

CHAPTER 55 EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2011



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

The birds are starting to return. We change the clocks in a few days. We're getting a few spurts of nice, sunny days. We can hope the piles of snow at the airport will be gone by meeting time!!

Doug Koons has coordinated a great YE outreach with a reading class at Heritage Elementary School (Stockbridge). Several pilots will participate in a classroom activity and then provide YE flights at a later date. Be sure to check Doug's column and/or contact him if you would like to assist.

**Board of Directors Meeting
March 9, 2011, 7:00 pm.
Chapter Membership Meeting
March 12, 2011
Breakfast 8-9 Meeting 9:30 am.**

EAA55 is going to host another "First Responders" Seminar in conjunction with the safety guys of CRAA. Let us know if you can be available to help the morning of Saturday, May 21st. We will start with a complimentary breakfast, followed with seminar, then group sessions examining individual aircraft. All are welcome to sit in on the seminar.

Our program speaker this month will be Brian VanWagnen. Brian has a wealth of flying knowledge but he will be visiting us to talk about air space. This will be a question & answer session rather than a lecture. We will be working with aeronautical charts, particularly the side panels showing air space info. You can bring your own chart or we have some extras at the hangar. Read up and bring lots of questions or items you would like to have clarified.

MACC sends thanks to Tom Botsford and his recruits, Bill Purosky & Doug Koons for helping with the set up at the most recent chamber Good Morning Mason. Kudos guys !!

See you all Saturday,
Ken Vandenbelt, President

Breakfast Teams

<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>
Ray Fink	Louis Bacon
Ralph Gregus	Don Burt
Chris Long	Don Frank
Bob Smith	Deanna McAllister
Mark Stanton	Don McAllister
Rocky Stone	George Moore
	Gary Nesbitt
	George Spencer



February Breakfast Cooks: Joe Pirch and Dan Schiffer

EAA Chapter 55

Board of Directors Meeting, February 9, 2011

→Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm. →Directors present: Ken Vandenbelt, Al Spalding, Vickie Vandenbelt, Joe Madziar, Doug Koons, Jim Spry, Bill Purosky, Dave James. Absent: Warren Miller, Ed Search. Absent: Warren Miller, Ed Search. →Secretary's Report dated 1/5/11; Joe Madziar made a motion to approve; Jim Spry second; all approved. →Treasurers Report dated 1/31/11; main income dues, rents, breakfast; expenditures for National chapter fee & liability insurance, Xmas party deposit, EAA55 shirts; Vickie Vandenbelt made a motion to approve, Dave James send; all approved. →YE; Doug Koons reported contact from a

Stockbridge teacher for a reading class of elementary kids to do a field trip to TEW; looking at setting up a date in late April or May. Also, may have a candidate interested in a sponsorship to the EAA Air Academy. →Membership; we still have 37 members who have not paid dues. →Building Insurance; discussed values; Bill Purosky made a motion to increase the building limit to \$280,000 for approximately \$30 addl. premium; Dave James second; all approved. →USAF Museum Bus Trip; Dave James reported that the bus is about full; approx. five EAA55 will be joining the group from Flushing. →Lifetime Chapter Membership; BOD felt not really necessary. →Xmas Party; Al Spalding has paid the room deposit & we have reserved Sunday, Dec 11; 4:00pm. →Website; will ask Craig Tucker to check out if we should host the chapter website on the EAA Natl. website; also info on the Google calendar. →Speaker cables; Jack Toman will help when the weather gets warm. →Terminal Aero Chart; updated & moved to much better location compliments of Bill Purosky & Doug Koons. →Compass Rose; Bill Purosky asked Ron & Nancy Walters to contact Mike Daigle. →Budget & Expenditures; tabled. →Honorary Memberships: Vickie Vandenberg made a motion to approve one-year Honorary Memberships for Kyle Curtiss & Kevin Murray (Newberry Aviation Scholarship recipients); Joe Madziar second; all approved. →Annual Report from headquarters received & copies provided to BOD. →Advertising; Vickie Vandenberg made a motion to approve advertising in the MACC Thursday Night Live programs at a cost of \$100 for 8 ads; Joe Madziar second; all approved. →Door Lock; entry code to be changed on Saturday. Paid members can secure new code from any Director. →First Responders; discussed & selected Saturday, May 21st; 7:30-9:00am breakfast followed by seminar; then breakaway to planes. →Dawn Patrol; BOD approved breakfast price of \$6.00 and free breakfast to PIC (same as last year). →Doug Koons made a motion to adjourn; Jim Spry second; adjourned at 8:20pm.

