

February 2012

Hangar Talk

News from Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 211,
serving airplane builders, restorers, pilots, and airplane
lovers in western Michigan



EAA Chapter 211

MEETING FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 2012 EAA 211 WEBSITE

The EAA Chapter 211 meeting will be Friday, February 3rd at the clubhouse at the Grand Haven Municipal Airport. The program will be the Chapter 211 Website. Dale Hagen will take us on a tour of the website and answer your question about the site.

American Eaglet Project

The restoration of the American Eaglet continues. Gary has held weekly work sessions in January. Work is currently repairing the wing including splicing ribs, replacing nose ribs, cleaning and inspecting the metal fittings. Lots of detail work. Gary has had good attendance at the the sessions with enough help to get thigs accomplished but not the shop is not overcrowded.

February work sessions are planned for Thursday February 2, 9, 16, and 23 and Saturday February 18. Weekday

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sessions are 6-9 pm and the Saturday morning session is 8-12. There will be a sign up sheet at the meeting. Please sign the sheet or email Gary about helping since the shop gets crowded.

Chet Uncapher presented the chapter with a large check from The Michigan Aviation Education Foundation (MAEF) at the meeting. MAEF provided a \$2,000 grant to support the American Eagle Eaglet project undertaken by EAA Chapter 211 under the leadership of Gary Van Farowe. Thank you to MAEF for supporting this project and the opportunity to learn about airplane restoration.

Alcohol Free Fuel Update reported by Bill Willyard

A comment on Chet Uncapher's article on Alcohol Free Fuel. I have confirmed that it is also available at the Ferrysburg Citgo Tri-City Oil Company 523 Pine Street and at Sparta Airport. Auto fuel is \$0.18

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Bill Willyard

Prez Sez

The Eaglet project is off to a good start. The turn out has been good and I would like to thank all those who have volunteered to work on it. I also encourage those who have not volunteered up till now to do so. I have been there twice and had a fun time working with the other guys. I have already learned that building a stick and fabric plane is much different than working with foam and fiberglass.



Gary will give a report at the meeting on the progress of the restoration and also on how much pledge money the museum has received. For those of you who have not yet sent in your pledges, a reminder that the instructions to do so are on the web site and were in the last newsletter.

I am happy to announce that that with the addition of Karl Kotecki, we now have a full board for 2013. A big thanks to Karl for volunteering. Karl has a metal fabrication business in Zeeland, so for any of you that need some aluminum fab work done, see Karl.

The challenge of finding live speakers for the meeting has become more difficult. If anyone has a suggestion or would like to do a program, please talk to Dave Thomas. He will appreciate any suggestions you might have.

Be Safe

Paul

President - Chapter EAA 211

From the Vice President

Hello, I am Dave Thomas, your new Vice President. I am looking for some help. One of my new jobs is to put together our monthly meeting program, so I would like to hear your ideas. What would you like to see? Also, if you have an aviation-related presentation that you think would be of interest to everyone, please contact me at thomashomes@chartermi.net, or call me at 616-638-5420.

The program on the Carbon Cub originally scheduled for February had to be postponed, but we hope to have that for you in the near future. Filling in for February will be our webmaster, Dale Hagen, discussing developments on the chapter website. Dale's presentation will include a light overview of the website, including the newly added American Eaglet Restoration Progress Reports. He will lay out the benefits of participating in the website, the simple steps to joining the site, the use of alternative web browsers, RSS feeds, website security measures, and more! He will wrap up with time to take questions and hear your ideas for features and improvements you would like to see. You can visit our website at www.211.eaachapter.org

16mm film footage:

Do you have any old 16mm movie footage? If it is aviation related and something you would like to share, Karl Kotecki has a 16mm movie film projector he is willing to let us use. Just contact Dave Thomas at thomashomes@chartermi.net, or call 616-638-5420, and we will discuss making time for it at a future meeting.

Recovering from a Builder's Stall

by

Chet Uncapher

I am happy to report that since our last chapter meeting I have been working on my Star-Lite project. It was in early 2000 that I purchased this sleek little "Bird Suit" airplane in Oakland County. After a thorough inspection, I concluded that it needed to be completely rebuilt. For the next six years I made significant progress on the plane. In 2007 Patti and I were hit with emotionally disturbing events that knocked me off course and threw me into a builder's stall. Fortunately, we were able to work through the problems that grabbed us by the brains and now I am excited about getting this bird into the air.

