

Chapter 124 Experimental Aircraft Association

Next Chapter Meeting: Wednesday, November 4

Dinner – 6:15 pm $15

General Meeting – 7:00 pm

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Program: November 4 Meeting

SPEAKER: Bob Star, North Coast Aviation

Winter is Coming!

No. It's not *Game of Thrones*. And Jon Snow and the White walkers are not coming… that we know of! But Winter flying and Icing is! And so is our friend Bob Star!

Bob's an amazing local CFI/ CFII over at North Coast Aviation. And a great guy. You'd never guess but hidden behind his charming countenance is a story that will blow you away - and one you'll not soon forget!

We all enjoy and are passionate about flying. But the winter skies are different. Things change. Subtle variables become so important. What happens when something goes wrong? When the unexpected hits. When small and seemingly benign factors unexpectedly move to the forefront and it's no longer fun and games - but suddenly a game of life and death??

Bob's tale has it all… towering Sierra Nevada mountains, harsh winter conditions, new and old pilots battling in the skies… unexpected turns of events, tragedy - and triumph. Like all great stories, it's a gripping tale. Great stories hold us, but they also teach us. Hopefully, we walk away wiser and more prepared for our own encounters with the unexpected.

It's quite a ride - and a story not to be missed. We look forward to seeing you here.



Dinner Menu:

Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner: BBQ Turkey with all the fixings – Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans and Cranberry Salad, followed by Pumpkin Pie and Whipped Cream. $15

News and Updates

2027 Chapter Elections

The 2027 Board of Directors elections will be held at the beginning of our November Chapter meeting. Open positions are: Secretary, Vice-President and three board member roles.

If you are interested in serving but have not yet contacted us, please direct your inquiry to **Paul Hollingworth** via email at paul@bayareagyro.com before the Chapter meeting on November 4.

EAA 124 Membership Fees Are Due by January 1, 2027

Your $50 membership fee is due by January 1, 2027. Please give your payment to our treasurer **John Whitehouse** at the November or December Chapter meeting, or mail it now to our PO Box 6192, Santa Rosa, CA 95406.

Around the Chapter…

Longtime Chapter members **Dwayne Green** and **Ross Wilcox** take advantage of the built in Cafe Hangar digital floor scales on a late Tuesday night!

Together they're working on a new weight and balance for Ross's Luscombe, pictured here, before it takes flight after a TON of work! This has been an incredible project and journey for Ross and we're looking forward to hearing about his first successful flight!!

Good to see them out at the Chapter on a chilly Tuesday night hard at work!!



Ron Hodge: In Memoriam

We were saddened to hear that Chapter member **Ron Hodge** passed away in October. Many of us will remember him at recent meetings, talking to everyone about aviation, life in general, and even politics! A long-time pilot, Ron was always cheerful, always had questions which he asked with gleeful persistence, and was never without a smile. He will be missed.

EAA124 Hosts Young Eagles Event at PAPA Display Day

Several Santa Rosa-based pilots joined pilots from the Petaluma Area Pilots Association to offer our last Young Eagles event of the year, as part of the PAPA Display Day on October 17.

Supported by a group of ground volunteers that included several of our youth club members (YAKs), we were able to fly more than 50 Young Eagles – a great end to our season! We anticipate doing more joint events with PAPA in 2027.



One Happy First-Time Young Eagle with her mom at the PAPA Display Day!



Special thanks to: EAA124 pilots Dominic Cerniglio, Paul Hollingworth, Otis Holt, Martyn Lewis, Mark Potter, Dan Wood, and PAPA pilots Tessa Batchelder, Careva Cross, MacKenzie Lemieux and Addyson Mapes.

Also to our wonderful ground volunteers: Walker Alecock, Austin Cameron, Sam Ely, Jenny Hollingworth, Jeremiah James, Sam James, DJ MacRury, Kristin Ngata, Bryce O'Neal, Mikey Ottolini and Sonia Ottolini.

YAKS Aviation Club – The Higher Altitude Club

A record number of 16 YAKs came to our October meeting, including four new faces – seems like word is getting around! Several girls are now in the club (which gladdens this newsletter editor's heart ☺)

We covered a lot of ground, starting with items currently in aviation news. (Thanks to **Mike Jones** for giving our eager students a succinct explanation of "The Impossible Turn" which sadly contributed to the recent crash at Petaluma airport.)

