



MARCH 2024
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CAVU Chronicles

CHAPTER 1610 AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS OPENED FEBRUARY 1st

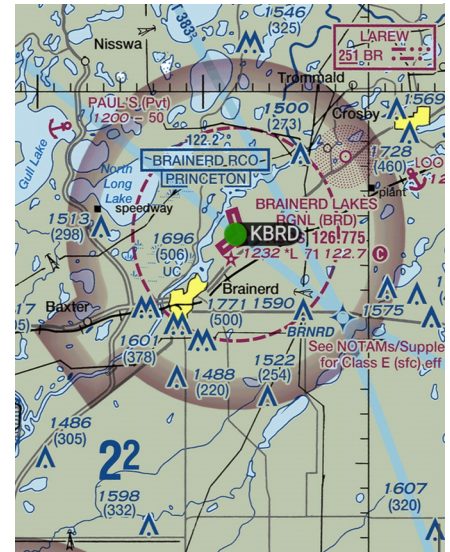
Schools in Aitkin, Brainerd, Crosby, Pine River, Nisswa, Pequot Lakes and Staples were contacted to announce the availability of the newly-funded Aviation Careers Scholarship sponsored by EAA Chapter 1610. Interested candidates could request an application on February first via an email to eachapter1610@gmail.com.

The applicant will need to describe or answer the following essay-type questions:

- What is your planned aviation field (Pilot, Mechanic, Contoller, Airport Management (etc.)?)
- Why have you selected this field and where will you begin your education?
- Have you been accepted into a post secondary institution (college, university, technical school etc.) and if so where and course of study?
- Explain your long-term aviation goals.
- List activities, organizations and positions of leadership in school, community or volunteer experience.
**School
**Community
**Volunteer
- Tell us about your work experience, where have you worked and what were your responsibilities.
- References: Include two school references. Teachers, coach, mentor - including contact information.
- Please tell us why you are the best candidate to receive this scholarship.

Once completed, they must submit their application back to Chapter 1610 either by USPS mail or attaching a scanned copy to the above chapter email address.

The application deadline is April 15.



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CHAPTER 1610 AVIATION CAREERS SCHOLARSHIP

ADDITIONAL FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

Last month Craig Rodamaker spearheaded another project to raise funds for the chapter-sponsored aviation scholarship. As you know, this \$1000 Scholarship will be offered to eligible high school seniors or beyond such as second year post-secondary students. Craig's letters were sent to a variety of local businesses and non-profit organizations that announced our goals of encouraging continuing education in aviation-related fields. Inserted below is a copy of one of the letters sent.

Thank you, Craig, for taking the lead to launch this initiative.

Dear Neighbor,

Do you remember the thrill of your very first airplane ride? I do. I was 8 years old when my Dad took me to the local airport for a ride. It changed my life! I started my pilot training in high school, earned my pilot's license in college, and have been flying for the past 50 years.

I'm now part of our LOCAL EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) Chapter #1610 based out of Brainerd Lakes Regional Airport. Our mission is to promote aviation in our community, primarily with LOCAL kids and students. For example, we give LOCAL kids ages 8-17 a free airplane ride much like the one I got at age 8. Last year we provided almost 100 kids with that free flight. Maybe one of your kids, or one of your employee's kids, experienced the thrill of that flight. In addition to working with LOCAL youth, we help area pilots via our FAA Safety Seminars and guest speaker presentations. We are in the middle of an aircraft restoration project, and once completed our 1930s Longster aircraft will hang from the ceiling of our LOCAL Brainerd Lakes Regional Airport!

As you know, our country is experiencing a nation-wide shortage of professional pilots, aviation mechanics, air traffic controllers, aerospace engineers, drone technicians, and numerous other aviation professionals. At the same time airline travel volume is predicted to set another record level in 2024. It's a big problem, and our goal is to encourage LOCAL students to seek out aviation careers to address the issue. Last year we participated in the national "Ray Aviation Scholarship" program and awarded a LOCAL high school student a \$10,000 scholarship towards earning his private pilot's license. In fact, we did the same in each of the past 3 years! Recently we established a new scholarship to be awarded in June to a LOCAL student seeking a career in an aviation field.

