

May 2020



EAA CHAPTER 145

SINCE 1962



Chapter Meeting: Face-to-Face meeting at O8C Cancelled
Check newsletter for aviation news in West Michigan

CHAPTER PROGRAM

Due to the coronavirus, this month's meeting is cancelled. While you are 'sheltering in place' you may want to catch up on the EAA Chapter videos. See below for the link:

<http://eaa.brightcovegallery.com/chapters>

Be safe out there... soon we'll be able to 'social distance' by taking the airplanes out and exploring Michigan and beyond.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

EAA's local chapters are about people, bringing together individuals interested in learning more about aviation as well as sharing their own knowledge. I think about all the people, characters and friends that I have associated with in local EAA chapters. You think it would be hard to not associate with them during this time of self-house arrest.

Maybe, however we have memories, and media to stay in touch. But it's not the same as being with each other. My family has a wonderful trait, no matter how long we are apart; our memories keep us "together." When we next meet we simply carry on without worrying about what was missed. A positive attitude sure beats a negative attitude any day.

So, when this thing is over, I plan to enjoy the activities of the EAA chapters in West Michigan. How about you?

Cheers, Dick

EAA145 HANGAR

- All projects in the Chapter hangar have been completed, so the hangar is available.
- If you need hangar space to work on a project, contact Dick Foster for details.

YOUNG EAGLES

-At this time, all Young Eagle events have been put on hold. The Grand Haven (EAA211) June 6 event has been canceled. Other changes in Y.E. events will be update later in May.

FACEBOOK

EAA Chapter #145 now has a Facebook page. Keep an eye on the site for events and notifications and photos. This will be an ever-evolving page, as we learn how to best use it.

<https://www.facebook.com/EAA145/>

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Park Township Airport – Runway/Closing

Dear Pilots and interested parties,

As you know, the millage vote to fund the airport failed. The Township board had previously determined if the vote failed, that the runway would be removed by October 1st and fixed wing aircraft would no longer have the infrastructure to fly.

As the Township Manager, my efforts will be to close the airport and remove the runway with grace and a heartfelt understanding that this action is likely not supported by the aviation community. I will be flexible and understanding that my role will be counter to those that love the airport.

The Township recently approved a contract to build a parking lot at the end of the grass runway. This will proceed as planned, but it is unclear when construction will begin given the recent coronavirus pandemic. The Township, through the airport manager has issued a NOTAM closing the grass runway. This will ultimately be a permanent closure. Once construction begins, the contractor will remove a section of the taxiway that will become the base of the parking lot at Cooper Van Wieren. Pilots will be notified when work on partial taxiway removal will occur. Once the taxiway removal starts, the center taxiway will no longer be usable. All traffic will have to use the taxiway at the Runway 5 (southwest) end.

We are asking that pilots and those with hangar land leases please make alternative accommodations by August 1st. We will be sending out formal notices shortly. We will issue a letter requesting MDOT to delist the Airport on August 15th. We will be targeting September 1st as a date to begin removing the runway and taxiways. There is the possibility that material from the runway and taxiways will be recycled for use on the trails connecting Ottawa Beach Road and 152nd Avenue to the Cooper Van Wieren parking lot.

Sincerely,

Howard Fink - Park Township Manager - hfink@parktownship.org
616.738.4229 (office) 616.399.8540 (fax)

History:

Established in 1937, the airport has a rich history as one of Michigan’s earliest airports. It has served as an airmail stop, passenger service, and as a military pilot training airport during WW II with pilots being housed in the community building on the current fairgrounds. It once was the premier business airport in Holland where many companies would base their corporate plane. Most corporate planes are now located at the West Michigan Regional Airport. Although with direct access to companies located on the north side, we still see some business traffic.

While times have changed, the airport continues to be very popular and many indicators show HLM becoming more of a “destination” airport. Many visitors come to enjoy a weekend or a day on the lake shore, or as a convenient way to access their boat at our local marinas. We offer a courtesy car, tent camping area and free bicycles, although many will bring their bikes with them in their plane.



So in the upcoming months, let's show our support by flying over and landing at the field. Take a walk around, take a good long look, and talk to the locals. Make a few touch-and-go's to let the neighbors know that we are still around. Park Township even allows for overnight Camping.

Creating activity around the airport will not forestall the inevitable, but will show the passion that we have for small town aviation.

It is sad to see it go, but we can show our support by not letting it go quietly into forgotten history.

