

CHAPTER 55 EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION

MAY 2007



Meetings are the 2nd Saturday of each Month

EAA Chapter 55 Hangar - Mason Jewett Airport – 643 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) www.EAA55.org

Climb and Maintain Flight Level 55

Another month has gone by and I'm happy to report that I got up in the air a few times. The weather has been quite nice and very conducive to flying. So don't hesitate! Get up in the air!

For those of you who were not able to make the recent talk given by Terry Lutz about his experiences at Airbus, there may be a way for you to see this presentation. Bill Bezdek, who came up with the original idea of having Terry as a "guest" speaker, has also videotaped the entire presentation. Maybe if we speak to him real nice, he would bring it to the meeting on Saturday and show it for those who couldn't make the original presentation. If you haven't been keeping up with Terry's exploits, he recently landed the first Airbus A380 with about 550 souls on board at JFK Airport in New York. It was quite a momentous occasion since he was the very first pilot to land this craft in the USA. Terry was also gracious enough to present the Chapter with a framed photograph of the landing signed by him and noting the date and other specifics of the flight.



Terry Lutz Presentation

Flight-testing the Airbus A380. He said it has a length of 239 feet with a wingspan of 261 feet. It weighs 1,235,000 lbs and carry's 81,890 gallons of fuel. In a specific class it can accommodate 853 passengers.

I'm sure our decorating committee will find a suitable place to display this treasure. Many thanks to Terry for taking the time to do this for our Chapter. Having lived in Europe myself for 3 years, I know that when you come back to visit the states, your time is very precious.

I will also take this opportunity to remind all of you that this is technically the last meeting before our Dawn Patrol on June 10, so come prepared to sign up to help pull this event off. We will be cooking a breakfast as usual and need many workers to keep the work spread out amongst many members. Also, the day before this event, June 9, is National Young Eagles Day and we will be flying as many Young Eagles as we can so be ready to volunteer your services as well for this undertaking. We need ground personnel as well as pilots and planes.

**Board of Directors Meeting
May 9, 2007 - 7:30 pm
Chapter Membership Meeting
May 12, 2007
Breakfast 8-9 Meeting 9:30 am**

Special thanks also to Doug Koons, who spent some time helping repair our well pump system. During Terry's talk, the well went crazy and flooded the wellhead area outside with about 6 inches of water. A small plastic pressure line that sends pressure input to the pumping switch had separated and was telling the pump to keep pumping all the time. We had to shut the pump off which frustrated a room full of people who came to hear Terry talk. Doug and I waited until the water went down (Sunday) so we could get at the pump to repair it. It has been restored to good working order for our meeting.

Keep in mind that our two-day Mason Aviation Days event is coming up fast. It is only a couple months away. We will be featuring the B-25 from Yankee Air Force and a group of 4 T-6's called the Scream'n Rebels. As always, this event will be a lot of fun especially if we get a lot of volunteers so no single person will be over worked. The dates are August 18 and 19 so mark your calendar and help out your Chapter.

Bill Purosky, President

BREAKFAST W/CHAPTER 55

<u>May Team</u>	<u>June Team</u>
James Andrews	Lynn Brown
Jim Cushing	David Cook
Bartley Dixon	Denise Cook
Andy Hartsuff	Gregg Cornell
Gilbert McKessy	Peter Greenfield
Chris Myers	Deanna McAlister
Robert (Bob) Noelp	Don McAlister
Jim Spry	Jack Toman
Al St. George	Greg Hover
	Tim Martinson
	Gray Riddell



April Cooks: Bill Purosky, Vickie Vandenberg, Dennis Hall and Jennifer Hultin

EAA Chapter 55

Board of Directors Meeting, April 11, 2007

Bill Purosky called the Board meeting to order at 7:35pm. Attendees: Bill Purosky, Dave & Debbie Groh, Doug Koons, Vickie Vandenberg represented by proxy, Bill Bezdek, Tom Botsford and Del Johnson. Proxy designees Tom Botsford and Doug Koons represented Chuck and Sharron Hacker, respectively.

