



# The Cleco

Aviation Education & Recreation from EAA Chapter 393  
P.O. Box 6524 Concord California 94524-1524

January 2024

<http://www.eaa.393.org>

## Inside This Issue

President's Message .....	1-3
Rich Finkle Celebration of Life .....	3-4
IMC / VMC Club Info .....	4-5
December 2023 Holiday Dinner & General Meeting .....	5-6
Homebuilders Week Info .....	6-7

## President's Message

*By Rick Arias*

### EAA Chapter 393 Upcoming Events

#### February 2024

- 7 Board of Directors Regular Meeting*
- 21 VMC & IMC Club*
- 24 Concord Aviation Community Chili Cook Off*

#### March 2024

- 6 Board of Directors Regular Meeting*
- 20 VMC & IMC Club*
- 27 Dinner & General Meeting*

#### April 2024

- 3 Board of Directors Regular Meeting*
- 17 VMC & IMC Club*
- 20 Young Eagles Rally*
- 24 Dinner & General Meeting*

My Fellow and Dear EAA Chapter 393 Members,

It is with great honor and enthusiasm that I get to step into the role of your new president. As we embark on this journey together, I want to share my vision, goals, and aspirations for our beloved aviation community which I believe will benefit all involved and will unite us in many ways with all that aviation has to offer. I bring to the table a wealth of experience as, CFI, CFII, X- Air Traffic Controller, both in tower and radar and over 7k hours of flight training and commercial operations. I have also contributed to forming several airplane partnerships at Buchanon Field and currently a member of 4 flying clubs at KCCR. My extensive network within the aviation community opens doors for potential collaborations ensuring that our chapter continues to thrive.

I am committed to fostering a friendly atmosphere where every member feels a sense of belonging and confident that together, we will soar into 2024 /2025 and elevate our chapter to new heights.



**Mission Statement:** To grow this chapter by infusing joy into the entire aviation community thru aviation related event, flight training, education, membership support, events participation, member mentorship, and most of all relationship building.

**Vision and Goals:**

***Recruiting:***

My vision is clear- to grow our chapter by encouraging active members to extend a warm invitation to all current members and new potential members who are currently not participating in all these wonderful events that brings us together to enjoy and indulge in this wonderful passion we all shared as aviators.

***Community involvement:***

Building a stronger sense of community among us and encouraging everyone to participate in joining chapter committees and sharing the workload with all chapter responsibilities and events. Let's work together to support those who have kept the spirit of our chapter vibrant and dynamic.

***Education and safety initiatives:***

Scheduling educational visits to Towers and ATC radar facilities on a regular basis. These visits provide invaluable insights and contribute to our flying members safety, ongoing learning and growth within the aviation environment.

*Ask the CFI*

This will be an educational session at our monthly dinner gatherings where I will be asking members via email, to send me any aviation related questions, safety issues or concerns they would like to discuss during this session which will take place right after dinner for all who would like to participate.

*VMC & IMC*

We will also be relaunching our monthly VMC & IMC event hosted by Peter Baker focusing on Pilot Proficiency and Safety. This event will take place every third Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm via Zoom.

*Young Eagles Program*

Spreading our membership wings in promoting and recruiting participation from all members to assist with all Young Eagles events and ensure that these events are staffed appropriately and safely managed.

*Scholarship Opportunities*

As we embark on a new year, we are actively seeking highly motivated individuals between 16 and 19 years old for the \$11,000 Ray Aviation Scholarship. Let's support the next generation of aviators and enthusiasts by spreading the word among the aviation and non-aviation community to ensure that we can jumpstart some lucky individual's dream and convert it into reality in this wonderful world of aviation.

**Events Committee Staffing:**

Recruiting and encouraging member to contribute as volunteers in joining one of our many committees which are critical to ensuring that we consistently provide staffing for all the wonderful events each month which includes Young Eagles Rally, Monthly Dinners and Clubhouse Committees.

**Dinners:**

Dinners are more than just events; they're opportunities to introduce our new members and guest to our wonderful family of aviators and friends, share our aviation stories with our fellow members, expose them to our wonderful world of aviation , and of course enjoy a wonderful dinner prepared by our amazing Chef and aviation enthusiasts Scott Davis.

I am excited to start this year with all of you, and looking forward to an exciting year filled with growth, exciting events, learning opportunities, and camaraderie with all aviators and fellow EAA chapter 393 Members.

Rick Arias, EAA Chapter 393 President

**Rich Finkle Celebration of Life**



In a touching tribute to a beloved member of the Concord aviation community, the family of Rich Finkle warmly invited friends, colleagues, and fellow enthusiasts to join in a celebration of his remarkable life. The event took place on a Saturday morning, January 6th, coinciding with the MDPA monthly breakfast – a fitting setting for a man who had become an integral part of the local aviation family.

Rich Finkle's legacy was deeply intertwined with the aviation community, having been a longstanding member of both MDPA and EAA 393. His contributions as a webmaster and videographer not only showcased his passion for aviation but also left an indelible mark on those who shared the skies with him. Rich's warm spirit and dedication to his craft earned him the love and respect of the entire local aviation community.

The celebration kicked off with a hearty breakfast at the usual time of 9 AM, offering a chance for attendees to gather, reminisce, and find solace in each other's company. The family, recognizing the importance of community during these moments, generously extended an invitation to all attendees as guests, ensuring that



there was no cost associated with joining in the celebration.

A poignant highlight of the morning was a touching video presentation curated by Rich's daughter, Cyndi. The video served as a heartwarming tribute, capturing the essence of Rich's life, adventures, and the joy he found in aviation. Cyndi's narration added a personal touch, allowing everyone present to share in the memories and emotions tied to Rich's journey.

