

EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION - CHAPTER 55

FEBRUARY 2024

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** → **Vice-President: John Kuchar 517-920-5351**

→ **Treas: Drew Seguin 517-333-4531** → **Secr: Gilda Tucker 517-203-1865** → **Editor: Deanna McAlister 517-795-8171**

→ **YE Coordinator: Margie Clark** → **Webmaster: John Bobcik** → **Youth Group: Jeff Shaud** → **Membership: Vickie Vandenberg**

→ **Flight Advisor : Terry Lutz** → **Adult Eagles : TBD**

Website: chapters.eaa.org/ea55



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Rick Laub

Not a lot of great flying days in January, but Punxsutawney Phil says things should be looking better soon.

In the meantime, we are looking for other things we can do together as a chapter and I thank all of you who have responded to the email survey thus far. There is still time to respond – we will have results on Saturday.

Also, thanks to those who have responded to the survey on Dave Trojan's presentations.

A big "Thanks" to Terry, Bill, and Doug in hosting the hangar party this past weekend. I'm still a relative newbie – feel free to offer "suggestions" on things we can improve.

See you on Saturday.

CHAPTER 55

BOARD MEETING: 7:00pm: Feb. 7th

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

UPCOMING BREAKFAST TEAMS:

FEBRUARY

Greg Harris
Dave Groh
Tom Schroeder
Carol Spry
Jim Spry
Jeffery MacNamee

MARCH

John Schwartz
Doug MacKenzie
Mark Jacob
Robert Kerr
Denise Bolen

EAA Chapter 55 – Board of Directors Meeting - January 10, 2024

→ The meeting was called to order by President Rick Laub at 7:02pm. In attendance were Rick Laub, Gilda Tucker, Drew Seguin, John Kuchar, Gabe

Blosser, Ken Drewyor, Bob Clark, Jeff Shaud, Gary Nicola, with guests Doug Koons and Michael Weck. Absent were Greg Hover, Dave James, Warren Miller, and Michael Rosencrans. → There was no secretary's report for December. Due to lack of a quorum, there was no meeting. → The Treasurer's Report was explained in detail by President Rick Laub, bringing everyone present a greater understanding of the forms and their meaning. → Treasurer Drew Seguin was called upon a few times to explain some more in depth aspects of the report. We came out of the 2023 in the black. A motion was made by Gilda Tucker; seconded by Gabe Blosser to accept; motion was approved. → Doug Koons reported that the Cal Hayslette, our Ray Scholarship recipient has yet to complete his final flight review, due to unfavorable weather. → There was a brief discussion about the code box at the entrance gate. Rick contacted Capital Region Airport Authority to see if something could be done to make entrance easier for guests during meetings and open hanger parties. All agreed that it is a hindrance but no permanent solution was forthcoming. → Rick mentioned that there is a new Google phone number that allows direct access at the gate to Rick's phone. The number is 616-755-6255. → Jeff Shaud mentioned that there was no Youth Group activity in December due to unfavorable weather and the holidays. → The Close Out Sign-Up for this year is as follows: February – Gilda Tucker, March – Gabe Blosser, April – Drew Seguin, May –

Jeff Shaud, June – Gary Nicola. July through December sign-ups will be delayed until the snow birds return. → Don Burt is re-covering his Maule M4 with Oratex Fabric. An Oratex specialist will be on hand after the Saturday member meeting to demonstrate how the fabric is applied. Meet after the program Saturday in Don's hanger. It's the large brown hanger near the entrance. → Doug Koons announced that EAA National is offering \$1 million annually in new scholarships to Young Eagles aged 16 to 19. (Scholarships are for those in the continental US only) The funds are for those obtaining a flying license and/or planning a career in aviation. Applicants apply directly to EAA national headquarters on line. Doug will be sending out an email to all members regarding this. The deadline for applicants applying for 2024 is March 1st. → Drew noted that in 2023 there were 103 chapter members (including life members). As of this meeting there were 56 renewals for 2024. The renewal deadline is February 15th. Gilda and Drew worked together (prior to this meeting) to come up with ideas and suggestions of how to facilitate greater participation of members throughout each month. Gilda also discussed the issue with Vickie Vandenberg, our Membership Coordinator. Drew suggested a brainstorming session where members could come up with ideas for events and trips. Several ideas were written on the white board from board members. The list will be added to at the member's meeting Saturday. Drew suggested that attending outside events as a group with someone other than one of us driving would be more enjoyable and relaxing. To this end Gilda came up with some quotes from Dean Transportation. A 50 passenger bus can be chartered for a flat rate of \$85, with a four hour minimum through the week and a six hour minimum on Friday and Saturday. A charter tour luxury coach from Dean is also available at a greater cost for destinations further away and for overnight trips. → Following up on a suggestion by a chapter member at the December meeting, Gilda created a Member Profile form. Compiling ideas from several members, it gives a brief synopsis of the member's aviation experience, area of expertise, outside interests and a "dream question". (Dream question to be explained at the member's meeting). The form would include a picture (mug shot) of the member. The purpose of the profile is to allow members to become better acquainted with one another and to facilitate knowledge of each other's area of expertise, as a way to help each other with