Please know that 100% of our efforts, campaigns, and scholarships are funded from our member dues and volunteer activities, various fundraising campaigns, and donations from individuals and organizations like yours. We receive no government funding. We are a local chapter of the national EAA organization and operate as a 501(c)3. Our tax ID # is: 82-3520395. I'm writing to ask for a tax-deductible donation to assist in our ongoing scholarship efforts, and maybe change the life of a LOCAL student. Thank you for your consideration!

Enclosed is a self-addressed and stamped return envelope for your much appreciated tax-deductible donation. Please make a check payable to: **EAA Chapter #1610 Scholarship Fund.**

Blue Skies and Tailwinds,
Craig Rodamaker
Fundraising Coordinator
EAA Chapter #1610



CHAPTER 1610 AWARDED \$11,000 EAA RAY SCHOLARSHIP!!

Congratulations are in order to Dr. Walt Roberts and Mike Petersen for successfully navigating the application process for the EAA RAY AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP. Here is an excerpt of the reply Mike Petersen received from EAA.



“Congratulations! EAA Chapter 1610 has been approved for a 2024 Ray Aviation Scholarship! Due to your chapter’s dedication to EAA, youth engagement, overall activities and chapter health, and the wonderful application you submitted, EAA and the Ray Aviation Scholarship Review Committee are excited to have your chapter onboard this year! EAA Chapter 1610 is now approved to nominate a scholar for the 2024 Ray Aviation Scholarship.”

This scholarship will provide \$11,000 to one local youth between the ages of 16 and 19 for flight training culminating in the individual earning their private pilots license.



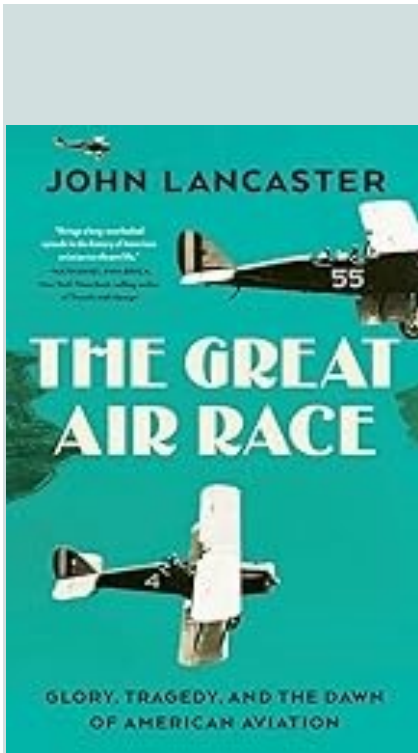
The EAA Ray Aviation Scholarship program relies on the best of the best EAA Chapters to achieve its unprecedentedly high success rates. The involvement of the local EAA chapter is critical to supporting the Ray Foundation’s mission of developing youth into the leaders of tomorrow! Without the mentorship of a healthy and active chapter, the probability of completion of flight training decreases drastically.

Due to the importance of the chapter’s mentorship and support, chapters interested in administering the EAA Ray Aviation Scholarship are required to apply on an annual basis. When selecting eligible chapters the following criteria are taken into consideration:

- Overall chapter health and activity
- Youth activities the chapter engages in (Young Eagles Workshops, Young Eagles Build and Fly, Youth Builds, etc.)
- Chapter experience administering a scholarship
- Availability of potential scholars

Each chapter participating in the EAA Ray Aviation Scholarship program will be required to appoint a Scholarship Coordinator. While Mike Petersen is serving in this role as Chapter 1610 program point of contact with EAA Headquarters, Walt Roberts will serve as the scholar’s mentor.

Thank you, Mike and Walt!!!



