



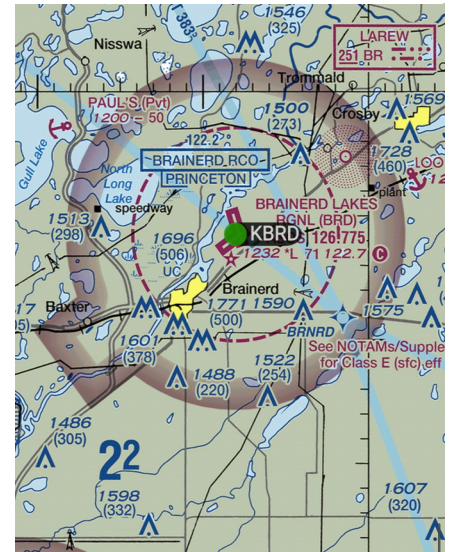
APRIL 2024  
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# CAVU Chronicles

## EAA RAY AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO BRANDON EBERTS

Congratulations are in order to Brandon Eberts for being awarded the 2024 EAA RAY AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP for Chapter 1610. In addition to receiving his medical certificate and passing the written exam to initiate his Private Pilot training, Brandon successfully navigated the application and interview process conducted in March for this prestigious award. As you may know, this scholarship will provide \$11,000 towards his flight training with NorthPoint Aviation, and culminate in earning his private pilots license.



Brandon is not a novice when it come to aviation, having been around it for most of his entire life from commercial flights, flying in float planes on fishing trips in Canada and helping his grandpa (Dick Piepgras) finish his KitFox. “My first flight was in a single engine Otter on floats. It was the first time on the family fishing trip my grandpa and his brother plan every year. It’s a couple hours flight that goes over some of the most untouched land full of empty lakes and forest. Ever since then I have been amazed with aviation and wanted to pursue it.”

### In this issue:

- EAA Ray Aviation Scholarship
- Brainerd Home Show
- Book Review
- Events of Interest
- Longster Update
- Neighbors in the News
- Mark Your Calendar



Brandon is 17 years old and started his junior year of high school last fall. He is taking multiple AP classes with the goal of pursuing a degree in aerospace engineering.

Here he is pictured with Josh Marquart, CFI who will be his flight instructor for the duration of his training.

Congratulations , Brandon!!  
See you around the pattern.

## CHAPTER 1610 SHARES EXHIBIT SPACE WITH WINGS AIRPORT CAFÉ!!



Wings Airport Café graciously invited Chapter 1610 to share exhibit space at the 2024 Brainerd Lakes Home Show and Expo on Friday & Saturday, March 22 and 23. Mike Petersen reported they had a good couple of days recruiting for Young Eagles. Cards with instructions how to sign up were handed out. Trudi says she has already received 5 responses. Traffic was very busy both Friday and Saturday. Wings gave out 500 cookies Friday and had another 500 for Saturday. They were gone by 1:00. No surprise there. “I could not believe how many folks did not even know there was a cafe out there” noted Mike Petersen. Wings also handed out approximately 750 BOGO cards for their new after-3pm dinner business. That is a lot of free meals!!

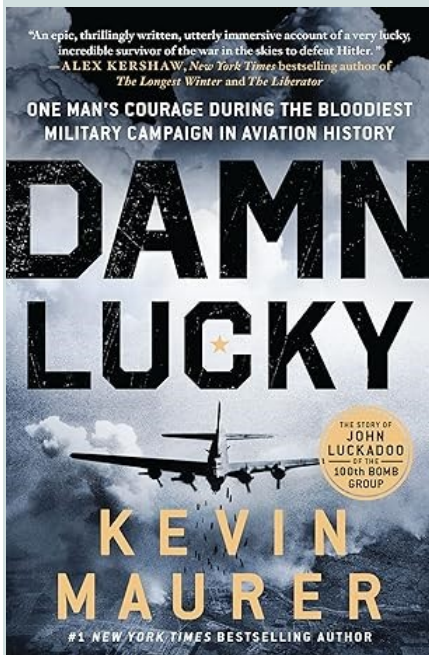
Chapter volunteers were Mark Crist, Becky Putzke, Trudi Amundson, Brandon Eberts and Mike Petersen. “I think we got a lot of good exposure for both the chapter and Young Eagles from the event.”



