



JUNE 2024
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CAVU Chronicles

CHAPTER 1610 AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

After reviewing each candidate's resume, the selection committee awarded \$2000 to each of the following scholarship recipients.

CARISSA PETERSON: Carissa is currently attending the Christian Polytechnic LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas. She enrolled in the degree program pursuing a major that combines flight training and aircraft maintenance. Upon graduation in May 2026, she will be qualified as a pilot and receive an A&P license.

KAITLYN MIDDELSTADT: Kaitlyn is a recent graduate from Nisswa High School. She has been accepted into North Dakota State University where her studies will be focused towards a degree in Aviation/Business Aviation and leadership skills. "I have volunteered for the past 7 years at the EAA airshow and it truly has been a highlight of my past summers. I love being in the air, the feeling of flying is like no other."

KATELYNN STOUT: Katelynn is also a 2024 graduate of Nisswa High School. She has been accepted into the Northland Community and Technical College in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, and is enrolled in their Aviation Maintenance Technology Program. After receiving her diploma, Katelynn will be qualified to become an A&P Mechanic.

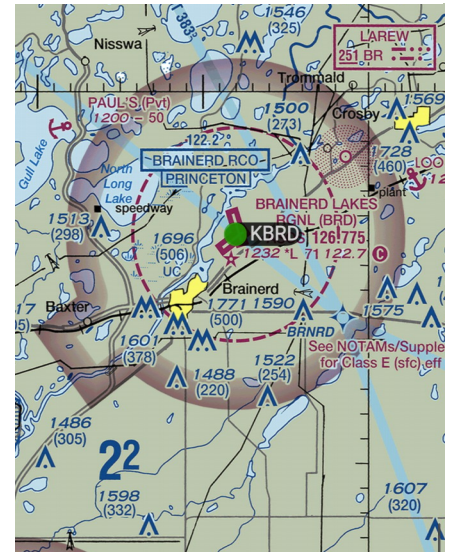
CONGRATULATIONS to each of you, from all the members of the Brainerd Lakes Area EAA Chapter 1610.

EAA RAY AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

As you may already know, Brandon's flight instructor, Josh Marquart, recently accepted a new position with Cirrus Aviation in Duluth as a Cirrus Flight Instructor. So, Brandon's new instructor is Mitchell Rolf.

As of the printing of this issue, Brandon has not soloed yet, but he is real close. He said he just needs to smooth out the last few seconds of his landings, then he should be able to solo. He's been getting in more hours, despite the occasional cancellation due to weather. Now that school is over, he will be able to start morning flights...and we know how friendlier the air is in the morning.

Thanks for the update, Brandon.



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EAA CHAPTER 1610 AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP: A SALUTE TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

The Brainerd Lakes Area EAA Chapter 1610 extends a sincere THANK YOU to the following contributors enabling our chapter to award a continuing education scholarship of \$2000 to each of the three recipients named on Page 1.

These contributors are:

MATTSON LUMBER COMPANY: Nisswa, MN

PRECISION TOOL TECHNOLOGIES: Brainerd, MN

KAY RODAMAKER: Brainerd, MN

BRIAN & KAREN HOLCOMB

PRESTON & LYNDA PITTS, LEGACY MARKETING

GARRISON COMMERCIAL CLUB: Garrison, MN

JERRY PRITCHETT

50 LAKES FIREFIGHTER RELIEF ASSOCIATION

PEQUOT LAKES/BREEZY POINT LIONS CLUB

CUYUNA LIONS CLUB

NISSWA LIONS CLUB

KIAWANIS CLUB OF BRAINERD: Brainerd, MN



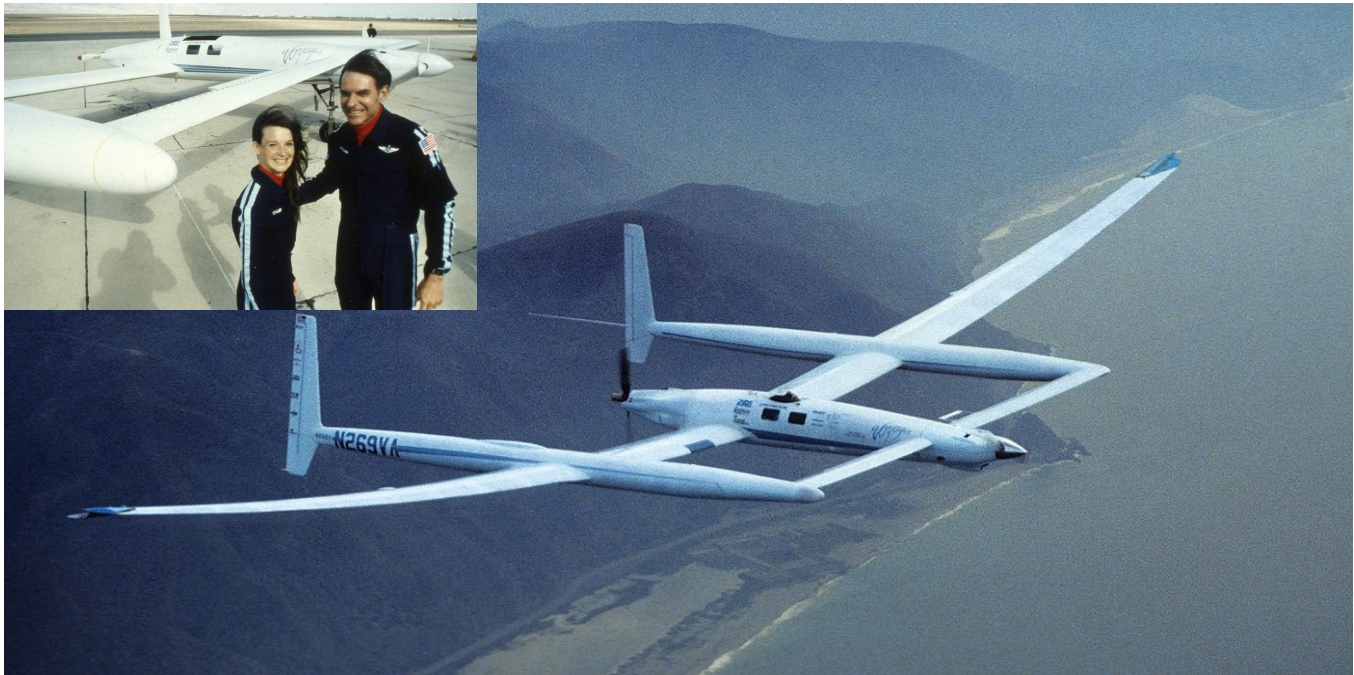
Thank You!

A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping brushstrokes in various colors: blue, purple, pink, and yellow. The word "Thank You!" is written in a cursive font above the brushstrokes.

FOR THOSE WHO REMEMBER THE FLIGHT OF THE VOYAGER AIRCRAFT

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Richard Glenn Rutan flew west on Friday, May 3, 2024. He was 85.

The last time Dick Rutan flew towards the western horizon was on December 14, 1986 when he and copilot Jeana Yeager set the last great aviation record by flying around the world, nonstop and unrefueled, in nine days, three minutes and 44 seconds in an aircraft called 'Voyager.' It was designed by his younger brother, legendary aircraft designer Burt Rutan. In the spirit of technology created by other California tinkerers, the concept of the Voyager aircraft was first sketched by on a napkin at a Chinese restaurant in the desert town of Mojave in 1981.



The advent of a new material, composites of carbon fiber, made it possible for the first time to imagine an airplane light enough for a round-the-world flight on a single tank of gas.

