

EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION - CHAPTER 55

MAY 2025

Meetings are the 2nd Saturday of each Month

EAA Chapter 55 Hangar; Mason Jewett Airport; 643 Aviation Drive, PO Box 443, Mason, MI 48854

→President: Rick Laub 616-755-6255 →Vice-President: John Kuchar 517-920-5351

→Treasurer: Drew Seguin 517-333-4531 →Secretary: Gilda Tucker 517-203-1865 →Editor: Gilda Tucker 517-203-1865

→Young Eagles: Margie Clark →Webmaster: John Bobcik →Young Aviators: Jeff Shaud →Membership: Vickie Vandenbelt

→Flight Advisor: Terry Lutz →Program Coordinator: Jon Iversen 517-980-3011 →Breakfast Teams: Joe Madziar 517-604-1000

Website: chapters.eaa.org/ea55



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Rick Laub

(ea55.president@gmail.com)

On the date of last month's meeting where we had a full house in attendance, I was out in Oshkosh at EAA's Leadership Training weekend. They host the participants in their lodge and provide food and snacks. The seminars run the full day of Saturday and half day Sunday and cover every aspect of running a successful chapter.

I picked up a number of pointers about things we could be doing better, but on the majority what I learned is that we have a pretty fantastic group at Chapter 55, with a large group of folks spreading the responsibilities.

We have a chapter Flight Advisor – Terry Lutz; Young Eagles coordinator – Margie Clark assisted by Connie Bobcik; Youth Group director – Jeff Shaud; Newberry Scholarship coordinator – Joe Madziar; Ray Scholarship coordinator & Breakfast Team coordinator – Doug Koons; Programs director – Jon Iversen; Newsletter publisher – Gilda Tucker (assisted by Vickie); Website manager – John Bobcik; Membership Coordinator – Vickie Vandenbelt; along with officers, Secretary – Gilda Tucker; Treasurer – Drew Seguin; Vice President – John Kuchar; President – myself; and 9 at-large board members.

Frank Garcia has stepped up to coordinate the Dawn Patrol and Mason Aviation Day. We have the go-to folks like Doug Koons who is always on the prowl for things needing fixing, Joe Madziar, assisted by Bill Purosky, who arrive hours before chapter

meetings and events to get breakfast prep happening, and Gary Nicola who mows our chapter grounds the whole summer.

Many of these folks have tasks that they execute faithfully every month on our behalf. I cannot thank them enough and it is the key to our success.

As our season picks up, there are many opportunities to volunteer your time for Young Eagles Saturdays in June, July and August, Dawn Patrol in June, Mason Aviation Day in August.

A special shout-out to our Young Eagles pilots who not only volunteer their time but pay their own expenses to give these youth a flight experience.

I hope everyone heard the news that the C-47 (DC-3) "Hairless Joe" from the Michigan Flight Museum will be selling rides for \$185 at the Mason Airport on or June 14th – the day of our first Young Eagles flights. Very busy – and fun! – day for helping out along with our Dawn Patrol the following day on Sunday June 15th – yes, that is Father's Day. And .. one last reminder that the Warbirds of Glory Museum are having an Open House and Fundraising Gala on May 17th. Check out their website for details. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting!

CHAPTER 55

BOARD MEETING: 7:00pm; Wed. May 7th

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 9:30am; Sat. May 10th
with Breakfast served from 8:00am to 9:00am

SCHEDULED PROGRAMS:

MAY:

Dave Trojan – Secrets of the U-2 Dragon Lady and Search for the “Dirty Bird”*

JUNE – JULY – AUGUST:

Young Eagle Rallies

CONTACT **JON IVERSON** WITH YOUR
PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS: 517-980-3011
or jon.h.iversen55@gmail.com



*Aviation Historian and Archaeologist
Dave Trojan will present Secrets of the U-2 Dragon Lady, and the beginnings of Area 51, plus the Search for U-2 #001 the “Dirty Bird”.

