

Northern New Mexico Chapter 691 of the **Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA)** will meet **Saturday, April 25** in the **Los Alamos Nature Center Planetarium**, operated by the Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC). The program will feature a special video presentation by **Jeff Gilkey** entitled **New Mexico from the Air**. The meeting, open to the public, will begin at 10:30 with coffee, pastries, and informal discussion, followed by the presentation beginning at 11:00

The Nature Center Planetarium is located at 2600 Canyon Rd, Los Alamos, NM. This is near the western end of Canyon Road, just north of the intersection of Canyon with Central Avenue and the LA Aquatic Center.

This unique planetarium experience showcases sweeping aerial footage captured from a motorized hang glider or "trike", offering a fresh perspective on New Mexico's canyons, mesas, and geological wonders, as well as other Southwest landscapes. Gilkey will share insights into the filming process, the aircraft used, and the remarkable features of the terrain that are best appreciated from above.



Jeff has been involved in aviation most of his life. He flew hang gliders in California and NM in the 80's and 90's, including over 200 flights from the Sandia Crest. He studied aerospace engineering in college, and worked on navigation, guidance, and control systems at Sandia Labs, retiring in 2016.

Since 2004, he's flown his experimental light sport weight-shift control aircraft, logging over 2500 hours on cross country trips into nearly every corner of New Mexico and across surrounding states. For Jeff, the trike is the perfect flying machine, combining the intuitive

natural wing controls of a hang glider, and the low-speed cruise, long distance capability of an efficient engine with a large gas tank.

A few years ago, Jeff mounted a GoPro 360 camera on the wingtip of his trike. This “spherical acquisition” camera is essentially a melding of two high resolution cameras with fisheye lenses, that capture and record all directions from the camera’s location. He soon realized the only place that could adequately display these extremely immersive videos was a planetarium dome, though recently he has begun exploring the use of VR goggles for an even more intimate experience. Jeff has created the ultimate aerial tour, revealing the wild and obscure scenic wonders of New Mexico and the Southwest.

Jeff serves on the Board of the Directors of the New Mexico Pilots Association (NMPA) and writes the “Obscure and Scenic New Mexico” column for the NMPA newsletter https://www.nmpilots.org/Obscure_and_Scenic_NM.

You can find his YouTube videos at <https://www.youtube.com/user/jefftrike>.

EAA Chapter 691 (EAAChapter691.org) is a 501(c)(3) organization with objectives to support and promote general aviation, flight safety, R&D on emerging technologies including electric aircraft, education on aircraft construction and maintenance, STEM education for youth, and providing opportunities for introductory flights through the Young Eagles program.