

EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION - CHAPTER 55

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

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

→Young Eagles: 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

(ea55.president@gmail.com)

Most folks don't think of Mason, Michigan as being the epicenter of things aviation. Little old KTEW, under the auspices of Capital Region Airport Authority (KLAN) seems a pretty humble community. Yet our EAA chapter 55 has some truly remarkable folks and one I want to mention is our own Terry Lutz. Most of us know Terry from chapter meetings, his occasional fascinating presentations, his time behind the grill serving breakfast, and his being our flight advisor for Young Eagles flights. He also mans the announcer's booth for folks flying in during Dawn Patrol and Mason Aviation Day. Many do not know that he was an Airbus test pilot stationed in France and flew the first enormous Airbus dual-deck 380 flight to the US and landed at Oshkosh for AirVenture. (Editor's note: This happened in 2009). Also, he was on the team that created the side stick control for the F-16. Most recently, he has been honored with an award by the Society of Experimental Test Pilots. This month, he has written an article in EAA's Sport Aviation magazine about his friend from France who flew an RV-7 over the Atlantic and designed and built his own plane dubbed the BA1. We are so very fortunate to have folks like Terry here at EAA chapter 55. He is a servant leader, and was responsible for gathering the materials for last month's awards by the FAA to Bruce Thorburn and Bill Purosky. Thank you and Congratulations Terry!

This fall we elect a new slate of Board Members and Gabe Blosser is the head of the nominating committee, so if you have an interest on all of the nitty gritty of planning and running our chapter – contact Gabe. And you will be hearing soon about the Christmas Party ... See you at the meeting!

CHAPTER 55

BOARD MEETING: 7:00pm; October 9th

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 9:30am; Sat. Oct. 12th
with Breakfast served from 8:00am to 9:00am

SCHEDULED PROGRAMS:

OCTOBER:

Jeff Shaud –
Wiring/Ohm's Law, Series & Parallel Circuits

NOVEMBER:

Dave Trojan – topic TBD

DECEMBER:

TBD

**CONTACT PAT SALOW WITH YOUR
SUGGESTIONS**

**“THANK YOU”
BREAKFAST TEAM**



September Team: John Bobcik; Terry Lutz & Connie Bobcik



UPCOMING BREAKFAST TEAMS:

<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>
Mark Bathurst	Rockwood Shephard
Chuck Moore	John VanderMolen
Jeff Stetson	Steve Houghton
Skipper Russell	Jennifer Jacob
	Jeffery Kemm

**EAA Chapter 55 Board of Directors Meeting,
Wednesday, September 11, 2024**

→The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by President Rick Laub. →In attendance were Rick Laub, Gilda Tucker, Gabe Blosser, Ken Drewyor, Gary Nicola, Greg Hover, Bob Clark, John Kuchar, and Drew Seguin. →Absent were Michael Rosencrans, and Dave James. Non-board members in attendance were Doug Koons, Margie Clark, and Joe Madziar. →Secretary’s Report was noted. Greg Hover made a motion to accept the report; seconded by John Kuchar; motion carried. →Treasurer’s Report was summarized by Treasurer Drew Seguin. John Kuchar made a motion to accept the report;

