

## EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION - CHAPTER 55

**JUNE 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 Vandenberg**

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

**Website: [chapters.eaa.org/eea55](http://chapters.eaa.org/eea55)**



### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**by Rick Laub**

**([eea55.president@gmail.com](mailto:eea55.president@gmail.com))**

June is here and we have a packed weekend coming up. On Saturday, June 14, we have our first Young Eagles day beginning after our monthly meeting. Margie is still in need of pilots! Several pilots who normally fly the youth will be absent that day. Please contact Margie if you know of folks who might be able to assist.

Also on Saturday, the C-47 (DC-3) "Hairless Joe" from the Michigan Flight Museum will be selling rides for \$185 at the Mason Airport. This is not an EAA 55 sponsored event, but we will assist as we are able.

Then on Sunday, (Father's Day), June 15, we host our annual Dawn Patrol pancake breakfast. Thanks to everyone who has signed up to work the weekend – many hands make light (and fun) work.

Please remember that set-up for the weekend is on Friday, June 13. We start about 10:00am.

Thanks also to Frank Garcia for his work organizing the Dawn Patrol.

I hope folks have been able to avoid the smoky haze rolling in from Canada and been up flying!

See you on Saturday (or Friday!)

### **CHAPTER 55**

**BOARD MEETING: 7:00pm; Wed. June 11th**

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 9:30am; Saturday,  
June 14th with Breakfast served from  
8:00am to 9:00am**

### **SCHEDULED PROGRAMS:**

#### **JUNE – JULY – AUGUST:**

**Young Eagle Rallies**

**CONTACT JON IVERSEN WITH YOUR  
PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS: 517-980-3011  
or [jon.h.iversen55@gmail.com](mailto:jon.h.iversen55@gmail.com)**

### **"THANK YOU" BREAKFAST TEAM**



Thank you to our May team: Frank Garcia, Chloe Miner, Chuck Hacker and Pat Salow

## UPCOMING BREAKFAST TEAMS:

### JUNE

Bill Bezdek  
David Cook  
Lee Paquette  
Mike Rosencrans  
Elizabeth Kester  
Peng Zang

### JULY

Karen Hover  
Bruce Thorburn  
Ivan Bradley  
Dennis Bennett  
Meg Shartzter  
Randy Coller



### **EAA Chapter 55 Board Meeting, Wednesday, May 7th, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by President Rick Laub. In attendance were Rick Laub, Gilda Tucker, Drew Seguin, Jon Iversen, John Kuchar, Gary Nicola, Bob Clark, Ken Drewyor, Greg Hover, Jeff Shaud, and Doug Koons. Absent were Warren Miller and Gabe Blosser. Non board members present were Margie Clark, Frank Garcia, Vickie Vandebelt, Joe Madziar, and Denise Bolen.

The Secretary's Report was noted. John Kuchar made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Greg Hover. The motion carried. The Treasurer's Report was summarized by Treasurer Drew Seguin. John Kuchar made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Jon Iversen. The motion carried.

### **Discussion of Upcoming Events**

The first topic of discussion was the two events taking place Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> after the Member Meeting. Young Eagles airplane rides and the Michigan Flight Museum's C-47 Hairless Joe airplane tour and rides are scheduled concurrently. Much discussion ensued over the location of the C-47 set up. Margie Clark, Y.E. Coordinator emphasized that there needs to be a good-sized buffer zone between the two events. It was generally agreed to have the C-47 set up at the eastern side of the airport away from Y.E. events. It was also agreed that the C-47 crew and staff would be welcome to join us for breakfast prior to the member meeting. No other food/meal will be provided other than the usual snacks and drinks provided at the Y.E. event.

The C-47 event is not a Chapter 55 sponsored event, thus insurance concerns are not an issue for the Chapter.

Drew Seguin suggested that a door prize consisting of two tickets for a free ride on the C-47 (worth a combined total of \$360) be drawn out of the pool of volunteers working at the Y.E. event. After much discussion a vote was taken. All were in favor save for one opposed and one abstention. The drawing will take place. Funds will come out of the chapter treasury. When the drawing takes place and when the rides can be redeemed was not discussed.

(Editor's Note: In the days following the meeting, several members had "second thoughts" regarding the fair implementation of the drawing. Via email, it was moved by Rick Laub and seconded by Drew Seguin to abandon the motion. The motion to abandon was passed by a vote of eleven in favor, one opposed, and one abstention.)