- The minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.
- Doug Koons reported an end of March balance of \$15,902 and a net income of -\$577. The treasurer's report was approved. →Doug also reported that Fred Honhart is personally planning on flying a Scout troop, out of Alma, that are working on merit badges. If the Chapter is to register these flights under the Young Eagles program we will need dates and times so that we can meet the EAA insurance and reporting requirements. →Bill Bezdek reported on the Dayton trip. Everyone had a good time and all returned home safely. →Doug reported that the light covers cost between \$85 and \$90 for materials. →Bill Purosky reported that Doug Simons has moved his plane out of the hanger and has requested a partial refund. After discussions it was decided that we would follow the stated terms of the contract and not award any refund for the unused portion of the month rental. →The Mason Aviation Day event was discussed including the proposed budget. →Bill Purosky reported that Pat Salow is finishing up his airplane and will need to work with a Flight Advisor. Bill will contact other Chapters to see if they have a Flight Advisor that can help since Terry Lutz is out of the country. →An Airport Advisory Group is being formed by CRAA to provide input to the development of rules and regulations for Mason airport. CRAA

wants to limit the group to no more than six. Bill Purosky is seeking a seat on the committee and will represent Spartan Wings. Joe Pirch is also requesting a position on the committee and can represent Chapter 55. →The Board meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

EAA Chapter 55

Business Meeting, April 14, 2007

Bill Purosky called the meeting to order at 9:30am. The meeting began with a presentation by representatives from LCC who presented a proposal to offer weekend classes during the summer that could be structured to meet the needs of the group. → Doug Koons reported an end of month balance of \$15,902 and a net income for the year of \$907. A motion was made and passed to accept the Treasurer's report. A motion was also made and passed to accept the minutes of the last meeting as reported in the newsletter. →Joe Pirch reported on his findings of the audit for the year ending on Dec 31st 2006. In summary, he reported that the financial statements looked good but recommended that we inventory and record the Chapter assets. →Doug Koons reported on Young Eagle events for this year and awarded the credit points and certificates to the 2006 Young Eagle pilots. He also reported on the new light fixtures. The cost of the materials equaled the cost of purchasing two replacement light, according to Doug. →Bill Bezdek reported on the Dayton trip. Bill Purosky reported that we made about \$650 profit for putting on the Garmin/Beacon Aviation seminar dinner. →The CRAA sponsored Airport Advisory Group was discussed. This group will assist CRAA with formulating Mason Airport rules and regulations. Several members of the Chapter are instrumental in getting CRAA to create this group and the Chapter will likely be represented with one or more members appointed to the Group. →The membership was reminded that it is not too late to sign up for MAD work assignments. →May 19th is the Teacher's Aviation Conference. →Members are encouraged to write their Congressmen regarding proposed FAA funding proposals. Bill Purosky volunteered to write a custom letter for anyone. EAA and AOPA both have suggested letter language on their respective web sites. →The meeting adjourned at 10:43.



Guest speaker, Dan Monette, Aviation Programs Director from LCC spoke about various maintenance programs available at the school. He said the facility hangar with all the equipment and tools, stands ready to anyone for classes for credit on building and maintenance of aircraft, autos and other hobby activities.

TIDBITS 2007

By Vickie Vandenbelt

MASON AVIATION DAYS (MAD)

PLANNING MEETING:

The next planning meeting is scheduled for May 30, 2007 at 7:30pm.

DAWN PATROL (June 10) & MASON AVIATION DAYS (Aug 18 & 19) WORK SCHEDULE:

See Vickie to sign up for work shifts at the Dawn Patrol. See Bob Smith to sign up for work shifts at Mason Aviation Days.

FLYERS-FLYERS-FLYERS:

So far, we have sent out sponsor solicitations and/or flyers invitations for all our events to 275 MACC members, 130 other potential sponsors, 80 airport/FBOs, 47 churches, 30 government offices, 32 VFW/American Legion posts, and 36 non-profit organizations. Many thanks to the MAD team for all the folding and stuffing !!! Information has also been posted on numerous web calendars. If you need a supply of flyers, contact me or stop by the terminal or the meeting room. Or you can visit the website to download and print your own.

MICHIGAN AVIAITON & AEROSPACE TEACHERS WORKSHOP:

Let me know if you have an interest in attending this year's workshop on 5/19/07 from 8am-4pm at MDOT Building at Capitol City Airport. I do need names prior to the event. Planes can be brought to the ramp or let me know if you need hanger space. We talk to the teachers about the planes, about Young Eagles, about kit building and about general aviation. LUNCH is PROVIDED.

JUNE EVENTS:

The second weekend in June is going to be a great weekend to be at Mason Jewett. On Saturday, we have our EAA breakfast/meeting; followed by Young Eagles. Concurrently, Connie will host an Open House up at the terminal from 10am to 2pm (free lunch!!). Then, Sunday will be our fabulous Dawn Patrol Pancake Breakfast. Be sure to tell everyone you know to come on out !!

FAA PROPOSED USER FEES:

Have you had a chance to write your U.S. Congressman and Senator?? If not, please take time to get a letter off. Bill Purosky will even write it for you. Both EAA and AOPA did some nice samples to use.

By the way, if you get a wishy-washy reply back – be sure to follow up with another letter.

