

December 2013

HANGAR TALK



I apologize for the way this newsletter looks. My computer "bit the dust" and until I get it repaired and all my software back, I can't do the quality of newsletter I will eventually do. I hope you will all bear with me. -- Dale Hagen, Editor

Meeting Friday, December 6, 2013

Understanding Vortex Generators

Our own Walt Clawson will be bringing us our December program. With a slide show and short video clip, Walt will be discussing how vortex generators are used to delay flow separation and improve the effectiveness of wings and control surfaces. He will bring his actual vortex generator kit from Micro Aerodynamics, Anacortes, WA, less the VG's he installed on his plane, of course. This should be an interesting program I'm sure you won't want to miss.

Christmas Dinner & Awards Banquet, December 14, 2013

Please join us Saturday, December 14, 2013, for an evening of camaraderie and Holiday spirit at our 2013 Christmas Dinner and Awards Banquet. The venue will be John Gill's hangar at the Paul C. Miller-Sparta Airport, 9140 Vinton Avenue NW, Sparta, MI. It will again be a party for both Chapter 211 and Sparta's EAA Chapter 704. Chapter 211 will furnish 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.

American Eaglet Project

Work on the Eaglet continues. Work dates for December are Thursday evenings, December 5, 12, 19 and 26 and either Saturday December 21 or 28. We will try to update you which Saturday is the correct one when we know for sure.

Tom VanderJagt is going an excellent job of documenting progress on the Eaglet at <http://www.1935americaneaglet.wordpress.com>

I have put a link to his blog on our website as well. He has photos and a description of the work on the plane. Really nice work, Tom.

Prez Sez

Greetings everyone,

I don't know about you, but for me this year seems to have *flown* by! As I write this, it is 7am Thanksgiving day, a day we pause to reflect on the things we are thankful for. It has been a joy and a privilege to serve as President of Chapter 211, and, so, I want to thank you all for your support this year. Soon I will be taking over the newsletter responsibilities. I want to thank George Wolter for all of his years of service as newsletter editor, and for hanging in there this whole year and being patient while I continue to try to get up to speed.

I also want to thank my fellow Officers on the Board. Vice-President Chet Uncapher who not only pulled together some fine programs on interesting topics, but was especially helpful in assisting me to get things done on time. I want to thank the two people who served as Secretary/Treasurer in 2013, Karl Kotecki who, unfortunately had to step aside in August, and Craig Christilaw for being willing to step in on short notice and serve out the rest of the year.

Another thing I am thankful for are the good number of members who were willing to place their names in nomination for the Board election in November. As you know, in some past years we have had some difficulty finding the required minimum of three candidates, but this year we were blessed to have six, all very qualified! Congratulations to Earle Bares, Walter Clawson and Stan Briggs who garnered the most votes. I hope Tom Marotta, Warren Roosen and Robert Vink will run again next year.

Perhaps I should mention here that we are currently in need of a Young Eagles Coordinator. Any volunteers?

At the Board Meeting in November, the 2013 Board Members discussed who would serve in which Officer positions in 2014. The results are Doug Formsma will be our new President, Ed Cech will be Vice-President and Ben Gerhardt will be the Secretary/Treasurer. I'm sure you will all welcome and support these guys as you have Chet, Karl, Craig and me this past year.

One more thing I'm thankful for is all of our "in-house" expertise. To wit, Paul Overbeek has replaced a faulty gas valve on the furnace in our clubhouse, so we should have heat for our meeting this month. Thank you Paul!

Looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting!

Sincerely,
Dale Hagen
EAA Chapter 211 President

Editor's Notebook

If you are reading this then the change to our new Newsletter Editor is underway. Dale is taking over the job of Editor. I am sure that this newsletter looks different than what you are used to seeing. My advice to Dale is to start simple, just write a letter to the Chapter. Over time you will develop your own look and style for the news.