Vickie suggested that we offer a dozen coupons for free breakfasts at the MAD event to participants of the Mason Area Chamber of Commerce (of which EAA55 is a member) Golf Outing this summer. The main purpose is advertising. In past years only a small fraction of similar coupons have actually been redeemed. Furthermore, the cost is relatively small – under \$20. It was agreed that twelve coupons could be handed out at the event.

Rick Laub donated \$10 for the cost of gas for the lawn mower.

### **Young Eagle Report – Margie Clark**

Volunteers are needed to assemble "goodie" bags given to children after Y.E. flights. Bag filling will take place in the "dining hanger" after the member meeting Saturday. Rick Laub obtained toy airplanes at the recent Leadership Conference he attended in Oshkosh. He has enough to give out to the Y.E. participants. They can be added to the "goodie" bags. Rick mentioned that it was encouraged at the Leadership Conference by the Y.E. National Director to have "online" registration for Y.E. flights. Margie responded that "that works for 8 to 10 people, but we have upwards of 100 or more". It isn't feasible because it requires setting a specific flight time. There are many factors that make nailing down a flight time impractical and virtually impossible.

## Young Aviators Report – Jeff Shaud

Two meetings took place: April 13<sup>th</sup> and April 27<sup>th</sup>. Mark Jacob was on hand to take the kids up in his plane but not before giving a ground school and pre-flight educational lesson.

Jeff attended Drone Safety Day on April 26<sup>th</sup> at LCC. He passed out event flyers and engaged people in youth activities associated with the Y.A.

The upcoming Y.A. meeting falls on Mother's Day. In deference to that special day, the Y.A. meeting will be postponed until May 25<sup>th</sup>. (Editor's Note: May 25<sup>th</sup> falls on Memorial Day weekend. Jeff rescheduled the meeting for June 1<sup>st</sup> in the days following the board meeting.)

Jeff made contact with the coordinator of Eaton County Regional Educational Vocational Education Director, Sarah Jobson. He explained our Y.A. program and emphasized that all are welcome to participate regardless of how near or far away and which county they come from.

Jeff announced his retirement as Y.A. Director effective August 31<sup>st</sup>. He is actively looking for his replacement as he is relocating out of state.

Gilda Tucker, WingTips Editor, mentioned that she heard indirectly from a member who suggested the format of the newsletter contain more paragraph breaks and other changes to make it easier to read. Gilda has followed protocol and used the format presented her at the onset of her taking over as editor. She agrees with the suggestion and would like to make changes. There were a chorus of voices saying "it's your newsletter, do what you want". That's all she needed to hear. Rick Laub mentioned that he would like a section at the conclusion of the meeting minutes listing all the motions that were passed.

Gilda mentioned that a report received from Michigan U.S. Senator Gary Peters indicates that Selfridge Air National Guard Base is receiving 21 new F-15EX fighter jets and a squadron of 12 KC-46A refueling tankers (to replace the eight aging KC-135 refuelers).

A reminder was given regarding the Warbirds of Glory Museum Open House on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Gabe Blosser was not available to give an update on the fire extinguishers he is to have recharged. Rick spoke with him and he is still in process of accomplishing this.

Gary Nicola is responsible for May close-out. June close-out is being handled by Gary Hover. Jeff Shaud is taking on July close-out.

## Motions Passed

The Secretary's Report and Treasurer's Report was accepted.

A drawing will take place and a door prize of two tickets to ride the C-17 will be given to a volunteer who worked at the Y.E. event.

The motion to give a door prize of tickets to ride the C-47 was rescinded via email subsequent to the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm. Respectfully submitted by Gilda Tucker, Secretary



**EAA Chapter 55 Membership  
Meeting, Saturday, May 10th, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am by Vice President John Kuchar. After singing the National Anthem, John thanked the breakfast team, Pat Salow, Frank Garcia, Chloe Miner, and Chuck Hacker. Next month's breakfast team consists of: Bill Bezdek, David Cook, Lee Paquette, Mike Rosencrans, Elizabeth Kester, and Peng Zang.

There were thirty-six present including one guest, Wendy Zielen, a guest of Dave Trojan. Wendy is a docent at the Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

The Secretary's Report was noted. Margie Clark made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Connie Bobcik. The motion carried. Treasurer Drew Seguin gave a summary of the Treasurer's Report. Greg Hover made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Jon Iversen. The motion carried.

## Young Aviators Report – Jeff Shaud

In Jeff's absence, Gilda Tucker gave the report. See Board Meeting minutes for details. After

giving the report, Jeff mentioned that he is stepping down as Y.A. Director in August. If you are interested in this position, or know of someone that you think may be a good fit for the position – please let Jeff know!