In July 1955, the base at the Groom Lake Test site, better known as “Area 51,” was completed. Air Force, Lockheed, and CIA personnel arrived and began work on the U-2 program. This presentation will cover some of the secrets of the U-2 Dragon Lady aircraft and show pictures of the base's beginnings and operations. Furthermore, it will describe the search for the U-2 #001 crash site in the Nevada desert. U-2 #001 was the first U-2 spy plane delivered to Groom Lake, Nevada. It was involved in three notable events: the First flight of a U-2, the First Stealth Aircraft, and a crash in 1957. (Editor’s note: Dave has pictures of both planes and of Area 51. See pictures near end of newsletter.)

UPCOMING BREAKFAST TEAMS:

MAY

Tim Martinson
Pat Salow
Chloe Miner
Frank Garcia
Chuck Hacker
Linda (Sue) Carter

JUNE

Bill Bezdek
David Cook
Lee Paquette
Mike Rosencrans
Elizabeth Kester
Peng Zang

“THANK YOU” BREAKFAST TEAM



Thank you to our April team: Ken Vandenberg, Don McAlister, Dave Trojan and Paul Creger



EAA Chapter 55 Board of Directors Meeting, Wednesday, April 9, 2025

→The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by President Rick Laub. In attendance were Rick Laub, Gilda Tucker, Drew Seguin, Doug Koons, John Kuchar, Jon Iversen, Gary Nicola, Ken Drewyor and Jeff Shaud. Absent were Bob Clark, Greg Hover, Gabe Blosser, and Warren Miller. →Secretary’s Report was noted. John Kuchar made a motion to accept the report; seconded by Jon Iversen; motion carried. →Treasurer Drew Seguin summarized the Treasurer’s Report. Of note was the \$1,385 our chapter earned last year in Young Eagle (Y.E.) funds from EAA National. (We earn \$5 for each youth flown on a Y.E. flight.) Y.E. funds are of limited use. It was suggested that we focus more attention on raising funds for our chapter’s Newberry Scholarship, since there is an abundance of Y.E. funds are already coming from National. Drew mentioned that we need to decide whether or not to renew our \$40/year payment to a local veterans organization for their posting an American flag on federal holidays. Rick Laub made a decision that we allocate the annual \$40 this year. Gilda Tucker made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report; seconded by Jeff Shaud; motion carried. →New board member Jon Iversen asked if our chapter owned our member hanger. We own the hanger but we lease the land from Capital Region Airport Authority which owns the land. No one knew the

time frame of the land lease. Gilda Tucker will research this. →Rick Laub summarized a recent conference call he had with Charlie Becker at EAA National along with another EAA official there. The two officers were representatives/leaders of Ray Scholarship and the Chapter Leadership nationally. Regarding the less-than-complimentary statements regarding our chapter in the correspondence we received regarding denial of a Ray Scholarship, the officers said that a form letter – the same letter we received – is sent to all chapters denied scholarships. The letter was not intended to speak specifically of our chapter. Furthermore, it was noted that we have received scholarships for the past three consecutive years, which is unusual. Few chapters have that happen. Afterward, Mr. Becker along with the other man who oversees the chapters both commended our chapter for the great job we do with Y.E. and overall in other programs and events. Along this line, we received the Gold Standard Award for 2024. Mr. Becker apologized for the misunderstanding. The cause of the denial is our low 33% success rate over the last three years. Of the three scholarships given, from 2022 through 2024, only one recipient went on to receive a private pilot's license. The denial wasn't intended as a bad reflection of our chapter, simply a recognition of an incomplete goal on the part of two of the scholarship recipients. →Jeff Shaud reported a successful Young Aviators (Y.A.) meeting. He taught them how to use Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) technology to research military reservists to determine if any have passed away recently (re: plague at Lansing Airport). They were able to find several other reservists who will need a silver star on the plaque. Afterward they cleaned the Builders Hanger and then learned closing procedures. Weather permitting, they will be flying at the next meeting Sunday, April 12th. Volunteer pilots are needed. Also, Jeff is still in need of an assistant at the meetings. →Former chapter 55 member Kyle Bradford passed away a while back. He has an extensive collection of Sport Aviation magazines going back to 1959. His family is offering the magazines to any interested party. Contact Rick Laub for details. →Jon Iversen is asking for program ideas and speakers for upcoming programs at the member meetings. At present there isn't a program for May. →Frank Garcia hosted a recent planning meeting for upcoming D.P. and M.A.D. events. The next planning meeting will be on Wednesday, May 7th at 6:30 in the members hanger. All are welcome. →Membership

