

CHAPTER 55 EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION

JULY 2007



Meetings are the 2nd Saturday of each Month

EAA Chapter 55 Hangar - Mason Jewett Airport – 643 Aviation Drive, Mason, MI 48854
Pres: Bill Purosky 214-2729 Vice Pres: Tom Botsford 663-1318 Treas: Sharron Hacker 740-4647
Secr: Del Johnson 676-2756 Editor: Warren Miller 214-2656 (all Area Code 517) www.EAA55.org

Climb and Maintain Flight Level 55

Many of you know that the taxiway is all torn up and the new taxiway is being completed. The good news is that the contractor is a few weeks ahead of schedule and may finish as early as the 21st of July. But it won't be finished for our meeting next Saturday, the 14th. Since we have scheduled a Young Eagles Rally for the same day, we may have to change our venue and run it from the Terminal building. The temporary taxiway leaves no room to park airplanes for loading the kids in and out. That means that we will need some additional help on Saturday moving "our stuff" up to the terminal and bringing it back when we are done. Plus we will need airplanes and pilots as well as ground handling helpers. Plan on staying around after the meeting and helping us out.

Our big event, Mason Aviation Days, is also getting closer. If you haven't signed up to help out on the two

days in August, please do it at the meeting on Saturday. During the Fourth of July Parade that was held in Mason last week, a number of our members handed out advertising flyers promoting the MAD event. From the response they got, we can expect a good attendance in August. In addition, Dave Groh let us mount a large advertising sign on his "Mule" and drove it in the parade. So lots of people are already aware of our event.

Notice that the meeting room is finally finished to include the restroom and storage room. Doug Koons is the primary mover and shaker on this restoration with help from some of the members. An old box of the original tile was found and used to cover the floor in both rooms as well as finally finishing off the main meeting room doorways and corners. A new plastic like panel was installed in the restroom to help prevent mold from developing there as it has in the past and to make it easier to keep clean. We appreciate all of the work done by Doug as well as all the members who have been involved. Many thanks!

Board of Directors Meeting
July 11, 2007 - 7:30 pm
Chapter Membership Meeting
July 14, 2007
Breakfast 8-9 Meeting 9:30 am

Hope to see all of you at the next meeting.

Bill Purosky, President

BREAKFAST W/CHAPTER 55

<u>July Team</u>	<u>August Team</u>
Don Chubb	Bob Clark
Warren Davis	Richard (Dick) Hass
Mary Gowans	Gary Long
Doug Green	John Kennedy
Ed Krouse	Jim Palmer
Warren Miller	Mary Schwaderer
Gary Nesbitt	Jim Schwaderer
David Paul	Rocky Stone
Tom Scheehan	Roy Thelen
Richard Wilke	Craig Tucker



June Cooks: Dave Cook, Lynn Brown and Gregg Hover.

EAA Chapter 55

Board of Directors Meeting, June 6, 2007

Bill Purosky called the board meeting to order at 7:30pm.
Attendees: Bill Purosky, Vickie & Ken Vandenberg, Chuck & Sharron Hacker, Debbie Groh, Doug Koons, Dave James, Tom Botsford and Del Johnson. →The minutes were

approved as published in the newsletter. →Sharron reported an end of the month balance of \$16,351 and a net income of \$208.98. The Treasurer's report was approved. →Bill reported that 18 young eagles were flown at the last event and that the leaking roof was repaired by Doug Koons and Bill Purosky, →Vickie reported that \$392.65 was spent for advertisement for Dawn Patrol and that two coffee pots were purchased for the Chapter. →Joe Whitesides and Dennis Hall will be renting space in the hanger. →Doug Koons reported on the cost of the recent order for polo shirts and t-shirts, including setup cost. A motion was made to sell the polo shirts for \$20 and the t-shirts for \$15. The motion passed. →A request was made to add Chapter property inventory to future Board meeting agendas. →A motion was made to authorize the purchase of MAD insurance at a cost of \$2,200. →Deb reported that the CCAA Board did not approve the Capital City Airport rules and regulations. →The Board meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

EAA Chapter 55

General Membership Meeting - June 9, 2007

Bill Purosky called the meeting to order at 9:30am. The General Membership minutes were approved as published in the newsletter. →Sharron Hacker reported that, at the end of May, the Chapter had \$16,249.30 in the bank and a net monthly income of \$208.98. A motion was made and passed to accept the Treasurer's report. →Vickie Vandenberg discussed Dawn Patrol preparations and encouraged all members to come out and sign up for work duty. →The chapter pilots have flown a total of 1,832 young eagles with 37 of those flown this year. →The meeting adjourned at a time that I forgot to record (but it was before Noon!).