seconded by Greg Hover; motion carried. →President Rick Laub thanked Doug Koons for his work securing the workers for repairing the roof at a tremendous discount. He also thanked Doug for his work, along with Doug’s son Dan and Warren Miller in painting the roof with our chapter number. →Rick went on to thank Margie Clark for her diligence in overseeing Young Eagles events this past spring and summer. Our pilots gave 267 youngsters the chance to see the world from the sky. To date we have given that opportunity to 5,875 youngsters. Thank you to our pilots! →Rick Laub gave a review of advertising costs and the number of people so reached for both Dawn Patrol (DP) and Mason Aviation Day (MAD). Fifty dollars was spent on advertising for DP on Facebook, reaching over 3,000 - mainly pilots, for age range 28-65. There were 84 responses. Cost per response was 60 cents. For MAD, Rick spent \$75, covering a radius of 30 miles from our location. Approximately 30,000 were reached resulting with 492 responses. Cost per response was 14 cents. (Editors Note: Rick’s Facebook boost costs were in addition to the countless free posts made to numerous pilot and event Facebook pages covering mid-Michigan and beyond done by Vickie Vandenberg for both DP and MAD). Gabe Blosser, who helped park incoming autos for MAD, unofficially queried incoming guests. About 30% were first time attenders who heard about the event through Facebook. Discussion ensued over the best ways to reach the community for DP and MAD events. Ideas for both were considered. No decisions were made. →One point worth noting was the importance of showing up for events one signs up to volunteer for. Your presence is counted on for the success of the event. →In spite of the threat of rain, low cloud ceiling, and the failure of a few outside organizations to show up, MAD can be counted a success. Attendance was lower than usual but those who did attend, including lots of children, had a very enjoyable experience. →Another issue raised in connection with MAD was the need for someone to supervise guests around parked planes. Some reported seeing children playing on the planes. →Close out for the balance of the year are: Gabe Blosser-October; Ken Drewyor-November; Bob Clark-December. →Jeff Shaud said the last Young Aviators Meeting was a no-show. →Joe Madziar volunteered to chair the Newberry Aviation Scholarship Committee again. Ken Drewyor volunteered to be on the committee. The application process goes from October 1st-19th. The

selection process runs from October 27th to November 2nd. The award recipient(s) will be announced at the December member meeting. Lansing Community College (LCC) handles the application and selection process. →It was agreed that our chapter would apply for a 2025 Ray Scholarship from EAA National. Doug Koons agreed to chair the committee selection process. (In this case the committee handles most of the application and selection process.) →Rick Laub attended the Dawn Patrol breakfast at the Maplegrove Airport in Fowlerville. It was a successful event in spite of running out of certain food items. → Gilda Tucker agreed to help organize the Christmas party. The date of the party is Sunday, December 15th. Reservations must be in by December 7th. The cost is \$15/person. The location is the chapter member hanger. →New board members will be elected at the November member meeting to replace those who step down or have completed their term. Rick appointed Gabe Blosser in charge of coming up with a slate of candidates. →Greg Hover is planning to strip and wax, the floor of the member meeting room next week. Furniture will be taken out of the room after the member meeting Saturday. →Member of the Year nominations are now open. Contact Rick or Gilda with suggestions. Recipient will be announced at the December member meeting. →The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm. →Respectfully submitted by Gilda Tucker, Secretary.

EAA Chapter 55 Membership Meeting, Saturday, Saturday, September 14, 2024

→The meeting was called to order at 9:30am by Vice President John Kuchar. After singing the National Anthem, John thanked the breakfast team: Terry Lutz, John and Connie Bobcik. Next months breakfast team is Mark Bathurst, Chuck Moore, Jeff Stetson, and Skipper Russell. There were seventeen guests and about twenty members present. →Pat Ryan, FAA Safety Inspector, explained the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Awards. The two recipients were Bill Purosky and Bruce Thorburn. Wives Gloria Purosky and Audrey Thorburn were present and also received spouse awards. Awards are given for fifty years of safe flying. Present also were Bruce's children, their spouses, and grandchildren from Toledo: Anna, Allison, and Kyle Kibley and Megan, Tim, Henry, and Miles Majewski. Before presenting the awards, Mr. Ryan gave biographies of the two pilots and allowed each to tell their own

