

*THE AVIATOR*

**Meeting Thursday January 15th at 6:00 PM**  
**Moose Lodge 75 Washington St. NT**

December 2025

Joe Suarez  
716-440-6348

Kevin Borzilleri  
716-444-2950

Dan Yaeger  
716-572-5886

Al Herrington  
716-553-5126

Mike Bucklaew  
716-982-6275

Tom Welch  
716-695-6053

Joe Suarez  
716-440-6348

Dave Raczka  
716-458-5652

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716-458-5652  
Brian Mau  
716-694-5884  
Dan Yaeger  
716-572-5886  
Ryan Smith  
716-830-3026

Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the Moose Lodge 75 Washington St. in North Tonawanda. This will be our annual holiday party and Chinese auction. I hope you've started to look through your stuff to see if there are things you don't need anymore to donate for the Chinese auction. I think these parties have been a lot of fun thanks to the wide variety of items we had to auction off as well as the great food.



You may remember that we changed the by-laws to make your dues due at the April meeting now. If it is easier for you to pay your dues at the holiday party, I don't think AI would mind. Renewal is also a good time to make sure your current contact info is up to date. You wouldn't want to miss a newsletter or a group text about flying would you?



From Paul Schwartz:

Our indoor flying season starts this year on Thursday Dec11, 2025 at 2:30pm. We'll be flying again at the North Amherst Recreation Centre at 4415 Millersport Hwy, Amherst NY.

As before please enter the side door and the fee will again be \$15. Please tell your friends about this as it's a great facility and gives you a nice RC diversion during the cold winter months.



**FRIA** ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS  
**FAA-RECOGNIZED IDENTIFICATION ARE**  
A FRIA IS A DESIGNATED GEOGRAPHIC AREA WHERE IDENTIFICATION CAN BE OBTAINED WITHOUT PAYMENT OF FEE.

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The Official Newsletter of Brauer's Aviators  
AMA Club Charter # 1612 - [www.brauersaviators.org](http://www.brauersaviators.org)

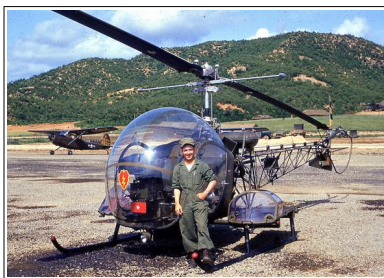
## RICHARD APFEL

We received an e-mail from Gary Apfel about his father Richard who was a long time Brauers member:

My name is Gary Apfel, my father Richard was a member of Brauer's Aviators for years. A few years ago we didn't know what to get my Dad for Christmas. I thought having his name put on an Air Foil at the Smithsonian Udvar-Hazy Center, might be nice. We only recently finished a biography for him on their Wall of Honor web site. The link below will take you to it. I was hoping a few of your members might remember him and enjoy reading it.

Thanks, Gary

*Here is an excerpt. I encourage you to click on the link ( <https://airandspace.si.edu/support/wall-of-honor/cpl-richard-d-apfel-usarmy>) to read the whole thing as Gary has put together a great write up about his dad.*



Dick seized every chance to take to the sky himself—flying in a PT-17 Stearman, Fairchild PT-19, AT-6 Texan, Beech 18, and Cessna 172. He enjoyed a tour over Niagara Falls in a Bell 47 helicopter with his young sons and a memorable hot air balloon ride over Letchworth State Park with Olga. In retirement, Dick became an active member of the Brauer Aviators Club in Pendleton, NY, where he built and flew radio-controlled planes. In 2013, Dick experienced a flight aboard the iconic B-17 Flying Fortress featured in the film Memphis Belle.

Richard Donald “Dick” Apfel, 94, of Tonawanda, New York, peacefully passed away May 22, 2025. Dick’s life was defined by curiosity, craftsmanship, loyalty, and an enduring love for both flight and family. He is survived by his wife Olga, their children, and grandchildren.

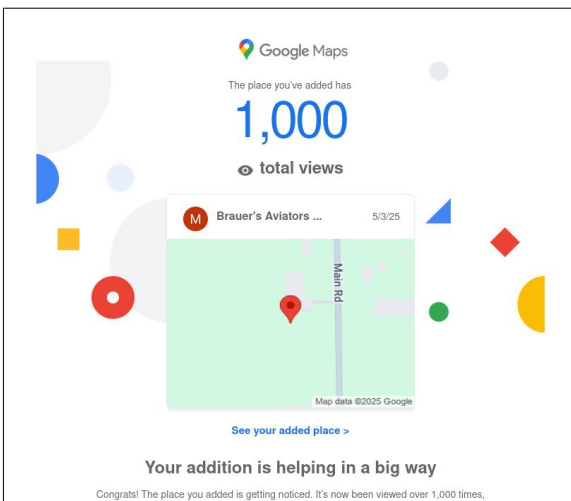


## JOE MCCAFFREY DONATION

The club members voted to make a \$100. donation to the Wendelville Fire Company in the name of Joe McCaffrey who passed away in September of this year. Not everyone in the club had the opportunity to interact with him but he was a great friend of ours. His position on the Town of Pendleton Planning board was instrumental in helping to get us moved to our new field with grandfathered rules. He did the initial grading, flattening and raking of our new field with his tractor. He gave us a lot of good advice and was an all around great guy.



## GOOGLE MAPS



We’re definitely “on the map” now. In May we added our field manually to Google Maps and I received this November 4th. Now with our sign being up (I know its taken down for the winter) and the mighty Google knowing how to tell people where we are, we should have no problem having guests and potential members finding us. From May to November we’ve had 1000 views. 2026 should be another great year.



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## MERRY CHRISTMAS

And Happy Holidays

