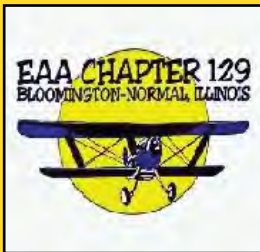


May 2025



# *The Flypaper*



*Igniting the Spirit of Aviation Through Camaraderie,  
Community Outreach and Education*

**Featured Member's Fields:**  
**Jason Kieser's Airfield**

**May Chapter Gathering 11LL**  
**IMC and VMC Clubs**  
**Milestones and Scholarships**  
**Prairie Aviation Museum**  
**RC Model Flies**  
**Builders Updates**  
**Matt's Poker Run**

**Photo by Megan Jensen**





## Chapter 129 May Gathering 5/16

Our May monthly Gathering will meet on Friday, May 16 at Thacker Airport. Dinner at 6:00 featuring hamburgers, brats and hot dogs. Members please bring a side dish to share. Bring a lawn chair for the evening movie. And plan to attend our pancake breakfast Saturday morning followed by a day of flying activities.

### In This Issue

2. May Chapter Gathering
3. VMC & IMC Schedules
4. Calendar of Events
5. Milestones
6. Ray Aviation Scholarship
- 7-9. April Chapter Gathering
- 10-12. Kieser Field
- 13-17. Poker Run
- 19-21. Prairie Aviation Museum
22. RC Model Build
23. Aviation Youth Camp
24. SWAG
25. SUN n FUN
- 26-27. Supporter's" Ads
28. Young Eagles
- 29-31. Our Builders
32. April Board Minutes
33. Online Aviation
34. Presidents Corner



Saturday, May 17, 2025\*\*  
8:00 to 10:30 am

## FLY-IN/DRIVE-IN Pancake Breakfast at Thacker Field 11LL

Thacker Field - 25899 E 3000 North Road - Chenoa, IL  
Field Elev 728 - Comm 122.9

Find us at: <https://airfield.guide/.theraf.org>



### \*\* Friday Night Event May 16

Make it an aviation weekend! Fly in and sleep under your wing at 11LL. Consider joining us for our regular monthly Chapter 129 gathering Friday night, May 16 at 6:00 pm. We will be grilling burgers, brats and hot dogs and telling lots of flying stories. Members are asked to bring a side dish to share. Movie following dinner. Bring lawn chairs and tie downs!



## Chapter 129 April VMC & IMC Clubs

*The intent of EAA VMC & IMC Clubs is to create a community of pilots willing to share information, provide recognition, foster communications, promote safety, and build proficiency. Real world scenarios will be presented and discussed to determine the best solution from the conditions presented.*



**May 3, 0900**

**Question of the Month:** What items does the FAA recommend be included in a pre-taxi briefing?

Jay Allen will facilitate our May discussion and last IMC club meeting before this summer's three month break. We will be using a scenario from the IMC Resources library this month. It is titled: **"Autopilot Issues."**

IMC and VMC Club meetings are held at the EAA Chapter 129 hangar, 2825 E Empire St, Bloomington, IL

**May 10, 0900**

**Question of the Month:** Is it illegal to make a midfield crosswind pattern entry at an uncontrolled airport?

Please join us Saturday morning May 10th at 9am for our last VMC club meeting before this summer's three month break. After revealing the answer to the above QoM we will watch a short scenario video related to the QoM. We will explore what the FAA requires and/or recommends for operations at uncontrolled airfields then share our own ideas and best practices to keep our flying adventures fun and safe. Of course all are welcome to join us for breakfast before the meeting. Eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy are served from 0700 to 0845.



**D**on't miss these opportunities to sharpen up your piloting skills!! VMC and IMC Club meetings are lead/moderated by experienced CFIs who have researched the month's topic to ensure a quality experience for the members.

- ▶ Complimentary 6 month EAA memberships available
- ▶ Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit

**Get WINGS credit!**



**FAA Team**  
Safer Skies Through Education



**FAA**  
Aviation Safety

**April 2025**

# EAA Chapter 129 Calendar of Events

1	May, Thu	5:30 - 7pm	Chapter Board Meeting
3	May, Sat	7 – 9am	Chapter Weekly Pancake Breakfast
		9 to 10am	May IMC Club
10	May, Sat	7 – 9am	Chapter Weekly Pancake Breakfast
		9 – 10am	VMC Club
16	May, Fri	6 - 9pm	11LL May Gathering
17	May, Sat	7 – 9am	11LL Fly-in Pancake Breakfast
24	May, Sat	7 – 9am	Chapter Weekly Pancake Breakfast
31	May, Sat	7 – 9am	Chapter Weekly Pancake Breakfast
		9am-12p	Young Eagles KPNT
5	Jun, Thu	5:30 -7	Chapter Board Meeting
7	Jun, Sat	7 – 9am	Chapter Weekly Pancake Breakfast
14	Jun, Sat	7 – 9am	Chapter Weekly Pancake Breakfast
16-20	June	9am-4p	Aviation Youth Camp

For more details on events, go to <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea129/event-calendar>

Or scan the QR code below



EAA 129 Event Calendar



Join us at the EAA Chapter 129 hangar for our Gathering of Eagles breakfasts **Saturday mornings 7:00 am to 9:00 am** for some great food and some hangar flying at its best.



April 2025



## Members on the Move



### Milestones

Chapter 129 members achieving  
their goals in aviation

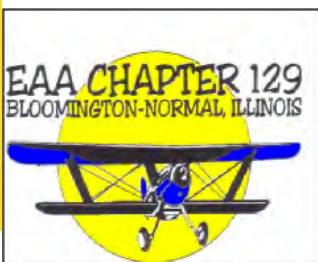


On April 16, 2025, Ross Peterson successfully completed his CFII checkride with DPE Dennis Taft in Springfield, IL. Ross holds a Commercial Pilot certificate (ASEL) with an Instrument rating, along with CFI ratings for both Single Engine Airplane and Instrument Airplane.

