

## EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION - CHAPTER 55

**November 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](http://chapters.eaa.org/ea55)



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Rick Laub

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

Fall is here! Lots of windy days to hone those flight planning skills and reminders of personal minimums.

It has been great to see the energy at the chapter and some new members joining us. In our upcoming meeting we vote for a new group of board directors, who serve a two-year term. Next year, we vote for a new set of board officers who also serve two-year terms. Many thanks to our current board members and their dedication to showing up for meetings, discussing issues, and making decisions big and small to keep Chapter 55 moving forward.

There are lots of folks who keep this chapter running and volunteer for Young Eagles, Dawn Patrol, and Mason Aviation Day, as well as general maintenance of our chapter facilities. If you would like to nominate someone (generally not a board member) for EAA55 Member of the Year, please let me know ASAP.

Lastly – Christmas Party is December 15!

See you on Saturday.

### “THANK YOU” BREAKFAST TEAM



Our October team:  
Jeff Stetson & Mark Bathurst



### SCHEDULED PROGRAMS:

#### NOVEMBER:

Dave Trojan – Aviation Archeology

#### DECEMBER:

Chapter 55 Awards & Recognition

#### JANUARY:

John Iverson – Wings of Mercy

**CONTACT PAT SALOW WITH YOUR SUGGESTIONS**

### CHAPTER 55

**BOARD MEETING:** 7:00pm; November 6th

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

## UPCOMING BREAKFAST TEAMS:

<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>
Rockwood Shepard	Stan Chubb
John VanderMolen	Nathan User
Steve Houghton	Allen Jencks
Jennifer Jacob	Gordon Hempstone
Jeffrey Kemm	David VanderMolen



### AVIATION HISTORIAN

**Dave Trojan**

[dtrojan60@gmail.com](mailto:dtrojan60@gmail.com)

Dave Trojan will present our November program. He will describe the history and restoration of FG-1D Corsair WWII Fighter aircraft at the Selfridge Military Air Museum. Dave will also talk about how he restored the cockpit instrument panel for this and another Corsair.

The historic rare Goodyear manufactured FG-1D Corsair warbird was meticulously restored over a 10-year period. The newly-restored FG-1D Corsair is now permanently installed in the museum's new Aviation Education Center.



### EAA Chapter 55 Board of Directors Meeting, Wednesday, October 9, 2024

→The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by President Rick Laub. →In attendance were Rick Laub, Gilda Tucker (arrived 15 minutes late), Gabe Blosser, Gary Nicola, Greg Hover, Drew Seguin, John Kuchar, Ken Drewyor, Bob Clark, and Jeff Shaud. Absent were Dave James and Michael

Rosencrans. Non-board members present were Margie Clark and Doug Koons. →Secretary's Report was noted. There was a correction to the minutes of the last board meeting. Jeff Shaud was not listed as present, but was present. Gabe Blosser made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report as corrected; Greg Hover seconded; 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. →Rick thanked Greg Hover and his helpers John Bobcik and Doug Koons for the superb job in restoring the meeting room floor to a high gloss shine. →Jeff Shaud was out of town during the last Young Aviators Meeting so it was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 13th from 2 -5pm. →Jeff informed the board of an event at LCC West on October 19<sup>th</sup>. It is "Drone Day" from 10-3pm. The event is free and is open to the public. Gilda made copies of flyers announcing the event which will be distributed at the Member Meeting on Saturday. →Gabe Blosser has been gathering a slate of candidates for the board of directors. Elections are held at the November member meeting. Margie made a list of those who are interested in running for the positions. The list will be placed on the member table and those wishing to add their names to the list may do so. →Mark and Ryan Jacob are part of an organization called Operation AirDrop that flew in supplies to those affected by the two recent hurricanes in North Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee. The Jacobs flew to North Carolina and also to Tennessee to drop off supplies at small airports nearest the areas inaccessible by washed out roads. →Ken Drewyor requested a copy of the Chapter Bylaws. Drew has the bylaws on his computer and agreed to send a copy to each of the board members. It was agreed by all that the bylaws need to be looked at as it has been a few years since they were reviewed. Jeff Shaud stated that they need to be reviewed annually. The last update was in 2019. →Gilda brought up that Johnny George, former snow removal, groundskeeper, and maintenance man for CRAA at the airport is gravely ill in Mississippi. A Get Well card was passed around for board members to sign. The card will be passed around again at the member meeting to be signed then mailed. →Rick thanked Gary Nicola for being faithful to mow the lawn this year. He and Gabe Blosser kept the mower working and the lawn mowed. →The Christmas party begins at 3:30 with hors d'oeuvres served until 5pm.

