

## EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION - CHAPTER 55

NOVEMBER 2022

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: Margie Clark 517-712-2203 → Vice-President: Doug Koons 517-676-5001

→ Treas: Drew Seguin 517-333-4531 → Secr: John Kuchar 517-203-9976 → Editor: Deanna McAlister 517-795-8171

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

→ Flight Advisor : Terry Lutz → Adult Eagles : TBD

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



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Margie Clark

[ea55.president@gmail.com](mailto:ea55.president@gmail.com)

hangar by 4:55pm (dress warm and perhaps bring a blanket).

Happy Thanksgiving to all,

Margie ☺

Time is flying past quickly! Hard to believe that it is already November and so close to the New Year. Hopefully you were able to get up for a flying color tour before the leaves started to fall. When at the airport be sure to watch for the migrating geese as they make their way elsewhere. They do love to visit Mason Jewett and relax on the taxiways and runways. We are planning our annual Christmas Party to be held at Hangar 55 on Sunday, December 11, 2022. Social Hour begins at 3:30pm with dinner to follow at 5:00pm. Cost is \$15.00 per person. And of course, for the highlight of the evening, we are having the infamous "White Elephant" exchange as well. Prepare yourselves for lots of laughs and entertainment. Please have your money and reservations turned in by December 1. We will have 1 more Tuesday potluck for this year on November 8. We will then take a break for the holidays.

November 12 is our monthly pancake breakfast followed by the general meeting and the Board of Director elections. After the general meeting there will be a FAA presentation by Patrick Ryan and Don Brown. Hope to see you there.

November 25<sup>th</sup> is the Mason Lighted Holiday Parade and once again we will be decorating the people mover and taking it to the parade. If you are interested in riding in it you will need to be at the

### DUES ARE DUE for 2023

Please note there is an increase in the dues

Member (single) is \$35.00 Family is \$50.00

May be paid at the meeting on Saturday or place in an envelope and leave in the Treasurers folder.

Please do not leave cash, checks only.

Minutes from directors and membership meetings missing at time of publish.

**BOARD MEETING:** 7:00pm: Wed: Nov. 9th  
**MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** 9:30am; Sat; Nov. 12th  
with Breakfast served from 8:00am to 9:00am



Thank you, October Breakfast Team!!!!



**MEMBERSHIP**  
by Vickie Vandenberg  
([EAA55.mems@gmail.com](mailto:EAA55.mems@gmail.com))

## BREAKFAST TEAMS

<u>November</u> Kirk Curtiss John VanderMolen Steve Houghton Jennifer Jacobs Dawn Koeppinger	<u>December</u> Stan Chubb Bill Long Nathan Usher Allen Jenks Mike Lawrence
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**2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:** As another year draws to a close, it comes time to think about submitting your dues for the 2023 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 that the information on our website is accurate and up to date. The online Membership Roster will be updated after the February 15th dues deadline.

**MAGAZINES:** We can accept small supplies of aviation magazines and we do offer them for members to take as many as they want. The chapter no longer has storage space for large quantities. After they have been set out for a period, they will then be donated to a worthy cause.

### SCHEDULED PROGRAMS:

<p align="center"><b>NOVEMBER</b> Presentation by FAA team. <b>CONTACT DAVE COUREY or MARGIE CLARK WITH YOUR SUGGESTIONS</b></p>
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### **EAA55 WEBSITE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER:**

I’m still in need of profile pictures from a good number of our members. If you haven’t done so, please think about submitting your pic to me for attachment to your member profile. Or, look and see if yours should be updated ??



**YOUNG EAGLES COORDINATOR**  
by Margie Clark  
([margieclark172@gmail.com](mailto:margieclark172@gmail.com))

Young Eagles

If you happen to take any Young Eagles up between now and December 31 please be sure to let myself or Doug Koons know so we can add them to our count for the year. If you need registration forms they are located in the Young Eagle box on the front table.

Happy Holidays!

Margie ☺

**EAA55 – CHAPTER APPAREL:** Our chapter logo is on file with Sports Stop Sportswear; 124 W. Ash Street; Mason (just north of the post office) as the place to purchase your EAA Chapter 55 apparel. Buy clothing there or bring in your own hat, shirt, jacket etc.

