



Home of Squadron 534 Youth Aviation Program



**DATES:**

**Young Eagles** - 12/16 pilot's briefing at 8:30  
*Be sure your EAA background check is up to date*

**VMC** - TBD  
**Chapter meeting** – NONE



**Christmas Party**



Great time had by all  
Thanks to Paul Adrien and his elves!  
Someone selected these really swell slippers!

Yes I use them! LOL



**President's Corner**

Mike Hage

The holidays are a time for reflection. Life can be stressful, lonely and frustrating, but the holidays allow us to take a step back and reflect on the positive moments from the past year. Forget about that near ground loop or bounced landing but focus on the perfect squeaker you had last April or the smile on a young eagle's face as they broke free from the ground for the first time.

The holidays are also a time for giving. We are very thankful to all those that have donated their time and money to help advance our chapter projects.

In the new year, we will be addressing our youth program to reduce John's workload and to allow others to share their knowledge and passion. We will also be focusing on our charitable contributions to help push our current projects over the finish line.

Wishing you a very **Merry Christmas** and the chance to do lots more flying in the new year.

Tailwinds,

Mike

**OFFICERS**

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**ALERT!** Looking for someone to head up the Youth Program! Talk to John Weber or Mike.

This is central to our chapter's success.

*Inspirational Quotes:*

"I was listening for a sound I was afraid I'd never hear. The ringing bells of Santa's sleigh." "The Polar Express"



### SQUADRON 534 Youth Aviation Program updates!

I am pleased to report that the steering committee which includes our Ray Scholars, has made great progress refreshing the wonderful legacy of our youth group.

**Unique Identification:** New logo, shirts, hats and name badges with new colors. *(Shirts have arrived!)*

**Recruiting:** Focused on Lake County schools and existing youth organizations. *Recruiting & info fliers are printed with copies on 534 website*

**Workshops:** We all agree that aviation is a collection of disciplines for future aviators to absorb, including systems, assembly and building, tools and techniques. Youth will have planned presentations and hands-on workshops. in their own space.

**Simulator:** Formal flight planning and pilot instructor communications with headsets with potential for flying the flight-plans in a real plane.



*Maria DeStafano one of our future SIM instructors getting the hang of it!*

**Food service:** committed crew for preparation, cooking and clean-up headed up by David Hopkins.

**Young Eagles:** First-time YE will get priority front seat flying A non-flying plane will position in front for hangar for sample pre-flight demo for kids and parents! Our Youth group and members will engage visitors, kids and adults.

**Ray Scholarships:** Hoping to pick-up more qualified youth as we grow the Youth population back next cycle.

**Admin:** Need help with keeping Youth member's attendance and logbooks.

**Funding:** We have monies in our treasury previously donated for Youth group. This will be earmarked for activities and materials needed for the above.

**A debt of gratitude** to John Weber and all the volunteers who will turn these words and ideas into reality. A special thanks to our **Ray Scholars** who bring brilliant ideas to the table with the important insight of their youth and experience.

Marty Harris  
Steering committee chairman



**Young Eagles** – December 16, 2023

**Ray scholarship** – YAY

- **Luke** is getting closer to his PPL checkride
- **Nick** is ready and waiting for his sailplane checkride
- Searching for **next candidate**

**Treasurer Report** –

- Chapter dues or donations may be sent to Alaric Schulte our treasurer.

If you see a new member /visitor always say "Hi"

Three ways to pay your dues - pay with PayPal on our website under the membership link, pay in person at a Chapter meeting or at the hangar on Thursdays or Saturdays, or send a check in the mail made out to EAA Chapter 534 to my address below.

\$20 to:

Alaric Schulte – EAA 534  
8701 Airport BLVD, Suite 103  
Leesburg, FL 34788

### SAFETY

**Remember some flying machines DO NOT Have ADSB – out**



**Keep your head on a swivel!**

**FLY SMART!**



## Chapter 534 Young Eagles

- We will continue with our great **sign-up team** led by our chairwoman Jodie Soule.
- There will be **“name tag stickers”** for all who are without our 534 tags. All members “adult and youth” will now help host and engage our Eagles and their families showing them the planes we are working on as well as flight SIM and chatting about the Youth Program.
- Our existing youth members will be wearing the new **“Squadron 534” T-Shirts.**
- Judie Betz and others will walk families around an **exhibition plane in front of hangar,** demonstrating a traditional walk-around and safety checks. This should save time for YE pilots.
- All **first time YE get front seat** for first flight.



