

FEBRUARY 2025

# Thoughts Aloft

Manitowoc EAA Chapter 383 Newsletter

## Chapter Logbook

by Chapter President Jim Zuege

Good news, Bad news, and Great news.  
The Good news is our chapter is growing!  
The Bad news is we've lost our way in regard to the Table of Organization and the Operating Manual.  
The Great news is we've recovered the Table of Organization and the Operating Manual from 1973!  
We shall go back to our EAA Chapter 383 roots, albeit modernize, update, tweak and move forward by setting ourselves up for success.

Every chapter member is needed for this important mission. 100% Participate! PLEASE come to the meeting on Wednesday February 12, 2025 at 1900 Hrs. We will hand out paper copies of the Operating Manual from 1973. It's a great read with the 70's lingo interspersed. The month of February will be to read it, think on it, mull it over and send your thoughts, changes, ideas to me in the form of an email to: JimZuege@gmail.com - by the end of the the month. Even if it's a simple as "Yep, that looks great just like it is." Or "I think we should change...." Or "We should add...." Or "Let's update....."

Your thoughts will be collected through Feb 28. In March they will be discussed at the business meeting. April it will be assembled and voted on and used moving forward.

Jim



**Chapter 383 KMTW**

Hangar 22  
1805 Freedom Way  
Manitowoc  
KMTW383@gmail.com

**Monthly Business Meeting**  
**2nd Wednesday 1900 hrs**

**Monthly Gathering for an**  
**activity or speaker**  
**3rd Saturday 0800 hrs**

## OFFICERS

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**Treasurer**

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## Seabee Prep

You're invited to help prep and paint the Seabee that sustained storm damage. We need to get it done and get it back out front at the airport entrance. Saturday, February 15, 2025 at 0800 hrs.



The February 2025 issue of EAA Sport Aviation features “Splashing Down” on the cover. It is Bruce Douglas’ 1947 Republic RC-3 Seabee. Thanks to meticulous restoration work by former owner David Reeve, the Seabee stands as a pristine example of classic craftsmanship.  
[Link to story.](#)

**EAA Chapter 383 has a web page. It contains:  
About us, Contact us, Event Calendar, Youth Activities, Merchandise, In the News and Social Media, Newsletters, Young Eagles, Chapter Event Photos, Technical Counselors, Ray Aviation Scholarship.  
[Link to the webpage that is loaded with information!](#)**

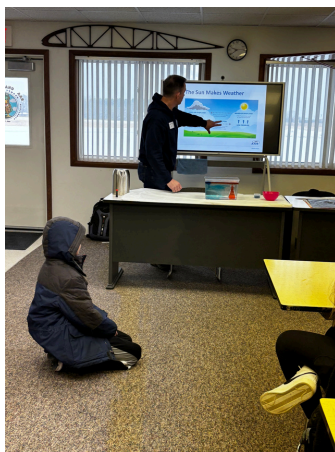
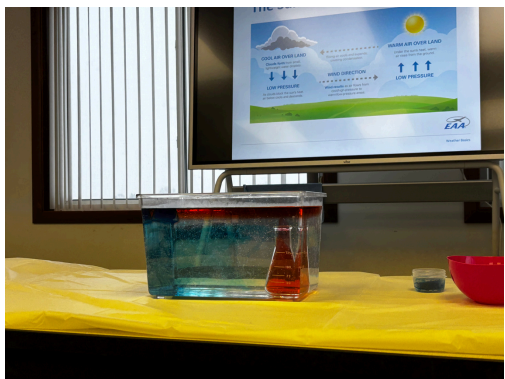
**EAA Chapter 383 Facebook Page  
[Link to Facebook page](#)**



