

# CHAPTER 55 EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2014

Meetings are the 2nd Saturday of each Month

EAA Chapter 55 Hangar; Mason Jewett Airport; 643 Aviation Drive, PO Box 443, Mason, MI 48854

→Pres: Steve Houghton; 290-7528 →Vice Pres: Margie Clark; 853-1418 →Treas: Al Spalding; 676-3370

→Secr: Vickie Vandenbelt; 589-5051 →Editor: Warren Miller; 517-214-2656 (all Area Code 517)

[www.EAA55.org](http://www.EAA55.org)



## Climb and Maintain Flight Level 55

When I look at the calendar it finally says March. Maybe, just maybe, winter is beginning to come to an end. We can finally begin to start looking forward to spring and some WARM weather. Although the ten day forecast does not show it, the 15 day forecast has some temperatures in the 40s and 50s! With that being said, here are a few things to look forward to around the airport this spring as well as some upcoming events:

**Board of Directors Meeting  
March 5, 2014, 7:00 pm  
Chapter Membership Meeting  
March 8, 2014**

- The days will continue to get longer. Daylight savings time changes this weekend (March 9<sup>th</sup>)
- It will be wonderful to simply be able to fly again whenever you want. No ice storms, no snow storms, no sub-zero temperatures.
- The ice dams in front of your hangar will finally melt and you can get your plane out
- The taxiways will finally become passable
- Snow piles will get smaller and eventually go away – no really!
- You will be able to do a preflight without gloves or a hat
- Density altitude will be above sea level on the Mason AWOS
- SN will no longer show up on the METAR or TAF
- Perform three take off and landings and become current again. Due for a BFR?
- Do a careful first flight of spring preflight inspection. Are there any new passengers in your inlets and openings?
- Put your wheel pants back on and make sure your battery is fully charged up
- Clean out your hangar or garage for the first time since October
- Remember that it is also spring time for the birds – many are now returning to Michigan. Keep an eye out!
- Fly over to the west coast of Michigan and observe the ice buildups
- Start planning for Young Eagles flights – the first rally is only three months away

- Plan for the new AOPA Regional Fly-in in Indianapolis May 31<sup>st</sup>
- Fly down to Sporty's Pilot shop. Free hot dogs every Saturday
- Get back to the Kalamazoo Air-Zoo museum
- Plan for your first Dawn Patrol – April 26<sup>th</sup> in Gladwin, May 3<sup>rd</sup> in Midland, four more scheduled for the weekend of May 17-18
- Watch for the first spring flowers to emerge!

Cheers!

Steve Houghton, President ([steve@eaa55.org](mailto:steve@eaa55.org))

**THE EAA MISSION:** To grow participation in aviation, by inspiring people to fly, build, volunteer and outreach to promote aviation.



February Breakfast Team: Karen & Greg Hover, Joe Pirch, Joe Madziarl, and Dave Groh

### BREAKFAST TEAMS

<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>
Ray Fink	Don Frank
Greg Shannon	Christopher
Jeff Shaud	Halliday
Phil Tartalone/ Janine Gaboury	Deanna McAllister
Carl Zayatz	Don McAllister
	George Moore
	Gary Nesbitt
	George Spencer

## **EAA Chapter 55 Board of Directors Meeting February 5, 2014**

→Meeting called to order at 7:07pm. →Present: Steve Houghton, Margie Clark, Al Spalding, Vickie Vandenberg; Doug Koons; Jack Voss; Bob Clark; Ken Vandenberg; Jim Spry. Absent: Dave James; Warren Miller; Bill Purosky; Ed Search →Secretary's Report 1/8/14; Doug Koons moved; Jack Voss supported; all approved. →Treasurers Report 1/31/14; Jack Voss moved; Ken Vandenberg supported; all approved. →YE of the Year; Phil Tartalone has contacted for Saturday; YE awards & pins are still due. →Membership dues to be paid by 2/15/14; Vickie Vandenberg will email a reminder to those not paid. →Programs; Terry Lutz will do this Saturday; will contact Mike Snaer for a future date for ATC/TFR/Communications; Jim Spry will contact LCC about an owners maintenance program. →Membership recruitment; ideas? →Financial Audit; Joe Pirch is working on. →VHS>DVD; pending →Movie Night 2/21/14 →Ground School; not happening →55th Anniversary; write up TEW/EAA55 history; ribbon cutting w/MACC at June 14th meeting; 9:00am; Potluck 7/19/14; EAA55 will provide meat; cake; cooler drinks; maybe entertainment; more as unfolds →Newberry Scholarship; not many applicants; decision not to award. →Xmas Party 2014; Eldorado reduced room rent to \$120 minimum subj to 40 attendees; decision to reserve room for Sunday; 12/14/14 →Howell EAA has asked to rent/borrow our sound system for their 6/28/14 event; Jack Voss made a motion to loan them the equipment in exchange for free meals; Jim Spry supported; all approved →Relay for Life; 50/50 drawings to raise funds. →Name Tags; tabled. →Chapter Biz Cards; tabled. →EAA55 Calendar 2015; discussed some possibilities. →Snow shovel still missing; Al Spalding will purchase new one →Ind Bank acct; Al Spalding & Steve Houghton will take care of changing signature cards. →Doug Koons made a motion to adjourn; Ken Vandenberg supported; meeting adjourned at 8:48pm. →Respectfully submitted, Vickie Vandenberg, Secretary

