

CHAPTER 55 EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2010



Meetings are the 2nd Saturday of each Month

EAA Chapter 55 Hangar - Mason Jewett Airport – 643 Aviation Drive, Mason, MI 48854

Pres: Ken Vandenbelt 589-5051 Vice Pres: Bill Purosoky 214-2729 Treas: Al Spalding 676-3370

Secr: Vickie Vandenbelt 589-5051 Editor: Warren Miller 214-2656 (all Area Code 517) www.EAA55.org

Climb and Maintain Flight Level 55

Here it is November and election time; our Christmas party will be here before you know it. Julie Spalding has been working with the caterer for a great meal. Julie, Vickie, Karen Meirndorf, Deanna McAllister and Rose Long have been putting together decor and working on prizes. They plan another White Elephant gift exchange; so, be thinking of things you would like to re-gift!!

Our trip to Highfields was a really great time. Fifteen of us made the journey down to the campus. Gary Long, Greg Pincumbe and Jim Wheatamer provided info about Highfields. Our tour guides were two young men in the program. They told us about what was expected of them and the requirements of the program as they showed us around the campus. They answered our numerous questions as we went along. It was very enlightening. One thing I thought disappointing is that the state has deemed "hands on" experience (such as auto repair, welding, hand tools, machine work, etc) unnecessary. I'm not an expert, but I think it would be good for these young men to have some practical experience for the future. Following our tour, Highfields staff provided a great lunch. (I pointed out some things to Gary on how he could do his job better and I know he appreciated it, right Gary??)

**Board of Directors Meeting
November 10, 2010, 7:00 pm.
Chapter Membership Meeting
November 13, 2010**

After Highfields, we journeyed over to our house to check on my Stearman project. We looked at the fuselage, wings, center section, along with the other parts. I'm glad that some members have seen proof that I am making progress (and not just all talk)... ha ha.

We are looking for some input for our winter programs. Do we have any members who would come forth to talk about an aspect of building or other aviation topic?? Last month, Terry Lutz wrote about his trip to The Fighting

Falcon in Greenville, MI - is there interest in scheduling a spring trip up there? Dave James is willing to coordinate another road trip to the USAF Museum in Dayton - but that would be for a non-meeting day. We might also consider a trip to the recently reopened Yankee Air Museum at Willow Run. Or, another trip to KZoo Air Zoo. If you have any suggestions or contacts we might try to reach, please tell Vickie.

We weren't able to make the first chapter movie night of the year. Vickie felt really bad abandoning Jim Spry to host alone; but we were invited to the CARDS annual meeting and dinner. We gave a short talk about EAA and the Stearman restoration project to about 60 of their members and spouses. They are a great group and it was a lot of fun.

I hope that we can have more potluck gatherings this winter. What with the holidays and busy schedules, the next one will most likely be in January. It would be great to have more member involvement; what do you think we should do? Potlucks, movies, games or ?????

Share the passion,
Ken Vandenbelt



Breakfast Teams

<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
Tom Botsford	Dave Courey
Kirk Curtiss	Kevin Cozik
J. Morris Hickman	Brian Eakin
Steve Houghton	Max Hall
Karen Meirndorf	Dave Keller
Rick Riisberg	Steve Meyer
	Pat Salow
	Joe Whitesides



October Breakfast Team:
Drew Seguin, Terry Lutz & Pete Chestnut

EAA Chapter 55

Board of Directors Meeting, October 6, 2010

→ Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm. → Directors present: Ken Vandenberg, Bill Purosky, Al Spalding, Vickie Vandenberg, Joe Madziar, Warren Miller, Doug Koons, Jim Spry, Dave James. Guest: Julie Spalding. Absent: Ed Search → Secretary's Report dated 9/1/10; Bill Purosky made a motion to approve; Joe Madziar second, all approved. → Treasurers Report dated 9/30/10; major expenses were MAD; Vickie Vandenberg made a motion to approve; Doug Koons second; all approved. → Young Eagles; Megan McNamara to be contacted to see if she will accept YE Year. Doug Koons listed about 40 pilots & ground crew this year; Joe Madziar made a motion to approve purchase of 51 calendars for abt \$6.95 each; Dave James second; all approved. → Doug Koons to will get airplane paperclips with the remainder of our YE credit. Mentioned YE enhancements; Sporty's program & free Student Memberships for 2011. → Julie Spalding reported options for the Xmas party. Vickie Vandenberg made a motion to approve the Xmas party budget of \$30.00 per person for caterer/china/linens (member/1guest cost \$15.00 each w/chapter subsidizing remainder) plus \$400 for appetizers/decor/door prizes; extra persons would be \$40ea; Bill Purosky second; all approved. → Membership; no new members. Renewal dues are due Jan 1st. Hanger space; lease requires membership in good standing with chapter & national. Secretary to send letters to tenants as needed. → Vickie Vandenberg asked we review cost to mail our newsletter. Average .80 ea to copy plus .44 postage=\$14.88 per year. Currently show 18 mailed; all others are emailed. BOD agreed ok for now but might need to cut costs in future. → Vickie looking for program suggestions. → Director Elections; James, Madziar,

