

**EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION - CHAPTER 55**

**NOVEMBER 2015**

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

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

**→President: Steve Houghton 517-290-7528 →Vice-President: Margie Clark 517-853-1418**

**→Treas: Al Spalding 517-676-3370 →Secr: Vickie Vandenbelt 517-589-5051 → Editor: Deanna McAlister 517-795-8171**

**www.EAA55.org**

**CLIMB AND MAINTAIN  
FLIGHT LEVEL 55**

**by Steve Houghton (steve@eaa55.org)**



The Weather Gods have made this an interesting year!

Can it really be 70° in November? This has been one of the most beautiful falls in recent memory. Blue skies, warm temperatures and beautiful fall colors have enticed us all to get out and enjoy weather that might be the best of the entire year. But thinking back on the entire year, it is really surprising how fickle the weather has been. The year started out with incredibly cold temperatures and a large amount of snowfall that made getting airplanes out of hangers almost impossible. When the snow finally did melt it seemed like it rained non stop for the entire spring. All this moisture came with a price. When it began to warm up we were greeted by 8 billion mosquitoes! We were rained out of our Dawn Patrol and one of our Young Eagles events. Despite these setbacks we persevered and when the weather finally broke we had a very successful Mason Aviation Day and two well attended Young Eagles events. Now as fall moves toward winter we are enjoying some of the best weather of the entire year. Enjoy these days my friends, they surely will not last!

Just a reminder that at this Saturday's meeting we will be holding chapter elections. We encourage everyone to attend the meeting and cast your vote.

**BREAKFAST TEAMS**

**November**

Tom Botsford  
Dave Courey  
Morris Hickman  
Karen Meirndorf  
Craig Tucker  
John Vandermolen  
Bruce VanFarowe

**December**

Stan Chubb  
Rick Dallas  
Glen Dempsey  
Grant Dowell  
Cliff Hale  
Chuck Moore  
Dick Riisberg  
Dan & Margaret Schiffer

**October Team:**

Tom Sheehan and Terry Lutz covered the grills



**BOARD MEETING: 7:00pm: Wed; October 7th  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 9:30am; Sat; October 10th with Breakfast served from 8:00am to 9:00am**

**EAA 55 Chapter 55 Board of Directors Meeting October 7, 2015** → Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by President Steve Houghton. Present: Steve Houghton, Margie Clark, Al Spalding, Doug Koons, Bob Clark, Jack Voss, Jim Spry, Warren Miller, Dave James, Vickie Vandenbelt & Michael Rosencrans. Absent: Bill Purosky. Guest: Julie Bauer. Secretary's report 9/9/15; motion by Jack Voss to accept with an correction "to purchase the blue prints and building materials to build a "JoyRider" with expense not to exceed \$500"; Dave James supported; all approved. → Treasurer's report 9/30/15; motion by Jack Voss to accept; support by Doug Koons; all approved. → YE: Margie Clark working on 2015 final YE totals. Vickie Vandenbelt advised "goodies" ordered from Oriental Trading. Vickie Vandenbelt made a motion to use YE credits to purchase 500 "Future Pilot" wing pins with cost not to exceed \$500 cost including set up & S&H; Michael Rosencrans supported; all approved. → Membership renewal application for 2016 sent with newsletter. → Jim Spry will remind membership of party at Hacker's. → 2016 Anniversary party; tabled. → Christmas Party; Margie Clark to handle details and decor. → Vickie Vandenbelt mentioned objects in hanger to be put in storage. → Nominations; may have a VP candidate. → Calendars; need photos. → Annual Awards; Vickie Vandenbelt to submit worksheet. → Newberry Aviation Scholarship awards; have added a Teacher Evaluation Form & some amendments to application. Tabled to decide on amounts in November. → Tax Documents; Treasurer handles in April. → YE of Year; Margie Clark will submit names in November. → AirZoo trip; rates pending. → "Thank You" cards for donors and scouts done. → Vickie Vandenbelt made a motion to donate \$50 in memory of Douglas Uptegraft and \$50 in memory of Max Hall to the EMU-Newberry Aviation Scholarship Fund; Doug Koons supported; all approved. → Vickie Vandenbelt proposed EAA55 sign up for Gordon Food Service Award Bucks; board supported & Vickie will handle paperwork. → Warren Miller purchased two 10x16 pop-up canopies have been purchased for use at gates during events. → YE credits will be exhausted with purchase of wood planes & pilot wings; Vickie Vandenbelt will submit for reimbursement when all receipts are in. → Motion to adjourn by Jack Voss; supported by Doug Koons; meeting adjourned at 7:38pm. → Respectfully submitted, Vickie Vandenbelt, Secretary