Dinner at 5pm followed by white elephant gift exchange. Date is December 15<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$15/person. The deadline for paid reservations is December 7<sup>th</sup>. Gilda will play Christmas songs on the violin during dinner. →Member of the Year nominations are open. The board decides the recipient, which is announced at the December member meeting. →Gabe is on close out for this month's member meeting. Ken Drewyor is on for November and Bob Clark for December. →Doug Koons announced that the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) offers scholarships. They offer scholarships for multiple ages groups and for multiple aviation purposes, including upgrades to current licenses. Applications are being accepted as of September 7<sup>th</sup>. Applicants apply on line only. The entire process is handled by AOPA. Applicants must be AOPA members. To become a member, go to AOPA.org and to apply for a scholarship go to AOPA.org/scholarships. The organization is based in Maryland. →Applications for renewing EAA55 membership will be made available at the member meeting. Vickie also sent out an application to everyone via email. →Joe Madziar wasn't available to discuss Newberry Scholarships. →The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm. →Respectfully submitted by Gilda Tucker, Secretary.



### **EAA Chapter 55 Membership Meeting, Saturday, October 12, 2024**

→The meeting was called to order at 9:30am by President Rick Laub. →After singing the National Anthem Rick thanked the breakfast team, Jeff Stetson, and Mark Bathurst. →Next months breakfast team is: Rockwood Shephard, John VanderMolen, Steve Houghton, Jennifer Jacob, and Jeffrey Kemm. →There were thirty-two members present. There were no guests and no new members. →Secretary's Report was noted. Bill Purosky made a motion to accept the report; seconded by Jennifer Jacob; motion carried. →Treasurer's Report was summarized by Treasurer Drew Seguin. Margie Clark made a motion to accept the report; seconded by John Iverson; motion carried. →Jeff Shaud confirmed Sunday's Young Aviators meeting. He requests (weather permitting) pilots be available to fly the members. →Margie Clark announced that pilots can still get credit for flying Young Eagles up to the end of the year. Fill out the form on the member's table. Owosso Airport would like us to

return next year to host another Young Eagles event for them. Pilots who recently joined our chapter are encouraged to fill out the Child Protection Form and become a Young Eagles pilot. New members who are not pilots can still become involved as ground crew near the runway or working at the registration table. →Doug Koons said that we will apply for an EAA Ray Scholarship for 2025 when registration opens. He also discovered that the AOPA offers scholarships. See board meeting minutes for details. →Rick thanked Greg Hover for stripping and waxing the meeting room floor, along with helpers Doug Koons and John Bobcik. Thanks also to those who moved the furniture out and back. →Mark Jacobs and his son Ryan participated in Operation AirDrop. They flew their Beach 18 to North Carolina where they flew over washed out roads and bridges. Operation AirDrop was formed in Texas in 2017. Aviation is used to bring relief supplies to people who need help, but where conventional access is impossible. Pilots fly into small airports near distressed areas. Mark and Ryan flew to a small airport north of Charlotte. They brought in 300 lbs of supplies. Next they flew to Gatlinburg TN. They made a total of four flights to these locations dropping off a total of 3600 lbs of relief supplies. For the total AirDrop Operation there were 670 flights bringing in a total of 400,000 lbs of relief supplies. →Gabe Blosser is building a slate of candidates for the Directors election next month. Nine are needed. As of this meeting there were eight. (Editor's note: After the meeting I received a text that another candidate had been added to the slate.) →Christmas Party was discussed. For details, see the Board Meeting minutes. →Gilda passed around a get well card that will be sent to Johnny George; see Board Meeting minutes for details. →Gilda mentioned that her Editor's Column was accidentally deleted before publication in the October WingTips Newsletter. She recapped what was said: Congratulations to Bill Purosky for sixty years of safe flying, and to Bruce Thorburn for 58 years of the same. Both were awarded the Wright Brothers Safe Flying Awards at the last Member meeting by FAA Safety Inspector Pat Ryan. Our chapter was well represented in the October issue of Sport Aviation Magazine. Terry Lutz has a two page article on pages 28-29, complete with his picture. Drew Seguin's son Elliott won an award at the recent Air Venture for his home built airplane. A picture of his Thorp T-18 is on page 48. →Karen Meirndorf heads up "Relay for Life". She gave me an article



highlighting the organization and the events of this year, which will be published in the November WingTips Newsletter. →Jeff Shaud gave an overview of a Drone Day event that takes place October 19<sup>th</sup> at LCC West. Dave Trojan will be giving a presentation at the event. →Dave Trojan will be the presenter after the November Membership meeting. He will discuss the ten-year effort to restore to static condition the Corsair. →Jeff Stetson brought attention to the new draperies that were purchased by Drew Seguin and installed by Doug Koons for darkening the room during presentations. Thanks to Doug and Drew. →This month's presenter is Jeff Shaud who will be explaining Basic Electrical Circuits and Concepts based on Ohm's Law. →The meeting adjourned at 10:06am. →Respectfully submitted by Gilda Tucker, Secretary.