Coordinator Vickie Vandenbelt reminded us via email that we are due to change the member hanger door code. Gilda Tucker made a motion to change the code; seconded by Jon Iversen; motion carried, with one abstention. Doug Koons is in charge of making the change. →Warbirds of Glory Open House at the airport in New Hudson is scheduled for May 17th from 10 to 4pm. Following the open house there is a fund raiser dinner at 5pm. Cost is \$75/plate. The event is at the American Spirit Center in Brighton. Funds go toward restoration of the B-25 Sandbar Mitchell. Speaker at the dinner is Catherine Wyler producer of the 1990 film "The Memphis Belle". The film will be shown at the event. →The meeting adjourned at 8:26pm. →Respectfully submitted, Gilda Tucker, Secretary.



EAA Chapter 55 Membership Meeting, Saturday, April 12, 2025

→The meeting was called to order at 9:30am by Vice President John Kuchar. After singing the National Anthem, John thanked the breakfast team, Don McAlister, Ken Vandenbelt, Dave Trojan, and Paul Creger. Next month's team consists of Tim Martinson, Pat Salow, Chloe Miner, Frank Garcia, Chuck Hacker and Linda Carter. →There were fifty present, including nine guests. Three guests flew in from a chapter in Oakland. One of our guests was Karl Houser, builder of our pedal planes. →The Secretary's Report was noted; Mark Jacob made a motion to accept; seconded by Jeff Shaud.; motion carried. →Treasurer Drew Seguin summarized the Treasurer's Report. (See Board Minutes for full summary.) Jeff Madziar made a motion to accept; seconded by JuliAnne Miller; motion carried. →Jeff Shaud gave the Young Aviators (Y.A.) Report. (See Board Meeting Minutes for details.) Jeff thanked Chloe Miner for donating a RC 251 Mustang Model to the Y.A. →Thank you also to George Spencer for his donation of a welder. →Regarding the Y. E. Report, Drew Seguin is working out details for the inclusion of a C-47 Hairless Joe at the June 14th event. The plane would be available for both cockpit tours and rides, if all goes as planned. →Ray Scholarship Chairman Doug Koons was joined by Rick Laub at the Board Meeting Wednesday in giving details of a conference call to EAA Headquarters regarding their denial of a Ray Scholarship for our chapter. (See Board Meeting

Minutes for full details.) → Rosie the Riveter event chairman Gabe Blosser wasn't available to give a report of the event, however several members who attended said the event was well organized, well attended and enjoyable. → Frank Garcia mentioned that the first planning meeting for the upcoming D.P. and M.A.D. events took place. He encouraged members to volunteer to be a part of the events. Signup sheets are out on the table in the meeting room. → Gilda Tucker gave a brief overview of the upcoming Warbirds of Glory Open House and Fund Raiser Dinner on May 17th. Funds will be used to restore the B-25 Sandbar Mitchell. The open house is from 10 to 4 with the dinner following at 5pm. The open house is at the airport in New Hudson, while the dinner is at the American Spirit Center in Brighton. Cost is \$75/plate. (For more details see the Board Meeting Minutes.) → Former Chapter 55 member Kyle Bradford passed away and his family would like to donate his collection of Sport Aviation Magazines to whomever is interested. They date back to 1959. Contact Rick Laub for details. → The meeting adjourned at 10:11am. → Respectfully submitted, Gilda Tucker, Secretary

SEXTANT NAVIGATION

By Jeff Stetson (flitebiz@gmail.com)

Our April program on sextant navigation was presented by John Hanley. A sextant is an instrument used in present form for several centuries to measure with great accuracy, the angle between two objects. When one is the horizon and the other is the sun, moon, planet or star, this angle is called "altitude". The exact positions of the celestial objects are known and referenced to midnight at Greenwich, England. The sky view at 00:00Z (or the old GMT or the new UT) varies depending on one's location on the globe. With an almanac, chronometer (set to Zulu time), sight reduction tables and 3 altitude measurements from a sextant, a unique latitude/longitude can be determined with an accuracy of 1 nautical mile or less. There are 57 bright stars used for navigation.

