

EAA® TRAINING AID

This is a curated selection of EAA's most helpful pilot proficiency and safety program resources. Each section describes the program offering and where you can go to learn more about being a safer and more proficient pilot.



Technical Counselors

EAA technical counselors are experienced airplane builders, restorers, and mechanics who volunteer their time to visit other EAA members who are in the process of building or restoring their own aircraft, sharing their knowledge, expertise, and experience in order to assist the builder with the project.

The goal of EAA's Technical Counselor program is to help members present a "zero defect" aircraft at final inspection by the FAA. However, technical counselors are strictly volunteers and not inspectors themselves. They are, as the name implies, counselors, providing no regulatorily required inspections or services.

Flight Advisors

EAA's Flight Advisor program is designed to increase aviation safety by developing a corps of volunteers who have demonstrated expertise in specific areas of flying and making them available to EAA members who may be preparing to fly an unfamiliar aircraft.

Members may access EAA's Flight Advisor program if they are:

- Considering purchasing an airplane or ultralight
- Preparing for flight in a newly built or restored aircraft
- Looking to transition to a high performance or unfamiliar aircraft

Flight advisors can help members plan their first flights and help determine if additional training is needed. Often, members who access this program qualify for more complete insurance, like "first flight" coverage under the EAA Aircraft Insurance Plan.

Like technical counselors, flight advisors are volunteers. They may or may not be flight instructors and usually do not provide flight training, only advise and share experience on a "pilot to pilot" basis.



SportAir Workshops

EAA's SportAir Workshops program provides hands-on instruction with building and maintenance techniques. Courses are held at EAA headquarters in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and around the U.S. throughout the year.

Courses include: Fabric Covering, Electrical & Avionics, Fiberglass Techniques for RV Aircraft, Sheet Metal, TIG Welding, Gas Welding, and Composite Aircraft Construction.

Builders Log

EAA makes available to its members a free online builders log. Aircraft builders can upload descriptions and photos of each build session's progress, which can be used both to document their project for certification as well as interact with other builders in their community and around the world.

Publications and Video Content

EAA members have access to an amazing collection of resources, from print magazines to digital content, like the [Hints for Homebuilders video series](#). Some of the most valuable information available for builders can also be found in the articles published in our various publications over the last 70-plus years.

Webinars

Watch them live or catch up with a recording, EAA's informative and interactive webinars allow members to easily attend a session from anywhere using a compatible computer or mobile device. They cover a range of topics, and many qualify for FAA WINGS credit or AMT credit.

The Non-Builder Owner's Guide to Experimental Aircraft

The purpose of the NBO (Non-Builder Owners) Guide is to improve the safety of the operation and purchase of a new (non-builder or second) owner's experimental aircraft, as well as enhance the owner's enjoyment of flight operations by increasing their knowledge of their new aircraft's handling and performance characteristics by providing some guidance on the needs and objectives of transition training. It is broken up into three categories, including Evaluating an Aircraft Before Purchase, Aircraft Documentation, and Transition Training, see EAA's additional [Transition Training Guide](#). Each of these sections focuses on the critical details needed to make smart and safe purchasing decisions.



EAA Flight Test Manual

The *EAA Flight Test Manual* (Version 2.0) offers a comprehensive, step-by-step approach to testing your homebuilt aircraft. This manual is designed to ensure that your aircraft is thoroughly tested and understood by guiding you through each phase of the flight testing process.

This program uses test cards that break down each flight into manageable, point-by-point tasks, simplifying data collection and ensuring thorough flight testing. Builders using this manual will gain a complete understanding of their aircraft's performance, handling characteristics, and limitations, as well as the data needed to create a detailed aircraft operating handbook.

For new or significantly altered designs, the manual will help you create a tailored flight test plan. We also recommend consulting with an experienced test pilot or volunteer flight advisor when needed.