build projects, etc. The form will hitherto be known as "Member Spotlight". Each month in the Wingtips Newsletter two to three members will be featured. → "Ladies Coffee Break" is an idea Vickie came up with to describe a "ladies only" gathering for the female members of the chapter. {I (Gilda) think it would also be ok to include the wives of male members of our chapter.} No plans have been formulated as of this writing. → Comic Relief. Gilda brought up the idea of including an aviation themed joke or comic in the newsletter. It is noted that two jokes were included in the recent newsletter. → The meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm. Respectfully submitted, Gilda Tucker, Secretary.



Thanks to Doug Koons as our January Breakfast Team of one !!!

EAA Chapter 55 Membership Meeting, Saturday, January 13, 2024

→ The meeting was called to order at 9:32am by President Rick Laub. There were sixteen people present including three guests. → The National Anthem was sung after which Rick thanked Doug Koons, the lone member who prepared breakfast. The February breakfast team includes: Gregg Harris, Dave Groh, Tom Schroeder, and Scott Basil. → The three guests were: Guy Juntunen, a pilot from Webberville; John Iversen, a former Olds Forge flyer and current mission coordinator of the Mercy Flyers East; and Leightin Weck, son of member Michael Weck. → The Secretary's Report for December is in the January 2024 Wingtips Newsletter. A motion was made by Dave Trojan to accept the minutes; seconded by Doug Koons; motion carried. → The Treasurer's Report for December was read by Drew Seguin, along with a reminder that chapter dues are to be paid before February 15th. A motion was made by Margie Clark to accept the report; was seconded by Jeff Shaud; motion carried. → The Youth Group

update by Jeff Shaud was that there were no meetings in December. The meeting scheduled for tomorrow is cancelled due to the blizzard. When the meetings resume, work will continue on current projects. Also in the planning is a possible tour of the Waco Aircraft facility in Battle Creek. → Doug Koons stated that Ray Scholarship recipient Cal Hayslette has yet to complete his final flight review due to unfavorable weather. In the mean time he is keeping up his skills on a simulator. The Ray Scholarship for 2024 is still indefinite. The final word will come in March. → Doug mentioned that Cal is part of the success story of our Young Eagles program, as is Chloe Miner. Both Cal and Chloe were initiated into aviation by a Young Eagle flight. Cal is planning on obtaining a commercial pilots license and flying large passenger jets. Chloe has just completed her instrument rating and obtained a commercial pilot license all within the last three months! → Doug got word this week from EAA National that they are awarding \$1million annually in new scholarships to Young Eagles ages 16 to 19. Monies are for obtaining pilots license and/or pursuing training for a career in aviation. Applicants apply on line directly to EAA headquarters. The deadline for applying for 2024 is March 1st. → Jeff Shaud was awarded Member of the Year by Deanna McAlister, last year's Member of the Year. Other awards were given to the officers and volunteers of the chapter last year: Margie Clark - President, Doug Koons - Vice President, Drew Seguin – Treasurer, Terry Lutz – Young Eagles Flight Leader, John Bobcik – Webmaster, Margie Clark – Young Eagles Chairman, Connie Bobcik – Young Eagles Co-Chairman, and Deanna McAlister – Newsletter Editor. Mike Rosencrans was awarded for his contribution to the Young Eagles events as ground crew on the runway. → Doug Koons mentioned that we are in need of replacing the roof on the hanger where we have our meetings. The current roof is eighteen years old, and is starting to show signs of minor leaks. Commercial companies charge \$22 - \$28,000. We can do the work ourselves for \$4 – 5,000. → Margie Clark reminded members of the May 18th Young Eagles Event at the Owosso Airport, which our Chapter will conduct. Set-up is at 8:30am. Flight registration begins at 9am and goes until noon. Pilots and ground crew are needed, especially ground crew. → There is still no word from Capitol Region Airport Authority in Lansing regarding a date for a Young Eagles event at their location. → Our Young Eagles events are the second