story. →Bill began his flight training at Niagara Falls, New York. His first solo flight was in a Cessna 150 in 1964. The cost to rent a plane was \$3/hr, including fuel. If you wanted an instructor that was another \$3/hr. Bill has an Instrument and Commercial rating. Bill flies Young Eagles in his home built Glastar. He has been flying for 60 years. →Bruce also flew his first solo flight in a Cessna 150, in 1966 in Lansing. Bruce's ratings include Multi-Engine, Commercial, including DC-9, Airline Transport, and Ground School Advance Instrument Instructor. Bruce was a Navy Fighter Pilot. →The floor was open for people to comment on the two recipients. Bill was said to be very knowledgeable on FAA regulations as well as airplane repairs. (Editor's Note: I've had Young Eagles specifically request Bill as a pilot. I've also heard of situations in the Glastar where wind sheers flipped the plane up on its side, and Bill expertly maneuvered the plane back down.) Bill is very astute about safety. He doesn't take chances. →Bruce was said to be very thorough in preflight, carefully following the checklist, and is the same during following the flight plan when in the air. He was also said to have landings so smooth you didn't know you were landing. →Gloria Purosky told of her first flight with Bill. She was pregnant. They were living in Texas and were flying over mountainous terrain. Gloria became ill during the flight. She hasn't enjoyed flying since. Gloria has a tee shirt that says "My husband is a pilot. My next one is going to be normal". →Audrey Thorburn recounts that she and Bruce were living in Denver. He was flying for Continental Airlines and would be gone several weeks at a time. The first time she went flying with Bruce, he wanted to fly upside down. He did so, but she had her head down. Her most memorable flight was on the way home from North Carolina where they had been visiting their daughter Megan and her husband. A hurricane was headed to the coast. She and Bruce were caught in the air between two converging storms. Although they made it home safely she was very frightened. →At this point, Pat Ryan began with the award presentations. There was the Master Pilot Award Certificate, the Master Pilot Award Plaque, the Letter of Recognition, the lapel pin, and a package containing all of the flight training records, written test score results, and certifications for each pilot. The spouses each received the Master Pilot Spouse Recognition Letter, and lapel pin. Pictures were taken at the presentation of each award and of the spouses and family.

→There was a brief break before the meeting resumed. →Jeff Shaud said the last Young Aviator Meeting was a “no show”. He and Bruce Boardman worked on a project in the builder’s hanger.

→Margie again thanked the volunteers who helped out with Young Eagles this year. As a reminder to volunteers, pilots, and anyone who works with minors in either Young Eagles or Young Aviators, law requires a completed Child Protection Form be on file. Form goes to Margie. Forms are found on the EAA.org website or a link on the EAA55 website. The form is valid for three years. →Doug Koons and his helpers completed the roof painting. Our “55” can be seen from 20,000 feet in the air.

→Eggs are on sale for \$2.00/dozen in the hangar refrigerator. There’s a can in the frig door for money. →Nominations are open for board directors. Election will take place at the November member meeting. →Member of the Year nominations are now open. Contact Rick or Gilda. Award recipient will be announced at the December membership meeting. →The annual Chapter Christmas Dinner Party is Sunday, December 15th. Reservations and payment must be in by December 7th. Cost is \$15/person. Location is the member meeting room. (Editor’s Note: It would be nice to see more wives attend this year!) →Rosie the Riveter event at Capital City Airport (CCA) will be Friday, March 21, 2025. Michigan has a chapter at Willow Run. Contact Debbie Groh or Jennifer Jacob for information. →Geese on the runway is an intermittent problem. CRAA is aware of the problem and monitors the runway. (Editor’s Note: I saw them out there shooing off geese the day of this meeting around the noon hour.) →Gabe Blosser’s airplane scales came in handy for Ivan Bradley recently. Gabe says his scales are available for anyone, just see that they make it back home. →Sam Mason stopped by during the meeting to distribute copies of the 2024 Aeronautical Chart. Michigan Department of Transportation contact person is Mike Souper at 517-335-9237 for obtaining the charts. As of this date, Midland airport has a supply as well.

→The meeting was adjourned at 10:50am.

→Respectfully submitted, Gilda Tucker, Secretary



Bill & Gloria Puroskey; FAA Patrick Ryan; Audrey & Bruce Thorburn



Bill Puroskey & Bruce Thorburn receive Wright Brothers Master Pilot Awards



Gloria Purosky and Audrey Thorburn receive Wright Brothers Master Pilot Spouse Awards



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

We flew 267 Young Eagles this year! To date we've flown 5,875! Without pilots and ground crew this would not have happened. Thanks to everyone!



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

See the minutes for information.



FAA Patrick Ryan with the Thorburn Family



Shiny "New" Meeting Room Floor – Thank you, Greg Hover !!!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Suspended this month in order to highlight the Wright Brother's Awards recipients - members Bill Purosky and Bruce Thorburn.

