



**EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION - CHAPTER 55**

**MARCH 2016**

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 Vandenbelt 517-589-5051 → Editor: Deanna McAlister 517-795-8171

[www.EAA55.org](http://www.EAA55.org)



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

by Michael Rosencrans

([president@eaa55.org](mailto:president@eaa55.org))

No article this month.



February Breakfast Team: George Spencer; Julie Bauer; Dave Groh. Not Shown: Gary Nicola; Joe Pirch; Tom Schroeder.

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

**BREAKFAST TEAMS:**

<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>
Doug Coleman	Dick & Barb Bacon
Ward Harris	Don Frank
Sean Mullaly	Don & Deanna McAlister
Scott Sharkey	George Moore
Jeff Shaud	Ken Vandenbelt
Carl Zayatz	

**MARCH PROGRAM:**  
Terry Urban; Packing Parachutes  
**APRIL PROGRAM:**  
B-25 Sandbar Mitchell; Road Trip (tentative)  
**MAY PROGRAM:**  
TBD  
**JUNE-JULY-AUGUST:**  
Young Eagle Rallys  
**SEPTEMBER PROGRAM:**  
Phil Tartalone; Pilot Fatigue

## **EAA 55 Chapter 55 Board of Directors Meeting February 10, 2016**

→ Meeting called to order at 7:10pm at the Mason terminal building by President Michael Rosencrans. Present: Michael Rosencrans, Pat Salow, Al Spalding, Bob Clark, Dave James, Doug Koons, Bill Purosky, Jack Voss. Absent: Warren Miller, Jim Spry, Vickie Vandebelt. Guests: Margie Clark, Julie Bauer. → Secretary's report 1/6/16; motion by Jack Voss to accept minutes as published in the February WingTips, supported by Doug Koons, all approved. → Treasurer's report 1/31/16; motion by Dave James to accept; supported by Jack Voss, all approved. → Software update for the chapter website; Michael Rosencrans will discuss with Craig. → Pancake Mix purchased from Plymouth-Mettatal; Bill Purosky will contact them about bad packages. → Calendars; still have over 30 to sell. → Saturday program will be a tour of Mason FBO; Great Lakes Air Ventures; after the membership meeting. → Doug Koons suggested that the new officers go to the free EAA Chapter Leadership Training at OshKosh. → Discussed the new EAA Youth Protection Policy. Margie Clark will provide information to members at the February Membership meeting. → Motion adjourn; meeting adjourned at about 8:05pm. → Respectfully submitted, Pat Salow, Acting Secretary

## **EAA Chapter 55 Membership Meeting February 13, 2016**

→ Dale Foerschler; Great Lakes Air Venture; asked to say a few words before the start of the meeting. Great Lakes will be taking over all airport services with an FBO at the terminal soon. 24/7 contact available 701-330-9630. Maintenance Shop 8:00am-4:00pm in the CRAA hanger just as you enter the Airport Operating Area. Great Lakes now has ten planes for flight training and recently secured a contract to train 150 Israeli. → Meeting was called to order at 9:33am by President Rosencrans with approximately 36 members and 8 guests present. → Following the National Anthem, thanks were given to the breakfast crew and March team was announced. → Guests were introduced. → Secretary's report 1/9/15; motion to accept; supported; approved. → Treasurers report 1/31/16; motion to accept; supported; approved. → Chapter dues still being accepted. → YE; Margie Clark provided information on the new EAA Youth Protection Program; online training; certificate of completion. Arrangements can be made to help anyone needing assistance with the online training. The chapter needs to know who will

be able to work our rallies. → Also need donation of gently used boat cushions for use as "booster seats" for smaller kids. → Bob Clark clarified that scout masters supervise the scouts at our events so that is not a issue with the Youth Protection Program. → WANTED: Program or Events or Scholarship coordinator - would you consider assisting your chapter?? → Calendars; for sale \$8.00 each. → Newberry Aviation Scholarship recipient Jordan Jones was introduced and addressed the membership. Jordan was presented with various chapter gifts and an honorary membership in our Chapter. → Meeting adjourned at 10:01am. A short walk/drive to Great Lakes AirVentures for a tour followed. → Respectfully submitted, Vickie Vandebelt, Secretary.



