

## CHAPTER 55 EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2008



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### Meetings are the 2nd Saturday of each Month

EAA Chapter 55 Hangar - Mason Jewett Airport – 643 Aviation Drive, Mason, MI 48854

Pres: Bill Bezdek 351-0448 Vice Pres: Bill Purosky 214-2729 Treas: Sharron Hacker 740-4647

Secr: George Moore 536-1034 Editor: Warren Miller 214-2656 (all Area Code 517) [www.EAA55.org](http://www.EAA55.org)

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### Climb and Maintain Flight Level 55

The wheels are in motion. Last month you read of my desire to showcase the talents and experience of individuals in our Chapter in conducting forums and workshops like we enjoy at Oshkosh every year. The first workshop will be welding, and we will hold it in May or June with Chuck Hacker as our instructor and the class held at his shop. It will be an all day event covering TIG, MIG and gas welding. Stay tuned for further details. We're also working on workshops for fabric wing covering, fiberglass mold techniques, sheet metal fabrication and riveting, and exhaust system fabrication (bending and welding thin tubing). If you have a professional skill or one developed through experience, and would like to conduct a workshop, please call me. Or if you have an idea for a new workshop. We're planning on having two workshops per year, one in the spring and one in the fall.

If you would like to present a program at our monthly meeting, please call our program chairman Al St. George. Bill Purosky is a polymer chemist by profession, and he'll be talking about polyester, vinylester, and epoxy resin applications (where you should use what) and fabrication techniques at an upcoming meeting. Al St. George used to design jet engines for General Electric, and he'll be presenting a program on things we don't often see at our level of aviation.

Two upcoming events to announce: (1) The Great Lakes International Aviation Conference and Exposition will be held at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi on February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is its eighth year, and it just keeps getting better. You can attend free of charge for the commitment of 2 hours working in the EAA booth. See Bill Purosky to sign up. (2) The city of Gaylord is having an "Airfair" the weekend of June 21<sup>st</sup> at the Otsego County airport featuring homebuilt aircraft. This event is very encouraging, being sponsored by a city, not an EAA chapter. It means we are getting attention beyond the normal airport manager population. Plan on flying your homebuilt aircraft up there and showing just how many of us there are in Michigan. Winter should be over by then. Information on this event appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

Dennis Hall sold his Challenger that he used to keep in our Chapter 55 hangar and he has started construction on a Zenith 701, so his spot is available for rent. You can't beat the price. Contact me if you wish to reduce your hangar rent and move your plane to ours. There is also space available in the builders' hangar if your project is ready for final assembly. Dennis thinks he may be ready for that spot in about 12 to 18 months. Good luck, Dennis!

Please visit our web site and look at the marvelous photos and narratives of the projects some of our members have completed. They need updating, and we are seeking photos and histories of the many more members' projects and store-bought planes. Send them to our web editor, Craig Tucker, at [cwtucker1@comcast.net](mailto:cwtucker1@comcast.net). Or, if you don't have internet access, bring them to a monthly meeting and we'll take care of it for you.

Also, last month I told you about me. Now, let's hear about you. Each month I'd like to profile one of our members in our newsletter. Dick Wilke embarked upon a project to do just that. Contact him if you need help in preparing a short bio about yourself.

The Chapter Board is sending Dave James and me to the Chapter Leadership Academy in Oshkosh. This is the second Academy in a new program headquarters initiated back in September. Eventually they hope to have two people attend from every chapter in the country. We'll be gone from January 10<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup>, so we'll miss the January Chapter meeting. Bill Purosky will stand in for me. We'll bring back the excellent knowledge we gain to share with you at upcoming meetings.

Bill Bezdek, President

**CORRECTION FOR DECEMBER NEWSLETTER  
REGARDING WAR VETERANS SHOULD HAVE BEEN  
MILITARY VETERANS!!**

## BREAKFAST W/CHAPTER 55

### Breakfast Teams

| <u>January</u>   | <u>February</u> |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Kyle Bradford    | Rick Farrell    |
| Lloyd Brown      | Joe Pirch       |
| Ken Drewyor      | Tom Schroeder   |
| Gordon Hempstone | Brian Sheffield |
| Donald Keith     | Bart Smith      |
| Steve Kent       | Bob Smith       |
| Del Johnson      | Phil Tartalone  |
| Jim Sawyer       | Leah Voelker    |