**EAA Chapter 55 Membership Meeting October 10, 2015** → Meeting was called to order at 9:25am by President Houghton with approximately 34 members and 4 guests present. → Following the National Anthem thanks were given to the breakfast crew and November crew was announced. → Guests were introduced; two (Hunter and Jerrod) are students in the new Aviation Academy at the Career Center. → Secretary's report 9/12/15; motion to accept; supported; approved. → Treasurers report 9/30/15; motion to accept; supported; approved. → YE had a great summer. → Invitation for Christmas party and Membership Renewal sent with newsletter. → Still looking for calendar photos. → Donations to Newberry have been made in memory of Max Hall and Doug Uptegraft. Ernie Lutz announced that Dick Wilke's widow, Joan Wilke, passed away. → Hayride & Bonfire at Hackers. → Elections for chapter officers will be held at the November meeting. → Upcoming programs in the newsletter. → Meeting adjourned at 9:50am. Road trip to Kalamazoo Air Zoo. → Respectfully submitted, Vickie Vandenbelt, Secretary.



**NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS**

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

**CONGRATULATIONS:** to former member Chris Long who did his solo at TEW on 10/10/15. Now living in the Kzoo area, Chris has been doing volunteer work at the AirZoo. We hope his future will bring him back to Chapter 55. Picture John Long (L) with Chris Long (R).



**DEANNA "ROSIE" McALISTER:** The Guinness World Record for most Rosie the Riveters was broken Saturday Oct 24th, 2015 at Willow Run Airport in Ypsilanti when 2,097 "Rosies" were captured in the official photo. And, our own Deanna McAlister was a part of this historic event. They



dressed like the image used to recruit female industrial workers during WWII with blue coveralls as well as red bandannas with white polka dots. Save the Willow Run Bomber Plant organized an event in March 2014 that set a Guinness World Records mark that recognized the 776 "Rosies" as the "largest gathering of people dressed as Rosie the Riveter". Willow Run's previous record Rosie the Riveters was beaten in August 2015 when the Rockin' Rosie's of Richmond gathered 1,084 Rosies in California. Congratulations to Save the Willow Run Bomber Plant, Yankee Air Force, Willow Run Airport and especially all the "Rosies" who made the record of 2,097 possible !!



**ELLIOT SEGUIN/JUSTIN GILLAN:** Presented a talk at Society of Experimental Test Pilots S/W ...

(big thank you to Jim Sergeant for getting presentation on the web.) Check it out!! <http://zdana.net/.../1430> Test Procedures for Race Propellers...

**PROJECT:** Bill Purosky & Doug Koons have been making some great progress on the Glastar. Doug sent a couple of pictures to share ...



### **PARTY !!**

This fall has been very festive. Chuck & Sharron Hacker and co-hosts Jim & Carol Spry thank everyone who came to the bon fire / hay ride.

Happy Birthday to Pat & Karen Salow!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
Surprise 60th party at Pat's brothers.



Surprise .....



### **ADULT EAGLES**

by **Greg Rheeder** ([greg@eaa55.org](mailto:greg@eaa55.org))



No article this month.

### **YOUNG EAGLES**

by **Margie Clark** ([margie@eaa55.org](mailto:margie@eaa55.org))



Cooler weather is coming but if you happen to fly any youth be sure to drop off your forms at the hangar or email me your counts. We can add them up to the end of the year.

Happy Thanksgiving!

### **NOTES FROM CAPE JUBY**

by **Terry L. Lutz** ([terry.lutz@attglobal.net](mailto:terry.lutz@attglobal.net))



A terrible accident happened in Italy two weeks ago, when an Augusta Westland 609 tilt rotor aircraft caught fire and crashed. The two test pilots directed the burning aircraft toward an unpopulated area, but were lost in the accident. Their names were Herb Moran and Pietro Venanzi. Both were well known in the test pilot community, and they had done some amazing work with the AW 609, including demonstrating dual-engine failures in horizontal flight, where they had to tilt the rotors from forward flight to vertical flight, and auto-rotate to a landing.