**AIRPORT OPERATIONS:** CRAA personnel are available 24/7. If you encounter anything amiss at our airport - please call 517-321-8525

**CHART WEAR:** An interesting site for custom aprons, apparel, gifts and more -visit <https://www.chartitall.com/hangar> Christmas is around the corner !!

<p><b><u>THE EAA MISSION:</u></b> To grow participation in aviation, by inspiring people to fly, build, volunteer and outreach to promote aviation.</p>
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**CARDS & MEMORIALS:** Do you know of a member who is ill? Or, a member who has experienced a death in the family? Please contact me at 517-483-3692 or [vickie7463@gmail.com](mailto:vickie7463@gmail.com) so that the Chapter can send a card. (With my sincere thanks to those who have alerted me in the past.)

**NEWS FROM EAA NATIONAL – YOUNG EAGLES UPDATE - October 2022:** We are a little over two months into the year-long celebration of the Young Eagles 30th anniversary. As a reminder, here are the special opportunities that exist for your chapter to take advantage of!

**Double Young Eagles Credits:** To encourage more flight activity and additional chapter rallies, EAA will be offering double Young Eagles credits (\$10 per flight) from January 1, 2023, to July 31, 2023. This incentive will allow chapters and volunteers from warm and cooler climates to take advantage of the bonus. Learn more about the Young Eagles Credit program at [EAA.org/YECredits](http://EAA.org/YECredits).

**30 Flights for 30 Years:** Volunteer Young Eagles pilots who fly 30 youths between August 1, 2022, and July 31, 2023, will be awarded a commemorative polo shirt. Once pilots reach this milestone, EAA will contact pilots to request their shirt size. Milestones will be tracked at [EAA.org/YE30](http://EAA.org/YE30).

**First-Time Young Eagles Pilot Challenge:** The Young Eagles program will never run into a shortage of children to fly. However, consistently growing the volunteer pilot force is critical to the future of the program. Through the 30th anniversary celebration period from August 1, 2022, to July 31, 2023, all first-time Young Eagles pilots will be entered into a monthly drawing to win a Lightspeed Zulu 3 headset! New pilot requirements can be found at [EAA.org/YEPilots](http://EAA.org/YEPilots).

**Young Eagles 30th Anniversary Pins:** The Young Eagles program would not be possible without the amazing ground volunteers. Since pilots have a challenge of their own, EAA wanted to be sure that ground volunteers received a token of appreciation for all the hard work and dedication put into the program. Chapter coordinators can request commemorative pins to award to ground volunteers at [EAA.org/YE30](http://EAA.org/YE30).

In addition to these special programs, EAA will be highlighting Young Eagles success stories, dedicated volunteers, and chapters making an impact via the Young Eagles program. There are two different forms that can be submitted, based on the story's contents.

Please fill out one of the forms to share your story and/or why you volunteer to support Young Eagles.

- [Why I Support Young Eagles](#)
- [My Young Eagles Success Story](#)

For more information about the Young Eagles program, please visit [EAA.org/YoungEagles](http://EAA.org/YoungEagles).



## **YOUTH GROUP**

**By Jeff Shaud**

[jlshaud@wowway.com](mailto:jlshaud@wowway.com)

Greetings EAA 55 members,

### **November Meeting Schedule**

Our next Young Aviators youth group meeting will take place on **Sunday November 13, 2022** from 2:00 PM until 5:00 PM at the EAA Chapter 55 hangar.

### **EAA 55 Young Aviators Welcomes New Member**

EAA 55 Young Aviators would like to give a warm welcome to new student member Kaya K. (pronounced Kye-Ah). Kaya is a homeschooler from the Mason, Michigan area interested in aviation and hopes to one day join the U.S. Air Force. Welcome to the youth group Kaya.



### **Update: Youth Group Volunteers Refurbish Jackson County Airport T-33 Trainer**

The EAA 55 Young Aviators finished their volunteer time working on the T-33 static display trainer on Sunday October 9, 2022. Under the direction of EAA

55 member Mr. Dave Trojan, we were able to complete the refurbishing and painting. If you are near Jackson County Airport, stop by to admire the detailed work our youth group has put into this historic aircraft. After the work detail, the youth group enjoyed a pizza party sponsored by the Jackson County Airport Authority and EAA Chapter 304. EAA 55 Young Aviators youth group would like to thank EAA Chapter 304, Mr. Dave Trojan, the Jackson County Airport Authority, and our youth group parents for this opportunity to work on this piece of American aviation history.