## EAA Chapter 55

### Board of Directors Meeting, December 5, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by President Bill Purosky. The first order of business was the treasurer's report. Sharon Hacker reported that this will be the first year that Chapter 55 will have to file a tax return as the monies that have passed through our hands has exceeded \$25,000.00 by about \$10,000.00 and that we will probably have to file every year from now on. Our tax return may be filed in July of each year according to the new tax laws. Total net income for November, 2007 was \$433.15. It was moved and seconded that we accept the treasurer's report which was passed unanimously. The next order of business was to accept the recommendation that Rick Dallas become the new Board Member to replace Bill Bezdek, president elect, the position to complete the present length of term until the next election for board members. Recommendation unanimously accepted.

Old Business: 41 people have signed to attend the Christmas Party. Discussion followed re: poor turnout for this year's party. It was suggested that perhaps this was due to the business of the Christmas season with so many other activities demanding the time of many members, or perhaps other considerations, i.e., economic demands.

Bill Bezdek reported on information collected re: purchasing of new chairs for our meeting room. Proper covering and stainless gliders were discussed. A further report will be forthcoming.

Bill Purosky will have member of the year plaque prepared.

Bill Bezdek to attend EAA Chapter Leaders' Academy Workshop. BB sought the help of board members with the questionnaire he has to fill out regarding our chapter and the many categories were discussed. Mr. Bezdek will report on this following the workshop.

Newberry Scholarship. Vicky Vandenberg provided two names for nomination: Kyle Dinser for pilot training and Kyle Pearson for aviation management. It was moved, seconded and unanimously passed to accept these two nominees.

Discussed were the Chapter membership fees – that it would be more easily managed if all members would pay the fee on time. As it happens now a number of members delay or forget to pay making it necessary for the treasurer to provide reminders

multiple times. The fee is due and is to be paid to Treasurer Sharron Hacker. Please respond ASAP.

Next summer's Fly-In was discussed including the necessity to arrange for an historic aircraft from Yankee Air Force by February. The Fly-In will not be the two-day event (MAD) which takes place on alternate years, but a one-day Fly-In with one meal provided and featuring fly-bys and displays of home-built aircraft and other aircraft projects for static displays on the field, and to sell airplane rides. Our purpose for this summer will be to invite the citizens of surrounding communities, i.e., Mason, Lansing, etc. to attend to enjoy some good food and to enjoy seeing the many aircraft projects on display. It was discussed that the Yankee Air Force aircraft not be included this year.

Doug Koons requested that he be provided materials to continue work on the roof repairs next summer. The cost about \$150.00.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed that Doug Koons will substitute (for Sharon Hacker during those months the Hackers will be in Florida) to perform the duties of treasurer, as needed.

Bill Bezdek indicated that because the National Experimental Aircraft Association has changed its bylaws to reflect inclusion of member spouse, it will be necessary to change our local bylaws to also reflect this change.

It was also discussed that there is a need to change the title, "Experimental" to another name that would better reflect what our organizations, both nationally and locally, really characterize as the general public often misunderstands the true nature of what our members do and what skills our members provide in creating high quality aircraft.

Bill Bezdek offered suggestions for inclusion of interesting programs involving members who could display their skills in a forum session similar to that provided by the national organization at Oshkosh. These suggestions will be further aired in the coming months.

President Bill Purosky provided an extensive list of things that need to be considered for the coming year to president elect Bill Bezdek. Bill Bezdek offered a nice tribute to the now past president, Bill Purosky for a job well done which was followed by unanimous applause. Bill Bezdek is now President of Mason Chapter 55 and Bill Purosky is now the Vice-President.

Those present for this board meeting:

Board members Bill Purosky, Bill Bezdek, Sharon Hacker, Charles Hacker, Vicky Vandenberg, Rick Dallas, Al Spaulding and George Moore.

Member in attendance: Doug Koons.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

## **EAA Chapter 55**

### **General Membership Meeting – December 8, 2007**

President Bill Bezdek called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. He requested a moment of silence to honor the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. Immediately following this, Mr. Bezdek announced that Rocky Stone, who volunteered and was enlisted in the Army Air Core in 1943 and who served as navigator on one of the B29's that flew bombing missions to destroy oil refineries < A name=\_VV108>in Japan during World War II, would be our guest speaker following the business meeting. Mr. Stone's talk was videotaped by Bill Bezdek in its entirety.

