.

Other times, the purpose is to simulate an ejection seat leaving a high-speed aircraft – what are the G-forces and how does the parachute deploy?



*B-58 Hustler nose section on SNORT*



*I assume that the test dummy made it back OK*

Lots of good information was obtained along the way, helping to refine and perfect designs and procedures.

To see a video of some of their parachute testing, click [here](#)

And for a pretty good discussion of early ejection seats (starting several pages down), click [here](#)

Many years ago, we got to visit the SNORT control building when the track wasn't in use. But an actual test would have been a lot more interesting.



## EAA Chapter 124 Board Meeting Minutes

**April 7, 2026**

**Members in attendance:** Dominic Cerniglio (President), Marlon Young (Vice President), John Whitehouse (Treasurer), David Franco (Secretary), Mike Tovani (Facilities) George Marshall, Jeremiah James.

**Security Stanchions:** A decision is still pending regarding what product will be selected.

A motion was made by the treasurer to add **George Marshall** as the second signor to the Chapter account in place of **Marlon Young**. The motion was seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

It is agreed by unanimous consent that **George Marshall** will become more acquainted with the duties of treasurer in cooperation with **Jenny Hollingworth**.

**Ray Scholar Update:** We are waiting for the final confirmation communique from EAA National regarding their final commitment.

**Movie Night:** The president is exploring the idea of having a movie night at PCAM. The Pacific Coast Air Museum is generously offering to host joint events in the future.

**Facilities Parking Requests:** A formalized request has been made for available hangar space. All requests need to be made by filling the official application form.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chapter coffers remain healthy as a result of tenant payment and successful dinner sales.

Meeting adjourned 6:35 pm

## EAA Chapter 124 General Meeting Minutes

**April 1, 2026**

The president called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees to the Chapter-hosted Spring Social. Before letting attendees socialize and introduce themselves to new members, the president invited **Paul Hollingworth**, the Ray Scholarship coordinator, to announce that a new recipient of the scholarship, **Brayden Hall**, has been selected. The completion of the young man's flight instruction will now be overseen by the volunteer instructors who are graciously giving their time and energy.

After greeting the announcement with enthusiasm, the group spent the rest of the evening sharing stories and getting to know each other.

Meeting adjourned: 8:45pm

# Chapter Business

## Chapter 124 Contact Information

<b>President:</b>	Dominic Cerniglio (26/27)	(310) 628-9008
<b>Vice President:</b>	Marlon Young (25/26)	(707) 479-9994
<b>Secretary:</b>	Dave Franco (25/26)	(707) 494-4259
<b>Treasurer:</b>	John Whitehouse (26/27)	(707) 217-2687
<b>Board:</b>	George Marshall (25/26)	(707) 293 4583
	John Fluno (25/26)	(707) 315 5524
	Jeremiah James (25/26)	(707) 291 8445
	Paul Hollingworth (26/27)	(408) 802 9242
	Campbell Potter (26/27)	(707) 396 8042
<b>Membership:</b>	Dave Franco	(707) 494-4259
<b>Facilities Chairman:</b>	Mike Tovani	(707) 321-2740
<b>Facilities Committee:</b>	Jeremiah James	(707) 291 8445
	George Marshall	(707) 293 4583
	Dominic Cerniglio	(310) 628-9008
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	Rolf Unternaehrer	(707) 364-7935
	Otis Holt	(707) 953-3946
<b>Flight Adviser:</b>	David Heal	(707) 953-5021
<b>Young Eagles:</b>	Jenny Hollingworth	(650) 483-5203
<b>Chapter Roster:</b>	Mike Tovani	(707) 321-2740

**EAA Chapter 124**  
**5550 Windsor Road**  
**Windsor, CA 95492**

Chapter meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. FOOD (\$10) AND SOCIALIZING (free) from 6:15 to 7:00 pm. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

**Directions:** The site is located on the west side of Sonoma County Airport. Take the Shiloh Road exit from Highway 101 in northern Santa Rosa. Turn left at the stop light (west) and continue to a "T" intersection. Turn left again and follow the road to the EAA sign on the left.

## **How to Submit an Article to the Newsletter**

Members are invited to submit articles of interest. You will be notified whether or not an article will appear in the current issue.

Email your article to: [jennyhollingworth14@gmail.com](mailto:jennyhollingworth14@gmail.com)

**Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 20th of each month.** Articles submitted will be included in the newsletter at the discretion of the editor. All articles are copyrighted. To reproduce any article, please contact the editor.

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