Chapter members, your role is to help Dale as he takes over. The hardest part of editing the news is sitting at a keyboard trying to figure out how to fill 4 or 6 pages of white space. The minutes and Prez column take a few pages but there are still pages for Dale to fill. So we all need to remember to send Dale news to fill the white space. If you travel and visit a friendly airport send Dale a paragraph and a photo. If you solve an interesting problem on your plane, or build the perfect bracket; send Dale an email telling what you did. Dale is the editor but this is the Chapter 211 newsletter and we all are part of making it.

Chet asked me the other day how long I have been editing the news. It made me realize that many of you were not members when I started editing the news in 1991. I took over the news the year we renovated the clubhouse and changed it from a smaller "L" shaped room to the current layout. Soon we will have a new room to meet in (hopefully a room with heat) and a new editor.

Thanks to all of you for helping me fill the white space.

George

Minutes

Craig Christilaw was not able to be at the November meeting so, these minutes were graciously taken by Scott DeGaynor.

The meeting began as always with the Pledge of Allegiance and a welcoming of our members and guests. Minutes were approved as published in the last newsletter.

Chet Uncapher gave an update of his work on his Ultrapete's exhaust system. He brought a modified section that Paul Dannenberg welded up beautifully for him.

We held our annual election for the Board of Directors. Earle Bares, Stan Briggs and Walt Clawson received the most votes and will serve on the Board in 2014 and be Officers in 2015.

Website

Be sure to check our website regularly. 211.eaachapter.org for information and updates about upcoming meetings. The website is updated as information arrives, sometimes mid month, before an email or the next newsletter goes out. Three new videos have also been uploaded to our website in November; QF-16 drone, Wisconsin skydivers jump to safety after two planes collide and The Seafire. Check 'em out!

Sad News

Phil Seizinger, age 49, president of the Michigan Aviation Association (MAA), passed away Saturday, November 16, 2013.

As you may recall, Phil was our guest speaker at our April meeting. He presented a program about the history of the Michigan Air Tour. Phil also served as a director of the Michigan Aviation Education Foundation (MAEF). He was active with the Dreams and Wings program that gives airplane rides to special needs children.

Phil apparently passed away while cleaning leaves out of his yard at St. Clair Shores. The exact cause of his death has not been communicated to me yet, but it is believed that he had a fatal heart attack. His flying partner and co-owner of the Piper Seneca they flew, shared family history about how many of his male ancestors died in their early 50's from heart problems. Phil had close connections with many aviation enthusiasts all over Michigan. He will missed by many of us.

Chet Uncapher
EAA Chapter 211 Vice-President
MAEF President

S.T.E.M. In Flight

On November eleventh I received an interesting call from [Ebiri Nkugba](#) of the Kent Intermediate School District, inviting Chapter 211 to participate in a one-day symposium of local K-12 educators, which is currently in the early planning stages for February, March, or maybe April. Please read his letter below and let me know if you would be interested in contributing your expertise for a day, to hopefully multiply our efforts to inspire a new generation of aviators. -- Dale Hagen

Gentlemen,

Good morning/afternoon/evening as the case may be! I am contacting you regarding the phone conversation we had earlier today. As I mentioned, I am working with local schools in our area to excite the next generation of pilots, mechanics, scientists, technologists, & engineers using aviation as a

backdrop. My work focus is specifically the STEM disciplines: **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics**. As you well know, aviation is built upon these principles (and a lot of hard work- which students need to learn about too!)

Imagine our school children learning arithmetic by calculating fuel burn during a cross country, learning algebra by calculating a weight and balance, learning chemistry through corrosion prevention, and discovering the field of engineering by comparing stopping distances obtained with different brake pads!

Here is what I am asking: Would you (& your chapter) consider contributing some expertise for a one day symposium where local K-12 educators can come learn from you how powerful their lessons can be by including an aviation component? If we reach the teachers we can multiply our efforts. I am thinking of hosting this at the [Kent ISD's Aviation Center at Gerald R Ford International \(KGRR\)](#) in the February, March, or maybe April timeframe.

Please consider your chapter becoming involved in this initiative and write back to let me know if you are open to continuing the conversation.

Thank you so much!

[Ebiri Nkugba](#)

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Kent Intermediate School District