Saturday of June, July, and August, immediately following our Member Meeting. → Margie mentioned that funds from EAA National are given to our Chapter (and all Chapters) based upon the number of Young Eagle flights. Funds are for the sole use of promotion of the Young Eagles events. Pilots donate their time and all associated with the flights. → Gilda Tucker presented a Member Profile Form designed to help members become better acquainted with one another and to highlight areas of expertise, interests, and goals. The form is fairly short and will include a picture of the member. Known as “Member Spotlight” the goal is to have two or three members featured each month in the newsletter. Gilda will contact members to fill out the forms. → A brainstorm session was initiated by Rick where members were asked to mention any event, program, tour, or trip that they would like to see take place in our chapter. All ideas were written down and will be sent out in questionnaire form to determine member interest. The goal is to come together as a chapter at times other than monthly meetings and Young Eagle events. → Terry Lutz mentioned the Open Hangar Party in his hangar on Saturday, February 3rd. Musical entertainment will be provided by Gilda Tucker. An antique aircraft recognition contest will be part of the festivities. Light refreshments will be served. The event is from 11am-1pm. All are invited. → A question was raised by Michael Weck regarding use of the simulator sitting in the corner of the member hanger. The simulator is available for use. Jeff Shaud is the most knowledgeable at to its operation. → A reminder was given that immediately after Dave Trojan's presentation today, there will be a demonstration of Oratex fabric in Don Burt's hanger. A specialist from Oratex will give the demonstration. → The meeting was adjourned at 10:28am. Respectfully submitted, Gilda Tucker, Secretary.

SCHEDULED PROGRAMS:

FEBRUARY:

Shelley Jellema; LCC Drone director.

MARCH:

Jeff Stetson; ROTAX engine maint. etc.

APRIL:

FAA Seminar – topic TBD

CONTACT PAT SALOW WITH YOUR SUGGESTIONS

2024 MEMBERSHIP DUES:

In order to remain a member in good standing, your Chapter 55 dues for the new year must be paid by **FEBRUARY 15th**. Prompt payment assures your delivery of the EAA55 monthly newsletter, along with notification of any EAA55 and/or airport news. Dues can be paid by mail, at a meeting, or left in the folder for the Treasurer - for everyone's protection, please do not leave cash. We ask that you complete the renewal form even when paying in person so that we can assure that the information on our website is accurate and up to date. The online Membership Roster will be updated after the February 15th deadline.

Oratex Fabric Installation Demonstration – January 13, 2024

After the January member's meeting and presentation, several of us made our way to the large hanger where Don Burt's Maule M4 is housed. Tom had flown in the night before from Walsilla Alaska, about 400 miles northwest of Anchorage. Tom is an independent installer of Oratex, a polyester fabric developed about fifteen years ago. Don hired him to install Oratex fabric on his plane this week. The company Tom works for is a German company called Better Aircraft Fabric. The company has been in business about twelve years. The fabric is paper thin, yet very durable. It is glued unto the fuselage with a heat gun. The fabric conforms to whatever it is attached to. It both expands and stretches to meet the demands placed upon it. The fabric costs \$150 per linear meter. The cost to cover a plane the size of Don's runs about \$10,000. I (Gilda) have a small sample of the fabric I will bring to the next member meeting. Don's project will be complete within a week. Photos follow, PAGE 9 and 10.



YOUTH GROUP

By Jeff Shaud

jlshaud@wowway.com

See you at the hangar!



Dave Trojan presented instrument panels, one for an upcoming movie, and another of a Piasecki H21 the flying banana.