Several War Birds visited Chapter 55's June dawn patrol



From the Great War Aeroplanes Association came a 1917 SE5a 7/8ths replica WWI British Fighter. The pilot, Chuck Garrett was dressed in an authentic British uniform complete with flying medals and riding boots.



FBO Connie Kowalk Stewart hosted an open house at Mason Jewett airport with a variety of free food and drinks for a large crowd of hungry folks

TIDBITS 2007

By Vickie Vandenberg

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

EAA Chapter 55 extends a warm welcome to two recent additions to our member roster - Michael Marhanka and Carl Woodward.

YOUNG EAGLES – CONCESSIONS (Help Needed):

Doug Koons has rallies planned for July 14th and August 11th. I am not going to be able to stay for either of these dates. Would someone be willing to handle the concession sales for these dates?? It consists of selling the pop water, chips, & cookies. I can have everything set up for you the night before. Just let me know if you are interested in working either Saturday. These sales make a little extra income for the chapter.

MASON AVIATION DAYS (MAD)

PLANNING MEETING:

The next regular planning meeting is scheduled for 7:30 Wednesday, July 18th.

PERTINENT INFO:

You may have seen our "float" in the Mason 4th of July Parade!! Wonderful free advertising!! Many thanks to Dave Groh for the use of his equipment & fuel; also to Ken, Dave, & Deb for construction and decorations. A BIG round of applause to Connie Stewart, Del Johnson, Dave James, and Bill Bezdek for joining me to pass out flyers along the way!! We handed out invitations (flyers) to **over 1,200 families** watching the parade !!

PROMOTIONAL & PREPARATION ACTIVITIES:

Meetings will be scheduled more frequently as we approach MAD. We also have more promotional activities in the works - such as handing out programs that include our flyer at the Thursday Night Live concerts on 7/12/07 and 8/16/07. We have a batch of posters that we hope to have posted in storefront windows in Mason, Holt, Willaimston, etc. Local news advertising will start the end of August. We have big signs that can be posted at events or other sites. A complete listing of activities and dates is in the pocket calendar. There will be all kinds of prep work the week before the event. If you are interested in helping with any of these opportunities, let me or Bill Purosky know! The more the merrier !!

STUFF NEEDED FOR MAD:

We are going to need lots of workers to make this weekend be a real happening event. But, we also have some equipment needs. We would like to borrow canopies to provide shade in various areas. Need at least 12 flip top coolers for pop & water sales. I'd like to borrow two or three bar stools for use in the speaker's tent. Let us know and/or bring them to the August meeting. Be sure each item is LABELED with your NAME.

AIRVENTURE – OSHKOSH GROUP CAMP:

We hope to set up our group camp in the area of 14th & Elm (behind the showers & close to the bus stop!!) I will have maps available at the July 14th meeting. Call me if you can't make it to the meeting. I would like to touch base with those intending to camp in our group so that I can determine ETAs to mark off the space and fit campers in as they arrive. So far campers include Bacons, Bezdeks, Cooks, Hackers, Hovers, Nesbitts, Pirchs, Sequins, Sheffields & Vandenbelts. Let me know if you want your name on the list to reserve a space.

AOPA at AIRVENTURE:

Be sure to stop by their tent. They will be having the latest info on user's fees, along with letters and/or petitions to legislators to be signed.

MICHIGAN AIR TOUR:

Enclosed is a copy of the 2007 flyer. Last stop will be Mason!!

Young Eagles

By Doug Koons

We have a Young Eagles Fly-Out after our July 14 meeting from 10 am to 2 pm. Since the airport is being worked on, we will be moving the operation up to the ramp area. This means we will need extra help setting up, running it and clean up. Everyone please come to the meeting and be ready to help with the kids. In the past the July Young Eagle Rallies have been very busy. We will need all the Pilots, Planes, and Ground Crews that we can get. Thank you.



