

Airpark News

by Mark Finkelstein

10 Wonderful Ways Pecan's EAA Chapter Makes Valuable Contributions to Our Community

Pecan Plantation's Chapter 983 of the Experimental Aviation Association is one of the larger and most successful chapters in the country. Its activities provide wonderful camaraderie, information and adventure for the many members. But Chapter 983 also makes many valuable contributions to the greater Pecan Plantation community! Outlined below are 10 of them.

Young Eagles – This is EAA's national program encouraging young people to get interested in aviation by offering them free flights conducted by EAA members. To date, our Pecan chapter has conducted 3,186 such flights for the children, grandchildren and friends of Pecan residents. Beyond the pure joy thus provided, many of the young people have gone on to pursue careers in aviation and/or taken up flying for fun and adventure. There is never a charge for these flights, worth many tens of thousands of dollars.

Scholarships – Every year, the local chapter awards a \$1,200 scholarship allowing a young person from the community to attend the EAA Air Academy, which teaches aircraft building skills while providing room and board for a week. This year's award-winner is Ms. Taylor Carlile. The scholarships have sparked wonderful careers in aviation for a number of the recipients.

Annual Fly-In – Every year, the local chapter stages a Fly-In open to all members of the Pecan community without

charge. It gives folks a chance to view an amazing array of planes and aviation paraphernalia, participate in auctions and raffles for great goods and services, have a home-made lunch while watching the proceedings, and have their young people take a Young Eagles flight.

Eagle's Nest Projects – At high-school campuses across the nation, the Eagle's Nest Projects initiatives are providing students a unique, inspiring and empowering science/technology/engineering/mathematics (STEM) education



Les Staples enjoys the experience of a Young Eagles flight – no cost for kids!

experience: the beginning-to-end construction of a modern FAA certified light sport aircraft (Van's RV-12). At Granbury High School, most of the program mentors are EAA Chapter 983 members.

On a beautiful August day, pilot Lisa Peterson and her passenger, Kris Jaeckle, were landing at Pecan Airpark runway in Lisa's (and husband

Bruce's) Columbia 350 airplane. After a perfect landing, pilot Lisa realized that she had a blown tire on the left side. While Lisa walked into her Airpark neighborhood seeking help, Kris stayed with the stranded airplane on the runway. With John McComas to the rescue, the plane was

towed to the hangar for a tire replacement. As you can see in the photo, they needed some ballast on the starboard wing to balance the airplane for towing ... so Kris added to her suntan while balancing out the airplane.

- ➔ Round trip flight from Pecan to Gonzalez, Texas – worth every penny on the Columbia 350.
- ➔ Living in a neighborhood with neighbors who are there to help a lady in distress – awesome.
- ➔ Having a passenger who becomes beautiful ballast for a tow – priceless!

– submitted by
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