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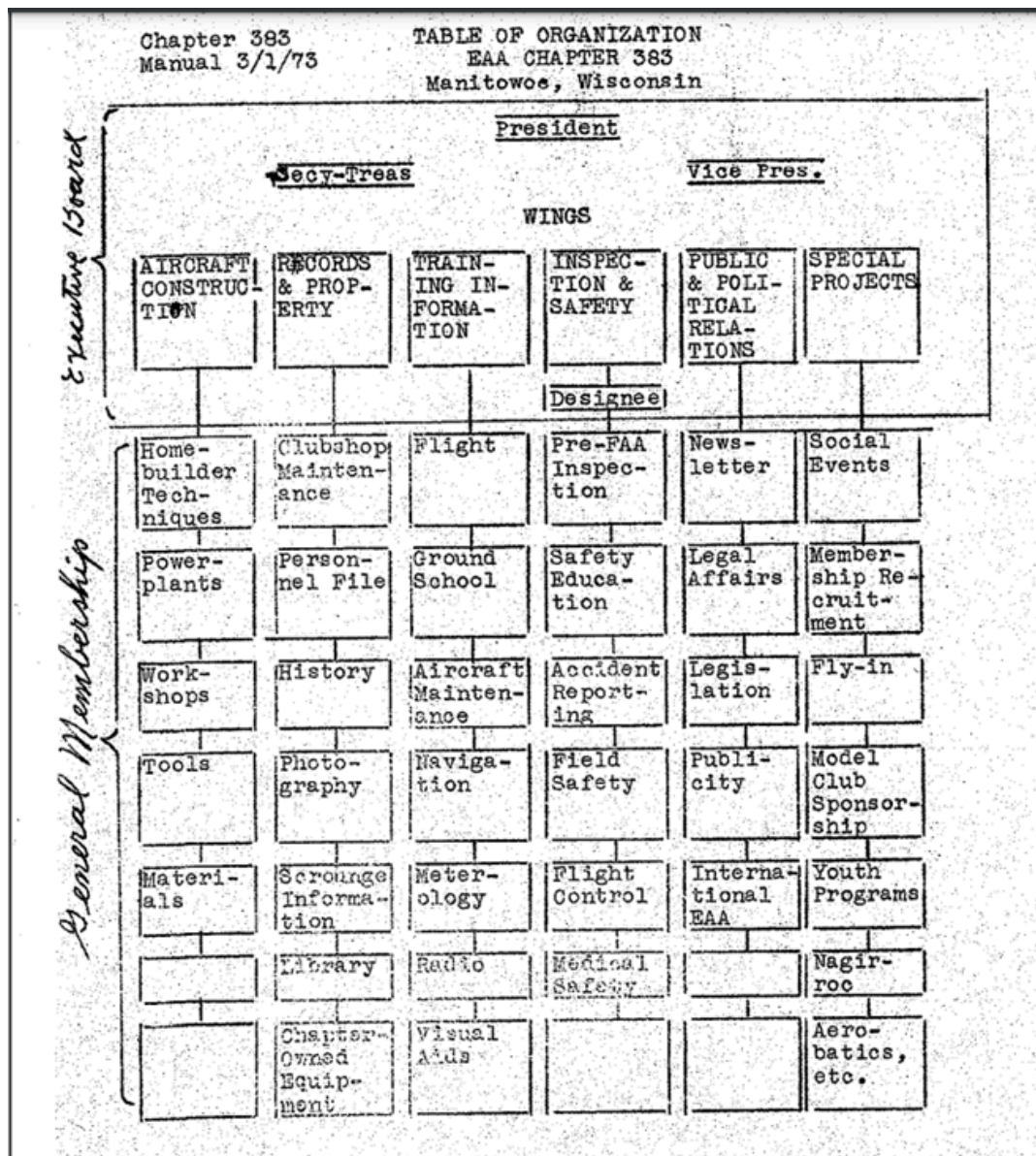
## Youth Activities

Youth Activities is a wing of our organization that is growing in popularity. Another great turn out happened on Saturday, February 8th. The youth made and flew hot air balloons in the hangar under the guidance of the Ebens. They are truly practicing the mission of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) which is "to grow participation in aviation by promoting the 'Spirit of Aviation.'"





