



## EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION - CHAPTER 55

AUGUST 2015

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: Steve Houghton 517-290-7528 →Vice-President: Margie Clark 517-853-1418

→Treas: Al Spalding 517-676-3370 →Secr: Vickie Vandenbelt 517-589-5051 → Editor: Deanna McAlister 517-795-8171

[www.EAA55.org](http://www.EAA55.org)

### CLIMB AND MAINTAIN



#### FLIGHT LEVEL 55

by Steve Houghton ([steve@eaa55.org](mailto:steve@eaa55.org))  
Mason Musings

#### Election Time

This fall we will be electing four new chapter officers. The positions of president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer will all be open. We need candidates for all four positions. To do this we need a chapter member to step forward to put together a slate of candidates. This can be as simple as sending out one or two emails to chapter members to solicit their interest in the positions. See one of the board members if you are interested. Remember, the chapter can not run without a full slate of officers.

#### AirVenture Oshkosh

This year's event turned out very well. Oshkosh 2015 was very well attended. Quite a few chapter members attended – including a few for the first time! A summary from the EAA website shows:

**Attendance:** Approximately 550,000, with a total attendance increase of approximately 2 percent.

**Total aircraft:** More than 10,000 aircraft arriving at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh and other airports in east-central Wisconsin.

**Total show planes:** 2,668 (up 1 percent over 2014) – including 1,031 homebuilt aircraft, 976 vintage airplanes, 350 warbirds, 130 ultralights and light-sport aircraft, 101 seaplanes, 30 rotorcraft, and 50 aerobatic aircraft.

**Forums and Workshops:** A total of 1,048 sessions attended by more than 75,000 people.

#### Guests registered at International Visitors Tent:

2,299 visitors registered from a record 80 nations. Oshkosh 2016 runs from July 25 – 31. You can look forward to these events at next year's event: Burt Rutan bringing his SkiGull, hoping that the B-29 *Doc* is flying and ready to come to Oshkosh, the 30th anniversary of the RV-6 design, the most successful kit design ever, led by 4,000-hour RV-6A pilot Paul Rosales, anniversary of the F-16 and the centennial year of Boeing. Mark your calendars now!

#### Third Class Medical

Registration to eliminate the third class medical has been working its way through Congress this summer. Unfortunately legislation could not be passed in time for the August congressional recess. EAA and AOPA will continue to work through the summer to push for a successful conclusion of this bill this fall. The bill has significant support in Congress and came tantalizing close to passage. A recent setback occurred when unexpected opposition was voiced by the Air Line Pilots Association. EAA and AOPA continue to work with congress to reintroduce the bill as a stand-alone bill this fall.

BOARD MEETING: 7:00pm: Wed; August 5th  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 9:30am; Sat; August 8th  
with BREAKFAST from 8:00am to 9:00am

## BREAKFAST TEAMS

<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
Julie Bauer	Dick & Barb Bacon
Pete Chestnut	John & Connie Bobcik
Ron Gorsline	Mike Franzago
Chuck Hacker	Ron Goodnoe
Jordan Lewis	Ernie Lutz
Jim Palmer	Mike Lutz
Dave Paul	Ronald Pearce
John Swartz	Gregory Rheeder
	Andrew Tavelli



**July team:** Bruce Thorburn, Ed Crouse, Dale & Paula Corsi

**EAA 55 Chapter 55 Board of Directors Meeting July 9, 2015** → Meeting called to order at 7:04pm by President Steve Houghton. → Present: Steve Houghton, Margie Clark, Al Spalding; Vickie Vandenberg; Doug Koons; Michael Rosencrans, Dave James; Bill Purosky; Jim Spry, Bob Clark; Jack Voss; Warren Miller. Guests: Julie Bauer, Ken Vandenberg → Secretary's Report 6/10/15; Jack Voss moved to accept; Dave James supported; all approved. → Treasurers Report 6/30/15; recd donation from friend for overnight use of hanger; Jack Voss moved to accept; Doug Koons supported; all approved. → YE; Margie Clark reported for Saturday; Jack Voss to post flyers; discussed what to do if event cancelled. → Adult Eagles; no report. → Flyout; Grand Haven. → 56th Anniversary; reviewed prep. → Doug Koons will replace bathroom switch. → Nominating committee; due for appointment in July to solicit officer candidates. → MAD; discussed advertising costs; Bill Purosky made a motion to increase advertising budget by \$100 from \$1000 to \$1100; Jack Voss supported; all approved. Toilets and two golf carts ordered. Discussed possible Media Day. Approved "Buy