Secretary's report: It was moved, seconded, and approved the November report.

Treasurer's report: Sharron Hacker reported that for the month of November, 2007, Chapter 55 realized a gain of \$433.15. She also announced that membership fee of \$25.00 was now due and is to be paid by November 30, 2007. A proposal from the EAA national organization that spouses should be accepted as members in the local chapters for an additional fee of \$15.00 was discussed. Final passage will be reported at a later time. The treasurer's report was approved by the membership.

Young Eagles: Doug Koons reported that the 2008 Young Eagles program would be held during June, July, and August, 2008, précised dates to appear in the monthly newsletter.

Tom Botsford, our representative to the Mason Chamber of Commerce will be providing a list of Mason Community Activities which will be published in a forthcoming issue of the newsletter.

Christmas Party, December 8, 2007: Julie Spalding reported that preparations had been completed at the Vevay Township Hall, time 6:00 o'clock p.m. and entertainment was to be a barbershop mixed quartet. The people who helped Julie Spalding decorate and prepare Vevay Township Hall for the Christmas party are: Sharron Hacker, Connie Stewart, Deanna McAlister, Karen Hover, and Karen Merindorf.

President Bezdek: Indicated that the furnace needs replacement but should continue to provide heat for another year. Possible replacement next year?

The leaky hangar roof was discussed, but that during winter, since the moisture is frozen there is little leakage, but beginning the spring thaw, the dripping water makes quite a mess. Plans have been drawn to do the repairs next summer (2008).

Special Awards presentation:

President Bezdek presented Special Awards to members who made significant contributions of service to our Chapter during 2007 to: past president Bill Purosky; past vice president Tom Botsford; Dell Johnson, secretary; Sharon Hacker, treasurer; Warren Miller, newsletter editor; and Terry Lutz, writer of Notes from Cape Juby in the newsletter and technical counselor; Craig Tucker, editor of Internet web space for Chapter 55; Vicky Vandenberg, membership coordinator.

The following technical counselors: Al St. George; Doug Koons; James Palmer; Roy Thelen; Robert Smith.

New Business:

Our new president, Bill Bezdek announced that our focus will be on member resources within the chapter. As we have many members with outstanding skills in so many areas, it would be desirable to showcase these skills in forum-type sessions like those we experience at Oshkosh during the annual air show/fly-in. A suggestion of a photo album/video presentations of local projects was made and/or live presentations to showcase skills. More about this in coming membership meetings.

Member of the Year: Julie, Julie, Julie! That's right, it is Ms. Julie Spaulding. Congratulations, Julie.

Mr. Tartalone reported on GLIAC (Great Lakes International Aviation Conference) to be held in Novi again this year, February 1 and 2, 2008. Cost for the two days is \$125.00, but as Bill Purosky indicated, if anyone volunteers to assist at the EAA booth, that person shall be given free admission, except for meals. See Bill Purosky if you are interested in helping this year.

Bill Bezdek suggested that we become involved in assisting in providing a Mason High School program for aviation activities.

Newberry Scholarship Awards: Mr. Tartalone will be reporting for appointments for those to receive in January, 2008.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

## **TIDBITS 2007**

**By Vickie Vandenberg**

### 2008 BREAKFAST TEAMS:

I'll be working up the new schedule and post a copy in the meeting room for your review. If you have a preference of the month you would like to serve, please let me know ASAP.

### CALENDAR 2008:

Happy New Year ! and what a great year it will be! Some dates of note have already been established so check out the Pocket Calendar at the end of this newsletter.

**DON'T FORGET TO SIGN THE AIRPORT REGISTER wherever you may travel !!**

## **Young Eagles**

**By Doug Koons**

The goal I am setting for our chapter 55 for this year of 2008 is 300 kids.

Please set aside these dates for helping with flying and ground crew duties, so we can keep supporting the right to fly.

June 14, 2008 from 9am - 3pm  
July 12, 2008 from 10am - 2pm  
Aug. 9, 2008 from 10am - 2pm

## Notes from Cape Juby

By Terry L. Lutz, Chapter 55 Flight Advisor

When I was an engineering student at the University of Michigan, I would often take the time to visit the machine shop in the basement of the East Engineering building. There was always something going on down there that would prove distinctly fascinating and fuel my interest in design and manufacturing.

