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# CAVU Chronicles

## THE LONGSTER: PROJECT UPDATE

The month of August saw significant progress with the Longster, worthy of “front page news.” You will recall from last month’s issue of CAVU Chronicles that all fabric-covered structures...the wings, tail pieces and the fuselage... were being brush-painted with 3 coats of the Stewart Systems UV Protectant. In those photos, that was the gray-colored paint. Applying white primer was the next step.

Well, here’s what has been accomplished through the end of August.

- All fabric surfaces have been spray-painted with at least two coats of the white Stewart Systems primer.
- In-between coats, the primed surfaces were sanded smooth with 320-grit sandpaper.
- All sanded surfaces were then prepped for finish painting by wiping with tack-cloths to remove all residue of paint dust.
- The top/airfoil side of the right wing was used as the “test surface” for spraying the final color: High Gloss Off-White Latex Paint.

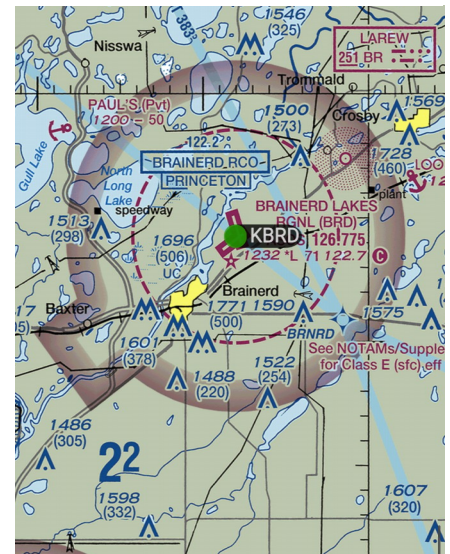
After a series of test coats and adjusting the viscosity of the paint, it was determined that the type of spray gun being used and the composition of this particular type paint produced inconsistent gloss finish of the final product. Paul, Joe & Rolle surmised it was due to the overspray.

It was then decided to try switching to a matt finish instead of using the high gloss finish. The results turned out excellent! All the tail pieces were completed with this type of finish. Both wings have at least one coat with the matt finish and are awaiting sanding before the second coat is sprayed on.

To economize on time and materials, we decided to move the fuselage into the paint booth and get it primed. This way, all the remaining surfaces on the wings and fuselage can be painted with the finish coat, all at the same time, without having to switch back & forth between primer and finish coat.

At the time of writing this article, the fuselage has one coat of primer and is awaiting sanding before we spray on the second coat.

The Longster Crew still meets the first and Third Thursdays at 6:00 pm at the airport in the former fire & rescue station. Please feel free to join us. No special skills are required.



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- Hangar 60 Party
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Pictured here is Rollie applying a coat of the matt-finish off-white paint to one of the five different tail pieces. We found the matt finish to be much more forgiving to variations in paint viscosity, sprayer settings, and technique and produced a more uniform finished product.



Did you know.....

In the United States, aircraft "N" registration numbers were displayed on the wing surfaces up until 1960.

No...the wing does not have an "N" number decal on it. Yet. But, as a static display in the KBRD terminal building, it does make sense to use that designation.

Quiz Question: What does the "X" designate?

Both wings with at least one coat of the off-white finish paint are outside getting a heat treatment in the noon-day sun.



With the fuselage on its rotisserie in the paint booth, Paul applies the first coat of primer over the gray UV finish.





## MORE PHOTOS OF THE LONGSTER



The rotisserie made it so much easier to paint all the surfaces. ..especially the belly...without having to lay on your back.



With it being all one color, it's getting to look more and more like a real airplane.

It is at this point when these surfaces need to be sanded with 320-grit paper, then wiped clean with a tack cloth, before the second coat of primer can be applied.



## HANGAR 60 ANNUAL BRAT FEST & GAMES

Mike Petersen did it again. Despite Mother Nature threatening showers & thunderstorms, Mike held the precipitation at bay so the party...and the skills challenge...could be held without umbrellas.

And let's not forget to mention the Brats & Hot Dogs he provided. Always the best!! These are the very same custom-blend brats from Reed's Market that we sell at the annual Brat Sale, and hot dogs from Thielen Meats.

On behalf of all those who attended...THANK YOU, MIKE!!!



And 'thanks' also goes to Joe Lambert for being the head chef at the Weber Grill.



There was plenty in both the amount and variety of Potluck servings brought by everyone. No one ever goes home hungry after one of these annual events.





## HANGAR 60 PARTY: LET THE GAMES BEGIN!!

Here's the challenge...should you choose to accept it. Using a loooong pole with a teaspoon attached to the end, you must first transfer a small ball from a stool onto the spoon. Then...turn 180 degrees without letting the ball drop off the spoon, and place it in the small open neck of a traffic cone. Got it? OK...you have 90 seconds to transfer as many balls as possible. On your mark...get set...GO!!

Here are Walt Roberts and Michelle Lambert working at getting that little ball off the stool and onto the spoon. The orange cone seen behind Michelle is where it needs to be deposited.



After bringing the pole around 180 degrees...and, without letting the ball spill from the spoon... here are Craig Rodamaker and Corinne Roberts deftly and skillfully letting the ball drop into the top of the cone.

And the winners were...