Looking ahead, Ross plans to complete his Commercial AMEL add-on. Long-term, he hopes to build a career flying anything powered by a turbine, but for now, he's keeping busy and open to all opportunities in the aviation industry.



Chapter member and Ray Aviation Scholar Audrey Ruffcorn soloed in Crosswinds' Archer N8332H on Saturday, April 26. She is seen here with CFI Will Eastman following her solo flight. Audrey is a Senior at Calvary Christian Academy, plans to attend college in the Fall and is working toward a career as a commercial pilot.



April 2025



# RAY AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP



In mid March, EAA Chapter 129 was notified that we were chosen to receive a Ray Aviation Scholarship for the candidate of our choice. We had a number of excellent applicants and our review committee selected Audrey Ruffcorn as our Ray Scholarship candidate for 2025.

Chapter candidates must complete an application in the Ray Aviation Scholarship portal to be accepted into the program. Candidates must possess a student pilots license and airman's medical. We received word that Audrey was approved by the EAA committee on April 9, 2025.

The EAA Ray Aviation Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship program that is funded by the Ray Foundation, managed by EAA, and administered through the EAA Chapters network. Through the generous support of the Ray Foundation, EAA provides up to \$12,000 to deserving youths to help cover their flight training expenses, totaling \$2,250,000 in annual scholarship funding.

Audrey is Chapter 129's fifth Ray Scholar and we are eager to watch her succeed.

Congratulations Audrey!



From Audrey's application: *As a child I was mesmerized as many airplanes and helicopters regularly flew over our home, and always loved to watch as they passed by. When I was 14 I took my first Young Eagles flight on June 12th, 2021 at KBMI. Ever since then my passion for aviation has grown with me beginning flight training several months ago. I have truly enjoyed every training flight and look forward to the next!*



*Becoming a commercial airline pilot is my career goal. While earning my PPL is the first step, I have aspirations to continue my training immediately following this endorsement to pursue my instrument, multi engine, and eventually a Commercial Pilot's Certificate. Most recently, starting flight training along with the support from local EAA Chapter 129 has confirmed my career dream to be a commercial pilot.*

**April 2025**



## April Chapter Gathering

Thirty-three members and guests attended the April gathering. Doug Reeves opened the gathering with a prayer for everyone present.

The meal was themed “Sausages and Peppers” Bill and Janis Thacker grilled the Italian sausages, and Mark Langley grilled the peppers. The food table was filled with an assortment of fixings and desserts.

Bill Thacker welcomed everyone to the monthly gathering and asked President Charlie Bates to outline the chapter activities in the past month and the month ahead.

Audrey Ruffcorn was introduced as the chapter’s Ray Scholarship winner.

New chapter challenge coins were displayed and offered to members for a \$10 donation each.

A report was given for the first flight of the chapter’s RC aircraft project on Saturday, April 12, noting that some modifications will be made before the next flights and the next build plane will have a different engine and battery pack to help with weight and balance.

The first Young Eagles rally is scheduled for Saturday April 19, weather permitting with an invitation to any interested volunteers to help with the program.



was explained beginning on Saturday April 18 and concluding on Saturday April 26 with a banquet and awards ceremony. Brats and sausages will be served. A \$20 entry donation is requested.

The order for shirts and caps has been processed and delivery is expected soon.

There will be no April “Fly out with Matt” to accommodate the Poker run banquet.

The chapter IMC/VMC club meetings will be paused until September for the summer.

A special occasion was noted; the birthday of George Wilts. Happy Birthday was sung for George and birthday cake was served to all in attendance.



Bill Thacker introduced his friend and fellow retired United Airlines pilot and the evening’s featured speaker, Rick Siegfried.



The upcoming Poker Run



## April Chapter Gathering

Rick shared his story of flying a Second World War vintage DC-3 from Florida to the beaches of Normandy France to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the June 6, 1944, invasion of France by the allied forces. Rick shared pictures of the trip and discussed the steps necessary to make the 49-day, six aircraft journey a success. Following his presentation, Rick answered many questions about the flight and his career with United Airlines.

The gathering was concluded at 8:30 p.m.  
Douglass Reeves, Secretary EAA Chapter 129



Leaving the  
Hudson River  
corridor heading to  
Central Park



April 2025



## April Chapter Gathering



April 2025



## Jason Kieser's Airfield

Jason Kieser was born into farming as he started working on the family farm as a kid. He's been involved in nearly every aspect of farming from raising cattle and other farm animals to planting and harvesting. When he came to the age to decide a career path, he was given the option to decide, and he chose to farm. Since, he's evolved the farm operation with his sharp business acumen, adaptation and eagerness to learn about evolving technology and equipment, and the desire to strategically and efficiently grow and evolve.

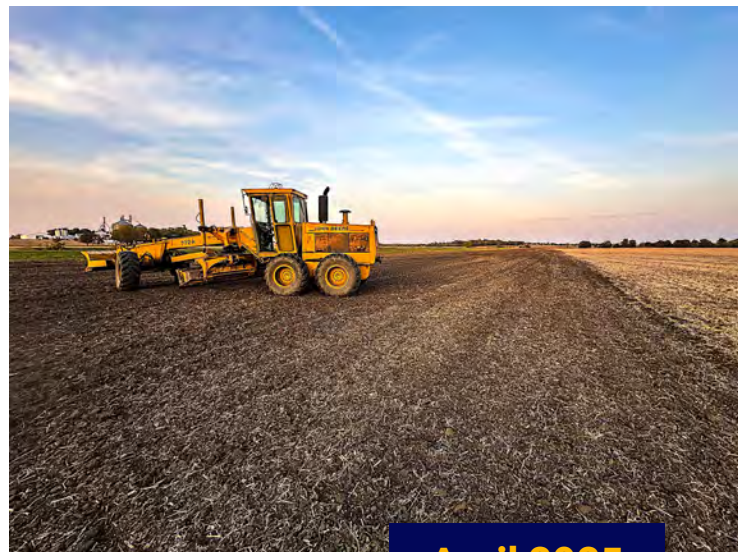
Jason is the primary farm manager at Kieser Farms and holds degrees in Diesel Mechanics and Agricultural Business Management. He lives in the farmhouse where his grandparents raised their family and he farms various properties in McLean County. Jason has recently built an RLA (restricted landing area) airstrip 1/2 mile from his house. He envisions being able to take family and friends for plane rides from his airfield.

