

January 2014



# EAA CHAPTER 145

SINCE 1962



**Chapter Meeting: Saturday, January 11, 2014 – 10:00 am  
Riverview Airport (08C) in the meeting room**

The EAA Chapter 145 meeting for January will be Arthur Deane. He will be talking about Military Air Drops (w/videos). If you recall, Arthur visited us in July and shared his knowledge on the history of Stinson Aircraft.

Last month EAA#145 and the Riverview Airport folks gathered for a Christmas lunch. It was nice to catch-up with the friends and extended families. Thanks to all that brought delicious food dishes along.... I always eat too much, but I wanted to sample each of the tasty treats, thank you.

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to a New Year. Here is a sample of some of the programs, events, and activities that EAA chapter 145 participated in last year. How many do you remember?

- A presentation by Mac McClellan as part of EAA Grassroots pilot tour.
- Ron Walters shared his experiences building a Glasair IIRG.
- Flying in the back country of Idaho, presentation by Herb Harney.
- A guided tour of the Kalamazoo Air Zoo, by Ron Harvey.
- Owner repairs on an aircraft presentation by Ron Walters.
- Weekend work party at the Weeks Hanger in Oshkosh
- Boy Scout merit badge activates and Young Eagle flights.
- Pancake breakfast with WMFA and Young Eagle flights
- Young Eagle events in Riverview, Greenville, and Sparta
- West Michigan Aviation Academy (HS), Young Eagle flights at Rapid Air.
- The Chapter received a plaque for "23 consecutive years of helping maintain EAA A/C"
- Wings of Mercy open house at Holland, Young Eagle flights.
- Arthur Deane gave a presentation on Stinson A/C and flew in examples.
- The EAA Chapter video magazine was introduced to members.
- EAA145 hosted the "Aluminum Overcast" B-17 for 5 days in August.
- Terry Baumgartner talked and demonstrated his powered parachute.
- Annual Bonfire / Cook Out in main hanger at Riverview
- Recovery of the "Sand Bar" B-25 presentation by Todd Trainor.
- Annual Christmas brunch at Riverview

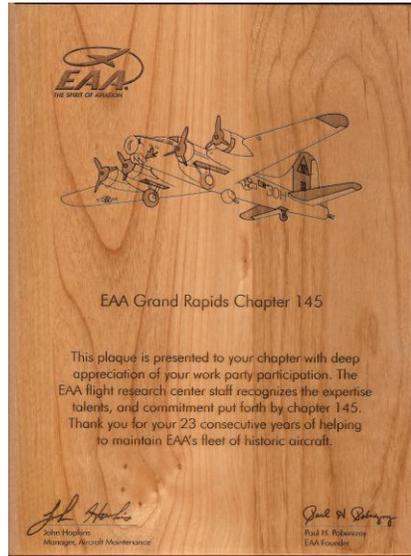
WOW! Local EAA chapters do a lot to promote grass roots aviation. A chapter is only as good as the individual members make it. I'm proud to be part of EAA145 with all of the hardworking, dedicated officers and members. I don't have room to list all the names, but you all know who you are. So thank you and I feel the 2014 will be another rewarding year for EAA145.