EAA Chapter 55

Gen'l Membership Meeting, February 12, 2011

→Meeting was called to order at am; approx. 33 members & 7 guests present. →Following the National Anthem, President Vandenberg thanked our two man breakfast team Dan Schiffer & Joe Pirch assisting Bill Purosky. →Guests were introduced. →Secretary's Report dated 1/8/11; motion to approve, second, all approved. →Treasurers Report dated 1/31/11; motion to approve, second, all approved. →YE; Doug Koons discussed Stockbridge class request. →Announcements: →Movie Night rescheduled for 3/5/11. →Xmas Party booked at Eldorado Golf Course for Sun, Dec 11, 2011; →Event Planning meeting 7pm 2/23/11; →First Responders seminar 5/21/11; →Entry Door code is being changed; →Old tables & chairs and other chapter equipment is available for loan to members; complete sign out. →Bill Bezdek announced error in the EAA calendar. →Guest Dar Gibbs announced the 100th Anniversary of Naval Aviation & special events at their Pensacola Museum. →Dan Schiffer announced that his former Corsair will be in the Naval Legacy flights. →Tom Botsford announced that Bart Smith is back in the Ingham County Medical Care Facility (see note in Tidbits). →Motion was made & meeting adjourned at 9:48am. →Gary Knaggs of FAAST presented a great program on safety. Left handouts & additional info is always available at www.faasafety.gov

TIDBITS ~

By Vickie Vandenberg

NEW MEMBERS: Chapter 55 welcomes honorary members Kyle Curtiss and Kevin Murray, two of our Newberry Aviation Scholarship recipients.

BART SMITH: is convalescing at the Ingham County Medical Care Facility. You can visit, call, or mail him at 517-381-6056; Ingham Co. Med. Care Facility; Attn: Bartlett Smith, Room #318; 3860 Dobie Road; Okemos, MI 48864.

LCC: has purchased the building formerly occupied by Beacon Aviation. Prior plans were to move the aircraft maintenance program to TEW but LCC is now in the process of reviewing all of its programs.

AWARD NOMINATIONS: The Charles Taylor Award is presented to mechanics of 50+ service years and the Wright Brothers Award is presented to pilots of 50+ years flying. If you know of any candidates, please send your nominations to your local FAA office.

ANYAWOS: after talking with Dr. Bill McUmber, who takes care of the AWOS at TEW - thought I would pass on a quick reminder that you can check the AWOS via computer using www.anyawos.com/ktew (or other identifier).

ROOM/TABLES/CHAIRS: Our **OLD** tables & chairs and other chapter equipment are available for use by our members on a "sign out" basis.

There is a sign-up sheet clipped to the bulletin board. Fill in the information; when you plan to remove the equipment and complete it when you return the equipment. You may also sign out to use the room for meetings or other gatherings.

NOTE: Our NEW tables & chairs are NOT available for loan.

YOUNG EAGLES

By Doug Koons

I received our Young Eagle credits this week from Headquarters. Our pilots have been given credit for flying 228 kids for 2010. This means at \$5 per child, we will receive \$1,140 that we can spend on Chapter 55's Young Eagle Program in 2011.

On March 17th seven of our members are headed to an elementary school in Stockbridge. We are meeting a 5th grade reading class to explain to them why reading is so important for aviation. We will also be telling them about the Young Eagles program and setting up a date when the class is coming to our Chapter for their rides.

This summer we have three Young Eagle Aviation Days planned. They are all scheduled on our meeting dates— June 11th, July 9th, and Aug. 13th.

I will have sign-up sheets 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).

Also, all pilots please review the EAA requirements for you and your airplane in order to keep everyone safe while flying the Young Eagles. Thank you, Doug

NOTES FROM CAPE JUBY

By Terry L. Lutz, Chapter 55 Flight Advisor

When the Yankee Air Force B-17 visited Mason several years ago, one of the WWII veterans who came to see the airplane and speak of his experiences was Lou Stamatakos. Lou grew up in Dayton, Ohio at a time when all sorts of military airplanes were in flight test at Wright Field. At age 17, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and was trained as a tail gunner in the B-17.

Lou completed 31 missions before returning home to attend Indiana University. After earning his undergraduate degree, he went on to earn his Master's and PhD in Education. In 1967, he joined the staff of Michigan State University where he rose to the position of Dean of Students. Lou retired in 1992 as Professor Emeritus. His achievements were many, and his influence on a generation of students was profound.

