



Home of Squadron 534 Youth Aviation Program

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

03/18/23 – Young Eagles

03/23 - Possible VMC on Zoom .>>> stay tuned

03/25 – Radio Control flying at Southern Eagle Squadron
For our Youth program



03/25 – Kimball’s farm view assembly of Lockheed Vega for Kermit Weeks museum



04/15 – Young Eagles

04/29 – Monthly meeting/ Pancake Breakfast

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President’s Message

It’s a small world!

One of our new members, Dan Ellerbusch, called me about a month ago and asked if I knew of somebody from the city up north where I have my hangar (Forest Lake, MN). I told him I live 15 miles south of there and really don’t know that many people from that area.

Fast forward to Village Aviators cookout; Dan came up to me and said, “the lady from Forest Lake is here with me today, you should come out and meet her.” As expected, I didn’t think I knew her until I told her I had a hangar in Forest Lake and asked if she was familiar with the airport. She responded that yes, about two years ago she got a ride in a float plane from a retired Delta pilot. Ding, Ding, Ding. Alarms went off in my head. That was my buddy John Born from Florida that had flown up to visit and kept his Smith Super Cub in my hangar for the week. She mentioned that she had attended an EAA open house event in Hugo, MN and somebody had coordinated that ride for her. I let her know that I had been the President of EAA745 in White Bear Lake and it just happened to me that coordinated the ride. We both dug through our phones and found pictures of that day. What a small world.

That is one of the great things about our aviation community. We are a small, tight knit community of like minded individuals. In times of need, we are always one call away from a friend of a friend that is willing to lend a helping hand, no matter where we are in this great country.

Mike Hage

Inspirational Quotes:

“It is beautiful to discover our wings and learn how to fly; flight is a beautiful process”

— C. JoyBell C.



SQUADRON 534 Youth Aviation Program updates!

I am pleased to report that the steering committee which includes our Ray Scholars, has made great progress refreshing the wonderful legacy of our youth group.

Unique Identification: New logo, shirts, hats and name badges with new colors. *(Shirts have arrived!)*

Recruiting: Focused on Lake County schools and existing youth organizations. *Recruiting & info fliers are printed with copies on 534 website*

Workshops: We all agree that aviation is a collection of disciplines for future aviators to absorb, including systems, assembly and building, tools and techniques. Youth will have planned presentations and hands-on workshops. in their own space.

Simulator: Formal flight planning and pilot instructor communications with headsets with potential for flying the flight-plans in a real plane.



Maria DeStafano one of our future SIM instructors getting the hang of it!

Food service: committed crew for preparation, cooking and clean-up headed up by David Hopkins.

Young Eagles: First-time YE will get priority front seat flying A non-flying plane will position in front for hangar for sample pre-flight demo for kids and parents! Our Youth group and members will engage visitors, kids and adults.

Ray Scholarships: Hoping to pick-up more qualified youth as we grow the Youth population back next cycle.

Admin: Need help with keeping Youth member's attendance and logbooks.

Funding: We have monies in our treasury previously donated for Youth group. This will be earmarked for activities and materials needed for the above.

A debt of gratitude to John Weber and all the volunteers who will turn these words and ideas into reality. A special thanks to our **Ray Scholars** who bring brilliant ideas to the table with the important insight of their youth and experience.

Marty Harris
Steering committee chairman



Young Eagles – March 18, 2023

Pilots at 8:30

Ray scholarship –

Gretchen reports we have won our fifth consecutive Ray Scholarship for 2023/24

With \$11,000.00 for the PPL!

we have several excited youth members working on their application

Treasurer Report -

Great News! **Alaric Schulte** – An active member since 2019, has accepted the position of **Treasurer** with full BOD confirmation. Alaric Works as a full-stack web developer. Has a Bachelors in Finance and Economics from the University of Nebraska. He plans to implement extreme fiscal austerity! *(Watch out Weber)*

As we start a new year, chapter dues need to be sent in. We show about 60 members have paid their 2023 dues which is about 60% of 2022

If you see a new member always say hi

Three ways to pay your dues - pay with PayPal on our website under the membership link, pay in person at a Chapter meeting or at the hanger on Thursdays or Saturdays, or send a check in the mail made out to EAA Chapter 534 to my address below.