John brought several examples of different kinds of sextants. All are precision instruments of increasing complexity. Two sight lines are used. One for the horizon. Then, via a mirror, the tilt of the mirror is adjusted to give a view of the celestial object that lines up with the horizon view. The tilt is read from a

scale calibrated in degrees and represents the altitude (angle) between the object and the horizon. Reading the scale and getting a stable sighting can be difficult on a rolling ship or bouncing airplane. One of his sextants dropped BB's onto a typewriter ribbon as a scheme for getting a good number! The aircraft versions shown got very elaborate up to the giant "periscope" models. Since weather may obscure the horizon, some would use an artificial horizon, rather than a sighting, for establishing that line. The most elaborate (and rare!) sextant he brought was one used on missiles that would automatically find navigation stars and spit out location without human intervention.

Largely replaced by GPS in aviation, ships are still required to have the ability on board for celestial navigation. It's also a good idea to have that capability on smaller ocean-going boats in case of power loss. Hence, while handheld sextants haven't been produced since the 1940's there is still an active market for old ones in good condition, setting a floor price of about \$1,000. New ones are being produced in Russia for about \$3,000 using equipment stolen from Germany at the end of WWII.

A very interesting talk! (Editor's Note: Pictures of the sextants are available near the back of the newsletter.)



MEMBERSHIP TIDBITS

by Vickie Vandebelt

(EAA55.mems@gmail.com)

NEW MEMBERS: Chapter 55 welcomes new student member, Layne Hignite.

SNACK SALES: The costs are starting to creep up (especially for my beloved chocolate). I am going to try to hold prices until we start events in June. But you will note that the size of the Oreo packets are now smaller, but the price is the same ... Sign of the times.

EAA55 WEBSITE & MEMBERSHIP ROSTER:

John Bobcik provides the attached instructions for members to access our "members only" info on our website, particularly the Chapter Membership Roster. Please take a few minutes to access the roster and let us know if any of your info needs to be updated.

EAA55 WEBSITE MEMBER PICTURES: Have you supplied us with your photo?? Would you like a new photo done?? If so, look me up at our upcoming events.

EAA55 CHAPTER LIBRARY: Our Chapter has a great collection of aviation books and DVDs. All members are welcome to take out items to read or view. It is on the honor system.

EAA NATIONAL "FREE TRIAL

MEMBERSHIP": If you know anyone who is interested in aviation but not a member of EAA national, we can sign them up for a FREE six-month trial membership, which will include all the benefits of being a national member including a subscription to "SPORT AVIATION".

Application forms are in the meeting room or contact me if you would like an electronic copy. In addition, we encourage parents of youngsters interested in aviation to sign up for an EAA National membership to gain knowledge to share with their kids.

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP: Chapter 55, along with EAA National, has been very active in the encouragement of young people in aviation. Chapter 55 welcomes any youngster who wishes to become active in our chapter as student member - free of charge. Perhaps you have a young person in mind that you might want to mentor, transport to meetings or events, etc ?? An application for student membership is available at the hangar or contact me for an electronic copy.

EAA55 – CHAPTER APPAREL: Our chapter logo is on file with Sports Stop Sportswear; 124 W. Ash Street; Mason (just north of the post office) as the place to purchase apparel and have an EAA Chapter 55 logo embroidered on. You can also bring in your own hat, shirt, jacket etc. for embroidery. They also have a "Mason Jewett Airport" on file. We used to do some cool hats with EAA55 logo on the front and "Young Eagle Pilot" or "Mason Jewett Airport" on the back.

