

March 2014



# EAA CHAPTER 145

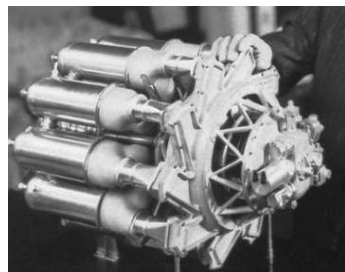
SINCE 1962



Martt Clupper

**Chapter Meeting: Saturday, March 8, 2014 – 10:00 am  
Riverview Airport (08C) in the meeting room**

This month we will be hearing from Dennis Wyman. He will give a presentation on experimental aircraft engines.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Thanks to Heb Harney, for giving us an informative and entertaining follow-up report on the Idaho Backcountry trip with the Riverview Airport pilots.



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

"To build or not to build," that is the question. As an officer of an EAA chapter, I'm often asked what type of experimental aircraft I am building. It's a natural question for a person outside of EAA to ask. After all the EAA is the Experimental Aircraft Association. This gives me a chance to explain the many areas that EAA is involved with.

As a member it is good to know that the EAA and the local Chapter provide a variety of programs that all benefit sport aviation. You could mention Homebuilders, Antique/classics, Warbirds, Young Eagles, Eagle Flights, aerobatics, etc. Better yet, ask the person to attend the next Chapter meeting or refer them to the EAA.org web site.

Anyhow, when I'm ask about the type of aircraft I'm building, I just say that I like to support the builders by staying out of the way by flying my Cessna.

Keep Warm, Dick

## Grand Rapids Airfield

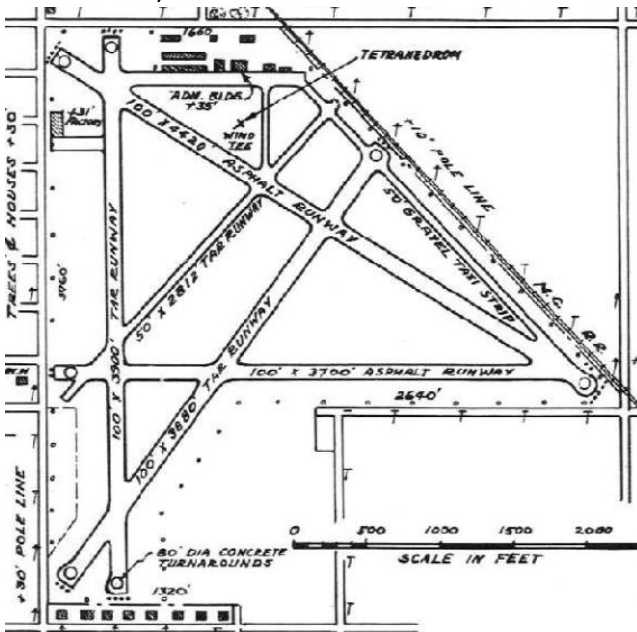
Aviation first came to Kent County more than 90 years ago when a Wright biplane rolled across The grass at the West Michigan State Fairground at Comstock Park.

Groundbreaking for Kent County's first airport took place on November 26, 1919, four miles from downtown.

The United States' first regularly scheduled airline service began on July 31, 1926, between Grand Rapids and Detroit.

On August 12, 1927, Charles Lindbergh landed the Spirit of St. Louis at Kent County Airport. This visit came months after his historic New York to Paris flight. In 1928, the Ford-Stout monoplane "Miss Grand Rapids" transported the first shipment of furniture by air.

The new Administration building (pictured), completed in the fall of 1939, boasted the very latest heating, lighting, plumbing and all modern conveniences. The building's 24-inch-thick, steel-reinforced concrete walls were built to be "bomb proof."



The 1945 AAF Airfield Directory (courtesy of Scott Murdock) described Kent County Airport as a 324 acre irregularly-shaped property within which were 5 runways, with the longest being a 4,420' northwest/southeast concrete strip. The field was said to have a total of 22 concrete hangars, ranging in size up to 120' x 60', and to be owned & operated by Kent County.

By 1949 the airport's facilities were strained to the maximum, and the citizens of Kent County voted to expand the airport at its current location, which would require the purchase of 120 acres & 89 houses.

In early 1952 the newly expanded 5,700'

runway was completed. For a time, movable gates were necessary to keep 44th Street traffic from crossing the airport's longest runway while planes were taking off & landing.

In 1958 the decision was made to replace the original airport with a newly constructed field in eastern Cascade Township. The groundbreaking was conducted for the new field in 1961.

That got me thinking.... How many airports have you landed at are not there anymore? My count is 1 at South Kent. It was a small grass strip over by 64<sup>th</sup> & Clyde Park. South Kent was a great place to practice both short and soft field take-offs. And now it's a condo complex



**WEBSITE OF THE MONTH:**  
[www.airfields-freeman.com](http://www.airfields-freeman.com)

### Ketchikan: The Bush Pilots

Here's a video on the history and life of bush pilots in Ketchikan Alaska, with top-of-the-line film quality.

See <http://vimeo.com/79908357>

### WEEKS RESTORATION HANGER

It's time to start thinking about the EAA#145 Annual trip to the Weeks hanger in Oshkosh, WI. We will be going on April 25-27. Please let Dick know if you would like to go with us.

