

CHAPTER 55 EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 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



Climb and Maintain Flight Level 55

Where has the summer gone? As we pre prepare for our last Young Eagles event Saturday and look back at two previous Young Eagle events as well as our 55 Year Celebration, it's a bit surprising to realize that August is here. School will be starting soon and MSU has started football practice. Labor Day is just around the corner. Where did the time go? Before we write off August we need to remember that we do have one more major event left.

One week from now on August 16th, we will sponsor Mason Aviation Day. This is an important event for the Chapter. Mason Aviation Day is our largest single fundraiser of the year. We expect to have a large turnout of both pilots as well as the general public. **We encourage all our members to sign up for work shifts. I look forward to seeing everyone on August 16th!**

**Board of Directors Meeting
August 6, 2014, 7:00 pm
Chapter Membership Meeting
August 9, 2014
Breakfast 8-9**

Our 55 Year Celebration party in July was a huge success. For those who missed it - the

pig roast/pot luck was a wonderful celebration of all that our chapter is. Over 100 chapter and family members came out to enjoy food and camaraderie. The weather was perfect and the roast pig was fantastic! Special recognition needs to be extended to Board member Jack Voss who suggested both the "pre celebration" party held at Clara's this past winter as well as the pig roast. Well done Jack!

Anyone up for a party to celebrate the 1st Anniversary of our Chapter turning 55 next year?

Steve Houghton, President (steve@eaa55.org)

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

BREAKFAST TEAMS

August	September
Pete Chestnut	Dick Bacon
Ron Gorsline	Barb Bacon
Chuck Hacker	John Bobcik
Jim Palmer	Connie Bobcik
Dave Paul	Mike Franzago
Gregory Rheeder	Ron Goodnoe
Roy Thelen	Ernie Lutz
Bruce Thorburn	Mike Lutz
	Ronald Pearce

EAA Chapter 55 Board of Directors – July 9, 2014

→Meeting called to order at 7:06pm. →Present: Steve Houghton; Al Spalding; Margie Clark; Vickie Vandenbelt; Doug Koons; Jack Voss; Ken Vandenbelt; Jim Spry; Dave James; Warren Miller; Ed Search; Bill Purosky. Absent: Bob Clark. →Secretary's Report 6/11/14; Dave James moved to accept; Jack Voss supported; all approved. →Treasurers Report 6/30/14; Vickie Vandenbelt moved to accept; Dave James supported; all approved. →Young Eagles; Margie advised calls coming in; balsa planes ordered & received. →Adult Eagles; per newsletter. →Membership; per newsletter. →Flying Activities; pending. →Programs; Oct & Dec still open. →Safety Officer; pending. →55th Anniversary potluck; ready to go. →Events Planning; meeting coming up.

2015 EAA55 Calendar; pending. →Fire Extinguisher service; list ready. →Membership recruitment; looking at web lists & may do mailing in Feb/March 2015. →MAD; Ken will get banner put up across from fairgrounds for fair week. →Builders Hanger; ceiling damage; Doug will quote repair cost; discussed winch for bi-fold door and painting. →Nominating Committee for November election of officers; Dave James volunteered; need two more volunteers. →Vickie Vandenbelt mentioned booth at Farmer's Market each Saturday for volunteers to pass out EAA55 events info. →Tables for YE; Vickie Vandenbelt made a motion to purchase six 8ft. tables at a cost of approximately \$80.00 each; a portion paid for from our YE Credits and balance for EAA55 funds; Jack Voss supported; all approved. →Jack Voss made a motion to adjourn; Bill Purosky supported; adjourned at 8:08pm. →Respectfully submitted, Vickie Vandenbelt, Secretary