USE OF THE EAA55 MEETING

ROOM/TABLES/CHAIRS/EQUIPMENT:

Reminder - Our meeting room plus our **PLASTIC** tables & chairs and other equipment of EAA55 are available for use by our members on a **"SIGN OUT" basis**. There is a sign-up sheet clipped to the bulletin board. Fill in the information requested; when you

plan to remove the equipment and complete it when you return the equipment. **NOTE:** Our **NEW** tables & chairs in the meeting room are **NOT** available for loan. And - Please do not take any equipment on dates of our fly-ins or Young Eagles or other Chapter events without prior authorization.

2025 MICHIGAN AERONAUTICAL CHARTS:

Just a heads up note to let you know that I have volunteered to be the Contact/Coordinator for the distribution of the 2025 Michigan Aeronautical Charts at TEW Mason Jewett Field. My name & phone will be put out by MDOT as the contact for the airport. I will receive a limited supply for distribution in the terminal. I will also have a few for the EAA55 meeting room. Again, supply is **LIMITED** and intended for actively flying pilots as the priority. **ONE** per pilot, please!!

OLD AERONAUTICAL CHARTS &

MICHIGAN AIRPORT DIRECTORIES: And, if you have old editions of the chart and/or Michigan Airport Directories, please consider "recycling" them to Jeff Shaud for the Young Aviators to work with.

AEROMART SALE AT DP & MAD: Dave



Trojan is once again taking on the task of coordinating our "Aeromart" at our DP and MAD. He is already in the process of collecting items. If you have **ANY** aviation themed toys, books, puzzles, models, tools, equipment, etc. – please drop them off in the meeting room with a note "for Dave". All proceeds from our sale benefit EAA55 funds.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
DAVE GROH

I don't know when I became a member of Chapter 55 (it was 2000). I am a pilot current in Private, Corporate, CFI, and Commercial. I own an A36 Bonanza, a DCA Citabria, and a PT-17 Stearman. I am building a SNJ-5 and a Travel Air 4000. I enjoy

flying and building aircraft. Career-wise I am a PMA Manufacturer and a restorer of Stearman Bi-Planes. (And owner of Yesteryear Aviation.) I am doing what I enjoy and am too busy to consider what I would do with no limitations.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: **CHUCK HACKER**

I became a member of Chapter 55 in the year 2000. I am a pilot current in SEL and SES. In past years, I have owned a Cessna 172, a 68 SkyHawk, and a Cessna 210 Centuria. I currently own a Zenith 701 which I built. I enjoy flying, building, and airplanes in general. Career-wise, I am a Mechanical and Electrical Engineer. I owned my own business, Hacker Machine Inc. I had a hand in building the MSU Cyclotron. With no limitations - I would enjoy flying a jet.



YOUNG AVIATORS **By Jeff Shaud** **(jlshaud@wowway.com)**

I am looking for a YA program assistant. Our meetings are held on the Sunday following the Member Meeting from 2-5pm. Child Protection Form must be on file with Margie Clark. This is an opportunity to impart knowledge and a love of Aviation into the upcoming generation! Contact me for info.



YOUNG EAGLES COORDINATOR **by Margie Clark** **(margieclark172@gmail.com)**

Here we are into warmer weather and hopefully drier days! We are gearing up for our Young Eagle Rallies that are the second Saturday of June, July and August. Please consider volunteering on those days as it takes a small village to put these events on. The sign-up sheets are on the front table. If you aren't

sure where to sign up simply add your name and we will give you an assignment.

Pilots, please be sure that your Child Protection Card is up to date as well as your liability insurance on your plane. Please place a copy of your card in the Young Eagle folder on the officers table.



RELAY FOR LIFE **team Heartwood Glad Rags** **by Karen Meirndorf** **(krmdorf@yahoo.com)**

Relay For Life of 2025 will be September 20th at 2:00pm until 6:00am Sunday morning at the Corrigan Oil Speedway, Mason.