One/Get One Free" breakfast certs. → Thunder Over Michigan ticket has been donated; ask at Saturday meeting. → Dave James made a motion to adjourn; Jack Voss supported; adjourned at 8:05pm. → Respectfully submitted, Vickie Vandenberg, Secretary

**EAA Chapter 55 Membership Meeting July 11, 2015** → President Houghton called the meeting to order at 9:16am with approximately 31 members & 12 guests present. → Following the National Anthem, we thanked the breakfast team & August team was announced. → Guests were introduced. Rose Long provided update on Gary Long. → Secretary's Report 6/13/15; moved to accept; supported and approved. → Treasurer's report 6/30/15; moved to accept; supported & approved. → Adult Eagles; Greg would like Trade-A-Planes. → 56th Anniversary Party coming up. → FlyOut 7/18/15. → Left over eggs for sale. → Thunder Over Michigan ticket available; advise if interested. → MAD; "Buy One/Get One Free" breakfast certs available to pass out to people you would like to get to come to event. → MAD - we need VOLUNEERS. → Photos wanted for 2016 EAA55 calendar. → Steaks available for pre-order; MAD leftovers (if any) will be available for purchase also. → Karen Meirndorf reported Relay for Life results. → Warren Miller was presented with "Thank You" gift for all his years of service as Newsletter Editor. → Seeking members to volunteer for nominating committee to solicit officer candidates. → Greg Hover is coordinating chapter campers for Oshkosh. → Vickie Vandenberg has MACC Raffle Tickets for sale. → Meeting adjourned at 9:40pm. Young Eagles; 136 kids flown. → Respectfully submitted, Vickie Vandenberg



**NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS**  
by Vickie Vandenberg ([vickie@eaa55.org](mailto:vickie@eaa55.org))

**CONGRATULATIONS:** to our newest EAA55 pilot, Grant Dowell. Grant passed his check ride on July 24th and now holds his private pilot license.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** to Ernie Lutz on flying his 500th Young Eagle - Sarah Pluff of Rives Junction. She and her other co-pilots had a great time!



**CONGRATULATIONS:** again to John & Connie Bobcik on the completion of their beautiful Kitfox Super Sport. John has now flown off his hours and he and Connie are often seen poking holes in the skies!!



**CONGRATULATIONS:** From KIPLANES; posted by Tom Wilson, underNews: Last night the Society of Experimental Test Pilots awarded Elliott Seguin with the Spirit of Flight. The honor was bestowed at the Homebuilder's Dinner during the EAA's Air Venture annual convention. We think the award's name particularly fits the effervescent Seguin who is employed at Scaled Composites. Nearly single-handedly he's popularized experimental and sport

aviation in the Mojave and greater area with his tireless enthusiasm. Both a participant and promoter, Seguin has brought much attention to cutting edge homebuilding and his own personal accomplishments in light aircraft. But above all, Seguin's enthusiasm is a national treasure to sport aviation. And as he would say, we find the award, "So freaking cool!" Congrats, Elliott! (Anyone who knows Elliott - knows this to be true - vv)



**DAN SCHIFFER:** did a presentation about helicopters and aviation at Camp Teetonkah for the cub scouts and staff. Took a great group selfie with his drone.



**UPDATE ON FORMER MEMBER GARY LONG:** Rose Long provided us with an update on Gary's condition at our July meeting. Gary has been in Rose's care for leukemia and Gary accepts that he will not get better. He doesn't want any visitors or phone calls. But, Rose is very happy to pass messages to him and provide updates on his condition. You can call Rose at 517-489-0440 or "Thinking of You" cards can be sent to 406 Birdsnest Lane; Mason, MI 48854.

**AERONCA CHAMP:** does anyone recognize this plane that was in the EAA55 hanger for years? It was

sold as a restoration project after Ray Fink had a minor accident. This is what it looks like today after a restoration by Jill Manka of Waldo Wright's Flying Service. It was flown into TEW the other day for a photo op in front of our hanger.



### **YOUNG EAGLES**

by Margie Clark ([margie@eaa55.org](mailto:margie@eaa55.org))

What a great day we had! Thanks to all of our great pilots and ground crew we were able to fly 133 youth last month. Thank you all!!

In addition, Ernie hit 501 Young Eagles! How is that for numbers!

Now moving forward, hopefully we will be able to accomplish the same thing this month, but we can't do it without your help. I already know that I will need someone to do the static display so if there is a volunteer please let me know.

Hope to see you all on the 8th.



### **ADULT EAGLES**

by Greg Rheeder ([greg@eaa55.org](mailto:greg@eaa55.org))

What a blast Oshkosh was. My first time there and it won't be my last.

