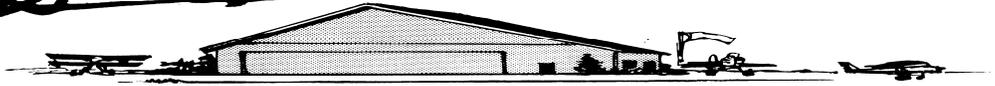


CHAPTER 55 EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2011

Wingtips



Meetings are the 2nd Saturday of each Month

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

Pres: Ken Vandenbelt 589-5051 Vice Pres: Bill Purosky 214-2729 Treas: Al Spalding 676-3370

Secr: Vickie Vandenbelt 589-5051 Editor: Warren Miller 214-2656 (all Area Code 517) www.EAA55.org

Climb and Maintain Flight Level 55

Happy New Year! Hard to believe it's the start of another year but here we are!!

At our December meeting we celebrated our 50th Anniversary with a Mason Area Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting. The Chamber has presented us with a framed copy of the group picture and it looks great. EAA National has sent us a letter of congratulations and a 50th Anniversary plaque. The new plaque and picture will be displayed at the Chapter.



Christie Bleck did a great article about our Chapter which was published in the Ingham County Community News, and in a later edition of the LSJ.

How about that Christmas Party - what a group!! Many thanks to Julie Spalding for coordinating

the planning, the facility & caterer arrangements and all the things that need to be done; and also to her team of Karen Meirndorf, Deanna McAlister, Rose Long & Vickie Vandenbelt. It was a great feast and a wonderful time to enjoy laughter and time with friends.

**Board of Directors Meeting
January 5, 2011, 7:00 pm.
Chapter Membership Meeting
January 8, 2011
Breakfast 8-9 Meeting 9:30 am**



In December, Ernie Lutz was presented our Member of the Year Award, recognizing his contributions to our Young Eagles program and representation of our Chapter in the community. Congratulations Ernie.



Ernie receives the award from Doug Koons, Young Eagles Coordinator

About 25 members and guests were on hand for the Sunday potluck & guest speaker, Elliot Seguin. Elliot had lots of great pictures and info to share about working at Scaled Composites, as well as stories about the adventures of the Wasabi Racing (his team) at the Reno Air Races.

The Chapter has selected three recipients for the Newberry Aviation Scholarship Awards. EMU pilot program student Kevin Murray (\$1500 scholarship), LCC maintenance program & EAA55 member Chris Long (\$1000 scholarship) and WMU pilot program student Kyle Curtiss, son of EAA55 member Kirk, (\$1000 scholarship) will hopefully be at our February meeting for introduction to our members.

We hope the Chapter activities planned for the upcoming weeks will help chase some of the winter blahs away. Jan 22 we host a potluck dinner and euchre tournament. On Feb 26 we will host a potluck dinner and movie night. The movie "Pearl" will be featured. Plan to join the festivities!

Share the Passion,
Ken Vandenbelt, President

Breakfast Teams

<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>
Kyle Bradford	Lynn Brown
Lloyd Brown	Sean Mullaly
Pete Chestnut	Joe Pirch
Ken Drewyor	Dan Schiffer
Cliff Hale	Tom Schroeder
Gordon Hempstone	Brian Sheffield
Dan Pheils	Bart Smith
	Phil Tartalone



December Breakfast Cooks: Pat Salow and Dave Courey

EAA Chapter 55 Board of Directors Meeting, December 8, 2010

→Meeting was called to order at 7:08pm. →Directors present: Ken Vandenbelt, Al Spalding, Vickie Vandenbelt, Joe Madziar, Doug Koons, Jim Spry, Bill Purosky. Absent: Warren Miller, Ed Search, Dave James →Secretary's Report dated 11/10/10; Doug Koons made a motion to approve; Bill Purosky second; all approved. →Treasurers Report dated 11/30/10; 42 paid for the Xmas Party; YE credit recd from EAA Natl; Vickie Vandenbelt made a motion to approve; Joe Madziar second; all approved. →Young Eagles: Doug Koons reported the certs & pins have been recd from EAA Natl; discussed looking for a vendor to purchase Silly Bandz for YE bags. →Programs: none for Jan due to GLIAC; scheduled Dr. Pinnell for Feb & Brian VanWagnen for Mar. →Member of the Year: Doug Koons has made a beautiful new board and tag is

