



September 2014

1964 - 2014

# Hangar Talk

Serving airplane builders, restorers, pilots, & airplane lovers in Western Michigan



Meeting Friday, September 5, 2014, 7:30pm

## From Bush Flying the Grand Canyon to FedEx Big Heavies

Our own Brian Greene has done it all! ...and you won't want to miss his story.

EAA Chapter 211 Clubhouse, Grand Haven Memorial Airpark (3GM) 16446 Comstock St, Grand Haven, MI 49417

### Chapter 211 Family Picnic

Our Annual Family Picnic was held on Saturday, August 23, at the Grand Haven Memorial Airpark, after the Dawn Patrol Pancake Breakfast. About forty members and family attended. The weather was beautiful, and the food was great. President Doug Formsma presented plaques to the 2013 Officers: Dale Hagen, President, Chet Unchaper, Vice President, and Craig Christilaw, Secretary/Treasurer. Gary Kremers received a builders award for his beautiful *Just Highlander*.



**Note from Gary:** "Every year we have the Summer BBQ many people ask if they can contribute. We always say it's not necessary as we enjoy hosting the party. This year we decided to put out a donation jar, the response was wonderful. Darlene and I were happy to write a check for \$200.00 to the Children's Miracle Network."



A special thank you to Terry Yoder from SMAT, the School of Missionary Aviation Technology, who came to speak at our July meeting.

### Prez Sez

Greetings everyone,

I hope you have been enjoying your summer flying and/or building. Great attendance at Oshkosh. Our local Dawn Patrol was also well attended. Thanks to everyone who helped make that a success.

September should usher in some cooler weather. I was

reminded of the effects of "density altitude" on Sunday afternoon following the chapter picnic. We left Kentucky at 1pm, temps near 90, 890' elevation and 2300' grass runway. The RV was a little sluggish.

Riverview Pilots trip to Maine, Cape Cod and New York is still open to interested pilots the last I

heard, or just take advantage of the freedom to fly some trips on your own in the coming fall months. If you are building keep some pictures around of the places you will fly to when you finish. They are great motivators.

As always, fly safely and keep on building.

Doug Formsma

## 211 Contacts

### 2014 Officers

**President:** Douglas Formsma

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**Vice President:** Ed Cech

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**Secretary/Treasurer:** Earle Bares

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### 2014 Board (2015 Officers)

**Earle Bares**

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### Technical Counselors

**Jack Brewer** 231-798-3799

**Gary Van Farowe** 616-875-8670

### Flight Advisor

Position open

### Librarian

**Vic Matthews** 616-887-7385

### Young Eagles Coordinator

**Craig Christilaw** 616-402-5477

### Fly-out Coordinator

Position open

### Keeper of the Scales

Position open

### Communications:

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## EAA Chapter 211 Meeting Minutes – 2014-06-06

**Attendance:** ??

### 19:35 – Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance

- Recognize visitors
- June minutes and Treasurer's report
  - Motion to approve the June minutes and treasurer's report passed

Tech Report: Jack Brewer

- Gary Kremers held a BBQ at his house on 2014-07-12
- The EAA 211 board decided to hold the chapter picnic on 2014-08-23 at 14:30 in conjunction with the Dawn Patrol.
- Craig Christilaw will be ordering plaques for completed aircraft.
- Craig Christilaw has taken over the duties of Young Eagle coordinator for the chapter.

### Break at 20:00

### Program at 20:27

- School of Missionary Aviation Technology (SMAT)
- Terry Yoder, President
- Pilot and mechanic training
- SMAT sponsored a dawn patrol event on 2014-08-09

### Adjourn at 21:11

## American Eaglet Project

Progress continues on the American Eaglet. September Work Sessions are returning to Thursdays, 4, 11, 18, 25 and possibly Saturday 25. Find details on our website <http://211.eaachapter.org/> in the Calendar section. Weekday evening sessions are from 6pm to 9pm and Saturday sessions begin at 9am and go to noon or so.

**Come on out and get in on the fun!**

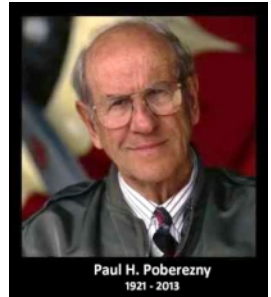
Always check the website, [www.211.eaachapter.org](http://www.211.eaachapter.org) for the latest information.