This month on the 8th I planned on making a good show for the Adult Eagles we have won over so far. I would do this by introducing them to Young Eagles. But the bad news is I'm stuck out of the country again. Again. This comes at the best time of the year too. I had hoped to set my information booth up Saturday. I am working on scheduling now to make

Mason Aviation Days. To those of you who are retired you have my envy.

Speaking of the booth, it looks like we may have scored a Two-Fer. Meaning we may have hooked up a couple of new members. If Glen our first new member joins up I think we could call that success. So please keep the people's names coming to me. I will interview each and every one.



### **NOTES FROM CAPE JUBY**

by Terry L. Lutz ([terry.lutz@attglobal.net](mailto:terry.lutz@attglobal.net))

After every visit to Oshkosh, it's easy to say, "That was the best Oshkosh ever!". Well, wait a minute. How can every Oshkosh be the best one ever? The answer is because each visit is in some way unique. It may be in terms of airplanes, or in terms of people who were there, or in terms of presentations and awards, but each one is unique. Oshkosh 2015 was no exception. Everyone will have his or her own personal observations, and here are mine from the world's greatest aviation celebration.

First of all, it didn't rain, and the temperature was just about perfect. If you were camping as we were, the weather was great for sleeping after a long day of kicking tires. Someone said that there was a full scale Spitfire replica on the ramp, so after doing some volunteer work in the sheet metal pavilion on Monday morning, I went looking for it. What I found was absolutely spectacular. On first glance, it IS a Spitfire. But the fuselage is a steel tube structure, skinned with aluminum and flush riveted. It looks just like an all-aluminum fuselage. The unique elliptical wing was created from wood, and only the lack of rivets gave that away. For an engine, the builder used an Allison V-1710 producing around 1,300 hp. The three-bladed propeller was from a DC-3. So while there were some visible differences from the original, the airplane was very much a Spitfire.

While admiring that beautiful British design, four Hatz biplanes pulled into parking next to it. If anyone ever wanted a homebuilt biplane, the Hatz would be the one to buy. Just the right size, with just the right performance, the Hatz is as close to a Waco or a Great Lakes as you can get in a homebuilt. I noticed some differences in their cowlings, and inquired about that to one of the pilots. While all 4 airplanes had O-290 engines, two of them had earlier

versions with a rear-mounted starter. The other two had the later O-290 D2 engines with the large starter ring gear and forward mounted starter, which accounted for a more bulbous nose bowl.



About 3pm on Monday, the Airbus A350 arrived and performed a terrific flight display. The crew landed on Runway 36L and braked so that they could taxi up to and just short of Boeing plaza. When the stairs were in place, out came Airbus test pilots Frank Chapman and Thierry Bourges, along with flight test engineers Sylvie Loisel and Jaime Angoloti, and test flight engineer Bruno Bigand. You may have seen Bruno in the overhead hatch waving the American flag. This was Bruno's last Airbus trip, as he officially retired on July 31<sup>st</sup>. He was really pleased when someone said he looked like Harrison Ford up there with the flag. I was overjoyed to see my friends and colleagues from France.

On Tuesday, the A350 was open to the public, and once again EAA volunteers made the difference to keep the visitors flowing and secure their strollers and backpacks under the airplane. The Airbus team invited me to join them, and I spent the greater part of Tuesday giving cockpit tours to VIPs, which included any American Airlines or United Airlines pilot, as they would be among the first to fly the airplane in the U.S. Others who came to visit were aerobatic pilot (and former Northwest Airlines pilot) Julie Clark, and Christine Walsh, one of Boeing's test pilots. The next day, a Seattle paper carried the following headline: "Airbus Secrets Revealed on Boeing Plaza".

On Tuesday evening, I hosted my long-time friend (and RV-8 builder) Thierry Bourges at the EAA

Lifetime Members Banquet. The event was held in the EAA museum, and the guest speaker was Gene Kranz, the NASA space flight director who was so firmly in charge during the flight of Apollo 13. The title of his presentation was "Failure Is Not An Option". This was particularly interesting for Thierry, who closely follows space flight activities. Gene gave us a detailed account of how the mission team focused its mind and resources to save the crew, including 3 risky rocket motor burns to correct the trajectory.



It was amazing to hear about Gene's very young team (some around 30 years of age) as they worked bring Apollo 13 back to earth. They were people with iron wills, brilliant minds, and emotions that refused to accept anything but success. If you happened to walk by the EAA F-86, parked near the Homebuilder's Hangar, you may have noticed the name "My Darling Marta" painted on the nose. That's how Gene's F-86 was painted while he served in post-war Korea. Along with his team and the Apollo 13 astronauts, he

is also the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civilian honor.