EAA Chapter 55 is fundraising at our May chapter meeting for a track fact sign with our chapter name on top. To meet our goal for this, you can purchase 50/50 raffle tickets during this month's pancake breakfast. This will be your last chance to join in on the fun and help out a good cause too. The winning ticket will be drawn at the end of the chapter meeting.

Another way to help the cause is to purchase a luminary for display at the event in honor or in memory of someone you know. I will have forms available at the meeting.

Your donations will enable the American Cancer Society to continue lifesaving work, and we are very thankful for your support.





NOTES FROM CAPE JUBY

By Terry Lutz

(terry.lutz@attglobal.net)

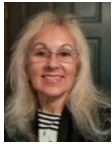
Maybe next month ...



EXPENSIVE HAMBURGERS

By Bill Purosky & Doug Koons

Maybe next month ...



FROM THE EDITOR

By Gilda Tucker

(cwtucker1@comcast.net)

With warmer sunny weather comes more opportunities to fly. Many have been “weather grounded” for much of the past few months. Incidentally, if any of you would like some company up in the air, I am always looking for an opportunity to sit co-pilot, I’m generally ready at a moment’s notice; just have to drive from East Lansing. See you at the airport!



A THRILLING EXPERIENCE

By Gilda Tucker

(cwtucker1@comcast.net)

It was a bright sunny day and not too windy. I was waiting for the Member Meeting to begin after finishing breakfast on April 12th. The Beech 18 was parked outside clearly visible from the member hanger window. She gleamed in the sun. I stepped outside to get a better look. She beamed to me invitingly. I walked back in and went directly to Mark Jacob. “Are you flying today?” I asked. When he answered in the affirmative I stuck my thumb out like a hitchhiker. “Yes, I can take you up” were the words I thrilled to hear. A few hours later I crawled into the right seat of the plane. Mark assigned me to prime the oil while he made “left seat” preparations. The Beech isn’t a “start and go” aircraft. She has to be primed and must sit at idle until the engines are warmed up and nicely oiled – about ten minutes. This was my first flight in the cockpit of a twin engine plane. Two sets of controls make the cockpit appear complicated and what I call

“gauge and switch overload”. (That’s my term for a cockpit full of stuff I don’t know how to use.) Mark however, explained what each of the controls were for and it wasn’t at all complicated. (Although three trim wheels did seem a bit excessive.) I enjoy loud muscle cars. This plane reminded me of a loud muscle car - big and noisy. There is something inherently thrilling about that. After warming the engine Mark eased the plane out on the taxi way for the run-up. Then it was “departure time”. Smooth as silk she glided down the runway and gracefully lifted off. After establishing a heading Mark asked me if I wanted to fly. Initially I decline. “This is your chance to fly a ninety- year- old airplane” he countered. “Ok” I said. Once I took the yoke Mark leaned back and relaxed. I went into “fly mode”; eyes scanning for other planes, then back to the gauges, then out to the horizon and the road on the ground I was following. Mark let me control everything but gave a little rudder help in the turns. It was choppy with turbulence, but I enjoyed the bumps. They feel different in this plane than in a smaller plane. I’m noticing a pattern - the bigger the plane the easier it is to fly – at least this is my experience. The flight was over way too soon. (Note: I haven’t flown left seat in over a year so I’m not speaking of take-off and landing. See pictures in later section of newsletter.)



Dragon – Come to the program May 10th to hear the dragon’s story!



U-2 at Area 51 – Dave Trojan will speak about this May 10th



Rick Laub and Jack Pelton, EAA CEO & Chairman of the Board, at Oshkosh Leadership Academy in April



Leadership Academy Group Picture. Rick Laub in back row middle



Rick Laub in Paul Poberezny's Plane



Presenter John Hanley with two sextants; holding one and another on table



Chapter 55 member Claus Buchholz holding a sextant



Chapter 55 member Mason Samson operating a sextant



Cockpit controls of the Beech 18



Gilda Tucker about to enter the Beech 18



Mark Jacob and Gilda Tucker in the cockpit of the Beech 18

ATTENTION PILOTS: Please sign the **Airport Register** each time you make a flight whether it is to another airport or just local practice at your own airport. It is important for airport funding but also serves several other purposes. An Airport Register is located in the Mason Jewett Terminal Building and another is located in our chapter meeting room for your convenience. So, please take a minute to record your flight activity wherever you go flying – even if it's just to poke a couple of holes in the sky !!