THE GREAT AIR RACE by John Lancaster

As members of Chapter 1610 adhere and shrink fabric over wooden and metal airplane structures, I found this story to be quite timely, enlightening, and amusing. It gave me a new respect for the pioneer fliers who piloted these aircraft. The author recounts the daring exploits of post-World War I pilots as they vie to finish first in a race across the country by airplane. It was organized by Colonel Billy Mitchell in his attempt to prove the airplane was a viable mode of cross-country transportation.

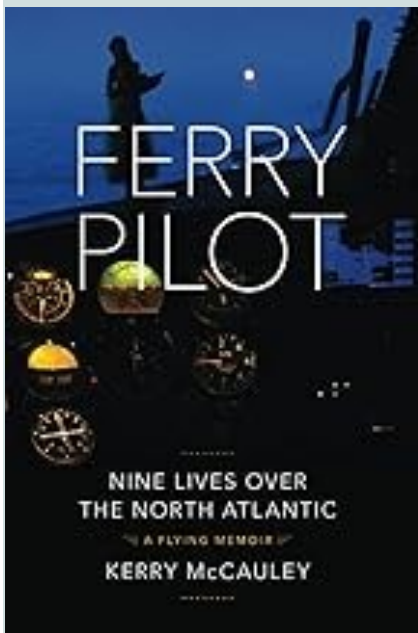
Many airplanes in those days were literal death traps. A biplane known as the DH-4, used as a bomber by Allied forces in World War I, had its gas tank immediately behind the pilot in the cockpit. As Lancaster explains, “Even in relatively low-speed crashes, the tank sometimes wrenched free of its wooden cage, crushing the pilot against the engine.” To get a DH-4 properly balanced for landing, a co-pilot or passenger might have to climb out of the open cockpit and shimmy back to hang onto the tail. And this was one of the era’s most popular and successful models.

Some planes had no gas gauge, so pilots would learn they had run out of fuel only when the engine stopped. Just a tiny portion of the country was covered by charts; pilots’ navigation tools were a magnetic compass and their own eyes. (Mapping was one of the industries that aviation’s growth fostered.) If pilots were fortunate, they could follow a river or railroad tracks, or read city names on water towers. If not, they went the wrong way, or landed in pastures to ask farmers where they were.

This is definitely an entertaining read you will enjoy.

FERRY PILOT: NINE LIVES OVER THE NORTH ATLANTIC

by Kerry McCauley.



Join Minnesotan Kerry McCauley in the cockpit as he battles a fuel system malfunction over the Atlantic, a total electrical failure at night over the Sahara, being struck by lightning off the coast of Portugal and losing his engine in a thunderstorm. As an international ferry pilot Kerry’s almost insatiable, reckless quest for danger and adventure also led Kerry to put international smuggler and bank robber on his resume. Kerry’s skill, ingenuity and a heavy dose of luck were what allowed him to survive the countless mishaps, catastrophes and a nearly fatal plane crash. A true tale of adventure and courage, this harrowing account will have you on the edge of your seat wondering how Kerry is still alive. “Ferry Pilot” is destined to be a true aviation classic.

Kerry McCauley’s life of adventure started out in the Minnesota National Guard as a UH-1H “Huey” crew chief and winter survival instructor. His taste for aviation led him to be an international ferry pilot, professional skydiver and corporate jet pilot. As a ferry pilot he delivered planes to 60 countries, crossing three oceans and six continents. He’s flown about 50 different types of aircraft, has 9000 hours of flight time and 20,000 skydives. Kerry is an engaging and entertaining speaker, whose retelling of his adventures as a ferry pilot and his starring role in two seasons of the Discovery Channel’s series *Dangerous Flights* puts people on the edge of their seats. Kerry lives in Wisconsin with his wife Cathy where they own and operate a skydiving school along with their children, Claire and Connor.

EVENTS OF INTEREST ON THE UPCOMING CALENDAR.

MARCH 2, 2024: ICEPORT 2024!