To Sign Up for a **FREE** Airplane Ride- Send email to:

[trudiamundson@yahoo.com](mailto:trudiamundson@yahoo.com)

Indicate names and ages, (must be 8-17), telephone number, and your preference for the June 1 event at Brainerd Airport, or September 21st event at East Gull Lake Airport. You will be contacted before the event to confirm your flight and to schedule a time.



## **DAMN LUCKY** by Kevin Maurer

After the last episode of the series Masters of the Air aired, book stores showcased numerous books about World War II and the Army Air Force. One of these by acclaimed war correspondent Kevin Maurer shares the extraordinary tale of Second Lieutenant John Luckadoo, uncovering astonishing feats of bravery during the bloodiest military campaign in aviation history, and presenting an incredible portrait of a young man's coming-of-age during the world's most devastating war.

With a shrapnel torn Bible in his flight jacket pocket and his girlfriend's silk stocking around his neck like a scarf as talismans, Luckadoo piloted through Luftwaffe machine-gun fire and antiaircraft flak while enduring subzero temperatures to complete twenty-five missions and his combat service. The average bomber crew rarely survived after eight to twelve missions. Knowing far too many airmen who wouldn't be returning home, Luckadoo closed off his emotions and focused on his tasks to finish his tour of duty one moment at a time, realizing his success was more about being lucky than being skilled.

*"We were young citizen-soldiers, terribly naive and gullible about what we would be confronted with in the air war over Europe and the profound effect it would have upon every fiber of our being for the rest of our lives. We were all afraid, but it was beyond our power to quit. We volunteered for the service and, once trained and overseas, felt we had no choice but to fulfill the mission assigned. My hope is that this book honors the men with whom I served by telling the truth about what it took to climb into the cold blue and fight for our lives over and over again."*

—John "Lucky" Luckadoo, Major, USAF (Ret.) 100th Bomb Group (H)

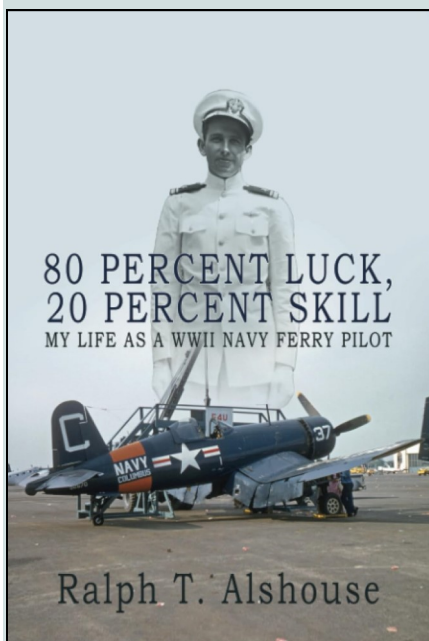
## **80 PERCENT LUCK, 20 PERCENT SKILL: MY LIFE AS A WWII NAVY FERRY PILOT** by Ralph T. Alshouse

A post-Depression 11-year-old farm boy sees a Piper Cub for the first time and chases the dream of being a pilot.

When war breaks out, Ralph T. Alshouse does the unthinkable—he leaves the family farm to enlist in the Navy and as one of a handful of high school graduates, was accepted as an Aviation Cadet and eventually won his U.S. Navy Wings of Gold.

After flight school, he was assigned to one of the most labor-intensive jobs in the Navy; to test Navy operational aircraft from the factories in the U.S. and Canada and deliver them to destinations and ports of embarkation on the East and West coasts. Over a two-year period, Ensign Alshouse delivered 146 aircraft for the war effort and had a military record of 13 forced landings; from landing a Corsair on fire over Pittsburgh to getting hit by lightning in Douglas, Arizona. Two engines failed in flight resulting in two dead stick landings. He flew over 28 types of Naval Aircraft; from the smallest, a Piper Cub ambulance, to the biggest, a B-24; to the fastest, a Corsair.