### Piper Tri-Pacer Wing Donated to YG

The youth group received a very generous donation of a left side Piper Tri-Pacer wing from EAA Chapter 55 member Gabe Blosser. We would like to express our gratitude and thanks to Gabe for his generous donation of this wing for the youth to learn about aircraft construction. Stay tuned in the coming months for progress we are making on this project.

### Piper Tri-Pacer Wing Deconstruction Project – Part 1

On a beautiful Sunday October 23, 2022, the EAA 55 Young Aviators gathered at the Builder's Hangar to begin the process of deconstructing the donated Piper Tri-Pacer wing. Our first task was to move the wing outside in order to wash many years of dust, dirt, grime, and leachate moss from the exterior surfaces. We began this process by spraying the wing completely with a biodegradable detergent cleaner. Both sides of the wing were then power washed to remove the grime. The results are phenomenal!

With the wing exterior clean, it was time to investigate what was inside. Low and behold, if there was not a cache of walnuts "squirreled" away inside the wing, like 5 pounds! Shake, rattle, and roll, we got most of them out! It is going to take some more disassembly before we can get the interior completely cleaned out.

Next, the youth investigated how the wing was originally assembled and what we will need to do to start taking it apart. We began by removing the fabric covered flap and aileron. Next up was to remove the access panel for the 18 gallon, wing mounted fuel tank. With the access panel removed, the youth were able to remove an angled tubular spar support brace that ran through a welded pass-thru

tube in the fuel tank. With these pieces out of the way, the kids were able to remove the fuel tank.

That is about all we had time to do on Sunday October 23. We will be back at it again on Sunday November 13, 2023 where we will begin the process of drilling out the skin rivets to expose the wing structure. We are looking for volunteers with experience in drilling out driven rivets. If you are interested in furthering the aerospace education of our youth by assisting with this project, please contact Jeff Shaud at the phone number below.

See you at the hangar!  
Jeff



**LCC - MASON JEWETT CAMPUS**  
By Mark Bathurst  
([bathursm@star.lcc.edu](mailto:bathursm@star.lcc.edu))

In 2019, the aviation maintenance industry's primary concern in finding personnel for aviation technician jobs was the noticeably high barriers to entry vs. the number of people who thought overcoming those barriers was worth it. Aviation has radically changed since the start of 2019. While thousands of staff members were laid off or took early retirement at the height of the pandemic, some aircraft maintenance schools ceased operations for a period of time. Some of the schools who remained open saw graduation rates drop by 25 percent. At LCC, however, we maintained our enrollment and graduated full classed throughout the COVID era. The reduced output of Part 147 schools helped contribute to the mechanic shortage.

Are aircraft mechanics in demand? Without question, and the global market for air travel is dramatically increasing. In fact, the projected demand for global travel is expected to [return to full pre-pandemic levels by 2023](#), then continue to grow throughout the next decade. To accommodate this demand, the global fleet is expected to surpass 49,000 commercial aircraft by 2040, with 20 percent of all deliveries going toward emerging markets. **These factors mean that aviation maintenance staffing must grow commensurately.**

One of the new dynamics is that those who work in aviation technician positions must understand

advanced methods to accommodate technological upgrades. Future aircraft will be considerably different than their legacy predecessors in construction methods and materials, technological connectivity and additive manufacturing. At the same time, aircraft mechanics must remain adept at working on legacy aircraft and the current technologies, which will remain in circulation well past 2037. This presents challenges to both employers and the Part 147 schools.

While the Bureau of Labor Statistics anticipates a [12 percent growth](#) in aviation technician jobs between now and 2030, that growth may not be enough for the expanding aviation maintenance industry. But if the demand for aircraft mechanics is so high, why is there still an aviation mechanic shortage. According to several maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facilities recently surveyed by the Aeronautical Repair Station Association, the most common factors in the aircraft mechanic shortage were "difficulty finding and retaining technical talent" and "regulatory costs/burdens." All students, irrespective of previous experience, must go through the same 24 month program to attain FAA licensure as A&P mechanics.

