



## EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION - CHAPTER 55

DECEMBER 2021

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: Drew Seguin 517-333-4531 → Vice-President: Doug Koons 517-676-5001

→ Treas: Al Spalding 517-881-8757 → Secr: John Kuchar 517-203-9976 → Editor: Deanna McAlister 517-795-8171

→ YE Cordinator: Margie Clark → Webmaster: John Bobcik → Youth Group: Jeff Shaud → Membership: Vickie Vandenberg

→ Flight Advisor : Terry Lutz → Adult Eagles : TBD

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



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Drew Seguin

[ea55.president@gmail.com](mailto:ea55.president@gmail.com)

**“You won't have Seguin to kick around anymore,  
because this is my last President's Message”**

The elections were held in November. There have been no recount requests so the results have been certified as follows:

**President:**

- Margie Clark

**Vice President:**

- Scott Basel

**Secretary:**

- John Kuchar

**Treasurer:**

- Drew Seguin

**The Torch is Passed.**

After four years as President I'm handing the gavel to Margie Clark. It's been an interesting time to say the least. For several months I was working out of state and unable to attend Board Meetings. Then there was the Pandemic and Board meeting via Zoom and no Chapter meetings. But I think the Chapter is in good shape considering and I know Margie will do a great job as President. Congratulations Margie!

I thought it may be useful to reflect on my thoughts as I leave this role:

First of all, most of you have heard me say we're a social club. A great group of folks who share an

interest in aviation. We're not a building club. We tried that and it wasn't successful.

Second, like most volunteer organizations a disproportionate amount of responsibility and effort rests with a few people. This is unfortunate as it puts more burden on the few and those who stand back are missing out on a good bit of fun and camaraderie.

And third, we are an older and aging group. We are challenged to get and retain new and active, *especially younger*, members. This shouldn't be as much of a challenge as it is. After all, to quote someone I know **“Airplanes are Cool”**.

So where do we go from here?

Again, many of you have heard me say this. I think the future of the Chapter 55 depends on getting new members, especially younger ones, and raising the breadth of participation.

IMHO Programs and activities are the key to the future. Everyone has other things to do and not everyone will want to do all of the same things, but if we have a steady stream of programs and activities we will attract and keep participation. As I see it there are three keys to making this happen:

1. Elevate the function of programs to Board Level. Director of Programs or something like that. This person would report to the Board and Membership every month with what's scheduled, etc. I believe the goal should be more than a dozen programs/activities per year, in addition to Young Eagles. Programs, Fly-outs, work parties, field trips. Anything goes, usually related to aviation. And I know of a candidate or two.

Ownership of Activities. In order to make the programs thing happen there needs to be one go-to person for each event. Someone to make the decisions, make the calls, encourage participation, etc. so,

2. Every program/Activity has an “owner”. This person doesn’t have to do it, just see to it that it comes together. AV equipment, transportation, introductions, etc. It may often be the Director of Programs but not always.

Young Eagles is great, but it consumes three prime flying months in Michigan and it’s a lot of work, generally accomplished by a handful of [pilots and volunteers. I don’t know the statistics but I’m certain a disproportionate number of kids are repeats. That harkens back to the objective of the program. Are we doing it to introduce kids to aviation or just to give airplane rides?

3. We should pull back from having Young Eagles be the primary focus of summer activities. If the pilots and support staff want to continue with three events that’s fantastic, but let’s have some other activities too. Maybe move Young Eagles to a different day so we can have other activities for the June, July, and August meetings.

So that’s my opiniion... I could be wrong.

What are your thoughts?

**Oh, and Rest in Peace, Jim Richmond.  
Founder of Cubcrafters.**



Looking forward to a great 2022 and beyond for EAA Chapter 55.