Christy Bleck of the Ingham Co. Comm. News Staff flew with a couple of Young Eagles to experience and enjoy a first time flight in a small aircraft.

Notes from Cape Juby

By Terry L. Lutz, Chapter 55

Flight Advisor

With summer in full swing, I hope everyone is getting into the air and enjoying views of Michigan that one can only see from above. You should be getting fired up for Mason Aviation Days, which aren't too far away. Let's hope for good weather and safe flying all around.

I got this email from Vickie V. that mentioned the chapter would be handing out flyers for MAD from a trailer pulled by Dave Groh's jeep in the Mason 4th of July parade. Now what in the world does MAD stand for, I thought. Then somebody else had trouble with it, so I played around with words to highlight what it meant. I hope nobody got mad about it, and then again, I hope everyone got MAD *from* it!

While summer is that idyllic time when we appreciate the beauty of friends, good weather, great airplanes, and on occasion an outstanding thunderstorm, we are facing a storm of another sort in Congress. If you have not heard about the firestorm surrounding the fight in Congress over user fees for aviation, you need to do so, and do so right now. As I mentioned in some earlier Notes, the push behind user fees is coming from airline executives, who want you and I to pay for the ATC system that they use nearly exclusively, so they can put more money into their own pockets.

Remember the names Richard Anderson (formerly co-CEO at Northwest and now on the Board of Directors at Delta), Doug Steenland (CEO at Northwest), and Andrea Fischer Newman (Senior VP for Government Affairs at Northwest, and member of the Board of Regents at the University of Michigan). They are the source of this effort; they initiated it, and they are orchestrating it.

On my way back to France on June 6th, aboard a Northwest A330, I picked up the magazine in the seat back and opened to an article titled "Smart Skies". It was written by Andrea Fischer Newman. In the article, she says that the ATC system has reached its limits, and unless it is overhauled, delays will increase. "The FAA predicts that in the next 10 years, 10,000 corporate aircraft will be built, and they estimate that U.S. air traffic will triple by 2025. If the system is not modernized, flight delays will increase by as much as 62% in just the next 7 years."

She goes on to say that "Currently, the FAA receives about 94% of its funding from commercial airlines, primarily through the taxes that you pay on your tickets, and just 6 percent from general aviation. That might make sense in a world where airlines used that much of the system, but not in the real world, where airlines use only about 68% of ATC services. Every ticket you buy helps to subsidize corporate aviation."

What Ms. Fischer Newman overlooks is the fact that when 1000 airplanes are in the air and 100 of them represent corporate aviation, the percentage of people being moved is skewed heavily toward the airlines. For example, if the average airline flight were carrying 90 people, and the average corporate or personal flight were carrying 8 people, those 1000 airplanes would be carrying 81,000 airline passengers (99%), and 800 general aviation passengers (1%). So who is really using the system here? The airlines make profit from fares paid by all those passengers. The taxes that each passenger pays are what currently fund the system, and this is exactly as it should be. Do you think for a second that the airlines will lower fares if the tax is done away with in favor of user fees?

In addition, have you ever tried to fly into a major airport in the US with a general aviation airplane? Airlines have exclusive use of most airports where ATC services are the most concentrated. Most general aviation airplanes can't get into Detroit Metro, or Chicago O'Hare, or Atlanta, or Los Angeles. When we fly out of Mason Jewett and Land in Traverse City, we shouldn't have to pay for Clearance Delivery Services used by the airlines at O'Hare.

There is a good article in the latest issue of Sport Aviation (July 2007, p. 84-86). The author mentions the high user fees just to take an instrument proficiency check in Germany, highlighting the huge impact on aviation in Europe. He goes on to give his opinion that if user fees are implemented here, it will put an end to flying for a lot of people at the grass roots level, who are just barely finding the means to keep flying.

My opinion is that user fees will also have a severe effect on companies who build, supply parts, and support the operations of general aviation aircraft. One example is Williams Research in Walled Lake, Michigan. They supply the engines for the Eclipse Jet, the first of the VLJs. The impact on their business alone will be severe, and that's right here at home where the state is already in an economic tailspin.