The following interview was conducted this Spring while enjoying Jim's Steakhouse carry-out in the cab of his tractor while in the field planting corn.

### ***What sparked your interest in learning how to fly?***

I have a few friends that are pilots (even more so now). I've rode alongside them as a passenger and wanted to be in the drivers seat. The idea of being able to hop in a plane and go wherever whenever was an idea worth pursuing to me.

***~See Kieser Page 11***



**April 2025**



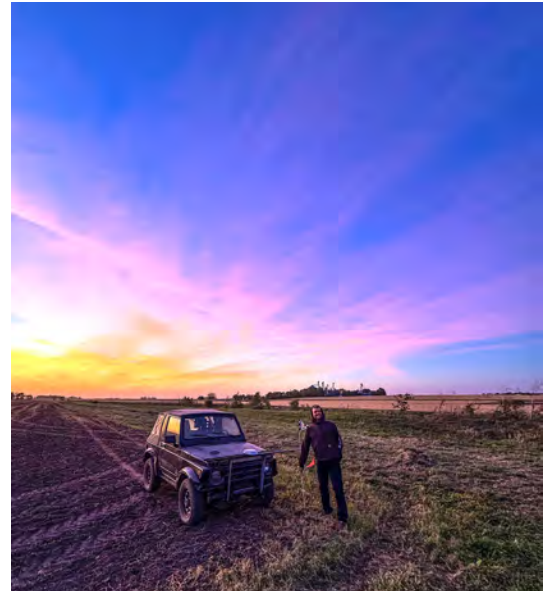
# Jason Kieser's Airfield

## **Are there any benefits to having your pilot license when it comes to farming?**

Having the ability to scout my corn and soybean crops in my plane is the main benefit. While I still drive around to check on my crops during farming seasons, being able to do so from the sky gives me a bigger picture view of the fields.

Having a pilot license has also been beneficial when purchasing equipment. I can shop around at further locations knowing I can get there and back timely.

Other benefits are traveling to meet with business partners or attending farm events. I've flown my employees, business partners, and friends in the field to farm shows. It's always a great experience and great networking!



## **Side hobbies?**

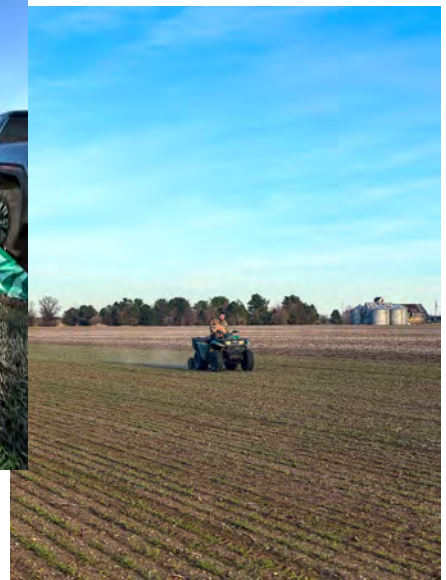
Aside from farming, I've dabbled a bit into investing in real estate. I own a campground down in Clinton which does well. I flipped a house this past year in town. I've rented out properties in various places.

For fun, I love flying and going boating. Lake of the Ozarks is our go to during the summer. During the fall and winter time, I'll go duck hunting with friends. I'll also volunteer when I can. I coach a baseball team for special needs children during the spring and summer and am involved with Midwest Food Bank. Otherwise, I enjoy spending time with family, friends, my dog Rosie, and Marketing Megan.



**First Seeding**

**GPS Settings**



## **Favorite flying memories?**

- Weekend trips to my condo at Lake of the Ozarks. Flying makes weekend trips away from the farm possible with less than a two hour flight each way.
- Trip home from Vermont with Charlie to pick up VT.
- Flying 1VT to Midway airport to pick up some equipment for the farm. Seeing the Chicago skyline was so cool.
- Mackinac Island. Beautiful island to visit and gorgeous flight.
- Gatlinburg, TN. Flying up to a mountain range for the first time is so memorable.
- Flying alongside the coast of the Indiana Dunes over the blue water looking out at the Chicago skyline.
- My check rides, obviously (PPL, tail dragger, IFR).



# Jason Kieser's Airfield

## ***What provoked you to put in an airstrip?***

Purchasing my Cessna 120 provoked me to put an airstrip in. Knowing some folks in EAA who have an airstrip and landing on theirs sold me. I love the idea of having the ability to walk over from my house, hop in a plane, and take off whenever I want without having to drive across town. I anticipate flying a lot more during the week.

## ***My process for the strip:***

1. First, I had to identify a potential site. I chose a space alongside a creek near my house as it was one of the flattest pieces of land on and near my property.
2. Once I identified where I wanted to put it, I contacted IDOT to have an initial plan and layout conversation. Following that conversation, I submitted an application to IDOT for an RLA (restricted landing area).
3. I also had to approach the local zone and county board for approval and special use permit to put an airstrip in. This part of the process is specific to McLean County.
4. Assuming the zoning and county board approves, I started construction:
  - GPS four corners
  - Used a road grader to level the length and width to get a smooth surface
  - Disk, roll/compact, grade, repeat (3 iterations) the ground.
  - This past fall, I seeded annual rye grass for

erosion control and winter coverage.