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

**CONGRATULATIONS:** Tom Botsford on being chosen to receive the Mason Area Chamber of Commerce Presidents Award. Pictured here with Karen Meirndorf at the MACC Awards Banquet on February 10th. Well done, Tom !!



**CONGRATULATIONS:** Jordan Jones has been named the recipient of our 2015-2016 Newberry Aviation Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.

Jordan is a student in the Lansing Community College Aviation Technology Program at Mason Jewett Field. Jordan was chosen by our scholarship committee based on a combination of academic achievement and defined goals for the future. In addition to the scholarship, EAA55 has provided Jordan with chapter gifts and an honorary chapter membership.



Shown: EAA55 Vice President Pat Salow (L); Jordan Jones (C); and EAA55 President Michael Rosencrans (R)



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

Time is moving too fast...before we know it YE Rally time will be here. Are you ready to volunteer a few hours to show the youth that come to our rallies what aviation can be about? I sure hope so!

The updated policy for Young Eagles-specific requirements is available at [www.EAA.org/YouthProtection](http://www.EAA.org/YouthProtection). At this site you can also access the Youth Protection Training and/or the background check form. If you are a pilot you have to take both the training and the background check. It is recommended that all volunteers take the training and test in order to have extra helpers in other areas. It is for the protection of our members as well as the program. As many have already come to me and stated they have to do the same thing for their churches and schools so they are completing the forms. I thank you all for your time and consideration of participating in this great

program.

Please send me an email if you have completed the program so I may add you to the list. Several pilots have already contacted me as well as ground crew.

Cleaning out the garage or thinking about emptying the boat? If you happen to have any unused boat cushions just lying around please consider donating them to the Young Eagles program. We would be using them for boosters for some of our shorter passengers.



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

Hello All. As Adult Eagle coordinator I'm always looking for volunteer pilots. This goes along with my looking for new men and women for the program. This month I'd like to ask if any home builders would like to share their experience of building a plane with future pilots/builders. As always, I will pre-screen the individuals you will meet.

If you have questions or suggestions for me or the A/E program feel free to ask. Come on spring and come on summer. Let's fly!



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

The world has lost a giant among test pilots. Eric Melrose "Winkle" Brown flew west on 21 February 2016 at the age of 97. He was a British man who both witnessed history and made history in the many years he was involved in aviation and test flying. His first flight was in an old biplane with his father, and he knew at once that he was destined to be a pilot.

In 1936, he and his father attended the Olympic games in Berlin. They watched as Jesse Owens won several medals in front of Adolf Hitler. During their visit, Ernst Udet offered Eric a ride in a Bucker Jungmann. Ernst Udet was an Ace in WWI, second only to the Red Baron himself, Manfred von Richthofen. After the flight, which included some intense aerobatics and an inverted approach to the

runway, Udet told Eric he should learn to speak German and learn to fly.



Eric did just that, and returned to Germany in 1938 as part of the British diplomatic corps. Arrested by the SS on 3 September 1938, the day the war began between Britain and Germany, he was eventually escorted to the Swiss border and released. Since he was already a pilot, he was asked to join the Fleet Air Arm. His first carrier landing was in a Gloster Gladiator biplane, and he quickly transitioned to the American-built Grumman Wildcat. Eric was assigned to the HMS Audacity, which had been a banana boat until Churchill ordered that the top be cleaned off and a carrier deck installed.

While protecting the Atlantic Convoys from bomber attack, the HMS Audacity was sunk by a German U-Boat. Eric and one other pilot were the only survivors. He was then posted to the British flight test establishment at Boscombe Down. Because he had been a naval pilot, Eric began testing aircraft of all types on the carrier. He made the first carrier landing ever with a DH 98 Mosquito. At the time, the Mosquito had a faster approach speed and was twice as heavy as any airplane that had previously landed on a British carrier.

When the V-1 “buzz bomb” began attacking Britain, Eric was part of the effort to defeat the V-1 by pulling alongside, putting the wing of a Hawker Tempest just 6 inches under the wing of the V-1. The airflow above the wing of the Tempest would cause the V-1 to roll and defeat the gyro stabilization system, sending it into a steep dive.

Since Eric was fluent in German, as the war began to end, he was sent to Germany on a special mission. He was part of the British 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, which liberated the concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen on 15 April 1945. This was the camp where Anne Frank died just a few months earlier. Eric was the first to interview Camp Commandants Joseph Kramer and Irma Grese, who were later convicted of war crimes.

