

CHAPTER 55 EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2006



Meetings are the 2nd Saturday of each Month

EAA Chapter 55 Hangar - Mason Jewett Field – 649 Aviation Drive, Mason, MI 48854
Pres: Bill Purosky 214-2729 Vice Pres: Tom Botsford 663-1318 Treas: Sharron Hacker 623-6476
Secr: Del Johnson 676-2756 Editor: Warren Miller 393-9385 (all Area Code 517)

Climb and Maintain Flight Level 55

This Saturday, June 10th, after our usual breakfast, we will hold a Young Eagles Event. We still need some volunteers. As always, the more airplanes that we have, the better the event. So if you have a few hours and an operative airplane, plan on flying some kids. In addition, we can use some more volunteers to run the ground portion of the event. People to sign in the children and put plane loads together for the pilots as well as volunteers to safely walk the children to the planes and assist the pilot in getting them properly secured on board. This is a rewarding event for the children as well as for the volunteers. I still get a kick out of seeing the happy faces as they deplane after a ride. Vicki and Debbie have done some great advertising and we should have a good turnout of new Young Eagles.

The following day, Sunday June 11th, we are hosting a Dawn Patrol. We are serving our normal breakfast fare starting about 7 AM until 12:30 PM. Again, the more workers we get the easier the task of running this event. We will have a sign up sheet at the meeting for you to commit to a couple of hours helping out. We still need people to park airplanes, park cars, cook, keep tables clean, help ticket sales, resupply drinks, and more.

We will match the job with your physical needs to help spread the workload. If you need to sit instead of stand when working, we will find the job for you. If you prefer a certain job, we can accommodate that request. The idea is to get involved and have some fun helping the Chapter in either or both of these events. Ask anyone who has done either or both of these events in the recent past and you will hear some great supportive stories. If you haven't helped in the recent past, then it is time that you do. Sign up, give us a hand and I can promise you that you will enjoy it! After all, it is the right thing to do for the Chapter, the public, and for yourself.

Bill Purosky, President

JUNE SCHEDULE

Board of Directors' Meeting

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Chapter 55 Meeting

Saturday, June 10, 2006

8 – 9 Breakfast / 9:30 Chapter Meeting

BREAKFAST W/CHAPTER 55

June Team

June Breakfast
Dave Cook
Pete Greenfield
Greg Harris
Tim Martinson
Joe Pirch
Robert Smith
Greg Hover

July Team

Don Chubb
Chuck Hacker
Edward Manturuk
Dave Paul
James Smith
Robert Veltman
Mary Gowans



May Cooks: Jim Spray and Jim Cushing

EAA Board of Directors Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting – May 10, 2006

Bill Purosky called the board meeting to order at 7:20pm. Attendees: Bill Purosky, Vickie & Ken Vandenbelt, Dave & Debbie Groh, Jack Toman, Doug Koons, Tom Botsford, Deanna McAlister, Connie

Kowalk, Sharon Hacker, Chuck Hacker, Gary Long and Del Johnson. With Sharron Hacker's return to Lansing she is no longer represented by proxy. →The minutes were approved as published in the newsletter with one correction.

The address of Chapter 55 needs to be changed to 643 Aviation Drive. Sharron reported \$1,761 of net income for the year and \$552 of net income for the previous month. A motion was made and approved to accept the Treasurer's report. →Sharron also presented a list of paid and unpaid member. →Bill reported on the preparations for the May 20th Teacher's Workshop, June 10th Young Eagles Day and June 11th Dawn Patrol. →A motion was made and passed to authorize a total of \$300 to be spent on advertisement for Dawn Patrol. A separate authorization was made to spend \$250 for Mason Aviation Day advertisement →The Table & Chairs purchase will be postponed until the fall. It was suggested that we repaint the meeting room first. →A motion was made and approved to authorize Dick Wilke to lease space in the hangar. A motion was made and approved that the President maintain the original copy of the lease agreements and that copies be made and distributed to the Secretary and one other Board member. →Deanna volunteered to decorate the township hall for the Christmas party. →A motion was made and approved to authorize Doug Koons to purchase up to \$250 for supplies to upgrade the building electrical system to handle the loads placed on it during special events. →The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