- In the middle of March this year, I broadcasted fertilizer and applied 150 lbs per acre of grass seed.
  - Rolled the ground again for seed-to-soil contact
5. Identify runway and identifier markers
  6. Obtain and install a wind sock
  7. Receive IDOT's final approval and FAA certification
  8. Kieser Field is in operation.
  9. Charlie gets his tailwheel endorsement

***~Interview by Megan Jensen***





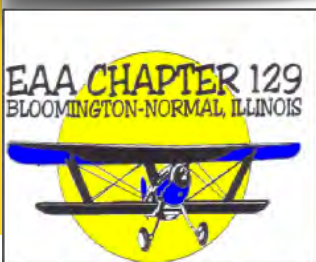
## Chapter 129 Poker Run

May 26 was our second poker run hosted by EAA Chapter 129. The beginning of the week brought low ceilings high winds and pretty nasty flying weather. Towards the end of the week the weather played nice and we got to get out and do some flying. Switching things up a bit we decided to have the card draw at the hanger in Bloomington. Flying out to destination airports across the great plains of Illinois.....you earned your limit of 10 draws from the deck keeping only your best 5. We had 11 participants join us for the flying and the lunch on Saturday. So after eating some lunch, sharing some stories from our weeks ventures we drew cards and laid them down. Best hand was Chad

McCue with a full house. Chad got his choice of shirt, valor coin, and 129 patch. Second was Paul Krueger and third was Fred Thomas. We all got 129 flight bag patches, some good food and got to witness our Ray scholarship recipient Audrey Solo. I'd say it was a pretty full day. Audrey solo's, got to video her take off at the ramp and fly with some friends for part of the week. This is what I joined the EAA for. Nothing beats it. Blue skies and butter landings. **Matt**



**Bloomington - Peoria - Lacon - Mount Hawley - Galesburg - Monmouth - Macomb - Canton - Pekin - Lincoln - Mattoon - Thacker - Decatur - Vandalia - Pontiac - Cooksville - Rantoul - Holland**



**April 2025**



## Chapter 129 Poker Run



EAA CHAPTER 129  
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL, ILLINOIS



April 2025



## Chapter 129 Poker Run



EAA CHAPTER 129  
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL, ILLINOIS



April 2025



# Chapter 129 Poker Run





## Chapter 129 Poker Run



What makes a chapter great? Doing something, that's what makes a chapter great. Chapter 129 is great! We are doing things, lots of things. We are living up to our mission statement: Igniting the Spirit of Aviation through Camaraderie, Community Outreach and Education. We are hosting excellent speakers, various youth summer camps, in person ground schools, fly-ins and fly-outs, etc. etc. Last week the "Fly with Matt" activity was a poker run. What fun we had. This year Matt tried something new. Instead of praying for good weather on a specific day to collect cards he changed it up, giving competitors a week to land at 5-10 different airports, take a selfie then make it to the hangar rain or shine last Saturday to draw one card for each airport visited. My two pairs didn't win but I felt like a winner just hanging around with so many fun people doing fun things.

It has been a windy spring. Often too windy to fly but last Thursday was awesome. Not wanting to miss the opportunity I climbed into my trusty 172 and set out on a mission to collect selfies. Jackson and Eva joined up too, flying the Pontiac Flying Service's Warrior. We started at PNT and flew to Union Hill for breakfast of course, then on to Lacon, Mt Hawley, Pekin, Cooksville, 11LL and back to Pontiac. We had SO much fun. Just look at our selfies! We weren't the only ones on a quest that day. Monitoring fingers we heard Matt in his Warrior and Charlie and Chad in a Crosswinds Arrow. It was a great day flying with great friends all because as a GREAT chapter we are doing things!

Thanks Matt, your friend Bill





## Ron Smith Printing

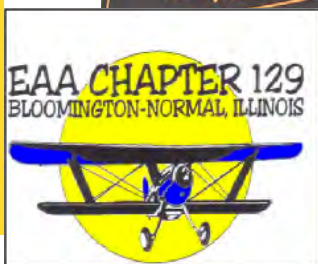
EAA Chapter 129 would like to express our gratitude to **Ron Smith Printing** for their generous support of The Flypaper with beautiful color copies. Thank you David Smith!

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# Prairie Aviation Museum



[Visit Our Website](#)



On April 11, museum board member, Bill Ross, had arranged a visit to Prairie Aviation Museum (PAM) by Congressman Darren LaHood and two members of his staff, Katherine Coyle and Josh Perschall.

Several members of the museum welcomed the congressman and gave a summary of the 40-year history of Prairie Aviation Museum and how it serves the central Illinois area. Details about how the museum relies on public paid admission and local business sponsorships for the operating income were discussed, noting that the museum received no local, state, or federal support.

The tour began inside the museum pointing out the artifacts that document aviation history used when public tours visit the museum. A brief discussion of the various types of tours coming to PAM; children's day care facilities, school groups, senior citizen groups, civic organizations, veteran groups and traveling guests from around the world followed.

A new display highlighting the local history of a flight by Charles Lindergh in 1926 where his plane crashed while enroute from St. Louis to Chicago delivering US Mail was pointed out. Several other unique displays focused on aviation and space travel were also discussed.

*~ See LaHood Page 20*



**April 2025**



# Prairie Aviation Museum



[Visit Our Website](#)

~ **From LaHood Page 18**

Outside in the airpark, the congressman and his party viewed the many aircraft on display and asked questions about how the museum receives the aircraft and what work museum volunteers do to maintain the displays. The hosts shared about the monthly Open Cockpit days, where 4-500 guests attend on a single Saturday, viewing the aircraft and visiting with volunteers who share their personal stories about the aircraft they may have flown or worked on or served with.

The congressman and his staff expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to learn more about the Prairie Aviation Museum and the work being done there.