The article in the Northwest magazine by Andrea Fischer Newman encourages the reader to log onto a website, www.smarts skies.com

As you can see, the airlines have developed their own website on this crusade of theirs and if you visit the website, you will find a form letter that they will either send or email to your congressional representative. Very convenient. In addition, AOPA reports that the airlines are emailing members of their frequent flier programs with the same information. Those people are generally business oriented and would be sympathetic to the cause of another business, just like theirs, right? Plus, they know perfectly nothing about general aviation, and are prone to believe what they are told as fact.

I hope I have convinced you that this threat to our right to fly is REAL. The airlines have declared war on general aviation. We cannot afford to sit back and say it will be all right in the end. It won't. We have to unite, and we have to make our voices heard loudly and very clearly to our elected representatives. Do it now. Make it a point at the next meeting to bring in the letters you've written and help the guy eating breakfast next to you get his in the mail. Bring stamps and envelopes! It is going to take that kind of effort, one letter at a time.

I would like to see 100,000 people at Oshkosh march down the main runway in protest of this proposal. It won't do any good to boo FAA Administrator Marion Blakey when she arrives. She is only the conduit that the current administration has used to push the proposal uphill to Congress. She does not make the decision. Congress does. Make your voices heard! This may be the single most important way that you can help your fellow pilot, because right now we all really need it!

Fly safely, too. I received word this morning that a friend of mine had an accident with a Zenith Zodiac a few days ago down in Ohio. He and his son are OK, but accidents are possible, and it's up to us to work hard to avoid them. In my friend's case, it was a short grass runway with tall corn at the end. They don't put the density altitude alert on AWOS for nothing!

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

Sporty's Electronic E6B Flight Computer. Like new. Retail value \$90.00; will sell for \$45.00. Proceeds go to EAA55.

1946 Cessna 140. 3660 total time; 1333 on 100 HP O-200A. Clean, good looking, great flying plane hangared at Mason Jewett. Valcom 760 radio; Narco Transponder. All A.D.s complied with; annual inspection & transponder recertified 8/21/06. Only \$22,000. For details or appointment contact Tom Botsford 517-256-4381

Wicks one-inch seat cushions, blue, with front map pocket. Set of 2, like new. \$120.00. Contact Patrick Salow 517-565-3178

AIRVENTURE SEATS: \$110.00 round trip to Oshkosh. 2 seats left. Call Dave James 517-337-2803.

Zodiac inflatable boat 10'2" limited edition. Wood floor, 1100 lb. Capacity, up to 10 hp outboard motor. Excellent condition. \$800.00 Contact Tom Botsford 517-256-4381

Franchi 12 gauge semi-auto shotgun in new condition. Contact Tom Botsford 517-256-4381

Avon Products & Natural Beauty Soaps. For a copy of the latest brochure, contact Deanna (McCreery) McAlister 517-596-2506 or visit www.naturalbeautysoaps.net/deanna

FREE

King Flying Videos. Outdated but still a lot of good info. In boxes under the Name Tag board at the hangar.

Collection of EAA Sport Aviation magazines; all issues 1959 thru 2000. All organized in boxes by years & includes some indexes by Bergeron. One condition – entire collection must go. Contact Bart Smith 517-676-2146

WANTED

Flag stand for our meeting room. Let any director know if you have one to donate or sell.

Couple of used card tables for chapter social nights. Drop off at meeting room if you have one to donate.

Cessna 210; retractable gear. Contact Doug Green 601-265-0009 or coffee-break@hotmail.com

Several large size coolers or tubs for our pop & water concessions. Drop off at meeting room if you have any to donate. Please put a note on it so that we don't mix it up with the ones we are borrowing for MAD.

WILLING TO LOAN

Jigs & Fixtures for a Zenith 701. Contact Chuck Hacker 517-623-6476

WE COULD HAVE INSERTED YOUR AD HERE! If you have a FOR SALE or TRADE or WANTED or NEED TO BORROW or FREE TO GOOD HOME, etc. – we have space in our newsletter. Contact Warren or Vickie for the next edition!