*This book has particular significance in my Bearss family legacy with WWII. My dad and his two brothers were Navy veterans. The second oldest was a ferry pilot with the Navy Ferry Command stationed at Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, NY. My cousin Karen, who is a retire FedEx Captain, recently shared his logs books with me. What I found amazing was the variety of warbirds and transports my uncle logged time in as he flew these aircraft across the country. Included were the F4U Corsair, the F4F Wildcat, the F6F Hellcat, the TBM Avenger, The SB2C Helldiver, the SNJ/AT-6 Texan, the Stearman N2S, the C-47 Dakota, the SBD Dauntless, and...the US Navy F9 Cougar (yes...the same type on display at KBRD).*





## EVENTS OF INTEREST ON THE UPCOMING CALENDAR.

### MAY 04, 2024: BREEZY POINT 9TH ANNUAL AVIATION DAY

10 a.m. - 2p.m.

8MN3 - Breezy Point Airport, 30360 Airport Rd Breezy Point MN 56472

Pilots & Friend Social

Aircraft Static Display (no airshow), EMS Vehicles, Firetrucks, Helicopter Classic Car Show

Free Lunch - Brats and Hotdogs

Free Ice Cream Treats

For more information, contact Cliff Muller 218-838-3434

[www.breezypointairport.com](http://www.breezypointairport.com)

### SECOND ANNUAL MEMORIAL WEEKEND BRAT-FEST

Friday & Saturday, May 24 & 25 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Crosslake Ace Hardware, Crosslake, MN

Sponsored by Brainerd Lakes Area EAA Chapter 1610

Take a break from the seasonal prepping of your cabins & boats with a fresh-grilled brat or hotdog sourced by Reed's Market Meat Department. Or, just stop by because you are hungry. Just like last year, these are THE BEST! brats you will ever taste! Proceeds will be used to promote continuing education for high school graduates and post-secondary students pursuing a career in an aviation-related field.

### EAA Chapter 1174 Fly-In and Belgian Waffle Breakfast

Jun 09, 2024

8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

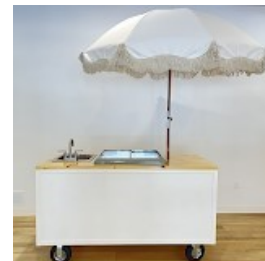
KFFM

EAA Chapter 1174 is hosting its annual Fly-In and famous Belgian waffle breakfast at the Fergus Falls Airport 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Breakfast includes sausages, coffee or juice, and all the Belgian waffles you care to eat. Adults \$12, children \$8. We will be doing Young Eagle Flights. You can register for your time slot at <https://youngeaglesday.org?9545>

Contact: Robert Gray 320-979-6440

### JUNE 15, 2024: PINE RIVER AIRPORT OPEN HOUSE, FLY-IN AND FOOD TRUCK VENUE

8 a.m.—2 p.m. The airport commission, with support from EAA Chapter 1610, will be hosting the KPWC Open House. Food truck vendors will be on site selling a variety of breakfast & lunch items from their menu and ice cream. Come out and bring your families to enjoy the food, see the planes, helicopter, meet local pilots and learn about the proposed expansion plans for the airport. Food Truck Vendors will be Bobcat's Lunchbox and Vangstad's Creamery.



For more information contact Dave Koenig [djkoenig512@gmail.com](mailto:djkoenig512@gmail.com)