Most of us know the concept of a tilt rotor aircraft because of the V-22 Osprey. In cooperation with Bell

Helicopters, Augusta Westland was flying two prototypes of what could become a tilt rotor aircraft for civil applications. Perhaps you are asking yourself “Why bother with such a complex design?”. The short answer is cruising speed. Most large helicopters are limited to about 160 knots in level flight. It is surprising that most of the world’s fastest helicopters are Russian-made, but take note that the fastest helicopter is the good old CH-47 Chinook. The V-22 Osprey is capable of 275 knots in level flight.

In the quest to go faster, designers have tried several different configurations. The predecessor to the V-22 Osprey was an experimental aircraft designated the XV-15, which was active in flight test in the 1980s. Then came the development of the V-22, which was costly and the program suffered several accidents along the way. Most recently, Airbus helicopters tested what was called the X3, which has two gear driven propellers mounted on each side of a conventional helicopter. This configuration holds the current helicopter speed record at 255 knots.

Sikorsky helicopter has also been in the speed game, developing a prototype helicopter called the X2, which achieved a speed of 250 knots in level flight, which won the Robert J. Collier Trophy in 2010. The X2 used coaxial (twin) rotors for torque control, and a pusher propeller mounted on the tail. Now in development by Sikorsky is the S-97 Raider, which is a production version of the X2, and will be used as a scout/attack helicopter by the military.

Civil operators of helicopters would like to go faster, which is the reason for the AW 609 development program. Augusta Westland funds the program, and whether the program will continue after the accident is uncertain. Perhaps the developments at Airbus Helicopters and Sikorsky will result in a civil helicopter with a 250-knot cruising speed. That would close the speed gap between helicopters and tilt rotors, and make the cost to go from 250 knots to 275 knots very high indeed.

In thinking about helicopters and tilt rotors, I had some thoughts about the small drones that have made so much news lately. They are essentially helicopters, with multiple rotors, and are also limited in terms of forward speed. The technology they use are small and powerful electric motors. Similar motors could be used to tilt the propellers of these

small drones to improve their forward speed. Those of you who saw the movie “Avatar” have seen this configuration in large scale. If Google and Amazon are successful in delivering packages with drones, doesn’t it make sense that they would want to do it as quickly as possible? Probably won’t work for pizza delivery, as it would be hard to keep the pizza nice and hot with all that airflow!

The title of this article is Notes From Cape Juby, which is a real place both today, and in aviation history. Each year, the French organize a trip from France to Dakar, Senegal to commemorate the route that the early airmail pilots flew for Aeropostale. Among them was Antoine de St Exupery, who for a year was the Aeropostale station manager at Cape Juby. This year, among the 24 aircraft that made the trip to Dakar was EAA member Laurent Ripert, flying an RV-4. Laurent’s RV-4 has some history as well. It was built in the U.S. and imported to the Netherlands. Laurent bought it from the Dutch owner, and it still bears Dutch registration.



The airfield at Cape Juby disappeared long ago, but for this year’s trip a new runway was created in the sandy soil. Here are two photos of Cape Juby. In the airborne picture, you can see the airfield, and in the background, the remains of the old Spanish fort that existed in the 1930s. The significance of the fort is that the Spanish would not let the French stay inside the walls. So they stayed in a building outside the walls, and had some interesting encounters with the desert tribesmen. From there came the stories of St Exupery.



Altogether, Laurent’s trip covered 5500 nm in 39 hours flying time. Because all the “stuff” needed to support the trip (oil, spares, camping gear, food, etc.), they used a huge Antonov 2 biplane as a support aircraft. According to Laurent, it was truly the trip of a lifetime.

Most people know of Antoine de St Exupery from his story “The Little Prince”. The French have made an animated film about The Little Prince, and if you happen to find a copy while browsing on Amazon, it is worth having a look. The film is very well done, and there are many stories within the story, along with some outstanding animation, color, and artwork.

We have been fortunate to enjoy some incredible weather this Fall, with light winds and warm temperatures. The flying has been great, despite the loss of all the color in the trees. The white stuff will be here all too soon, so as pilots we need to be ready and consider all the challenges that winter flying can bring, such as carburetor icing, rapid changes in visibility, and trying to fly with a lot of extra clothes on for warmth. One of the ways you can use your airplane to help foster children enjoy a nice Christmas is to participate in Operation Good Cheer on December 5<sup>th</sup>. And don’t forget to help your fellow pilots as winter approaches, because winter ops are never easy.