MEMBERSHIP

by Vickie Vandebelt

EAA55.mems@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS: Chapter 55 welcomes new Student members Leightin & MacKenna Weck, children of new member Mike Weck.

CONDOLENCES: To the family and friends of our dear member, Lloyd Brown, who passed away on January 28th, 2024.

UNITED FLYING OCTOGENARIANS: With the advent of social media, it is now possible to find a group, a page, and/or a website for just about anything. This one intrigued me because of the name of their website: www.UFOpilots.org This is a worldwide organization made up of over 1,900 pilots at least 80 years old.

TEW EMERGENCY PROCEDURES: As users of our airport, we should all be aware of emergency procedures should there be an incident. #1 - call 911. #2 - call Capital Region Airport Authority. CRAA will handle calling the FAA and taking items from there. There are also instruction stickers posted at EAA55 and available for you to post at your hangar. In the case of an incident at a Chapter 55

event, EAA procedures are posted in our meeting room.

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:

- 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.



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



Jeff Shaud receives a certificate for participating in Young Eagles and all that he does with the Chapter 55 Youth Group.



Mike Rosencrans receives certificate for participating in Young Eagles.



EDITORS PROLIX
By **Deanna McAlister**
(zirconmoons@gmail.com)



I had the opportunity to "pass the hat" to a very surprised Jeff Shaud – 2023 EAA Chapter 55 Member of the Year.

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



FREE RADIUM INSTRUMENT TESTING AND TRAINING

By Dave Trojan (dtrojan60@gmail.com)

Many instruments made up until 1960s had the luminous paint, needed to read them at night, based on Radium. Radium is one of the most radioactive chemical elements and is 1000 times more radioactive than Uranium. It has a half-life of 1602 years and decays into radon gas. This means 70 years old instruments are still active and will be for the next thousand years. Are you worried or just want to be extra safe around gauges that may contain radium? I can check any and all of your gauges, instruments and anything else that you may suspect of containing radium free of charge. I have been trained by the U.S. Air Force to identify and test for radium. I can also provide training to you on how to identify radium gauges. Testing is FREE of charge using my portable Geiger counter testing device. I can also safely dispose of any Radium gauges that you may have. For more information on this subject: <https://theaviationist.com/special-reports/radioactive-materials-in-flight-instruments/>

If interested in testing and or training on this issue, please contact Dave Trojan at dtrojan60@gmail.com or cell 808-386-0609



EXPENSIVE HAMBURGERS

By Bill Purosky/Doug Koons

Not much flying this month due to lots of fog, rain and low ceilings. This is also the month that Doug and I do our annual condition inspection. We tear the plane apart down to the bones, inspect all of it in detail and then put it all back together. He has returned the plane to flying service since he holds the repair certificate, and we are back to flying again for another year.

On 4 January, 2024, Doug and I decided to fly to Harrison, Clare County (80D). We had never flown into this airport and were looking forward to visiting it. Reportedly, there is a restaurant on the field. It was about an hour flight at our indicated 120 knots with a light head wind. The cloud deck was solid at about 3500 agl so no sun in our eyes on the way or back. The overall runway length of 18/36 paved

runway is 2978 feet. Both ends of the runway have displaced thresholds. The length beyond the displaced thresholds for 18 is 2505 feet and for 36 is 1826. Plenty of room for our Glastar. The winds were about 5 knots from the north so I landed on 36. My first approach was too high so we did a missed and went around the pattern. Nailed it on the second try. Now the fun begins. The restaurant is located on the north east side of the airport with no paved taxiways. We had to taxi over grass to get there about a quarter mile from the closest point on the paved runway. This was like taxiing on a washboard. Holding full back pressure on the stick to lighten the nose as much as I could, it was still bone shaking. Tried the grass runway, a blue marked taxiway and everything in between but all had us bumping and banging. I would hate to do this in an all metal tail wheel plane. The restaurant is Jackies Airport Restaurant. It is also where they keep the airport records for you to sign in to let folks know that you were there. I signed in and we took a seat. There was a very complete list of food for either breakfast or lunch. Since it was past 11 am, we ordered lunch. There were 8 different soups to choose from and I can attest the beef barley was very good. In addition, Doug and I both ordered sandwiches which were good as well. In addition, there were 8 home made pies to choose from but since this was close to the holidays where both Doug and I admittedly ate too much, we both passed. Back at the airplane, Doug checked the oil and he fired it up for a return bumpy taxi to 36 for takeoff. It was great to get back on pavement! Doug had a very light tail wind for the trip back to TEW. Clouds were a little higher at their bases on the way home. Ran through a little light snow but nothing to worry about and nothing to limit the visibility. The trip home was 6 minutes shorter in time due to the slight tail wind. During the refueling at TEW, we couldn't get the ground wire to release from the reel so fueled the plane without grounding. I called CRAA and reported the problem.



