



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**

Time for a Field Trip!

When is the last time you took a field trip? This Saturday, we will be taking a field trip to the AirZoo museum in Kalamazoo! All Chapter members, family and friends are welcome to take a trip with us immediately after the Saturday meeting to visit the AirZoo. If you have never been, this is an amazing museum. One can easily spend an entire day wandering through the exhibits.

There are over 50 aircraft on display including a replica of the first Wright Flyer, World War II era fighters and bombers, modern jets including the F-14 and the SR-71B Blackbird. There are special exhibits on the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame, National Guadalcanal Memorial Museum, Women in Aviation and Space, and Space: Dare to Dream. They also have full motion flight simulators, a 26' indoor Ferris Wheel, numerous children's activities and a 3D theater. We also plan to visit their restoration building!

In addition, this Saturday is scheduled as an "open cockpit day". You will have the opportunity to sit in the cockpits of some of the most famous aircraft in history! On Saturday, the museum's Skyraider and Ford Tri-Motor are available to sit in. Tickets for the museum are only \$10 and veterans get in free. I hope to see all of you for this exciting event!

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



January Breakfast Team: Karen & Pat Salow; John Caron and Jim Sawyer

**BREAKFAST TEAMS**

<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
Kirk Curtiss	Doug Coleman
Kyle Curtiss	Ray Fink
Joe Madziar	Sean Mullaly
Dave Groh	Jeff Shaud
Greg & Karen Hover	Phil Tartalone
Joe Pirch	Janine Gaboury
Tom Schroeder	Carl Zayatz

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

**EAA Chapter 55 Board Meeting January 7, 2015**

→Meeting called to order at 7:02pm by President Steve Houghton →Present: Steve Houghton, Margie Clark, Al Spalding; Vickie Vandenbelt; Bob Clark; Doug Koons; Dave James; Bill Purosky; Jack Voss; Michael Rosencrans. Absent: Warren Miller; Jim Spry. Guest: Ken Vandenbelt. →Secretary's Report 12/9/14; Dave James moved to accept; Jack Voss supported; all approved. →Treasurers Report 12/31/14; Bill Purosky moved to accept; Jack Voss

supported; all approved. →YE; no report. →Adult Eagles; no report. →Membership; planned solicitation to mail to 100 prospects; Vickie Vandenbelt to secure list from EAA; Steve Houghton will look into securing list of pilots in our area. →Flying Coordinators; Steve Houghton will pick a date/destination; tentatively Grand Haven. →Program Coordinator; still no volunteer; February will be trip to Kzoo Air Zoo. →Safety Officers; Terry Lutz & Dan Schiffer tentative plan to meet with member pilots in May. →2015 Christmas party; Al Spalding to reserve Eldorado for Sunday, Dec 13th; 4:00pm; deposit approved. →Phil Tartalone donated a tug to chapter; needs minor repair. →Movie Night will be moved to terminal due to gate locked at 8pm. →Dues Contest; Al Spalding will have all set up for Saturday. →Scholarship Committee announced suggested recipients; Jack Voss made a motion to award \$1500 to Christopher Carmody (EMU Pilot Program); \$1000 to Jordan Lewis (EMU Management Program); \$1000 to Kelsey White (LCC Maintenance Program); Dave James supported; further discussion ensued & Jack Voss modified his motion to include \$800 to Wyatt Holmes (LCC Maintenance Program) to emphasize the high quality of applications this year; supported & approved. →2015 Calendar; discussed & will collect pictures for a 2016 calendar. →Rugs for meeting room purchased (thank you, Warren).

Smith Mini project; no news. →2015 Chapter renewal & agreement is on line with no way to print. Steve Houghton called EAA & should get written agreement back within 2 weeks. →Door entry code has been changed. →Awards; will do Member of Year at meeting. →MDOT contacted Steve Houghton to list 2015 events in the Airport Directory. →Builders Hanger heater; options but no solution yet; maybe shroud or move intake. →56th Anniversary Potluck; July 12th; Jack Voss also considering a kick-off dinner in spring. →Event Flyers; Vickie Vandenbelt to present draft copies by March meeting & check on ride-hopping. →Gate Security discussed. →Jim Spry proposed chapter get new TV; he will check prices & sizes. →Bill Purosky said there are 3 members left on snail mail & asked if he should mail; Board agreed no longer mailed as of 1/1/15. →Jack Voss made a motion to adjourn; Doug Koons supported; adjourned at 8:32pm. →Respectfully submitted, Vickie Vandenbelt, Secretary