Miller, Koons, Spry, Search agreed to another term; no new nominations. Absentee ballot not needed. → Jim Spry will host movie night on Nov 6th; chapter will provide BBQ & Brats. → Trip to Highfields set for Saturday. → Copy Machine; no hits on Craig's list. → Building Insurance; Vickie will arrange meeting with agent for review of values. → Fire Extinguishers; still pending. → Great Lakes Conference; will do sign up for who is interested & consider car pool. → Past Presidents Plaque; would Natl. have records?? Vickie securing info on plaque costs. → MAD; still pending receipt from Helicopter Services. → Events 2011; will need to set dates & times ASAP if we want published in MDOT directory. → Member of the Year; need nominations. → Doug Koons made a motion to adjourn; Joe Madziar second; adjourned at 8:54pm.

EAA Chapter 55

Gen'l Membership Meeting, October 9, 2010

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Tidbits

By Vickie Vandebelt

CHILI FLY-IN: Plymouth/Mettetal; Saturday; Nov 13th; noon-3pm (or whenever the food runs out)

CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY: December 11th, Vevay Township Hall. Member & guest only \$15.00 each. Payment must be received by **November 29th** and can be made to Al Spalding at the meeting or mailed to his home.

MEMBERSHIP DUES: are due January 1st. Prompt payment is of great assistance to our newsletter editor & web master. Treasurer Al will be accepting payment at meetings or by mail. Only \$25.00 per member plus \$15.00 for each family member.

EAA55 HATS, SHIRTS, LICENSE PLATES, ETC: I've lost my ability to send "Group Email" but I am still working on finding out how many members would be interested in making a purchase of EAA apparel or other items. Please let me know if you would possibly be interested in a Hat (\$13); Golf Shirt (\$22); T-shirt (screen print \$12 or embroidered \$13); License Plate (\$2.50); Window decal (\$1.00); Jacket Patch (\$2.26). I'll have a list at the meeting or email me at kv_vand@core.com

BREAKFAST TEAMS 2011: We wouldn't have the most important meal of the day without the volunteers who show up early to prepare our great meeting breakfast!! Bill Purosky is most always the first to arrive to get things going & instruct the workers. We only request that each member volunteer for one meeting during the year. I will be setting up teams for next year so if you have a preferred month - please let me know.

INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE EXTENDED: Ice Cream, Cookies, & Pop will remain on sale thru the November 30th!! Price list on display. Stop by & pick up a treat each time you visit the airport.

Young Eagles

By Doug Koons

Now that head quarters has caught up with the YE log book, I have adjusted our numbers to match them. Our corrected Chapter 55 totals are 238 kids this past year for a grand total of 2,579 Young Eagles. Thank you, Doug

Notes from Cape Juby

By Terry L. Lutz, Chapter 55 Flight Advisor

At AirVenture 2010, I gave a speech at the Homebuilder's Breakfast, and issued a challenge to everyone in EAA: reduce the rate of accidents in amateur-built airplanes by 50% in the next 10 years. It is possible. It takes work. It will raise the bar for homebuilders to properly complete Phase I testing, both from a test and a maintenance standpoint. It will assist those who purchase an amateur-built airplane and may lack the knowledge or skills to operate it properly. And most importantly, it will systematically begin to reduce, and in some cases eliminate, accidents by cause factor.

With a small group of people, we began to discuss what the EAA Technical Counselors and Flight Advisors could do beyond the model we have been working with so far. One of the things mentioned was that while the Technical Counselors get lots of calls from homebuilders to have a look at their projects, the Flight Advisors get very few calls. In fact, a lot of homebuilt aircraft are flown without the assistance of a Flight Advisor.