In 2010, Lou Stamatakos was awarded the Silver Star for saving his fellow crewmembers and a B-17, when at 23,000 feet two bombs failed to release.. The crew didn't know if the bombs had armed in the flow of air in the bomb bay, and they couldn't risk the chance that the bombs would release at landing. With only the frigid air between himself and the ground, he grabbed a fire axe and began swinging at the shackles that held the bombs. Finally, the bombs fell free.

Lou suffered from kidney failure and had been on dialysis for the last few years. My Dad and I had coffee with him last Fall, and as always he was in good spirits, even with his health beginning to fail. He died on January 25th, 2011.

Last year, I reported on the Lafayette Escadrille, a group of American pilots flying combat during WWI before the United States entered the war. Their story was brought forward in a book I had read, titled "The Vivid Air". I just finished reading "Americans in Paris, Life and Death Under Nazi Occupation 1940-1944", and discovered a hidden connection between these two histories.

Eugene Jacques Bullard was an American living in Paris between WWI and WWII. At age 11, he ran away from his home in Columbus, Georgia and stowed away on a tramp steamer headed for Europe. He found work and became successful as a boxer. Eugene was able to open a jazz club in the Montmartre area of Paris. Named Le Grand Duc, it became the center of jazz, and was popular with the Prince of Wales and authors with names such as Ernest Hemingway. Bullard opened two more clubs, L'Escadrille, and Bullard's Athletic Club.

In 1939, with the possibility that war would once again rage in France, the French Intelligence Service recruited Bullard to

monitor the 17,000 Germans living in Paris. A nightclub and athletic club owner could certainly become an ideal spy. Working with a policewoman assigned to assist him, Bullard would monitor German activity at his club, and relay the messages to the intelligence service through her. This continued until Germany invaded northern France and swept rapidly toward Paris in May of 1940.

Eugene fled Paris, but instead of returning to the US, he traveled to Orleans to rejoin the 107th Regiment of the French Army, the *first* unit he had fought with during WWI. On June 15th, he was ordered to set up a machine gun position on the left bank of the Loire River, to oppose German artillery on the opposite side. At midnight, the Germans moved their artillery to within 3 miles of Orleans, and began shelling the city. His unit was forced to move south, and two days later, they encountered heavy artillery fire. While carrying a machine gun across a street, a shell exploded nearby, killing 11 men and hurling Eugene against a wall.

With his head wounded by shrapnel, and vertebrae broken in his back, the war was over for Eugene Jacques Bullard. He made his way to the American Consulate in Bordeaux and with the help of Americans who had known him Paris, was issued a US passport. From there, he found his way to Lisbon, Portugal and departed for the US by ship.

The recent movie "Fly Boys" was loosely based on the pilots of the Lafayette Escadrille. Perhaps you noticed that one of the pilots in the movie was a black man. In today's race conscious world, it may not have seemed odd that Hollywood included a black aviator. But in WWI, a black combat pilot would have been unthinkable.

Although it was not mentioned in the book "The Vivid Air", the connection between the two books became unmistakable. There was, in fact, one black aviator in the famed Lafayette Escadrille. He was the first black combat pilot in the history of aerial warfare. He had fled the United States because of fears of racism in the deep South. After serving on the front lines, and being wounded in the Battle of Verdun, he recovered and completed combat flight training. However, he was impeded at every turn of events by Dr. Edmond Gros, Director of the American Hospital in Paris.

When it came time to distribute checks from a fund for the Escadrille established by wealthy Americans in Paris, Dr. Gros would make him wait until all the other checks had been distributed, then issue the check just after the banks had closed for the day. His first combat mission was flown in September 1917 with the words "All Blood Runs Red" painted on the side of his airplane. During his time in the Escadrille, he was credited with one aerial victory.

When the Americans finally entered the War, the 266 Americans already flying for the Lafayette Escadrille and other French units formed the 103rd Pursuit Squadron. The only pilot excluded was that one black aviator. In May 1918, the French government issued scrolls of gratitude to all the volunteer pilots who had flown for France. Dr. Gros presented the scrolls to the pilots, with the exception of that one black aviator.

