

2016 EAA Major Achievement Award Nomination for Ellen Randall

EAA and Chapter Dedication and Service

Ellen Randall was the primary force in reviving the stagnant EAA Chapter 1044 over the last three years. This chapter is located on an airpark in a rural Arizona community. Several homebuilders and EAA members live here, but interest in the chapter organization had become non-existent. Ellen and her husband Curt Randall started by rekindling interest in monthly chapter meetings. She hosts the monthly meetings in her hangar, acts as our chapter treasurer and secretary, and entices local pilots to the meetings with outstanding apple fritters and coffee. She is the primary liaison between our chapter and EAA National Headquarters, and our meetings are choreographed with her power point slides. As she reviewed and organized the chapter's paperwork which was in disarray, she noted our corporate status had lapsed. She quickly had our chapter back to current status, all on her own initiative.

Once our chapter meeting attendance was up, she turned her attention to relations with the local community. She started by interacting with teachers and administrators from our local high school, attempting to spark interest in aviation in both the faculty and student population. The response was tepid at first, but she did not give up. She tirelessly worked to set up an aviation scholarship fund so our chapter could send local youths to EAA's Advanced Air Academy summer 2016 program. Her efforts were rewarded and we are sending two students from our community high school to Oshkosh this summer, all expenses paid.

The funding to pay for the scholarships was also a result of Ellen Randall's efforts. She organized a Chapter 1044 vending tent at the local community Oktoberfest celebration. This was a multipurpose affair manned by Ellen and other chapter EAA members, and included hot dog and soda sales, and sign-up for Young Eagle Flights. The proceeds from that event was a good start on funding the scholarships. The town Chamber of Commerce announced it had funds available for worthy causes, so Ellen sent the application with justification, and we were awarded a donation to assist with our aviation scholarship. She wasn't tired yet, so she went through the endless paperwork and tedious coordination required to secure for our chapter official 501(c)3 status so we can now receive tax free donations to support our future aviation scholarships.

Ellen also writes most articles for our EAA chapter website, as well as taking or compiling pictures of chapter activities for the website. To say that Ellen Randall is the heart and soul of our chapter would be an understatement. Her tireless efforts have resulted in an active and vibrant EAA chapter.

Service to Aviation Community

Ellen is actively pursuing several programs involving the local high school which revolve around generating an interest in aviation with students and faculty. She partnered our EAA chapter with the Civil Air Patrol to become Aerospace Education Members (AEM). She has made available books and lesson plans to teachers for use in aviation related programs.

She has contacted several Arizona community colleges which have aviation programs in their curriculum. Her end goal is to connect the colleges to our high school students through hosting an Aviation Career Day to showcase what is available as career fields in aviation.

Personal Achievements in Aviation

Ellen actively assists her husband Curt in providing Young Eagle flights in their Mooney. She also takes care of the Young Eagle paperwork for our chapter, and provides the flight certificates for the Young Eagles. Every Young Eagle needs a picture to remember their adventure, and you won't see Ellen in any of the pictures because she is always behind the camera capturing the moment for the kids and their parents.

Curt is building a Rans S-7, and as supporting spouse Ellen is always available when needed to lend a helping hand. That means she now is experienced in riveting, fabric covering, and wiring. Tasks yet to come are painting and engine installation.

- Paul Taylor