Then Eric began flight trials in most of the German aircraft at the time, including the Me163 rocket powered interceptor and the Me262 jet fighter. He recalled that the Me163 was extremely dangerous because of the explosive nature of the fuel used, which was methanol-based hydrazine with hydrogen peroxide as the oxidizer. But it had excellent flying qualities, despite being a completely tail-less airplane. It was very fast, but if the critical Mach number was exceeded, it suffered from both flutter and Mach tuck. Eric found that the Me262 was a formidable weapon, mainly because of its speed and 24 folding fin rockets under the wings and 4 Mk108 30mm cannons mounted in the nose. (You can read more of Eric’s evaluation of these aircraft in Wikipedia).

He also spent some time in the US, flying with US Naval test pilots at Patuxent River, MD after WWII. The British were the first to use an angled deck aircraft carrier, and Eric helped the US Navy qualify aircraft and pilots on an angled deck carrier.

The quest for supersonic flight was active in Britain after the war, in the same way as it was in the US. De Havilland developed the DH 108 jet-powered aircraft. Like the Me163, it was a swept-wing, tail-less design. Testing was begun with Geoffrey de Havilland, Jr as the test pilot, son of the man who began by designing such historic aircraft as the Tiger Moth. On 27 September 1947 the DH108 prototype suffered a structural failure during a dive at 0.9 Mach and crashed into the Thames estuary. Geoffrey de Havilland, Jr was lost. Eric flew the DH108 and described entering into a high-frequency pitch oscillation at high Mach number. He was able to recover by pulling gently back on the stick and the throttle at the same time until the oscillation stopped. Eventually, all 3 prototypes were lost in fatal accidents.

In addition to being the first to land a DH Mosquito on a carrier, Eric was the first to land a jet aircraft on a carrier. On 3 December 1945, he landed a DH

Vampire aboard the HMS Ocean. His career in operating off carriers eventually went from the Gloster Gladiator biplane to the Blackburn Buccaneer jet fighter. In all Eric flew 487 different aircraft in his flying career, and made 2407 carrier landings. They are records that will likely stand forever. You can watch a documentary about Eric's life at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEe5ul37Q7g>

(Note: The airline pilot and author Barry Schiff is approaching Eric's record for aircraft flown. I believe that Barry has intentionally waited to break the record until Eric's passing. Even so, exceeding the record of 487 aircraft flown in the modern age will carry an asterisk, compared to those flown during wartime conditions).

The first time I heard Eric Brown speak was in Los Angeles in September 2001. He was the guest speaker at the Friday luncheon of the annual symposium of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots. What I remember about his presentation was his account of testing the Spitfire to the limits of compressibility during WWII. It is hard to forget pictures of a Spitfire where the wing has been so overloaded due to drag that it is physically shifted aft in the airframe by several inches. When I tell people this story, they usually don't believe it.

The next time I met Eric was in 2009 at the European meeting of SETP. Nancy and I attended a buffet lunch, held outside in a banquet facility near the Toulouse Airport. What we both remember is watching Eric up on a table, dancing to the music provided for the event. He was 90 at the time – picture attached.



I hope you have all seen the beautiful Kitfox built by John Bobcik of Charlotte. At the end of their grass airstrip is a beautiful woods, populated by a lot of Maple trees. They also have a truly wonderful sugar shack, which has been there since the 1940s. Each year, John and Connie tap over 100 trees and process the sap in the sugar shack. It's a lot of work to tap the trees, collect the sap, and boil it down to syrup. They will tell you that the best days begin with a cold night and daytime temperature nicely above freezing. Boiling the sap begins early and lasts the entire day. John has to keep the fire plenty hot to get the sap to boil. When it reaches a temperature of about 219F, the syrup is ready to be drawn off. And I can tell you, Wow, does it ever taste good!!



Back down to earth now, with all the moisture in the ground, the conditions for the next several weeks will be conducive for carburetor ice, particularly in the early morning and late in the day. Warm your engine up completely, and check carefully for the formation of carb ice, both on the ground and in the air. And remember that the first few flights of Spring are the "rust removal" flights, so give yourself a hand this month and sharpen your flying skills just a bit with each flight.