If we look at accident statistics for amateur-built aircraft, accidents occurring on first flights have been greatly reduced over the last few years. The first flight accident rate is now quite close to the overall accident rate. But when we look at the accident rate during Phase I testing (which can be 25 hours or greater), the accident rate is 3 times the overall rate. In the near term, that's where we need to focus. We need to involve the expertise of the Flight Advisor in a higher percentage of homebuilt projects, and keep the Flight Advisor involved during Phase I testing. We need to learn what the problems are and share information to significantly improve the accident rate.

Here in Michigan, we learned of a homebuilder who was having difficulty with an Acro Sport biplane he had recently completed. It was not his first homebuilt airplane. He completed an RV-9A, and had successfully flown it for a couple of years before selling it and starting on the biplane project. He had a successful first flight in the Acro Sport, but once down to taxi speed after landing, he applied a little too much brake while turning off the runway and the airplane went up on its nose.

After doing the necessary repairs, he started taxi testing, but was understandably uncertain about flying the airplane again. Several of us spoke with him, first to learn about his experience in open-cockpit tail wheel airplanes, and second to see what we could do to make his Phase I testing safe and successful. It seemed like a situation where the skills of a Flight Advisor could really make a difference. On the surface, most of the bases were covered: he had a tail wheel endorsement, and some flight time in high wing, tail wheel airplanes with an instructor.

After conversations with more than one Flight Advisor, and many cautionary inputs from friends, he began flying the airplane again. While practicing landings at a grass airfield, the airplane was observed climbing at low power after a landing attempt. Shortly afterward, it stalled and crashed. The pilot was severely injured, but he will survive. We are thankful for that. But we are not at all pleased that the efforts of experienced and knowledgeable people failed to make a difference for him.

One could rationalize that at the end of the day, it was the pilot's decision to fly the airplane. But if we view an accident as a chain of events, if any link in the chain is broken, the accident does not occur. It takes many links to complete the chain, not just a single decision on the part of the pilot. Where did we fail this pilot? Where did we fail to keep a link from forming, or to break a link that was already established?

The FAA and perhaps the NTSB will investigate this accident and try to determine the cause. We may agree, or disagree with the result. The results will go into a data base, and the statistics will reflect the overall safety of amateur-built aircraft and their operations. If the accident rate continues as it is, the regulators will step in and act to try and bring the numbers down. It is in the best interest of all of us, whether we operate an amateur-built aircraft, or a store-bought one, to realize that we can and must do better.

EAA and FAA are working closely on this very subject. The amateur-built community needs to embrace the concept of improving safety and put words into action. Homebuilders need to include safety considerations in both the time and the monetary budget that it takes to build an airplane. We should encourage homebuilders to seek the advice of Flight Advisors well before the airplane is ready for first flight. Flight Advisors need to become engaged and remain engaged throughout Phase I flight testing. Paths need to be found that can provide flight instruction in aircraft of a specific type, so that no homebuilder is unprepared to push the power up and fly their airplane. These are examples of things we can do to bring the accident rate down.

For every accident that occurs, there are friends, fellow pilots, and family members who are deeply touched by what has happened. The human dimension of an accident is never understood if you read about it in the paper or on the web. It takes the memory of one person who smiled at you in the morning and struggled for life in the afternoon to convince you that if we turn our attention to the task, we can make a difference. That's what Americans do; it's who we are. And now is the time to get started.

An accident chain begins when the simplest of links are formed. It might be as simple as hand-propping without tying the tail. Or not visually checking fuel before heading out to fly. Keep your eyes and ears turned on when you're at the airport, and *step in* to lend a hand to

your fellow pilot. Make sure he can smile at you at the end of the day.

From the Flight Surgeon

**By Gregory Pinnell, MD
Senior AME/ Senior Flight Surgeon USAFR**

CFR 61.53 is the regulation which requires us to medically "self certify" ourselves each time we strap on an aircraft. It specifically requires us to stay on the ground if the pilot "Knows or has reason to know of any medical condition that would make the person unable to meet the requirements for the medical certificate necessary for the pilot operation; or is taking medication or receiving other treatment for a medical condition that results in the person being unable to meet the requirements for the medical certificate necessary for the pilot operation."

A good idea when struggling to make the decision whether to fly or not that day is to keep the phone number of a trusted fellow pilot or your AME close by so you can "vette" the intended flight by an objective source to help make the call. Two (or three) heads are always better than one. Fly safe!

Gregory Pinnell, MD
Senior AME/ Senior Flight Surgeon USAFR
www.OK2FLY.com

This little kid came to my door: Trick or Treat



He knows what a treat flying is. The wings folded up and the elevator worked. He was talking a mile a minute about his flight simulator. Future Pilot, I am sure.

