



Writer: PingPing He | Editor: PingPing He

The President's Flight Deck

April 28th will bring us together for our monthly Chapter gathering. We will revert to our standard evening format which begins with our dinner/social hour at 6:00 PM. We will follow the dinner hour with Chapter updates at 7:00 PM. Following the updates we will have our very own Josh Welter and his lovely bride Shelli present on their trip to France in celebration of the 80th D-Day invasion. Josh and Shelli have a lot of pictures, videos, and personal interest stories that sound amazing. If you are into WWII history, you will want to see this presentation. As always, if you can help with any early kitchen prep and final clean-up your assistance will be appreciated!

Several members from our Chapter, Forest Lake Chapter 1638, and Lakeville Chapter 25 helped at a Young Eagles event held at the Grantsburg, WI airport last fall. The event was held to highlight the value of the airport to the community. The airport has been in the crosshairs of the city council for a couple of years. The local aviation community has sued the city to keep the airport open, and a court date of May 5th and 6th has been set. They feel good attendance by the aviation community will go a long way in influencing the court. If anyone would like to attend, perhaps we can carpool, or airplanepool over there. Let me know. The full request message is listed elsewhere in this month's newsletter.

The Great Minnesota Aviation Gathering is coming soon and will be held at the Buffalo Airport on May 16th and 17th. This is always a fun event with many airplanes, exhibitors and educational presentations. We typically help with the shared EAA booth. If you can spare some time and assist with answering EAA questions, please let me know. Event details can be found here; <https://mnpilots.org/gmag/>.

I plan to see you at the Chapter meeting!
Kevin



YOUR CHAPTER BOARD OFFICERS

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Contact the Board at: board@eaa237.org



KGTG Lawsuit Trial is Approaching

I am sending this message out to anyone who I think just might be interested in the outcome of our attempt to save KGTG. After 2 years we are finally getting our days in court. **The trial will be held in the Burnett County government building in Siren on May 5th and 6th beginning at 8:30AM.** We have been working toward a trial date for 2 years now and it's finally come.

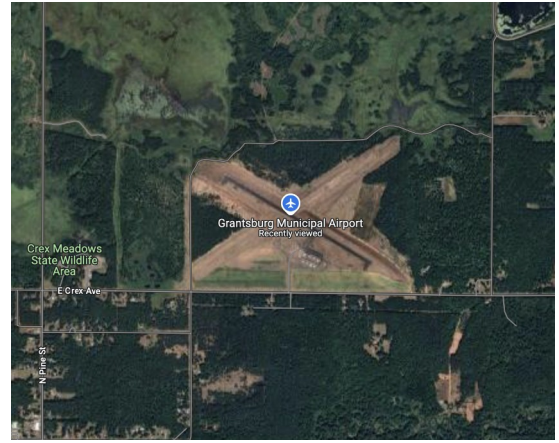
I don't think anyone will be surprised to hear me say this is a tremendously political trial with a judge we don't know. A large trial audience would really help to highlight our cause. If the judge sees how committed we all are to this effort, that could help our cause. If any professional pilots can attend, then our attorney might offer to bring them up to testify, so if you plan on attending please let me know. And please feel free to invite anyone with an interest in the airport.

Thanks in advance, and I hope we'll see you in May!

--

Rod Kleiss

cell: 715 220 5215



KGTG - Grantsburg Municipal Airport



Burnett County Government Building (7410 Co Hwy K, Siren, WI 54872)

EAA's Newest Technical Counselor, Jeff Mullin

On April 8th, Jeff Mullin received a letter from Charlie Becker indicating that his application to be an EAA Technical Counselor has been accepted by the EAA.

When Jeff's plane was under construction, he had several visits from EAA Technical Counselors. Jeff found those visits very helpful for both affirmation of the quality of work and areas that needed more attention. Jeff hopes to give back in the same way as those that had helped him by offering his expertise to the next generation of builders.

EAA Technical Counselor is a volunteer unpaid service to EAA members. EAA Technical Counselors are available for critique of a build or for technical expertise when trying to solve a roadblock problem.