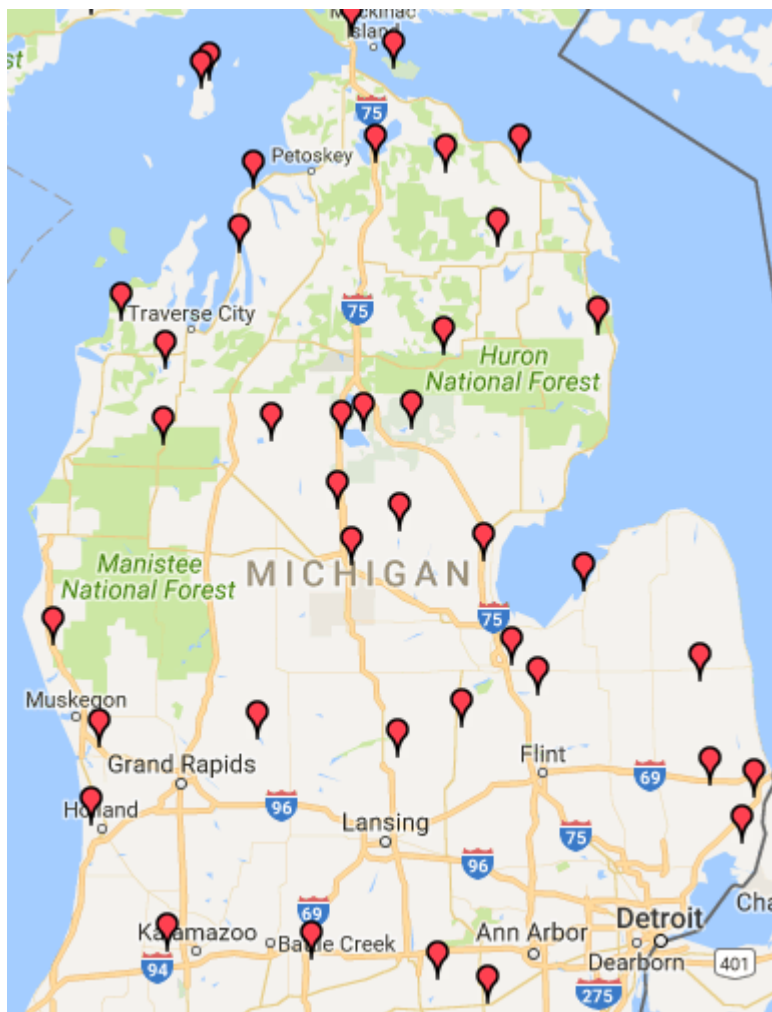


WEBSITE OF THE MONTH www.aaca.pilotgetaways.com

There is a new association dedicated to pilots and families with a passion for camping under the wing - American Air Campers Association (AACA). Founded by long-time pilot and camping-enthusiast, Don Abbott, the American Air Campers Association is the culmination of five years of research and planning.

"My love for air camping started when my daughter Liz was six," he notes. "We would fly a Cessna 150 into a grass landing strip at Shades State Park in Indiana, pitch a tent under the wing and go hiking. Camping in the great outdoors is the ultimate American experience," Abbott notes. "It puts us in touch with the magnificent beauty of the country, while bringing families closer together. Air camping provides a great, new alternative to traditional vacations. Coupling the experience of camping with the freedom of flying makes distant and hard-to-reach campsites more accessible and multiple-location trips can be accomplished in a relatively short period of time."

To confirm that others would share in his enthusiasm, Abbott conducted a survey of more than 20,000 pilots to assess interest in the association. Response was overwhelmingly supportive of the idea with over 90 percent of those surveyed showing a desire to become AACA members.



Recreation Aviation Foundation www.theraf.org

The R.A.F. preserves, maintains, and creates airstrips for recreational access. The RAF was founded by a group of pilots who were concerned about the loss of backcountry strips. Since the inception in 2003, RAF has prevented the closure of airstrips and even built new ones. In Michigan there are two RAF airstrips – Two Heated River (6Y5) in the U.P. and North Fox Island (6Y3)

AIRPLANE CAMPING

Camping with your aircraft is one of the most joyful ways to enjoy general aviation. Who doesn't love sleeping under the stars and waking up to a beautiful natural setting? Beneath the wing of your high-wing Cessna is a perfect spot for putting up a tent. First, choose a destination. Do you want to fish, swim, hike, bike? Or would you be happy to set up camp at the airport and chill? In other words, should you make the camp the center of the event, or your home away from home? Second, what kind of facilities do you require? Search your destination city in AOPA's online Destinations database and filter by amenities to find nearby airports with camping on the field.



Some airports advertising on-field camping are only saying that if you pitch a tent next to your airplane, the airport management won't kick you off the property. These locations may have no amenities, such as 24-hour-accessible bathrooms, showers, picnic tables, and/or fire pits. Call ahead to see what is on the field. Some strips adjoin conventional campgrounds, giving access to typical amenities. Another source can be the state board of aeronautics—many of these agencies keep track of airports that have bona fide camping facilities.