The museum was extremely pleased to host Congressman Darren LaHood and his staff.

~**Doug Reeves**

This past week, we have kicked off a major project after final approval by **Central Illinois Regional Airport** to replace our 20 year old storage/workshop trailer with three 40' containers.

The first step is to unload the old trailer and store the contents in a loan container and one of our hangers.



We are getting our "steps" in each day!!!



**April 2025**



# Prairie Aviation Museum



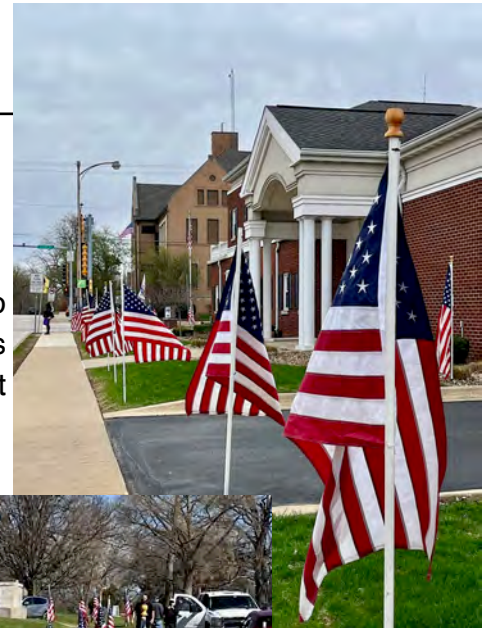
[Visit Our Website](#)

Last week, the Prairie Aviation Museum (PAM) was honored to participate in the services for Pfc. Robert Bryant. Pfc. Bryant was killed in action in Italy during WWII. His remains were identified last year and returned to Bloomington, Il last week.

PAM has 50 flags, representing each state, that we display for special occasions. PAM was able to display the flags during the receiving ceremony of Pfc Bryant at the funeral home and also lining the road to the grave site the day of the funeral.

Mark McBride, a PAM Board Member, also had his WWII reenactment group stationed at the burial site.

Welcome Home Pfc Bryant!



Our Wednesday work crew is at it again. As part of our refurbishing the 880 Simulator, Bill Arbogast worked with Fastsigns to create the illusion of flying into Midway Airport. Thanks to Charlie Bates, our friend from EAA Chapter 129 Bloomington Illinois for letting PAM use his cool picture.



April 2025

## RC Model Assembly Team

As part of our planning for our summer Aviation Youth Camp, I was approached to help teach a group of pilots in our chapter to build an RC Plane. We are incorporating EAA's RC Build and Fly program into our summer camp and saw a need to have an experienced team to help the kids with the build. Teach the Teachers is what we called our program. I have been in RC planes from the age of 15 and have built, flew, taught, and possibly put a few down in my years. I still have a few planes that I'll fly from time to time, but now I have moved on to the full scale ones.

Reaching out to the SIRS AMA flying club, where I learned how to fly, was like going back in time for me. The willingness to help was amazing and without them, we would still be in the learning stages of this venture. Larry, Randy, and John were the driving force behind their club. Dean, Paul, Charlie, Wayne and Chad were at the core of our chapter. Bringing these two groups together couldn't be more perfect. We spend about a month building the first plane, learning new techniques and some old ones to get the job done. At the end of the project we took the plane out to the field one gusty Saturday and prepped the plane for it's trial runs. High speed taxi, followed by a hair raising full cross wind take off.

After some trim adjustments, the plane flew just fine. John took the first flight then handed the controller over to me for the second flight. After some minor adjustments to the plane and dampening down some of the throw on the ailerons, it was my turn. The plane flew great with little adjustments. Two full flights under our belts and we decided to call it a day as the winds picked up and we didn't want to ding up our pristine plane.



Once down, we were shown how it was done. Chris, one of SIRS members who competes nationally took off an extra 300 or a Laser....not sure, it was moving pretty quickly and wasn't in one place for long. Rolling turns, hovering, outside snaps, and the flat spin. Others flew string control planes, B-17, and planes of all sizes and shapes. If you get the time, I'm sure they would welcome

you out for a tour and showcase their planes and flying skills. I'm proud to have been part of the build team for this first go and hope that the summer camp will be a success and that there will be more to come in the future.

Blue skies and butter landings.

~Matt Kerner



April 2025



## June Chapter 129 Aviation Youth Camp

# Aviation Youth Camp

June 16 to 20 Ages 11 to 13, 9 am to 4 pm daily

**Campers will be introduced to the world of aviation including:**

- ▶ Interactive classes on aerodynamics, airplane construction, maintenance and weather
- ▶ Special behind the scenes visit to the Prairie Aviation Aviation Museum
- ▶ Campers will build a flyable radio controlled airplane
- ▶ We will tour local airport facilities i.e. OSF helicopter "Life Flight", Visit the actual Control tower.
- ▶ Tour Synergy Flight Center including their maintenance, charter and flight school departments
- ▶ An actual flight in an airplane, in accordance with EAAs Young Eagle program weather permitting



For more information  
contact Wayne Aldrich at:  
[waldo26z@yahoo.com](mailto:waldo26z@yahoo.com)  
309-824-2455





## 129 SWAG Arrivals

Your shirts and caps are in! If you ordered some SWAG merchandise, it is available in the hangar. Some items are on back order, check your supply. We did order some extras, check with Matt Kerner for availability.

Also, our Challenge Coins have arrived and are available for \$10 each.



