

EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION - CHAPTER 55

APRIL 2025

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

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

→ Young Eagles: Margie Clark → Webmaster: John Bobcik → Young Aviators: Jeff Shaud → Membership: Vickie Vandenbelt

→ Flight Advisor: Terry Lutz → Program Coordinator: Jon Iversen 517-980-3011 → Breakfast Teams: Joe Madziar 517-604-1000

Website: chapters.eaa.org/ea55



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Rick Laub

(ea55.president@gmail.com)

Wow – we have had some crazy weather here in mid-Michigan of late, and Mason was hit pretty hard by our recent storm. I had a tornado take out two of my trees – luckily missing my cars that were not in their normal spots on the driveway.

By several accounts, it seems that Rosie day at the Lansing Airport was quite well attended – Thanks to Gabe Blosser, Jennifer Jacob, Vickie Vandenbelt, Dave Groh and Jeff Shaud for ensuring EAA55 was well represented.

We have Young Eagles and Dawn Patrol coming up on Father's Day weekend and a planning group has already met to make sure things are underway. Frank Garcia has volunteered to spearhead both DP and MAD this year, taking the reins from Greg Hover. He will need lots of help making sure both are a success, so please volunteer on the sheets that will be at the meeting. And, Margie Clark will be out of town for DP and Young Eagles, so Connie Bobcik is leading the charge on YE. It will be a busy, yet fun weekend.

Lastly, I want to mention that the Warbirds of Glory Museum are having an Open House and Fundraising Gala on May 17th. Check out their website for details.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting!

CHAPTER 55

BOARD MEETING: 7:00pm; Wed. April 9th

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

SCHEDULED PROGRAMS:

APRIL:

John Hanley – Sextant Navigation

MAY:

TBD

JUNE – JULY – AUGUST:

Young Eagle Rallies

**CONTACT JON IVERSON WITH YOUR
PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS: 517-980-3011
or jon.h.iversen55@gmail.com**

LADIES “COFFEE BREAK”

Our Member Coordinator, Vickie Vandenbelt, is inviting all ladies – members, members wives, & guests to an informal monthly get together on the third Friday of each month. We meet at Bestsellers in downtown Mason at 9:00am. (Gentlemen - please tell your significant other.) If you would like to receive an email reminder, just let Vickie know vickie7463@gmail.com Hope to see you on Friday, April 18th.

UPCOMING BREAKFAST TEAMS:

APRIL

Don McAlister
Ken Vandenbelt
Dave Trojan
Paul Creger
Julianna Bunning

MAY

Tim Martinson
Pat Salow
Chloe Miner
Frank Garcia
Chuck Hacker
Linda Carter



EAA Chapter 55 Board of Directors Meeting, Wednesday, March 5, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by President Rick Laub. In attendance were Rick Laub, Gilda Tucker, Drew Seguin, Jon Iversen, John Kuchar, Bob Clark, Gabe Blosser, Jeff Shaud, Gary Nicola, Ken Drewyor and Doug Koons. Absent were Greg Hover and Warren Miller. Non- Board Member present was Margie Clark. → Secretary's Report was noted; Gary Nicola made a motion to accept; seconded by Jon Iversen; motion carried. → Treasurer Drew Seguin gave a summary of the Treasurer's Report. Drew stated that three board members have yet to pay Chapter dues for this year. There was some discussion after which resolution of this will take place. Doug Koons made a motion to accept the report; seconded by Jon Iversen; motion carried. → Jeff Shaud gave the Young Aviator's Report. At the February 23rd meeting several things took place. First, the plaque project initiated by Terry Lutz is well underway. The Aviators found fourteen of thirty-six names on the plaque have indeed passed away. Civil Air Patrol has agreed to perform ceremonial services for the re-dedication of the plaque with media coverage. This will occur when the Aviator's project is complete. Aviators may call for reinforcements in tracking down the status of the Reservists. The challenge is that the Reservists come from various branches of the military. In one case there were two of the same name coming from different branches of the military. The question was, which one is the Reservist? Thus, help will be sought in ensuring this is done correctly. The second project involves a lesson on composite laminate fabrication of wings. The purpose is to explore Young's Modulus, which is a property of materials that tell us how easy it can stretch and deform. It is defined as the ratio of tensile strength to tensile strain. This is the process whereby wings are tested for flight. This lesson will continue at the next meeting March 9th. The third activity of the meeting was flying. Mark Jacob in his C-120 and Bob Clark in his C-172 took the kids up. Three of the kids had their first small plane flying experience. → Margie rolled out two table banners she obtained from EAA National highlighting our Chapter that will be used at the Rosie Day event this month. (see pics) Vickie has membership materials for the Rosie event. She will get them to someone to be included in the table setup. Gabe stated that we are all set for

"THANK YOU" BREAKFAST TEAMS!