ready. →Fire Extinguishers: Ken Vandenbelt updated those that could be; but older ones can no longer be certified & must be replaced; will secure pricing options. →USAF Museum Trip: will see if we can coordinate with Flushing/Dalton EAA chapter. →Xmas Party: ready to go. →Newberry Aviation Scholarship: committee recommended Kevin Murray (EMU) to receive the Pilot scholarship of \$1,500.00 and Chapter 55 member Chris Long (LCC) to receive the Maintenance scholarship of \$1,000.00. Doug Koons made a motion to award as recommended; Bill Purosky second; all approved. Committee also recommended Chapter 55 member Kirk's \$1,000.00. Bill Purosky made a motion to award as recommended; Doug Koons second; all approved. →Suggestion to contact Phil Tartalone about having past recipients come to meeting to offer updates. →YE Year: Megan McNamara could not come in December but plans to be at January meeting. →Budget 2011: Discussed purchase of two canopies to replace one we borrow from Skyway; Bill Purosky will check pricing. Discussed YE Banners; will check pricing. Check pricing & consider new floor mats; George Foreman grill. →Ken Vandenbelt installed new thermostat; see if the temperature stays more consistent. Joe Madziar will check on material to insulate the furnace plenum. →Vickie Vandenbelt found out EAA Natl. provides official certificates to project builders; will start soliciting info to secure these for our members. →MACC to do 50th Anniversary Ribbon Cutting at 9am on Saturday; chamber members were invited for free breakfast. 50th Anniversary Plaque is on order from EAA Natl. →Joe Madziar made a motion to adjourn; Doug Koons second; meeting adjourned at 8:18pm.

EAA Chapter 55 General Membership Meeting - December 11, 2010

→Meeting was called to order at 9:30am; approx. 37 members & 1 guest present. →Following the National, President Ken Vandenbelt thanked the breakfast team. →Doug Koons presented our 2010 Member of the Year award to Ernie Lutz recognizing his contributions to our Young Eagles program and representation of our Chapter in the community. →Secretary's Report dated 11/13/10; motion to approve; second; all approved. →Treasurers Report dated 11/30/10; motion to approve; second; all approved. →Vickie Vandenbelt announced Newberry Aviation Scholarship awards to be given to Kevin Murray, Chris Long & Kyle Curtiss. →Doug Koons presented YE certificates & pins to pilots and ground crew. →Ken Vandenbelt presented Chapter Service Award calendars to Directors, DP, MAD, YE, & Building Painting volunteers (Pins & Certificates from EAA Natl. delayed; will be available next meeting.) →Vickie Vandenbelt advised that the Flushing/Dalton EAA chapter is planning a trip to USAF Museum. Dave James will contact them about coordinating. →Vickie Vandenbelt advised that EAA Natl. provides certificates for members completed projects. She will solicit info from our builders to secure. →Steve Houghton asked if the chapter had ever considered having Lifetime Membership option available to members; will consider at next BOD meeting. →Vickie Vandenbelt & Jim Spry are coordinating a potluck & Euchre tournament for

6pm on Jan 22. And, Dan Schiffer has generously donated the movie "Pearl" to the library & we will schedule a potluck/movie for 6pm on Feb 26. →Drew Seguin advised that his son Elliot will be home over the holidays & asked if chapter would be interested in having him give a talk about Scaled Composites & Reno Air Racing. Several responded; will tentatively plan a potluck & talk for Sunday, 12/28. →Deanna McAlister announced that she has set the chapter up on Facebook; just Google "EAA Chapter 55" →Motion was made & meeting adjourned at 10:34am. →No program.

TIDBITS ~

By Vickie Vandenbelt

NEW MEMBERS: Chapter 55 welcomes new members Gary & Nancy Bauer. Gary can't make it to Saturday meetings but they have been able to join us for the Christmas Party & potluck. We also welcome student member Dillon Blair. Dillon hails from DeWitt and will be eight years old this month.

EUCHRE TOURNAMENT & POTLUCK FOR JAN 22:

Does anyone have any prizes that would donate to the chapter?? Doesn't need to be expensive ... (white elephants you want to get rid of??)

EAA55 APPARREL: An order form is available if you wish to purchase EAA55 hats or shirts.

SMITH MINI-MAX: Received a call from Tom Taylor of Pinconning/Gross Airport & EAA Chapter 159. They have a member with a Smith Mini-Max priced to sell - wants it sold so he can move south. Call Tom at 989-980-5121 for info.

DP & MAD EVENTS 2011: Please let Ken or Vickie know if you would like to be a part of the 2011 Events Planning Committee.

DICK BACON GOES TO FLORIDA VIA AUTO TRAIN: You put the car on the Amtrak Auto Train & your bottom in a reserved seat at Lorton, VA. Eat a nice meal in the dining car; have breakfast in the morning. The train arrives in Sanford, FL at 9:30 the next morning - 900 miles & 17 hours later. This puts us about 2 hours away from Zephyrhills & makes it a lot easier on the old body. Might be a good deal for some of our other EAA55 members. Get an Amtrak catalog, it gives all the schedules. Regards to all, Dick.