### Young Eagles Report – Margie Clark

Margie began by handing out Certificates of Appreciation to several volunteers from 2024 who were absent at the December Awards Presentations. Those receiving rewards included: Connie Bobcik, Greg Hover, Janet Samson and Vickie Vandenbelt.

There are only two pilots who have signed up to fly Y.E. in June. That isn't enough to handle the number of flights needed. Pilots do not have to be chapter members; however, they do have to be Child Protection compliant and have \$100,000 liability insurance. Pass the word around to any that may be interested and available on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Mike Rosencrans is in charge of ground crew security. Connie Bobcik will be in charge of registration. Margie Clark will not be available.

Set up is on Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Many hands make light work. Included in the setup on the 14<sup>th</sup> Margie would like a static display plane next to the registration table. The pilot would demonstrate the walk around and preflight procedures while kids wait for their turn to fly.

Today after the meeting Margie is asking for volunteers to meet in the “dining hanger” to fill “goodie bags” for the children.

### C-47 Hairless Joe

Drew Seguin coordinated with the Michigan Flight Museum to have the WWII C-47 Hairless Joe come to Mason Airport on June 14<sup>th</sup>. The event will run concurrent with Y.E. but will be set up at the east end of the airport away from Y.E. events. Cockpit tours will be on a donation basis. Rides will be given for \$185/person.

### Dawn Patrol

This event takes place Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. Two people are needed at the airport at 5:00am to help Joe Madziar set up for breakfast. Frank Garcia volunteered on the spot. Another volunteer is needed. Surplus and food expenditures for this event amount to \$1100 including the health and water permits. Vickie has contacted 1500 pilots via Facebook. An advertisement has been

submitted to the City Pulse newspaper and multiple flyers have been distributed.

Coordinator Gilda Tucker is down to three “member spotlight questionnaires”, which will cover through the July newsletter. If you have read the Spotlights, you know people a little better than would be possible otherwise. We have interesting and talented people in our chapter! Questionnaires are available at the member meetings and Vickie regularly sends them out to your email. Take five minutes to fill it out and email to Gilda or bring to the meeting.

### Aeromart

Dave Trojan has the Aeromart up and running in the dining hanger. Funds go toward the chapter general treasury. Buy or bring to sell. Open at all chapter events.

JuliAnne Miller has a campsite at the upcoming AirVenture in Oshkosh. Sign up now for joining in and making the group site more of a private location. There will be evening campfires and lots of time for fellowship. I hear she has some commercial airline pilots as part of the group. [Jmiller3747@gmail.com](mailto:Jmiller3747@gmail.com).

### Relay for Life

Karen Meirndorf reminded members of the Relay for Life event September 20<sup>th</sup> at Corrigan Oil Speedway in Mason. The event is free and all are welcome. (See the detailed notice elsewhere in the newsletter.)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12am.

Respectfully submitted, Gilda Tucker, Secretary



### CRAA – TEW TENANT MEETING

Summarized by Gilda Tucker

The quarterly tenant meeting hosted by officials from Capital Region Airport Authority took place Wednesday May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Operations Manager Blake Roy gave an update on cheap flights available: \$79 flights Lansing to Orlando is one example. Others may be viewed by going to “Apple Vacations”.



Maintenance Manager Steve Ball mentioned that the excessively long 75' fuel hose has been replaced by a 65' hose.

Cameras are being installed around Mason Jewett Airport near the entrance, fuel pumps, etc. They are monitored from the Lansing airport.

A concrete pad is being installed in front of the fuel farm. New wheel chocks have also been installed.

Ramp construction is slated to begin in August. Federal approval is the last hurdle in the process before work begins. Runway grading is scheduled for 2028. State funding (MDOT) is being sought for that project.

A recently installed power outage sensor should alert of power outages.

Utility work is currently taking place along Airport Road to install updated Internet to the airport.

Wildlife: Cameras near the pond by the runway indicates that from January through March, geese, ducks, cranes, small mammals, and a deer were spotted in the area. All were dealt with or eliminated. (Note: A Chapter 55 member suggested that eliminating the pond would eliminate the water fowl; a common sense albeit "politically incorrect" solution.)



### **May Program** **Presentation by Dave Trojan**

#### **"Secrets of the U-2 Dragon Lady, and the beginnings of Area 51, plus the Search for U-2 #001 the "Dirty Bird".**

(Summarized by Gilda Tucker)

The U-2A is a WWII reconnaissance jet. It flies at up to 80,000' with a 2,200 mile range. They are still in service. These birds were built and tested in a remote and classified area in the California desert. The area was called "Area 51". The site is nestled in the middle of restricted military property. The area is still restricted, however "Area 51" was declassified in 2013. The site is seventy-five miles north of Las Vegas and

northeast of a Nevada test site. The area has been known for "UFO" sightings.