POP-WATER-SNACK SALES:

We do stock pop and water and snacks at the EAA hanger. Pop and water costs remain at 50 cents but the new batch of chips and cookies have taken an inflationary rise to 35 cents each. Please be sure to put your money in the can – that's what funds the next purchase.



Chapter 113 visitor, Tom Smith flew his new LSA, a Sports Star, to the breakfast meeting last month.

Young Eagles

By Doug Koons

We need volunteers for ground crews and pilots with planes on May 12 from 10:00am to about 1:00 pm. This is to give the VFW kids their Young Eagles rides. I think there will be about 30 kids. We also will be providing a lunch for the kids and their families, so extra help will be needed from 11:30 to 12:30. This will be our topic for the May meeting. Please be ready to help and have fun giving these kids a wonderful day to remember.

This summer we have three Young Eagle aviation days planned. They are all scheduled on meeting dates. Our flyers are already being sent out for advertising. I will have a sign up sheet for volunteers at the May meeting. Please sign up for the dates that you can help with ground crew duties and pilots with planes, or call me to sign up to help at (517-676-5001).

Thank you, Doug

Notes from Cape Juby

By Terry L. Lutz, Chapter 55

Flight Advisor

Here is a story about some truly heroic aviators. I hope some of you heard about this from other sources, but I learned of it only recently through an article in Aviation Week magazine. The U.S. Coast Guard Crew flying an HH-60J received the Breitling Award for Aviation Heroism. Here is the story.

On March 14, 2006 someone decided it was a nice day to do a solo climb (as in alone, see ya Suzie, I'll be home for dinner....) of Devils Thumb in Alaska. Rising 9,077 feet, Devils Thumb (no apostrophe in the official name) is one of the more difficult climbs in the Stikine Icecap region along the Alaska-British Columbia border. Checking the calendar, it should be noted that March 14th is indeed, still winter, particularly in that part of North America. Why Zac Hoyt decided to attempt the climb in the middle of March rivals the age old question of why did the chicken cross the road.

To his climbing skills credit, Zac actually made it to the top, and was on his way down when he fell into a crevasse at the 5,000 foot level. Although he managed to crawl out, he was

injured and couldn't reach the shelter of his tent. Fortunately, he had a radio and was able to initiate a rescue attempt. The Coast Guard dispatched the helicopter from Sitka, Alaska with pilots William Timmons, and Walter Horne, flight mechanic Karl Schickle, rescue swimmer John Houlberg and a three man mountain rescue team.

When the helicopter arrived above the glacier just before sundown, visibility was 1 mile in blowing snow with winds of 45 gusting to 60 knots. They hovered 1000' above the ice and were lucky to spot the climber's yellow tent through a break in the snow. The crew marked that position in the nav computer and continued to search. Hoyt radioed that he could hear the helicopter but couldn't see it. Conditions were far too hazardous to deploy the rescue team.

The crew made several passes in the approaching darkness, but couldn't locate the climber. Despite severe turbulence and limited visibility, they decided to make one more pass. Using the tent and two crevasses as a reference, they let down to 100' above the ice, and slid open the door to the sting of wind blown air at -20F, and an equivalent wind chill of -100F. It was a life and death move for both helicopter crew and climber.

With his visor frosting over, and eyes watering in the intense cold, Karl Schickle operated the winch and lowered a rescue basket to the ice below. The climber saw it and managed to crawl inside, but in the wind and ice, the basket caught on an ice pinnacle and flipped on its end. Hoyt managed to stay inside and Schickle began hoisting the basket with a nearly frozen winch.

Both pilots had to fly to maintain control of the helicopter as they made their way down the glacier. Some of the avionics had frozen and were not working. The intercom had failed. They were in IFR conditions most of the time. Their first two landing attempts were waived off because of blowing snow. In the end, they landed safely, saving a life after testing man and machine to the absolute limits. Wow!

I am also reporting the timely death of Neville Duke, a British fighter pilot from WWII who later became a noted test pilot. Usually deaths are reported as untimely, but this story has a slightly different twist.

Neville Duke flew during the Battle of Britain, with one kill against an Me-109. He was then posted to North Africa where he flew most of his combat missions. He flew the P-40 and then later marks of the Spitfire. He became Britain's leading Ace in the Mediterranean area, with 28 aircraft destroyed. Shot down, he spent some time as a guest with the Italian underground.

After WWII, there was intense activity in both the U.S. and Britain to develop a supersonic jet fighter. We all know of Chuck Yeager, the X-1, and the development of the F-86, which could go supersonic in a dive. But here in the U.S. we may not have heard of the development of the Dh110 and Hawker Hunter. After attending the Empire Test Pilot School in England, Neville Duke became Chief Test Pilot on the Hawker Hunter. He did all the development flying, and in September 1953 flew it to a world speed record 727.6 mph.