NOTES FROM CAPE JUBY

By Terry Lutz

(terry.lutz@attglobal.net)

See you at the airport!!

Contributions, corrections and additions to "WingTips" are welcome and can be made by contacting Deanna McAlister (zirconmoons@gmail.com)

Deadline: 1st of each month.

Joe Madziar "Breakfast Teams" (madziars@msn.com) and Dave Courey "Monthly Programs" (dcmi@reagan.com)

CHAPTER 55 CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: RV-6 tail kit; miscellaneous 2 x construction lumber 8 to 16ft. Contact: Greg Hover; 517-862-8966.

Freebie: Top quality, nearly supersonic 55 gallon drum, used once, very gently. May have enough residual airshow smoke oil inside to keep your aerobatic R/C airplane smoking for a long time! Will help you haul it, no problem!!



WANTED: Your old Gauges, Instruments, cockpit parts. Looking for non-airworthy gauges, the older the better, for use in static display instrument panels. I collect and restore old aircraft instrument panels for collectors and museums. I'm a member of the international Aircraft Cockpit & Instrument Panel Collectors Group. I also work with many Aviation Museums to restore their aircraft such as the Selfridge AFB Museum, Wurtsmith Air Museum, and the Yankee Air Museum. I recently restored FG-1D Corsair panel for the Selfridge AFB Museum using old gauges and parts. Old instruments can be used to fill holes in panels and can be used for parts to restore other instruments. While not all damage can be fixed, broken parts from two or more

identical indicators can often be salvaged to create a single, functional whole.



I'm especially looking for Clocks, Altimeters, Gyros, Fuel gauges, and Airspeed indicators. I'm also looking for toggle switches, warning lights, and old control boxes. I don't mind getting my hands' dirty digging through hangars looking for stuff. One pilot's junk is another's treasure! If you have old gauges, instruments, and cockpit parts please contact Dave Trojan at dtrojan60@gmail.com or cell 808-386-0609

Do you have anything you want to buy, sell, or trade?? Contact Deanna McAlister zirconmoons@gmail.com

HANGARS FOR RENT AT TEW:

Brown's Hangars; 517-589-8619

Tom Tuttle; 734-216-7532

Gabe Blosser; 517-896-0020

EAA55; Common Storage or Building hangar space;

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

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.

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:

Mark Bathurst; Cessna 172
Gabe Blosser; Bushmaster SuperCub Amphib
John & Connie Bobcik; Kitfox 7SS
Ivan Bradley; Zenith CH650B
John Caron; Cessna 172
Stan Chubb; Beechcraft Bonanza
Lewis (Bob) Clark; Cessna 172
Randy Coller; Cessna 182 & Hot Air Balloon
Dave Cook; RV-6A (w/Greg Hover); Taylorcraft Ultralight
Ken Drewyor; Kitfox (sold); Mooney M20C
Richard Floyd; Cessna 310
Adam Fogg; Piper Warrior II
Donald Frank; BE35P
Mike Franzago; RV-8
Ralph Gregus; Zenith CH750
Dave Groh; Stearman; Citabria; Beechcraft Bonanza; and Travelaire; PT-17; AT-6 restorations
Ward Harris; Cessna 177B
Steve Houghton; RV-7A
Greg Hover; RV-6A (w/Dave Cook)
Mark & Jennifer Jacob; C-120; Beech 18, C-34 project
Doug Koons; Glastar (w/Bill Purosky)
Rick Laub; Sling 4 project
Terry Lutz; Luscombe & RV-8
Edward Manturuk; Lancair ES
Doug MacKenzie; Zenith 701
Tim Martinson; RV-6A & RV-14A; RV-9A project
Don & Deanna McAlister; Cessna 172
Chuck Moore; RV-12
Gary Nicola; Beechcraft Bonanza & Grumman Traveler restoration
Jim Palmer; Glasair III
Bill Purosky; Glastar (w/Doug Koons)
Pat Salow; Zenith 701
Drew Seguin; Carbon Cub EX2 & Carbon Cub EX3
Jeff Shaud; RV-7 project
Tom Sheehan; C-170 & Aerosport & Funk B85C; Lincoln-Page 1928
Rockwood Shepard; RV-9A
Jim Spry; RV-8
Jeff Stetson; Aeromot Ximango
Bruce Thorburn; Cessna
Ken Vandenbelt; C-172; C-170; Stearman project
John VanderMolen; Zenith 750
John Yurkon; J3C-65; PA28-181; C-172P