### **EAA Chapter 55 Membership Meeting-January 10, 2015**

→President Houghton called the meeting to order at 9:25am with approximately 38 members & 5 guests present. →Following the National Anthem, we thanked the breakfast team & January team was announced. →Guests were introduced. →Secretary's Report 12/13/14; not available & moved to February meeting. →Treasurer's report 12/31/14; moved to accept; supported & approved. →Movie Night Friday was held at terminal. →Christmas Party; Eldorado reserved for Sunday, 12/13/15; 4:00pm. →56th Anniversary Potluck set for 7/12/15. →WANTED: Newsletter Editor; Program Coordinator; Events Coordinator. →2015 Chapter Calendars still available for \$8 each. And, start working on your photo submissions for the 2016 calendar. →Rugs; new floor rugs in place thanks

to Warren Miller. →February program will be a road trip to the Kzoo Air Zoo after the meeting. →Smith Mini project is still available. →Dues Contest drawing; TradeAPlane subscription to Ellen Cavenagh; TradeAPlane subscription to John Bobcik; \$25 Meijer Card to Rosie Duckworth; Weather Station to Dan Schiffer who donated it to EAA55 for our building. →Dan Schiffer advised he is setting up a base station for use at YE events, etc. →Newberry Aviation Scholarships have been awarded & students have been asked to our February meeting for introductions. →Margie Clark presented 2014 Member of Year Award to Joe Madziar - congratulations, Joe! →Gate to the Airport Operating Area is manned by security then locked from 8pm to 6am. Automatic gate should be operational by end of February. →Meeting adjourned at 9:50am; program by Mike Snaer; FAA; followed. →Respectfully submitted, Vickie Vandenbelt, Secretary



### **TIDBITS**

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

### **NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS - FEB 2015:** **CONGRATULATIONS** to our MEMBER OF

THE YEAR 2014 = Joe Madziar. Joe has worked very hard for our chapter ever since he joined in 2008. He is a past director; events planning & events team coordinator and is now our Breakfast Team Coordinator.

THANK YOU to Julie & Al Spalding for the donation of another roaster! This will be so handy for our events.

### **TIDBITS - FEBRUARY 2015**

NEW MEMBERS: Chapter 55 recently awarded Newberry Aviation Scholarships to two LCC students and two EMU students. EAA55 has also extended Honorary Memberships to these students and we welcome honorary members Christopher Carmody; Wyatt Holmes; Jordan Lewis; and Kelsey White.

NEWS FROM AOPA: For the first time in years, President Barack Obama's new budget proposal does not include any new user fees for general aviation. Past budgets from the Obama administration have proposed a \$100-per-flight fee for GA, but that idea has met with strong opposition from AOPA and others, including GA supporters in Congress who have repeatedly written to the White House insisting they would not support such a fee. "After years of fighting to protect pilots from arbitrary fees and charges, we're pleased to see that the White House has finally taken our message to heart and acknowledged that user fees on general aviation are a non-starter," said AOPA President Mark Baker. "This is a big victory for the future of general aviation, but we'll continue to keep a close watch to make sure this bad idea doesn't re-emerge as it has in the past." More at <http://www.aopa.org/News-and-Video/All-News/2015/February/03/No-user-fees-in-White-House-budget-plan>

PHOTOS: don't forget to be taking pictures for submission to the committee for the 2016 EAA Chapter 55 calendar !

**UPDATE ON GARY LONG:** Karen Meirndorf saw Rose Long a week or so ago. Rose is doing well under the circumstances of handling Gary's care. But, Gary is still not doing well at all. He has leukemia and meningitis. He is very thankful to have Rose to care for him and keep him company but he does not want any visitors or phone calls. He knows he will not get better. "Thinking of You" cards can be sent to 406 Birdsnest Lane; Mason, MI 48854.

**RETIRE OLD FLAGS WITH DIGNITY:** The Browne/Cavender American Legion Post 148 of Mason has installed a refurbished old mail drop box on the north side of the Mason Historical Museum at the corner of Barnes & Oak Street for people to drop off their faded and tattered American flags. The Legion will retire the flags with dignity at a special ceremony. If you leave them at the Chapter, I will see that they get to the drop box also.

**INDOOR FLYING SEASON:** check out these sights for the latest info. Pottersville High School <https://sites.google.com/site/pottersvilleindoorflying/> or Holt High School <https://sites.google.com/site/holtindoorflyingclub/>

**MEMBERSHIP DUES:**

In order to remain a member in good standing, Chapter 55 dues for 2015 must be paid by February 15th. Those who have not paid will be removed from the chapter newsletter and email list. Paying dues on time saves our Newsletter Editor and Webmaster a lot of grief. Thank you.

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



**YOUNG EAGLES**

**By Margie Clark (Margie@EAA55.org)**

The wind is blowing and the temperatures are hitting the single digits but it's still time to think about the summer months ahead. Before we know it June will be upon us with 3 preset flying dates to prepare for, those being for Young Eagles. We flew 334 youth in 2015 with the help of our many volunteers. Hopefully we will exceed that number in 2015. We do have to rely on the weather being cooperative but we also are in need of pilots and ground crew. We hope to have our pilots return from past years as well as some new ones. If you are not sure about flying please consider working as ground crew. We always can use more help in that capacity as well.