**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:**

**KAREN MEIRNDORF**

I joined the chapter in 2008. I am not a pilot, but I enjoy Aviation history and just being around airplanes and pilots. Career-wise, I worked in Retail. I enjoy crafts, sewing, family history and volunteering for the Relay for Life division of the American Cancer Society. I manage the Relay for Life raffle for Chapter 55. We raise funds for cancer patient care, research, education and prevention. This year our chapter raised \$264! Someday I would like to travel across Canada by train. (Editor's Note: even though Karen now lives up north, she journeys down to Chapter 55 to volunteer at our events whenever she can.)



**RELAY FOR LIFE  
team Heartwood Glad Rags  
by Karen Meirndorf**

**[krmdorf@yahoo.com](mailto:krmdorf@yahoo.com)**

(Editor's Note: Karen Meirndorf gave me this article with a note highlighting the contribution of Chapter 55. I decided to share the entire article as it gives everyone a more complete picture of Karen and the work she does for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.)

Hello everyone, I hope you all had a very fun-filled summer. After a very busy spring, it was nice to just enjoy the warm sun and watch the young turkeys frolic. After wandering through our backyard they crossed the road and headed for my pine tree field.

As of the end of September, the books are closed on the Relay year 2024. Our theme was "Lights, Camera, Action". Our team picked the movie "The Wizard of Oz" with the campsite decorated in Oz caricatures and costumes. I made aprons for us girls that looked like Dorothy's dress. We used red painted shoes for the red ruby slippers. Our team was called Heartwood Glad Rags. Our team captain went to a lot of area Farm Markets for fund raising, selling crafts made by former Heartwood students, and a

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to CHAPTER 55**

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



**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:**

**FRANK GARCIA**

I have been a member of Chapter 55 since 2023. I am a pilot but not current. My aviation interests include airplanes in general and flying. Building an airplane is in the plans. I am a retired mechanical engineer. For forty-two years I designed and built blow-molding equipment for the plastic industry. I enjoy working on anything mechanical. I do my own maintenance on tractors, motorcycles, and vehicles. I enjoy riding my Harley-Davidson on warm summer days. I like being outdoors exploring, camping, hunting, target practice shooting, fishing, and kayaking. My ultimate dream is to buy and pilot my own comfortable fast, long-distance airplane. I would travel in it to beautiful places in the United States and around the world.

few awesome donations. The rest of us sold 157 luminaries for a team total of \$12,008! We took second place out of 21 teams. Cool huh?! Our seventeen-hour camping was eased by the best weather I ever remember. The turnout for our event activities was also very successful. A big THANK YOU to all donors and volunteers for helping us achieve an awesome total of \$74,815.47 to invest in all the outreaches of the organization.



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

See info in October Membership Meeting Minutes.



**YOUNG AVIATORS**  
By Jeff Shaud  
([jlshaud@wowway.com](mailto:jlshaud@wowway.com))

Our Young Aviators are working on the float in preparation for the Christmas Parade.

Congratulations to Bob Clark for flying 700 Young Eagles in his Cessna 172!

In hearing from other chapter leaders from around the country and Canada, we have a great chapter that is “leading the pack”! We are doing most everything that is suggested for having a successful chapter!

**This just in:** Our Program Director Pat Salow is stepping down at year’s end. We will need someone to step into this position! The position entails finding people knowledgeable in various aspects of aviation to put on a program each month at the conclusion of our member meeting. Programmers typically put on a one-hour program. If interested, contact President Rick Laub.



This is a view from inside the B-17 that John and I crawled through at the Oshkosh Leadership Academy.



I had the privilege of sitting in the cockpit of Paul Poberezny’s Mustang. After crawling out of the cockpit, I had fun sliding down the wing to the ground.

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



**FROM THE EDITOR**  
By Gilda Tucker  
([cwtucker1@comcast.net](mailto:cwtucker1@comcast.net))

Vice President John Kuchar and I had the privilege of attending the Leadership Academy at Oshkosh in October. It was quite an experience for me. From 7am to 8:30pm we were kept busy. I enjoyed every minute! After this goes to print, I will be meeting with President Rick Laub and hopefully sharing what I learned with the Board and possibly with members at large. Every aspect of what is involved in maintaining a successful chapter was covered. Topics I would never have thought of were included.



