



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

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

**Want some Ideas for what to do in 2015?**

Welcome to 2015! As another year opens before us, I thought I'd start the year out with a list of upcoming events and activities that may interest you. The list includes a wide variety of activities from the Great Lakes Aviation Conference scheduled two weeks from this weekend to museum visits to some interesting websites.

\*\* 56 year anniversary party.

It was a big hit last year! The Board will begin planning this event at our winter board meetings. Tentative date is Sunday, July 12th. Your input is welcome.

\*\* We will be holding our

Young Eagle events on the Saturday meetings in June, July and August once again this year. Any help you can provide is GREATLY appreciated. Mark your calendar now for June 13, July 11 and August 8.

\*\* Movie nights will be held the Friday night before our monthly meetings. The remaining dates are January 9, February 13 and March 13 at 7pm. Good food, good fun, and good movies.

\*\* Go to the Great Lakes Aviation Conference on January 23-24. More details at

<http://www.greatlakesaviationconference.com>

\*\* Go to a museum.

\*\* Drive to AirZoo at KZO. Hours are Monday - Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Sunday: Noon - 5:00 p.m.-

\*\* If there is enough interest we are considering a trip to the Dayton Air Force Museum. One day trip vs. stay overnight options are being considered.

\*\* Yankee air museum - group trip? Open Tuesday thru Saturday 10:00am - 4:00 pm. This could be an option for a drive out after one of our monthly winter meetings.

Ask a member for a flight. There are many of us who would love to take non flying members for a flight. You just have to ask!

\*\* Dawn patrol Sunday, June 14th.

\*\* Mason Aviation Day, August 15.

**Board of Directors Meeting  
December 10, 2014, 7:00 pm  
Chapter Membership Meeting  
December 13, 2014  
Breakfast 8-9**

\*\* Gate cards are coming, gate cards are coming! (Not all news is good news unfortunately). Capital Regional Airport Authority will be installing a gate and card reader in the next few weeks. It is still unclear how it will impact our chapter.

\*\* Fly outs? I would suggest picking a date this summer for a fly out for all interested chapter aircraft. Date and location TBD. If you have a possible destination in mind, let us know.

\*\* Visit another chapter. Plymouth Mettetal and Jackson are both close by and have busy chapters. See their websites for details.

\*\* Join the board. It is not a big time commitment and gives you a chance to contribute to chapter planning and growth.

\*\* Go to Oshkosh. Start planning now - it helps to warm up the winter. This year the dates are July

20-26.

\*\* Go to Thunder over Michigan. 2015 dates are August 29-30. This year the Blue Angels will be back!

\*\* Join the website SocialFlight to see what types of aviation events are going on statewide and nationwide. Their website is [www.socialflight.com](http://www.socialflight.com)

\*\* Go to the MDOT aeronautics calendar at <http://www.michigan.gov/aero/0,4533,7-145-52412---00.html> to see a schedule of Michigan aviation events.

\*\* For an interesting look at animated weather, especially winds, take a look at <https://www.windyty.com>. Very cool.

\*\* Take on a building project. We have an increasing number of parts available for the Smith Miniplane that was donated to our chapter.

Also, a final reminder to get your 2015 membership dues in. Thanks and here's to a great 2015 at our Chapter!

**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.



**December Breakfast Team:** Dan & Margaret Schiffer and Grant Dowell

**BREAKFAST TEAMS**

<p><b>January</b>          Kyle Bradford          Lloyd Brown          John Caron          Eric Hiser          Gary Nicola          Pat Salow          Karen Salow          Jim Sawyer          Ed Search          Judy Search</p>	<p><b>February</b>          Kirk Curtiss          Kyle Curtiss          Joe Madziar          Dave Groh          Greg &amp; Karen Hover          Joe Pirch          Tom Schroeder</p>
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**EAA Chapter 55 Board Meeting December 9, 2014**