Stay warm, stay safe...

**Congrats to Joe Madziar on having been chosen as our member of the year.**

Joe does a lot behind the scenes that folks probably don't even know about. Besides being here at 6 in the morning to help Bill Purosky set the kitchen up for our meeting

day breakfasts he works the Dawn Patrol and MAD events



arriving at 5am to get the grills warmed and sausages cooking. Joe is a former officer and board member and our local plumber if needed. He also has volunteered to help as ground crew for our Young Eagle events. Please congratulate him on this honorary nomination.

Margie Clark  
Vice President

**ADULT EAGLES**

**By Gregory Rheeder (Greg@EAA55.org)**  
Nothing to report this month.



**NOTES FROM CAPE JUBY**

**By Terry L. Lutz  
Chapter 55 Flight Advisor**

Space shuttle mission STS-4 was flown by Ken Mattingly and Henry Hartsfield in the shuttle Columbia. They launched on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1982 and landed on the hard surface Runway 22 at Edwards AFB on July 4<sup>th</sup> of that year. I was an Air Force Captain at the time, and assigned as the landing field support coordinator between the Air Force and the NASA. It was not unusual to meet the astronauts during planning meetings, the most interesting of whom had to be Deke Slayton.

For the July 4<sup>th</sup> landing, the White House wanted President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy to be present for the landing. Talk about pressure to have good weather, to land on time, and for the astronauts to be able to salute the Commander and Chief while standing in a space suit and just getting your legs back after 7 days of weightlessness!

The Air Force built a special reviewing platform for the Reagans, which was located out in the lakebed adjacent to the final approach course to the runway, affording an unbelievable view of the Shuttle as it approached and touched down. The Reagans actually went out to the runway and met the crew immediately after the Shuttle was secured. From there, they went to the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility (now named the Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center) where the President gave a speech.

It was planned that the B747 serving as a shuttle carrier aircraft (SCA) would takeoff from lakebed runway Runway 23 with the shuttle Challenger mounted on top (which was just been completed and was being flown from Edwards AFB to Cape Kennedy to be prepared for launch). I was working in the Dryden control room, and the NASA public relations people wanted me to call the B747 pilot on the



radio when the President reached a specific point in his speech. Talk about hanging on every word! But the time came, and I pushed the mike button and said, "OK, Fitz, start your takeoff roll".

NASA pilot Fitzhugh "Fitz" Fulton pushed the power up and made a graceful takeoff and climbing turn over the Dryden facility that must have been a photographer's dream. It was the first time anyone could recall that such a large and heavily loaded airplane had departed the lakebed. A huge cloud of dust was created, and when the Air Force when out the next day to inspect the runway, they found 4 deep ruts created by the 4 JT-9 engines operating at high power. Maintenance teams had to dig material from the sides of the lakebed to fill in the ruts. Lakebed Runway 23 was closed for nearly a year so that winter rains and wind could effectively re-surface it.

Fitz Fulton was a fixture around Edwards, a tall and lanky guy with a happy smile and bright outlook. He once owned a Meyer Little Toot biplane and a Cessna 170, which he kept at the airport in Mojave, CA. Fitz passed away on February 4<sup>th</sup>, at the age of 89.

The following are the highlights of his career, as summarized by the Society of Experimental Test Pilots:

"Fitzhugh L. "Fitz" Fulton Jr. was born in Blakely, Georgia and held a Bachelor's degree from Golden Gate University. He had extensive test piloting experience with the United States Air Force where he was Chief of the Bomber Transport Operations Test Division at Edwards Air Force Base and with the NASA Ames Dryden Flight Research Center as Chief Test Pilot until retiring in July 1986. He joined Scaled Composites in October 1986 as Flight Operations Director and Chief Research Pilot.

He had more than 15,000 flight hours in over 225 different airplane types and tested most of the military bombers and transports developed during 1956 - 1986. Some of his most significant flight testing included B-58 development, XB-70 research, NASA YF-12 Supersonic Research, 747 shuttle carrier airplane and launch pilot dropping the X-1, X-2, X-15, M-2, HL-10 and the X-24 rocket airplanes from B-29 and B-52 airplanes. With Scaled Composites, he conducted flight tests on several airplanes and made first flights on the Advanced Technology Tactical Transport (ATTT) and the Model 143 twin-engine executive style transport.

Fulton is a recipient of the Harmon International Trophy presented by President Johnson in 1963 as the "World's Outstanding Aviator for 1962" as a result of test flying in the B-58 airplane. He received the Iven C. Kincheloe Award in 1977. He is a graduate of the USAF Test Pilot School and was selected as their first "Distinguished Alumnus." While with the Air Force, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross four times for test and combat flight achievements and during his work with NASA was presented two NASA Exceptional Service Medals."

