

SEPT 2013



EAA CHAPTER 145

SINCE 1962



Chapter Meeting: Saturday, September 14, 2013 – 10:00 am
Riverview Airport (08C) in the meeting room



The EAA Chapter 145 meeting for September will be a talk with Terry Baumgartner. He will show us his paramotor / paraglider rig and talk about the finer points of flying it, and may even demonstrate flight (weather permitting).

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Pres & V.P. Notes
- 3 B-17 Veterans
- 5 Event Pictures
- 6 Monthly Website
- 6 Upcoming Events

CHAPTER 145

EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION

GRAND RAPIDS, MI

The Experimental Aircraft Association, Chapter 145, would like to thank all the people that helped with the activities during the visit of the EAA B-17, *Aluminum Overcast*, at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport in Grand Rapids. There were many volunteers and their willingness to do whatever was asked was greatly appreciated. The feedback I received from the public, veterans, airport staff, and EAA HQ was glowing. Top marks for a job well done!

Here are the results of the three days the B-17 was open to the public.

- 100 people took a flight in the B-17, 92 paid & 8 volunteers
- About 1000 people visited, 500 paid & 500 looked
- Total merchandise sales amounted to about \$5000
- EAA Chapter 145 made about \$5300 for the club treasury

If you know someone interested in *sport aviation*, have them check out the activities of EAA145. We meet on the second Saturday, 10 a.m. at Riverview airport in Jenison, MI. They are invited to join us and participate in sport aviation activities.

- For the national web site check www.eaa.org
- Local information check www.eaa145.org
- To get a newsletter, contact Randy Houtman at randall.houtman@dematic.com.

If you know someone interested in *military history*, have them check out the activities of the Michigan Company of Military Historians and Collectors. We meet on the second Monday, 6 p.m. at the Riverfront Hotel in Grand Rapids for discussion, dinner, displays, and a presentation talk about military history. They are invited to join us and review military history.

- The web site is www.thecannonreport.org
- To get a newsletter, contact Kingman Davis, at kuziaks@me.com

Richard Foster
President, EAA 145



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I just finished reading a book about the "Band of Brothers" of the 506 PIR. These volunteers who came from varied backgrounds were brought together by the circumstances of WWII and did many things for the good of country that they could not do individually. In reflecting on the B-17 tour, I thought about our volunteers from various organizations and backgrounds who came together. Their combined talents resulted in a very successful tour. Volunteers were helpful and willing to do whatever it took to provide the best experience for the staff, public, and veterans. My original concerns were dispelled by our "Band of Brothers" volunteers who worked so diligently for those few days in August. My heartfelt thanks and top marks to all the volunteers for a job well done.

Dick

From Bruce Whitman (V.P.'s Corner)

As marketing chairman I'd be negligent if I did not commend those folks who helped me get my hands around the job and provided me with their time, hard work and the local resources to move the program forward.

Dick Foster's guidance, provision of resources from previous activities, authoring local fliers with specific info. and encouragement along the way were key to informing the public about this great opportunity to experience history.

John Bry's industry insight, spread sheets and influence with the local Clear Channel radio stations provided me with inside contact information on Clear Channel and other TV and radio outlets.

Those who volunteered - Randy Houtman, Bob Swietek, Herb Harney, Sara Immekes, Donna Benedict and many others made the job of getting the word out to the flying and flying interested folks in West Michigan much easier and much more effective than any (or at least this) one person could have done.

Setting up, maintaining and knocking down the security sales and R&R resources before during and after the event went incredibly smoothly with all the help which materialized when needed. All the necessary jobs were completed with little direction and no complaints or hesitation from my observations. This is, I'm sure, a testament to Dick's organization and leadership as well as a comment on the character of our members.

The most satisfying portion of my involvement was talking with the public as they marveled at the aircraft and being able to provide some small portion of the danger and privation faced by a WWII bomber crew. Watching the attendees' realization of the dedication of those who flew in these aircraft, and of course, hearing the stories of those few remaining vets who lived through those dark days was worth every bit of the effort I put into this activity.

Chris Reed of Landmark was in a tight spot with his new employer and TSA, yet a prince of an advocate for our operation. He needs to be recognized by the chapter.

The entire crew (ground and flight) with the airplane were top notch folks in every way.

Support from Oshkosh was very good despite their obvious full plate with AirVenture - particularly in view of the shortness of time since we knew the airplane would be available to us.

Bruce



History Comes Alive

It was truly amazing to see the real heroes in person, and listen to them tell the stories of when they did dangerous and adventurous things in WWII. On Thursday, media day, George Thomas of Muskegon, and Russell Hilding of Lansing were on-hand. Both George and Russell were B-17 pilots during WWII.

See <http://fox17online.com/2013/08/15/flying-inside-a-b-17-bomber/#axzz2eLrTDojm>

And <http://www.wzzm13.com/news/article/264864/2/WWII-icon-takes-flight-at-Ford-Intl-Airport>

George Thomas, 88yrs, piloted 26 missions. He was given charge of the B-17 when he was still 18 yrs old. George told us that the training in the states was worse than the real war over in Europe. Instead of Sioux City, he called it Suicide City because of the number of accidents he saw during training. George told us that during formation flight training a few groups of three planes would get too close to another group and make contact, and the propellers would chew into each other's plane, to a destructive end. Incidentally, actor Jimmy Stewart was posted to Sioux City with his squadron in 1943, where he and his crew completed their initial B-17 qualification prior to deployment overseas.