*Merry Christmas and wishing all the best for you and yours for 2022*

Drew Seguin

## EAA Chapter 55 Board of Director Minutes

**November 10 2021**

The meeting was called to order by President Drew Seguin at 7:11PM

Present were Drew Seguin, Doug Koons, Al Spalding, John Kuchar, Mark Bathurst, Joe Madziar, Warren Miller, Gabe Blosser and Rick Laub,. Absent were Clarke Borgeson, Jeff Shaud, Ken Drewyor and Chloe Miner. Drew Seguin reported that Clarke Borgeson had resigned from the Board of Directors. →The Secretary's Report for October was presented; Mark Bathurst made a motion to accept, Gabe Blosser seconded, the report was accepted. □The Treasurer's Report for October 31, 2021 was introduced; Joe Madziar made a motion to accept, Rick Laub supported; the motion was approved. →The Newberry Scholarship Committee reported they will hold interviews on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 1,2,and 3PM. There are 7 applicants being interviewed. →The Youth Group report from Jeff Shaud is the group will help with putting the lights on the people mover for the Mason Christmas Parade, →The membership meeting presentation for November will be by Terry Lutz on the development of the side stick on the F-16. □Chapter elections are this Saturday at the membership meeting. →The Christmas party is this December 4<sup>th</sup> at 3PM in the chapter meeting room. Members need to sign up with Margie Clark so she has a count of attendees. □The Compass Rose is still waiting

for the CRAA to take action.  
□ A motion to select the member of the year was made by Rick Laub and seconded by Warren Miller. □ No further business was discussed.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:46PM

Respectfully Submitted, John Kuchar, Secretary EAA Chapter 55

### **EAA Chapter 55 Membership Meeting November 13, 2021**

- ➔ The meeting was called to order at 9:30AM by President Drew Seguin with 30+ members attending.
- ➔ Drew thanked the breakfast team of Margie Clark and Dawn Koepplinger. The breakfast team for December will be Stan Chubb, Bill Long, Dan Shiffer, Andrew Walzak, Bob Clark, and Aron Usher.
- ➔ The Secretary's report for October was presented. Margie Clark made a motion to accept, Terry Lutz seconded; the motion passed.
- ➔ The Treasurer's report October 31st was introduced; Greg Hover made a motion to accept, Bob Clark seconded the motion; the report was approved.
- ➔ The Youth Group report was not presented.
- ➔ The Newberry Scholarship has 7 applicants that will be narrowed down to 3 for final consideration. Drew Seguin, Dan Schiffer, Doug Koons, and Joe Madziar will be handling the review process.
- ➔ The Young Eagles report is that 291 Young Eagles have been flown this year. Pilots can still give flights counted for this year until the end of December.
- ➔ Member awards and the Member of the Year award will be next month
- ➔ Terry Lutz will do a presentation after this meeting on the development of the side stick for the F-16 and the FAA will do December.
- ➔ Officer elections will be held following this meeting..
- ➔ No progress on the compass rose pending a decision by the CRAA.
- ➔ The Christmas party will be this coming December 4th at the EAA hangar with Margie

Clark putting together the meal and the event. Look for a grand event if you attend.

- ➔ KTEW is in need of a decent FBO to make pilot services up to par with most of the other airports in the state of Michigan. Tenants and EAA 55 members should give CRAA a list of their suggested upgrades and proposals to improve the pilot experience when using KTEW.
- ➔ The Mason Christmas Parade will be the day after Thanksgiving, November 27<sup>th</sup>. Bob Clark is in charge of lighted float.
- ➔ EAA calendars for 2022 are available for \$10. See Doug Koons to put your name on the list so he can make a group order to EAA headquarters
- ➔ The meeting was adjourned at 10:00AM..
- ➔ Respectfully Submitted, John Kuchar, Secretary EAA Chapter 55

BOARD MEETING: 7:00pm: Wed: Dec. 8th  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 9:30am; Sat; Dec. 11  
with Breakfast served from 8:00am to 9:00am