EAA Chapter 55 Membership – July 12, 2014

→President Houghton called the meeting to order at 9:20am with approximately 44 members and 4 guests present.
→Following the National Anthem, we thanked the breakfast team & President Houghton announced the August breakfast team and introduced guests. →President Houghton introduced Carol Callan of the FAA. Carol was at our meeting to present member Kyle Bradford with the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award honoring Kyle's aviation career of more than fifty years. →Secretary's Report 6/14/14; moved to accept; supported & accepted as printed in the newsletter. →Treasurer's report 6/30/14 and special thanks to Jeff Shaud for donation of another Meijers Gift Certificate; moved to accept; supported and approved. →YE; ready for July; Dan Schiffer announced "Thank You" card for kids of St. Vincent. →55th Anniversary Potluck; ready to go. →MAD; need volunteers & next meeting on Wednesday. →Storage Hanger & Builders Hanger rental space available. →Submissions wanted for the newsletter; send pics of trips; projects; planes and info to Warren. →Bill Purosky has rooms at AirVenture. →Builders Hanger; considering winch opener - anyone with ideas or info on doing would be helpful. →Thunder Over Michigan; tickets available. →Safety Pilot Briefing for YE Pilots immediately after meeting. →Nominating Committee for November election of officers; Dave James volunteered; need at least two more volunteers. →Tshirts with EAA55 logo available at Sports Stop. Also, embroidery logo available with complete selection of golf shirts; jackets; hats and more - or bring your own. →Meeting adjourned at 9:50am. →Respectfully submitted, Vickie Vandenbelt, Secretary



TIDBITS

By Vickie Vandenbelt (vickie@eaa55.org)

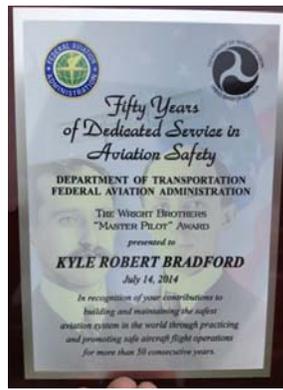
NEW MEMBERS: Chapter 55 welcomes new member Eric Hiser and returning member Jim Sawyer. We also welcome student members Caitlin Boomer and Caleb Hayhoe.

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS: to member Kyle Bradford. Carol Callan, of the FAA, was at our meeting to present Kyle with the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award honoring Kyle's aviation career of more than fifty years!!



PanAm and member of the Air National Guard.

During his military career, Kyle flew B-25s and later C-119s until 1954. He then became a commercial pilot for



Kyle is now considered an expert authority on all things Pietenpol.

Congratulations, Kyle, on your career and all your contributions to aviation.

THANK YOU

From Kyle Bradford

I just want to take a small space in the newsletter to thank my fellow Chapter 55 members for hosting the FAA's awarding of the Wright Brothers Appreciation of my many years of flying. It was a memorable event for Margaret and me. I especially want to thank Warren Miller for doing the "legwork" to make it happen.



WE NEED YOU - VOLUNTEER FOR MAD: Still need volunteers to sit at entrance gates and collect donations; someone to lead auto parking; morning and afternoon grill/kitchen work; afternoon concessions stand and afternoon aircraft parking/flightline security. Volunteers make our events successful and our events pay for our chapter operations and scholarships.

EVENT SET UP: Anyone who can help with the MAD setup on Friday is welcome. Plans are to start at around 11:00am; continuing throughout the day.

55th ANNIVERSARY POTLUCK: Our celebration was a great time and so glad that so many members & family could attend. Anyone considering a pig roast for a event, contact John Pulice, Gator's Grill; 517-204-4971.

GARMIN SEMINAR: MDOT & Beacon Aviation of Michigan will present a Garmin Seminar at the MDOT Office of Aeronautics; Capital City Airport; at 6:00pm on Tuesday, September 2nd. The program will highlight Garmin's ADS-B solutions and panel mount offerings. RSVP to Tera Fricke 517-335-9792.