Although the EAA Technical Counselor program is advisory only and not recognized by the FAA, having EAA Technical Counselor visit reports can demonstrate a builder's commitment to a quality and safe build. While there are no guarantees, this documentation can influence whether a plane is insurable. Jeff encourages anyone building a plane to take advantage of this valuable perk of being an EAA member.

Chapter Recognition

Chapter 237 has again been awarded the gold level status from EAA! This level is the highest attainable from EAA for a Chapter, and signifies the great effort put in by you, our Chapter members, to make our Chapter one of the best under the EAA umbrella! Please give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done, and let's see if we can keep this status in the coming year. Here is the entire message from EAA.

*Congratulations to your chapter in successfully reaching the **GOLD** level status recognition level for the 2024 year. EAA is happy to present you with a chapter recognition banner to proudly display where your chapter meets. Your level also will be displayed online at EAA.org/FindAChapter with a specially designed emblem. You are encouraged to use your emblem on your website, newsletter, and other promotional materials.*

This program was developed and measured in partnership with EAA's Chapter Advisory Council and is based on 10 criteria that are consistently found in active and highly engaged chapters. In addition to the 10 criteria measured, EAA offered chapters to submit additional chapter activities to earn up to three more extra credit points to boost their base score, resulting in the potential to earn up to 13 points.

There are three levels of recognition: bronze (7 out of 13), silver (8 out of 13), and gold (at least 9 out of 13).

Below are the qualifying Chapter Recognition criteria, along with your chapter's points. A one (1) indicates that your chapter earned credit for the associated criteria. Note: All points based on calendar year 2024.

- 1. Attends a chapter leadership training session: 1*
- 2. Growing or steady membership: 1*
- 3. Offers IMC or VMC Club programs: 1*
- 4. Participates in Young Eagle or Flying Start programs: 1*
- 5. Has EAA-approved Flight Advisor or Technical Counselor: 1*
- 6. Participates in EAA's Annual Chapter Member survey: 1*
- 7. Participates in Young Eagles Build and Fly, Young Eagles Workshops, Ray Aviation Scholarship program, or sends a youth to EAA's Air Academy: 1*
- 8. Requests an EAA ChapterBlast email: 1*
- 9. Hosts at least two public events each year: 1*
- 10. Owns/leases a facility: 1*
- 11. Extra credit activity, such as a chapter build project, youth build project, chapter scholarship, a chapter tool crib, IAC competition, etc.: 0*

EAA Chapter 237, Inc.'s 2024 Chapter Recognition total is 10 out of 11.



Group Pictures

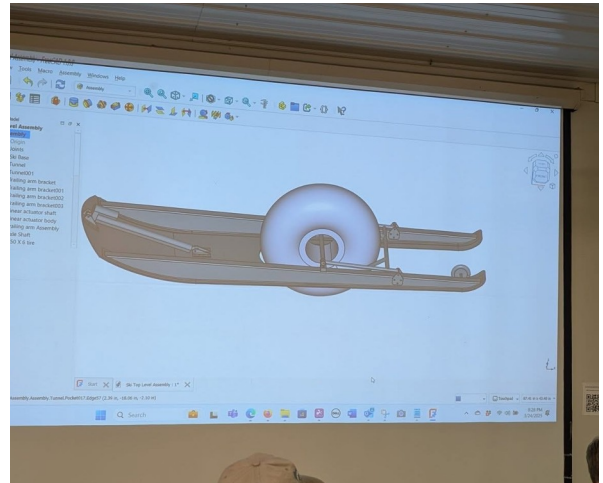
Last month, a great turnout enjoyed a chicken kiev dinner and socialized before the meeting. Our guest speaker was Adam del Rosso, local early morning meteorologist for WCCO TV and pilot. Adam led a presentation and discussion on weather forecasting tools, spoke about how his deep understanding of weather helps his go-no-go decision before flying, and answered many questions. Afterwards, Jeff Mullin discussed a cad program he used to design his skis for his Pegazair. Thank you to all the helpers who helped with kitchen prep and final clean-up!