# August Marks EAA Chapter 211's 50th Anniversary!

It was in the month of August 1964 when 16 adventurous, area pilots got together and filed papers with Paul Poberezny's fledgling **Experimental Aircraft Association** to start an EAA Chapter in West Michigan. Their efforts would become known as EAA Chapter 211.

To those bold "Charter Members" the possibilities must have seemed endless. It was a time of both turmoil and great promise. Gasoline was 20 cents a gallon and the new Aerospace industry was burgeoning. I imagine they may have thought, as did I as a young boy in that era, that one day nearly every family would own an airplane and that flying would be as commonplace as driving. Well these sixteen courageous souls were going to lead the way, and even build their own aircraft! And why not? It was an age that exuded "can-doism."



Well I am thankful for the vision and initiative of those sixteen charter members, and all those who followed as well. Over the past 50 years Chapter 211 has been fortunate to have been home to a great number of inspired thinkers, creative designers, talented engineers and exceptional craftsmen, all willing to confer their knowledge, lend a helping hand, and simply share their love of aviation with others. Chapter 211 is a good place to be!

Some have estimated that over the years our members have built more than 100 aircraft! I would like to compile and publish a list of as many of those aircraft and their builders as possible. To do this, I will, of course, need your help. Let us remember and document our rich history and continue the legacy that those 16 charter members bestowed to us into the next 50 years! – Dale Hagen, Editor

# Happy Anniversary



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## Charter Members

R. E. Fowler  
Ray Sheffield  
Loyd O. Rockey  
Herb L. Kelley

Jason Petroelje  
Louie O. Mermel  
Clayton L. Peoples  
Cecil King

Jay F Gleitz  
Carl Kallansrud  
Charles L. June  
Carl Weller

Clyde Buckly  
Bill Elks  
Harold Ritcher  
Charles B. VanHall



## Proud Grandparents!

Chet and Patty Uncapher's grandson, Leo Panish, who Chapter 211 sponsored to EAA Air Academy a couple of years ago, is now 16 years old! On July 21, while staying with Chet and Patty, Leo soloed for the first time after only 9 hours of dual instruction from flight instructor Hugh Eisen. His plane was a Grumman Cheetah.

Leo is an exceptional student, not only in the cockpit, but in the classroom as well. Below is his beautifully written account of this milestone in his journey.

It was a normal lesson; nothing gave it away. We flew south to the practice area and reviewed a few things from previous lessons: stalls, basic instrument flying, and some ground reference maneuvers. At the end of the lesson, we flew back to Ottawa Executive and did some landings. I was quite pleased with myself because my first 18 landings were never quite how I wanted them to be. Often I would not be right on the center line and most of the time the plane would just fall to the ground with a hard "bump". This was much different from the soft touchdown I have seen my grandparents achieve time and time again. For some reason, these three landings were wonderful and just absolutely satisfying; I brought the plane down each time almost perfectly lined up with the runway, and I was able to feel it rest gently onto the asphalt.

After this, my instructor, Hugh Eisen, asked me to taxi off the runway and park the plane on the ramp, but not shut it down. Even at this point I had no idea what was to



**Leo with his flight instructor, Hugh Eisen**

come next. I was just asking myself, "I wonder what we'll be doing here...." It wasn't until he asked for my logbook and medical certificate that I finally realized I was going to solo. I was more nervous about my grandparents missing it than the actual task itself. They had mentioned many times that they would want to take picture and be there when I solo for the first time. I was able to cure that discomfort by asking Hugh to give them a call for me.

He stepped out of the airplane and told me to do three takeoffs and landings. He then mentioned that it might feel different with only myself in the plane. I taxied back to runway two zero and began the takeoff checklist. I then made a radio call, added full power, and was off. The biggest difference I noticed was how much quieter the cockpit was without another person in the plane. Whatever nervousness existed on the ground

was apparently left behind on the runway. It felt so good to be flying an airplane solo; it was almost like hard-evidence that I'm actually capable of flying an airplane myself, or that I am at least capable of taking off and landing. After the final landing, I taxied to the hangar where my grandma was waiting with a great smile. It is certainly a day I will never forget.