On Wednesday morning, the A350 was open from 9am until around Noon, and I was able to give a few more cockpit tours to VIPs. While outside on the stairs, I spotted Jeff Skiles and shouted "Hey Jeff!". As he waved, another man turned around and it was the Captain of the Hudson River crew, Sully Sullenberger. Standing next to him was Qantas Airlines pilot Richard DeCrespigny (Captain of the A380 that suffered an engine explosion near Singapore). All three of them came to the cockpit for a look at the A350. Then, as if the day couldn't become any more interesting, Erik Lindbergh, the grandson of Charles Lindbergh, appeared in the cockpit. That evening, I went to a barbecue hosted by the Society of Experimental Test Pilots (SETP). The chief cook (but not bottle washer) turned out to be Jim Doolittle III, and I was somewhat amazed to think that on that day, I had shaken hands with the grandsons of perhaps the two most famous aviators in history.

On Thursday, I taught two more sessions in the sheet metal pavilion, then attended the Homebuilder's banquet in the evening. Each year, EAA and SETP give the "Spirit of Flight Award" to the person who most represents the spirit of research, development, and flight-test. Since the President of SETP was unavailable, I was asked to present the award. It went to a very deserving individual, who I recalled had once ridden a mini-bike down the TEW taxiway, in pitch darkness, with a roman candle shooting fire out the back. An individual who in the past year has set 6 new FAI records for speed, time to climb, and time over a recognized course, in addition to racing an airplane at Reno that he and his new bride worked so hard to develop. Yes, it went to our "own" Elliot Seguin!!

But hold on a second. When I was at the museum on Tuesday evening, I happened to look at the Spirit of Flight Award trophy in the lobby. The 2015 award winner was already engraved on the trophy and, well, um, it read: Lisa Turner. Whoops.... It turns out that EAA presents two awards at the Homebuilder's Banquet, the Spirit of Flight Award, and the Tony Bingelis Award, which is given to an EAA Technical Counselor for dedicated service and significant contributions to members who are building or restoring airplanes. Lisa Turner was selected to

receive the Tony Bingelis Award, and when the brass plates were engraved, the names were somehow switched between the two trophies. We'll get that fixed, Elliot.

Friday was my only real day to kick tires and watch the airshow. The end of the airshow was one to remember. A lot of Viet Nam era airplanes were flown, including the A-1E Skyraider, A-4 Skyhawk, and F-4 Phantom II. The airshow concluded with the flight display of the F-22 (marvelous, truly marvelous), which ended with a rejoin to a Heritage Flight, led by a P-51, with a P-38 and the F-22 on the wing. The P-51 was flown by Vlado Lench, and if you watched carefully, his landing was one of the best wheel landings in a Mustang you'll ever see.

After the airshow, we took our chairs to Boeing Plaza, and about that time an American Airlines Honor Flight landed carrying nearly 100 Viet Nam veterans from Washington, DC. These veterans deplaned, walked through a crowd of cheering Americans and were given seats in front of the stage as Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band prepared to perform. With the Viet Nam aircraft as a backdrop and the Goodyear Blimp overhead enjoying perfect weather, the Lt. Dan Band provided the energy and really good feeling about our country that truly is missing in everyday life. I guess for me, that feeling is what really makes each Oshkosh the best one ever.

Have fun for the rest of the summer. The last few weeks have been Pure Michigan, whether it be for flying or watching a sunset. Don't sit down too long, though, because no doubt there's a fellow pilot out there that just might need a bit of help.



**THE EAA MISSION:** To grow participation in aviation, by inspiring people to fly, build, volunteer and outreach to promote aviation.



**TIDBITS**

by Vickie Vandenberg ([vickie@eaa55.org](mailto:vickie@eaa55.org))

**NEW MEMBERS:** Chapter 55 welcomes new members Glen & Susan Dempsey and Chuck Moore.

**THANK YOU TO OUR GROUP:** from Douglas Lakin, son of Ted Lakin. I called Doug & Mary with condolences and advised him that EAA55 was making a scholarship donation in Ted's memory. He thanks everyone in the chapter for their consideration.

**TEW RULES & REGULATIONS:** CRAA approved a change to the rules and regulations with regard to Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Copy attached.