**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)

**NEW MEMBERS:** Chapter 55 welcomes new members Dale Foerschler and Mark Bathurst. We also welcome honorary member Jordan Jones, a student in LCC's program and this year's recipient of our Newberry Aviation Scholarship.

**EAA MAGNETIC NAME TAGS:** It's been a while since we placed an order. Are any of you interested in ordering plastic name tags?? Cost is about \$5.50. Let Vickie know if you are interested.

**EAA CHAPTER 304 (Jackson):** President Earl Scott passed away March 3, 2016. EAA55 extends condolences to Earl's family and friends.

**AIR FORCE MUSEUM WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio:** The museum has added a fourth; 224,000 square foot building. The museum's iconic air and space vehicles will soon be grouped in four galleries to tell the Air Force's story. The planes of the Presidential Gallery will soon be moved into the fourth building. The grand opening is set for June 8 and grand opening weekend June 11-12.

**MDOT NAMES AIRPORT OF YEAR: February 23, 2016 --** The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Office of Aeronautics has named the Jack Barstow Airport in Midland as Airport of the Year, and C&S Companies of Livonia as the Robert G. Peckham Consultant of the Year. The annual awards recognize outstanding service to Michigan aviation. The Jack Barstow Airport was recognized for its efforts in promoting general aviation with the development of an observation and education gateway project. In presenting the award, MDOT Aeronautics Commission Director Michael Trout said the airport earned the award by "providing an opportunity to discover aviation programs and history while enjoying the dynamic airport environment." Airport manager Brian McManus accepted the award, and said the airport is helping ensure the next generation of aviation enthusiasts.

**FAA-POWDER COATING:** From Rick Anderson; Recently, the question of powder coating parts during aircraft restorations came up. Attached is a SAFO concerning powder coating of wing struts but can be

useful information applicable to most parts unless there is an approval to use powder coating. The problem with powder coating structural parts is that it can hide cracks and defects that can occur under the surface of the coating. Another issue is the powder coat application process requires heating to about 450 degrees Fahrenheit to melt the powder, this process can change the heat treat of the part.

**INGHAM COUNTY NEWS:** Public safety officials encourage all citizens who live and work in Ingham County to create their free "Safety Profile" with the information 911 will need during an emergency. Smart911 is a national service that allows households to include any information they want 911 and first responders to have in the event of an emergency. The Safety profile will immediately be displayed on the call takers screen, saving seconds and even minutes in response to an emergency. Sign up for free at <http://smart911.com> and provide what info you desire - such as family member names, health conditions, medications, pets in the home, emergency contacts, etc. All information in the profile is voluntary and only made available to 911 when an emergency call is made.

**FREE BOOKS:** EAA55 has three boxes of books in the meeting room available for free. These are library duplicates. Any left after couple of months will be put out for free at our fly-ins.



**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

MASON JEWETT FBO: Great Lakes Air Ventures. Repair and service facility. Flight Training. Contact Dale Foerchler 701-330-9630

HANGER FOR RENT: one space in Builders Hanger; \$115 plus gas; Michael 517-775-1875

FREE BOOKS: EAA55 has three boxes of books in the meeting room available for free. These are library duplicates. Any left after couple of months will be put out for free at our fly-ins.

WANTED: donation of gently used boat cushions for use as "booster seats" for smaller kids; contact Margie Clark.

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

6061T-6 sheet in .040"; looking half sheet of 4'x12' split lengthwise to make horizontal stabilizer spar and doublers for Zenith CH 750 STOL. Need a 9-ft x 6-in piece or more. Greg Harris; 517-775-4563

### FOR SALE:

EAA55 2016 Calendars; \$8.00 each; see Michael Rosencrans or Al Spalding.

1976 C-172M 160hp; 970 SMOH; \$29,000 OBO; Gary Nesbitt 517-230-5585

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; works great; \$65.00; Gregory 517-315-3247

Air compressor; 3hp motor; 21 gallon tank; wheels & long cord; Harbor Freight offers at 21 gallon compressor for \$179, but 2.5 hp motor. \$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; Michael 517-775-1875

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 classified advertisement in WINGTIPS !

### POCKET CALENDAR:

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 11 = EAA55 Christmas Party

### WEB EVENT CALENDARS:

<http://www.eaa.org/en/ea/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.