**Before Leo returned to his home in New York, he logged 17 hours and 65 take-offs and landings. Leo plans to obtain his private pilot license next summer when he is seventeen.**

**Congratulations Leo!**



## Dawn Patrol 2014



The 2014 Dawn Patrol Pancake Breakfast was a huge success! An estimated 1800 people descended upon Grand Haven Memorial Airpark, Saturday, August 23.

Assistance by the Civil Air Patrol made the arrival, parking and departure of 650 cars a breeze.

GHAA volunteers cooked eggs, sausage and pancakes, and served coffee and orange juice while area Boy Scouts bussed tables for the approximately 800 breakfasts served.

At least thirty five local and visiting aircraft were on hand for the



enjoyment of all, including three TG-7 Motor Gliders and

their crew from the Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Museum who provided "A VERY SLOW AIR SHOW."

an hour, which was a huge treat for all who were there.

Forty Six EAA Young Eagle flights were flown by eight EAA Member pilots, making 106 children Young Eagles.

The Icom Avionics handheld transceiver radio raffled by the GHAA was won by EAA Chapter 211 member Bill Verduin.

All in all, about 85 volunteers from GHAA, EAA, CAP, and the Boy Scouts combined with just about perfect weather to make for an outstandingly successful day!



U.S. Coast Guard Helicopter crew,  
Michael Borsuck, Joe Rozycki, Troy Ramsdell, Lauren Hohenberger

The U.S. Coast Guard's Eurocopter HH-65 Dolphin helicopter and crew of four dropped in and stayed for over





## Young Eagles



The weather was absolutely sensational for our Young Eagles event, held on Saturday, August 23, 2014, in conjunction with Grand Haven's Dawn Patrol, with a gentle breeze out of the East that had all aircraft using runway 9 all day.

Craig Christilaw and his wife, Colleen Rockey, did a fantastic job organizing a very successful event.



Pilots Jeff Beswick, Pete Boon, Ed Cech, Craig Christilaw, Kurt Knoth, Karl Kotecki, Tom Marotta, and Paul Overbeek gave 106 children Young Eagles flights. They were assisted



by 8 ground crew: Jack Boet, Ken Gleason, Chris Kostamo, Paul Merewether, Dick Tanis, Gary VanFarowe, Bob Vink and Ben Weaver.

Six office staff members kept things organized and flowing smoothly: Jennifer Bares, Valerie Boet, Cathleen Christilaw, Anne Marie Fauvel, Doug Furton and Colleen Rockey.



Also, Ben Ennenga and his crew did an outstanding job directing traffic on Unicom 122.7.

All volunteers were greatly appreciated. You all made some kids very happy!



## Chapter 211 member, John Wilkes, IV, writes new book!

Profoundly talented author and EAA Chapter 211 member John Wilkes IV's latest novel, *Frigatefire*, is finally available! *Frigatefire* is the highly anticipated sequel to John's first novel, *Raventross*, so if you have not read that one, John strongly recommends you read it before reading *Frigatefire*. While they will soon be available through distribution sources like Amazon, John would appreciate it very much if you would order his books through his publisher's website, [www.cdespublishing.com](http://www.cdespublishing.com) or his own website [www.johnburwellwilkes.com](http://www.johnburwellwilkes.com). The cost is the same, but Amazon, like all book distributors, takes a huge chunk of the proceeds on the books they sell. With the new "print on demand" logic, John and his publisher hope the small profit they make from in-house sales will finance the large scale printing of books to go to the big distributors who can sell worldwide.

Writing these novels has been a source of great enjoyment for John, but his ultimate dream is to one day see his novels on the big silver screen! John said, "I know my dream is a real long shot, but I also remember that the most common early reaction I received from readers of *Raventross* is the opinion it would make an outstanding movie. I can't think of anything that would be more fun than being an author/advisor on a movie set."

If you read and enjoy John's books, he would very much like to know what you think about them. EAA Chapter 211 Member Karl Kotecki read *Raventross*, back in 2012 and wrote a review you can read here. <http://www.211.eaachapter.org/raventrossreview.htm>