CORRECTION FROM DEANNA McALISTER REGARDING HER SPOTLIGHT: I'm not a retired CFI – I've just been too busy with The Plane Food Market to do instruction for full-time students. I am still available to do flight reviews and knock the rust off. Schedule appointments by calling 517-795-8171



MEMBERSHIP TIDBITS
by Vickie Vandebelt
(ea55.mems@gmail.com)

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS: In accordance with our by-laws, Chapter 55 is seeking nominations for election of a minimum of **three** to a maximum of **nine** members to serve as Chapter Directors. It is the duty of the Board of Directors to conduct and control the business and property of the chapter. Meetings of

the Board are scheduled for 7:00pm the evening of the Wednesday immediately preceding the second Saturday of each month. Meetings generally last about one hour depending upon the amount of business to be conducted. Nominations are open up to the time of election and nominees will be posted at the meeting room on the bulletin board. Elections will take place at the November meeting. Directors will serve a two-year term starting with the December general membership meeting. If there is a member that you feel would be a good candidate for this position, please encourage him/her to allow you to make a nomination. Additionally, if you would be interested in serving your Chapter in this capacity, please contact Gabe Blosser or any current officer as soon as possible.

2025 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS: As another year draws to a close, it comes time to think about submitting your dues for the 2025 year. Dues can be paid by mail, at a meeting or left in the folder for Treasurer Drew (for everyone's protection, please do not leave cash.) We do ask that you complete the application form when paying so that we can assure that your payment is properly documented and **ESPECIALLY** to keep the information on our website is accurate and up to date. The online Membership Roster will be updated after the February 15th dues deadline.

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.

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)



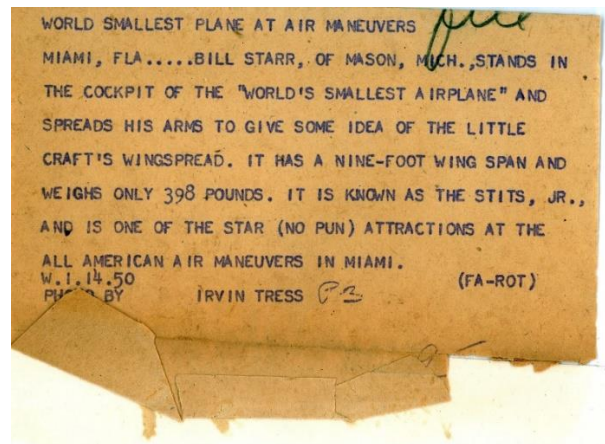
FROM THE EDITOR

By Gilda Tucker

(cwtucker1@comcast.net)

See you at the meeting !!

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 & John VanderMolen; Zenith 750 (Builders)
 Michael Weck; Cessna 150
 John Yurkon; J3C-65; PA28-181; C-172P



CRAA BOARD MEETINGS:

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

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MASON JEWETT FIELD FBO:

Great Lakes Air Repair
 517-525-3673
 Maintenance - Painting - Upholstery – Engines

Here is a historical clipping and photo about Bill Starr. Submitted by past member Lynn Town. Bill was the uncle of Debbie Groh, wife of our member Dave Groh.



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/

MASON JEWETT TENENTS & USER MEETINGS:

First Wednesday of the second month of each quarter. The 2024 meetings will be held on February 7th; May 1st; August 7th; and November 6th at 5:30pm in a classroom at the LCC Aviation Technology facility.

Rosie the Riveter Day 2025



Mark your calendars for the third annual **Rosie the Riveter Day** happening on March 21, 2025, at LAN. We will honor Rosies, Rosie descendants, veterans and current military members, women in manufacturing and STEM, women in aerospace, and students in the talent pipeline. Bring your family, friends, coworkers, and community leaders and enjoy entertainment, vintage planes, children's activities, and more!



5 STEPS TO FINANCIAL SUCCESS

1. Don't fly airplanes
2. Don't buy airplanes
3. Don't look at airplanes
4. Don't associate with people who own airplanes
5. Never mind, it's hopeless. You're stuck and you will never have money, but at least you have an airplane

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to CHAPTER 55

Chapter 55 was formed in 1959 and 2024 marks our 65th Anniversary

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.

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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.