## **EAA Chapter 55 Membership Meeting February 8, 2014**

→President Houghton called the meeting called to order at 9:30am with approx 35 members & 12 guests present. →Following the National Anthem, we thanked the breakfast team & President Houghton announced the March breakfast team. →Secretary's Report 1/11/14; moved, supported, & accepted as printed in the newsletter. →Treasurer's report 1/31/14; moved, supported, and accepted. →Phil Tartalone announced need for YE volunteers this summer; details of the GLIAC; congratulations to Ernie Lutz, recipient of the Wright Bros. Award

Movie Night 2/21/14 →2014 dues required by 2/15/14 →Margie Clark announced details regarding requirements of YE pilots; must be member of EAA National; extra insurance; earn credits for chapter. →Steve Houghton announced 55th anniversary pig roast/potluck on 7/19/14; Chamber ribbon cutting at our June meeting; kickoff dinner at Clara's 3/8/15. →Karen Meirndorf announced "Relay for Life" June 13-14; 50/50 winner was Tom Botsford and

thank you, Tom, for the donation & others for participating. →2015 Calendar; will be looking for "55" specific pictures. →Program Coordinator wanted & greatly needed. →Contribute to your newsletter; send articles, info on your project, flying, trip pics, book reviews, anything aviation, etc. to Warren Miller. →2014 Christmas party; reserved Eldorado for Sunday, 12/14/14. →Reminder to keep storage room and bathroom doors CLOSED. →Meeting adjourned at 10:05. →Terry Lutz presented the program. →Respectfully submitted, Vickie Vandenberg, Secretary



### **TIDBITS**

**By Vickie Vandenberg ([vickie@eaa55.org](mailto:vickie@eaa55.org))**

**"RELAY FOR LIFE" FUNDRAISING:** Tom

Botsford was the winner of the February drawing. Thank you, Tom, and all the others for helping to raise funds for this worthy event! Karen Meirndorf should have news this month on how you can purchase a luminary for display at the June 13-14 event to honor someone.

**BODY MASS INDEX (BMI):** There's been a lot of talk recently regarding FAA's consideration of your BMI. I thought you might be interested in how to calculate your BMI. The formula is Your Weight in pounds x 703 divided by Your Height in Inches divided by Your Height in Inches = Your BMI (ex: 200 lbs x 703 = 140,600 divided by 72 inches = 2,196 divided by 72 inches = 27.12. So, a 60 year old; 6 foot male weighing 200 pounds would be considered to have a high BMI (chart attached). However, health professionals are already saying that the BMI might not be as important as waist measurements. Measuring waist circumference, women are at risk with waists over 35 inches and men with waists over 40 inches. Women's Waist-to -Hip ratios should be less than .80 and men's less than .90. More info at [www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/obesity/BMI/bmicalc.htm](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/obesity/BMI/bmicalc.htm)

**POCKET CALENDER:** Don't forget to check out the calendar & make note of the dates!!



### **YOUNG EAGLES**

**By Phil Tartalone ([phil@eaa55.org](mailto:phil@eaa55.org))**

Well, it's March and the temperature was still at -6 this morning, and the snow pile by my driveway is still getting taller. But, hey, it is going to get warm soon and we can get our airplanes out of the hanger and get ready for a new Young Eagles season. Our rally dates are June 14, July 12, and August 9. Crank up your plane or join us as a ground crew member. Either way, we need lots of help.

I would like to introduce you to Marcyna Montalvo who is our 2013 Young Eagle of the Year. Marcyna is a straight A student who attends the Mason Middle School. Her favorite subjects are math, science, and French. This past year she won the Optimist award, and was student of the month in April. Marcyna's extracurricular activities include cheer leading and track.