Here are some of the weather websites Adam shared during his presentation:

- <https://blend.mdl.nws.noaa.gov/nbm-dashboard>
- <https://www.wunderground.com/>
- <https://www.spc.noaa.gov/exper/mesoanalysis/new/>
- <https://www.theweatherprediction.com/habyhints/>
- <https://www.tropicaltidbits.com/>



Adam presenting



Jeff Mullin's ski design for his Pegazair



Adam and his instructor



Chapter members enjoying dinner and social hour

Young Eagles



Our EAA237 Young Eagles team took 40 youth for free flights at Atlantic Aviation, KANE on Saturday, April 12th. Of the 40 present, eleven (or 28%) were first time Young Eagles. Four pilots (Joe Gmitter, Michael Grzincich, John McClelland, and Mike Miller) and a dozen ground team members participated to provide 19 flights on a windy day. Despite the winds, everyone landed with huge smiles on their faces!

Our next event will be from 9 AM to 2 PM on May 10th at Atlantic Aviation.

All chapter members are invited to come out to support our effort to provide a safe, fun, and memorable experience for these young people, who share our interest in aviation. It's always fun to watch the smiling faces after they return from their flights!

If you would like to help, please set up a profile at <https://EAAchapters.org>. Your normal, EAA.org login should get you in. Need help? Contact Michael.Grzincich@EAA23.org.



Volunteers and Young Eagles having fun

Aviation Explorer's Post

On March 21st, C&P hosted the Explorers and gave us a tour of the workshops and hangars. We got a close look at all the machinery used to build the parts needed as well as the modeling software and a great explanation of the process involved in fabricating custom parts.



On April 4th, we spent the evening building model rockets that we're planning to launch in an upcoming meeting.

The next meeting will be held April 18th from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM.

Meetings are held at the EAA Chapter 237 Building.



Learning about the machinery used at C&P



Building rockets

Membership Corner

Please welcome the following new members to our chapter. Please make them feel welcome when you meet them!

Paul Storsved is a private pilot who was bitten by the flying bug back on 1977 and got his license in 2021. Great job of keeping the dream alive! Retired from the computer world, he now owns a small oil business selling aviation oil and filters to the local area. Paul is currently a member of Northstar Flyers, a flight club located on the east side of the KANE. When Paul isn't flying, he enjoys spending time with his family and 6 grandkids, listening to music, and woodworking.

Sean Truax is a student pilot who has a custom Cub with Bearhawk wings. He enjoys the outdoors and hiking and has a passion for building things. As such, his next adventure has gotten him into building a plane, so for you plane builders please introduce yourselves. Sounds like his custom Cub will be a build to worth watching.

Ray Aviation Scholarship



Dear EAA Chapter 237,

I'm excited to share some significant milestones in my flight training since my last update.

On March 22nd, I completed my first solo flight, which was an unforgettable experience! I also had the opportunity to experience my first night flight, which gave me an entirely new perspective on flying.

A significant portion of my recent training has involved flying to the St. Paul airport, which has been an amazing experience. It provided invaluable exposure to different airspace and operational procedures, further enhancing my overall skill set.

In addition to my flight time, I have successfully completed Sporty's Online Ground School, received my certificate of completion, and am scheduled to take my written exam in a couple of weeks.

Thank you once again to everyone at EAA Chapter 237 for believing in me and supporting my journey. Your encouragement continues to inspire me as I work toward my goal of becoming a licensed pilot.

Sincerely,

Drew Lindquist

2025 Ray Aviation Scholarship Recipient



Drew before his first solo



Drew and his instructor, Nicholas Vejr



Drew after his first solo

VMC/IMC Club at EAA 237

3rd Tuesday of the month
VMC Club starts at 6:30 PM
IMC Club starts at 7:30 PM
Location: EAA 237 Building



Pilots and non-pilots are welcome to attend either or both parts of the meeting.