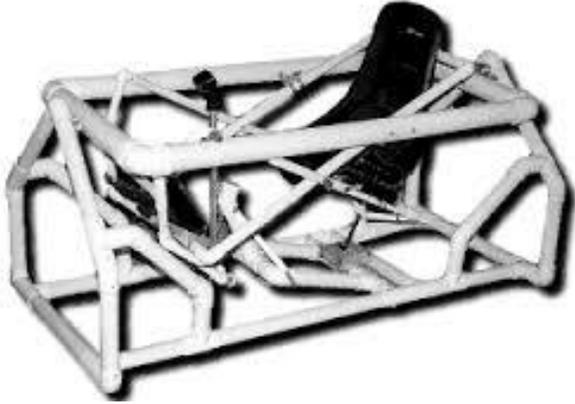
**THE EAA MISSION:** To grow participation in aviation, by inspiring people to fly, build, volunteer and outreach to promote aviation.



**TIDBITS**

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

EAA55 "JOYRIDER": Chapter 55 is looking into the purchase of plans and materials for constructing a "JoyRider". This would be a simple simulator for use to educate kids at our Young Eagle Rallies and other such exhibits. Some assembly required; would you be interested in helping?



NEWS FROM ROBERT SELIG; CRAA: I am pleased to announce that the Airport Authority has signed a lease and operating agreement with Great Lakes Air Ventures, Inc., owned by Dale Foerschler. Great Lakes Air Ventures will be operating a fixed base operation from the Airport Authority's hangar at Mason Jewett Field starting January 1, 2016. Their initial services will include the operation of a certified flight school and aircraft maintenance (airframe & power plant repair). The Airport Authority will be doing what it can to promote the availability of this new service. Presently there is a plan to hold a tenant meeting in mid-November to introduce each of you to Great Lakes and Mr. Foerschler. A following communication will be sent to provide you with the details. But of course there is no greater marketing available than from pilots and Mason airport tenants to help spread the news. It will also be important for Mason Jewett tenants to use the services of their local FBO other than the services at a neighboring airport. This is a significant opportunity for the Mason Regional Community, and we hope that the region will take full advantage of the benefits.

LCC-AVIATION TECHNOLOGY NEWS: EAA Chapter 55 extends a welcome to Mark Bathurst, the new director of the Aviation Technology Program here on Mason Jewett Field. Many of you may have taken advantage of the opportunity to meet with Mr. Bathurst at the recent LCC open house.

MEIJERS & GORDON FOODS: do you (or your spouse/significant other) shop at Meijers or Gordon Foods? If YES, ask me about how you can help our chapter with supply purchases !!

EAA55 RECYCLES: Pop cans & bottles are returned to Meijers and support our "snack sales" fund (your donation of cans & bottles are always welcome); Styrofoam cups go to Dart Container; cardboard is recycled by Karen Meirndorf (but we may be looking for a new volunteer as she moves up north; plastic, metal, glass goes to recycling centers ; Egg cartons are given to anyone who can use them or they are recycled at Dart Container; egg shells go to my garden - - and, aviation magazines go to our "FREE INFO" table for Young Eagles and fly-in events. I'd also like to note that if you have used auto/aircraft oil, it can be recycled at Family Quick Lube on Cedar Street (just about across from Friday breakfast at A&W) !!

2016 RENEWAL DUES: Renewal payments are due January 1st. Prompt payment assures your delivery of the EAA55 monthly newsletter; notification of any 55 or airport news; notification of any door code change.

NEWBERRY AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND: Would you consider a year-end tax contribution to our Newberry Aviation Scholarship Fund?? The EAA55 scholarship fund was created to provide monies to students in aviation programs. In the past decade, monies have been awarded to students in WMU Flight Training; EMU Flight Training; EMU Aviation Management; and LCC Aviation Technology programs. Scholarship awards are determined by our Chapter 55 scholarship committee's review of applications submitted. If you would like to make a donation, contact me and I can provide you with the submission information.

EAA55 MEMBERSHIP LISTING: When submitting your renewal dues, take a moment to assure that your listing in the Membership Roster at [www.eaa55.org](http://www.eaa55.org) is accurate. Up to date information means you, or someone trying to reach you, has access to the correct information.