Marcyna did her Young Eagles flight with Bob Clark in June. Please welcome Marcyna and her family to our meeting on Saturday.



## NOTES FROM CAPE JUBY

By Terry L. Lutz

### Chapter 55 Flight Advisor

From my viewpoint, the Great Lakes Aviation Conference was a very pleasant success. It wasn't the result of any one thing, but a combination of several things that were nicely thought out. If you live locally, the Lansing Center is an ideal location. While the highest concentration of pilots and maintenance technicians might be closer to the Detroit area, I think the Lansing Center pulls people from any point of the compass within a reasonable drive time.

GLAC organizers found a good mixture of speakers, and if you chose carefully, there was indeed something interesting to hear and to learn, no matter what your aviation interest might be. You could learn about ADS-B, angle of attack indicators (a new subject with the FAA), stalls, risk assessment, and how to maintain your medical. The presentation about the Sandbar Mitchell told a great story – I hope we learn more about the project at the GLAC, let's say in 2020, when they have a complete airplane to talk about.

The vendor area was nicely laid out, and while it didn't completely fill the space, there were enough corridors and dividers that you could spend time talking to one group, then turn a corner and find even more interesting people to talk to. There were Army specialists there from the local recruiting office, and those guys should have been up front and not down at the end. That way, everyone gets the chance to shake their hands and tell them how much we appreciate their service.

Somebody managed to sneak a full-grown helicopter in there. Maybe Dan Schiffer had something to do with getting it there. It was a turbine-powered Robinson R-66, and I'm sure there's a story about how they got it in, and back out again. The vendor area actually contained an impromptu restaurant, where you could get a nice meal for a decent price – not the cardboard stuff you usually find at large trade shows. Plus (and this is really important for most pilots) – they had free coffee from Bigbee's.

For an event like this to be successful, a lot of volunteers have to come out of the woodwork. Several familiar faces, such as Bill Purosky, Phil Tartalone, and others you may know, were making the GLAC work for the attendees and obviously enjoying the time spent. A lot of credit goes to the FAA for their part in organizing the GLAC, including Rick Anderson and Carol Callan, and for taking a leadership role in recognizing pilots and technicians from throughout the Great Lakes region.

While the awards themselves are given to many people across the country, the beautiful trophies presented at the GLAC are sponsored by companies from around the state,

including L-3 Communications, Pentastar, and Duncan Aviation. Some recipients actually received dual awards. They were finalists for the state of Michigan awards, and subsequently selected for the FAA's regional award. They will now be candidates for the national award. That is the direct result of work by people from the FAA here in Michigan.

Those who received awards at the GLAC are:

State of Michigan and Regional Aviation Maintenance Technician Award: James Michalka, Director of Maintenance for Kalamazoo Aircraft, Inc

State of Michigan and Regional Avionics Technician Award: Richard Dyser, L-3 Communications

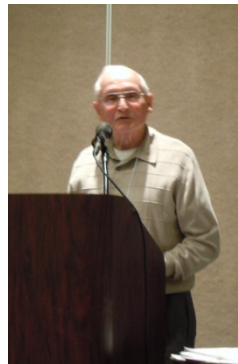
Flight Instructor of the Year for Michigan: Dave Huiskens

Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award:

1. Dale Osstyn
2. Major General John Miller

Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award:

1. Major General John Miller
2. Ernest Lutz
3. Dave McKenzie
4. Henry Haigh



It was really nice to see so many Chapter 55 members in attendance when my Dad received his award. He started flying in May of 1943, and someone pointed out that he has been flying for more than half of all aviation history.

If you were at the February Chapter 55 meeting, you will no doubt recall a young visitor, who announced that he had earned his

Private Pilot license in 12 days! Good grief, it's hard for most people to solo in 12 days. I thought there might be a story there, and after Vickie provided me with the contact information, I had a delightful conversation with an MSU student named Zach Doerr.

Like many of us, there were one or two exposures early in life that left the impression that someday, we'd become pilots. For Zach, it started with his maternal Grand Father, who at one time was an Air Force pilot, and owned a Piper Saratoga when Zach was very young. Then at age 9, he experienced a Young Eagle flight with someone from Chapter 55. While the details of the flight may have faded, he did not forget that Chapter 55 was based at the Mason Jewett Airport.

After being home schooled by his parents in the Lansing area, Zach passed the ACT exam and applied to Western Michigan, Liberty University, Embry-Riddle, and Michigan State. He was accepted at Michigan State and is currently a

Junior and plans to graduate with a degree in Marketing and Sales. He already has an internship lined up this summer with Bell Helicopter in Texas.

