



Home of Squadron 534 Youth Aviation Program



CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

04/15 – Young Eagles *Great turnout!*



04/29 – Monthly meeting
Pancake Breakfast



05/20 – Young Eagles

OFFICERS

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President's Message

Recognition

A couple days ago, I got the email that our chapter was awarded '**GOLD**' in the 2022 Chapter Recognition Program. At first glance, it seems like no big deal, we did what we said we'd do. But maybe it isn't just to pat us on the back, but rather let others know that we are a top notch organization that is worthy of their time and effort.

With over 1000 chapters, around 200 chapters are recognized as Gold, Silver or Bronze, with only 60 or so being in the Gold category. This is pretty elite air and something to be proud of. It shows our dedication to the promotion and betterment of aviation. We scored 10 of 11 on the scoresheet and ironically only missed the easy layup, Chapter Blast. I've already rectified that issue and we should score 11/11 next year.

One final note, I would like to give a big thanks to Ted Luebbers for all his hard work, constantly promoting our chapter to the world. This is a resource that very few other chapters have and we are very blessed to have. Nothing brings a bigger smile to my face than when I get notified from friends multiple states away that they just read an article or watch a video on YouTube about the great things this chapter does. Thanks Ted!

Mike Hage

Note from editor, see complete message from Mike on page 3

Inspirational Quotes:

"Both optimists and pessimists contribute to our society. The optimist invents the airplane and the pessimist the parachute".

– Gil Stern



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 – May 20, 2023

Pilots at 8:30

Ray scholarship –

Gretchen reports we have won our fifth consecutive Ray Scholarship for 2023/24

With \$11,000.00 for the PPL!

we have several excited youth members working on their applications

Treasurer Report – *Still some transactional issues in Xfer of position*

Great News! **Alaric Schulte** – An active member since 2019, has accepted the position of **Treasurer** with full BOD confirmation. Alaric Works as a full-stack web developer. Has a Bachelors in Finance and Economics from the University of Nebraska. He plans to implement extreme fiscal austerity! *(Watch out Weber)*

As we start a new year, chapter dues need to be sent in. We show about 60 members have paid their 2023 dues which is about 60% of 2022

If you see a new member 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:

Greg Nilsen
2856 Apache Ct
The Villages, FL 32163

SAFETY

“I’M SAFE”

(Pilot risk management)

Recently I have been absent from flying at EAA and elsewhere. With the emotional load I have had with family issues. I chose to ground myself. This is a well-known program in commercial flying but also is pertinent to us GA pilots. I’m getting back in the game as my situation changes. Thanks to those who have reached out to me.

- I - Illness
- M – Medication
- S – Stress
- A – Alcohol
- F - Fatigue
- E – Emotion

At least three of these factors have induced my decision over the last 6 months

Good news! I completed biennial flight review!

Qualifications for GOLD

Mike Hage



Look at the criteria:

1. Attends a chapter leadership training session
 - *A few of us attended this year and we should probably make sure somebody represents us every year. The tools at our disposal change all the time.*
2. Growing or steady membership
 - *This has happened*
3. Offers IMC or VMC Club programs
 - *John Weber has been dedicated to having VMC*
4. Participates in Young Eagle or Flying Start programs
 - *Jodie Soule, crew and all our pilots run a top notch program that month after month. Not only does it introduce youth to the wonders of flight, it's the gateway to introduce them to our Squadron 534 program.*
5. Has EAA-approved Flight Advisor or Technical Counselor
 - *Not sure how much this feature is formally utilized, but it is a great resource for members to use if interested in buying, building or flying an experimental aircraft.*
6. Participates in EAA's Annual Chapter Member survey
 - *If we don't critique ourselves and improve, we will slowly fade away.*
7. Participates in Young Eagles Build and Fly, Young Eagles Workshops, send a youth to the EAA's Air Academy, or fully completes a Ray Scholarship program
 - *We have one of the best youth programs in the country. Hopefully it will grow again once the Bede project becomes reality.*
 - *Gretchen Crecelius has been churning out Ray Scholars every year. Most don't understand the commitment and sleepless nights it takes to keep this programs running, year after year.*
8. Requests an EAA Chapter-Blast email
 - *We failed to use this great resource provided by EAA national.*
 - *We are currently signed up to advertise our next pancake breakfast.*
9. Hosts at least two public events each year
 - *What better way to promote the great chapter we have than to invite others to come visit us.*
10. Owns/leases a facility
 - *A big thanks to Joel Hargis and others that secured our building and our generous lease agreement with the city.*
11. Extra credit activity, such as a chapter build project, youth build project, chapter scholarship (separate from Ray Scholars), a chapter tool crib, IAC competition, etc.
 - *Thanks to all the 'Hangar Monkeys' for their dedication to keeping our projects moving forward. It's a huge draw for new members to get their hands dirty and learn a skill they may have always wanted to learn.*

Project Updates

Pietenpol - Ted

Fiberglass wing tank completed and installed



Murphy Rebel - Mark

Back to work on the Rebel



Cessna 150 - Steve



150 work team includes Steve, Wayne and Mark. Great progress being made!

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group back to hands-on fabric application for steel tube rudder



Next Up revival of the *Bede in a box* project





Chapter 534 Young Eagles



Our next Young Eagle rally will be May 20th

- We will continue with our great **sign-up team** led by our chairman Jodie Soule.
- We will have **"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.
- Starting Sept all **first time YE get front seat** for first flight.

We look forward to a great new season and many new youth members!