EAA Chapter 55 Business Meeting

Membership Meeting – May 13, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 9:35am. →The minutes of the May meeting were approved. Sharron Hacker presented the Treasurer's report which was approved. →Two special guests were in attendance and were recognized by Bill Purosky: Mrs. Newberry and Mrs. Gostnell. →Jack Toman will look into the purchase of a P.A. system. →The June 10th Young Eagles day and the June 11th Dawn Patrol were discussed and a request went out for volunteers to chair these two events. →The new combination numbers for the Chapter hanger door were announced. →Al St. George asked about non-profit status for our Chapter. Bill responded by saying that the Chapter does have non-profit status but is not tax exempt. →Ted Lakin donated a router to the Chapter. →\$82 was collected for the 50/50 drawing. →Terry Lutz spoke about Scott Crossfield's fatal accident and his career as a test pilot. →Jim Palmer was the guest speaker. He presented information on using and building molds for fiberglass lay-up. The meeting adjourned at 10:15.

TIDBITS, MAY 2006

By Vickie Vandenbelt

RESULTS OF THE TEACHERS CONFERENCE:

We met a lot of great people and we were able to spread the word to a number of people who were not aware of the YE program. We also came away with tons of stuff to provide to the kids!! Plus, two display racks were donated to us. (Kudos to Deb Groh for putting the scrub pad & soap to them!!)

EAA NATIONAL – NEW BROCHURES FOR JOIN/RENEW:

I have received a supply of the Join/Renew/Recruit brochures for 2006 from national headquarter. There are several prize give-aways for the 2/1/2006 to 1/31/2007 campaign. But, I would like to make note of the "Mentor Members" = recruit a new member and receive an EAA Retro Travel Alarm Clock plus a chance to win a 2006 Harley-Davidson and the Diamond DA40 2-year Lease!! So, if you know of someone you'd like to recruit, be sure to fill in the Mentor info and give them a brochure!!

SPONSORS:

We are again looking for sponsors for Mason Aviation Day. Funds, materials, door prizes, trinkets for the pilot bags, etc. are always welcome and a big help to us. If you, or a business you know of, might be interested in being a sponsor, please pass the word.

YARD ART:

By the way, if you should happen to be flying southwest of the airport at about 42.26N x 84.31W – let KenV know if you can read the script in the yard !!

CLASSIFIEDS:

WANTED:

Person or Persons to provide book reviews for our newsletter. Have you read any of the books in our library? Thumbs UP or Thumbs DOWN opinions wanted !!

FOR SALE – AVON PRODUCTS:

For a copy of the latest brochure, contact Deanna (McCreery) McAlister at 517-596-2506.

WE COULD HAVE INSERTED YOUR AD HERE !!!

Contact Vickie for next edition!!

"CLASSIFIEDS": FOR SALE

1996 Motorhome Damon UltraSport – Chevy Chassis, 454 engine – 51,000 miles – excellent condition
Craftsman Riding Lawn Mower 15 ½ HP – 42" cut
1993 Chevy Work Truck – 137,000 miles – V6
Call Warren Miller 517-214-2656

Don't forget – if you have a FOR SALE or TRADE; WANT TO BUY; NEED TO BORROW; FREE to GOOD HOME; etc. – we have space for you in our newsletter. Contact Bill, Warren or Vickie!!

Young Eagles

By Vickie Vandenbelt

YOUNG EAGLES – FLIGHT TEAM NOTES:

Our first rally of the year is all set for Saturday, June 10th, 10am to 4pm. We have six pilots and eight ground crew who signed up at the May meeting.

PILOTS: We need to re-establish our record base. If you would, I need to ask that you please complete a new Pilot Registration Information sheet found on the bottom of the back of the YE Guidelines & Registration Form (supply in the meeting room). It does ask for your YE Pilot ID number but if you don't have that handy, we can proceed with just your EAA Number.