Thank you to our February team: Tom Schroeder, Dave Groh and Jim & Carol Spry



Thank you to our March team: Mark Jacob with our Breakfast Coordinator Joe Madziar

the event, having fulfilled our monetary obligation of sponsorship. All we need do is show up at the event and set up our displays. → Doug Koons informed us that we were denied Ray Scholarship funds for the year. Apparently EAA National is under the impression that our Chapter “doesn’t do that much for and with youth” to qualify. Quite a bit of discussion ensued over this. Rick Laub set up a phone meeting with the officials in an attempt to correct this. In the phone conversation, he will share a long list of activities our chapter has accomplished in this regard. As a consequence of this decision by EAA National, our rating dropped from gold to silver. Doug mentioned that National offers a 30/70 scholarship in which the chapter comes up with 30% of the costs while National comes up with 70%. → Jon Iversen did the close out last month. He took the coffee pots home and scrubbed them clean, and repaired one. Then he put a new mount on the ceiling projector so that the image is more central to the screen. Thank you, Jon! → Gabe has yet to get the fire extinguishers recharged. → Rick lauded the New Hudson Airport B-25 rebuild that he and several others visited recently. The airport will be hosting an open house fund raiser May 16th and 17th. → The meeting adjourned at 7:43pm. → Respectfully submitted by Gilda Tucker, Secretary



EAA Chapter 55 Membership Meeting, Saturday, March 8, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 9:34am by President Rick Laub. → After singing the National Anthem, Rick thanked the breakfast team, Mark Jacob and Joe Madziar. Mark Jacob fixed the sausage machine which has been limping along for a long time. Thank you, Mark! → Next months breakfast team consists of Don McAlister, Ken Vandebelt, Dave Trojan, Paul Creger and Julianna Buning. → There were forty-three present including six guests. At least one guest became a member today. Bob Chronister flew in on his Cessna 185. He became a member. Another guest is Ron Stonewall, a member of Livingston County Chapter 384 and also of the chapter in Jackson. Chapter 384 was sponsoring host of the War Birds of Glory event that was attended by several in our chapter last month. Other guests include Rich Floyd, J.D. Ramey, Rick Sprague and Gavin. → Secretary’s Report was noted; Joe Madziar made a motion to accept; seconded by Mark Jacob; motion carried.

→ Treasurer Drew Seguin reviewed the Treasurer’s Report. Margie Clark made a motion to accept; seconded by Jon Iversen; motion carried. → Jon Iversen made several improvements to our operations this past week; see Board minutes for details. → Jeff Shaud gave the Young Aviator’s (Y.A.) Report; see Board Meeting minutes for details. Jeff lost his “right hand man” who assisted him with the meetings. Chapter guidelines require two certified adults (i.e. have an updated Child Protection Form on file) present at Y. A. meetings. Ideally, someone needs to commit to being at every meeting. Y.A. meetings are held the second Sunday of the month from 2-5pm in the Builders Hanger. Weather permitting, Mark Jacob will take the Y.A. up in his plane at the Sunday, March 9th meeting. Pilots who fly Y.A. receive Y.E. credit. → Margie Clark, Young Eagles (Y.E.) Coordinator presented Certificates of Appreciation to several pilots who volunteered to fly Y.E. last year. The pilots were Mark Jacob, Jennifer Jacob, Pat Salow and John Bobcik. Certificates of Appreciation for ground support went to Karen Meirndorf and Mason Samson. These certificates were for volunteer service rendered in 2024. → Doug Koons, Ray Scholarship Chairman stated that we were denied Ray Scholarship funds for 2025. For details see Board Meeting minutes. → Debbie Groh, Lansing Airport Authority Board Member, gave details of the upcoming Rosie the Riveter event. The event is Friday, March 21st inside the Lansing Airport. It is in the Friendship Room. Go left after clearing security. The event is from 3:30 to 5:00pm. The event is free but there is a \$3/hr charge for parking in the short-term lot. The plans are for four “Rosies” to appear. These ladies are WWII Veterans so health is a factor in their ability to attend the event. Each will receive a Congressional Medal of Honor. Rosies worked on the home front building air and land craft for use in the war effort. “Donut Dollies” will also be present. These ladies passed out donuts and coffee to returning G.I.’s. The Jacobs will be there with their Beech 18. Cindy Kangus is the Volunteer Coordinator for the event. → Rick Laub presented a Chapter Certificate of Appreciation to Pat Salow for his service as Program Coordinator. He volunteered in this capacity until the end of 2024. → Bill Bezdek brought up a point about the engines of the SR-71 (referring to an article written by Gilda Tucker in the February WingTips). He referred to the Queen Mary, the 1930’s steamship that traversed between London and New York. The Queen Mary (currently