→Meeting called to order at 7:03pm by President Steve Houghton →Present: Steve Houghton, Margie Clark, Al Spalding; Vickie Vandenbelt; Bob Clark; Doug Koons; Dave James; Warren Miller; Bill Purosky; Jim Spry; Ken Vandenbelt; Jack Voss. Absent: Ed Search. Guests: Julie Bauer; Michael Rosencrans. →Secretary's Report 11/5/14; Jack Voss moved to accept; Dave James supported; all approved. →Treasurers Report 11/30/14; Jack Voss moved to accept; Dave James supported; all approved.  
 →Discussed hangar leases; Vickie Vandenbelt will provide Steve Houghton with current copies, including Building Hangar Addendum, for the Nicola lease; Shannon lease and Houghton lease. →Discussion of costs to have items added to breakfast menu; decided on pre-approval and Vickie Vandenbelt will develop revised Breakfast Team email.  
 →Builders Hangar furnace; some repair & cleaning was done but final expense pending examination by a professional. →YE of the Year selected & he will be attending Saturday meeting for presentation. Vickie Vandenbelt will do a press release. →Bill Purosky advised Sean D. Tucker will be keynote speaker at GLAC.  
 →Discussed thoughts on having pilot mentor assigned to each student member. →Adult Eagles; no report.  
 →Membership; per newsletter. →Activities; movie nights continue. →Program Coordinator; Paula Corsi expressed interest & Steve Houghton will follow up with her. Cody Welch is scheduled for Saturday. →Safety Officer; no report. →Newsletter Editor; Warren Miller has been editor for over 10 years and looking for relief. Last "snail mail"

edition sent in December. So far, no one paying additional to receive by mail. →Christmas Party; Al Spalding reported 34 paid attendees so far. →Smith Mini project; Terry Lutz may have a contact with more parts. →Phil Tartalone is donating a tug to the chapter. Most likely repair for EAA55 use in hangar & moving planes for events. →Dues contest drawing at January meeting; Al Spalding will set up. →Newberry Aviation Scholarship; Steve Houghton has discussed awards with Mark Cosgrove (LCC) and Phil Tartalone (EMU). Applications are due back by 12/31/14. Dave James; Steve Houghton; Al Spalding & Doug Koons volunteered for scholarship committee & set date of 1/5/15 to review applications. →Silent Auction for the Headset donated by Mike Maranka; awarded to Carol Spry; \$160. →EAA55 Calendars are ready for Saturday awards. Copies can be purchased for \$8.00 each. →Meeting Room Rugs; discussed type & cost. Dave James made a motion to approve purchase not to exceed \$200. Warren Miller will check costs and make selection. →Jack Voss thought it would be great for EAA55 to have parade representation. Unfortunately, insurance does not allow for floats in parades & fly-overs could also be an insurance problem. →Paula Corsi donated a wonderful holiday basket for the MACC Holiday Mixer silent auction. →Jack Voss made a motion to adjourn; Ken Vandenbelt supported; adjourned at 8:44pm. →Respectfully submitted, Vickie Vandenbelt, Secretary

**EAA Chapter 55 Membership Meeting-December 13, 2014**

→President Houghton called the meeting to order at 9:15am with approximately 40 members & 8 guests present. →Following the National Anthem, we thanked the breakfast team & January team was announced. →Guests were introduced. →Secretary's Report 11/8/14; moved to accept; supported & approved. →Treasurer's report 11/30/14; moved to accept; supported & approved. →Movie Night Friday was held with 8 attendees. →Christmas Party; all ready for Sunday. →WANTED: Newsletter Editor; Events Coordinator; Program Coordinator; see Steve Houghton for details. →Silent Auction for Headset won by Carol Spry; \$160.

Phil Tartalone donated a tow bar tug for use in our hangar; needs minor repairs. →EAA55 calendars available for purchase; \$8.00. →Newsletter; surcharge of \$15 if you wish to secure newsletter by "snail mail". In 2016, only electronic copies will be available. →Floor mats; additional mats have been acquired (especially for winter months). →Bill Bezdek advised he has extra copies of the "Airbus @ Airventure" photo if anyone would like one. →Welcome Michael Rosencrans as new EAA55 Director. Many thanks to retiring directors; Ed Search and Ken Vandenbelt. →Many thanks to Jeff Shaud who has been donating Meijer gift cards to the chapter for use as prizes & grocery purchasing. →Dues Content; pay by 12/31/14 to be in the drawing for valuable prizes. →Smith Mini; may have wings & gages to add. →Thanks to Paula Corsi for donating a wonderful holiday basket for the MACC Holiday Mixer silent auction. →Newberry Aviation Scholarship committee is looking to award \$1500 & \$1000 respectively to a student in the EMU pilot and management programs

plus \$1000 to a student in LCC maintenance program.  
→EAA55 Calendars awarded to chapter volunteers with chapter thanks for all your efforts to make our events a success. →Young Eagle of the Year; Eli Sharkey was introduced & presented with award certificate. →Bill Purosky announced Sean D. Tucker will be the keynote speaker at GLAC. →Meeting adjourned at 9:50am; program by Cody Welch, EAA Director followed.  
→Respectfully submitted, Vickie Vandenbelt, Secretary



### TIDBITS

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

NEW MEMBERS: Chapter 55 welcomes new members Douglas Coleman and Donald Eagan.

