

December 2015



# EAA CHAPTER 145

SINCE 1962



**Chapter Meeting: Saturday, December 12, 2015 – 11:00 am  
Riverview Airport (08C) in the Big Hangar**

## CHAPTER MEETING

This month EAA Chapter #145 members and Riverview friends and family are invited to the annual Christmas Brunch. The brunch will be held in the main hangar at 11am, with the "brunching" commencing at 11:30am.

Please bring a dish to pass...the ham, place service, and drinks will be provided.

EAA #145 members can sign up with Dick Foster, otherwise there is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board.

All pilots, family, and friends are invited to this annual event.

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Once again we are in the "Season of Joy" As you know Happiness is not Joy. We are happy when we fly or build a project or sit around talking with our friends. Joy is the reason why we are happy. So what is the reason that we have Joy this time of year? This is not a big mystery and I bet you know the "Reason for the Season of Joy". If not, see me at the Brunch and maybe we can figure it out. I sincerely wish you happiness, but most of all Joy.  
Dick Foster



## Note from EAA 211

Christmas Dinner & Awards Banquet  
Sparta airport, in Gordon Gilcrest's hanger  
Saturday December 12  
Arrive at 6:00pm, dinner at 6:30pm  
Meat and drink furnished, bring dish and table service  
[See attached flyer below for more info](#)



## EAA HANGER

The paint booth is working out well for painting of small parts...sure beats standing out in the cold wind. Herb Harney is working on his RV. Stop by and check on the progress of his project.

Also, let me know if anyone else is interested in using the EAA hanger to work on a project.  
Thanks, Dick

## U.S.A.F. MUSEUM

Joe Engle hadn't climbed into the cockpit of a hypersonic X-15 rocket plane that cruised to the edge of space for half a century. But the 83-year-old retired Air Force test pilot and the record-setting aircraft were brought together Friday when the X-15 became the first plane towed into a new, privately funded \$40.8 million gallery expansion at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. Engle, the sole survivor of a dozen military and NASA test pilots who flew the X-15 in the 1960s, knocked on its metallic side and talked about how he practiced launch control procedures from memory Friday morning. "It was so good to be back in it," he said. "Just like an old friend."

The X-15 will lead a parade of more than 70 presidential, research and experimental, and cargo planes, spacecraft and rockets into the new hangar set for a public debut next June.



The aerospace artifacts will be moved gradually, continuing next week with the last roll in next spring, officials said. Outside the Air Force museum, visitors can watch the planes being towed into the hangar, said Museum Director John "Jack" Hudson. A tentative and weather-dependent schedule will be posted on the museum's website. "This has been years in the making because five years ago, let's say, this was just a vision and it was an idea," he said. The non-profit Air Force Museum Foundation raised all of the money for the 224,000-square-foot expansion, he said.

Officials hope the new expansion will boost attendance at the museum which attracts more than a million visitors a year. Hudson said the base budget for the project was \$35.4 million, a number museum officials have repeatedly cited as the initial cost. Other expenses were incurred for theatrical and LED lighting, a concrete tow path, a cradle for a Titan IV rocket, and two additional amphitheater-like learning nodes to educate students and visitors on science and technology related topics, among other costs, Hudson said.

Many of the planes that will be moved are inside presidential and research and development galleries in a restricted access hangar at Wright-Patterson. Most visitors have had to sign up on a first-come, first-served list and take a shuttle bus to see the exhibits, which has limited the exposure to the public to usually less than 100,000 visitors a year, officials have said.

They come to see famous planes, like the X-15, which brought out the smart phone cameras of construction workers and a group of 11 aerospace writers meeting at Wright-Patterson on Friday who got a sneak preview of the hangar.

"The X-15 was the predecessor in many ways to the space shuttle," said Paul Dye, a retired NASA space shuttle flight director and today an aerospace writer. "Any time I get to see one of the two surviving ones is exciting." The other is in the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. Engle, a former space shuttle astronaut who has flown more than 180 aircraft, ranks the X-15 as his favorite to fly.

Dropped in free fall under the wing of a lumbering B-52, Engle waited for the powerful engines to kick in to accelerate the X-15 to beyond Mach 5 and above 280,000 feet. In July 1965, the retired Air Force major general became at age 32 the youngest pilot to earn astronaut's wings. Flying in the X-15 was akin to "climbing on a real, high-spirited stallion, good horse, that could run like hell and go fast and high," he said. "You needed to be alert, right on top of it at all the time..."