### **Thank you, November Breakfast Team:**



Margie Clark and Dawn Kopplinger

### **December**

Stan Chubb  
Bill Long  
Dan Schiffer  
Adam Walczak  
Hathan User  
Bob Clark



## January

Lloyd Brown  
John Carron  
Mike Rosencrans  
Judith Pierzynowski  
David Alexander  
Neila Powers

### **SCHEDULED PROGRAMS:**

**CONTACT DAVE COUREY or DREW SEGUIN  
WITH YOUR PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS**



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

Thanks go out again to all of the pilots and volunteer members that participated this past year in our Young Eagle Rallies and extra flights throughout the year. Without your help we would not have had the success with the program that we did. Hoping to see you all back next year!  
Best wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season!

Merry Christmas to all,  
Margie

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



**MEMBERSHIP**  
by Vickie Vandenbelt  
([EAA55.mems@gmail.com](mailto:EAA55.mems@gmail.com))

**NEW MEMBERS:** Chapter 55 welcomes new members John Yurkon, Gilda Tucker, Dave Trojan, Jann Angell and Mark & Jennifer Jacob (actually returning, as they have moved back to our area).

**2022 MEMBERSHIP DUES:** As another year draws to a close, it comes time to think about submitting your dues for the 2022 year. A Big Thank You to those who have already done so. And, I have attached a renewal form for anyone who still needs to submit. The renewal form can be completed and mailed to our POB or left in the folder for the Treasurer (for everyone's protection, please do not leave cash). If you plan to pay at a meeting, we ask that you complete the renewal form also so that we can assure that the information on our website is accurate and up to date.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY MEMBER NEWS OR INFO TO SHARE??** Do you know of a member who is ill? Or, a member who has experienced a death in the family? Please contact me at 517-589-5051 or [vickie7463@gmail.com](mailto:vickie7463@gmail.com) so that the Chapter can send a card. (With my sincere thanks to those who have alerted me in the past.)

### **HANGARS FOR RENT AT TEW:**

Lloyd Brown; 517-589-8619  
Tom Tuttle; 734-216-7532  
Gabe Blosser; 517-896-0020  
Tim Martinson; see Classifieds  
EAA55; see Classifieds

NEW MEMBER : Dave Trojan,



Dave Trojan is an Aviation Archaeologist, Aviation Historian, Air Crash Detective. And, Finder of lost and forgotten aircraft, artifacts, abandoned airfields,

aircraft crash sites, and aviation-related properties. He has been asked to present a series of historical aviation-related expedition reports and artifacts that he has investigated for our programs in the upcoming months. Dave looks forward to meeting you all and sharing some very interesting Aviation History.

Dave is a Navy veteran who served twenty-one years as an Aviation Electronics Technician prior to retiring in 2000. After retiring, he became an Aircraft Engineer for the Marine Corps at MCBH Kaneohe, Hawaii and worked there for five years. He then married his wife, Christine, (a former Army Huey Pilot) and she joined the Air Force. They have been traveling the world for the past twelve years due to her assignments. They have recently settled down and purchased a home in Stockbridge, Michigan.

David has investigated and visited over 500+ military aircraft crash sites all across the country and the world. He has written over eighty published articles for the numerous local newspapers and aviation magazines - including Naval Aviation, WWI Aero, and Warbirds International magazines. He has been featured on the Armed Forces TV network, podcasts and YouTube.

Dave likes to discover the facts, fill in the blanks, explain the mysteries of why the planes crashed, and finally lay the questions to rest by speaking and writing about their stories. The stories give light to those who have sacrificed so much to give us the peace we enjoy today. His latest venture is "Project Remembrance" remembering those who were killed in aircraft accidents by placing memorials at their crash sites, writing about them, and sometimes accompanying family members to the crash sites.

You can read more about my adventures at the following links:

Aircraft Wrecks in the U.S.