Can you even imagine flying airplanes from the B-58 supersonic bomber to the B-747? Can you even imagine

flying both the B-29 and B-52 and dropping airplanes like our country's first supersonic aircraft and the legendary X-15? Fitz was an amazing man and he had an amazing career.

I was reading the most recent issue of Aviation Week and Space Technology magazine a few days ago, and despite having an article about a ship (still trying to figure out how a ship fits in with aviation and space), it had more interesting articles than I normally find in a year. This makes up for the previous issue, where they named Vladimir Putin as aerospace and defense person of the year. They even had his picture on the cover! Anyway, here are just two highlights:

1. Boeing and SpaceX are each under contract to take men into space to work at the International Space Station. SpaceX has the lead, as they have been launching resupply missions to the ISS for more than a year with their Dragon vehicle. They will fly an unmanned mission late in 2016, and expect to fly a manned mission in 2017. The Boeing CST-100 is scheduled to fly both an unmanned mission and the first manned mission in 2017. Both spacecraft will hold 3 astronauts, and reduce the cost of flying aboard the Soyuz capsule by \$18million *per seat*. What is really significant is that it marks the return of a US capability to access space with astronauts. If I were a young person wanting to break into the growing space industry, I would sit up and take notice!
2. A UAV named Orion, built by Aurora Flight Sciences completed an 80 hr endurance flight in the skies over the Mojave Desert. It flew in an altitude range of 4,500 to 10,000 feet, and was powered by two diesel engines. In doing so, it set a new FAI record (to be validated), and is well along toward the goal of a flight lasting 120 hours (hmm, let's see that's about 5 days in the air). When it landed, it still had 1700 lbs (about 280 gallons) of fuel on board, enough for an additional 37 hours in the air. The downside is that it is completely automatic. There is no human involvement; no mode buttons, and no joystick.

The skies will brighten soon, but beware of the winds of late winter and Spring. And always remember to be ready, and to lend a hand when you can. It really does make a difference.



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

The Federal Air Surgeon's office came out with the latest and hopefully last version of policy on Sleep Apnea in pilots. This is a dramatic departure from the original version we saw last year which resulted in a large backlash amongst the aviation industry stakeholders. Below is a summary of the new policy and please feel free to write or call with questions!

Major Points in the New Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) Screening Guidance:

- No disqualification of pilots based on Body Mass Index (BMI) alone.  
The risk of OSA is determined by an integrated assessment of history, symptoms, and physical/clinical findings.
- The OSA screening process must be completed by the AME using the American Academy of Sleep Medicine guidance to be provided by reference material incorporated in the Guide for Aviation Medical Examiners (AME).
- Documentation of the OSA screening can be provided by the AME simply by checking the appropriate block while completing the airman's 8500-8.
- Pilots determined to be at significant OSA risk will be issued a medical certificate and referred for an evaluation.
- OSA evaluations may be completed by any physician (including the AME), not just sleep specialists, using the American Academy of Sleep Medicine's guidance.
- Evaluations do Not require a laboratory sleep study or even a home study if the evaluating physician determines the airman does not require it.
- Results of the evaluations can be given to the AME, forwarded to the Aerospace Medical Certification Division (AMCD), or sent to the Regional Flight Surgeon's (RFS's) office within 90 days of the FAA exam to satisfy the evaluation requirement. The pilot continues to fly during this period.
- If the pilot needs additional time beyond 90 days to complete the evaluation, a 30-day extension will be granted by the AMCD or the RFS on request.
- Pilots diagnosed with OSA can send documentation of effective treatment to the AMCD or the RFS's office in order to receive consideration for a Special Issuance medical certificate.
- The FAA will send the pilot a Special Issuance letter documenting the follow-up tests required and timing of the reports.
- Most follow-up reports will only require usage data from the CPAP machine and a brief statement from a physician.

Fly Safe!

Airdocs Aeromedical Support Services  
MBS International  
[www.AIRDOCS.net](http://www.AIRDOCS.net)  
989-245-4494  
517-580-0970 Fax



## CHAPTER 55 HUMOR

### Nothing funny about winter?!!

**Just a note, everything is sunny about winter, in Florida. In the 70's everyday, being outdoors everyday, tripping everyday, eating out everyday, etc. etc. No snow shoveling any day. Just rubbing it in fellow member's**

**Warren and Bonnie in Frostproof Fla.  
See ya in May.**

## 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

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

Stratus I (First Generation) ADS-B Receiver; works great with Foreflight; \$250; 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; some parts; 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

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

## POCKET CALENDAR

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 13 = EAA Christmas Party; 4:00pm

**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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*Wingtips* →