One mission into Austria George was particularly proud of – the rescue of 30 P.O.W.'s

Russell Hilding, 92, was also there on media day. Russell piloted 13 missions before being shot down. He was evaded capture with help from the French Underground, for a while. But then was caught by the Gestapo, then placed in Buchenwald prisoner camp, then later in Stalag Luft III (of the famous "Great Escape" movie)



Russ is a member of EAA#55 in Mason, Mi. He also owns a Citabria.

See http://www.eaa55.org/Profiles/Veterans/R_Hilding.html for Russell's amazing story

See <http://www.447bg.com/Combat%20Crew%20Gallery%204.htm> for Hicks group

On Saturday, Kenneth Hicks Jr showed up. Kenneth was a pilot in the 709th squadron of the 447th Bomber Group. He is from Grand Rapids.



The above is coloring for the 447th bomb group.

See <http://www.447bg.com/447th%20Stories.htm> for 447th stories.

During the weekend we also had a B-17 waist gunner, bombardier, even a ball-turret gunner show up and tour the aircraft.



Hicks crew, 709th
Rattlesden, undated

Standing, L-R
Lt Vernon Mills
Lt William Lindberg,
Lt Irving Fisher
Lt Kenneth Hicks
Kneeling, L-R:
Sgt Aubrey Holst
Sgt LaVerno Angst
Sgt Joseph Shal
Sgt Loren Ehlers
Sgt Howard Launstein

Thank You: This message is one example of why we help with the B-17 Tour.
(email received from the son of a WWII B-17 veteran, on 8/23/13)

Richard,

Please extend my deepest appreciation to all of the EAA members and volunteers that worked at the B-17 visit to Grand Rapids last week. My wife and I brought my father, Robert Davis, to see the display, and the courtesy extended to him was overwhelming. Dad, a bombardier with the 96th Bomb Group (H), 8th Air Force, from July 1944 to January 1945, (35 combat missions) proudly wore his "World War II Veteran" ball cap, (with an 8th Air Force pin attached to the cap), and he was immediately singled out for VIP treatment. One man told him that he could tour the inside of the Flying Fortress at his convince; another offered him his place in line; other volunteers and visitors asked Dad numerous questions in such a respectful manner. Dad is a lot slower now that he used to be, but he thoroughly enjoyed the visit. He was able to enter the aircraft, and made his way to the cockpit, but was unable to scrunch his way to his old work station. He exited, and had his photograph taken with three other WW II and Korean War vets. It was such a pleasure to see him look up at the nose of the "Aluminum Overcast" and tell people that he had the best seat on the plane!

Again, please thank all the EAA members and volunteers that made our visit so worthwhile.

Michael Davis
Lt Col (Ret)
MI ANG





YOUNG EAGLES

EAA145 flew 142 Young Eagles at two events on August 24.

Five pilots at the Great Lakes Aviator Build-off in Sparta produced 25 Young Eagles.

Eight pilots at the Wings of Mercy event in Holland produced 97 Young Eagles.

Many thanks for the efforts of the pilots and ground crew. No more YE events are planned for this year, however 2014 is another opportunity to introduce young people to the world of flight.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH:**www.smittysrv.com**

Smitty's RV site is a resource guide for anyone interested in the RV line of airplanes, with builder's hints, construction logs, pictures, etc.

HANGER SPACE

The chapter hanger is available for anyone who has an aviation project to work on. We currently have a couple of possible projects for the EAA hanger. We may have room for more, depending on the size and donations. Contact Dick Foster for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 14	Riverview Arpt(08C)	Meeting - Terry Baumgartner - Paramotors
Sept 13-16	Idaho	Idaho Backcountry Tour
Sept 20-22	Michigan Air Tour	www.michiganairtour.org
October	Riverview Arpt(08C)	Riverview annual bonfire
Nov 9	Riverview Arpt(08C)	Meeting - Todd Trainer - Recovery of a B-25
Dec	Riverview Arpt(08C)	Christmas Brunch – bring a dish to pass

If you know of events that should be on the event calendar, please e-mail them to me

If you would like to be on the e-mail list for meeting and event reminders, or if you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, which is full color and delivered days before the print version... please send your e-mail address to:

randall.houtman@dematic.com

The 2013 Officers for EAA145:

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Treasurer's Report: (As of Sept 1st)

Liabilities: \$3500.00	
Cash: \$163.62	Checking: \$30.12
Savings: \$1033.88	Total: \$1227.62

EAA CHAPTER 145 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

DUES ARE \$35.00 PER YEAR – JANUARY 1st to DECEMBER 31st

Name _____ Co-Pilot / Spouse _____ Address _____ City _____ State / Zip _____ e-mail address _____ Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ National Membership # _____	Aircraft Owned _____ Projects / % Complete _____ Bring this form to the next meeting or mail to: EAA Chapter 145 Treasurer 6962 Bridgewater Dr. SE Grand Rapids, MI, 49546
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