CARDS & MEMORIALS: Do you know of a member who is ill or has had a death in the family?? Email [Vickie@eaa55.org](mailto:Vickie@eaa55.org) or 517-589-5051

**OPERATION GOOD CHEER:** This annual event will take place December 4-5. This entirely volunteer Christmas gift-giving program, sponsored and coordinated by Child and Family Services, Inc. State Office, began in 1971 by individuals who wanted to make a difference in the lives of children who reside in foster care. Recipients include infants, children, teenagers, and adults with disabilities. Over 5,000 children and youth are provided with gifts each year to open on Christmas morning and for 40 years more than 87,000 participants have had their Christmas wishes come true as a result of Operation Good Cheer volunteer efforts. Thousands of generous volunteers gather annually to participate in Operation Good Cheer. Donor groups and individuals purchase and wrap Christmas gifts from a child's "Wish List". At donor sites, these gifts are picked up and transported by volunteer trucking companies and their drivers to a centrally located airport. Pilots and drivers with their aircraft and vehicles transport the gifts to local airports across Michigan. At each airport, agency volunteers gather the gifts and deliver them to the children and youth in foster care. This impressive display of generosity provides thousands of youth, some of whom would not receive anything otherwise, with gifts and the joy of knowing there are people who care. Pilots and ground crew make this possible - attached is the 2015 Pilot Ground Crew Application.



**NOVEMBER PROGRAM:**  
**John Feldvary; B-17 "Rosie the Riveter" during WWII**  
**DECEMBER PROGRAM:**  
**Randy Coller; MDOT Seminar**  
**JANUARY PROGRAM:**  
**Phil Tartalone; The Mercury Program Seminar**

**WHY SIGN THE AIRPORT REGISTER??** Pilots are encouraged to sign the Airport Register Book at each airport. It is not mandatory. However, registering your use of the airport helps justify expenditures that support it. Also, providing a local contact will help in locating you if a problem arises with your aircraft. Please sign the register wherever you fly and also at your base airport. A register book is located at the TEW terminal and also at the EAA hangar for your convenience.



**FROM THE FLIGHT SURGEON**  
**By Gregory Pinnell, MD**  
 Senior AME/ Senior Flight Surgeon  
 USAFR  
[www.AIRDOCS.net](http://www.AIRDOCS.net)

No article this month.

Contributions to "WingTips" are welcome and can be made by contacting Deanna McAlister (zirconmoon@hotmail.com)  
 Deadline: 1st of each month.

**CHAPTER 55 CLASSIFIEDS**

**LOST & FOUND:** Unclaimed items will be washed & donated to charity at year end.

**HANGER FOR RENT:** one space in Builders Hanger; \$115 plus gas; Steve 517-290-7528

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

Projector you could donate to EAA55. We are still hoping to try to set up a movie area in the hangar for our events. Margie 517-853-1418.

**FOR SALE:**

1976 C-172M "Daisy" 160hp 960 smoh \$34,000.00  
 Call Gary Nesbitt 517-230-5585 more details.

Two McCreary Air Trac AA1E4 6.00-6 6 ply aircraft tires & tubes; new, never mounted; \$175.00; John Bobcik; 517-231-0506; [jbobcik@gmail.com](mailto:jbobcik@gmail.com)

ASA CX2 Flight Computer; a step up from the electronic E6B; in original box; works great; \$65.00; Gregory 517-315-3247

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

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

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:** Old left over EAA55 Christmas party decorations; six 8 ft. Candy Cane print table runners & ten 16 in. foam snowflakes. Plus assorted bulbs & other related decorations. Great starter ideas for table centerpieces and more. Karen Meirndorf; [krmdorf@yahoo.com](mailto:krmdorf@yahoo.com)

Contact Deanna or Vickie to place your ad here!

**POCKET CALENDAR:**

Dec 13 = EAA Christmas Party; 4:00pm

Apr 5-10 = Sun-n-Fun

Jul 25-31 = AirVenture

Sept 17 = AOPA FlyIn; Battle Creek

**WEB CALENDAR**

<http://www.eaa.org/en/eea/events>

<http://www.fly-ins.com/>

<http://www.michigan.gov/aero/>

**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: Deanna McAlister, Newsletter Editor.

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