**WHY SIGN THE AIRPORT REGISTER-
Wherever you go & even at your base airport:**

- Document where itinerant users come from
- Estimate annual operations
- Assist in locating the pilot of a parked aircraft should it be necessary
- Assist in locating aircraft reported missing

THE EAA MISSION:

To grow participation in aviation, by inspiring people to fly, build, volunteer and outreach to promote aviation.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Jun 15 – EAA55 Dawn Patrol (DP)
 Jun 14 – EAA55 Young Eagles
 Jul 12 – EAA55 Young Eagles
 Jul 21-27 – AirVenture Oshkosh
 Aug 9 – EAA55 Young Eagles
 Aug 16 – EAA55 Mason Aviation Day (MAD)

**FLYERS FROM OTHER AIRPORTS POSTED
IN TEW TERMINAL**

WEB EVENT CALENDARS:

www.eaa.org/ea/events
www.michigan.gov/aero/
 and various Facebook pages

LADIES “COFFEE BREAK”

Our Member Coordinator, Vickie Vandenberg, is inviting all ladies – members, members wives, & guests to an informal monthly get together on the third Friday of each month. We meet at Bestsellers in downtown Mason at 9:00am. (Gentlemen - please tell your significant other.) If you would like to receive an email reminder, just let Vickie know vickie7463@gmail.com Hope to see you on Friday, May 16th.

**MASON JEWETT FIELD TENANTS & USER
MEETINGS:**

First Wednesday of the second month of each quarter. The 2025 meeting dates are:
 February 5th; May 7th; August 6th; and November 5th
 at 5:30pm in a classroom at the
 LCC Aviation Technology facility.



CRAA BOARD MEETINGS:

4th Monday of the Month @ 4:30pm
 Marion "Babe" Ruth Community Room
 Terminal Building, Capital Region Int. Airport

EAA55 = PILOTS, PLANES & BUILDERS:

Here is a list of those who are working on homebuilts and/or restorations, as well as pilots and their planes ... Additions, deletions & corrections appreciated:

Tim Allen; Fokke DVIII; Sopwith Scout
 Mark Bathurst; Cessna 172 (sold)
 Gabe Blosser; Bushmaster SuperCub Amphib
 John & Connie Bobcik; Kitfox 7SS
 Denise Bolen; Cessna 172
 Ivan Bradley; Zenith CH650B
 Claus Buchholz; Citabria
 John Caron; Cessna 172
 Stan Chubb; Beechcraft F33A Bonanza
 Lewis (Bob) Clark; Cessna 172
 Randy Coller; Cessna 182 & Hot Air Balloon
 Dave Cook; RV-6A (w/Greg Hover);
 Taylorcraft Ultralight
 Kirk Curtis; Cessna 182