So how did he manage to get complete the requirements for a Private Pilot license in 12 days? As it turns out, his maternal Grand Father now owns a Cessna 172, which is based at 1C8, a 2500' grass airfield near Rockford, IL. He told Zach the airplane was his to use, including all the fuel necessary to get his license. It would be Zach's responsibility to pay for the instructor and any remaining expenses. His instructor was Betty Abrahms, from Monroe, WI and Zach's flying training began during the last two weeks of August 2013.

They started flying on Monday and on Thursday at around noon, Zach soloed. At that point, he had about 14 hours. So do the math – that's a little over 3 hours a day, and Zach said that most flights were 1.5 – 2.0 hours long. Usually, flight instructors worry that students will forget some of what they learned from flight to flight. In Zach's case, the instructor had to be certain he learned enough from flight to flight!

On the sixth day, 2 days after soloing, he flew his first solo cross-country, landing at Baraboo, WI and an airfield along the Mississippi before returning to Rockford. Zach had previously passed the Private Pilot written exam, as part of a free program offered by Sporty's Pilot Shop. But to Zach's surprise, too much time had passed since taking the exam, and it was expired! So he used a program downloaded from the internet to study, and took the exam again on Tuesday, which would have been Day 9, and passed.

His check ride was scheduled for Day 11, with an examiner from Janesville, WI but he was now facing two deadlines – passing his Private Pilot check ride, and heading back to school at MSU, which would start the very next Monday. The check ride went well until it came to landings. The examiner noted that Zach was flying too slow on final, nothing dangerous, but his performance wasn't consistent enough to meet check ride standards. Zach told me that he was probably just nervous. But hey, "no pressure", right?

They agreed to let Zach have another chance the following day (Day 12). In between, Zach managed to log 21 landings with his instructor and had things pretty much nailed. Since the only thing he had to demonstrate were landings, his re-check consisted of an hour of takeoff and landings, and he passed.

There is life as a pilot and life as a student, but the life of a student doesn't include much money to fly. There is an airplane waiting for him in Rockford, if he could manage the time to get there, but life as a student keeps him here.

I told Zach that we would welcome him at Chapter meetings, and went one step further to ask if he would also invite any other aviation-minded MSU students to join us. At the end of the day, our involvement with aviation is not so much about being part of a chapter in a larger

organization as it is about encouraging and mentoring others to join the aviation community. When I was in college, we had a precious few airplanes to fly, and I even knew one guy who was building ribs for an Evans Volksplane in his dorm room.

Zach's experience points out that the same spirit is alive today, but without some of the opportunities we had back then. Let's see if we can change that. When we can, let's help a few aviators from outside our community. It just might make a difference. Will we see Zach at the March meeting? Um, no. When I talked to him, he was on the way to Florida for Spring Break. Not much flying going on here, so I can't say I blame him!



## **FROM THE FLIGHT SURGEON** **By Gregory Pinnell, MD**

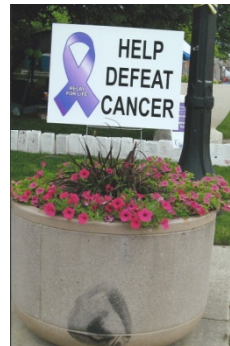
This time of year we frequently need to "self-treat" symptoms with over the counter (OTC) medications due to colds, flu or allergies.

Most of us know that most of these medications can cause drowsiness. But it is often forgotten that the effects of the drugs can last 12-24 hours depending on type. It is always best to wait till all the symptoms are gone and you have been off the OTC's for at least 24 hours before flying. Fly safe!

Gregory Pinnell, MD  
Senior AME/ Senior Flight Surgeon USAFR  
[www.airdocs.net](http://www.airdocs.net)

## **Relay for Life** **By Karen Meirndorf**

Relay For Life is a fund raiser for the American Cancer Society that supports their research, patient programs, and cancer preventive treatments.



Each year a few friends and myself collect donations of \$10.00 each for luminaria bags that are decorated and placed around our walking track. At dusk we light a candle inside each bag that stays lit through out the night.

Or if you so choose, over the next few months, as a group, to raise money to recognize our EAA Chapter with a track sign and/or our chapter's name on the Relay's t-shirt, we will have a 50/50 drawing held at the end of the next three chapter meetings.

I have supported this great event, held here in Mason, for the past 14 years and find it a very important and fun community event to attend. I hope you will find it worth while to support too.