1st place (2 years in a row)

- Adam Kainulainen

Tied for 2nd place:

- Dave Ahlers (left)
- Mark Bearss (right)





## AITKIN FLYERS ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST & FLY-IN!!

Sunday, August fourth, the Aitkin Flyers dished up hundreds of servings of wild rice (and regular) pancakes, bacon & sausage, coffee, juice, milk and smiles. A LOT of work went into putting this together, beginning with the setting-up process, which commenced on the Friday before. Chapter 965 members volunteered some long hours getting everything prepped, which owes to it's popularity, and its success. As usual, it was a well-organized and orchestrated event. Congratulations!!

While most arrived by land....

others took advantage of the good weather & flew in.



Airplanes and a pancake breakfast generated a lot of excitement for these young enthusiasts.



# AITKIN FLYERS ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST & FLY-IN!!

Here's a collage of photos ...

taken by Jackie.





MORE...AITKIN FLYERS ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST & FLY-IN!!





## EVENTS OF INTEREST ON THE UPCOMING CALENDAR.

The September calendar published in the MnDOT AVIATION EVENTS page listed 13 things to do, people to see, and places to go. So, check out their website at <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/aero/events/flyins-and-events.html>.

### September 14, 2024 Grass is a Gas Poker Run

7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Brainerd Airport (KBRD)

Start and finish at Brainerd, fly to four grass strips in northern Minnesota, play your hand when you return. Great prizes for best three hands and many, many prizes by drawing. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m., briefing at 8:15 a.m. and return to Brainerd by 1:30 p.m. One hand per person, max of two hands per aircraft. Strictly limited to 52 total hands, get there early to assure your spot. Contact: Mike Petersen at 612-750-2981 or email [eaachapter1610@gmail.com](mailto:eaachapter1610@gmail.com)

### September 15, 2024 Hector Lions Flight Breakfast

7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Hector Municipal Airport (1D6)

All you can eat pancakes, French toast, sausage, coffee, juice and milk. Real maple syrup donated by Skinny Sticks of Wisconsin. PICs free. Warbirds, classics, antiques, homebuilt, helicopters and ultralights. Ping pong ball drop with prizes for kids at 11:15 a.m. CTAF 122.8. Contact: Ed Newberg, 320-979-1270, [ednewberg@hotmail.com](mailto:ednewberg@hotmail.com)

### September 20-22, 2024 Minnesota Seaplane Pilots Association Safety Seminar

8 a.m.  
Madden's Resort on Gull Lake, M16

MSPA welcomes all seaplane, ski plane, and land plane pilots. Friday - Wipaïre Poker Run. Saturday - Fly-in, safety seminar, and activities. Contact: Steve Guetter at [steve@penguinflight.net](mailto:steve@penguinflight.net)

### September 21, 2024 Mora Fly-in

8 a.m. - noon  
Mora Municipal Airport - JMR 2064 Mahogany St, Mora, MN 55051

- This is an event for the entire family, with free gifts for youth and adults. Admission is free.  
Scheduled activities:
  - The event will open with the Presentation of Colors by the American Legion Club of Mora at 8 a.m.
  - The Mora Lions Club will be serving an all-you-can eat pancake breakfast for \$8 per person with Pilots in Command eating for free. All proceeds will go to the Mora Lions Club to support community based projects and donations.
  - A paper airplane contest is scheduled at 10 a.m. The contest is open to all ages; however, prizes will be awarded to the youth (age 17 or under) with the winning paper airplane flight.
- Other attractions and details:
- Hawk Aviation will be offering airplane rides for \$45 per person.
  - This year's event will again include a static tractor display. All tractor owners are encouraged to bring their equipment to the event. Airport equipment will also be on display.
  - All pilots will receive a 10¢ discount on aviation fuel on the day of the event.





## 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.



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.

## MORE FROM THE MNDOT CALENDAR

### September 21, 2024 KLXL Annual Fall Fly-in

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Little Falls, MN (KLXL)

Sponsored by Lakes Area Aviation. EAA Chapter 1681 brat feed - free will donation benefitting aviation scholarships. Scenic flights & helicopter rides for purchase. Car show. Bouncy house. Cotton candy. Static aircraft displays. Sept. 22 rain date. Contact: [eaa1681@outlook.com](mailto:eaa1681@outlook.com)

### September 27-29, 2024 Airport Fall Annual Bowstring Colors

Bowstring Airport (9Y0) - Co Rd 173, Deer River, MN 56636

Friday: 5-7 p.m., burgers and brats, chili, campfire.

Saturday: 7-10 a.m., pancakes, eggs and sausage; noon-3 p.m., burgers, brats, chili and potato salad; 4-6 p.m., shore lunch, fish and spuds.

Sunday: 7-10 a.m., pancakes, eggs and sausage; noon-3 p.m., chili, shore lunch leftovers. Sponsored by Bowstring Flyers. Free will donation.

Contact: Ken Reichert, 218-244-6328



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

**September 14: Grass-is-a-Gas Poker Run**

**September 14: There will be no regular chapter meeting.**

**September 21: Young Eagles Flights, East Gull Lake Airport**

**October 12: Regular Monthly Meeting**

**November 9: Regular Monthly Meeting**

**December 14: Regular Monthly Meeting**

## ON THE 'LIGHTAIR' SIDE



- If you get sick at the airport it could be a terminal illness.
- During his flight test a young pilot flew through a rainbow. He passed with flying colors.
- It was mealtime on an airplane, and the flight attendant asked a passenger if he would like some dinner. "What are my choices?" the passenger asked. "Yes or no," she replied.
- Yesterday, I saw a police officer wearing a pilot's uniform. I thought it was a bit odd. Then I realized he was one of those plane clothes cops.