The Star-Lite was the first kit plane available that contained vacuum bagged, oven-cured parts. The kit had everything necessary to produce a flying airplane. Included in the kit were the airframe, engine, and instruments. This was the first airplane kit put on the market by Mark Brown who later transitioned to the two-place Pulsar that has the same profile as the Star-Lite. A completed Star-Lite will have an empty weight of approximately 280 pounds. It is powered by a Rotax 447, 40-horsepower, 2-stroke engine and cruises at 120 MPH on two gallons of fuel per hour.

Mark Brown at Oshkosh introduced the prototype in 1983. A total of 122 kits were sold before production stopped. The

kit numbering began with 100, so the first kit was #101. The one that I have is kit #126, the 26th kit to be sold.

I am currently working on the wings. They are constructed with Sitka spruce spars, blue foam ribs, and plywood skins. To fabricate the ribs I purchased a computer program called CompuFoil that will print a full-size pattern for each rib. The airfoil is NACA-2415 with the root chord measuring 40.75 inches and the tip chord measuring 22 inches. Each wing extends 116 inches outboard from the side of the fuselage. Total wingspan is a little over twenty-one feet. The washout on the wings is 1.5%. Fortunately, the CompuFoil program allows me to design the washout into the rib patterns.

Most of the complicated features that needed to be rebuilt have already been done. What remains is installation of the canopy, instruments, rudder peddles, control cables and engine. Hopefully, I can keep up my enthusiasm and bring this beautiful bird to a chapter meeting before my tenure on the board expires.



Minutes of EAA Chapter 211 meeting January 6, 2012

Meeting was called to order by outgoing President Dale Hagen, and he turned over the gavel to new President Paul Overbeek. Also installed at this meeting was new Vice President Dave Thomas and Secretary/Treasurer Craig Christilaw.

Awards were presented by Paul to outgoing President Dale Hagen, Vice President Stan Briggs, and Secretary/Treasurer Jack Brewer for their fine work over the past year. Jack then shared a Tech Report with us about the engine failure of a Cessna the was able to land at Hatfield Airport near Spring Lake.

Chet Uncapher presented a check for \$2000.00 to Paul

from the Michigan Aviation Education Foundation to be used for the American Eaglet project. This project has shown good progress, as the old fabric has been removed, and now the replacement and repair of the structure is now under way. All EAA 211 members are urged to send their pledge money to the Airpower Museum in Iowa to help fund this project. The money should be sent to:

Airpower Museum, Inc.
Antique Airfield
22001 Bluegrass Road
Ottumwa, IA 52501

Please note on the check "1935 American Eaglet NC17007 restoration by EAA Chapter 211.

Paul and the entire membership were pleased when Karl Kotecki volunteered to become a board member. It was announced that club dues for 2012 are now due, and the fees are still \$22.00 per year with email newsletter, and \$25.00 per year with USPS newsletter delivery. After the break for coffee, the January program of "Status of Your Homebuilt Project" began. Karl Kotecki discussed his Sonex Waix project, John Gill discussed his Acro Sport One, Chet Uncapher discussed his Star-Lite project, and Paul Dannenberg discussed his Pitts project.

Craig Christilaw, Secretary Treasurer



Mystery Aircraft



Another from Gary's Hangar



Last month's Mystery looks like trim adjustment on the Eaglet

Editors Notebook

It was fun seeing members report on work on their projects over the past month. I got to do one work session on the American Eaglet project. The wing is slowly improving. I worked on nose ribs; gluing the ribs and helping Gary install one nose rib. You can see that there are many little steps repeated many times ends up making a wing.

Thanks to Chet for the article and photos of his recovery from his builders stall. The Star-Lite is an interesting little plane, not quite what I would choose for a project but it is innovative and gets a lot of performance from a little power. It is good to see the project underway again.

I hope that everyone is working on their own projects as we all wait for warmer weather.

George

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Notes

Alcohol Free Fuel Update - reported by Bill Willyard

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less expensive at Sparta Airport than at J & H Oil in Rockford. Still working on other West Michigan sources. Have found pure-gas.org is not always reliable. Always test a sample for alcohol as required by the STC.



More Eaglet Photos



Eaglet Project



EAA Chapter 211 Calendar

February 3.....	Meeting
February 2, 9, 16, 18, 24.....	Eaglet Project sign up at the meeting
March 2.....	Meeting
April 13?.....	Meeting
May 4.....	Meeting
June 1.....	Meeting
July 6.....	Meeting

George Wolter - NLE
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