INFO - GARMIN GPS APPROACHES AT TEW: A former TEW tenant passes along info that Garmin is no longer supporting the GPS approaches into KTEW. This was a recent change and I thought your members might be interested in knowing (if they have not discovered it already). Here is the info from Garmin: The following RNAV (GPS) approaches have been removed due to an issue with the lack of a descent angle on approaches that

have an LP service level: KTEW R10 / KTEW R28 (from Jim Kraus)

P-39 FOUND: Former member, Bill Hensler, ran across an article about a WWII P-39 fighter discovered off Port Huron. Apparently, the USAF has formally said they have no claim to the wreck and it would be possible to salvage this extremely rare fighter. This P-39 was part of a 4 aircraft flight doing gunnery training over Lake Huron. The aircraft was flown to Selfridge as part of the Tuskegee Squadron. Here is a link to the newspaper article:

<http://www.thetimesherald.com/article/20140729/NEWS01/307290028/Divers-discover-wreck-World-War-II-plane>

SNACK SALES: We now have KLONDIKE BARS in a variety of flavors!!



On June 14th, EAA Chapter 55 celebrated our 55th Anniversary with a Mason Area Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting in front of our hangar.



Pictured from left to right: John Long, Elliot Seguin, Dave Groh - standing in front of plane that Elliot flew non-stop from the Mohave to Oshkosh!!



YOUNG EAGLES

By Margie Clark ([alpha 153@att.net](mailto:alpha153@att.net))

Hooray for great flying weather. Our last Young Eagles flights on July 12 totaled 90! What a great day it was to fly the youth.

Thanks goes to our fantastic pilots and ground crew for all of their hard work and support. Without their participation we would not be able to do this worthy event. I cannot say thank you enough for all that you do to give these youth an experience of a lifetime.

Let's pray that our next Young Eagles flight day in August is as great as the last two have been. If you have a few hours to spare and can lend a hand at flying, registration, flight line, safety or at our information booth it would be greatly appreciated.

Our next Young Eagles day is Saturday, August 9, immediately following the monthly membership meeting. Thanks again!!



Bella, Faith and Danielle flew with Special Pilot Ernie Lutz!

ADULT EAGLES

By Margie Clark ([alpha 153@att.net](mailto:alpha153@att.net))

We have received interest from two parents that attended the Young Eagles event as possible Adult Eagles. They checked out information at our "Information Booth" on what it would take to be a pilot. Another step towards building our GA population.

If you know of anyone with interest in becoming a pilot and you take them for a ride be sure to fill out the Adult Eagle Flight paperwork at the Chapter and drop it off in the folder at the front table.

Safe flying to you all!!



NOTES FROM CAPE JUBY

By Terry L. Lutz
Chapter 55 Flight Advisor

AirVenture Oshkosh is history, but the memories remain of a lot of great airplanes, new friends made, and an overall energizing experience. Although it rain pretty hard on Thursday, making for some muddy conditions, the weather was overall cooler than normal, and great for both airplanes and people.

The main ramp has changed names again. It was Aeroshell Square for many years, then last year it became Phillips 66 Plaza, and this year it was Boeing Plaza. I understand the sponsorship aspect, but I hope the name sticks for a few years to avoid more name confusion.

There were a lot of interesting airplanes on Boeing Plaza this year, but they weren't always tall enough to be seen from far out on the flight line. For example, the only flying Fairey Gannet was there, plus the NASA WB-57F. Then on Monday, a flight of 5 airplanes arrived after flying non-stop from Mojave. That's right – *non-stop* from Mojave, a flight of around 9 hours.

The Fairey Gannet is probably the most unique and complex airplane you will ever find. The first time I saw one was in Aalborg, Denmark in 1978. We had stopped there to refuel our Phantoms, and there was this Gannet sitting forlornly on the ramp, dripping copious amounts of hydraulic fluid and engine oil. While we were supervising the refueling operation, a RAF Shackleton ASW (Anti-Submarine Warfare) aircraft showed up with men, parts, and equipment to repair the Gannet. The really interesting thing was that 4 Rolls-Royce Griffon engines powered the Wellington. They were like music to my ears.

