

## EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION - CHAPTER 55

DECEMBER 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: Michael Rosencrans 517-775-1875 →Vice-President: Pat Salow 517-565-3178

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

www.EAA55.org



### CLIMB AND MAINTAIN FLIGHT LEVEL 55

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

How quickly two years have passed! It is now time for me to step down from my position as president of the chapter. These two years have passed quickly. They have also been a tremendous learning opportunity for me. Two years ago I did not know many of your names, I did not know how the chapter ran and I did not have a good understanding about what EAA was like at the local level. I did not understand the issues we face as a chapter and as a community of pilots and aviation enthusiasts. I did not realize all the hard work that goes on “behind the scenes” to keep our chapter running. I now truly understand all of these issues. We as a chapter are succeeding remarkably well. We have a great chapter made up of many individuals who work tirelessly to keep us strong and vibrant. Take a look around you at our next Young Eagle event. You will see many children and adults with smiles on their faces - all of whom are very grateful at what we do. Look around at Mason Aviation Day and notice the excitement of both young and old as they walk up to an airplane and try to imagine what it must be like to actually fly one! Watch as they enjoy their pancake breakfast or steak dinner in a hangar surrounded by the essence of aviation. That is why we do what we do as a chapter. We make a difference to all of these people.

As I step down I would like to thank Margie Clark for all of her help over these past two years – both as the chapter vice-president as well as our Young Eagle coordinator. I could NEVER have managed without

a tremendous amount of help from Vickie Vandebelt. She has so much chapter knowledge it is scary! Al Spalding keeps our finances in order so that we have an accurate idea of where we stand financially. Vickie and Al will be continuing on as officers and we will now welcome Mike Rosencrans as president and Pat Salow as vice-president. I know they will continue to lead our chapter admirably. So – thanks to everyone for all of your support and I thank you one last time. Like our national organization says – we are the spirit of aviation!



### INCOMING PRESIDENT by Michael Rosencrans

No article this month.

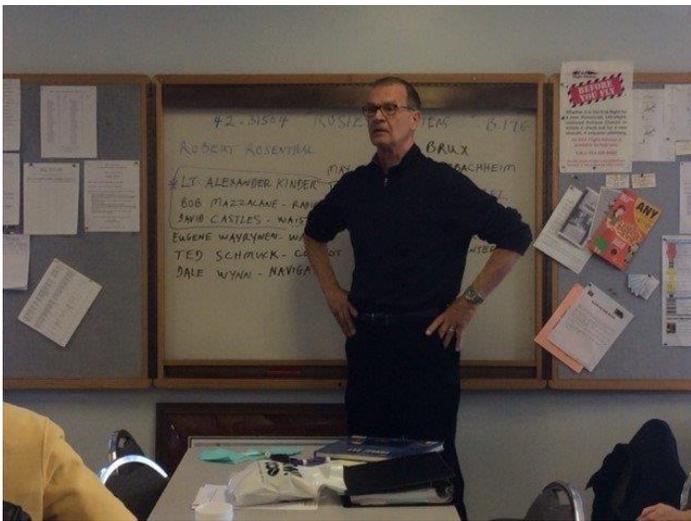
### BREAKFAST TEAMS

<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>
Stan Chubb	Lloyd Brown
Rick Dallas	John Caron
Glen Dempsey	Joe Madziar
Grant Dowell	Karen Salow
Cliff Hale	Jim Sawyer
Chuck Moore	
Dick Riisberg	
Dan Schiffer	
Margaret Schiffer	

**BOARD MEETING:** 7:00pm: Wed; December 9th  
**MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** 9:30am; Sat; December 12th with Breakfast served from 8:00am to 9:00am



November Breakfast Team; Tom Botsford; Karen Meirndorf & Bruce VanFarowe.



Great program presented by John Feldvary; history of the B-17 bomber "Rosie" on which his uncle was a member of the crew.