Members then split into groups of three – with a careful mix of experienced and less experienced – to take our Airspace quiz, based on what was covered last month. It was a tough quiz and caused much debate, but all the teams did well enough to feel proud of themselves, with team YAK ACES - **Walker Alecock, DJ McCreary, Mikey Ottolini** and brand new member **Cheyenne** - coming out on top (5 points earned per person!)

After that, Chapter Vice President **Marlon Young** shared his life in aviation, impressing the YAKs with his accumulation of five planes, his inspiring journey towards becoming a pilot, and his encouragement to spend as much time around planes and pilots as possible, including saying yes to every opportunity that comes their way.

Last but by no means least, special guest KSTS tower controller **Conor Bolke** chatted with the YAKs about his work and how to have a career in ATC. Among his many entertaining stories, perhaps the best message for our aspiring pilots was his reassurance that ATC is always there to help.

As a reminder…

Our Youth Aviation club is open to anyone aged 10-25 yrs with a keen interest in aviation, with a special focus on 14-18 yrs.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 18, 7pm at the hangar (5550 Windsor Road).

November Discussion topics: Aviation news, Airspace: The Secrets of Sectionals, more pilot stories and careers in aviation.

If you're a young person wanting to learn more about aviation, we'd love to have you join us! You can just show up on the day. Or contact ***Paul Hollingworth*** *at Paul@bayareagyro.com or* ***Jenny Hollingworth*** *at jennyhollingworth14@gmail.com for more information.*

YAK Plane Washing!

Last month, our busy YAKs were sighted on multiple occasions! As well as attending the YAK and Chapter meetings and helping out at the PAPA Young Eagles event, three eager and hardworking YAKs were spotted out and about one Saturday morning, washing **Mike Jones's** plane. Washing a plane means earning points in our YAKS points system – and earning points means the chance of a flight with the Chapter pilots who've generously signed up.

We're pleased to say that Mike was very happy to see the group's enthusiasm, energy and – most importantly - the result! So happy, in fact that, point system notwithstanding, he may have sneaked a quick flight with the three of them as soon as the job was done…

Now the YAK club is planning to wash more planes … if you're a pilot with a plane that's crying out for some TLC, please stay tuned for more information coming soon!



Pilot Mike Jones with Mikey Ottolini, Austin Cameron, Dayton Finch and one clean plane!

YAKS Also Spotted at Our Ongoing Machinist Class!

Under **Mike Fenn's** expert instruction, our regular machinist class continues to attract eager students of all ages! Now at 6.30pm on Tuesday nights at the Café Hangar, Mike is teaching practical projects with real world applications. Students are lucky enough to be able to work on the engine mill and lathe that were generously installed and loaned by longtime Chapter board member **Dave Franco**. We were especially pleased to see some of our YAKs attending recently. (Thanks to **Darrell Ottolini** for catching them on camera!)





Light Sport Repairman Course in Oakland (5/6 Dec)

Submitted by Christopher Guarente, Intrepid Aircraft ***– PLACES ARE STILL AVAILABLE!***



In conjunction with the Oakland EAA chapter, we have coordinated to offer a Light Sport Repairmen Inspection course in Oakland on Dec 5th and 6th near the Oakland Airport. This two-day course (8am-5pm Sat and Sun) allows participants to complete their own yearly condition inspection on their Experimental Amateur Built airplane as well as Experimental Light Sport Aircraft. We provide significant hands-on practical portions in our class that help individuals with very little maintenance experience to safely determine if their aircraft is in condition for safe operation.

The course costs $750 and registration can be completed easily online at our website: intrepidaircraft.com/light-sport-repairman-course.

Contact Chris "Duff" Guarente with any questions at duff@intrepidaircraft.com or 661-221-1866

Planning to Build Your Own Plane?

EAA SportAir® workshops are coming to Las Vegas on January 23-24, 2027.

This 2-day course will cover electrical systems and avionics, sheet metal basics and fabric covering.

If you're thinking about building your own plane, find out more at **SportAir.com/Schedule**.



New Pilot? Congratulations!

By Andy Werback



You just received your Private Pilot's License. Congratulations! Lots of hard work. Passed the written, oral and practical. Great!

But now what?