Not able to continue as a combat pilot, he was reassigned to his old unit, the 107th Combat Regiment of the French Army. He had served in the French Foreign Legion, the regular army, and the air corps. He was awarded the Legion d'Honneur, the Medaille Militaire, the Croix de Guerre, Croix du Combattant Volontaire de la Guerre, and many other medals, but there was no reward for being the first black combat pilot. Discharged from the military in October 1919, he went to Paris to start a new life. His name was Eugene Jacques Bullard.

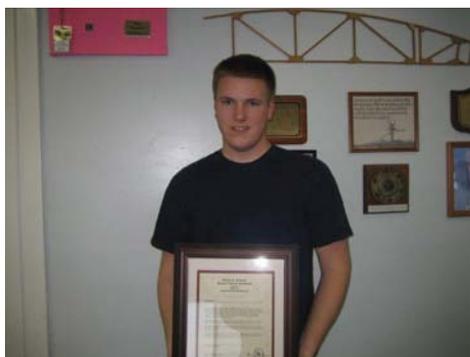
Even though thoughts of Spring may be in your mind, keep your head down because the weather of transition can change rapidly and become violent. During those rust removal flights of early Spring, always keep an eye on the wind and weather, and always try to help your fellow aviator when you notice that help is needed.

EAA CHAPTER 55 – AWARD THREE NEWBERRY SCHOLARSHIPS

The Experimental Aircraft Association-Chapter 55 of Mason has awarded three Newberry Aviation Scholarships.



EAA Chapter 55 member Chris Long, a student in the aircraft mechanics program at Lansing Community College, has received a \$1,000 scholarship. Kevin Murray, a student in the Pilots Program of Eastern Michigan University has received a \$1,500 scholarship.



Kyle Curtiss, a student in the Pilots Program of Western Michigan University and son of chapter member Kirk Curtiss, has received a \$1,000 scholarship.

The students were chosen based on a combination of academic achievement and defined goals for the future. EAA Chapter 55 has a long standing commitment to support educational opportunities for students seeking aviation careers. The Chapter raises funds to support their scholarship program by hosting a

pancake breakfast in June and Mason Aviation Day in August. Additional information about the chapter and their fund raising events can be found at www.eaa55.org



Mustang-Corsair by Dan Schiffer

FROM THE FLIGHT SURGEON

By Gregory Pinnell, MD
Senior AME/ Senior Flight Surgeon USAFR

Can you believe it? Spring is just around the corner. Even though there is still snow on the ground, my Ear, Nose and Throat Flight Surgeon buddies tell me the tree pollen counts are already rising!. **Most of us have at least mild allergy problems so if you use antihistamines, remember that CFR (FAR) 91.17 does not allow "any drug that affects the person's faculties in any way contrary to safety."** A smart choice would be to use non-sedating medications such as Allegra, Clarinex or Claritin. Nasal spray steroids are effective also and allowed by the FAA. Nasal decongestants like Afrin are effective but should be only used in certain situations. Call or write through www.OK2FLY.com and we will be happy to guide you through the wide array of available medications. Fly safe!

CLASSIFIED

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

FOR SALE:
2009 Kitfox; Model 4-1200; Rotax engine; many extras.
Jack Toman 517-882-8331.

KIS TR-1, Subaru Legacy engine; Garmin 250 GPS nav/com; Collins Mode C transponder; & more; cruise 170 mph.
George Moore 517-536-1034.

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

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

DTV antenna; analog or digital; \$20.00
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

POCKET CALENDAR:

Mar 12 = Program: Brian VanWagnen

Mar 29-Apr 3 = Sun-In-Fun

Apr 9 = Program: Dr. Gregory Pinnell

May 14 = Program: MDOT Seminar

May 21 = EAA55 "First Responders" Seminar

Jun 11 =Young Eagle Rally

Jun 12 =EAA55 Dawn Patrol 7am-Noon

Jul 9 =Young Eagle Rally

Jul 23-24 = Thunder Over Mich/Blue Angels

Jul 25-31 AirVenture

Aug 13 =Young Eagle Rally

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

Sep 10 = Program: MDOT Seminar

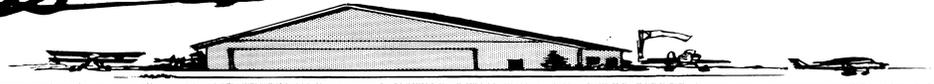
Dec 11 = Xmas Party; Eldorado; 4:00pm; Sunday

Avon Products; Deanna McAlister 517-596-2506 and Emu Oil
Products; Vickie Vandebelt 517-589-5051

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!

Wingtips →



Bill Purosky
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