In 2020 a private pilot flew a Cessna 150 along the border of the restricted area and was able, with a telephoto lens to capture pictures of "Area 51". Those pictures, along with several others, are included at the conclusion of this article.

In March 1956 there were nine aircraft and six pilots. Two to three tests per day were performed. Pilots were on 100% oxygen, which required one to two hours of preparation for their bodies to adjust.

The planes were initially silver and flew high enough that they were not visible from the ground. Sun reflecting off of the planes could be seen on the ground and accounts for some of the "UFO" sightings.

Article #341 also known as "Dirty Bird" was the first ever stealth aircraft. It wasn't effective and did have a dirty appearance. It served solely as a test aircraft. It couldn't be brought out of a stall above 35,000'. It was painted on the belly with a wallpaper like substance. It was intended to be radar absorbent but weighted the plane ruining its aerodynamic ability to perform as intended. Pilot Tony LeVie was the first test pilot. He completed eighteen flights. Tony survived eight crashes during his career and one mid-air collision. He worked at Lockheed until retiring in 1974. When he retired he was Director of Flight Operations. On April 4, 1957 the Article #341 Dirty Bird crashed killing pilot Robert Sieker as he attempted to bail out. Dave Trojan went to search for the crash site. He, of course, found it and brought back pieces of the plane. Pictures of which are later in this newsletter.

### **If you enjoy Dave's presentations:**

Dave Trojan will be the featured presenter at the next EAA Chapter 77 meeting in Flushing (Dalton Airport).

The date is Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. The meeting begins at 6pm, presentation is at 7pm.

The topic is the B-29 Bomber Superfortress that crashed near Flushing Michigan on December 22, 1951.

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:**  
**JULI ANNE MILLER**



I initially became a Chapter 55 member around 2019. I have been away from the chapter and renewed in February 2025. I am a student pilot. I am an Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic (A&P). I received a Newberry Scholarship that paid for my Aviation Mechanics schooling at LCC.

I am planning to build or renovate a plane. I enjoy flying, building, airplanes in general, and Aviation Law. I worked as a ramp supervisor and mechanic with American Airlines while in school.

I attended Purdue Law School in California for one year. I then obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Law and Policy. I am in process of completing requirements needed to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Science and Management from Middle Georgia State University.

I am working toward my Masters Degree in Commercial Aviation at Delta State University. My goal is to work in Aviation Law specializing in Regulations and Compliance for working in the field of Commercial Aviation.

I currently work in a law office in Lansing doing mediation and arbitration and I teach law classes at several community colleges.

I have been appointed to the Michigan Aeronautics Commission Career Pipeline Committee. We are working to create a network of Aviation programs in the State geared toward 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade students.

I am in process of leaving the law firm where I work in order to focus on my own business, Aviation Legal Support Service (ALSS). I am also

hoping to find part-time work as an A&P, so that I can retain my certification.

I am one of only three triple certified paralegals in the country. Recently, I was asked by the Women's Lawyer Association of Michigan to write a scholarly article on paralegal certification. My article was published in the bar journal in April.

With no limitations of any kind, I would rescue a million dogs, build a float plane, live in the U.P in the summer and Georgia in the winter.

**FAMOUS BY ASSOCIATION**

The cover of the June edition of **Sport Aviation Magazine** is adorned with Elliot Seguin flying his T-18. Elliot is son of our chapter member Drew Seguin. Several more pictures and the write-up is found on pages 64 – 73.



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

**JUNE SPORT AVIATION:** Be sure to check out the cover and great article about Mason's own, Elliot Seguin (son of Drew Seguin). Elliot grew up at our airport. His adventures abound from being a pilot here, working at Yesteryear Aviation, working at Scaled Composites, conducting seminars at AirVenture and all that he is doing now and much, much more. Maybe on a trip to Michigan, someone can arrange for a "meet up" program to hear some of his latest tales !?!?

## **FLIGHTLINE SECURITY & AIRPLANE**

**PARKING:** Our volunteers work hard to maintain safety at our events. But, it's not just the mix of people and planes that we all have to be aware of. Sometimes it must be an awareness of the planes and pilots. Here is a post I happened to see:

Flew to the Fremont fly in for the first time , it was a great time /turn out .

Don't know who was flying this sky wagon that parked tail to tail with my j-3 but i want to thank the ramp staff for jumping on my cub and pulling the tail down so she didn't get blown on her nose ,i grabbed the rudder since it was getting slammed from stop to stop 🤔🤔.