on static display in the U.S.A.) has 24 boilers, each with 200,000 horsepower. Bill stated that the SR-71 has more power than that in one engine! →Karen Meirndorf, Relay for Life coordinator for our chapter, sold \$190 in 50/50 raffle tickets at today's meeting. The winner of the raffle, Cam Robinson donated his \$95 back into the Relay for Life. →The meeting adjourned at 10:09am. →Respectfully submitted, Gilda Tucker, Secretary.



MEMBERSHIP TIDBITS
by Vickie Vandebelt
(EAA55.mems@gmail.com)

NEW MEMBERS: Chapter 55 welcomes new family members JD, Christy & Noelle Ramey. JD owns a Piper Archer. We also welcome new member Cam Robinson. Cam owns a 1962 C-185.

CONDOLENCES: to Doug Koons on the recent loss of his mother.

CONDOLENCES: to the family and friends of Dave Paul. Dave is a past EAA55 member and former hangar owner here at TEW. From Jan Paul...Dave died on March 19, 2025, at noon in my arms overlooking a beautiful waterfall while traveling in Croatia. He gave me a hug and he was gone. Plans are being made to return Dave to the island [Beaver Island] he loved. Information to be announced later. Messages can be sent to my email. janetkaypaul@gmail.com

EAA55 EVENT PLANNING: Event Coordinator Frank Garcia held our initial planning session on March 26th to go over the preliminary information. The next planning meeting will be at 6:00pm prior to the Chapter Board meeting on Wednesday, May 7th. If you have any suggestions, ideas, contacts - please plan to attend and/or share your info with Frank. Additional, Frank will be looking for team leaders and volunteers for pre-event tasks, along with worker for the day of DP and MAD. Right now, we are looking for a volunteer to complete the aviation and local "web calendar" listings for each event. And, we are also looking for someone to post our flyers around the community about 2.5 to 3 weeks prior to each event. If interested, contact VickieV for more info.

AEROMART SALE AT DP & MAD: Dave Trojan is once again taking on the task of coordinating our "Aeromart" at our DP and MAD. He is already in the process of collecting items. If you have **ANY** aviation themed toys, books, puzzles, models, tools, equipment, etc. – please drop them off in the meeting room with a note "for Dave". All proceeds from our sale benefit EAA55 funds. Thank you, Dave !!

ADVERTISING EAA55 EVENTS: We have STACKS of advertising flyers for our summer events and - The best advertising is **FREE** advertising. Please help the chapter by posting a flyer at your work, bank, corner store, church, post office, and any public bulletin boards etc. about 3 weeks prior to each event. Flyers are available in the meeting room and a PDF will be attached with each newsletter in hopes you will email to your family and friends. Plus, "Events" are posted on our EAA55 FaceBook page - please "share" the events to your FB page. Thank you, in advance, for your assistance with this important task.

2025 MICHIGAN AERONAUTICAL CHARTS: Just a heads up note to let you know that I have volunteered to be the Contact/Coordinator for the distribution of the 2025 Michigan Aeronautical Charts at TEW Mason Jewett Field. My name & phone will be put out by MDOT as the contact for the airport. I will receive a limited supply for distribution in the terminal. I will also have a few for the EAA55 meeting room. Again, supply is LIMITED and intended for actively flying pilots as the priority. ONE per pilot, please!!

OLD AERONAUTICAL CHARTS & MICHIGAN AIRPORT DIRECTORIES: And, if you have old editions of the chart and/or Michigan Airport Directories, please consider "recycling" them to Jeff Shaud for the Young Aviators to work with.