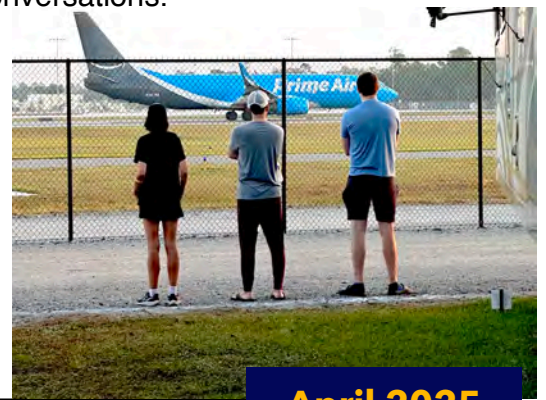
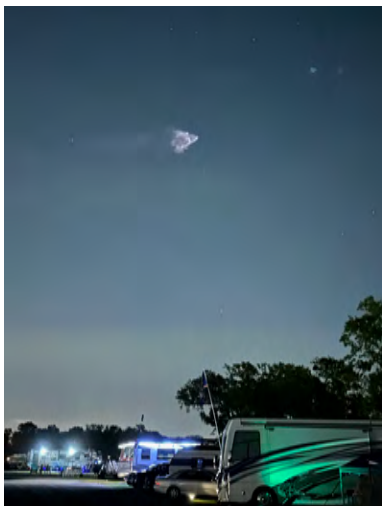


# SUNnFUN

## AEROSPACE EXPO



Ten plus Chapter 129 members made the trip to SUNnFUN this year and got together with our extended family of aviation enthusiasts. Blue Angles and F35 airshows, warbirds, fireworks and a Space X launch were all on display. Bill's motor home (Gladys) became the gathering space afternoons and evenings for spirits and many aviation conversations.



**April 2025**





## Central Illinois Radio Society AMA District VI Chapter 621 Founded in 1964

Clubs website

<https://sirs-model-airplane-club.com/>

Field location

5798 county road 600 N McLean, IL  
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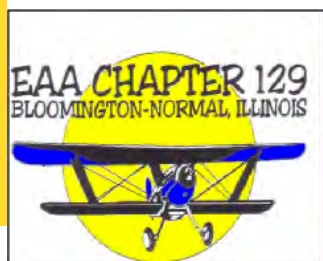
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## Chapter 129 Young Eagles Program



**Chad McCue**

**Chapter 129 Young Eagles  
Coordinator**

**S**ubject: Young Eagles Day – May 31, 2025: Volunteers & Pilots Needed!

Thank you to all the pilots and volunteers for the weather-forced dry run at Bloomington in April. The layout, setup, and teardown went great.

Thanks to Rick Anderson at Synergy for providing the space and making logistics a breeze.

This May we will be at Pontiac Flying Service in Pontiac Illinois. The schedule shifts to one hour earlier. We already have 14 youth registered!

Schedule for May 31:

- Volunteer Briefing/setup: 8:15 AM
- Pilot Briefing: 8:30 AM
- Young Eagles Flights: 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Thanks to Scott and Kris Peterson for hosting.

Here's the QR code to jump to the registration page for May:

Thank you for helping us inspire the next generation of aviators. If you have questions or want to confirm your role, contact Chad McCue at [chadanita@gmail.com](mailto:chadanita@gmail.com). For Pilots:

If you're planning to fly, please ensure:

- You've completed the required Young Eagles training
- You meet insurance and aircraft requirements listed below

### **For Volunteers:**

We need two trained and background-checked volunteers in every area where kids will be. If you haven't yet, please consider taking the Youth Protection training.

### **We're also looking for:**

- 1 Volunteer Photographer
- 1 Volunteer to handle Media Inquiries

Chad will provide training and orientation for both of these roles.

### **Young Eagles Pilot Requirements:**

All pilots must:

- Be a current EAA® member with a sport pilot certificate or higher
- Have a current medical certificate (if applicable)
- Be current to carry passengers in the aircraft you plan to use
- Have a current flight review
- Complete the Young Eagles registration form, signed by both the pilot and a parent/guardian
- Use an airworthy aircraft
- Have \$100,000 per seat liability insurance
- Follow all FARs
- Complete Youth Protection Policy training and a basic background check

Our tentative dates for 2025 Young Eagle Rally days are:

- April 19 - KBMI (Bloomington),
- May 31 - KPNT (Pontiac)
- June 21 - KBMI (Bloomington),
- July - \*skipped for EAA AirVenture\*
- August 16 - KBMI (Bloomington),
- September 20 - KBMI (Bloomington),
- October 18 - KAAA (Logan County in Lincoln)

*~Chad McCue*

**EAA Chapter 129 Young Eagles Coordinator**



**April 2025**



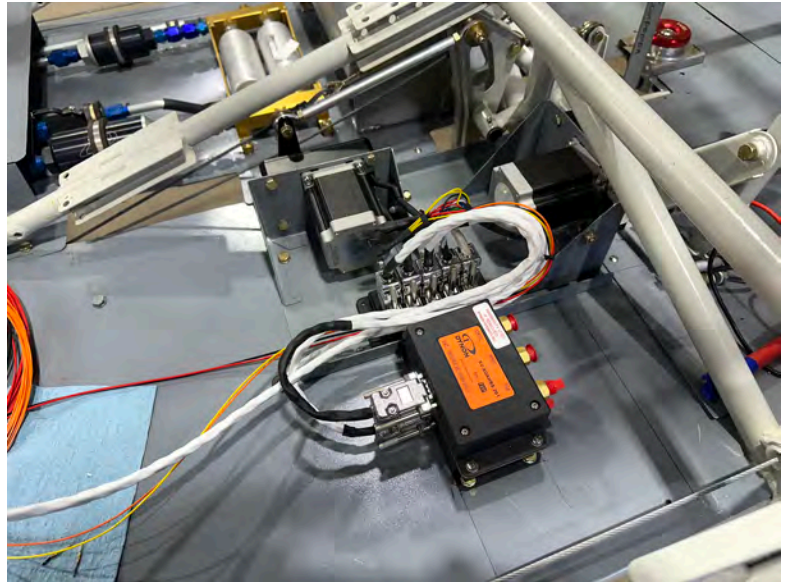
## Roger Kennell's Bearcat Build Project

April, the focus was on installing all the internal items in the fuselage to prep for covering. Starting with the servos in the tail and moving forward to ELT, plumbing the static port, and pitch and bank servos. The pitch and banks servos were a challenge. After thinking, measuring, trial fitting and adding to my junk aluminum pile, I decided to sleep on my confusion. It is funny how your brain works while you rest. I woke with a clear plan to install the two servos. I fit the floor supports in, formed the servo brackets and attached the push rods. Everything worked as planned except the clearance of the rod-end bearing that attached to the stick for the bank servo. It rubbed the floor and did not allow full travel of the stick. Dean was out on a visit and looked at the situation and started drawing. Home, he went and an hour later he showed up with a small bracket that raised the attach point of the push rod. Problem solved.