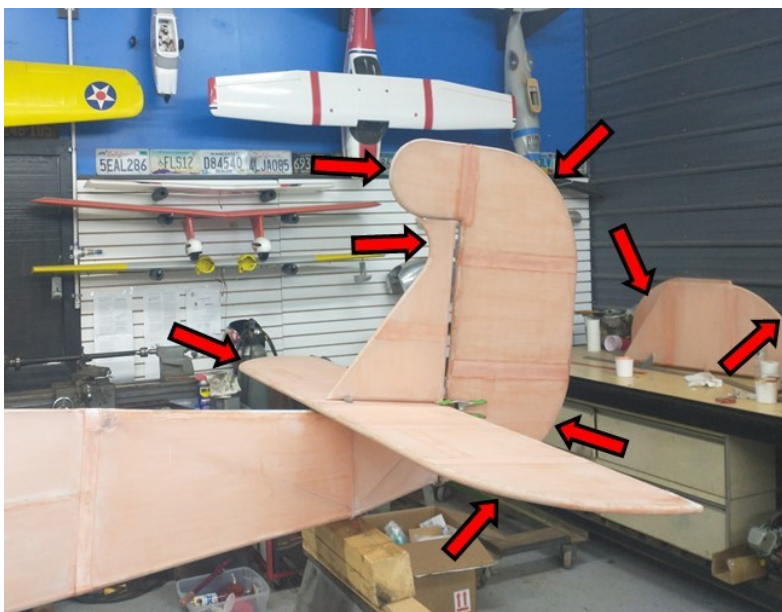
## EAA CHAPTER 1610 LONGSTER PROJECT: STATUS REPORT

There was a slight slowdown in the overall progress with the Longster. Your truly has been on vacation since February 15 and, hence, away from my garage where the wings are located, waiting for our return to finish up the steps leading up to sealing and priming.

In the meantime, Paul, Joe and Rollie have been fabricating some of the accessories and prepping the fuselage for its trip to the pain booth. If you look close, you will notice the addition of a tailwheel.



Just a reminder how things HAVE progressed, here is where we were in March 2023: Applying reinforcement strips. Baby steps...baby steps.



## IN OTHER NEWS...FROM THE BRAINERD LAKES AREA

### From the Aitkin Flyers EAA Chapter 964 Annual Ski Plane and Wheels Fly-In Chili and Hotdog Fest.

Yes...it was March 9th in Minnesota. As these photos illustrate, ski planes needed to shed their snow-shoes to enjoy the VERY unique spring-like flying weather and arrive KAIT for their annual “winter” Fly-In.



### ANNOUNCING

A group text-messaging system has been set up for those of you who want to participate in either a FLY-OUT or be a passenger when a member is going flying.

Currently on the list are:

Craig, Trudi, Joe, Rollie, Rod, Woody, Dave, and Mark B.

To get added, simply text me (Mark B.) at 952-818-9986.

This is simply an ad-hoc way of contacting interested members if/when you are entertaining the opportunity of either flying to a destination or simply practice take-off's and landings.



## DID YOU KNOW...?

An easy and convenient way to keep up-to-date on scheduled Chapter 1610 meetings, events, and other aviation-related programs is our Website.

First, open your web browser and type in **#eaa 1610**.

Once you open the website, select the tab

**Event Calendar.**

The rest is easy.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Any highlights below in **RED** means something has been added or rescheduled for Chapter 1610 meetings and events.

**April 13: Regular Chapter Meeting**

**May 4: Breezy Point Fly-In & Young Eagles Promotion**

**May 11: Regular Chapter Meeting**

**May 24 & 25: Memorial Weekend Brat Sale, Crosslake Ace Hardware**

**June 1: Young Eagles Flights, KBRD**

**June 8: Regular Chapter Meeting**

**June 15: Pine River Open House**

**July 13: Regular Chapter Meeting**



## ON THE 'LIGHTAIR' SIDE



### Ode to the Taildragger

Little taildragger, I hate your guts,  
I have the license, ratings and such  
But to make you go straight is driving me nuts.  
With hours of teaching and the controls in my clutch  
It takes a little rudder, easy, that's too much.  
You see, I learned to fly in a tricycle gear  
with one up front and two in the rear.  
She was sleek and clean and easy to steer  
But this miserable thing with tires and struts  
Takes a little rudder, easy, that's too much.  
It demands your attention on the take-off roll  
Or it'll head towards Jones's as you pour on the coal.  
Gotta hang loose, don't over control.  
This wicked little plane is just too much  
With a lot of zigzagging and words obscene  
I think I've mastered this slippery machine.  
It's not that bad if you have the touch  
Just a little rudder, easy, that's too much.  
I relax for a second and from the corner of my eye,  
I suddenly realize with a gasp and a cry  
That's my own tail that's going by.  
You ground looping wreck; I hate your guts,  
Give a little rudder, Great Scott, THAT'S TOO MUCH.

Author unknown

Contributed by Mike Petersen



I am always interested in hearing your suggestions for future topics in the Newsletter. I also encourage budding authors to submit content.

Please contact Mark Bearss

◆ email to

[mgbearss@gmail.com](mailto:mgbearss@gmail.com)

◆ Text to 952-818-9986

And finally, the contact information for Chapter 1610 has changed.