Many prime camping spots are at short, unimproved grass or gravel strips. With your family in tow and the airplane filled with gear, this is not the time to exercise short-field skills for the first time. Be sure of your skills and carefully research the performance of your airplane. Stay alert for shifting winds below the tree line and resist the temptation to carry excess speed into narrow, short strips. Also pay attention to the airport topography; because of terrain, many backcountry runways are used in one direction for takeoff and the other for landing, unless extreme winds demand otherwise.

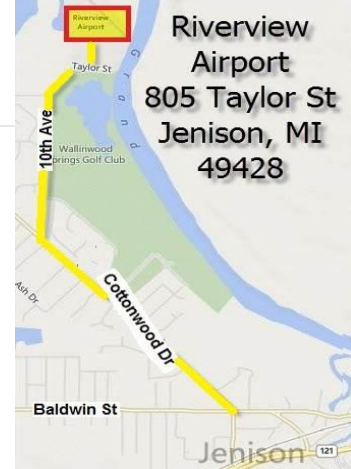
Careful planning includes all the normal cross-country planning tasks (checking weather, planning a route, looking for alternates and alternatives) plus ensuring you and your aircraft are capable of operating at the intended airport. Some of these airports are surrounded by mountains, at high elevations, or at high density altitudes, and some have only gravel or grass strips with rising or descending terrain.



OSHKOSH 2020 CANCELLED

The world's largest fly-in convention in Oshkosh has been canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. The 2020 EAA will not happen as scheduled this July. It was to be the 68th year of EAA Convention. EAA organizers cite the health and safety of participants and volunteers and uncertainty about current and future policies for mass gatherings. People from all over the world come to Wittman Regional Airport for the annual celebration of aviation.

EAA Chapter 145 website: www.145.eaachapter.org
 EAA National website: www.eaa.org
 Riverview Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EAA145/>



Riverview Airport
 805 Taylor St
 Jenison, MI
 49428

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 9 Riverview Airport (08C)
 May 10 Napoleon Airport (3NP)
 June 6 Grand Haven (3GM)
 June 7 Houghton Lake (HTL)
June 13 Riverview Airport (08C)
 June 20 Ionia Airport (Y70)
 July 1-5 Battle Creek Airport
 July 4-5 Traverse City
 July 20-26 Wittman Field (OSH)
 July 28-Aug 1 Mentone, IN (C92)
 Aug 14-15 Sparta Airport (8D4)
 Aug 13-16 Sparta Airport (8D4)
 Aug 29-30 Willow Run Airport
 Fall '20 Niagara Falls Trip

Meeting – Cancelled
 Mother’s Day Fly In
 Dawn Patrol Breakfast / Lunch
 Pancake Breakfast Fly-In
Meeting – RV-14A Project – Bob Swietek
 S.M.A.T. Community Day
 Battle Creek Airshow & Balloon Festival = Cancelled =
 National Cherry Festival Air Show = Cancelled =
OSHKOSH 2020 = Cancelled =
 P.R.A. Convention - Grycopters
 Sparta Fly-In Breakfast & Young Eagles
 Ford Tri-Motor Rides
 Thunder Over Michigan Airshow – Ypsilanti MI
 West Mich Pilots Group – Niagara Falls

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 2020 Officers for EAA145:

President, Dick Foster
 (538-8849 flyrfc172@aol.com)
 Vice President, Bruce Whitman
 (897-9846 bwhitmanpe@gmail.com)
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 6962 Bridgewater Dr. SE
 Grand Rapids, MI 49546
 (676-2951 airdale69@aol.com)
 Newsletter Editor, Randy Houtman
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Treasurer’s Report: (as of May 4th)

Liabilities: \$4055.00	
Cash: \$140.85	Checking: \$307.11
Savings: \$7109.34	Total: \$7557.30

Website Editor, Bill Willyard
 (wgwillyard@att.net)

EAA CHAPTER 145 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM	
DUES ARE \$35.00 PER YEAR – JANUARY 1st to DECEMBER 31st	
Name _____	Aircraft Owned _____
Co-Pilot / Spouse _____	_____
Address _____	Projects / % Complete _____
City _____	_____
State / Zip _____	Bring this form to the next meeting or mail to:
e-mail address _____	EAA Chapter 145 Treasurer
Home Phone _____	6962 Bridgewater Dr. SE
Work Phone _____	Grand Rapids, MI, 49546
National Membership # _____	

Experimental Aircraft Association – Chapter 145 – Grand Rapids, Mi