**DECEMBER PROGRAM:**  
 Randy Collier; MDOT Seminar  
**JANUARY PROGRAM:**  
 Phil Tartalone; Seminar

**EAA 55 Chapter 55 Board of Directors Meeting November 11, 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, Warren Miller, Dave James, Bill Purosky, Vickie Vandenbelt & Michael

Rosencrans. Absent: Jim Spry. Guests: Julie Bauer, Ken Vandenbelt. → Secretary's report 10/7/15; motion by Doug Koons; supported by Dave James; all approved. → Treasurer's report 10/31/15; motion by Vickie Vandenbelt to accept; supported by Jack Voss; all approved. → YE: Margie Clark advised that over 300 kids were flown this year; orders of YE goodies for next year have arrived. → Programs are set until February; looking for suggestions?? - road trip to B-17 Sandbar Mitchell in Brighton; NOAA; video about Bob Hoover. → Christmas Party; details set; reservations coming in; Steve Houghton will handle insurance. → Elections for Board positions; President; VP; Treasurer & Secretary. Vickie Vandenbelt advised she will stay on & Doug Koons advised that he will do Treasurer if Al Spalding will not stay on. → 2016 Chapter calendar photo committee needed. → Selection of YE of Year; Margie will advise candidates in December. → Chapter awards should be received from EAA National & EAA55 Volunteer awards will be calendars. Vickie Vandenbelt will compile list & send to Steve Houghton. → Member of the Year candidates were reviewed and selection voted. → Newberry Aviation Scholarships; Steve Houghton to send application form & info to EMU and LCC contacts to secure applicants. He will set due date to allow time for committee review with presentation for approval at the January BOD meeting. → Discussed events for 2016; board decided to hold Dawn Patrol Breakfast on June 12th and Mason Aviation Day on August 20th. YE Events will be held in June, July & August. → MACC Light Banner; Dave James made a motion to continue for three years at \$100; Jack Voss supported; all approved. → Vickie Vandenbelt advised that EAA55 now has a GFS Rewards Account to accumulate points on purchases for reward dollars. → Motion to adjourn by Doug Koons; Vickie Vandenbelt supported; meeting adjourned at 8:08pm. → Respectfully submitted, Vickie Vandenbelt, Secretary

**EAA Chapter 55 Membership Meeting November 14, 2015** → Meeting was called to order at 9:28am by Vice-President Clark with approximately 35 members and 4 guests present. → Following the National Anthem thanks were given to the breakfast crew and December crew was announced. → Guests were introduced. → Secretary's report 10/10/15; motion to accept; supported; approved. → Treasurers report 10/31/15; motion to accept; supported; approved. → YE had a great summer with 352 flown so far and a

few more coming in. →Photos for Calendar; submit digitally within two weeks. →Condolences to Gordon Hempstone on the loss of his father. →2016 dues payments are being accepted. →Elections; slate of candidates President-Michael Rosencrans; VicePresident-Pat Salow; Treasurer-Al Spalding; Secretary-Vickie Vandenbelt. VP Clark asked for further nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Bill Purosky made a motion for a show of hands to elect the slate of officers for the next two years as presented; approved by members present. →Christmas Party reservations are due by Dec 9th. →Jack Voss announced he has a remote starter for sale; \$100. →Meeting adjourned at 9:40am. →Program presented by John Feldvary; history of the B-17 bomber "Rosie the Riveter" on which his uncle was a crew member. →Respectfully submitted, Vickie Vandenbelt, Secretary.



**NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS**  
by Vickie Vandenbelt ([vickie@eaa55.org](mailto:vickie@eaa55.org))

**CONDOLENCES:** to Gordon Hempstone on the recent loss of his father.

**"THANK YOU":** to Doug Koons, Al Spalding, Jim Spry & Ken Vandenbelt for getting the picnic tables put away and winterizing the hanger.



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

Brr it's cold outside...makes for smoother flying! If you happen to take any youth flying before the end of the month be sure to let me know right away. We'll need to get them reported before the end of the month. Happy Holidays to you all! Hope we see at this month's meeting on Saturday and of course at the Christmas Party on Sunday. Happy flying!!



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

No article this month.



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

Space travel has long been imagined by thinkers both technical and whimsical. The French author Jules Verne wrote the book "From the Earth To The Moon" in 1858, and in doing so inspired many others to think about the sky and space much differently than they had before. Antoine St Exupery was no doubt thinking about space when he wrote "The Little Prince". Gene Rodenberry ignited all our imaginations when the TV series Star Trek opened with "Space – The Final Frontier".

Some us remember when Sputnik was first launched, all the way back in October 1957. It generated new awareness of space, and offered a glimmer of hope that man could someday leave the earth and travel in space. Slowly, we began to achieve those goals, through Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, and the Space Shuttle. Who among us will ever forget President John F Kennedy's message to all Americans when he said:

"I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the Earth."