THANK YOU: To all our members & family who stopped by the hanger during the year for pop, water &/or snack purchases during the year. We cover our costs with minimal profit so that these items are available at a reasonable cost whenever you visit. And, thanks to those who made a donation to purchase monthly breakfast leftovers or brought special items for our breakfast.

EVENTS COORDINATOR: Our chapter is in need of an Events Coordinator; specifically for DP and MAD, plus a little for Young Eagles. I have been handling this for over 12 years now. It's time for someone else to take charge. Duties include overseeing all the tasks involved in planning our events. A thorough checklist has been developed over the years. It is time consuming but with a good planning team, the tasks can be distributed between many. I will be available to advise and assist. And, I will continue to do a few of the pre-event tasks.

KITCHEN SINK: The sink in the meeting room is for food preparation and kitchen clean up. Please do not use it for cleaning of anything else.

FROM THE FAA: This is a friendly reminder for all you airman certificate holders of the world. Please note that in accordance with 14 CFR 61.60, 63.21, and 65.21, the FAA requires you to update your mailing address within 30 days of obtaining that new address. Use the following link for more information on how to update your address [http://www.faa.gov/licenses\\_certificates/airmen\\_certification/update\\_address/](http://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/airmen_certification/update_address/) For Questions or further information please contact [9-AMC-AFS760-Airmen@faa.gov](mailto:9-AMC-AFS760-Airmen@faa.gov) or call: (405) 954-3261

MEETING ROOM DOOR CODE: Code was changed effective January 1st.

### NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS - JAN 2015:

CONGRATULATIONS to YOUNG EAGLE OF THE YEAR = Eli Sharkey. Eli, of Holt, has been selected by EAA55 to be our "2014 Young Eagle of the Year". Eli, shown here with our YE Coordinators Doug Koons (left) and Margie Clark (right), was chosen based on his enthusiasm and interest in aviation. He flew with Tom

Schroeder this past summer. He was presented with a commemorative certificate, a student membership in Chapter 55 and other gifts.

We hope Eli will be attending many of our future meetings. Say "HI" when you see him.

**BE SURE TO LIKE  
"EAA CHAPTER 55" ON FACEBOOK !**



### YOUNG EAGLES

By Margie Clark ([Margie@EAA55.org](mailto:Margie@EAA55.org))

No report this month.



**YE Member of the Year, Eli Sharkey**

### Interview with Eli by Warren Miller

Eli, a very enthusiastic young man, said he hopes to be an airline pilot some day. He likes airplanes so much, when he see's them sitting around at the air port he wants to wash them. Eli went on to say "if your not in the air then your just on the ground". His hobby is astrology.

### ADULT EAGLES

By Gregory Rheeder (pending address for website)

Happy New Year !! As winter tightens its grip on mid-Michigan I will be asking pilots to step forward and provide me with some help with adult Eagle flights. If you are a pilot with current flying credentials and would be willing to join me in bringing on new pilots, contact me at the January meeting.



### NOTES FROM CAPE JUBY

By Terry L. Lutz  
Chapter 55 Flight Advisor

The best Halloween decoration I saw last year was a witch riding a broom that flew head first into a tree. All you could see was the backside of the witch, her hat, robe, and tail end of the broom. Above that was a sign that

read “Don’t text and fly”. Non-pilots who saw it must have thought “Hmmm, a good reminder not to text and drive.” Then I was reminded by a good friend, and by something that happened on a recent flight, that automation in our cockpits can amount to “texting and flying”, which put the error by that little witch a bit closer to home.

I happened to be out flying “Sweet Nancy Lynn” on a bright, sunny day and climbed to 3000’ to get above the turbulence. It was clear everywhere, so I decided to fly southwest and do a simple navigation triangle from Mason to Marshall to Lowell and return. Enroute to Marshall, I programmed the GPS for direct Marshall, then hauled out the map to look up the Unicom and AWOS frequencies. After turning overhead Marshall, I turned and took up a northwesterly heading then looked up the information for Lowell so I could program the GPS and set the proper frequencies. So, how am I doing so far?

I looked down at Turkeyville and noticed that they no longer had a runway, but you could see where it was. Then somewhere around Bellevue, the cell phone in my pocket began to buzz. Cell phones somehow will still work when you’re in low earth orbit. BUT, I didn’t give a second thought to it, and besides it was buried in a pocket underneath my shoulder harness. I descended below 2000’ to avoid Grand Rapids airspace, and noted an airplane taxiing on the ground at Lowell, then heard an airplane inbound from the north. After turning southeast toward Mason, I once again programmed the GPS and radio frequencies and headed back to Mason. So, how am I doing so far?