Thanks to EAA's advocacy on behalf of the homebuilt aircraft community, the program outlined in this manual now satisfies the FAA's task-based Phase I policy, as detailed in FAA Advisory Circular 90-89C. Instead of completing a traditional 25- or 40-hour flight-test period for experimental aircraft, you can follow this task-based program, and once the outlined tasks are complete, phase I flight testing is finished.

Chapters

An EAA chapter is a local group of aviation enthusiasts with wide-ranging interests, including aircraft building, vintage aircraft, ultralights, warbirds, aerobatics, promoting aviation safety, inspiring young aviators, and everything in between.

In addition to monthly meetings, your local chapter allows you to share your interest with other members in a variety of aviation-related educational and social activities such as:

- Aircraft building/restoration
- Seminars/workshops/guest speakers
- EAA Young Eagles rallies
- Fly-ins/fly-outs
- Cookouts
- Fundraising

... and much more!

Each chapter has its own personality that is reflected in its members and local culture, but all chapters have one thing in common: a passion for aviation.



IMC Club

The purpose of EAA Instrument Meteorological Conditions (IMC) Clubs is to promote instrument flying, proficiency, and safety. The intent is to create a community of pilots willing to share information, provide recognition, foster communications, promote safety, and build proficiency in instrument flying. EAA IMC Clubs are extensions of local EAA chapters and offer monthly IMC program meetings where pilots can network and share knowledge and experiences. Since 2017, pilots have improved their proficiency through the EAA IMC Club programs.

EAA provides monthly program resources in the form of actual IMC-related scenarios designed to encourage open discussion, and for all participants to answer the question, “What would you do if this happened to you?” Providing the opportunity for each IMC member participant to hypothetically place themselves into an actual IMC situation, and be involved in open discussion, is the key to build proficiency and increase safety as a pilot. This is educational “hangar flying” at its best. Additional program offerings such as the “IMC Question of the Month” is a monthly thought-provoking question designed to be a challenging and engaging educational question related to IFR operations.

VMC Club

Non-instrument rated pilots who want to improve their proficiency have an excellent resource through EAA’s Visual Meteorological Conditions (VMC) Clubs. The purpose of EAA VMC Clubs is to build proficiency when flying under visual flight rule conditions.

EAA VMC Clubs are extensions to local EAA chapters and offer monthly meetings in which pilots can network and share knowledge and experience. The meetings use real-world scenarios to engage members and allow a free exchange of information that improves awareness and skills. The intent is to create a community of pilots willing to share information, provide recognition, foster communications, promote safety, and build proficiency. Through the EAA VMC Club programs, visual flight rule pilots have improved their proficiency, and they love it.



Additional Pilot Program

In September 2014, the FAA and EAA collaborated on AC 90-116, *Additional Pilot Program for Phase I Flight Test*. This program, born out of a decade of safety discussions and a working group led by EAA, allows experimental amateur-built aircraft builders the option to include an additional qualified pilot during flight testing. The aim is to improve builder/owner pilot skills and mitigate the risks associated with Phase I flight testing. This change was implemented in response to years of data showing that a majority of E-AB accidents occur within the first eight hours of flight testing, primarily due to pilot loss-of-control events.

Since its inception, the program has contributed to a noticeable decrease in fatal E-AB accidents, with a decline from 5.66 fatal accidents per 100,000 E-AB flight hours in 2012 to 1.94 fatal accidents per 100,000 E-AB flight hours in 2023.

AirVenture Daily Workshops and Forums

There's more to EAA AirVenture Oshkosh than just seeing unique and cutting-edge aircraft. We talk about them. We learn about them. We even find out how we can build them.

AirVenture is the epicenter of aviation knowledge; there is an opportunity to interact and get hands-on at the hundreds of forums, workshops, and special presentations included with your admission.

Daily workshops and forums allow you to learn just about anything about everything to do with building, flying, restoring, and maintaining aircraft. Plus, listen to industry leaders discuss aviation's future in daily forums held at the Forums Plaza.

Hundreds of innovators, industry leaders, authors, experts, and legends share their accumulated knowledge with engaged audiences, making the Forums Plaza the most comprehensive collection of aviation knowledge available in one location.