The first fly-in was made using the trailer to prepare breakfast. At that time, there was no water or sanitary facility. Customers were shuttled to the FBO. Shortly, the grill was removed and installed in the hangar using LP from 100 lb tanks. Additional grills were added and connected to natural gas. The well was sunk providing water usage. Tables were made from cheap doors with legs attached. (New tables later.) A service counter and overhang were built titled, "55's Pancake house."

A notion that membership meeting attendance would increase if a pre-meeting breakfast was offered. The notion worked well. Members from other chapters often fly in for the breakfast.

Membership grew to about 40. Itching for freedom of financial obligation Fly-ins were upped to 3 one summer. "Make it happen," became the motto. The hangar loan was paid off well ahead of time.

In 1989, the first air show was developed called "Mason Aviation Days," (MAD) A single aerobatic act with fly-bys of FBO aircraft. The cost was shared by the Chapter, FBO and the Mason Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber was solidly behind all MAD days that followed. Grants from the Capital Region Airport Authority allowed expansion of MAD into multiple professional acts through 1998. The event is a tradition eagerly attended by pilots and local community.

Meanwhile in 1996 a home builders annex was contracted. Again members did the finish work.

The Chapter became ready to undertake any event. The most ambitious being the Ercoups convention. Four days of meals for a lot of people. Additional help came from family members, friends and neighbors. A coming together and camaraderie not often seen. The Ercoupe folks were very appreciative.

The Chapter has grown to over 100 members and has become a model. Members from other chapters visit to observe the success. How did the Chapter get there? Through aggressive leadership and member commitment. All the while not forgetting the mission to foster and promote general aviation and allegiance to Headquarters EAA. Each year members make the pilgrimage to Oshkosh.

The Chapter history is best told by pictures seen on the flip file in the hangar.

NEW SURPLUS HARDWARE

Save 30-50%

Examples:	
Old style 1" hose clamps	2.00 ea.
FA6 1/2-45 Dzus, fresh plating,	1.75 ea.
Stearman Dzus spring	.50 ea.
Continental rocker hose clamps	2.00 ea.
4B2S spark plug (Lycoming)	6.50 ea.
417S spark plug (Continental)	6.50 ea.
Prop clamp bolt (Hamilton, Mcauley)	20.00 ea.




Stearman Smoke System

System comes ready to install between the front rudder pedals. Just drill six holes and clamp to the frame. Includes three gallon tank, pump, all hoses, flow valve, nozzle, and mounting hardware.
Field approval required.

Price: \$725.00

Yesteryear Aviation Inc.
4322 Curtice Rd
Mason, MI 48854

Phone 517-676-4416 day
Fax 517-676-3485



AN ABRIDGED CHAPTER 55 HISTORY

By Ted Lakin

In 1959 at the time of incorporation, there were ten members and a nomadic existence meeting here and there. Struggling to put a dime in the coffer, a large trailer was outfitted with a grill and coffee maker. The trailer was hauled to various airport locations providing pancake breakfast and lunch. Members' wives pitched in. This activity added monies and in 1985 with visionary leadership, knowing the Chapter had to have a home to be successful, a loan was obtained and the basic shell of the hangar and clubroom was contracted. Mason-Jewett was selected as the site. Members did all of the finish work, insulation, drywall, cement, septic system, furnace, electric wiring, gas lines and water well.

Michigan Air Tour 2007

Pilots! Join the Fun Flying Tour

Start planning your flying trips for 2007. Mark your calendar. Air Tours have been around since 1929 and it is time to show support for our local airports and their communities. Meet old and new friends.



Friday – September 28

Marlette (77G)

8:30 – 9:30 Pilot Check in/coffee & Donuts
9:30 AM Presentation

Gladwin (GDW)

11:30 Presentation & Lunch

Alpena (APN)

1:00 Tour/Museum
6:30 Banquet at Holiday Inn

Saturday – September 29

Alpena (APN)

9:00 – 10:00 Transportation to Airport

Greenville (GDG)

11:30 Presentation & lunch

Dowagiac (C91)

2:00 Presentation
2:30 Transportation to town
Free time – tour town
6:00 Dinner at Wickes Apple Orchard & entertainment

Sunday – September 30

Mason Jewett (TEW)

11:00 Presentation & lunch
Visit the town

Note: All times for the above schedule are approximate and will be adjusted as necessary.