<http://www.aircraftwrecks.com>

My Remembrance Project: *David Trojan's Project Remembrance Stories* [Links to 25 PDF stories](#)

<https://aircraftwrecks.com/pages/dave%20trojan%20mrp/mrp.htm>

You can contact Dave at [dtrojan60@gmail.com](mailto:dtrojan60@gmail.com)



## **YOUTH GROUP**

**By Jeff Shaud**

[jlshaud@wowway.com](mailto:jlshaud@wowway.com)

### **Welcome New Member**

Welcome new Young Aviators youth group member Tori E. It was nice having you join us for our meeting on Sunday November 21, 2021

### **December Meeting Schedule**

Our next Young Aviators youth group meeting will take place on Sunday December 12, 2021 at the EAA Chapter 55 hangar. Because of the close proximity to the Christmas weekend, we will not meet on the fourth Sunday of this month (December 26, 2021). Please enjoy the holiday weekend with your family. We will however, have a single December **meeting on Sunday December 12, 2021 from 2:00 PM until 5:00 PM at the EAA chapter 55 hangar.**

### **It's Parade Time!**

Every year (except last year), EAA 55 decorates a float for display in the **Mason City Holiday Lighted Parade**. This year was no exception. The youth group participated in preparing and decorating the "people mover" float. We had an excellent youth turnout the evening of Sunday November 21<sup>st</sup> with seven Young Aviators youth group members volunteering their time and talent on the design. It was a chilly evening in the chapter hangar. Tori's mother Gayle and her grandmother treated the crew to hot coco. Thank you very much! We also had donuts and apple cider after in the meeting room. A big thank you to youth group members who volunteered their time to decorate the float. The float turned out magnificent! It was a big hit at the parade.



### **Internal Combustion Engine Update**

The youth group took a short hiatus from working on the internal combustion engines while we decorated the Macon City Holiday Lighted Parade float. We will get back to work on the engines at our December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. The youth group members have the Predator engines completely disassembled. We will now measure the internal, close tolerance parts to see if they are within service wear limits. To do this the members will learn the proper handling and use of precision measuring instruments such as inside and outside diameter micrometers, dial indicators, and feeler gauges. Upon completion of the measuring, we will begin the process of reassembling the engines.

### **Appreciation for Chapter's Support**

As we close out 2021, I would like to thank EAA Chapter 55 for support of the Young Aviators youth group. As a chapter, you have allowed the youth group members to grow and learn about aviation, but life skills as well. Individual chapter members (too many to list here, and for fear I may miss some) have given of their time, talent, materials, and money for which I am forever grateful. Through your support, we will continue the Young Aviators youth group in 2022. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause.

Wishing you and your families a safe and happy holiday season.

See you at the chapter hangar!

Jeff Shaud

EAA 55 Youth Group Director



### **LCC - MASON JEWETT CAMPUS**

By Mark Bathurst

([bathursm@star.lcc.edu](mailto:bathursm@star.lcc.edu))

Lack of employees in virtually all areas of the workplace has been a frequent topic in the news recently. As we look at our program, LCC is fortunate to have an exceptional instructor cadre. Their average industry experience exceeds 35 years, and one of our instructors has over 57 years' experience in general aviation. They **know** airplanes. Given that we teach our students everything the FAA requires for licensure as A&P maintenance technicians, our instructors' subject mastery has to be extensive.

One of the ways our instructors maintain currency in industry developments is attending seminars on

various subjects. Bringing back to the program the latest trends allows us to keep our course material at the leading edge of aircraft maintenance practices, and has enabled us to provide our students opportunities such as the Delta Air Lines' partnership that distinguished our program from the many others in the United States.

We also benefit from employer visits to our facility. They come to talk to students about employment opportunities, and to our faculty about trends they are seeing in their respective areas. What employers need from new employees shapes our discussions with students and prepares them for a career in aviation maintenance. We incorporate suggestions from employers in our curriculum, and graduates entering the workplace appreciate the up-to-date information provided while here.