When i got her back to the hangar and was whipping her down i noticed that the rudder cable clamp slapped the side of the airplane so hard it popped the paint all the way to the fabric 🤔.

**SNACK SALES:** Quick re-run this month = The costs are starting to creep up (especially for my beloved chocolate). I am going to try to hold prices until we start events in June. But you will note that the size of the Oreo packages are now smaller, but the price is the same ... Sign of the times.

**EAA55 CHAPTER INFO:** I am signed up to work concessions at Young Eagles and Pilot Registration at our events. As you work the cafeteria and/or the field and converse with our attendees, if anyone asks about the chapter, kid's activities, adult and/or student memberships – you can refer them to me. I will have our chapter materials available to hand out.

**RON GORSLINE SIGHTING:** I received the following note from Terry Lutz: I was driving home from the Webberville area, and drove down Bell Oak Road to Harris Road and turned right (Ron Gorsline's home is on the NE corner of the intersection. There was a guy walking toward me down Harris Road with a cane. I wondered if it could be, if it would be, Ron Gorsline, and it was! For someone surviving a stroke, he looked good and spoke well. Plus, he was walking down a country road by himself. Ron wants me to tell everyone in Chapter 55 that he said "Hi". (thank you for the good news, Terry.)

**AEROMART SALE AT DP & MAD:** Cleaning out your hangar, your den, your closet etc?? Think

about 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" and what you think the asking price should be. All proceeds from our sale benefit EAA55 funds. Thank you for doing this, Dave !!

## **OLD AERONAUTICAL CHARTS & MICHIGAN AIRPORT DIRECTORIES:**

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:** The parade and fireworks are planned for **THURSDAY, JULY 3<sup>rd</sup>** in Mason. The view of the fireworks at the fairgrounds from TEW is excellent.



### **YOUNG AVIATORS**

By Jeff Shaud

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

The upcoming events, by the time you receive this newsletter, have either already taken place, or have been mentioned elsewhere. Rick's "President's Message" gives a pretty good run down of what is happening. As always, qualified assistants (Child Protection Form current) need to be "on call" for helping out in meetings. (Keep in mind that I am stepping down as Y.A. leader August 31<sup>st</sup> and will need a replacement.)



### **YOUNG EAGLES COORDINATOR**

by Margie Clark

([margieclark172@gmail.com](mailto:margieclark172@gmail.com))

Greetings EAA 55 members,  
Saturday, June 14 is National Young Eagle Day! It is also the first Young Eagle rally at EAA 55. I am asking if there are any pilots available to fly that day as four of our regular pilots will be absent. If you are willing and able, are current for the Youth Protection Policy, a current member of EAA National and meet the insurance qualifications for flying YE, please consider



helping out on the 14<sup>th</sup> (and July 12 and August 9 as well).

We are in hopes of not having to cancel this event. If you know of anyone that is not affiliated with EAA55 but they meet the necessary criteria please forward this request to them.

Please let me know if you are available for that date (call or text me 517-712-2203). I will be out of state for that event and am trying to make sure everything is covered. Thanks so much for your time and consideration.

Pilots, please be sure that your Child Protection Card is up to date as well as your liability insurance on your plane. Please place a copy of your card in the Young Eagle folder on the officer's table.

As always, we can use lots of volunteers that day in many capacities. Please consider adding your names to the lists on the front table.

We are gearing up for our Young Eagle Rallies that are also the second Saturday of July and August. Please consider volunteering on those days as it takes a small village to put these events on. The sign-up sheets are on the front table. If you aren't sure where to sign up simply add your name and we will give you an assignment.

### **Become a Volunteer Pilot**

Are you ready to join the ranks of nearly 50,000 volunteer Young Eagles pilots? It is volunteers like you who inspire the next generation of aviators, and will help keep aviation thriving for generations to come!

Becoming a volunteer pilot is simple and EAA is here to help you along the way!

Three Steps to Becoming a Young Eagles Pilot:

- 1) Be a current EAA member
- 2) Complete EAA's Youth Protection Training and background check
- 3) Join an EAA chapter near you to participate in a chapter-hosted Young Eagles rally



**RELAY FOR LIFE**  
**team Heartwood Glad Rags**  
**by Karen Meirndorf**  
**([krmdorf@yahoo.com](mailto:krmdorf@yahoo.com))**

Relay For Life of 2025 will be September 20th at 2:00pm until 6:00am Sunday morning at the Corrigan Oil Speedway, Mason.

Thanks everybody who donated to our Chapter 55 "Fact Sign" 50/50 drawings this spring. We raised \$450.00 that will, in many ways, help the American Cancer Society, and our Survivors to celebrate more birthdays.