All the Best in the New Year, Dick





EAA145 Weeks Work Party  
Oshkosh, WI April 20, 2013



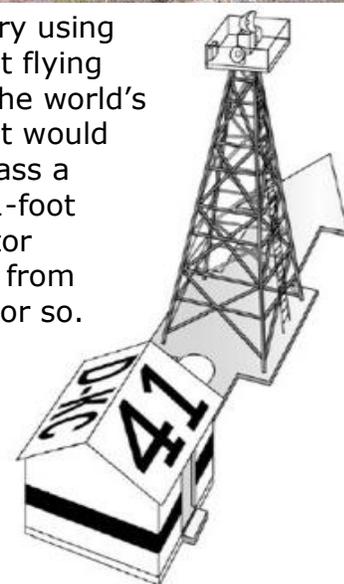
**CLASSIFIED SECTION:**

Kel DeVries has VW engine conversion parts for sale: Slick 4216 mag w/harness, qty(4) Champion REL38B aircraft plugs, Mag coupling for Slick mag, Monnett shrink-fit prop hub, Monnett E-Lectro-X engine mount casting w/ spacers and rubber mounts POSA slide carb w/ mixture control Monnett intake manifold castings, 'Y' casting Intake piping, couplings, clamps. Contact Kel thru the classifieds at [KITPLANES.com](http://KITPLANES.com) or catch-up to him at one of our meetings.



## Yellow Brick Road

Every so often, usually in the vast deserts of the American Southwest, a hiker or a backpacker will run across something puzzling: a large concrete arrow, as much as seventy feet in length, sitting in the middle of scrub-covered nowhere. What are these giant arrows? Some kind of surveying mark? Landing beacons for flying saucers? Earth's turn signals? No, it's...The Transcontinental Air Mail Route. On August 20, 1920, the United States opened its first coast-to-coast airmail delivery route, just 60 years after the Pony Express closed up shop. There were no good aviation charts in those days, so pilots had to eyeball their way across the country using landmarks. This meant that flying in bad weather was difficult, and night flying was just about impossible. The Postal Service solved the problem with the world's first ground-based civilian navigation system: a series of lit beacons that would extend from New York to San Francisco. Every ten miles, pilots would pass a bright yellow concrete arrow. Each arrow would be surmounted by a 51-foot steel tower and lit by a million-candlepower rotating beacon. (A generator shed at the tail of each arrow powered the beacon.) Now mail could get from the Atlantic to the Pacific not in a matter of weeks, but in just 30 hours or so. Even the dumbest of air mail pilots, it seems, could follow a series of bright yellow arrows straight out of a Tex Avery cartoon. By 1924, just a year after Congress funded it, the line of giant concrete markers stretched from Rock Springs, Wyoming to Cleveland, Ohio. The next summer, it reached all the way to New York, and by 1929 it spanned the continent uninterrupted, the envy of postal systems worldwide. Radio and radar are, of course, infinitely less cool than a concrete Yellow Brick Road from sea to shining sea, but I think we all know how this story ends. New advances in communication and navigation technology made the big arrows obsolete, and the Commerce Department decommissioned the beacons in the 1940s. The steel towers were torn down and went to the war effort. But the hundreds of arrows remain. Their yellow paint is gone, their concrete cracks a little more with every winter frost, and no one crosses their path much, except for coyotes and tumbleweeds, but they're still out there. From Harry Crosby of EAA663



## WEBSITE OF THE MONTH: [www.liveairshowtv.com](http://www.liveairshowtv.com)

Live Air Show TV website has a great selection of videos of various airshows and interviews with the pilots.



**Note:** It's time to send in chapter dues (\$35). If dues are not paid by Mar 1<sup>st</sup>, you will be considered inactive and have the newsletter discontinued. Major upcoming expenses for the chapter are \$2400 (Hangar rent), \$470 (EAA National Registration), \$460 (Hangar Propane). Only the propane can be deferred.

Also, please complete and include the signup info below with your payment. It will help keep member contact information accurate and up to date, especially emails & addresses.



**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**

- |         |                     |  |
|---------|---------------------|--|
| Jan 11  | Riverview Arpt(08C) | Arthur Deane - Military Air Drops (w/videos) |
| Feb 8   | Riverview Arpt(08C) | Herb Harney - Idaho Backcountry Tour         |
| March 8 | Riverview Arpt(08C) | Dennis Wyman - Experimental Aircraft Engines |

**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)

**The 2014 Officers for EAA145:**

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**Treasurer's Report:** (As of Jan 2nd)

Liabilities: \$3500.00  
 Cash: \$163.62      Checking: \$33.74  
 Savings: \$6249.52      Total: \$6446.88

**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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