An Easy Way to Make Your CFI Smile and Sharpen Your Skills: Plan Ahead for Weather

Check the weather the day before your flight and discuss it with your CFI. This proactive approach helps you make informed aeronautical decisions and saves time.

Why It Matters:

- Aeronautical Decision Making (ADM): ADM starts before you leave the ground. Discussing weather at the hangar limits your options to a go/no-go decision, which can be inefficient and stressful.
- Help Your CFI: CFIs prefer not to be pressured into flying in marginal conditions or making last-minute decisions.

The Process:

1. Day Before the Flight:
 - Check the weather.
 - Review flight objectives and your personal limits.
 - Create a list of options and concerns.
2. Call Your CFI:
 - Collaborate on the best plan for the flight.
 - For stick & rudder skills, review winds aloft and cloud clearances.
 - For instrument work, select airports and procedures efficiently.

By planning ahead, you consider the weather's impact on your objectives, explore alternate plans, and streamline the go/no-go decision process with your CFI. This approach can save time, enhance learning, and avoid unproductive trips to the airport.

Happy Flying,

Chris

VMC/IMC Club Coordinator

Wings Knowledge Activity credits are available to VMC/IMC Club participants that sign in with the email address they registered on faasafety.gov.

The next meeting will be held April 15th with VMC Club starting at 6:30 PM and IMC club starting at 7:30 PM.

Weeks Hangar Work Party Update

Chapter 237 members have had a strong partnership with the EAA in Oshkosh for many years. Volunteers have stepped up to help before, during, and after AirVenture. Our volunteers always have a fantastic time, and their efforts are greatly appreciated!

Over the years, chapter members have been involved in numerous projects, including the restoration of EAA's B-25 and the Berlin Express. They have also worked on EAA's B-17 Aluminum Overcast, participated in various projects at the Kermit Weeks Maintenance Hangar, and assisted around the EAA grounds. Each year during the days leading up to Airventure, our members help by moving and tying down aircraft to clear the area for KidVenture and preparing the Eagle Hangar in the museum for the show.

This winter, we organized two Work Parties, one in December and one in February.

Some of the projects included:

- Prepping the P-80 for museum display
- Customizing a floorboard for the Travel Air
- Refurbishing towbars for the B-17 and the Ford Tri Motor
- Sewing a customized canvas covering for the Allison 1500 engine
- Working on the Pheasant, which was severely damaged in a storm some years ago, and more!

Work Parties are a fantastic opportunity not only to help with these incredible aircraft but also to get to know your fellow EAA members better. Plus, our help is always greatly appreciated!

We are planning another Work Party for the last week in June and the week before AirVenture. There might even be one sooner. Stay tuned for more details!

Nancy Carter
Weeks Hangar Coordinator



P-80



Santa's reindeer were on vacation, so he had to take a Bell 47



Michael Reeves with the Travel Air floor board that him and Jim Fischer worked on