The plane they built in a hangar in the desert was propeller-driven and resembled a child's balsa wood glider, but with wings longer than those of a Boeing 727. It was essentially a collection of 17 fuel tanks in a sheath of carbon fiber cloth, epoxy and paper — a skin so fragile that it could be damaged by an elbow poke. Voyager was so heavy with fuel on takeoff that it took nearly three miles of runway when it took off from Edwards Air Force Base in Southern California on Dec. 14, 1986. With the wings fully loaded with fuel, the tips had only inches of clearance from the runway. Once airborne, the wingtips bent up some 30 feet.

Putt-putting at low altitudes, taking catnaps to steal sleep, nearly slamming into a mountain in Africa and almost ditching in the Pacific Ocean, the Voyager with Dick and co-pilot Jeana Yeager limped home on fumes from empty fuel tanks two days before Christmas.

A highly decorated Vietnam veteran, Dick Rutan flew 325 combat missions and was awarded the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, the Air Medal with three silver oak leaf clusters, the Collier Trophy and was also awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross — twice.

During his time in the skies over Vietnam, Dick was a member of an elite group of Fast Forward Air Controllers, often loitering over enemy anti-aircraft positions for six hours or more in a single sortie. These extremely hazardous missions had the call sign 'Misty'; Dick Rutan was, and will forever be, Misty Four-Zero.

He spent his last day in the company of friends and family, including his brother, Burt. He is survived by his wife Kris of 25 years, daughters Holly Hogan and Jill Hoffman, and his four grandchildren, Jack, Sean, Noelle, and Haley.

The plane is now located in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum along with Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis and the Wright Brothers' Flyer.

AN ADDENDUM TO THE VOYAGER AIRCRAFT STORY

In 2010, the aircraft manufacturer TL Ultralight in The Czech Republic began exporting light sport aircraft into the United States. They had two models: the low-wing “Sting” and the high-wing “Sirius.”

One of the first US pilots to purchase a Sirius (Cliff H.) contacted the Aircraft Registration Branch of the FAA Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City to request using a certain retired number. Normally, the FAA researches the numbers in the order they are listed and assigns the first N-number that is available. Cliff had something else in mind. When his new plane arrived the US, it was registered with **N269VA**.

If you look closely at the photo on the previous page, you will recognize this number on the tail of the Voyager Aircraft. It so happens this was the N-number of Cliff’s plane, which I purchase in July 2021, pictured below.



It’s actually quite fitting considering this model is also a light-weight aircraft comprised of carbon fiber...the “new material”... used in the 1980’s to construct Voyager. This registration number will serve as a reminder of, and a tribute to the accomplishments Dick and Burt Rutan made in designing and flying that historic non-stop flight around the world.

BRAT-FEST 2024

Ace Hardware and Reed's Market pulled out all the stops in assuring the SECOND ANNUAL CHAPTER 1610 BRAT SALE of CROSSLAKE was another huge success. Mother nature, on the other hand, tested our mettle on Friday up until about 1:00 pm. As the photos below will attest to, rain gear was the essential fashion accessory. But the weather did not seem to deter those hungry Minnesotans seeking a grilled brat or hot dog. Saturday, fortunately, turned out to be a stellar Spring day.

As you will see, Dan (Ace Hardware) provided us with an ideal set-up location for two canopies this year.

A huge **THANK YOU** is in order for the following who volunteered their time on these two days.

Mike Petersen

Dave Koenig

Craig Rodamaker

Corinne Roberts

Jane Haubrich

Judy Piepgras

Carol Nelson

Howard McCollister

Mark Crist

Brandon Eberts



**NOTICE OUR NEW CANOPY WITH
THE YOUNG EAGLES LOGO!!**





THANK YOU !!
REED'S MARKET



THANK YOU !!
ACE HARDWARE



And Thank you again to the
Chapter 1610 Volunteers



EVENTS OF INTEREST ON THE UPCOMING CALENDAR.