James McFarland

CLASSIFIED

HANGARS FOR RENT: EAA55 Storage hanger space; \$70 month; Ken Vandenbelt 517-589-5051. Other TEW hangars; Deanna McAlister 517-851-7047 or Lloyd Brown 517-589-8619

FOR SALE:

2009 Kitfox; Model 4-1200; Rotax engine; many extras. Jack Toman 517 882 8331.

KIS TR-1, Subaru Legacy engine, low time, well maintained; vacuum gyro horizon & compass; electric turn & bank; Garmin 250 GPS nav/com; Collins Mode C transponder; cruise 170 mph. Great plane. George Moore 517-536-1034.

Hunting Camp; 1/8 share of Whitetail Hunting Camp Inc. 157 acres bordering on the Houghton Lk State Forest/Roscommon Line. Dick Bacon 517-230-7808

Rans 2007 S6S Coyote II; 88 hrs; Rotax 912; many extras; \$49,000. Ernie Lutz 517-676-4601

DTV antenna; analog or digital TV; \$20.00 George Moore 517-536-1034

Telex ProCom 200 noise canceling headphones. Bart Smith 517-676-2146

Generac Generator; \$350.00 Greg Hover 517-676-5126

Yesteryear Aviation; new surplus hardware & burning barrels; 517-676-4416

Military-style Dog Tags; \$5.00 Vickie 517-589-5051
Avon Products & Natural Beauty Soaps. Deanna McAlister 517-596-2506

BEACON AVIATION RIDE SHARE: Mike Marhanka 517-485-9190/ Jim McFarland 517-944-7796; sirjames1@sbcglobal.net

Contact Warren or Vickie to place your ad here!

Dinner and a movie night with Jim Spry and Joe Madziar



Last Saturday night, the Chapter sponsored a dinner and movie. Joe and Jim shopped for supplies and started cooking the brats and pulled pork around 6 in the evening. At 7:00, we had 13 people ready to chow down. Mean while Jim was running some old Sky King movies where he and the Cessna 310 were performing some fancy flying, while Penny was in the back seat screaming all the time. Everyone ate their fill of the many dishes brought to pass, to include some outstanding desserts. After dinner, we watched the movie, "Amelia" which was a great film. We all had a great time and conversation. Thanks to Jim and Joe for their work in making this dinner a success.

EAA CHAPTER 55 ~ MASON, MI

MEMBER RENEWAL & INFORMATION UPDATE FORM

*Please provide updated info if anything has **changed** in the past year.....*

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

EAA Number**: _____ Exp Date**: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail address: _____

Pilot ratings: _____

What aircraft do you own or are you building? _____

Annual Chapter dues are only \$25.00 per year payable to: EAA Chapter 55

Family Membership: Add \$15.00 per year and provide:

Spouse/Family

Member Name(s): _____ EAA Number**: _____

Send application & dues to: EAA Chapter 55

Attn: Al Spalding, Treasurer

1025 S. Diamond Road

Mason, MI 48854

**** NOTE: EAA National requires that all Chapter members must be members in good standing of EAA.**

(Spouse must have separate EAA number to hold chapter office.)

You are cordially invited to the

EAA CHAPTER 55 ~ CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 11th, 2010 at
Vevay Township Hall; 780 S. Eden Road, Mason, MI
(the hall is located just south of Mason Jewett Airport)

Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6:00 p.m.

followed with a delicious holiday dinner including

Chicken Cordon Bleu & BBQ Ribs, Fancy Mixed Greens, Butter Croissants,
Scalloped Potatoes, Peas & Pearl Onions, Niblet Corn, and Fruit Cobbler ala mode

Decaf Coffee, Lemonade & Soda will be available

A White Elephant Gift Exchange will follow the meal

Cost per member & one guest is \$15.00 each

Reservations are required and payment **MUST** be received by Al Spalding

(517-676-3370) by **Monday, November 29th, 2010**

Bring a White Elephant Gift to exchange (if you wish to participate)

Come join the Holiday Festivities - good company, good food, gift exchange

laughter and door prizes abound !!

Please complete this section and return with your payment payable to:

EAA Chapter 55

c/o Al Spalding, Treasurer

1025 S. Diamond Road

Mason, MI 48854

Names: _____

Amount Remitted: _____

POCKET CALENDAR:

Nov 13 =Plymouth/Mettetal Chili 12-3pm

Dec 11 =EAA55 Xmas Party

Jan 8 =Great Lakes Aviation Conf.