MASON INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS: If you appreciate being able to see fireworks from TEW – consider supporting the Independence Day Fireworks fundraising efforts. Next up will be a baked potato bar. Stop by the Ingham Co. Fairgrounds Community Hall on April 23rd from 4:30-7:00pm; just \$10 for a spud with lots of fixins !



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
JENNIFER JACOB

I have been a member of Chapter 55 on and off since 1988. I am a multi-engine rated pilot and tail-wheel current. Together with my husband, Mark, I own a Beech 18, and Cessna 120. I am building a Cessna C-34 Airmaster. We have a hangar here at Mason Jewett Field. I enjoy flying, aviation history, and just hanging around pilots and airplanes. Careerwise I am a research scientist at MSU. When not at the airport, I enjoy coffee roasting. With no limitations - I would enjoy flying in every continent.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
MARK JACOB

I have been a member of Chapter 55 on and off since 1998. I am a pilot current in Commercial Instrument, and Instructor for Glider and Airplane. I own a Beech 18, and Cessna 120. I enjoy flying, and every aspect of Aviation. I also enjoy flying Young Eagles in the Beech 18 while my wife Jennifer flies them in the Cessna. By profession, I am a doctor. My hobbies are Ham Radio and roasting coffee. A dream of mine is to fly a DC-3 to Alaska.



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

I am looking for a YA program assistant. See details in minutes. Contact me for info.



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

See you at the airport!

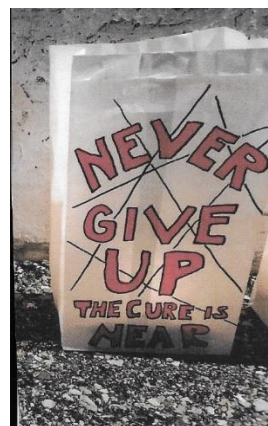


RELAY FOR LIFE
team Heartwood Glad Rags
by Karen Meirndorf
(krmdorf@yahoo.com)

Relay For Life will be September 20th, 2:00pm thru 6:00am, Sunday morning at the Corrigan Oil Speedway Mason, Michigan.

EAA Chapter 55 is fundraising at our next chapter meeting to place our name on a fact sign placed around our Relay walking track. To help meet our goal is to purchase 50/50 tickets during this month's pancake breakfast. The winning ticket will be drawn at the end of the meeting.

Your donation will enable us to continue our life saving work, and we're very thankful for your support.



The Relay for Life Motto



NOTES FROM CAPE JUBY
By Terry Lutz
(terry.lutz@attglobal.net)

Each year, I have the opportunity to vote on who should be elected to the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame. The selectees are honored in a formal dinner at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo, usually in May. For selection, there are two main categories, those who

have flown West, and those who are still with us. There are about 20 names in each category, and they are all very strong candidates. I have my own criteria for initial screening: (1) point if they were born in Michigan; (1) point if they grew up and were educated in Michigan; (1) point if their contribution to aviation was in Michigan; (1) point if they served in the military; and (1) point if they died while in service to their country. Then I compare the point totals and go looking for tie breakers in the short biographies provided.

It is my opinion there is one serious problem with the selection process: there is no specific category for women. Historically, men have had far more opportunities in aviation, although that is changing. There are several women listed in both categories. While their biographies are strong, they have difficulty competing with the background and achievements of the men on the candidate lists. Each year, when I send in my ballot, I include a letter urging the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame Selection Committee to create a separate category for women.

My example specifically is Marie Michell Robinson. Marie grew up Michigan and was a WASP pilot during WWII. I was reminded about Marie when I read the December issue of Daedalus Flyer, a magazine from the Order of Daedalians, a fraternity of military aviators, present and past (Volamus - Volabamus). As you will read, Marie trained as a WASP with Elizabeth MacKethan Magid in Sweetwater, TX and they became close friends. Elizabeth was sent to Cochrane Field in Georgia, and Marie was sent to Victorville, CA to fly twin-engine bombers. She was killed in October 1944 when the B-25 she was copilotting went into a flat spin and crashed. Elizabeth was devastated at the loss of Marie and wrote the poem "Celestial Flight". This poem has been read at the funeral of each remaining WASP when she passes away. (see photo at end of this newsletter.)

This history, and the poem written in her honor are the reason that I put Marie Michell Robinson at the top of my nomination list each year. But because there is no separate category for women, she is never selected. Born in Michigan, grew up in Michigan, served in the military, gave her life for her country, and is remembered in poetic verse when each WASP

passes away. What better reasons are there for selection to the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame.