After mounting the AHARS, ELT and network hub, it was time to connect all the installed items to the network and power sources. Thank goodness for people who can design electrical systems and networks and then put it all in a schematic. It is very helpful for placing the correct color of 22 AWG wire into the correct D-Sub connector pin hole so that signals go in the right direction and place.

One way to get Kieth Unzicker to take time out of his busy schedule to come examine the project is to text him a picture of wires hanging out the bottom of the fuselage and mention that you figure the fabric will be enough to support them. Putting humor aside, routing the cable and wire in the airframe can be a challenge.

~ See Page 29



**Servos, Network Hub, AHARS**



**Bank Servo Push Rod Attachment**



**Wiring Mess**



**April 2025**



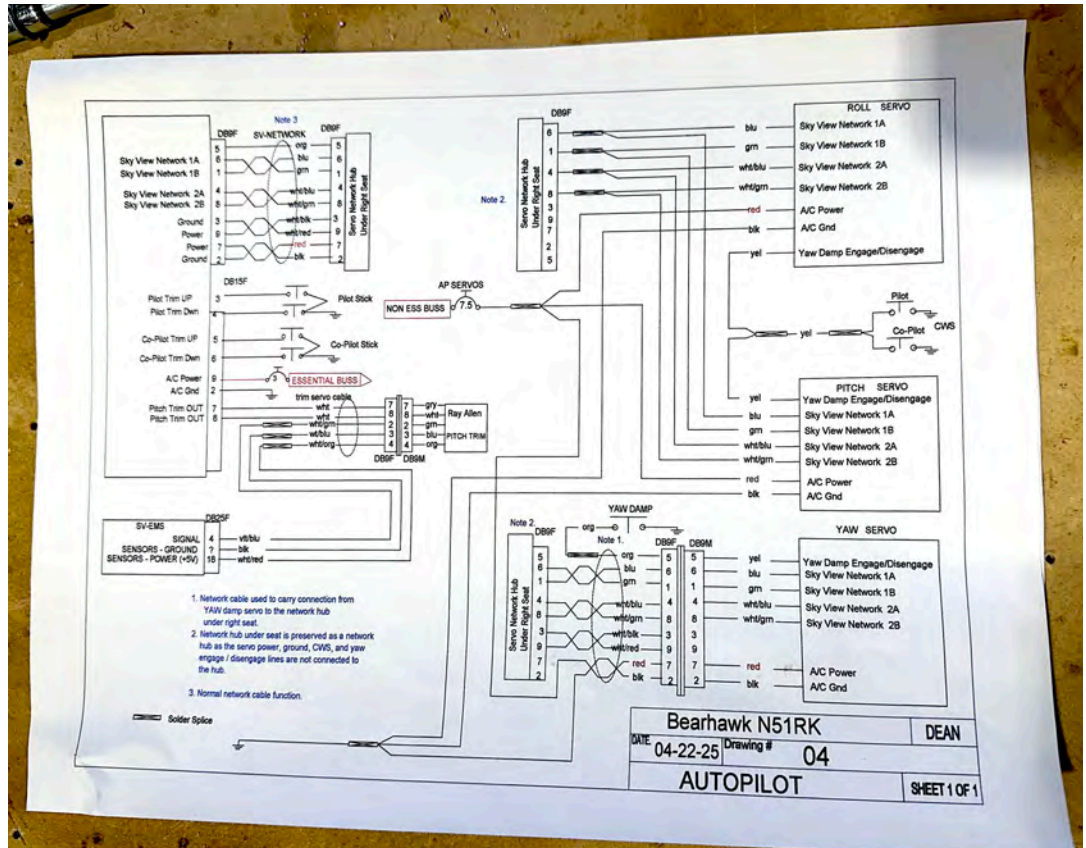
# Roger Kennell's Bearcat Build Project

~ From Page 28

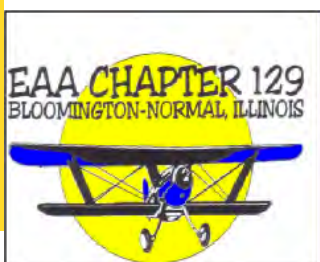
Considerations for the wire's safety, its accessibility, and the need to remove floorboards to facilitate fabric covering all must be planned for. I estimate that a builder builds an airplane two to three times before final assembly.

I have been a pilot since 1970. It has been interesting watching the evolution of aviation electronics and the movement from analog to digital over that time. From the six-pack vacuum and electrically powered flight instruments to EFIS, PDFs, digital auto pilots, synthetic vision, moving maps, satellite communications, engine monitors, EFII, it has been truly revolutionary. As I install the network, radios, autopilot and screens in the Bearhawk, I am in awe that I will be flying with a system that is more capable, lighter and cheaper than the Collins Proline 4 I used to fly with fifteen years ago. I hope the progress will continue and flying will continue to be safer and more accessible.