Back at Mason, I shut down, put the airplane away and finally checked the text message: “Was that you at 3,000’ just northeast of Battle Creek? An airplane just like yours flew right under us, heading northwest.” It was actually a flight of two, a Cessna 182 and a Cessna 170 at 3500’. How could I have missed seeing them, or was I almost the witch that hit the tree?

Looking back at this flight, most of the head’s down work I did with GPS, radios, and maps could have been done before flight. One of the traps we fall into with technology, and with excellent knowledge of the local area, is that we don’t feel the need to do the tiny bit of flight planning needed; perhaps we accept that if necessary, we can do that inflight. It’s just one example of how you can end up in a situation where you are effectively texting and flying, and not looking outside.

With my mind pretty well perked up about this, I recalled ways that the military avoids putting pilots in these situations. One is to put preset frequencies in all the radios. ATIS/AWOS is on button 1, Ground on button 2, Tower on button 3, etc. Other ways include extensive crew briefings, where departures and approaches are briefed in detail, and with pre-programmed tactical flight plans that you carry to the airplane and plug in to the avionics. We can adapt those methods to light airplane operations. Some radios can be programmed for preset frequencies. If you have a flip-flop radio, a good habit to adopt is when you change to a new

frequency, immediately put in the next frequency (if known). A lot of GPS units are portable, so you can do some of the programming before you get in the airplane. This is particularly true for programs on tablet computer, such as Wing X or ForeFlight.

What I learned from my sunny day adventure and the little witch that hit the tree (besides being burned up that I didn’t see those guys), is to use my time more wisely, and tighten up my knowledge of all aspects of the flight. I have always, almost religiously, used a 5-minute warm-up time after engine start and before taxi. Now I use more of that time to be sure the GPS, radios, and my iPad are set for flight. Every single step you take in the air to monkey with technology is time you can’t spend looking outside or looking at instruments.

Cruising the Van’s Air Force website, as I frequently do, there was link to an FAA webinar titled “10 ways to use your iPad and get an FAA violation” (it can be found on YouTube). I took the time to watch this tutorial, and while it was interesting, it was almost an advertisement for ForeFlight. But the instructor did make some valid points. The biggest eye-opener is that the FAA estimates that iPads and other hand-held devices are causing 10X more *airspace* violations than they have ever seen before.

The first point to pass along is: Don’t program your avionics or portable device while taxiing. Resist the temptation! Even the big boys, when one pilot needs to do something head’s down, the other pilot will say “OK, I’m head’s up”. More than one pilot has bonked into a hangar or hit another airplane while taxiing head’s down.

The second point is: Get the training! A lot of folks are flying around with good GPS and hand-held devices, and no clue how to use them. OK, OK, I hear you – they’re not always user friendly. But get the training!

A third point is: Always fly with the correct range setting on the map display. Garmin and some others do this automatically, but it isn’t always ideal. Make sure you fly with a range setting that allows you to see hazards or airspace with several minutes of flying time ahead to make good navigation decisions.

Point 4 might be: The FAA radar is not as accurate as your GPS! If you are flying an arc that’s right on the edge of FAA airspace, you risk a violation. Their radar is only accurate to about 1nm, so plan to be at least 2nm away from the edge of airspace boundaries when VFR and not using flight following. The big clue here is: The FAA radar itself triggers an automatic violation. They will still have to track you down, and you won’t be happy when they do. There are two ways to defend yourself in such a situation. File a NASA ASRS report, even if you are notified more than 15 days after the event itself. You will still have to talk to the FAA, but it may keep you from having your certificates suspended. Also, you can program your GPS to track your flight, which will be a very accurate record, compared to the FAA radar. It will really help in discussions with the FAA.

And finally, for those of you who are intent on having all the bells, whistles, and the latest coffee machine, XM weather in the cockpit may not be the real time weather display you thought it was. There can be a 7-10 minute delay from when the radar records it to the time you receive it, so the weather you expect close to your destination may already be there when you arrive. Get a good pre-flight weather briefing and don't cut it close with weather decisions.

Since I am in San Antonio, I decided to check out some of the small airports to see what kind of activity I would find. The San Geronimo airport is located just west of the city, and while there are a number of T-hangars there, it is also an airpark with quite a few homes and hangars. Some are older, original homes set under beautiful oak trees, and others have been more recently built. San Geronimo is the home of home of EAA Chapter 35. It is rumored that the first person to holler "Geronimo" when jumping out of an airplane was once a member.