At the Farnborough Air Show the following year, he was on the ramp ready to climb into the Hunter and watching pilot John Derry and his navigator Anthony Richards as they broke the sound barrier in the Dh110. But tragedy struck as the airplane broke apart, killing both men and 28 people on the ground. Minutes later, Duke took off and climbed to altitude and put the Hawker Hunter into a 40 degree dive and 50,000 fpm descent to create a sonic boom that reverberated around Farnborough. Can you imagine the multiplicity of thoughts going on in his mind?

On April 7th, 2007 Neville Duke was flying along with his wife Gwendoline on a sunny day in England and mentioned that he wasn't feeling quite well. He made a normal landing but couldn't climb out of the airplane. Neville Duke died as he reached the hospital. If one's passing were ever to be described as timely, this would be the example.

Speaking of examples, I want to thank Bill Purosky, Doug Koons, Tom Botsford, Jack Toman and whoever else helped my Dad and I move from one hangar to another last week. A job that I expected to take one rather tiring day took just two hours and we were finished in time for lunch! Help like that is what makes aviation tick. Thanks, guys!

The weather was pretty good last week, with east winds that mostly behaved itself, although there were some striking bumps in the air. There is a lot of flying ahead, so fly safe, and don't forget that sometimes aviators need a tiny bit of help, so don't forget help when you can.

CLASSIFIEDS:

FOR SALE – Wicks one inch seat cushions, blue, with front map pocket. Set of 2, like new. \$120.00. Contact Patrick Salow 517-565-3178

FOR SALE – Chapter 55 Hats, \$15.00 each, see Sharron Hacker

FOR SALE – Zodiac inflatable boat 10'2" limited edition. Wood floor, 1100 lb. Capacity, up to 10 hp outboard motor. Excellent condition. \$800.00 Contact Tom Botsford 517-256-4381

FOR SALE – Franchi 12 gauge semi-auto shotgun in new condition. Contact Tom Botsford 517-256-4381

FOR SALE – Avon Products & Natural Beauty Soaps. For a copy of the latest brochure, contact Deanna (McCreery) McAlister 517-596-2506 or visit www.naturalbeautysoaps.net/deanna

WANTED TO BUY – Cessna 210; retractable gear. Contact Doug Green 601-265-0009 or coffee-break@hotmail.com

WILLING TO LOAN – Jigs & Fixtures for a Zenith 701. Contact Chuck Hacker 517-623-6476

FOUND = men's jeans; size 44 x 30. Left in the storage rack of the chapter supply room. No one has claimed them yet . Contact VickieV at kv_vand@core.com if you think they are yours. If not claimed, will be donated to charity.

FOUND = One dark olive green sweatshirt jacket; one dark green camo sweatshirt jacket; one dark blue nylon-like jacket. You can claim them if they are yours or we will keep them hanging there for anyone who has a need for them.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR – position opening. All you have to do is make a few phone calls to set up speakers for about six meetings per year. If interested, contact Bill Purosky

WE COULD HAVE INSERTED YOUR AD HERE!
If you have a FOR SALE or TRADE or WANTED or NEED TO BORROW or FREE TO GOOD HOME, etc. – we have space in our newsletter. Contact Warren or Vickie for the next edition!

POCKET CALENDAR

5/19/07 Michigan Aviation/Aerospace Teacher Workshop; Capitol City Airport

5/30/07 MAD Planning Meeting; 7:30pm

6/9/07 EAA Chapter 55 Young Eagles Rally; 9am to 3pm

6/9/07 Mason Jewett Airport Open House; 10am to 2pm; free lunch

6/10/07 EAA Chapter 55 Dawn Patrol Pancake Breakfast

7/7/07 & 7/8/07 Yankee Air Force Thunder Over Michigan; featuring USN Blue Angels; discounted advance ticket sales visit www.starticketsplus.com or Meijers.

7/14/07 EAA Chapter 55 Young Eagles Rally; 10am to 2pm

7/23/07 to 7/29/07 AirVenture; OshKosh, WI

8/11/07 EAA Chapter 55 Young Eagles Rally; 10am to 2pm

8/18/07 & 8/19/07 EAA Chapter 55 Mason Aviation Days

8/25/07 & 8/26/07 Gratiot Community Airport, Alma, MI; B25; P51; T6's; Gene Soucy Airshow

8/25/07 & 8/26/07 Mid-Eastern Regional Fly-In; Mansfield, OH

9/28/07 thru 9/30/07 Michigan Air Tour 2007 (final stop Mason Jewett Airport ??)

12/8/07 Chapter 55 Christmas Party; Vevay Township Hall

additional listings available at

www.mdot.state.mi.us Events Calendar and www.flyins.com