SALE, SALE, SALE: Pop, chips, cookies & ice cream.

Young Eagles

By Doug Koons

We will honor our Young Eagle of the year for 2010 at the January meeting. Happy New Year, Doug

Notes from Cape Juby

By Terry L. Lutz, Chapter 55 Flight Advisor

It was so cold in Michigan yesterday, that I actually saw a lawyer with his hands in his OWN pocket! Seriously, it has been uncommonly cold here in Michigan. While aviating is possible and some hardy pilots have actually taken to the air, it has chilled most of us to the bone. It is not the time to try and touch your tongue to a lamp post.

When it gets really cold like this, I try to think about people who fly professionally when temperatures are continuously below zero. Much colder than we are experiencing here in Michigan. A few years ago, we were testing a new version of the CFM56 engine in Iqaluit, Canada (previously known as Frobisher Bay). The temperature was close to -13F. With the proper clothing and common sense, it is possible to move about in those temperatures. To work on and around aircraft, you must have heated space around the part of the airplane you are working on. But remember, too, that we were from lower latitudes and were not adapted to the cold.

From reading the book by Sir George Hubert Wilkins, "Flying the Arctic", people in the far north are able to adapt somewhat to the cold, and find ways to survive even in difficult circumstances. Wilkins and Eilson explored the Arctic ice floes by landing their ski-equipped Stinson biplane on the ice to take soundings that helped determine the direction the ice was moving. They were more than 100nm north of Barrow, Alaska when the engine quit and they were forced to land on the ice. While Wilkins took soundings through the ice, Eilson removed the cowl and the carburetor in temperatures of -30F.

With the engine working again, they flew back in the direction of Barrow and toward worsening weather. The engine failed again and they were forced to land a second time on the ice. Again the cowl was removed and so was one of the magnetos. Eilson was working at times without gloves, and his fingers were severely frostbitten. But the engine started and ran well enough that they could take off and head for Barrow. They climbed above the clouds and in the gathering darkness, the engine stopped. The airplane was damaged beyond their ability to make repairs. About 75 miles north of Barrow, they gathered their survival gear and slept in the airplane.

At sunup, they began walking toward Barrow on a compass heading determined by Wilkins, who was an expert navigator. The arctic ice became more and more broken up as they approached the shoreline and it was difficult to walk. At one point, Wilkins fell through some thin ice and was immersed up to his waist. For this they were prepared. They carried emergency boots and other clothing at the top of their packs. They quickly got Wilkins out of his wet clothes and into dry ones. His boots and socks stood at attention, having immediately frozen after leaving the water. They built a snow shelter and slept in their clothes to dry some of the damp clothing.

After walking for 13 days, they noticed a couple of poles sticking out of the snow, then a small shelter. They were very close to Barrow, and right on the compass line that Wilkins had determined, including corrections for the movement of the ice flow below their feet. Despite the cold weather here in Michigan, I am beginning to feel a little warmer after reading of the experiences of Wilkins and Eilson. I am certain there are many more just like them.

If you were not able to hear the talk given by Elliot Sequin and his friend Jenn on Sunday, December 26th, you missed the opportunity to gain some insight on what it's like to work for Scaled Composites, and to put together an airplane that can race and compete at the Reno Air Races. In the world of flight testing, the flight test engineer often does the majority of the preparation work before the pilot gets the chance to fly the airplane. Elliot is in that unique position where he is given a project and is mostly on his own to do the analysis, determine loads, limitations, and put it all together in a test plan that is safe while still covering all the requirements of the customer asking for the test. It is a big challenge and a significant opportunity for a young engineer.



Collage of Elliot's Work Projects



Elliot, with Jenn and his father, Drew

What I found most interesting is that Elliot has been interviewing young people for some open positions at Scaled Composites. Three important things he looks for are an engineering degree, pilot experience, and an A&P license. While he can find people with engineering experience from big companies, they are usually so caught up in processes to meet specific engineering goals that they are unable to think through difficult problems and find workable and sometimes unique solutions in the flight test environment. While it doesn't work for everyone, it does

illustrate that young people today need to be multi-dimensional with their education and in their work environment. These are some thoughts that we can put in the minds of Young Eagles who are looking toward their future.

We also learned a lot about what it takes to put together a racing airplane and fly it at Reno, without the support of big sponsors. Most people race their airplanes, which sometimes end up in museums. Elliot's airplane started in a museum and ended up racing at Reno. Go figure! But it was a great story, and Drew was right there in the thick of things, including propping the airplane and getting it started in the three minute window allowed at the race.