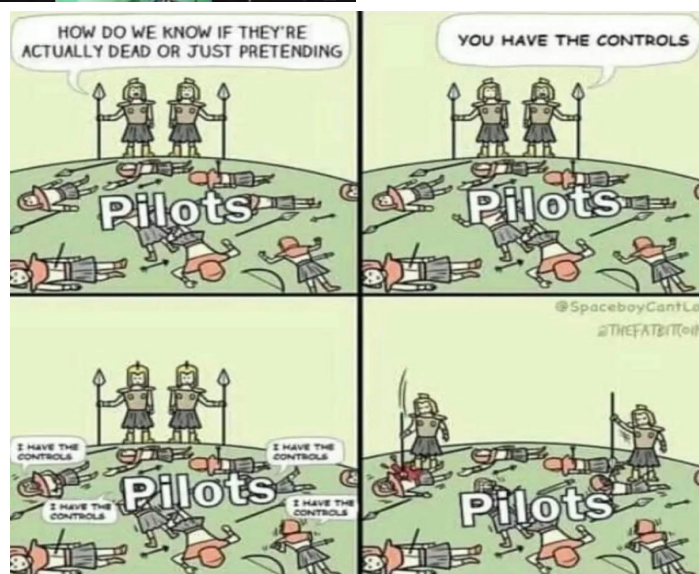
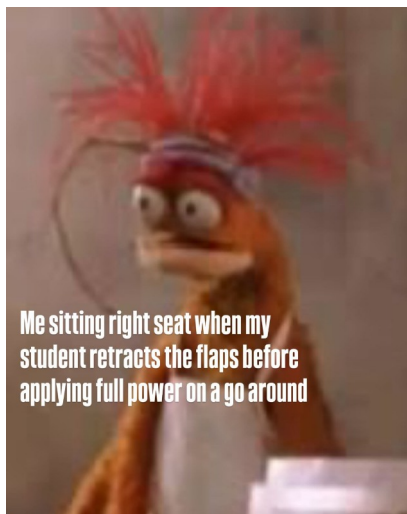
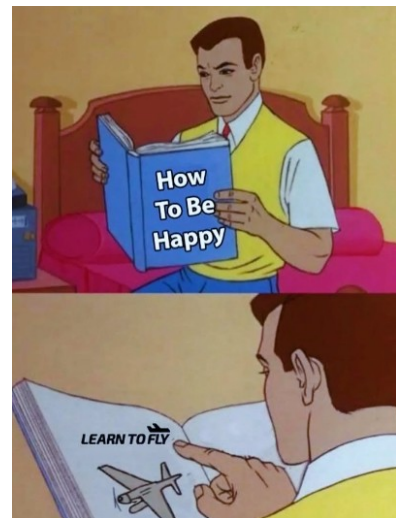
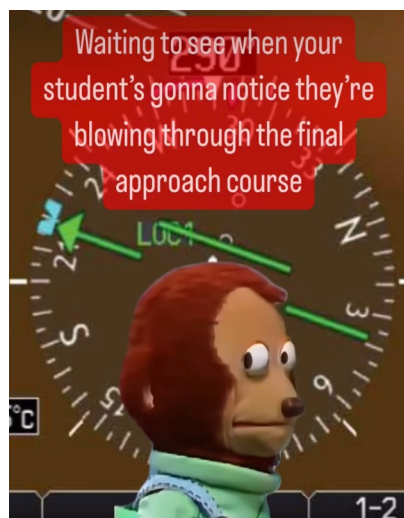
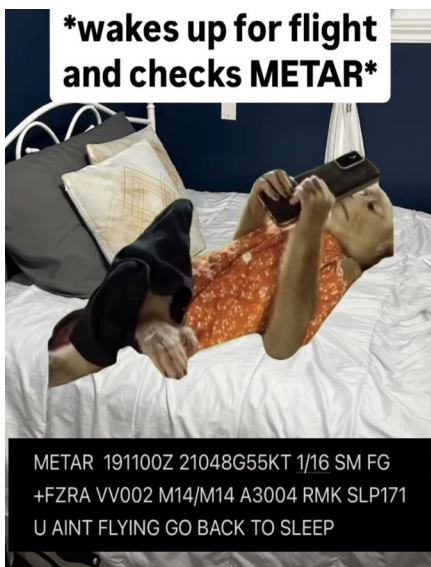


B-17 towbar

Chapter 237 Upcoming Events

- * **IMC/VMC meetings** - Tuesday, April 15th - **VMC** 6:30 PM -7:30 PM/**IMC** 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM
- * **Explorer Post 237** - Friday, April 18th - 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM.
- * **Chapter 237 Meeting** - Monday, April 28th - Dinner starting 6:00 PM & Meeting at 7:00 PM
- * **Explorer Post 237** - Friday, May 2nd - 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM.
- * **Chapter Breakfast Social** - Saturday, May 3rd - 7:30 AM - 11:00 AM
- * **Young Eagles Rally** – Saturday, May 10th – 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- * **Explorer Post 237** - Friday, May 16th - 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM.
- * **Chapter 237 Meeting** - Monday, May 19th - Dinner starting 6:00 PM & Meeting at 7:00 PM
- * **IMC/VMC meetings** - Tuesday, May 20th - **VMC** 6:30 PM-7:30 PM/**IMC** 7:30-8:30 PM

The Lighter Side



Saturday Fun

After the Young Eagles event on Saturday, Joe and PingPing went on a short trip around Minnesota in Joe's Cessna 172, a plane he has owned for over 20 years. They left Atlantic FBO and traveled towards the Saint Croix River. They then headed towards downtown Saint Paul before flying back to ANE.