Neal Armstrong stepped onto the moon's surface in July 1969, less than 12 years after the launch of Sputnik. Incredible progress had been made to explore the final frontier. Access to space and the means to get there has been essentially the property of the countries with the money and the ambition to go there.

Today, leaving the earth's surface is at a crossroads. In much the same way that airplanes were initially purchased and operated by the government, several companies are now actively pursuing launch capability, to put payloads in orbit, and for space tourism. We all know about Richard Branson and Virgin Galactic, who will use White Knight Two to launch Space Ship Two and carry passengers on a suborbital flight (to about 350,000', or about 60 miles above the earth's surface).

One of the important factors in civilian space flight is a good balance between payload cost, profit, and the

ability to use the launch vehicle(s) over again. Who knows how many billions of dollars of launch vehicles, brand new, used only once, are at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean east of Cape Canaveral. Virgin Galactic will use two re-usable vehicles. In fact, Richard Branson has even more launch prospects in mind, and recently announced that he will use a B-747 as the first stage to launch a rocket into orbit. The launch vehicle will be carried under the left wing on a pylon designed to carry/ferry a spare engine.

Another company in the space tourism business is Blue Origin. Their concept is rather conventional. The vehicle consists of a rocket booster with a man-carrying capsule on top. The capsule will be carried to the edge of space on a suborbital flight, and return by parachute. The rocket boost will return vertically through the atmosphere, using drag panels at the top to stabilize it and keep it from tumbling. Then the rocket engine will have to re-ignite at about 10,000' to slow the descent and begin maneuvering to the landing pad. Blue Origin recently demonstrated this very difficult maneuver with mind-boggling precision. Here is a link to the video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pillaOxGCo>

What they've accomplished is both exciting and historic. It is the first tiny step for them, just like SpaceShipOne was for Virgin Galactic. In the video, you will notice that the vehicle is stable in vertical descent until the rocket motor fires, then it becomes VERY unstable, and the rocket motor has to gimbal continuously to maintain the flight path. It becomes even more difficult as the vehicle makes several final corrections to land vertically right in the center of the landing pad. My guess is that the rocket has very little control margin between stability and loss of control, and it must be done in totally calm conditions. Take a close look at the faces of the launch and recovery crew – they are young, confident, and energetic, much like the original pioneers of aviation. This is just the beginning for them.

Two other companies are going to orbit to re-supply the International Space Station. They are Orbital ATK, which on December 7<sup>th</sup> carried 7400 lbs of supplies to the ISS. However, they did with an Atlas V launch vehicle, which was expended into the ocean. The other company supplying the ISS is Space-X, founded by Elon Musk, who is also the

CEO of Tesla Motors, maker of the high-end electric cars. He is modern equivalent of thinkers from the old Lockheed Skunk Works. The first stage from the Space-X launch vehicle is also designed to land vertically. They've tried at least three times to land on a barge positioned in the Atlantic, and each time they've come close, but lost the vehicle. The difference between Blue Origin and Space-X is that the Space-X vehicle is much larger and must return from space rather than the upper atmosphere.

We should all realize that these are exciting and historic times for access to space. These recent launches prove that there are still people with vision who want to advance human endeavor and explore the final frontier.

Here on earth, some equally cool things have happened. Burt Rutan's SkiGull has flown out in Idaho. The test pilot reported good handling qualities, and Burt reported that all the sanding fiberglass work was a real pain and he won't do that again! Here is a link to the story:  
<http://www.flyingmag.com/news/burt-rutans-skigull-takes-skies?cmpid=enews112515&spPodID=030&spMailingID=24085113&spUserID=ODQ4ODIxMTUwMzgS1&spJobID=682511458&spReportId=NjgYNTExNDU4S0>

A replica of the Spirit of St Louis was recently flown at Old Rhinebeck aerodrome in New York. It appears to be a very accurate replica, with drawings and measurements taken from the real Spirit as it is displayed in the Smithsonian. Here is the link to video of the first engine start and taxi tests:  
<http://oldrhinebeck.org/ORA/old-rhinebecks-spirit-of-st-louis-performs-engine-taxi-tests/> It was exciting to watch the Wright J-5 engine come to life and spit fire out those short exhaust stacks. While it taxied, I was captured by the completely straight wing with no dihedral, and how much it looked like movies of the real Spirit with Charles Lindberg at the controls.