## BAD ELF Launches Kickstarter Campaign to Lower ADS-B Portable Prices

Phoenix-based Bad Elf is best known for its portable remote GPS receivers for tablets, but now it plans to disrupt the portable ADS-B market with products costing as little as \$299 for ADS-B In displaying traffic and weather on tablets. The company has been testing prototypes for several months and this week, it's launching a Kickstarter program to continue development with a goal to bring products to market sometime in mid-2016. Bad Elf's Brett Hackleman told AVweb that the company hopes to raise about \$500,000 in Kickstarter funds. He described the products in detail in this exclusive podcast.

"We've been thinking about building an ADS-B receiver for years, but we couldn't think of a way to do it that was going to be affordable for most pilots," Hackleman told us. He added that Bad Elf's research showed that would-be buyers thought portable ADS-B units were too expensive and lacked broad app compatibility. "So we finally had a breakthrough this year that allows us to drastically lower the price of ADS-B receivers," he said. Bad Elf is using less expensive chipsets than those used by other manufacturers, leveraging consumer electronics volume price breaks into niche products. Two receivers are envisioned, a \$299 ADS-B In only model displaying traffic and weather and a second model at \$449 that includes AHRS output to serve as instrument backup. The devices will have open specifications and will be compatible with most of the major tablet apps right out of the box, according to Hackleman.

"Our unit uses quite a bit less power so it should be cooler without the need for a fan," Hackleman explained. Battery life is predicted to be longer than ADS-B portables currently on the market, according to Bad Elf. The new products have been in development for about nine months and are expected to begin shipping just before OSHKOSH '16. For more on the program and Kickstarter campaign, see Bad Elf's website. – taken from AVWEB.COM

## BAHAMAS

The Riverview Pilots group is planning on going to the Bahamas next spring. The preliminary dates are March 6<sup>th</sup> to March 11<sup>th</sup>. See Herb for more details.

## Rare World War II Nose Art Exhibit Unveiled At EAA Museum

More than 30 pieces of nose art from actual World War II combat aircraft are making their first-ever trip outside their home museum, with the EAA Museum in Oshkosh chosen as the first public display location for this rare collection.

The collection from the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) headquarters in Dallas, Texas, made its debut in time for Veterans Day after a month of preparation in the EAA museum's Eagle Hangar, which honors the people and aircraft of World War II. It will be on display at EAA throughout 2016.

### Christmas Dinner & Awards Banquet December 12, 2015

*Merry Christmas*

Please join with your fellow EAA Chapter 211 family and Chapter 504 on Saturday, December 12, 2015, for an evening of camaraderie and Holiday spirit at our 2015 Christmas Dinner and Awards Banquet.

The venue will be Gordon Gilcrest's hangar at the Paul C. Miller-Sparta Airport, 9140 Vinton Avenue NW, Sparta, MI. Gordon's is the large hangar East of the T-hangars that are just East of John Gill's hangar. There is access right off 11 Mile Rd. which borders the north side of the airport. See satellite view below.

Chapter 211 will be furnishing meat, coffee, soft drinks and water. Please bring a dish to share, your own table service, and your Holiday spirit(s). Plan on arriving about 6pm with dinner beginning at 6:30pm.



EAA Chapter 145 website: [www.145.eaachapter.org](http://www.145.eaachapter.org)

EAA National website: [www.eaa.org](http://www.eaa.org)

Riverview Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/Riverview-Airport/115468211816419](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Riverview-Airport/115468211816419)



**DUES ARE NOW BEING COLLECTED**

Dues of \$35.00 are payable to "EAA CHAPTER 145" and can be mailed to Bob Swietek at the address listed at the end of the newsletter or brought to the monthly chapter meeting. If you need to make any updates on your contact information, please include the tear-off slip for member data update with your payment.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Dec 12** Riverview Airport(08C) meeting –Riverview Christmas Brunch
- Jan 9** Riverview Airport(08C) meeting –Bill Trampler - ADS-B Demo
- Feb 13** Riverview Airport(08C) meeting –Mark Lynne - Metal Forming/Fab
- Mar 12** Riverview Airport(08C) meeting –

**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](mailto:randall.houtman@dematic.com)

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**Treasurer's Report:** (As of Dec 3rd)

Liabilities: \$3500.00  
Cash: \$81.62      Checking: \$79.69  
Savings: \$5848.84      Total: \$5939.15

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**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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