Two people could usually be found in the shop, Casey Samborsky and Ed Leshner. Casey was an expert machinist, and his passion was old bicycles and old engines. He was a member of a group of guys who were making replicas of high-wheeled bicycles. Each member was responsible for a particular part of the bicycle. Casey made the wheels and hubs, and made a mold to manufacture the leather seat.

The first time I wandered into the shop, Ed was working on the wing of his experimental airplane, the Teal. He was doing a pressure test on the fuel tanks, which were essentially the space ahead of the spar from tip to tip. What I was looking at was one of the first examples of a “wet wing” to be used in a homebuilt airplane. Ed was way ahead of his time and simply unafraid of the material and processes necessary to assemble a leak-free fuel system for the record-setting Teal.

But I knew that the Teal was a flying airplane, and asked why he was working on it in the shop. As it turned out, Ed had been on a test flight, and ended up landing short of the runway in Ann Arbor. The airplane was damaged, and he was doing the repair work necessary to get it back into the air. Flying the Teal was not that hard, but raising and lowering the landing gear took 18 separate manual operations to complete. While Ed was lowering the landing gear, he had forgotten to switch to the tank with the most fuel, and the engine quit on short final due to “fuel mismanagement”, as Ed described it to me.

Ed Leshner designed the Teal to capture all 7 speed and distance records in FAI Class C-1a, piston engine aircraft weighing between 300 and 500 kg (660 to 1100 lbs). Empty weight of the Teal was 680 lbs, and the maximum weight was 1102 lbs. This is a glimpse at how sharply Ed targeted the design to the weight class. Except for a fuel capacity of 60 gal, the only other payload was his own weight as the pilot. He frequently dieted before record flights to maximize aircraft performance.

Of the seven records captured by Ed in the Teal, his speed and distance records are amazing even today. Maximum speed was 173.1 smph, flown on a straight 3 km course (in 1973). The distance record was 1835.46 sm, flown from St. Augustine, FL to

Phoenix, AZ (in 1975). Not bad for an airplane with just 100 hp. The record flights were sponsored by EAA Chapter 113, based at Plymouth-Mettetal Airport in Canton, MI.

Besides the complexity of the landing gear, Teal was a tail pusher design, which presented many challenges. The biggest was controlling torsional vibration along the driveshaft. If the driveshaft was connected directly to the engine, each time a cylinder fired, it would jolt the driveshaft and try to twist it apart. The solution was a Dodge flexidyne coupling, which was designed to damp the vibrations. The driveshaft coupled to the engine when lead shot within the coupling were forced to the perimeter. But with the engine off, the propeller would turn freely, with no connection to the engine. Without a starter, hand-propping the engine required a very special technique!

I used to look forward to Thursdays at about 10am when Ed and some of the other UM professors got together for coffee at the Flim-Flam Restaurant near North Campus. I arrived one day and was met in the parking lot by one of our friends, and he said “Did you hear about Ed?” As it turned out, Ed had started mowing his lawn on a particularly warm day, and made two trips around the yard before heading into the house. He was found dead in the kitchen, stopwatch in hand. Like a typical engineer, he was probably trying to measure his heart rate before calling for help.

In September 2007, I was visiting the UM Dept. of Aerospace Engineering on North Campus, in the Francois Xavier Bagnoud Building, and happened to see the Teal sitting in the main hallway. I was told that it would soon be moved to the EAA museum in Oshkosh, and would be replaced by Ed’s other homebuilt, the Nomad. Attached is a picture the Teal in the FXB.



The year 2007 saw the passing of many pilots who achieved fame during WW II and beyond. Perhaps one of the more notable, but lesser known men was Brig Gen Robin Olds. He was another of those men who flew in both WWII and the Viet Nam conflict. Robin Olds had 12 air-to-air victories in Europe, and years later found himself Commander of the 8<sup>th</sup> TFW, the “Wolfpack”, at Ubon, Thailand.

Flying F-4 Phantoms, he planned and led the Wolfpack on Operation Bolo, designed to lure enemy Migs into the air by making them think the inbound aircraft were F-105s on a bombing mission. To create the deception, the F-4s had to carry the same QRC-160 jamming pods carried by the F-105.

They ingressed at the same speed and altitude normally used by the “Thuds” and when the Migs scrambled to meet them, they realized they had engaged F-4s armed to the teeth for air-to-air combat.

