



Home of Squadron 534 Youth Aviation Program  
Leesburg, FL



**DATES:**

**YOUTH PROGRAM:** Nov 16 Movie!



**VMC** – Nov 21, 7:30 PM -> ZOOM

**Chapter meeting:** November 23, Admin Bld, 9:00 sharp Elections (see note below)

**Nominees for election:**

- Mike Hage (incumbent)
- John Weber (Incumbent)
- Alaric Schulte (incumbent)
- Judie Betz (incumbent)
- Eric Stoltz
- Luke Nunez
- Reed Panos
- Stan Carpenter

*Vote for 4 directors @ large*

*BOD approved increase to 4 directors!*

**Young Eagles** – December 7th

**CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Dec 7<sup>th</sup>! If you want to go, Let Marty know ASAP Only 20 so far!

**OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT** Mike Hage mikehage@hotmail.com  
**VICE PRESIDENT** John Weber ransfly@aol.com  
*+ VMC ZOOM (Visual Meteorological Conditions)*  
**SECRETARY** Judie Betz judiebetz@gmail.com  
**TREASURER:** Alaric Schulte aschulte@gmail.com

**DIRECTORS**

*+ PR* Ted Luebbers floxin64@gmail.com  
*+ Activities* Paul Adrien ezalpha@aol.com  
*+ Newsletter* Marty Harris mh5474566@gmail.com

**WEBSITE:** Laura Vaughn ljv3660@hotmail.com

**MEMBERSHIP** Marc Morel marcmorel@embarqmail.com  
*Ray Scholarships* Mike Nunez mnunez6@cfl,rr.com  
*+ Young Eagles* Jodie Soule j.soule@ix.netcom.com  
*+ PR-city affairs* Joel Hargis jhargis@parksite.com

**President's Corner**

Mike Hage



It's that time of the year again to reflect and give thanks. Our projects are all making progress, Squadron 534 is growing, our Ray scholars are collecting their ratings and we are flying a bunch of kids. We would like to thank all those who donate your time and efforts to keep these activities going. You are all the reason we have been a gold chapter the past two years and will probably be again this year.

On a sad note, Jodie Soule has decided to step down from her role as Young Eagles coordinator after 9 years. December 7th will be her last rally and she will surely be missed. Jack Hickey and his wife Stephanie have volunteered to take over and the board voted unanimously to accept him. I would like to thank Jodie for all she has done to make our Young Eagles program run like clockwork. I don't know where our program would be without her strong will and perseverance throughout the years.

Our Christmas party will be on Dec 7th at the KLEE admin building. It is \$30 per head and we will be having a white elephant gift exchange so bring your best \$10 or less gift. If interested in attending, contact Marty Harris or Alaric Schulte. Don't forget to pay your 2025 dues while you are at it.

Tailwinds,

Mike

**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 Quote:*

*"The Wright brothers created the single greatest cultural force since the invention of writing."*

Tom Wolfe



### 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 potejntial 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 – Dec 7, 2024

Sadly, **Jodie Soule** is retiring, after almost a decade as our Young Eagle coordinator and she will be transitioning the responsibilities to **Jack Hickey** (a new member) who has volunteered to be the YE coordinator with his wife **Stephanie** to assist with the ground support at our rallies for the new Year. Thank You!

**Youth program – Great turnout Oct**  
Effects of weight & balance for balsa planes



### Of Special note–

Congratulations to **Paul Adrien** for achieving 50 years of safe flying!



### Treasurer Report – 56 Members

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

*Encouraging News from EAA!*

### Experimental Aircraft Show Improved Safety Stats

FAA numbers indicate fewer fatal accidents despite increased flight hours.

**FLY SAFE!**



## 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.



## Project Updates

### Pietenpol - Ted

Some rigging problems being solved



### Murphy Rebel – Mark

Working on torque tubes



### Cessna 150 - Steve

At last wing is attached YAY!



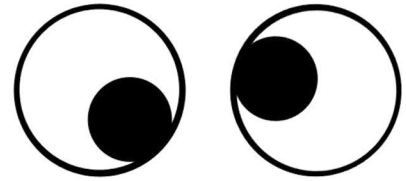
### Stinson

Future up for discussion

## Preflight Inspection

Do You LOOK or SEE What is there?

John Weber- CFI-LS



When you or I do a preflight on our aircraft, do we look at it or do we really see what is there? Do we see what we expect to see? I think that all of us fall into this trap, particularly if the airplane is our own.