\$20 to:

Greg Nilsen

2856 Apache Ct

The Villages, FL 32163

SAFETY

With the recent mid-air of floatplane and Cherokee at Winter Haven. Keep your head on a swivel as KLEE has two seaplane landing sites are nearby.

Keep your patterns at the proper altitude



First Flight

Mike Hage

After 2 years, it was finally time to take to the skies for the first time. The weather just wouldn't cooperate for the first 8 days of my visit to Minnesota, with a perfect 10 knot crosswind every day. Sunday was finally going to be different, 2 knot wind almost directly down the runway.

Saturday night, we gave it one last 'once over' and taxied around the airport to verify all the gauges were working as expected. Only discrepancy was that the alternator switch just didn't feel crisp, but we seemed to be charging so everything was perfect. All the boxes were checked on the EAA Flight Test card and we were ready. We had a plan, an emergency plan and a fire extinguisher. We agreed to show up at the airport shortly after church and let everyone in the chapter know via our WhatsApp group. Sunday came and shortly before noon, the first observers started showing up. First rule of 'Flight Test', no spectators, but what could go wrong. We did one last preflight and it was time. We pulled it out and I started taxiing. After about a block, the alternator stopped so I spun it around and headed back to my hangar. I told one of the other guys, 'must be that switch', so we decided to replace it quickly and try again.

It should have been a simple fix. All the switches are on a sub-panel that pops out giving easy access. Normally, we would have pulled it back into the hangar, pulled the battery and done it the right way, but now we had to turn this thing around and get this flight done. As we were pulling the old switch out, the master switch was accidentally switched on and was switched back off as soon as we noticed it. A minute later, someone mentioned, 'is that smoke'? No sooner did those words come out and the propeller started spinning, almost hitting one of the bystanders. 'FIRE, FIRE, get the fire extinguisher!!!' Unfortunately, the fire extinguisher was in the back of one of the trucks and took a while to find its way back to the plane.

As the smoke, dust and soot settled, the airplane was still intact. We disconnected the battery and started to try figuring out what just happened. Turns out that the master power wire shorted to the firewall, which caused the 10 AWG wire to get extremely hot, to the point that it melted the Teflon insulation off 2 feet past the arc point and shorted itself to the starter wire and engaged the starter.

The intense heat melted the master switch control wire and allowed it to short to ground which is why this process continued after the master switch was turned off. In the end, we got incredibly lucky. The Li Ion battery didn't explode and outside of a burn mark where the hot wire fell on the battery, there wasn't much serious damage. One of the hangar neighbors had some 10 AWG wire and within a couple hours we were back in business. Unfortunately, it was after sundown so we were done for the day.

Monday morning came and everything looked good. Around freezing, but tolerable and very slight crosswind. Quick slow taxi test and everything looked good. We performed two fast taxi tests and then the moment of truth. It jumped off the ground a little sooner than expected, but rocketed up like a homesick angel. Took one pass around the patch with a low approach to size up the task and on the second pass, perfectly planted it back on this earth. Overall, it was a success with a couple minor squawks. Hopefully, on my next trip home, the days will be longer, the weather will cooperate and I'll be able to fly off most of the hours.



Project Updates

Pietenpol - Ted

Fiberglass wing tank completed and test fit



Murphy Rebel - Mark

Back to work on the Rebel



Cessna 150 - Steve



150 work team includes Steve, Wayne and Mark. Great progress being made!

YOUTH GROUP



Youth Group back to hands-on fabric application for steel tube rudder "FUN"



Chapter 534 Young Eagles



Our next Young Eagle rally will be March will be the 18th

- We will continue with our great **sign-up team** led by our chairman Jodie Soule.
- We will have **"Name tag stickers"** for all who are without our 534 tags. All members "adult and youth" will now help host and engage our Eagles and their families showing them the planes we are working on as well as flight SIM and chatting about the Youth Program.
- Our existing youth members will be wearing the new **"Squadron 534" T-Shirts.**
- Judie Betz and others will walk families around an **exhibition plane in front of hangar,** demonstrating a traditional walk-around and safety checks. This should save time for YE pilots.
- Starting Sept all **first time YE get front seat** for first flight.

We look forward to a great new season and many new youth members!