After a morning of very dense fog, we departed Mason at 1330 bound for Pontiac and Operation Good Cheer. I don't have any final numbers, but we did carry 33 packages and 2 small bicycles to the airport at Caro (up in the thumb area). We were met by a great ground crew, and the Mayor of Caro. Here is a photo of all the good cheer we could carry.

With all the fog lately, you'd think we lived in jolly old England. They're used to fog and bone-chilling cold! It has been great weather for doing almost anything outside, as much as you can do in December. But there is more white stuff in store, so remember to take it slow when aviating. Pre-heat your airplane, don't over-prime and risk a fire, and remember to lend a hand to your fellow pilot just when they really need it.



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



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

**NEW MEMBERS:** Chapter 55 welcomes new member Chris Salow, along with new student members Hunter McBee and Jerrod Gardner.

**CRAA TENANTS MEETING:** Jon Vrabel held a meeting on November 19th to bring tenants up to date on info at TEW. He introduced Dale Foerschler who will operate the FBO Great Lakes Air Ventures at Mason. GLAV will operate out of the terminal building and the CRAA hanger on the field. Annuals & light maintenance will be provided. Dale would like to know what you would like the FBO to have on hand; suggestions oil, grease; windshield washing fluid - let him know.

[greatlakesairventures@gmail.com](mailto:greatlakesairventures@gmail.com)  
Biz 517-980-1281 Cell 701-330-9630

**CRAA SNOW PLAN:** Information about the snow removal for 2015/2016 will be sent to tenants by CRAA. GLAV will be assisting Johnny George should it be necessary.

**GATE CODE CHANGE:** will be effective the week of 1/4/2016. The new code will be provided to tenants of record with CRAA. It will also be provided to EAA55 members of good standing.

**AIRPORT OPERATIONS:** Personnel are available 24/7. If you encounter anything amiss at the airport, call 517-331-8525

**PIETENPOL PROJECT:** Received flyer from a gentleman who has one for sale. Attached a copy to this newsletter.

**OLDEST FULL-TIME PARK RANGER  
CHOSEN TO LIGHT WHITE HOUSE**

**CHRISTMAS TREE:** (AP post dated 11/26/2015)  
A 94-year-old San Francisco Bay area U.S. park ranger says she has been asked to light the National Christmas Tree at the White House. Betty Soskin says she was absolutely stunned by last week's invitation. Soskin works as an interpretive ranger at the Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historic Park in Richmond. The Richmond resident is the oldest full-time park ranger in the country. Not only will she light the tree next Thursday at the White House, she will also introduce President Barack Obama. Soskin made headlines two years ago when she complained about the government furlough saying at her age she didn't have time to waste sitting at home.



**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](mailto: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

**FOR SALE:**  
1976 C-172M 160hp 970 smoh \$29,000.00  
OBO Call Gary Nesbitt 517-230-5585 for 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

Air compressor; super whiz-bang air ; finest unit Harbor Freight has to sell with 3hp motor; 21 gallon tank; wheels & nice, long cord. Here are some absolutely true facts about this compressor;  
-It was not used to inflate footballs for the New England Patriots;  
-it was used only on Sunday by a little old lady from Pasadena to put air in the tires of her super stock Dodge;



-George Lucas based the design of the droid R2-D2 on this compressor; it actually compresses air!  
-It is located at the Mason Airport, and there will be free demonstrations to anyone interested.  
-Transportation will be provided for the lucky buyer. -  
-Harbor Freight currently

offers at 21 gallon compressor for \$179, but it has a wimpy 2.5 hp motor. This magnificent creation can be yours for half that price! \$89.50; Terry Lutz; 517-655-6577

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

**Contact Deanna or Vickie to place your ad here!**

## **POCKET CALENDAR:**

Dec 13 = EAA Christmas Party; 4:00pm

### **2016:**

Apr 5-10 = Sun-n-Fun

Jun 11 = EAA55 Young Eagles

Jun 12 = EAA55 Dawn Patrol

Jul 9 = EAA55 Young Eagles

Jul 10 = EAA55 57th Anniv Potluck

Jul 25-31 = AirVenture

Aug 13 = EAA55 Young Eagles

Aug 20 = Mason Aviation Day

Aug 20-21 = Thunder Over Michigan

Sept 17 = AOPA FlyIn; Battle Creek

Dec TBD = EAA55 Christmas Party

## **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.

**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.



**Owen J. Baggett became legendary as the only person to have downed a Japanese aircraft with a M1911 pistol hitting the pilot in the head while he was parachuting.**