### U.S.A.F. MUSEUM DAWN PATROL

Go see the Garrets and other WWI replica airplanes, vehicles, and encampment this September 26-28, at the U.S.A.F. Museum in Dayton OH. The Garrets will have the SE-5A on display. This event only happens every other year, so go this year.... or you'll be 2 years older when you do.

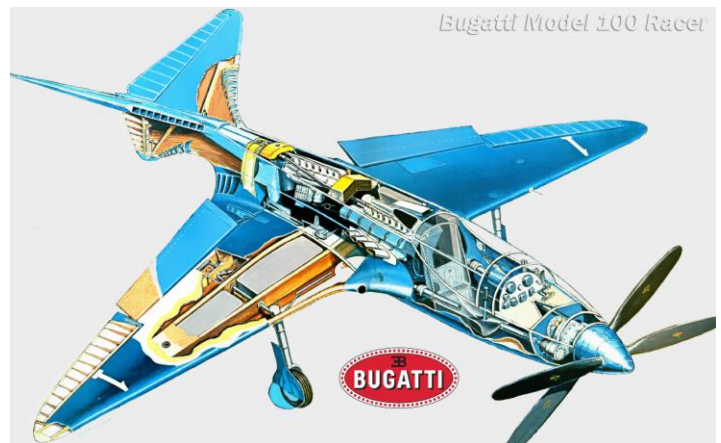
### Pancake Breakfast Schedule

Look at [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero) and click 'calendar' and you'll see a variety of flying events around Michigan. The good weather is coming soon....hopefully.

### <http://bugatti100p.com/>

If you were at Oshkosh 2011, you may have seen the Bugatti 100p in the EAA welcome tent. It was still in its wooden unfinished state at that time.

But now it is finished and will make its public debut at a Bugatti museum on March 25<sup>th</sup> in Oxnard CA. They do plan to fly it sometime in the future.



**FOR SALE:** 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.

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

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

**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.

**YOUNG EAGLES**

The Young Eagle events for 2014 are starting to come in. The GAAA in Greenville has asked EAA145 to sponsor a Young Eagle event on Saturday, June 14, 2014.



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

March 8	Riverview Arprt(08C)	Dennis Wyman - Experimental Aircraft Engines
April 1-6	Lakeland, FL	Sun-N-Fun Fly-In
April 12	Riverview Arprt(08C)	Linda Dewey - WWII Kassel Mission
April 25-27	Oshkosh, WI	Weeks Hangar Work Weekend
May 10	Gerald Ford(GRR)	George Pavey – Tour of West MI Aviation Academy
June 7	Riverview Arprt(08C)	Poker Run – see Herb Harney for info
June 7	Riverview Arprt(08C)	W.M.F.A. breakfast/lunch Fly-In
June 14	Greenville Airport	Young Eagles / G.A.A.A Event
Aug 9-10	Ypsilanti Airport	Thunder Over Michigan Airshow
Fall Time	East Coast of USA	Riverview Pilots East Coast Trip
Sept 26-28	U.S.A.F. Museum,Dayton	WWI Dawn Patrol Rendezvous

**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:**

- President, Dick Foster  
(538-8849 [c172foster@gmail.com](mailto:c172foster@gmail.com))
- Vice President, Bruce Whitman  
(897-9846 [bwhitmanpe@att.net](mailto:bwhitmanpe@att.net))
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- Website Editor, Bill Willyard  
([wgwillyard@att.net](mailto:wgwillyard@att.net))

**Treasurer’s Report:** (As of Feb 2nd)

Liabilities: \$3500.00  
 Cash: \$138.62      Checking: \$121.34  
 Savings: \$4134.56      Total: \$4419.52

**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 # _____	

## EAA CHAPTER 145, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

TO: All Members / Interested Aviation People

FROM: Dick Foster (616-538-8849), (c172foster@gmail.com)

SUBJECT: Trip to Kermit Weeks Hanger, Oshkosh WI.

We will be making our annual trip to the Weeks Hanger on the weekend of **April 25 to 27, 2014**. The trip is designed to be a relaxing weekend. People who like airplanes have the opportunity to get together and share the satisfaction of helping restore or maintain the aircraft of the EAA collection. Antiques and Warbirds are kept flying with the support of EAA's volunteers.

The cost is shared by the chapter and each individual will pay for 4 meals. Transportation will be by sharing van space or you could fly. Housing will be provided by EAA at the Binder House. You should bring a toilet kit, change of clothes and a sleeping bag. Also bring toys, books, videos, photos, or anything to help with the "hanger flying."

Here is the schedule:

### **Friday, 4/25**

- Leave Riverview airport, about noon
- Supper on the road at the O'Hara Oasis
- Arrive Oshkosh about 8 p.m.
- Stay overnight at the EAA Binder House

### **Saturday, 4/26**

- Breakfast in Oshkosh on way to Weeks
- Get to the hanger by 8 a.m.
- Work on aircraft, lunch provided at the hanger
- End work on projects about 5 p.m.
- Supper nearby in Oshkosh
- Sleep at Binder House after extensive "hanger flying"

### **Sunday, 4/27**

- Breakfast in Oshkosh
- Tour EAA Museum, 10 to about noon
- Dinner on the way back
- Arrive in Grand Rapids about 7 p.m.

This is a great way to introduce someone to grass roots aviation; invite a friend to go.

**Please let me know if you can go...ride or drive?**

Keep them flying.

**Dick**