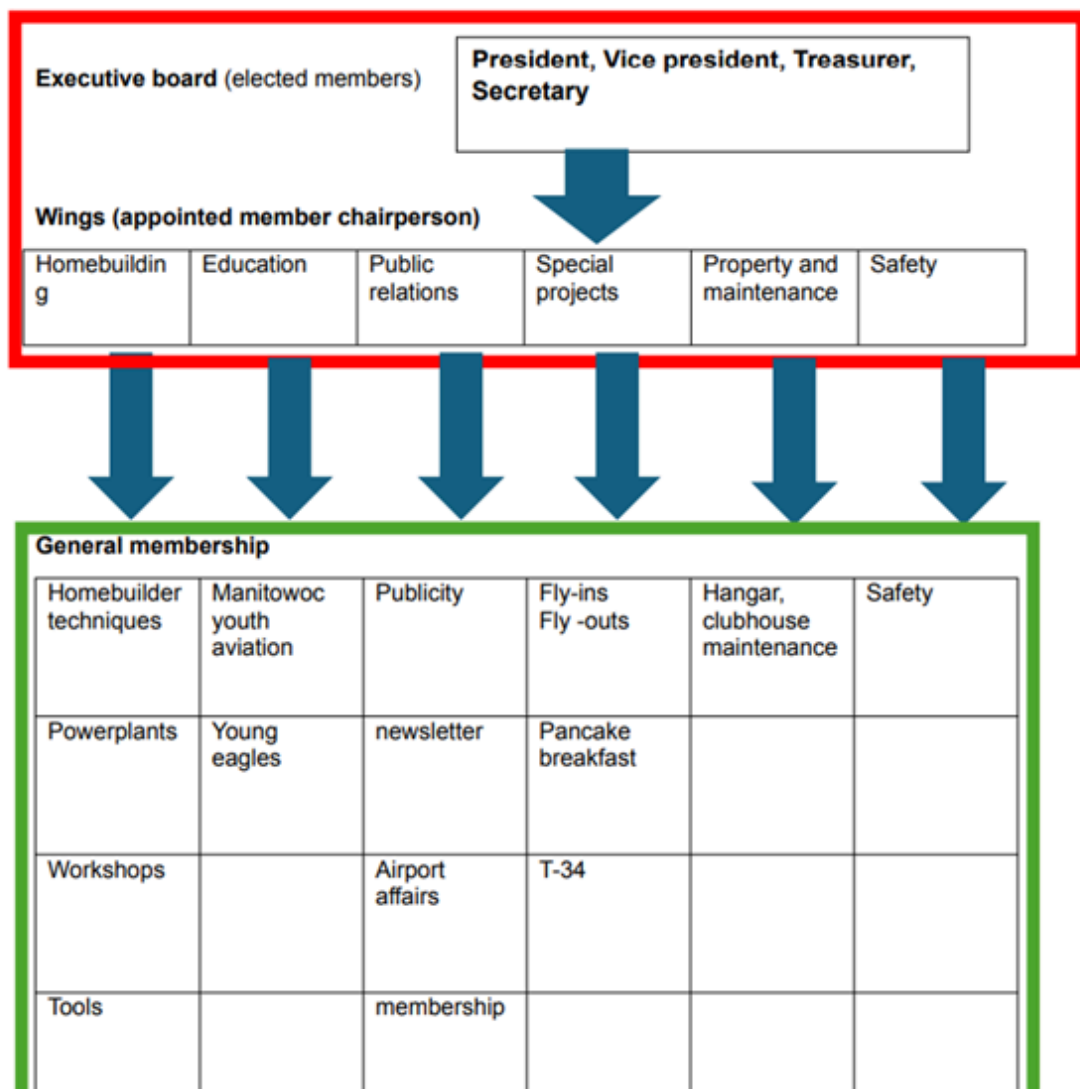
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Email your thoughts/ideas/updates/changes to:  
**JimZuege@gmail.com**  
By February 28, 2025

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# Proposed Org Chart beginning April 2025



Send your thoughts/ideas/updates/changes to:  
**JimZuege@gmail.com**  
by February 28, 2025.

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# The Birth of Chapter 383

In February 1971, Don Gruett, Jim Parkin, and Bruce Morton took a road trip to Milwaukee to visit an old friend named Paul Poberezny. The gentlemen met at a bar above Timmerman airport for a few beers. That's where the seed was planted about EAA Chapter 383 in Manitowoc. Don't all great ideas start with a few barley pops? The idea grew and the chapter came to fruition in June with its charter number and designation.

The first meetings of the Chapter took place at the Rahr Malting Company hangar at Manitowoc Airport. Jim Parkin was a pilot for Rahr Malting. In the early days the Chapter hosted Manitowoc's first flying club called Nagirroc (which is wrong way CORRIGAN spelled backwards.) The Chapter also restored a 1946 Aeronca Champ.

In the 1990s, Manitowoc County sold the Rahr Hangar to the Chapter with the stipulation that it be relocated to its current home at 1805 Freedom Way. Charter members Gruett, Morton, and Parkin secured insulation from the decommissioned Manitowoc Ice building and repurposed the panels for the hangar ceiling.

Chapter 383 is here today because of four friends and bar conversation.

Don Gruett (1932-2019) An Air Force Veteran who was active in more aviation groups than you can shake a stick at.

Jim Parkin (1921-2011) A Civil Service government employee during WWII and flight test inspector. He learned to fly in 1940.

Paul Poberezny (1921-2013) Founder of EAA. He spend the greater part of his life promoting homebuilt aircraft.

Bruce Morton - alive and well in Manitowoc and still an active member.