Following the video presentation, the floor was opened for an open mic session, giving friends and colleagues an opportunity to share their cherished stories and anecdotes about Rich. Laughter, tears, and heartfelt memories filled the room as individuals took turns expressing the impact Rich had on their lives.

The celebration of Rich Finkle's life was more than a somber event; it was a gathering of kindred spirits united by a shared love for aviation and a shared admiration for a remarkable individual. The skies above Concord may have been a bit quieter that morning, but the memories and camaraderie shared during the celebration echoed the enduring legacy of Rich Finkle in the hearts of all who attended.



As we bid farewell to a cherished member of our aviation family, we remember Rich Finkle not with sorrow, but with gratitude for the joy, passion, and camaraderie he brought into our lives. May his wings forever soar in the vast skies he loved so dearly.

---

## VMC & IMC Club

We are thrilled to announce the relaunch of our monthly VMC & IMC Club focusing on Pilot Proficiency and Safety hosted by EAA Chapter 393. This club is designed for pilots of all skill levels who are passionate about flying and committed to maintaining the highest standards of proficiency and safety in the air.

### **When?**

Join us every third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM for an engaging and informative session via Zoom. See VMC & IMC Club for more details about the club and information about the upcoming club meeting.

**Not Just for EAA Members!**

We extend a warm welcome to everyone interested in aviation, whether you're a seasoned pilot, a student, or just fascinated by the world of flying. This club is a platform for all to learn, share, and grow.

### **Get Involved!**

Your participation is what makes this club successful. Share your experiences, ask questions, or suggest topics for future discussions. We value your input and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

If you have any questions, please email [edu@eaa393.org](mailto:edu@eaa393.org)

---

## **December 2023 Holiday Dinner & General Meeting**

*By Keri Martin*

We were led inside with strands of enchanting twinkle lights. As we crossed the threshold we were warmly greeted by a lovely fire in the fireplace and the tinkling sound of laughter. EAA 393 Members had started to arrive! After checking in and attaching our name tags, we sat by the fire with a lovely glass of wine – chatting and sharing in the merriment. This is what the holidays are all about – special time with friends and family.



As time for dinner drew nigh, we all meandered into the meeting room that had been transformed for the evening. Lucy and Elaine had created a holiday décor to remember. The live pine tree garland with poinsettias down the center of the tables added just the right amount of fragrance to help us reminisce previous best holidays. The place settings were as regal as if we were royalty for the evening. There were more lights and even a Christmas tree with gifts beneath! A true holiday atmosphere had been magically created for all of us and as EAA 393 members will do, we took the opportunity to continue the merriment from around

the fire – drinking more lovely beverages while mingling with each other – embracing old friends and meeting new.



But wait the star of the show was still to arrive – was it Old St. Nick? It was our very own Scott Davis who had outdone

himself again! I enjoyed the lovely medley of colorful roasted potatoes, hearty winter vegetables prepared to perfection with the juiciest most tender beef all slathered with a lovely bearnaise sauce – yummmmm. When I close my eyes, I can almost taste it now! It was scrumptious!

Following dinner Scott and Rich Cunningham, who like



Santa – arrived in the Nick of Time – spoke to the membership and introduced the Officers for



2024-2025. It wasn't long before our new President, Rick Arias, was telling us about his vision for the future of Chapter 393. His excitement and enthusiasm for recruiting, training, volunteering, and community outreach is palpable and contagious! We will all look forward to his leadership for the next years to come!

---

## Homebuilders Week – Online Event Starts January 22

An online opportunity to learn about building your own aircraft

*By Charlie Becker, EAA Homebuilt Community Manager*

Homebuilders Week is an online opportunity to carry on the founding mission of EAA by sharing as much knowledge and information about building your own aircraft as possible in five days. We start on Monday, January 22nd, 2024, and end on Friday, January 26th, 2024. Each day, we offer six live webinars back-to-back, starting at 11:30 am central time and running every hour and a half until the last session at 7pm central. The sessions are live and allow time for questions. To sign up for the sessions, visit [www.EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek](http://www.EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek)

The topics cover a wide variety of areas of interest to anyone curious about building their own aircraft. We try to make sure there is something for everyone, whether you are just considering the idea of building an aircraft, are knee deep in a project or getting ready for test flying. We even have EAA president Jack Pelton lined up on our anniversary date, January 26th, to talk about EAA's Advocacy efforts on behalf of the homebuilt members.

EAA Homebuilders Week coincides with the anniversary of the founding of the Experimental Aircraft Association in 1953. We have come so far since that first EAA meeting. Back then, information on homebuilding was sparse and hard to come by. I know that if our founder, Paul Poberezny, was still with us, he would give us a big thumbs up for this effort to support the homebuilder.

EAA Homebuilders Week is made possible through the generous sponsorships of Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Co., Dynon, and Scheme Designers, Inc. Visit [www.EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek](http://www.EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek) to sign up.

---

**Link to our EAA 393 Facebook page:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/ea393>**

**Send material to Bennett at [BennettAshley925@gmail.com](mailto:BennettAshley925@gmail.com)**

**We would love content for future newsletters! Please send photos of each other, planes, places, articles, or article ideas to [newsletter@ea393.org](mailto:newsletter@ea393.org)!**

**The Cleco is published every month by EAA Chapter 393**

**[www.ea393.org](http://www.ea393.org)**

**200 Buchanan Field Rd Concord CA 94520**

---