Mason Jewett Field FBO:
Great Lakes Air Repair
517-525-3673
Maintenance - Painting - Upholstery - Engines

POCKET CALENDAR:

June 15th EAA55 Dawn Patrol Pancake Breakfast
August 17th EAA55 Mason Aviation Day

FLYERS FROM OTHER AIRPORTS POSTED

IN TEW TERMINAL w/special thanks to Tony Kruckeberg of LCC. Be sure to check these flyers out if you are looking for a weekend place to fly !!

WEB EVENT CALENDARS:

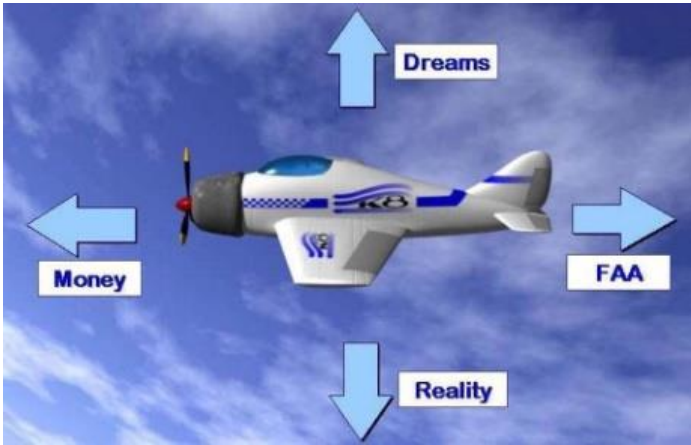
www.eaa.org/ea/events

www.funplacestofly.com/aviation-events.asp

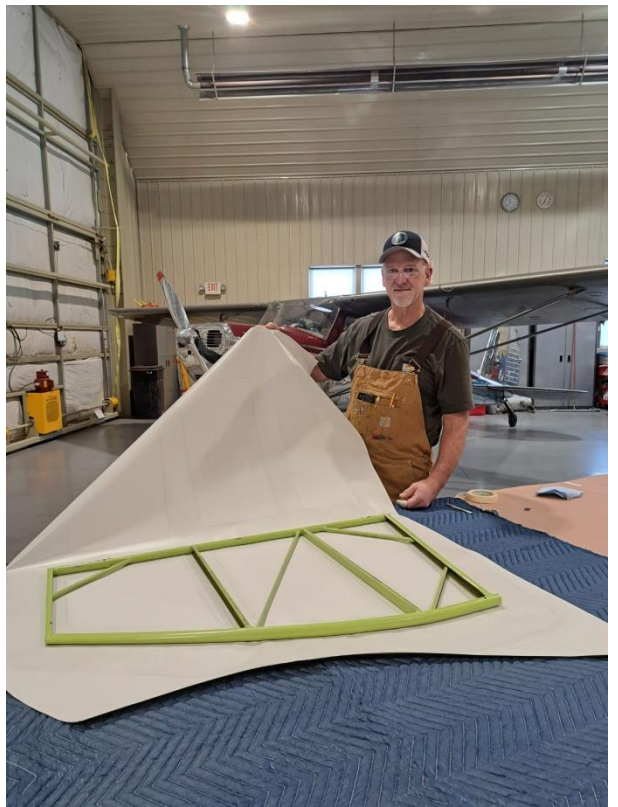
www.michigan.gov/aero/

CRAA BOARD MEETINGS:

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



Photos from Oratex fabric demo



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 last Saturday of the 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: Deanna McAlister, Newsletter Editor.

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