The Gannet is unique in that it has two engines and two propellers, but they are not linked, and not specifically geared to be counter-rotating. The engines and propellers operate independently. I wonder how difficult it is to synchronize the two propellers! To save fuel, one engine can be shut down and the airplane will cruise just fine in the ASW role. For shipboard operations, the wings fold and articulate in two directions. The inboard section that folds also contains fuel, making for an interesting fuel system at the fold line. The airplane has three tandem seats, which makes you wonder what the exact role was of the guy all the way in back.

The NASA WB-57F has an interesting story. It was actually put in the USAF bone yard many years ago, and was only recently returned to service. It is said that this example of the WB-57F spent the longest time any airplane has ever spent in the bone yard before being returned to service. It went out of service in 1972, and flew again after overhaul in Colorado in 2013, for a record 41 years in non-flying status. Powered by two JT-8D-15 engines, it has very long wings to support the mission at very high altitude. While it can fly at altitudes approaching 70,000 feet, engine handling can be quite difficult. A single throttle movement at that altitude could cause an engine problem.

The airplanes that arrived from Mojave were all completely different, and some of them were record holders. But the real star, in my estimation, was the Wasabi Racer flown by Elliot Seguin. I saw the airplane under construction when it was in Elliot and Jenn's skunk works hangar in Mojave. Then I saw it as a flying airplane for the first time at AirVenture Oshkosh. It is truly remarkable, and not quite what I expected to see. The engine integration with the airframe is very well done. It is not "cheeky", nor does the

engine nacelle appear bulbous compared to the remaining lines of the fuselage. The landing gear are very short, much shorter than I expected to see, which is great for reducing drag, and there is no problem at all with propeller clearance because it has a very long propeller extension. The wing plan form has an interesting curved wingtip, which combined with the airfoil give exceptional lift and drag characteristics.



THE WASABI RACER

When thinking about a racing airplane, you usually consider the minimum of everything so you can go really fast. That means a small fuel capacity. But the Wasabi Racer can carry a lot of fuel – enough for 9 hours and more. The wing is strong enough and has the internal volume to carry a lot of fuel, so added capacity became part of the design. Elliot told me that while he was flying, he noticed that the ball was going farther and farther out from center, and he realized that the fuel was migrating outboard in one wing. So he centered the ball and waited and waited until it came back into balance.

The other interesting thing about the Wasabi Racer is the propeller. It was fabricated by Craig Catto at Catto Propellers and features a small fence about mid-span on the prop blade. Catto actually tested a similar design by putting tufts on one propeller blade, and mounting a GoPro camera on a beam extending forward from the prop hub. The camera rotated the same as the blade did, so the video made it look stationary.

For me, this year had a lot of international flavor. To begin, a pilot I know from France joined us on Monday, and we had a great time learning about Laurent Ripert and his interesting flying experiences. He is a retired airline pilot, and currently owns an RV-4 (which was built in the US, then shipped to the Netherlands and re-registered there). I had some PMags for him to take back, and we stopped by the Catto Propeller booth to check the status of his order for a new propeller.

The Catto's are an interesting family. We spent some time speaking with his daughter, and met another relative who is an aero engineer. They work as a small team to produce what are arguably the best performing fixed pitch propellers

available. They recently moved the business from their home to a small airport nearby, which is good for them, and good for the airport as well.

Then on Tuesday, I received a call on my cell phone from a number beginning with +49. I knew that was someone from Germany. It turned out to be Stefan Janes, who is a pilot I know from Lufthansa Airlines. He is currently flying the MD-11 freighter, and was on a 3-day layover in Dallas. So on arrival in Dallas, he booked a ticket to Chicago, then rented a car and drove to Oshkosh. When he called, I asked where he would be staying, and he said “Well, I guess I’m sleeping in the car.” Such dedication! So I said, OK, you’re staying with us, and he slept for 2 nights on the floor of the trailer with an extra sleeping bag and mattress I had brought.