ICEPORT 2024

MAC'S Twin Bay
LAKE MILLE LACS

Da Boathouse
IN DA BAY

TANIS
AIRCRAFT PRODUCTS
Aviation Safety Starts with Tanis Preheat

CANCELED
(Due to poor ice/snow conditions)

For the latest ICEPORT event updates, please visit:
[Facebook.com/CreateLift](https://www.facebook.com/CreateLift)

- > Pilots monitor: 122.9
- > No fee for this event (Donations are highly encouraged to offset Mac's Twin Bay plowing expenses)
- > Plowed iceway. Skis & wheels welcome.
- > GPS coordinates: 46.17N/93.48W

"Look for the orange safety cones depicting the landing zone"

VENUE: ICEPORT 2024 Fly-in Brunch (Lake Mille Lacs, MN)
DATE/TIME: Saturday, March 2nd, 2024 10:00am - 3:00pm
LOCATION: Da Boathouse/Mac's Twin Bay www.macstwinbay.com/da-boathouse-restaurant

MARCH 9, 2024: AITKIN SKI PLANE AND WHEELS FLY-IN 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Aitkin Airport (KAIT) Fly to Aitkin with a Ski Plane or Wheel plane and enjoy a delicious hotdog and bowl of chili. Land with skis on the groomed snow runway 8/26 or wheel landing on runway 16/34. Get the winter rust off and fly to Aitkin for lots of food, fun, and camaraderie with fellow pilots and aviation enthusiasts. Goodwill donation accepted.

Contact: trudiamundson@yahoo.com

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

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

8 a.m.—1 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 serving a variety of breakfast & lunch menu items. 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.

For more information contact Dave Koenig djkoenig512@gmail.com

EAA CHAPTER 1610 LONGSTER PROJECT: STATUS REPORT

February saw the completion of the starboard wing up to these next steps in the Stewart Systems process: (1) applying 6-inch reinforcement fabric strips along the leading edge, (2) heating the “pinked” edges of all the fabric strips, then (2) brushing the EcoBond into the fabric to seal the weave.



Before moving forward with this, the Longster Team met on February first to finish applying fabric to the port wing, shown below.



Once the fabric was applied to both sides, the process used on the starboard wing was repeated.

- Progressive heat shrinks at 250-Deg., 300-Deg., and then three times at 325-Deg., both sides
- Apply half inch wide reinforcement tapes where the ribs contact the fabric on both sides
- Secure the fabric to the ribs using #4 Truss-head screws. These were placed into each rib with 6-inch spacing.
- Adhere 2-inch fabric over the ribs with EcoBond.

Only one side of the wing progressed this far as we ran out of the 2-inch wide fabric tape.

In the meantime, work resumed on the fuselage at Paul's workshop.

On February 15, Joe, Rollie, and Paul met at Paul's shop to start putting pieces of the fuselage together so we know we have all the necessary parts. Then, disassemble and prepare what's needed for painting.



For those who wish to help with this project, we meet the first and third Thursdays of every month, starting at 6:00 pm.

The new address where the wings are being completed is...

37233 Bonnie Lakes Rd
Crosslake, MN

IN OTHER NEWS...FROM THE BRAINERD LAKES AREA

From the Pine River Airport (KPWC) contributed by Dave Koenig:

KPWC still has 3 open hangar lots for lease at less than \$400 per year. There is a plan to add a new hangar area but that would not be available until 2025 at best. Anyone interested in building on PWC should consider securing a lease.

From Rollie Noordmann's Garage in Merrifield, MN.

If you were not able to determine the make and model of this kit airplane, it is a HummelBird. The powerplant is one-half of a Volkswagen engine. See <https://www.hummelaircraft.com/hummelbird> for more information.



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.

From the Aitkin Flyers contributed by Joe Lambert

The Aeronca Chief being restored at KAIT is also making steady progress. As you can see, the arduous task of adhering fabric tape to the fuselage is underway.



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.

March 2: Iceport 2024 at Lake Mille Lacs CANCELLED

March 9: Regular Chapter Meeting

March 9: Aitkin Flyers Ski Plane & Wheels Fly-In

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



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

◆ Text to 952-818-9986

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

ON THE 'LIGHTAIR' SIDE