In addition to a number of homebuilt airplanes tucked away in the hangars, they have a very nice chapter building located quite close to the runway. I stopped in for a visit just after their annual Christmas party, and had the chance to talk to some of the chapter members. They've had a lot of members over the years, and on the walls were pictures of a lot of airplanes, along with members from a wide variety of backgrounds, including several military pilots and at least one astronaut.

One thing I noticed was their kitchen area. It was rather self-contained, with a long counter for serving breakfast. And to the right was a small hallway with both a ladies and gents restroom. Check out the picture.



I was able to poke around in some of the hangars, and in the chapter workshop I found two interesting airplanes. One was a Moni, which is a single-seat self-launching glider, and the second was a Demoiselle. The Moni was given to the chapter and is rumored to be for sale. If someone wanted some cheap flying, there it is for the asking.



The other interesting airplanes I saw were in another hangar and came from the clever mind of designer Leon Davis. One was a DA-5 and the other a single-seat DA-6.



The Davis designs were simple and efficient, and as you can see Leon used the V-tail concept. Ed Leshner and Leon Davis were good friends, even though they were both after the same speed records. Ed once told me that Leon would take instruments apart and carve away the instrument case so there was just enough structure to keep the mechanism in place – just to save weight! Looking at the

DA-6, it sure would be cool to see it all polished up and on the flight line at Oshkosh.

Well, I guess the lesson learned from reading this is that we can all take our skills as pilots to higher levels. Let's challenge ourselves and others to do just that, because you just might help yourself or someone else when it's really needed. Then you can holler "Geronimo" and it will mean something!



## CHAPTER 55 HUMOR



### FROM THE FLIGHT SURGEON

By Gregory Pinnell, MD

NO REPORT THIS MONTH.

Fly warm and safe!

Gregory Pinnell, MD  
Senior AME/ Senior Flight Surgeon USAFR  
Airdocs Aeromedical Support Services  
MBS International

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## DECEMBER GUEST PROGRAM



Guest speaker at the Dec chapter meeting was Cody Welch. He is the premier pilot of the Ford Tri Motor. The plane known to many as the "Tin Goose" was the idea of the Henry Ford family back in

the 1920's Cody has flown the Goose in many countries around the world.

A number of things Cody is involved in is reinventing EAA regarding developing a chapter advisory committee, improvement of chapters and revitalize the chapter system, etc.

## CHAPTER 55 CLASSIFIEDS

**HANGAR FOR RENT:** 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

**WANTED:** Serviceable ELT, model AK450, 121.5 megahertz with accessories; Kyle Bradford 517-663-3083

**FOR SALE:** EAA55 2015 Calendars; \$8.00 each; Steve 517-290-7528

Stratus I (First Generation) ADS-B Receiver; works great with Foreflight to receive current radar & weather in flight; \$325; Don Frank; 517-204-7421; [FrankLaw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:FrankLaw@sbcglobal.net)

Starduster II; Mike Franzago; 517-910-6091; [mlfranzago@me.com](mailto:mlfranzago@me.com)

Smith Mini project; one seat biplane; Steve 517-290-7528

Pure Michigan Maple Syrup; 10% of member sales donated to Newberry Scholarship Fund; Half Gallon \$21; Quart \$12; Pint \$6. John & Connie Bobcik 517-231-0506; [jbobcik@gmail.com](mailto:jbobcik@gmail.com)

KIS; \$22,000; many extras; George Moore; 517-536-1034

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

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

Honey; various sizes; Gordon Hempstone 517-515-1454

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

**FREE**: Books; boxes on table in meeting room

Contact Warren or Vickie to place your ad here!

### **POCKET CALENDAR**

Jan 9 = Movie Night

Jan 10 = Program; Mike Snaer, FAA

Jan 23-24 = Great Lakes Aviation Conf

Feb 7 = Plym-Mett-Canton Chili FlyIn

Feb 13 = Movie Night

Feb 14 = Program; TBD

Mar 13 = Movie Night

Mar 14 = Program; TBD

Apr 11 = Program; TBD

Apr 21-26 = Sun-N-Fun

May 9 = Program; TBD

Jun 13 = YE Rally

Jun 14 = EAA55 Dawn Patrol

Jul 11 = YE Rally

Jul 12 = 56th Anniversary Potluck

Jul 20-26 = AirVenture

Aug 8 = YE Rally

Aug 15 = EAA55 MAD

Aug 29-30 = Thunder Over Michigan  
w/Blue Angels

Dec TBD = EAA Christmas Party

**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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