



# The Cleco

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

January 2026

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

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## EAA Chapter 393 Upcoming Events

### January 2026

- 7 Board of Directors Regular Meeting*  
*24 Dinner & General Meeting*

### February 2026

- 4 Board of Directors Regular Meeting*  
*28 Dinner & General Meeting*

### March 2026

- 4 Board of Directors Regular Meeting*  
*28 Dinner & General Meeting*

## Message from the President

*Rick Arias, EAA Chapter 393*

To all our wonderful members,

As we close out this year, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your dedication and support. Because of your time, energy, and passion, EAA Chapter 393 has truly moved to the next level.

This past year we welcomed many new members who stepped up to help with our events and gatherings, strengthening our chapter and bringing us together as one aviation family.

I'm excited and grateful for everything we've accomplished, and I look forward to seeing all of you at our 2026 events as we gather once again to share our love of aviation. Happy New Year to everyone!

## **Membership Dues Reminder**

As we begin the new year, please remember to renew your chapter dues. Memberships renew annually on **January 1st**.

- **Individual Membership:** \$30.00  
*For current EAA members*
- **Family Membership:** \$40.00  
*(Just \$10 more than individual)*

Includes the primary EAA member, spouse or significant other, and children — up to **5 members total**. Each family member must also have an EAA membership.

The family membership is a great value and a wonderful way to involve your loved ones in everything our chapter offers.

### **Growing Our Chapter**

To continue growing, I encourage our active members to extend a warm invitation to both current members who may not yet be participating and to new potential members. Our events are what bring us together to enjoy and celebrate the passion we all share as aviators. Your personal invitation can make a big difference.

### **Community Involvement**

Building a stronger sense of community within our chapter is a priority. We encourage everyone to get involved by joining chapter committees and sharing the workload for our responsibilities and events. Let's work together to support those who have kept the spirit of our chapter strong and welcoming.

### **Young Eagles Program**

The Young Eagles Program remains one of our most important missions. We are looking to spread our wings by encouraging more members to help with Young Eagles events. Your participation helps ensure these events are well staffed, safely managed, and memorable for every young person who takes part.

### **Scholarship Opportunities**

As we start the new year, we are actively seeking motivated individuals ages **16 to 19** for the **\$11,000 Ray Aviation Scholarship**. Please help us spread the word within both the aviation and non-aviation community. Together, we can help turn a young person's dream of flight into a reality.

### **Events Committee and Volunteer Opportunities**

Our chapter depends on volunteers. We are recruiting members to help staff our many committees, which are critical to the success of our monthly activities. These include:

- Young Eagles Rallies
- Monthly Dinners
- Clubhouse Committees

Your involvement helps ensure we continue offering high-quality events throughout the year.

### **Monthly Dinners**

Our dinners are more than just meals. They are opportunities to welcome new members and guests, share aviation stories, introduce others to our world of flight, and enjoy time together. A special thank-you goes to our amazing chef and fellow aviation enthusiast, **Scott Davis**, for preparing such great meals for us each month.

I am truly excited to begin this new year with all of you. I look forward to a year filled with growth, exciting events, learning opportunities, and continued fellowship with our fellow aviators of EAA Chapter 393.

Blue skies,  
Rick Arias  
President, EAA Chapter 393

## EAA Chapter 393 Brings Holiday Cheer to Santa's Jolly Landing

On December 13, 2025, EAA Chapter 393 proudly took part in **Santa's Jolly Landing** at Buchanan Field Airport, held at the Concord Plaza Hotel. This festive community event once again proved to be a wonderful opportunity to share aviation, joy, and holiday spirit with families from across the area.

The Concord Plaza Hotel provided the same table setup and location as last year, making it easy for returning guests to find us. Our table was reserved in front of the stage, offering great visibility throughout the event. DeWitt also reserved a table in the same area, with his **Hodge Flight Services** table located right next to ours, creating a strong aviation presence.



Chapter 393's table featured our chapter materials and fun give-aways, which attracted plenty of attention. Members enjoyed talking with families, answering questions, and sharing stories about aviation and what our chapter has to offer. The energy and enthusiasm from both attendees and volunteers made the event

especially enjoyable.

A major focus of our participation was promoting **Chapter 393's youth programs** to the many parents in attendance. We had great conversations about Young Eagles flights, aviation education, and opportunities for young people interested in flying or learning more about aviation.



We were also fortunate to have our **Ray Aviation Scholarship recipient, Rayan Bhatti**, joining us at the event. Rayan was a tremendous help throughout the evening and served as a great example of how our youth programs can make a real difference in launching the next generation of aviators.



Santa's Jolly Landing was a fantastic event, and Chapter 393 was proud to be part of it once again. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and helped represent our chapter so well. Events like this remind

us how meaningful community outreach can be—and how much fun it is to share our passion for aviation, especially during the holidays.



### **Concord Aviation Community Holiday Dinner**

On **Saturday, December 13, 2025**, the Concord aviation community gathered for a festive and memorable **Holiday Dinner** held from **6:00 PM to 9:00 PM**. The evening was filled with great food, friendly conversation, and a shared appreciation for another successful year for our chapter.

Guests enjoyed an outstanding holiday meal supervised by our own **Executive Chef Scott Davis**, who once again delivered an exceptional dining experience. The menu included:

- Filet mignon roast with Béarnaise sauce
- Scalloped potatoes
- Green beans with sliced almonds
- A delicious holiday dessert



The tables were beautifully decorated, creating a warm and welcoming holiday atmosphere. The strong turnout made the evening even more special, with members and guests enjoying time together and celebrating the season.

During the dinner, we reflected on what a great year **2025** was for our chapter—highlighting our events, growth, and community involvement. We also shared excitement and optimism for an even better **2026**, filled with new opportunities, events, and continued involvement from our members.

The Concord Aviation Community Holiday Dinner was a wonderful way to close out the year, enjoy a fantastic meal, and celebrate the strength of our aviation family. A

special thank-you to Chef Scott Davis and everyone who helped make the evening such a success!



### **RV-14 Project Reaches a Major Milestone**

On **December 7**, another important step was completed on our RV-14 project as **Peter, Slavic, and Gates** successfully moved the aircraft into the hangar. Slavic's trailer played a huge role in making the move smooth and efficient, and the teamwork on display made the day a success.

With the RV-14 now in the hangar, most of the garage-sized work is officially complete. This marks a big transition in the build and opens the door for the next exciting phases of the project.

Up next on the list is **attaching the tail section to the fuselage** and **installing the wheels**, both of which will bring the aircraft one step closer to looking like a complete airplane.

Peter has also been making great progress inside the cockpit. After finishing the **panel assembly** and **brake assembly**, he has now shifted focus to working on the **canopy**, another major and detailed task in the build process.

Great work by everyone involved! The RV-14 continues to come together thanks to the dedication, skill, and steady progress of our builders. We look forward to sharing more updates as the project moves forward.



## Learn what it takes to be a **Pilot**

SkyReady offers aspiring young pilots, ages 13 to 18, hands-on, engaging training to explore aviation as both a hobby and a potential career.

To learn more, scan our QR code or visit:  
[get.skyready.org/course](https://get.skyready.org/course)



Visit [get.skyready.org/course](https://get.skyready.org/course)

**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)!**

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