Thanks again for your support and generosity.



**NOTES FROM CAPE JUBY**  
**By Terry Lutz**  
**([terry.lutz@attglobal.net](mailto:terry.lutz@attglobal.net))**

Maybe next month ...



**EXPENSIVE HAMBURGERS**  
**By Bill Puroskey & Doug Koons**

Maybe next month ...



## Wings of Mercy - East Event

On June 21 in Linden, Wings of Mercy – East is having two foot races at the Linden Airport: A twilight 5K run/walk and a Fenton Foot Care 1 mile fun run. Registration fees go to benefit the Wings of Mercy. For race times, registration, and volunteer information, go to the Wings of Mercy – East Website. For more specific information about this and other Wings of Mercy events, contact Jon Iversen. [jon.h.iversen55@gmail.com](mailto:jon.h.iversen55@gmail.com)



### FROM THE EDITOR

By Gilda Tucker

([cwtucker1@comcast.net](mailto:cwtucker1@comcast.net))

As you can see, there have been some changes to the format, especially of the minutes section of the newsletter. This came about as a result of a suggestion by a member who wanted it to be easier to read. I was more than happy to comply. It may make the overall newsletter a bit more lengthy, but I think it is well worth it. I hope you agree.



### WARBIRDS OF GLORY MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

By Gilda Tucker

([cwtucker1@comcast.net](mailto:cwtucker1@comcast.net))

Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> was cool and drizzly – rather unpleasant. I drove to New Hudson on my first trip to the Warbirds of Glory Museum. I was surprised to find that the museum consisted of a single hanger. The sole occupant is the B-25 Sandbar Mitchell, or should I say “parts thereof”. The plane is in process of restoration. WWII aircraft restoration is not a quick and easy process. Restorations often take years. This restoration is projected to take ten years or more. Restorations for those that will become static displays take less time than those which are restored to flying condition. Static displays don’t need engines for example. The B-25 restoration at the museum is for the purpose of flying; thus every part must be fully functional. (With the exception that bombs will not be added.) The plane will have added safety features such as fire extinguishers, up-to-date safety belts, and modern avionics. (As much as possible modern features will be hidden.) The plane will appear as it was when it was first built.

The first person I talked with was a young man named Sebastian Cosma, a student apprentice. As you will see in the pictures I took at the museum, there is an area where apprentices use machinery in the restoration process. Experience using the machinery will serve them well in any restoration effort. Next I talked with a docent Joe Ventimiglia who explained the wing assembly and described the fuel tanks inside the wings. The fuel tanks were made of a type of rubber which when punctured (by a bullet for example) would self-seal. The wing assembly was most interesting. Hanging on the wall to be added to assembly are the framework for the rudders and ailerons. Joe also told me that along with the plane, the tug that pulls the plane is also being restored, when the plane is completed. Joe mentioned that there is a B-25 being restored to static display status in Iowa, I believe. That plane has a functioning engine, or that is able to be restored to a functioning level. That engine is being exchanged for the engine in this plane that isn’t restorable.

Museum Vice President Sean Farelly was the next person with whom I spoke. A young man, he is very knowledgeable of not only this B-25, but a handful of other similar models including a Russian model. He explained that this rebuild is probably a ten year project, not so much as lack of manpower but of funding. The project is estimated to cost \$1-2 million.

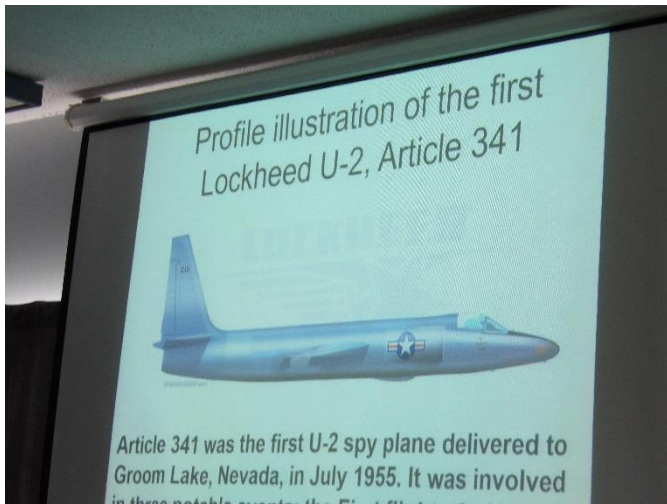
Student Apprentice Sean Cushing explained about the guns and ammunition used on the B-25. Those guns are still being used today.