First, Go Fly! Not once in a while. Frequently. Build familiarity with the weather, cross country, Air Traffic Control, always learning, always improving.

Things you can do: Fly different airplanes with appropriate transition training, fly out to different airports, get to know the airspace, terrain, practice navigation. Take your friends for a ride. Fly with another pilot, get to know different things, get some feedback. Learn from them.

But beyond the basic Private License, there are lots of ways to expand your experience:

- **Tail Wheel Endorsement** – if you haven't got that already, this will improve your flying skills. And taildraggers ("conventional gear") are a lot more likely to be found doing back-country, open cockpit, and aerobatic flight
- **High Altitude Endorsement** – Essential for cross country flying, all about what happens to you and to the airplane's performance, plus mountain weather



Lockheed SR-71 – Mach 3+ - High Altitude for sure!

- **Complex Airplane Endorsement** – Cowl flaps, constant speed propeller, things you find in more capable airplanes
- **High Power Endorsement** – Beyond the Cessna 172, you are going to need this pretty soon
- **Aerobatics** – Absolutely you can do this. Just with proper instruction!
- Formation flying – Great in a low wing airplane, build those skills!
- **And note** – The FAA really ought to have an endorsement for today's glass cockpit, too! Be able to do something more complicated than enter a "Direct To" destination

And that's just the beginning. For now, you can go fly and take passengers, too. Including sharing the costs of a flight (just no flying for compensation!)

But beyond the Private Pilot Certificate (ASEL – Airplane, Single-Engine Land), you can expand with many additional Certificates, Classes and Ratings:

- **Instrument Rating** – Highly recommended, you will be challenged, for sure, but it's worth it for the expanded skills and flying flexibility
- **Commercial Certificate** – A big step toward making a career out of flying
- **Instructor Rating** – Think about it. Is this for you? Why not? Build hours on your way to an Airline Transport Rating
- **Seaplane Rating** – This appeals to many – who needs runways, anyway?
- **Multi-Engine Rating** – If you're serious about that Commercial or Airline Transport Pilot, this is on your need-to-do list

Of course, you don't need to stick with airplanes –

- **Rotorcraft Certificate** – Helicopters, autogyro
- **Balloon Certificate** – Low and slow, and who needs airports, anyway? Plus, no medical required for a Private Lighter-Than-Air pilot
- **Glider Certificate** – Unpowered flight is another way to expand your skills (Chesley Sullenberger, anybody?)

But you can have so much fun with just a Private Pilot. You can go pretty much anywhere that has a General Aviation airport. Even land with the big airplanes at San Francisco International should you wish to do that (and visit the FBO to pay the landing fee!). You can fly to Oshkosh and see what everybody else is flying (just be careful of the enroute and destination weather and all the other pilots/aircraft doing the same thing in the vicinity of KOSH!).

And there's more!

You don't need to be a pilot in order to be a mechanic, but back in the day, there was a lot of need for pilots who were also mechanics. Having an **Airframe and Powerplant Rating** (A&P) gives you a whole new window into what it takes to keep an airplane in airworthy condition. If you're really serious about that, the **Inspection Authorization** is the big rating, which gives you authority to inspect and sign off certified airplanes in an airworthy condition. Notice that I said "certified". But just a lowly A&P can sign off the conditional inspection for experimental airplanes. And beyond that, you, as an experimental airplane builder of record, can also apply for a **Repairman Certificate**, which gives you the ability to inspect and maintain the airplane that you built.

That's a lot of responsibility, but there it is.

By the way, as long as we are talking about experimental airplanes, don't forget that you also can build your own – from a kit (Van's and many others) or scratch built from plans (either purchased or engineered yourself). And not just airplanes, but rotorcraft and gliders for instance.

Airplanes are great for getting from Point A to Point B. But they can also be used to get you to some place high in the sky – and then let you do the flying. This is called "skydiving," where you take off in an airplane but land under a parachute. It's another way to experience the space above the ground. You can take a tandem jump with an experienced jump master and then learn to jump on your own (solo). Accuracy landings and multi-skydiver formation jumps emphasize skill and awareness – you might be surprised at what you can do. And have a lot of fun, too.

The sky is the limit! At least for those of us who are not Astronauts…

Find out more about all the different types of aviation certificates, ratings and endorsements **here**.