The flight and views were great, but the company was even better! Joe, a pilot with over 57 years of experience, a dedicated volunteer who has flown over 1,000 Young Eagles, and a US Navy veteran, shared many stories and words of wisdom throughout the day and flight. Thank you for your service, dedication to the Young Eagles and chapter, and for sharing your love for all things aviation, Joe!



PingPing and Joe



Flying over the St. Croix River



Lakes from above



Joe's Cessna 172

We always love to showcase the aircraft that our members are building, restoring, and flying. We also love seeing what other projects and adventures our members are taking on.

If you would like to feature an aircraft you are building, have completed building, are restoring, have purchased, or are flying, or if you just have something fun to share, please contact:

PingPing He | newsletter@eaa237.org

To view past issues of *The Windsock*, visit www.eaa237.org and select newsletters.

Quick Links

Thank you, Frank Huber, for sharing all these articles!

Vintage Aviation News

- *Today in Aviation History: Ed Link Introduces the Ground-Based Flight Trainer:*

<https://vintageaviationnews.com/warbird-articles/today-in-aviation-history-ed-link-introduces-the-ground-based-flight-trainer.html>

- *Today in Aviation History: The First UK-Built Concorde Takes Flight*

<https://vintageaviationnews.com/warbird-articles/today-in-aviation-history/today-in-aviation-history-the-first-uk-built-concorde-takes-flight.html>

- *Today in Aviation History: First Flight of the Northrop T-38 Talon*

<https://vintageaviationnews.com/warbird-articles/today-in-aviation-history-first-flight-of-the-northrop-t-38-talon.html>

- *Today in Aviation History: First Flight of the North American AT-6 Texan*

<https://vintageaviationnews.com/warbird-articles/today-in-aviation-history-first-flight-of-the-north-american-at-6-texan.html>

- *Today in Aviation History: P-51C Mustang 'Thunderbird' Sets Transcontinental Speed Record*

<https://vintageaviationnews.com/warbird-articles/today-in-aviation-history-p-51c-mustang-thunderbird-sets-transcontinental-speed-record.html>

- *NASA's X-15: Original and Unaltered 1959 Documentary*

<https://vintageaviationnews.com/warbird-articles/nasas-x-15-original-and-unaltered-1959-documentary.html>

- *The Man Who Saved North American Aviation's Engineering Drawings*

<https://vintageaviationnews.com/warbird-articles/the-man-who-saved-north-american-aviations-engineering-drawings.html>

Air Facts Journal

- *Visual Angle of Attack Indicators and Systems Engineering Theory* By Ed Wischmeyer

<https://airfactsjournal.com/2025/04/visual-angle-of-attack-indicators-and-systems-engineering-theory/>