June 1, 2024

Young Eagles Flights at KBRD

8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

EAA Chapter 1610 will be piloting almost 70 Young Eagles for rides around the skies of Brainerd, weather and winds permitting. Please contact Trudi Amundson if you have any questions about the schedule.

JUNE 9, 2024: BUFFALO PANCAKE BREAKFAST CAR & SHOWPINE RIVER AIRPORT OPEN HOUSE,

7:30 a.m. - noon

Buffalo Municipal Airport (KCFE)

Pancake Breakfast, 7:30 a.m. to noon, EAA 878, in the hangar of West Metro Aviation. Car show hosted and held concurrently on airport grounds 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. by Wright County Car Club.

Contact: Wayne, 763-670-6021, wflury@outlook.com

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

JUNE 23, 2024: REDWOOD FALLS ROTARY FLY-IN PANCAKE BREAKFAST

8 a.m.— Noon. Redwood Falls Municipal Airport

All you can eat pancakes and sausage. Pilots eat free.

Contact: Redwood Fall Rotary at redwoodfallsrotary@gmail.com



AS A REMINDER

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.



EAA CHAPTER 1610 LONGSTER PROJECT: STATUS REPORT

The project has reached a milestone. All the steps for applying the 2-inch fabric strips and heat treating all the “pinked” edges have been completed for both wings and the fuselage. The next steps are...

1. Clean all fabric surfaces with EcoClean or simply denatured alcohol. Then...
2. Wash all fabric surfaces with distilled water, and let dry thoroughly. Then...
3. Apply a 3:1 diluted mixture of EcoBond to all the white surfaces on both wings. This seals the weave. Then...
4. Let dry 30-60 minutes, and immediately apply the first coat of EcoFill.

All four steps need to be completed in one session. To expedite the process, each structure being treat will be supported using a “rotisserie” frame.

Steve Wright has given us permission to use the middle bay in the building immediately west of the Terminal. Rollie, Joe, Mike, Dick and I inspected the space and found it to be quite adequate. Aside from plenty of floor space, it also has a compressed air source, good lighting, plenty of electrical outlets and a floor drain. Access will be through an electric garage door.

Jessica and Cassandra will be providing us with a remote garage door opener. Once that is in hand, Mike Petersen will arrange to borrow a rotisserie from a colleague. We will also need to “hang curtains” for a paint booth. The preferred method for Step 4 is to use a sprayer.

Once these are in place, we can then move all the components to this garage and begin work.

As you may know, the *Longster Gang* has been meeting on alternate Thursdays from 6-9 pm. This work-shift will not be feasible for completing the steps outlined above. So...we will be looking for volunteers who would be willing and available to put in a 3-hour shift.

Also, since our Chapter 1610 calendar seems to be inundated with Saturday events, I would like to steer away from scheduling this work on a weekend.

We will be devoting some time at the next chapter meeting on June 8th to discuss best options for how to best complete the above. Stay tuned.



IN OTHER NEWS FROM THE BRAINERD LAKES AREA

You are all familiar with the Aeronca Chief restoration project that Joe Lambert and Joel Kersting are undertaking at Aitkin. Progress continues.

Well, Joe is becoming the quintessential restorer of needy aircraft. Not only has he dedicated himself to the Aeronca, and our Henderson Longster, he's added a new-to-him project in need of restoration.

Joe recently became to proud owner of a vintage ERCO Ercoupe. He and Joel recently transported it from Bemidji to Joe's shop in Brainerd where it will be restored.

Congratulations, Joe, on your newest endeavor.



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

♦ Text to 952-818-9986

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

June 1: Young Eagles Flights, KBRD

June 8: Regular Chapter Meeting

June 15: Pine River Open House

July 13: Regular Chapter Meeting

August 4: Aitkin Flyers Pancake Breakfast & Fly-In

August 10: Regular Chapter Meeting

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

September 21: Young Eagles Flights, East Gull Lake Airport



ON THE 'LIGHTAIR' SIDE