What impressed me most about this experience was the enthusiasm of the young apprentices working on this project. In talking with those mentioned and to several others not mentioned here, they were knowledgeable of the history of WWII. They understood the role of not only the planes and other artillery used, but of the people who built and flew the planes. They understood that there was a common purpose and goal across the United States to work together to protect our nation and our freedom. Furthermore, these young people have a desire to educate their generation of this history. They referred to the people of that era as the “greatest generation”. I fully agree!

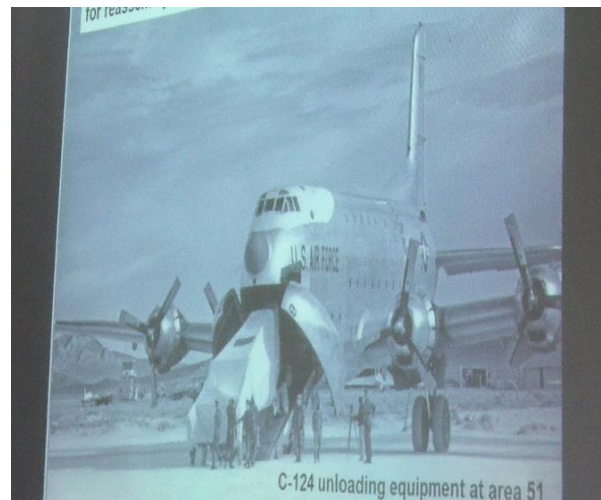
Pictures on this and the following pages are in chronological order by date: Dave's Program, followed by the Warabirds Open House



U-2 at Area 51

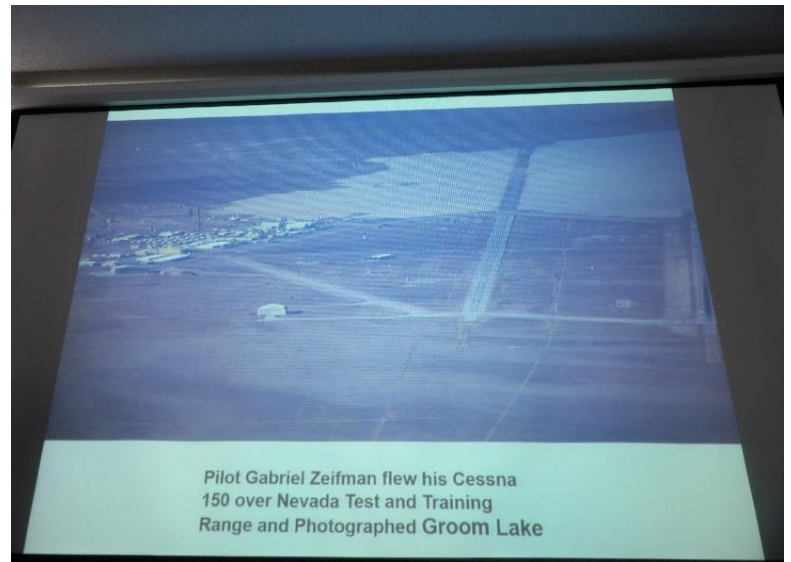
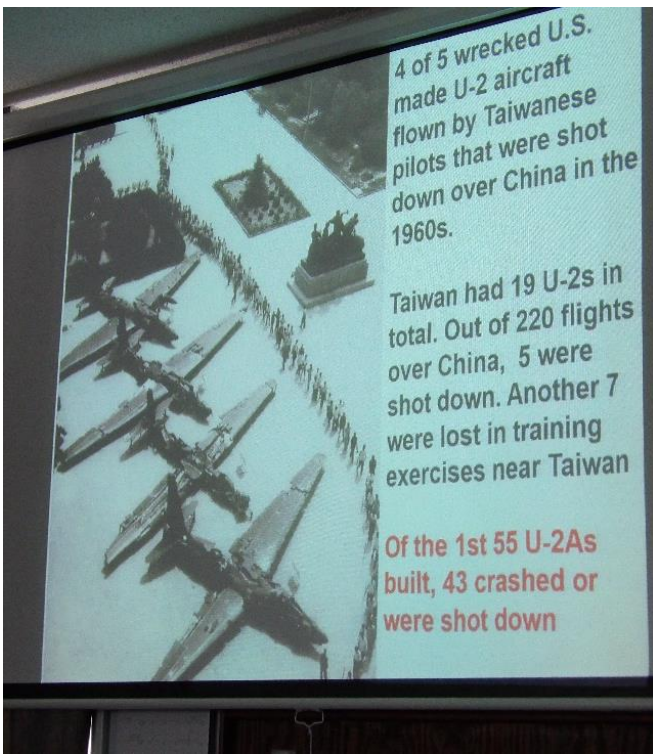