- *Know Thy EFB* By Alexander Sack

<https://airfactsjournal.com/2025/04/know-thy-efb/>

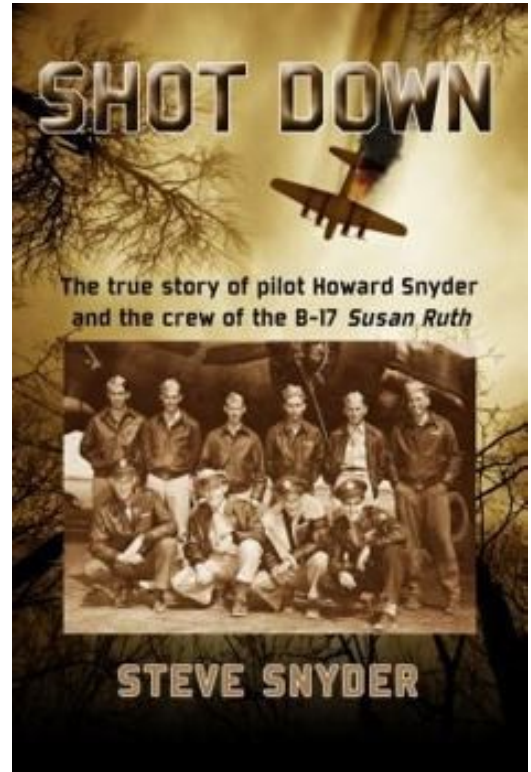
High Above the Clouds – A book review of *SHOT DOWN* Reviewed by Bob Henkes

Published on August 16, 2014, *Shot Down* is the true story of the WWII bomber crew of the Susan Ruth. It is written by Steve Snyder, the son of the commander of the Susan Ruth, Howard Snyder.

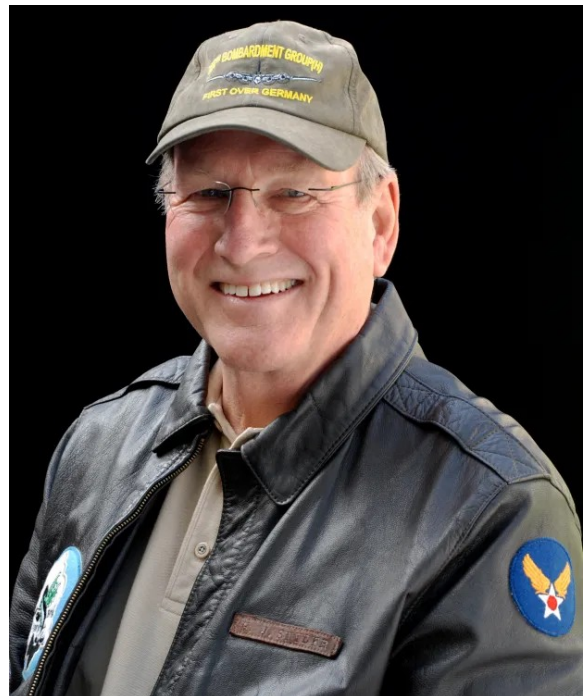
Unlike the movies, true life stories don't all have happy endings but provide appreciation of what veterans' of all wars can face. This book follows the dreams, hopes, and fears of the 10 member crew as they start their training and their arrival in England. It places you in the plane and when I closed my eyes, I felt like I was there. Having worked on and crawled all around EAA's Aluminum Overcast, I could place myself in some of those moments that many don't have the chance to.

The story of each crew member brings insight into the challenges of family separation as the young men went off to war. It also details the training, combat operations, atrocities, the resistance, and courageous partisans who help the crew.

The book kept me engaged, and gave me a deep appreciation for each story of those that fought, lived, suffered, and died. It brought to focus my own family history of warriors. I recommend you put this on your reading list.



Howard Snyder



Steve Snyder



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Fax (651) 489-5403
236 Larpenteur Ave. W • St. Paul, MN 55113
Bob@QualityInsuranceService.com
www.QualityInsuranceService.com


 Donald Huettl
Custom3D LLC
Cell: 763-634-1349
DAHUETTL@GMAIL.COM

Oil cap more than "finger-tight" – mine was!



EAA Chapter 237
1st AirVenture Chapter Grand Champion

Gary Laurich
EAA Tech Counselor/Flight Advisor



Chapter Hangar
8891 Airport Road NE, Box C-12
Blaine, MN 55449

Chapter Meetings:
4th Monday of the month
Dinner Social: 6:00 pm
Meeting Starts: 7:00 pm

763-242-3564
gary.laurich16@gmail.com
www.eaa237.org

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FLIGHT INSTRUCTION

Phone: (763) 755-0350
Mobile: (763) 229-4987
Email: dautio0350@comcast.net
Airport: Anoka/Blaine Airport (KANE)

401 117th Ave NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55448