## Mason Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Award Recipient



Chapter 55 Officer & Member Vickie Vandenberg



Congratulations to Vickie with  
Past President/Hubby, Ken

## FANTASY OF FLIGHT

By Warren Miller, Snowbird/AKA News Editor

Kermit Weeks, owner of Fantasy of Flight in Auburndale, Florida, the world's largest private collection of vintage aircraft, announced Tuesday that he is closing the aviation-themed attraction to the public April 6. Weeks cited waning attendance and image problems in his decision.

"I turned 60 last year and the clock is ticking: it's time to move on," Weeks said. He went on to say focusing on this business, quite honestly is not sustainable. Weeks said people think we're "little more than a dusty old airplane museum".

Despite adding elements such as aerial demonstrations of rare, vintage aircraft, tram tours that give visitors a glimpse of ongoing restoration efforts and a zip line, Weeks said he failed to change that misperception.

Over the next few years, Weeks said, he will continue to build on his private event business while working on plans to create a new destination attraction, one where aircraft will take a back seat to character-driven entertainment and

opportunities for self discovery. His vision is to use quality entertainment to help people discover themselves, pushing their boundaries, facing their fears.

Weeks went on to say he intends to concentrate on restoration of rare vintage aircraft and that his long range plans call for a main attraction, for which people will travel out of their way to see. I'm going to get some of the best minds in the design business. We're going to look like the big boys up the street "meaning major theme parks".

## EAA CHAPTER 55 HUMOR

Things to think about when working on a plane:

**Law of Mechanical Repair**- After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.

**Law of Gravity** - Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible place in the universe.

**Law of Probability** - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

## CHAPTER 55 CLASSIFIEDS

**EAA55 Builders Hangar**: one space; Steve 517-290-7528

### **WANTED:**

Serviceable ELT, model AK 450, 121.5 megahertz, with accessories. Kyle Bradford 517-663-3083

**HANGAR FOR RENT**: Heated, water, compressed air available. Skyway Estates; 60G; Eaton Rapids. Pete Chestnut 517-663-3118; pandp@wowway.com

### **FOR SALE:**

Pietenpol Air Camper Light Sport, 248 Hours - \$6,000 Kyle Bradford, 517-663-3083

Chevrolet Corvair 100-HP flight motor conversion; nearly complete, unassembled. \$5,000/negotiable.

Greg Harris 517-775-4563 or [gkharris1974@gmail.com](mailto:gkharris1974@gmail.com)

Zenith Zodiac XL/650 Corvair motor mount; Greg Harris 517-775-4563 or [gkharris1974@gmail.com](mailto:gkharris1974@gmail.com)

Honey; Gordon Hempstone 517-515-1454

DTV analog or digital antenna; \$25.00 George Moore 517-536-1034

Contact Warren or Vickie to place your ad here!

## **POCKET CALENDAR**

Mar 8 = 55th KickOff; Clara's; 6pm

Apr 1-6 = Sun n Fun

Jun 6 = 70th anniv/D-Day invasion Normandy

Jun 14 = MACC 55th Anniv Ribbon Cutting 9am

Jun 14 = YE Rally; 10am-2pm

Jun 15 = Dawn Patrol; 7am-11am

Jun 20-22 = Planes,Trains & Autos; Owosso

Jul 12 = YE Rally; 10am-2pm

Jul 19 = 55th Anniv Potluck Celebration

Jul 28-Aug 3 = EAA AirVenture

Aug 9 = YE Rally; 10am-2pm

Aug 9-10 = Thunder Over MI w/USAF Thunderbirds

Aug 16 = MAD; 7:30am-2:00pm

Aug 27-Sep 1 = AAA-Blakesburg

Aug 15-16, 2015 = 70th anniv/end of WWII

Dec 14 = Christmas Party; Eldorado; 4pm

**WINGTIPS** is published monthly by *EAA Chapter 55 of Mason, Michigan*, for the use, education and enjoyment of Chapter members and supporters. Accurate information transfer is our goal; however readers should verify dates and times prior to attending an event.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS is the last Saturday of the month. The Editor reserves the right to edit all submitted material. Photos, sketches or artwork sent by email must be in JPEG or BMP format. Text must be in a Word format or copyable from the email. Submissions may be sent by regular mail and must be accompanied by prepaid postage if you want them returned. Submissions should be sent to: Warren Miller, Newsletter Editor.

PERMISSION TO USE original content from **WINGTIPS** is granted to other EAA Chapters provided proper credit is given to the source. Unless so noted, photos and other content are the Editor's.