Based on our reputation and student accomplishment, employers from as far away as San Francisco, Grand Junction Colorado, Atlanta, Dallas and points in between come to our facility to make presentations to students. These presentations help students gain a complete understanding of what aircraft maintenance opportunities exist and the types of jobs about which they may be interested. In the class that graduated this summer, all had at least one job offer prior to graduation and some had as many as three.

Airlines, manufacturers, major repair facilities, corporate aircraft operators and smaller repair facilities all are interested in hiring our students. Starting salaries can now exceed \$60,000 a year, and the bar continues to move higher as completion for highly skilled, technically competent workers increases. Having over 20 employers travelling to Mason per year to talk to our students is now the norm. It is clear this demand for aircraft maintenance technicians will increase in the foreseeable future. Our fall semester ends December 13, and we will reopen for the spring semester on January 10. On behalf of our students, instructors and staff have an enjoyable holiday season.



### **EDITORS PROLIX**

By Deanna McAlister

([zirconmoons@gmail.com](mailto:zirconmoons@gmail.com))

The Christmas party was a success. Many thanks to Margie Clark and her family and many helpers for cooking the delicious meal and just pulling it all together. The Chapter 55 meeting room was turned



festive with lights and animated Christmas bears. Horsd'oeuvres, and punch, turkey, cranberry relish, pie and cookies were served. The white elephant gift exchange had interesting picks.



A successful 2021 Christmas Party!!!!!!

## SOMETHING SHARE

**BY: KAREN MEIRNDORF**

We took a trip to Vicksburg Michigan on November 20 for a visit at Maurice Hovious's Hov-Air restoration shop. Maurice wasn't feeling well and

couldn't be with us that day, but we still had an interesting time checking out one of a kind gizmo or tool for fabricating an airplane part no longer found on your average aviation parts store shelf. No doubt, the pin up girl posters helped with checking out a certain plane part for a much longer inspection more interesting.

I was looking forward to see how much further along they were on restoring Kermit Weeks Tri-Motor that was totaled during hurricane Andrew's big blow in 1992. But unfortunately Kermit has lost interest to finish it while he pursues other personal interest. Maurice is storing the fuselage in a back corner of the shop for now. Last we saw it, 6 years ago, they had one wing almost done and was working on the other wing attached to the fuselage so the whole work shop was taken up with just that one plane. As I see it now, collecting dust, so sad, I felt a little better seeing the tail fin painted with it's finished color white with the Ford Tri-Motor logo in black paint. There's hope yet the plane may still feel the wind once again move across its wings.



In the mean time the shop is collecting left over parts from around the shop and making a static display of a Tri-Motor they hope to sell. I believe it was a shot down drug plane Maurice brought back from the jungles of Central America, full of bullet holes. It was a mess when I first saw it. Now it looks pretty good as you can see some of it behind Jack, Tom and Gary. That is if you like Michigan Maze and Blue colors. ( I think they should put the bullet holes back in it to preserve the history).

After our self tour at Hov-Air we traveled back to Vicksburg to Yogi's Restaurant for lunch. For a small rural town it was surprising that a crowd of 25 or more of us were able to be seated together in half of their dining room. A excellent meal was held by all and left with ideas on when and where our next road trip will take us. Anyone interested in a tour of the Waco plant in Battle Creek?

Karen



### **FOR RENT:**

Space for rent in common hangar; best for low wing but might accommodate high wing aircraft. Tim Martinson; 517-803-0462; tmartins1575@yahoo.com

**Do you have anything you want to sell?? Additions and corrections, contact Deanna McAlister**  
**[zirconmoons@gmail.com](mailto:zirconmoons@gmail.com)**

### **EAA55 = PILOTS, PLANES & BUILDERS:**

Here is a list of those who are working on homebuilts and/or restorations, as well as pilots and their planes ... Additions, deletions & corrections appreciated:

David Alexander; Aventura II  
Mark Bathurst; Cessna 172  
Gabe Blosser; Bushmaster SuperCub Amphib  
John & Connie Bobcik; Kitfox 7SS  
Ivan Bradley; Zenith CH650B  
John Caron; Cessna 172  
Stan Chubb; Beechcraft Debonaire  
Lewis (Bob) Clark; Cessna 172  
Randy Collier; Cessna 182 & Hot Air Balloon  
Dave Cook; RV-6A (w/Greg Hover); Taylorcraft Ultralight  
Kirk Curtis; Cessna 182  
Ken Drewyor; Kitfox (sold); Mooney M20C  
Adam Fogg; Piper Warrior II  
Donald Frank; BE35P  
Mike Franzago; Stearman; Starduster project  
Ralph Gregus; Zenith CH750  
Dave Groh; Stearman; Citabria; Beechcraft Bonanza; and Travelaire; PT-17; AT-6 restorations  
Chuck Hacker; Zenith 701  
Greg Harris; Zenith 750 project  
Ward Harris; Cessna 177B  
Steve Houghton; RV-7A

Contributions, corrections and additions to "WingTips" are welcome and can be made by contacting Deanna McAlister ([zirconmoons@gmail.com](mailto:zirconmoons@gmail.com))

**Deadline: 1st of each month.**

Joe Madziar "Breakfast Teams" ([madziars@msn.com](mailto:madziars@msn.com)) and Dave Courey "Monthly Programs" ([dcmi@reagan.com](mailto:dcmi@reagan.com))

### **WANTED:**

Ray Scholarship Coordinator is in need of a laptop (PC based) donation for our selected candidate to run one of the approved PPL ground school programs. Contact Jeff Shaud @ 517-712-6482.

### **CHAPTER 55 CLASSIFIEDS** **FOR SALE:**

Chapter 55 T-Shirts; size L or XL; only \$15.00 each for chapter members. Vintage Chapter 55 Sweatshirts; size L or XL; only \$15.00 each.

Pure Michigan Maple Syrup John & Connie Bobcik 517-543-8238; [jbobcik@gmail.com](mailto:jbobcik@gmail.com) We can deliver to EAA hangar for pick-up.



Greg Hover; RV-6A (w/Dave Cook)  
 John Karlen; Cessna 340  
 Dawn Koepplinger; Cessna 172; Aeronca Sedan  
 Doug Koons; Glastar (w/Bill Purosky)  
 Rick Laub; Sling 4 project  
 Terry Lutz; Luscombe & RV-8  
 Doug MacKenzie; Zenith 701  
 Tim Martinson; RV-6A & RV-12; RV14A project  
 Don & Deanna McAlister; Cessna 172A  
 Warren Miller; Fisher303 Ultralight  
 Chuck Moore; REVO Lt Sport Evolution & RV12  
 Gary Nicola; Beechcraft Bonanza & Grumman  
 Traveler restoration  
 Jim Palmer; Glasair III  
 Bill Purosky; Glastar (w/Doug Koons)  
 Pat Salow; Zenith 701  
 Dan Schiffer; Bell Helicopter  
 Tom Schroder; Cessna 172  
 Drew Seguin; Carbon Cub EX2 & Carbon Cub EX3  
 project  
 Jeff Shaud; RV-7 project  
 Tom Sheehan; Cessna 170 & Aerosport  
 Jim Spry; RV-8  
 Jeff Stetson; Aeromot Ximango  
 Bruce Thorburn; Cessna 206  
 Ken Vandenbelt; Cessna 172; Cessna 170; Stearman  
 project  
 David VanderMolen; Zenith 750 project  
 John VanderMolen; Zenith 750 project



More Photos from the December 4th Christmas party  
 in the chapter hangar By John Kuchar:



**FLYERS FROM OTHER AIRPORTS  
POSTED IN TEW TERMINAL (with  
thanks to Mark Bathurst)**

Mason Jewett Field FBO:  
Great Lakes Air Repair  
517-525-3673  
Maintenance - Painting - Upholstery - Engines

**WEB EVENT CALENDARS:**

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