



President's Corner

PLANNING THE FIRST CROSS-COUNTRY FLIGHT OF THE SEASON

With warmer flying weather moving into our region many aviators are looking forward to the first Cross-country Flight of the year. Perhaps a visit to Sun and Fun, AirVenture, or perhaps both. But are you prepared?

Let's take a quick look at some advance planning you might consider.

1. Route selection. This should be selected and considered wisely. Remember, flexibility is key. Be prepared to adjust your route.

2. Master Flight Planning and Navigation Tools. When it comes to a cross-country flight adventure, mastering the art of flight planning and navigation is crucial. It's not just about arriving at your destination but about making sure you get there safely and efficiently. You need to know the weather, understand the routes, and fuel needs. Remember, planning isn't just about following a checklist; it's about turning your flight into a safe and exciting journey.

3. Prepare for Weather Challenges Along the Way. Weather is almost always a wild card when you're planning a cross-country flight. Understand the weather along your entire route, paying attention to visibility, wind, and how much cloud cover you'll be dealing with. This is essential to ensure you can stay in Visual Flight Rules (VFR) conditions.

Remember, your flight plan is just a guideline

the actual flight can be impacted by weather changes.

4. Calculate Fuel Requirements and Plan Stops. When you're planning your first cross-country flight, it's crucial to understand your fuel needs and plan for refueling stops. This means taking a close look at your aircraft's weight and payload, and ensuring you have enough fuel for the whole journey, including reserves for unforeseen events.

5. Familiarize Yourself with Airspace Regulations. When planning a cross-country flight, be aware of the regulations for different airspaces. This is essential for navigating safely and making smart choices while you're up in the air. It's not just about knowing the difference between controlled and uncontrolled airspace, but also understanding what specific requirements apply to each type.

6. Pack Essential Gear and Emergency Supplies. Before you even think about where to fly, there's one crucial step that's often overlooked - packing your emergency supplies. A basic emergency kit can be a lifesaver in case of delays or unexpected weather disruptions. Think water, non-perishable food, a good first aid kit, and a reliable flashlight. Finally, tools like Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) can be a real game-changer in remote areas.

Continues on page 2



Are you a pilot? Are you building an aircraft? Are you an aircraft owner?
Are you just "plane nuts" about aviation?

[7. File a Detailed Flight Plan for Safety.](#) A detailed flight plan is a must for your cross-country flight adventure. It's not just about having a plan; it's about having a good one. The flight plan lays out your route, fuel requirements, and even details about your aircraft.

Thank you Amber Creed for your presentation on simulator training.

Paul Camp - President EAA Chapter 2

Coming Events:

Thursday April 10 — Chapter 2 Gathering at the Ivy Tech Aviation Center, Smith Field, 7:00 PM. Chris Smart will be talking about competition flying in hot air balloons. Come early (6:30) for the VMC club discussion! See page 4 for the questions.

Thursday May 10 — Chapter 2 Gathering at the Ivy Tech Aviation Center, Smith Field, 7:00 PM. Brian Thomas will be discussing his Zenith 750 Cruiser project. Come early (6:30) for the VMC club discussion!

Thursday June 12 — Chapter 2 Cookout, tentatively at the FBO at Smith Field. The chapter will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, & beverages. Please bring a side dish or desert to share. Note that this event starts at 6 PM, one hour earlier than our normal gatherings.

Our Young Eagle season is quickly approaching. EAA2's first rally is on **June 14** at Tri-State Steuben County Airport. Watch your email for additional information from me and updates on the new registration website. Not to worry, there are not many changes. Look forward to seeing many of you at our rallies. Laramie Resler

2025 Membership Renewal

It's not too early to renew for 2025!

Your support of and participation in EAA Chapter 2 can enrich your aviation interest and understanding, as well as that of aviation enthusiasts of all ages.

Your support and participation also helps promote aviation throughout the broader community.

Membership renewal is easy, using the interactive form on the EAA 2 [website](#). Dues can be paid online via credit card / PayPal. If you are new to EAA 2, dues can be pro-rated for the year.

Alternately, you can mail your printed form and check to:

David Resler
4719 S. 300 E
Churubusco IN 46723

Individual memberships are \$20.

Family memberships are \$30. This covers two adults and all children in a family.

Student memberships are FREE to those under 19 who are EAA members, which is free to them. See www.eaa.org/membership for details on how to join the EAA as a student.

Newsletter options. Emailed newsletters are **FREE**. If you want a printed newsletter, please add **\$12** to your membership dues to cover the costs of printing and postage.

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At our March gathering, Finn Freeman received the Youth Aviation Training Scholarship from EAA2. Here is a little bit about Finn, his interest in aviation, his training, and his career plans.

"My interest in flying started when I took my first airplane ride in 2012 in my grandparent's, David and Laramie Resler, Piper Cherokee. My pilot was grandpa. Since then I have flown often with them. They are both active participants in EAA.

I have participated in the Young Eagles program, both as a Young Eagle and a volunteer. I have had numerous Young Eagles flights with many different pilots in many different kinds of aircraft, and I have volunteered for a few years for both EAA 2 and VAA 37.

I started my flight training in April 2024 and my solo flight was on October 3, 2024. I have nearly 40 hours of flight training and plan on completing my pilot training in April of 2025. After graduating high school in June, I plan on attending the United States Coast Guard Academy.

After earning my pilot certificate, I intend to fly in the United States Coast Guard Academy NI-FA (National Intercollegiate Flying Association) Team, and general aviation flying recreationally. I only intend to fly fixed wing aircraft.

My career plans include attending the United States Coast Guard Academy for the class of 2029, then attend Naval Flight School and fly

for the Coast Guard.

Thank you for this Scholarship which will assist me in completing my flight training.

Finn Freeman"



EAA 2 President Paul Camp awarding Finn Freeman with the Chapter 2 Youth Aviation Training Scholarship at the March 13 Gathering.



Finn with his parents, Jill Hanna and Ora Freeman.



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LOOKING AHEAD to YOUNG EAGLES 2025!

May 3 - DeKalb County Airport

May 17 - DeKalb County Airport

June 14 - Tri-State Steuben County Airport

June 21 - DeKalb County Airport

August 9 - Smith Field Airport

August 16 - DeKalb County Airport

September 13 - Smith Field Airport

September 20 - Kendallville Municipal Airport

Volunteers and pilots always welcome!

David and Laramie Resler

Young Eagle Coordinators



VMC CLUB — APRIL QUESTIONS

BY LARRY ZEPP, VMC CLUB COORDINATOR

Question 1. You're preflighting your airplane, and realize that you have not checked your ELT in a long time. The battery was replaced just under two years ago, but hasn't been tested since. Is there some way you can test the device without triggering a search and rescue event to ensure it still works properly?

Question 2. "I always told myself I'd never land with less than an hour of fuel onboard. However, twice last fall I knowingly landed with just a bit less than an hour because it was good VFR and there were nearby airports I could divert to if there was a problem. Both times it made me really uncomfortable, but it was a non-event. Is this a problem?"

Courtesy of Pilot Workshops.com



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