Ken Drewyor; Kitfox (sold); V35 Bonanza
 Albert Esser II; Piper Arrow
 Richard Floyd; Cessna 310
 Adam Fogg; Piper Warrior II
 Donald Frank; BE35P
 Mike Franzago; RV-8
 Dave Groh; Stearman; Citabria;
 Beechcraft A36 Bonanza; Travelaire;
 PT-17 & AT-6 restorations
 Ward Harris; Cessna 177Bravo
 Gordon Hempstone; Cobra A
 Ultralight & Avid Magnum project
 Steve Houghton; RV-7A (Builder) (Sold)
 Greg Hover; RV-6A (Builder) (w/Dave Cook)
 Mark & Jennifer Jacob; C-120; Beech 18,
 Cessna C-34 Airmaster project
 Allen Jencks; Fisher Horizon 2
 Robert Kerr; hot air balloons
 Doug Koons; Glastar (w/Bill Purosky)(Builders)
 Rick Laub; Sling 4 project (Builder)
 Terry Lutz; Luscombe & RV-8 (Builder)
 Doug MacKenzie; Zenith 701 & RV-10 project
 Tim Martinson; RV-6A & RV-12;
 RV14A, RV-9 project (Builder)
 Don & Deanna McAlister; Cessna 172
 Chuck Moore; RV-12
 Gary Nicola; Beechcraft Bonanza
 Grumman Traveler restoration
 Jim Palmer; Glasair III (Builder)
 Lee Paquette; Sonex (Builder)
 Bill Purosky; Glastar (w/Doug Koons)(Builders)
 Pat Salow; Zenith 701 (Builder)
 Mason Samson; Aeronca Chief & Piper Tripacer
 Drew Seguin; Carbon Cub EX2 &
 Carbon Cub EX3 project (Builder)
 Jeff Shaud; RV-7 project (Builder)
 Tom Sheehan; C-170 & Funk B85C;
 Lincoln-Page 1928
 Rockwood Shepard; RV-9A (Builder)
 Jim Spry; RV-8 (Builder) (Sold)
 Jeff Stetson; Aeromot Ximango
 Bruce Thorburn; Cessna 172
 Ken Vandenbelt; C-172; C-170; Stearman project
 David & JohnVanderMolen; Zenith 750 (Builders)
 Michael Weck; Cessna 150
 John Yurkon; J3C-65; PA28-181; C-172P

SENDING EMAIL BLASTS:

The best way to do a broadcast email to our Chapter 55 membership is to “reply all” to your latest newsletter email. Update the “Subject” enter your message and delete the old subject matter content. This will insure you get the most up-to-date membership roster.

Contributions, corrections and additions to “WingTips” are welcome and can be made by contacting

Gilda Tucker (cwtucker1@comcast.net)

Deadline: Wednesday preceding the 1st Saturday of each month.

Other Contacts: Joe Madziar "Breakfast Teams" (madziars@msn.com) and Jon Iversen "Monthly Programs" (jon.h.iversen55@gmail.com)

CHAPTER 55 CLASSIFIEDS:

FOR SALE: FLY MICHIGAN decals. Available in red, blue or white. Great for your plane and/or your car. \$5.00 each. Contact vickie7463@gmail.com



Do you have anything to buy, sell or trade?? Submit your “classified ad” info to Gilda Tucker cwtucker1@comcast.net

HANGARS FOR RENT AT TEW:

Stephanie (Brown) Borczak; 517-528-5090

Tom Tuttle; 734-216-7532

Gabe Blosser; 517-896-0020

EAA55; Common Storage or Building hangar space;

Rick Laub; 616-755-6255 (waiting list)

MASON JEWETT FIELD FBO:

Great Lakes Air Repair

517-525-3673

Maintenance - Painting - Upholstery – Engines

EAA Chapter 55 is a 501(c)3 non-profit. Donation gifts to Chapter 55 are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. If desired, donation gifts can be designated specifically for the Youth Group, for Young Eagles, or for the Newberry Aviation Scholarship. An acknowledgment receipt of your donation gift for tax purposes can be provided on request.

Tax ID#90-0423493



Circling over the local crazy lady's house to keep the town Facebook page interesting

(First day as a pilot...)

CONTROL TOWER: Can you give me your position?

ME: I'm next to a cloud that looks like a lion

CONTROL TOWER: Can you be more specific?

ME: Simba



WINGTIPS is published monthly by *EAA Chapter 55 of Mason, Michigan*, for the use, education and enjoyment of Chapter members and supporters. Accurate information transfer is our goal; however, readers should verify dates and times prior to attending an event.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS is the Wednesday preceding the first Saturday of each month. The Editor reserves the right to edit all submitted material. Photos, sketches or artwork sent by email must be in JPEG or BMP format. Text must be in a Word format or copyable from the email.

Submissions may be sent by regular mail and must be accompanied by prepaid postage if you want them returned.

Submissions should be sent to: Gilda Tucker, Newsletter Editor.