Michigan Aviation Association Tour and Reservation Information

Registration information at www.mlaviation.org
call 248-761-5081 to have information mailed.

\$110 Registration per person includes:

- Friday and Saturday lunch
- Friday Night Gala Banquet
- Transportation to/from airports
- MAA one year membership
- MAEF one year membership
- MAT '07 participation patch
- Drawing prizes.

Hotel Reservations:

Friday - Alpena Holiday Inn
989-356-2151

Saturday – Dowagiac Amerihost Inn
800-434-5800

Tell them you are with the Michigan Air Tour

Questions?

Contact Tour directors:

Susan Siporin - 248-789-5026

skygoddess@senecacom.net

Nancy Walters - 248-435-0441

Nancy99@comcast.net

Terry L. Lutz
6 Rue de la Somme
31170 Tournefeuille
FRANCE

Honorable Mike Rogers
U.S. House of Representatives
133 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rogers,

As you are fully aware, FAA reauthorization legislation titled "Next Generation Transportation System Financing Reform Act of 2007" proposes to fund the transportation system with user fees, mainly from the general aviation sector. If you take a quick look at my current address, you will note that although I maintain a residence and vote in Michigan, I am employed in France. This gives me a unique perspective on the impact of user fees on general aviation activity in Europe.

Personal flying has nearly come to a standstill here. Most small airports have very few airplanes based there, and the few buildings that support flight operations are old and in some cases disused. Fuel prices are significantly higher, mainly due to the high taxes placed on fuel, which is precisely what the FAA Administrator Marion Blakey is proposing.

In the country that invented and perfected the airplane, this will become a US tragedy, if YOU let it. I have paid into the Aviation Trust Fund from its inception in the 1970s. The Trust Fund is currently at record levels, and is expected to grow beyond projected US economic growth levels in the next 5 years. The User Fee proposal would raise \$1B less money over the same period. And this does not factor in the loss of revenue as the general aviation fleet in the US largely grinds to a halt.

General aviation worked hard to get out of a slump through the 90s, and it was accomplished with new products, modern technology, and regulatory reform. The reforms proposed by the current administration will set general aviation back to where it will unlikely recover even to current levels. The economic impact is significant, even in our home state of Michigan, where several aerospace companies depend on unrestricted growth in the general aviation sector. Williams Research in Walled Lake, Michigan that supplies jet engines for the new generation of very light jets would be greatly impacted. Do you really want to add more economic bad news to our state?

Thank you for giving consideration to my letter, Senator, and remember to vote NO to user fees as this legislation makes its way through congress.

Best Regards,

Terry L. Lutz

POCKET CALENDAR

7/11/07 pre-stuff the MACC programs for Thursday Night Live concert; abt 7:30

7/12/07 pass out programs at Thursday Night Live; downtown Mason abt 6:00

7/14/07 EAA Chapter 55 Young Eagles Rally; 10am to 2pm

7/16/07 = start plastering MAD posters all over town

7/18/07 MAD planning meeting; 7:30

7/23/07 to 7/29/07 AirVenture; OshKosh, WI

8/1/07 MAD planning meeting; 7:30

8/9/07 MAD planning meeting; 7:30 (unless we complete at the Wed board meeting)

8/11/07 EAA Chapter 55 Young Eagles Rally; 10am to 2pm

8/14/07 MAD prep work (if needed)

8/15/07 MAD meeting & prep work plus pre-stuff MACC programs for Thursday Night Live concert

8/16/07 MAD prep work and pass out programs at Thursday Night Live concert

8/17/07 MAD prep work and arrival of the Yankee Air Force

8/18/07 & 8/19/07 EAA Chapter 55 Mason Aviation Days

8/25/07 & 8/26/07 Gratiot Community Airport, Alma, MI; B25; P51; T6's; Gene Soucy Airshow

8/25/07 & 8/26/07 Mid-Eastern Regional Fly-In; Mansfield, OH

9/28/07 thru 9/30/07 Michigan Air Tour 2007 (final stop Mason Jewett Airport)

12/8/07 Chapter 55 Christmas Party; Vevay Township Hall

additional listings available at

www.mdot.state.mi.us Events Calendar and www.flyins.com