**Look** > To direct one's gaze toward someone or something or in a specified direction. (Oxford Languages)

**See**-> Perceive with the eyes; discern visually. (Oxford Languages).

Though very similar, there is a distinct difference between the two. With looking, you don't have to perceive what is there.

Growing up, my father was a wildlife photographer and he used to do a presentation on "Don't Look, See what is there!" to Audubon and other nature organizations. I have a feeling that familiarity breeds contempt (to quote the old phrase) when it comes to pre-flying our airplanes and we think we "see" when we are really just looking. This was brought home to me with the subtlety of a 2X4 on the last condition inspection of my Rans S-6. I "preflight" this airplane every time I fly it.



Guess what? I found one of my rudder cables was being cut in 2 by the fabric where it exited the fuselage. Had I been paying attention, I should have caught this earlier. This rudder cable normally has 7 strands and now only had 3 intact strands and these were worn. This could have turned into a very "bad" day.

Even though I have the repairman certificate on the S-6, I try to have another pair of eyes help me with the inspection. My friends have caught a worn wing attach bolt (found by lifting the wing at the rear attach point) and some worn aileron hinge bolts (again by applying an upward force on the aileron hinge). I have incorporated both of these practices on my preflight inspections. I also feel that we have a tendency to expect to see certain things and our brains go with the assumption and don't really perceive when there is a problem.



Perhaps we might do a better preflight on a plane that we are renting/borrowing, as we don't have any preconceived notions on our inspection.

The question to ask yourself on your next preflight: Are you just "looking" or "seeing" your aircraft?

This can also spill over to your "regular" life, are you **looking** at life or really **seeing** what is out there?

*I invite you to really SEE what is there!*

## Putting Off Until Tomorrow

By Chuck Troutman

The Gift that  
keeps on giving!

EAA 534

When it comes to the creation of a Last Will & Testament many Americans subscribe to the adage, “never do today what can be put off until tomorrow.” Families often learn the hard way that Estate Planning should be a priority.

For those who do not know me, my 40+ year career was invested serving as a non-profit agency manager or CEO. In the 1990’s the American Heart Association who I worked for 30 years began to emphasize charitable giving through estate planning.

Still today 70% of adult Americans who die, do so without having let their own voice be heard in the form of their personal Will. As a result, family, friends and loved ones deal with the reality that the state will determine a number of very personal issues. Just this past month I assisted my sister-in-law who is now 76 to update her estate plan documents that needed attention.

I cannot keep from wondering why so many fail to take advantage of all that a Will makes possible.

### *Too Busy Living To Think About Dying.*

This may well be the single biggest reason so many Americans die without having prepared a valid Will. Daily living – from dawn to way past dark – is so demanding that it seems virtually impossible to think about anything even remotely related to death. The unfortunate truth is that the lives of children, spouses, and loved ones can often be made miserable because an individual failed to articulate important specifics in their Will or Trust.

Many people look at a modest home and a limited asset portfolio are too small to warrant the time and expense of a Will. This is often a costly assumption. Even after only a few short years, the value of a home -- even shares in a closely held, non-public entity – can increase so much that the tax and distribution implications are significant. Values can change quickly as a result of inflationary times. So, even in the case of young couples or estates that are seemingly very modest, a Will minimizes the effect of costs and taxes in the event of an untimely death. These are just two examples of why so many may postpone the creation of a Will. But no matter what the reason, a little time and thought today can result in significant savings and unnecessary emotional stress later. In addition, the creation of a personal Will is the way you give final voice to your hopes, your dreams, and your values. It gives lasting voice to your legacy . . . a voice that will echo for generations.

I hope this gentle reminder prompts our members to assure that your estate plan documents are completed and are up to date.

Last, let me share an idea with you. Our EAA **Chapter 534** is certainly an organization with purpose and worthy of our support. May I suggest that you consider including EAA Chapter 534 in your estate plan. Did you know that the Ray Scholarships we offer are funded through an estate plan gift to the National EAA. Over time, our local chapter could exponentially increase the number of aviation scholarships through the receipt of estate plan gifts to the Chapter.

*If you have questions about estate planning or gifts to our EAA Chapter 534 please feel free to reach out to me at 678-234-5957 or [charlestroutman@gmail.com](mailto:charlestroutman@gmail.com)*