**RAFFLE TICKETS:** Vickie Vandenberg has Mason Area Chamber of Commerce Raffle Tickets available for purchase; \$10.00 each. The MACC has been very good to EAA Chapter 55 in promoting all of our chapter events to the chamber members and to the public. Purchase of raffle tickets is a way EAA55 can repay the Chamber for their efforts on our behalf.

**ROAD CLOSURES:** Kipp Rd between US-127 and Eden Road will be cold milled and repaved over a reinforcing fabric, along with curb and gutter repairs and railroad track crossing resurfacing. Kipp Road between Eden Road and Dexter Trail will be completely crushed, regraded, and repaved along with storm sewer and culvert pipe replacements and approach reconstruction. Project is anticipated to begin the week of August 10th, with its completion expected in early October.

**DTW AREA CHANGES COMING:** Beginning in August, DTW will be changing some of their procedures that affect traffic flow and approach procedures. The complete change should be in place by December. DTW will be scheduling some Pilot-Controller meetings in the next months to help communicate to the pilot community. The first changes in August will effect Willow Run traffic.

**Please sign up to volunteer at Mason Aviation Day. Without you, our events don't happen! Without our events, our chapter can't support our scholarship fund or spread the word about the wonders of aviation!!**

**MASON AVIATION DAY - CHAPTER 55 NEEDS YOU :**

Friday Aug 14th = Event Set Up - usually starts about 10:30-11:00am after morning coffee at A&W and ongoing throughout the day.

Saturday Aug 15th = Event Parking - Pedestrian and drive thru gates MUST be manned by EAA55. Need two volunteers for all shifts.

Grills - one volunteer for 9am; one volunteer for 11am and three volunteers for 1pm shifts.

Condiments - one volunteer for each shift.

Cashier - one volunteer to assist Treasurer Al from 9am on.

Concessions - two volunteers to man booth 11am on.



**FROM THE FLIGHT SURGEON**

By Gregory Pinnell, MD

Senior AME/ Senior Flight Surgeon  
USAFR

[www.AIRDOCS.net](http://www.AIRDOCS.net)

No article this month.

Contributions to "WingTips" are welcome and can be made by contacting Deanna McAlister ([zirconmoon@hotmail.com](mailto:zirconmoon@hotmail.com))  
Deadline: 1st of each month.





Photos by Deanna Mcalister OSHKOSH 2015

### **CHAPTER 55 CLASSIFIEDS**

**LOST & FOUND:** three coats; a hat; misc. left in the meeting room. Missing anything??

**HANGER FOR RENT:** one space in Builders Hanger; \$115 plus gas; Steve 517-290-7528

### **WANTED:**

Serviceable ELT, model AK450, 121.5 megahertz w/accessories; Kyle Bradford 517-663-3083

Useable sweeper you would consider donating to EAA55. With all the new floor mats that we now have it would be greatly appreciated.

Projector you could donate to EAA55. We are still hoping to try to set up a movie area in the hangar for our events. Margie 517-853-1418.

Program Coordinator; to schedule speakers for EAA55 monthly meetings; advise Steve 517-290-7528

### **FOR SALE:**

1976 C-172M "Daisy" 160hp 960 smoh \$34,000.  
Gary Nesbitt 517-230-5585

ASA CX2 Flight Computer; a step UP from the electronic E6B; in original box; works great; \$65.00;  
Gregory 517-315-3247

Starduster II; Mike Franzago; 517-910-6091;  
[mlfranzago@me.com](mailto:mlfranzago@me.com)

Smith Mini project; one seat biplane; some parts;  
Steve 517-290-7528

Garmin GPS 96 w/Col Bracket \$95; Ernie Lutz 517-676-4601

Lathes & other equipment; Jeff Shaud 517-712-6482

Maple Syrup; 10% of sales donated to Newberry Scholarship Fund; Half Gallon \$21; Quart \$12; Pint \$6; John & Connie Bobcik 517-231-0506;  
[jbobcik@gmail.com](mailto:jbobcik@gmail.com)

Honey; various sizes; Gordon Hempstone 517-515-1454

DTV analog or digital antenna; \$25.00 George Moore 517-536-1034

**EGGS: have to go before MAD ... \$1.00 a dozen after Saturday's meeting !!!**

### **POCKET CALENDAR**

Aug 8 = YE Rally  
Aug 15 = EAA55 MAD  
Aug 29-30 = Thunder Over Michigan  
w/Blue Angels  
Dec 13 = EAA Christmas Party; 4:00pm

### **WEB CALENDAR**

<http://www.eaa.org/en/eea/events>  
<http://www.fly-ins.com/>  
<http://www.michigan.gov/aero/>





**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: Warren Miller, Newsletter Editor.

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