Our group on the visit to the B-25 Sandbar Mitchell project



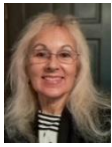
Picture of Kurt Gubert's 1936 Piper J-2 Cub project. The J-2 was owned by Kurt's good friend Harold Armstrong, who passed away leaving the airplane to his son. The son passed away and passed the airplane on to Kurt, who is restoring it so it can be placed in a museum in honor of his friends.



EXPENSIVE HAMBURGERS

By Bill Purosky & Doug Koons

Hoping for news next month !!!



FROM THE EDITOR

By Gilda Tucker

(cwtucker1@comcast.net)

I usually stick around after the member meeting to listen to the program. The March program featured Terry Lutz and centered on the Wright Brothers. Prior to giving the talk, Terry passed around several books he considers worth the time to read. One book in particular piked my interest; "Lighting Dawn – A WWII Story of Survival" by Tom Clavin. I opened the book and started reading. I finished the last few chapters about the time the program ended. I can't give you any details of the program, however I had tears in my eyes as I read the harrowing story of one war hero who was brought to the brink of starvation in a German death camp. Fortunately, he escaped and lived out 94 years of life. (I am a fast reader, but to be honest, I didn't read the whole book. I summarized the pre-capture details.) See you at the airport!



ROSIE THE RIVETER EVENT

By Gilda Tucker

(cwtucker1@comcast.net)

I find it fitting that our featured Spotlight couple this month are the Jacobs. They played an important role in the Rosie event; opening their Beech 18 for self-guided tours. Novice that I am, I'm impressed with pilots like Mark and Jennifer who both fly the Beech. I have ridden in the Beech, but hadn't noticed the two windows in the floor just behind the cockpit (used for picture taking).

When I arrived at the event, I walked into an area filled with ladies wearing red and white polka dot scarfs either on the head or tied around their neck. The meeting room was filled to overflowing. Unfortunately, the Rosies were seating in the audience facing the stage rather than on the stage facing the audience; thus I have no pictures of them. There was a constant line-up of speakers. When I discerned this, I decided (this being my first time at a

Rosie event) to leave the meeting area and venture out to the hallways filled with display tables. Our own two tables were set up along with many others. I have pictures of several. I had to wait to get pictures of Jeff and John as the tables were filled with inquiring visitors. At the end of a long hallway there was a door leading outside to the ramp and aforementioned Beech 18. My pictures will tell you most of what was experienced at the event. It was fun and very well attended.



Jeff Shaud with our Young Eagles/ Young Aviators display



John Kuchar with our EAA Chapter 55 display



A Rosie tries out a riveter gun



Gilda Tucker with Rosies Vickie Vandebelt and Deb Groh



Lots of photo ops



Jeff Shaud explaining display objects



Vendor booths



The CARDS had a great display





Dave & Deb Groh displayed their fully restored WWII Ford Jeep



Beech 18 on the ramp



Jennifer & Mark Jacob on the ramp



Chapter 55 Rosies Vickie Vandebelt & Deb Groh



Chapter 55 Rosie Deanna McAlister



Deb & Dave Groh



Deb & Dave Groh had a great riveter display



Deb's helper, Denise Droscha, at the riveter display





Speakers and presentations



FROM THE EDITOR

By Gilda Tucker

(cwtucker1@comcast.net)

I usually stick around after the member meeting to listen to the program. The March program featured Terry Lutz and centered on the Wright Brothers. Prior to giving the talk, Terry passed around several books he considers worth the time to read. One book in particular piked my interest; "Lighting Dawn – A WWII Story of Survival" by Tom Clavin. I opened the book and started reading. I finished the last few chapters about the time the program ended. I can't give you any details of the program, however I had tears in my eyes as I read the harrowing story of one war hero who was brought to the brink of starvation in a German death camp. Fortunately, he escaped and lived out 94 years of life. (I am a fast reader, but to be honest, I didn't read the whole book. I summarized the pre-capture details.) See you at the airport!



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- Wherever you go & even at your base airport:

- 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.

MASON JEWETT FIELD TENANTS & USER

MEETINGS:

First Wednesday of the second month of each quarter. The 2025 meeting dates are: February 5th; May 7th; August 6th; and November 5th at 5:30pm in a classroom at the LCC Aviation Technology facility.