## MEMBERSHIP TIDBITS

by Vickie Vandenberg

([eea55.mems@gmail.com](mailto:eea55.mems@gmail.com))

**YEAR-END GIFTING & DONATIONS:** If you are thinking of year-end charitable donations or would like to honor someone special, we hope you will consider EAA Chapter 55. Chapter 55 is a 501c3. Your donation can be designated for your choice of one of our funds (Newberry Aviation Scholarship Fund; Young Aviators Group; Young Eagles Program or General Fund). Attached is an easy to use form for your convenience.

**EAA55 MEMBER OF THE YEAR:** It is that time of year for the Board to consider nominations for our 2024 Member of the Year. Chapter 55 looks for candidates who have contributed specifically to the chapter and to the EAA Mission to grow participation in aviation, by inspiring people to fly, build, volunteer and outreach to promote aviation. If such a member comes to mind, please submit their name to President Rick Laub.

**2025 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:** Another dues reminder – Dues for the 2025 year 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.

**FAST FORWARD TO SPRING:** Looks like the farmer has planted canola – so we can look forward to a field of bright yellow directly to the south of the airport next year.

**GEESE:** Speaking of farming, once the tenant farmer cuts the corn on TEW property – be on the lookout for an increased number of geese in the vicinity and/or on airport property.

### **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 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)  
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 Vandenberg; C-172; C-170; Stearman project  
David & John VanderMolen; Zenith 750 (Builders)  
Michael Weck; Cessna 150  
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** 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](http://www.eaa.org/ea/events)  
[www.funplacestofly.com/aviation-events.asp](http://www.funplacestofly.com/aviation-events.asp)  
[www.michigan.gov/aero/](http://www.michigan.gov/aero/)



**CRAA BOARD MEETINGS:**

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

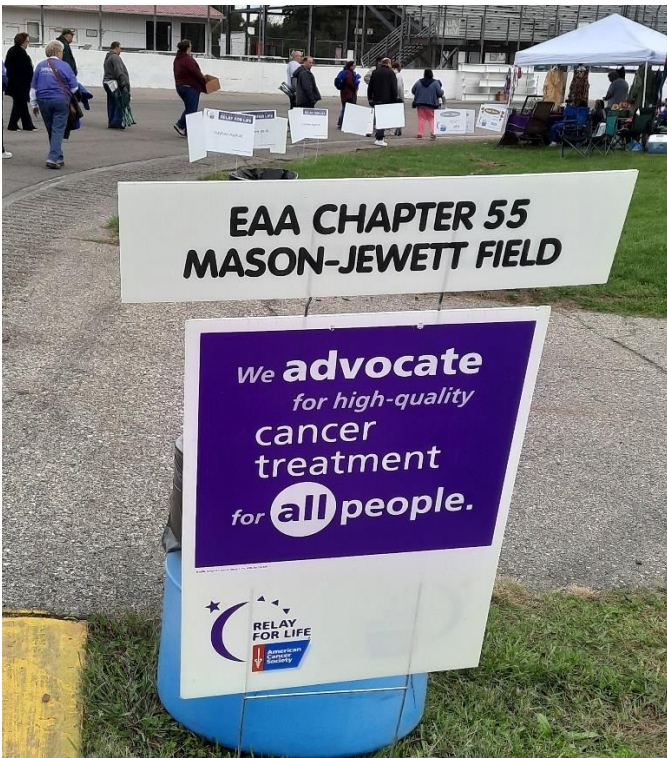




Karen Meirndorf & team at the 2024 Relay for Life



Getting the float prepped for the Mason Holiday Lighted Parade (Friday, 11/29/2024)



Our sponsor sign on the track at the 2024 Relay for Life (and is that Margie Clark walking in the upper left background?)



Mark & Jennifer Jacob's Beech 18



The Beech 18 flying escort to the B-17 Yankee Lady as she leaves Willow Run to a destination for complete overhaul & restoration before going to her new private owner. Michigan Flight Museum (formerly Yankee Air Museum) at Willow Run recently sold the plane from their flying aircraft collection.





Bob Clark flew his 700<sup>th</sup> Young Eagle on Sunday, October 27, 2024  
Congratulations on this milestone, Bob !!

**MASON JEWETT TENENTS & USER MEETINGS:**

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



Corsair Restoration progress



Corsair Restoration progress



Corsair in Nebraska; May 1974



Corsair Restoration static display



Dave Trojan with some of the restoration team

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.