LAURENT AND STEFAN

To complete the interesting international aspect of this year’s AirVenture Oshkosh, consider the long-distance award, which must easily go to Hugues Gurion, who flew an RV-8A from New Caledonia to Oshkosh. No, that wasn’t New Caledonia, Michigan. It was the country situated just to the north of New Zealand. Hugues covered a distance of some 15,800 miles to get to the US, including many very long legs and stops all across southern Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

I spent some time looking at RV aircraft, trying to get some new ideas and see how people have built their airplanes. There was an RV-8 there that essentially had a plastic wrap covering the entire airplane. It looked pretty sharp! They did a really good job of wrapping the airplane, and keeping the obvious joints from showing, although you could find them easily with your hand. It remains to be seen how much this will be used in the future instead of painting the airplane. There are questions of cleaning and repair, weight, cost, and drag. But it definitely has potential, and there is more work to be done to refine the product.



WRAPPED AIRPLANE

There is so much going on at AirVenture, that what I have mentioned here just scratches the surface. There are so many forums, you can’t attend them all. There are so many opportunities to talk to people that you can’t possibly talk to everyone. But it is possible to take in a broad brush of activity, or spent your time on one specific thing, such as purchasing the avionics for your project, or learning how to weld.

There was one defining difference between last year and this year at AirVenture. One drawback of using porta-potties (there are probably more, but I won’t go there) is that you can’t wash your hands. But this year, there were 4x4 posts next to the plastic potties that dispensed (automatically) just the right amount of hand sanitizer – Perfect! So with clean hands, you could lend a hand to your fellow aviator when they really needed it.



FROM THE FLIGHT SURGEON

By Gregory Pinnell, MD

Senior AME/ Senior Flight Surgeon USAFR





WANTED:

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

FOR SALE:

Garmin GPS 96 w/Col Bracket \$95;
Ernie Lutz 517-676-4601

Lathes & other equipment;
info call Jeff Shaud 517-712-6482

Wittman W10 Tailwind Project \$7500; Piper Tri-Pacer Project \$5000; Lycoming O-290-G \$1800;
Bill Trommater 517-526-3588

1966 Mooney M20C; Dave Courey;
517-331-7097 or dcmi@reagan.com

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

Chevrolet Corvair 100-HP flight motor conversion;
unassembled. \$5,000/negotiable.
Greg Harris 517-775-4563 or gkharris1974@gmail.com

Zenith Zodiac XL/650 Corvair motor mount;
Greg Harris 517-775-4563 or gkharris1974@gmail.com

Honey; Gordon Hempstone 517-515-1454

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



CHAPTER 55 HUMOR



Both optimists and pessimists contribute to society. The optimist invents the aeroplane, the pessimist the parachute.— *George Bernard Shaw*

WELCOME TO AVIATION!



YOU ARE NOW BROKE.

Contact Warren or Vickie to place your ad here!

CHAPTER 55 CLASSIFIEDS

HANGAR FOR RENT: one space in Common Storage Hangar \$70; one space in Builders Hangar; \$115 plus gas;
Steve 517-290-7528

HANGAR FOR RENT: Skyway Estates; 60G; Eaton Rapids. Pete Chestnut 517-663-3118.

POCKET CALENDAR

Aug 9 = YE Rally; 10am-2pm

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

Aug 10 = South Haven DP

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

Aug 19 = National Aviation Day

Aug 23 = CARDS Electric FlyIn; Grand Ledge

Aug 23 = Grand Haven DP

Aug 27-Sep 1 = AAA-Blakesburg

Sep 2 = Garmin Seminar; MDOT

Sep 27 = Warbirds Over Elkhart IN

Oct 18 = STEM Teachers Conference LAN

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.

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