

# 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  
Deborah Rollins



**Participation in PPOA** – Beyond their interest in aviation, EAA members are active and giving members of the Pecan community at large. They have served on countless boards and committees, including the PPOA Board of Directors. Chapter members tend to be mechanically inclined and can be counted on to help neighbors with fixing everything from a lawnmower to a car to an RV.

**Intangibles** – Even for Pecan residents not involved with aviation, the presence of our two airstrips and the activity that goes with them – the planes to gaze up in the sky, the aerobatic practice that talented Pecan aerobatic pilots conduct a few days per month – are a source of animation and entertainment for the community at large. They help make Pecan an interesting and fun place to live for all.

**Angel Flights** – EAA members have conducted Angel Flight transports, flying people in need of ongoing medical treatment, such as chemotherapy, to treatment centers. On a more informal basis, EAA pilots often provide transportation for older folks in need of a ride.

**Search-and-Rescue Flights** – EAA members have conducted search-and-rescue flights, most recently for a young person and an elderly person.

**Patriotic and Memorial Flights** – EAA members conduct holiday formation fly-over flights for Pecan and the Granbury community, as well as memorial “missing man” formation flights for pilots who have passed away.

**Pilots N Paws Flights** – EAA members conduct flights for the Pilots N Paws organization, transporting rescued dogs to their new homes and aiding the non-profit transport animals being rescued, sheltered and adopted.

EAA 983 and its members will always be an active and involved part of our community. Get involved and come join the fun as we promote education and participation in sport aviation, which includes a variety of aircraft: custom-buils, vintage, aerobatic, warbirds, light sports, ultralights, helicopters and gyrocopters. Whatever your interest is in aviation, EAA has programs and people that will help you pursue your passion. No experience required; no plane required; no pilot’s license required – just a passion for aviation! We meet the second Saturday of every month at Plane View Park. For more information, visit our EAA chapter online at [www.eaa983.org](http://www.eaa983.org).

**Volunteer Opportunity –  
Help Needed for the Airpark’s  
Upcoming Fly-In in October**

EAA 983 is in need of four-place golf carts and drivers to shuttle visitors from the parking area to the airport area during EAA fly-in on Oct. 22. For more information, please contact Stuart Hill at [stuartchilljr@stuarthillcpa.com](mailto:stuartchilljr@stuarthillcpa.com).



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