HANGARS FOR RENT AT TEW:

Brown Family; 517-528-5090
Tom Tuttle; 734-216-7532
Gabe Blosser; 517-896-0020
EAA55; Common Storage or Building hangar space;
Rick Laub; 616-755-6255 (waiting list)

MASON JEWETT FIELD FBO:

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Mar 21 – Rosie the Riveter Day
Apr 1-6 – Sun N Fun
Jun 15 – EAA55 Dawn Patrol (DP)
Jun 14 – EAA55 Young Eagles
Jul 12 – EAA55 Young Eagles
Jul 21-27 – AirVenture Oshkosh
Aug 9 – EAA55 Young Eagles
Aug 16 – EAA55 Mason Aviation Day (MAD)

FLYERS FROM OTHER AIRPORTS POSTED IN TEW TERMINAL

WEB EVENT CALENDARS:

www.eaa.org/ea/events
www.michigan.gov/aero/
and various Facebook pages

CRAA BOARD MEETINGS:

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

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
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 Collier; 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)
 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

Do you have anything to buy, sell or trade?? Submit
 your "classified ad" info to Gilda Tucker
cwtucker1@comcast.net

Contributions, corrections and additions to
 "WingTips" are welcome and can be made by
 contacting
 Gilda Tucker (cwtucker1@comcast.net)
**Deadline: Wednesday preceding the 1st Saturday
 of each month.**
 Other Contacts: Joe Madziar "Breakfast Teams"
 (madziars@msn.com) and Jon Iversen "Monthly
 Programs" (jon.h.iversen55@gmail.com)

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

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.

CHAPTER 55 CLASSIFIEDS:

FOR SALE: FLY MICHIGAN decals. Available
 in red, blue or white. Great for your plane and/or
 your car. \$5.00 each. Contact
vickie7463@gmail.com



**Drone just flew over and
 managed to get a pic**



Celestial Flight

*She is not dead -
But only flying higher,
Higher than she's flown before,
And earthly limitations
Will hinder her no more.*

*There is no service ceiling,
Or any fuel range,
And there is no anoxia,
Or need for engine change.*

*Thank God that now her flight can be
To heights her eyes had scanned,
Where she can race with comets,
And buzz the rainbow's span.*

*For she is universal
Like courage, love and hope,
And all free, sweet emotions
Of vast and godly scope.*

*And understand a pilot's
Fate is not the thing she fears,
But rather sadness left behind,
Your heartbreak and your tears.*

*So all you loved ones, dry your eyes, Yes,
It is wrong that you should grieve, For she
Would love your courage more, And she
Would want you to believe.*

*She is not dead.
You should have known
That she is only flying higher,
Higher than she's ever flown.*

by Elizabeth MacKethan Magid



*Marie Mitchell Robinson, who
gave her life for her country at the
tender age of 20.*



*Elizabeth MacKethan Magid,
Veteran, Hero, and author of
"Celestial Flight," which she
penned for her friend who
died for her country.*

Celestial Flight was written by a WASP – Women Air Force Service Pilot– named Elizabeth MacKethan Magid.

During World War II, Elizabeth entered the September 1943 class of Women Airforce Service Pilots in Sweetwater, Texas. All the WASP were trained there at Avenger Field.

While undergoing rigorous training, she grew very close to another WASP named Marie Mitchell Robinson.

In Sweetwater, they exchanged a promise – if anything ever happened to the other, they would go on with the bereaved mother at the funeral. Neither thought they would ever have to fulfill such a grim pact.

After graduation, they were both stationed in Dallas for a short while before Elizabeth was sent to Cochran Field, Georgia. There she flew overhauled basic and advanced trainers.

Essentially, her job was to risk her life flying an overhauled plane – making sure it was checked out – risking her life so men could continue to fly other missions.

One of Elizabeth's favorite memories was when she was ferrying another plane with one of the other WASP.

"We were flying side-by-side, and hats and bala were literally popping off and flying by. All we did was hold our thumbs up and say, "We're still here!" As long as she was giving me that sign, I knew we were ok."

Meanwhile, Marie had been stationed at Victorville Air Force Base, California, flying twin engine bombers.

But in October of 1944, tragedy struck.

While co-piloting a B-25 bomber with two male crewmembers, the plane stalled and went into a flat spin, crashing and killing all aboard.

Marie was only 20 years old. Elizabeth was devastated.

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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.