Operation Bolo turned out to be the most successful and widely publicized aerial engagement of the Viet Nam War. It had been conceived by Robin Olds and put together by a close group of planners. At the end of the day, 7 Migs had been shot down with no losses on the friendly side.

Perhaps the most important story about Robin Olds was his true attitude about leadership and combat. This was demonstrated as he led a flight of 4 F-4s on a fighter escort mission to accompany a strike force of F-105s along “Thud Ridge” to hit a steel mill near Hanoi. After the strike, they had extra fuel, so Robin took the four-ship of fighters down the north side of the ridge and asked his Nav, Lt Bill Lafever, to search for Migs.

They got a contact about 30 nm on the other side of the ridge, indicating 4 Migs in the air. Robin said “We can get one, maybe two, but we would have to drag this four-ship across a lot of flak and all those SAMs”. So they turned and headed home. At that time, Robin Olds had 4 confirmed Mig kills, and that engagement could have made him the first ace of the Viet Nam War. He never had another opportunity.

I guess this first article of 2008 has a lot of thoughts in it that we could apply in the years ahead. Perhaps the first is that sometimes the concept that more is accomplished if each person contributes their special part to achieve a goal. The second might be that unselfish leadership keeps the group together. On whatever scale it applies, these are thoughts to live by. And on a smaller scale, don’t forget to lend a hand or a tool to a fellow pilot when they really need it.

#### CHAPTER 55 - CLASSIFIEDS:

FOR SALE: Mason Aviation Day t-shirts; lots size L & XL \$10.00 each.

FOR SALE: Chapter 55 wear = (2) EAA55 hats; \$15.00 each. Also (4) EAA55 t-shirts; (1) small; (2) medium; (1) xlarge; \$15.00 each. See Sharron Hacker

Greetings from the sunny south.

Bonnie and I left Mi at 7:00 on Sunday morning, the 30<sup>th</sup> and headed to Frostproof, Fl. We arrived at 5:00 New Years Eve. The truck was unloaded and items put away. We enjoyed a couple of drinks and hit the hay at 10:00. Happy New Year to All.

I will be going the Sebring Expo on Jan 19<sup>th</sup>, its just a few miles away and will take some pictures of the neat LSA for the newsletter next month. If anyone has a plane in mind that they would like to buy, send me the purchase price and I will gladly ferry it to your home field, no charge. Played golf this morning and it was only 80 degrees, weather has been great so far, hope yours has too.

If someone can take a picture of the breakfast crews for the next couple of months, send it to me for the newsletter.

Well, the biker gang here is ready to rumble for a couple hundred miles, so we are out of here.

See ya later, Warren

CHEAP: Sporty’s Electronic E6B Flight Computer. Like new. Retail value \$90.00; will sell for ANY OFFER. Proceeds go to EAA55.

FOR SALE: 1946 Cessna 140. 3660 total time; 1333 on 100 HP O-200A. Clean, good looking, great flying plane hangared at Mason Jewett. Valcom 760 radio; Narco Transponder. All A.D.s complied with; annual inspection & transponder recertified 8/21/06. Only \$22,000. For details or appointment contact Tom Botsford 517-256-4381

FREE: Collection of EAA Sport Aviation magazines; all issues 1959 thru 2000. All organized in boxes by years & includes some indexes by Bergeron. One condition – entire collection must go. Contact Bart Smith 517-676-2146

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 – 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

WANTED TO BUY – Cessna 210; retractable gear. Contact Doug Green 601-265-0009 or [coffee-break@hotmail.com](mailto:coffee-break@hotmail.com)

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

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](http://www.naturalbeautysoaps.net/deanna)

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**

Sun-N-Fun; 4/8/08 to 4/13/08

Young Eagles; 6/14/08

Dawn Patrol; Sunday, 6/15/08; 7:00am-Noon (T)

Young Eagles; 7/12/08

AirVenture; 7/28/08 to 8/3/08

Thunder Over Michigan; 8/2/08-8/3/08 (T)

Young Eagles, 8/9/08

Mason Aviation Day; Sunday 8/17/08; 7am-4pm (T)

Mid-Eastern Regional Fly In; 8/25/08 to 8/26/08

Christmas Party; Saturday, 12/13/08

For additional listings see Events Calendar at  
[www.eaa.org](http://www.eaa.org) and [www.mdot.state.mi.us](http://www.mdot.state.mi.us) and [www.flyins.com](http://www.flyins.com)