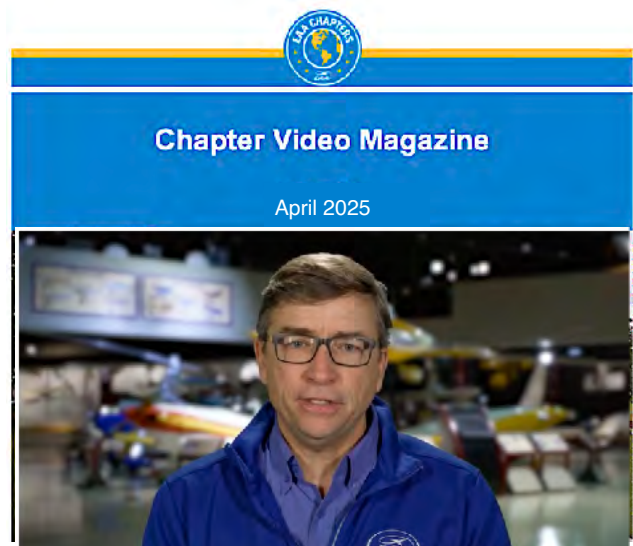
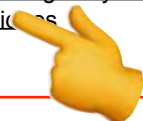
~ Roger Kennell



Keep in touch with what is happening at EAA each month with the Chapter Video Magazine. Charlie Becker and Jack Pelton discuss current events and activities at HQ.



Find the latest EAA's Chapter Videos at:  
<http://eaa.brightcovegallery.com/chapters/detail/videos>



April 2025



## Greg Remaley's RV14a Build Update

### RV14a update

Finally got the front fuselage all riveted and prepped to join with the back fuse/tailcone. The join went much smoother than I expected, somehow all the rivet holes matched up.

I bought 2 of the smaller engine stands at Harbor Freight and mounted them to form a rotisserie. Super easy to rotate the fuse now to work on different areas. Fuel and brake lines are next up on the list.

*~Greg Remaley*



**April 2025**



# April Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

## April 14 EAA Chapter 129 Board of Directors meeting 6:00 p.m. Hanger F15

Board members present: Charlie Bates, President; Wayne Sampson, Treasurer and Director of Development; Bill Thacker, Advisor; Doug Reeves, Secretary

Members absent: Chad McCue, Vice President and Young Eagles Coordinator; Wayne Aldrich, STEM Coordinator and Ray Scholarship Coordinator; Kirk Sampson, Media and Web Editor

Treasurer's report – Wayne Sampson reported that the chapter property insurance policy for \$942 was paid and the City of Bloomington Cross Connection inspection was completed and paid for \$180. The EAA chapter insurance policy is paid and the first installment of the Ray Scholarship is expected soon.

· Young Eagles First Young Eagles flights are scheduled for Saturday April 19 at the Synergy Maintenance offices. Several simulators will be available for students to experience.

· STEM/Camps Planning for the Youth RC build Camp is beginning. Contacts in the local middle schools are needed to help recruit students for the camp. Charlie shared a beginning template for the week.

- Build and Fly update Bill Thacker shared that the build of the RC plane was complete and the first test flights happened Saturday April 12. After the successful flight, modifications are needed to improve the weight and balance of the plane. The next build may include a smaller engine and battery pack to aid weight and balance.

· Gathering Coordination – Bill Thacker shared the speaker for the April 17 chapter gathering will be Rick Siegfried. friend and pilot of a WW2 DC-3 that flew from the US to the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invasion of France June 6, 1944.

· IMC/VMC Club Following the April IMC and VMC Club meetings, future meetings will be paused until September to encourage summer flying.

· Lunch flyouts/ Poker Run update – The monthly lunch flyout has been postponed and Matt has organized a week long Poker Run activity. Beginning Saturday April 19 and concluding Saturday April 26 with a 12:00 lunch and award program at EAA hanger F-15. Participants need to fly to 5-10 airports, take a selfie showing the airport FBO/facility and attend the Saturday awards program. An entry fee of \$20 per entrant helps offset the cost of the prizes. Brats and Sausages will be served.

· Roster management – Wayne Sampson said that he will work with Chad McCue to verify free memberships provided to new attendees from IMC/VMC Club meetings. Chad is working with the EAA corporate team to document membership status.

· SWAG update – Shirts are on order and expected to be delivered soon.

### -New Business

The May Fly-out to Thacker Field scheduled for May 16,17 will include the award of the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award to George Wilts. The award is the FAA's most prestigious award for pilots who have demonstrated 50 years of piloting aircraft as Master Pilots.

The June chapter gathering speaker is expected to be a representative of the NOAA weather station in Lincoln.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 7:00





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### EAA Chapter 129

Charlie Bates - President  
Wayne Sampson - Treasurer, Dir of Development  
Chad McCue - VP  
Doug Reeves - Secretary  
Chad McCue - YE Coordinator  
Wayne Aldrich - STEM Coordinator, Ray Aviation Scholarship coordinator  
George Wilts-Tech. Counselor  
Kirk Sampson - Media & Web Editor  
Bill Thacker - Advisor  
Newsletter Editor - Charlie Bates

Web - <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea129>

fb - EAA Chapter 129

email - [eaachapter129@gmail.com](mailto:eaachapter129@gmail.com)



[midwestflyer.com](http://midwestflyer.com)

The Midwest Flyer Magazine has gone digital. Check it out here:

[Click here for link to website!](#)



**April 2025**



This month, we received the following email from EAA corporate recognizing our chapter for achieving Gold level status. We received a score of 10 out of 10 qualifying criteria and two extra credit points for activities beyond those listed. Every criteria listed requires a level of effort from our membership and particularly from our leaders. We will continue to add more aviation offerings to our community in support of our charter of "Igniting the Spirit of Aviation through camaraderie, Community Outreach and Education."

Dear Charles,

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](https://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.: 2

**EAA Chapter 129, Inc.'s 2024 Chapter Recognition total is 12 out of 11.**

Thanks to all who have rolled up their sleeves and helped us accomplish this achievement.

~Charlie