Glasair Project Nears Completion

By Warren Miller

Jim Palmer was the guest speaker after last month's Chapter meeting. He has been working on his Glasair for several years and the project is nearing completion. He hopes to be flying this plane yet this year. Below, Jim explains to Jim Spry and Tom Botsford, how he builds some of the intricate fixtures he uses for molds to develop the final fiber glass part.



The plane is on its gear with the engine installed. There are many custom-built parts going under the cowl of this beauty, all made by Jim. He recently completed the Cadillac Gold/Pearl paint job, which will make this Glasair one of a kind.



Notes from Cape Juby

**By Terry L. Lutz, Chapter 55
Flight Advisor**

This will be a shorter than normal *Notes* because I have been on a fast-moving roller coaster ride for the past two months, trying to finish up my homebuilt project. As many of you know, I moved it from my home to Tripp Creek Airport for paint on March 21st.

Bob Parker has done an absolutely magnificent job with the paint work, despite some challenges with fiberglass pinholes and the paint maskers for some of the markings. When you all get to see it, you'll realize just how hard he worked. We had already rigged the wings and the tail, so they went on fairly easily after paint.

And then came some of the hardest challenges of all: trying to get all the systems associated with engine to play properly. The first was the fuel system. Van's Aircraft issued a service bulletin earlier this year about safetying the fuel pick-up tube. This tube could come loose and if you had less than ½ tank of fuel, you couldn't feed the remainder. I had already sealed the fuel tank at the wing root, but because the wings were still off, I had the pleasure of doing it again. Yuk! The fuel sealant is very sticky stuff!

When we finally got ready to run the engine, I put 5 gallons in each tank, and we started out by doing some leak checks all through the system. No problems noted, but for some reason, the carburetor had a small leak in the aft corner above the air box, and the accelerator pump was not squirting fuel into the carburetor throat. The carb had purportedly been overhauled when I bought the engine from the previous owner. I should have had it checked out before we got this far. Ron Cooper took one look at it and noted that the carb halves were held together by the wrong fasteners. He knew right then we were in for trouble. "A game of hide and seek...they hide it, and we have to find it." Using parts from an older core carburetor and some new replacements gaskets, etc, Coop overhauled it in record time.

Many years ago, when the Luscombe Silvaire Bullet was restored, we got to the point of running the engine, and it just would not start. I cranked and cranked and cranked on it. With Dad in the cockpit, I called for the switches to be off, so I could clear the carb of fuel. I pulled it through once, and while there wasn't any excitement there, the sound was different. So with the switch off, I called from just the brakes, and cranked it to life with the switches OFF! Well, they were in fact ON in the ON position, but the mag likes the circuit to be open (not grounded). History repeats itself (let this be a lesson to all of us!). So when my RV-8 finally did start, it only ran on two cylinders at first. It turns out that it was running on half of the electronic ignition system, and not at all on the mag. Yes, the mag switch was in fact ON, but not ON as far as the mag was concerned. We fixed the wiring to the electronic system (a phasing problem), and reversed the mag switch, and voila!

But on that first engine run, the prop governor would not cycle (it was properly overhauled), and the alternator supplied by Van's would not charge. So the governor went back to the overhauler in Ohio, and we found a replacement alternator at Car Quest. Both of them have to be re-installed before we can run again. And still, there are many things to do, like making sure everything is properly marked in the cockpit, before the DAR can complete the inspection. It ain't over 'til it's over, as they say.

My left hand still does not know what the right hand is doing. Or at least looking out for what the right hand MIGHT be doing. After being drilled twice with a #40 drill, it has now been skewered completely through with a pick being used on the carburetor mounting plate. Ouch! The tetanus shot hurt, too.

Anyway, attached is a pix of the weight and balance exercise, which didn't turn out too bad. The overall empty weight was 1114 lbs, and the balance was very close to the example in Van's construction manual. If all goes well this week, you might get to see it in person on Saturday.



As always, don't forget to lend a hand to your fellow pilot when they need it. And some of us need it a whole lot!