PS Interesting footnote: the "Endorsement" requirements are new since around 1990 and 1997. Before that, it was just a Biannual Flight Review (which started in 1974).



EAA Chapter 124 Board Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2026. Meeting commenced 5.15 pm

Members in attendance: Dominic Cerniglio (President) **Marlon Young** (Vice President) **John Whitehouse** (Treasurer) **David Franco** (Secretary) **Paul Hollingworth, Jeremiah James, Campbell Potter, John Fluno**

Update on Election Committee: Elections were announced in newsletter, and will be announced at tonight's Chapter meeting. Ensure elections happen next meeting. Notify EAA National about next year members.

YAK Project Update: Focus on getting members together who can help with sheet metal project – Marlon and Paul to follow up.

Ground School: Planned to go ahead in 2027. One person will be need to be recruited as administrator.

Chapter Financial Announcements: Upcoming spend: Kitchen items; café hangar roof will soon receive new fasteners to stop leaks; cabinet at back of hallway will be acquired.

Young Eagles: Looking for pilots for young Eagles at the Petaluma YE Rally as part of the PAPA Display Day on October 17.

"Hold Harmless" Clause for Gate Holders: Marlon is working on a document that would relieve the Chapter of liability for gate violations by private individuals.

Meeting adjourned.

EAA Chapter 124 General Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2026

The president called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

He thanked **Sam Werback** and her culinary crew for creating a Wunderbar Oktoberfest meal! The president then asked new visitors to introduce themselves. Several people shared their reasons for attending.

It was announced that upcoming Chapter elections will be held at the November meeting. The president then asked **Paul Hollingworth** to give an update on **Brayden Hall's** flight training. Paul announced this year's Ray Scholarship recipient is perhaps two weeks away from completing his private pilot license!

Paul also announced that the youth outreach club called YAKs is progressing nicely and hoping to pair interested young people with more seasoned active fliers who could mentor the younger members.

Following that announcement the president introduced the evening's thrilling presenter.

Cory Lovell is an accomplished instructor and airshow performer with thousands of flight hours accumulated across a diverse range of aircraft and disciplines. Having begun flying at the age of 12, Cory has dedicated his life to mastering the art and science of aviation.

He is an Advanced Flight Instructor with specialized expertise in aerobatics, formation flying, and Upset Prevention and Recovery Training (UPRT). Throughout his career, Cory has trained with some of the most respected names in aviation, including world-renowned competition aerobatic pilot Sergei Boriak, Sean Tucker, and completed formation aerobatic training under legendary airshow pilots Bill Stein and Randy Howell.

Today, Cory serves as the #6 pilot for the Patriots Jet Team, one of North America's premier civilian jet demonstration teams, performing precision formation maneuvers before audiences across the country. His unique combination of operational experience, instructional expertise, and high-performance flying provides a rare perspective on aviation safety, discipline, teamwork and continuous learning. He also teaches with the Patriots Jet Team UPRT program in the L-39 and Sabreliner 60.

Cory shared lessons drawn from years of teaching UPRT, precision formation flying and airshow operations—offering insights into the value of getting aerobatic or UPRT training. He also discussed what it's like to fly in close formation with five other jets during the 28-minute Patriots routine, and how the Patriots were involved in filming “Top Gun Maverick.”

Meeting adjourned 8:20 pm

Chapter Business

Chapter 124 Contact Information

President:	Dominic Cerniglio (26/27)	(310) 628-9008
Vice President:	Marlon Young (25/26)	(707) 479-9994
Secretary:	Dave Franco (25/26)	(707) 494-4259
Treasurer:	John Whitehouse (26/27)	(707) 217-2687
Board:	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
Membership:	Dave Franco	(707) 494-4259
Facilities Chairman:	Jeremiah James	(707) 291-8445
Facilities Committee:	George Marshall	(707) 293 4583
	Dominic Cerniglio	(310) 628-9008
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	Rolf Unternaehrer	(707) 364-7935
	Otis Holt	(707) 953-3946
Flight Adviser:	David Heal	(707) 953-5021
Young Eagles:	Jenny Hollingworth	(650) 483-5203
Youth Club (YAKS):	Paul Hollingworth	(408) 802-9242
Chapter Roster:	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 ($15) 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 an article will appear in the current issue.

Email your article to: 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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