Once again Mason Showing an adult member How to do stuff, like fabricate aluminum.

## Project Updates

### Pietenpol - Ted

Good progress center wing section in place



### Murphy Rebel – Mark

Mark explaining the complex “mixer-box” to operate the flaperons



### Cessna 150 - Steve



Stan chuckling about the many rivets he has gone through rebuilding this flap

### YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group back To package (70) Inspection covers to fill order



### Stinson

Some CYL issues

Bent Tailwheel



## Hello? Can You Hear Me?

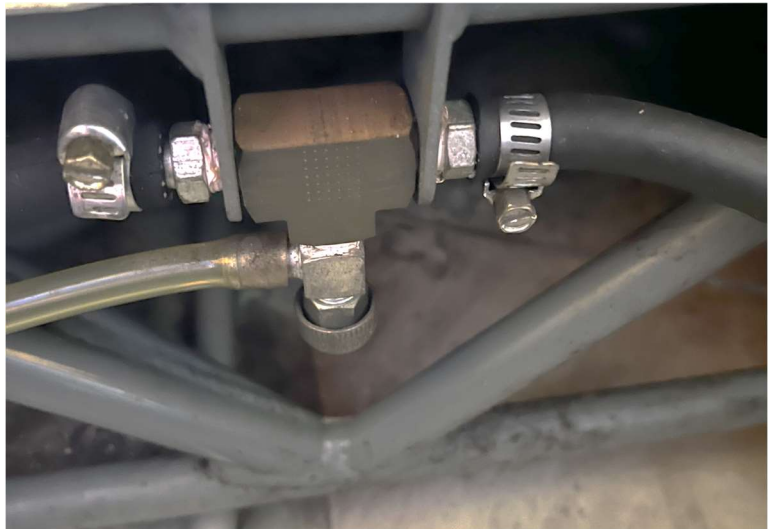
John Weber  
November 18, 2023

Today, when I went to preflight the Rans S-6S to fly Young Eagles today, I got a surprise. Last time I flew the 6, I had about 4 gallons of fuel left in each of the wing tanks. The tanks were empty and there was a fuel stain on the floor of the hangar. Not being sure where the leak was at the time, I just closed the hangar and went to the EAA hangar and took myself off the flying roster. I was not going to fly Young Eagles when I had a fuel leak.

In retrospect, thinking about the plane the last few times I flew, the fuel sump drain was difficult to close and seal. So I figured "here is my leak"! The airplane had been trying to tell me that there was a problem, but I didn't pay attention and listen the way that I should have. With today being a Saturday, I knew that I was not going to be able to order a new sump valve from Rans(part number 8336). I decided to go ahead and take the valve apart and see if there was something that I could fix.

When I removed the valve, there was a lot of debris at the top of the valve from the fuel line. I hadn't removed the valve in the 22 years that I have been flying the plane. After I cleaned out all the foreign material, I found that the valve sealed well enough that I couldn't blow any air through the valve regardless of how hard I huffed and puffed. I re-installed the valve and plan on doing a leak test tomorrow, but I have confidence that removing the detritus will have effected a cure. I feel that there was enough stuff in the top of the valve that it was keeping the valve from closing all the way. I hadn't thought that there would be a collection of debris above the valve, I always thought it would have come out when I sumped the tank or it would have gone on to the fuel filter and be strained out there.

After having had a fuel related engine failure in the Kitfox due to the fuel filter getting plugged, I now on my preflight fill my fuel tested to the top when I am checking the gascolator which is downstream of the fuel filter. If I can't fill the tester within 2 seconds from the gascolator, I will not fly the Kitfox until the fuel filter is changed.



### Lesson:

I am trying to listen to what my airplanes are trying to tell me, but not paying attention can and has come back to "bite me in the butt". Forgive me for being sexist, but I liken it to dealing with a woman, sometimes it is the unspoken quiet things that we need to pay attention to not just the obvious conversation.