A Bit of Humor from Kyle Bradford From the Clipper Pioneer Newsletter

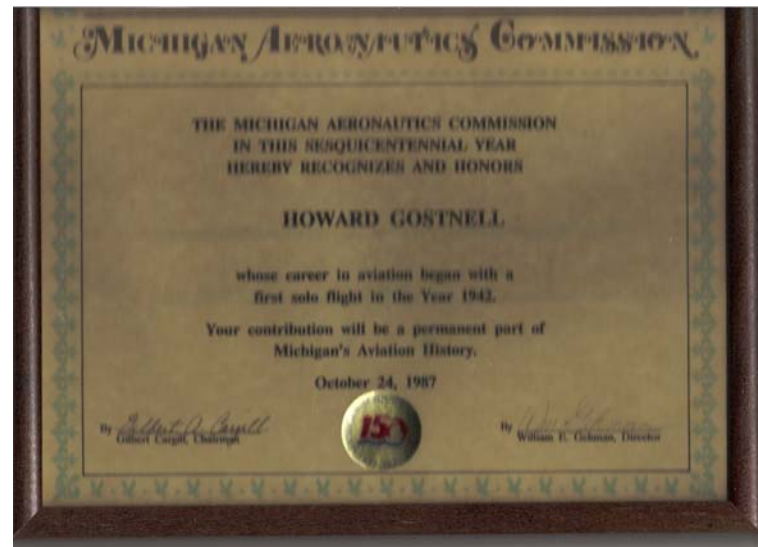
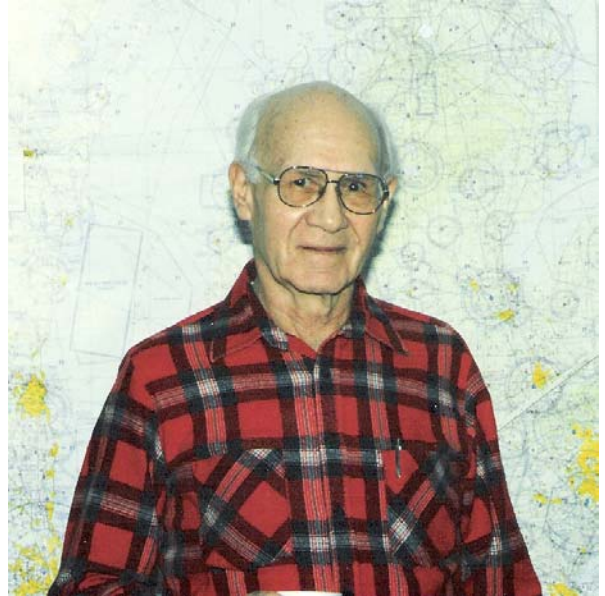
Student Pilot: I'm lost; I'm over a big lake and heading toward the Big E.

Controller: Make several 90° turns so I can identify you on radar.
(short pause)

Controller: Okay then . . .that big lake is the Atlantic Ocean.
Suggest you turn to the Big W immediately!

LOSS OF HOWARD GOSTNELL

It was reported in the February Newsletter that this founding member of Chapter 55 passed away on Feb. 20th, 06. There was no picture available until now. This is Howard Gostnell as most of us knew him. Following is an award Howard received from the Michigan Aeronautics Commission.



Pocket Calendar:

Young Eagles Rally - Saturday June 10th, 2006; 10:00am to 4:00pm

Mason-Jewett Airport Open House – Saturday June 10th, 2006; 10:00am to 2:00pm

Dawn Patrol Pancake Breakfast – Sunday June 11th, 2006; 7:00am to 12:30pm.

Young Eagles Rally – July 8th, 2006; 10:00am to 2:00pm

Thunder Over Michigan – Yankee Air Force 2006; Saturday August 5th & Sunday August 6th

Mason Aviation Day – Sun August 20th, 2006; 7:00am-11:30 am breakfast & Noon-5:00pm dinner

Michigan Air Tour - September 7th thru September 10th, 2006

EAA Chapter 55 Christmas Party – December 9th, 2006; Vevay Township Hall