Elliot and Jenn will be back at Reno at some point in the future, and it will be a lot of fun for all of us to watch their progress. They are a great team with a lot of talent between them. Meanwhile, as we progress through the cold and snow of winter, don't forget to lend a hand to your fellow pilot. Make sure you wear your gloves, so you don't lose some fingers like Eilson did!

From the Flight Surgeon

by Gregory Pinnell, MD

Senior AME/ Senior Flight Surgeon USAFR

Depending on where you are in the country, winter is in full swing and those of us that utilize our aircraft in the cold climates contend with certain challenges such as potential for low body temperature or "hypothermia".

Just as many aircraft engines don't start well when cold, pilots don't perform as well either when we are chilled. For example, exposed body surfaces such as hands are prone to frostbite when doing a good pre-flight in cold conditions. Cooling the body even a few degrees can lead to severe shivering making manipulation of controls difficult. With even mild hypothermia other body processes degrade which can lead to confusion, inability to think clearly and stiffness in the muscles.

The bottom line, dress warmly in layers, do pre-flights inside whenever possible in cold weather and consider hand warmers to keep your fingers safe and supple. Fly warm and safe!

CLASSIFIED

HANGAR SPACE: EAA55; \$70 month; Ken Vandenberg 517-589-5051. Others; Deanna McAlister 517-851-7047 or Lloyd Brown 517-589-8619

FOR SALE:

Pietenpol; Model A powered; fuselage sides built; extra fuselage; with trailer. Kyle Bradford 517-663-3083
2009 Kitfox; Model 4-1200; Rotax engine; many extras.
Jack Toman 517-882-8331.

KIS TR-1, Subaru Legacy engine; vacuum gyro horizon & compass; electric turn & bank; Garmin 250 GPS nav/com; Collins Mode C transponder; cruise 170 mph.
George Moore 517-536-1034.

Hunting Camp; 1/8 share; 157 acres; Houghton Lk State Forest/Roscommon. Dick Bacon 517-230-7808

Rans 2007 S6S Coyote II; Rotax 912; many extras; \$49,000.
Ernie Lutz 517-676-4601

DTV antenna; analog or digital TV; \$20
George Moore 517-536-1034

Telex ProCom 200 noise canceling headphones.
Bart Smith 517-676-2146

Generac Generator; \$350.00 Greg Hover 517-676-5126

Yesteryear Aviation; new surplus hardware; 517-676-4416
Avon Products & Natural Beauty Soaps. Deanna McAlister
517-596-2506

BEACON AVIATION RIDES: Mike Marhanka 517-485-9190/
Jim McFarland 517-944-7796;
sirjames1@sbcglobal.net

Contact Warren or Vickie to place your ad here!

A BIT OF HUMOR

The scene is sometime in an older era - when cockpits had round dials and flight engineers and navigators. The crusty old-timer captain is breaking in a brand new navigator.

The captain opens his briefcase, pulls out a .38 and rests it on the glare shield and asks the navigator, "Know what this is for?"

"No, sir," replies the newbie.

"I use it on navigators that get us lost," explains the captain, winking at his first officer.

The navigator then opens his briefcase, pulls out a .45 and sets it on his chart table.

"What's THAT for?" queries the surprised captain.

"Well, sir," replies the navigator, "I'll know we're lost before you will."

POCKET CALENDAR:

Jan 8 =Great Lakes Aviation Conf.

Jan 22 =EAA55 Potluck/Euchre 6:00

Feb 26 = EAA55 Potluck/"Pearl" movie 6:00

Sun-In-Fun

Jun 5 = Jackson Dawn Patrol

Jun 11 =Young Eagle Rally

Jun 12 =EAA55 Dawn Patrol 7am-Noon

Jun 26 = Hillsdale Dawn Patrol

Jul 3 = Clare Dawn Patrol

Jul 8-10 = JXN Aerobatics Comp

Jul 9 =Young Eagle Rally

Jul 23-24 = YIP Thunder Over Michigan

AirVenture

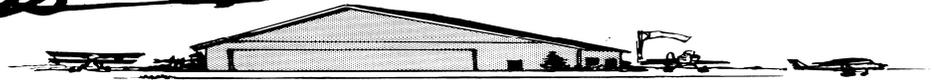
Aug 13 =Young Eagle Rally

Aug 14 = Howell Dawn Patrol

Aug 20 =Mason Aviation Day 7:30-4:00

Oct 8 = Hillsdale Chili Fly In

Wingtips →



Bill Purosky
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