To meet that demand, LCC (along with many other Part 147 schools in the country) have increased class sizes to capacity. In order for LCC to offer more training opportunities, we will need to expand our facility. To that end, we have begun discussions internally to flesh out what an additional hangar would look like, what additional programs other than the Part 147 program we could offer, and what outside support may be available. Our goal is to meet the increasing demand by continuing to offer a high quality, cost effective course of study to those students interested in joining the aviation maintenance career field.



**EDITORS PROLIX**

**By Deanna McAlister**

[zirconmoons@gmail.com](mailto:zirconmoons@gmail.com)

How fascinating is it to fly around on a clear night during a full lunar eclipse. Seems dreamlike and out of this world. Only I believe it must be more fascinating to fly during a colorful episode of the aurora borealis dancing above. we just may be going into the best season to fly.



**By Karen Meirndorf**

When we Relay for our Cancer Survivors, we celebrate them and support their lives by finding treatments and programs to ensure a life with more birthdays.

And this year we had a blast from the past with our remembering music of the "Decades" from childhood to today's Rap. Our teams had members dress as Rockers, Hippies, Dancing Queens, or a favorite music celebrity.

It was a bit on the cool side for the start of Relay and an early morning rain shower caught us short footed to save the luminaries from getting wet. But in the end, we had a successful Silent Auction, and live Dessert Auction that helped get us over our event's goal. Along with fundraisers, luminary sales, sponsorships, and a raffle, we were able to raise over \$90,000. Wonderful! Many clapping hands and happy feet dancing.

(pic Pres. Margie Clark)



Thank you to everyone who helped make Relay For Life of Greater Lansing a success and to those who came out to the event in support of our teams hard work to lead the fight for a world without Cancer is greatly appreciated.

Karen Meirndorf  
Heartwood Glad Rags

**Email Notice:**

The best way to do a broadcast email to Chapter 55 membership is to “reply all” to your latest newsletter email. Just change/delete the subject and content. This will insure you get the most up-to-date membership roster

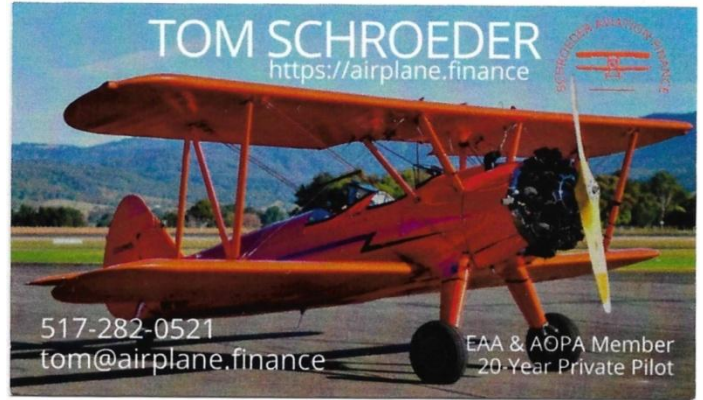
Contributions, corrections and additions to "WingTips" are welcome and can be made by contacting Deanna McAlister (zirconmoons@gmail.com)

**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:**

Financing Needed? Contact:



**HANGARS FOR RENT AT TEW:**

Lloyd Brown; 517-589-8619  
Tom Tuttle; 734-216-7532  
Gabe Blosser; 517-896-0020  
Tim Martinson; common hangar; best for low wing; 517-803-0462; tmartins1575@yahoo.com  
EAA55; Common Storage or Building hangar space;  
Margie Clark; 517-853-1418 (waiting list)

Do you have anything you want to sell?? Additions and corrections, contact Deanna McAlister zirconmoons@gmail.com

**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 Debonaire  
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; 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  
 Greg Harris; Zenith 750 project  
 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  
 Dawn Koeplinger; Cessna 172; Aeronca Sedan  
 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-12; RV14A 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 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

**FLYERS FROM OTHER AIRPORTS  
 POSTED IN TEW TERMINAL (with  
 thanks to Mark Bathurst)**

**WEB EVENT CALENDARS:**

<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: Deanna McAlister, Newsletter Editor.

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