Dragon U-2 as it looks in flight



Unloading equipment at Area 51

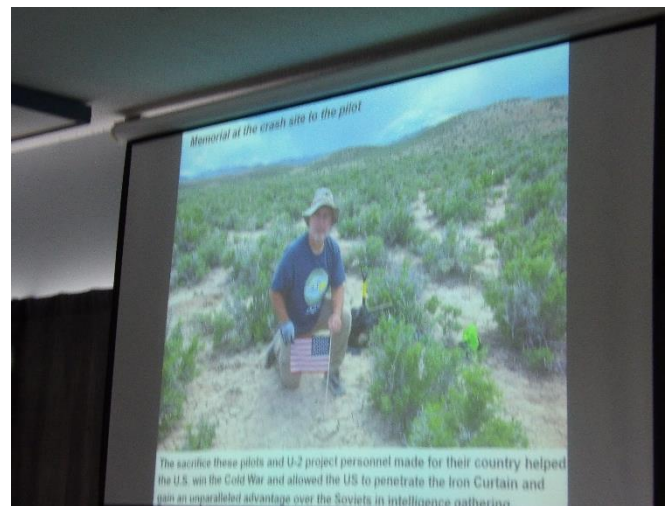




Pilot Gabriel Zeilman flew his Cessna 150 over Nevada Test and Training Range and photographed Groom Lake and Area 51

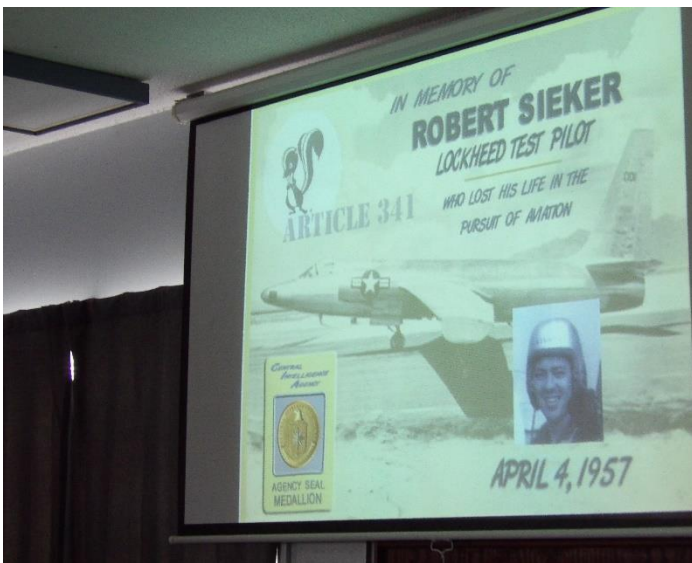


Pieces of the Dirty Bird Dave gathered up at the crash site



Dave posting flag where he located the crashed plane

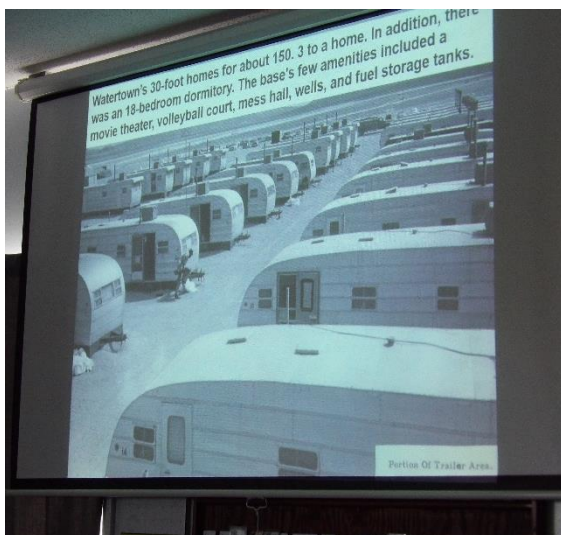
**PICTURES FOLLOWING ARE TAKEN AT  
THE WARBIRDS OF GLORY MUSEUM**



Test pilot who died during attempted escape from doomed plane. (Dirty Bird)



WARBIRDS OF GLORY MUSEUM B-25  
Fuselage in background; Center Section Inner  
Assembly in foreground. The Inner Assembly



Homes on the base. Thirty- foot trailers. Total housing for 150, three to a home. In addition, there was an 18- bedroom dormitory. Amenities included a movie theatre, volleyball court, mess hall, wells, and fuel storage tanks. (Last picture in Dave's presentation.)

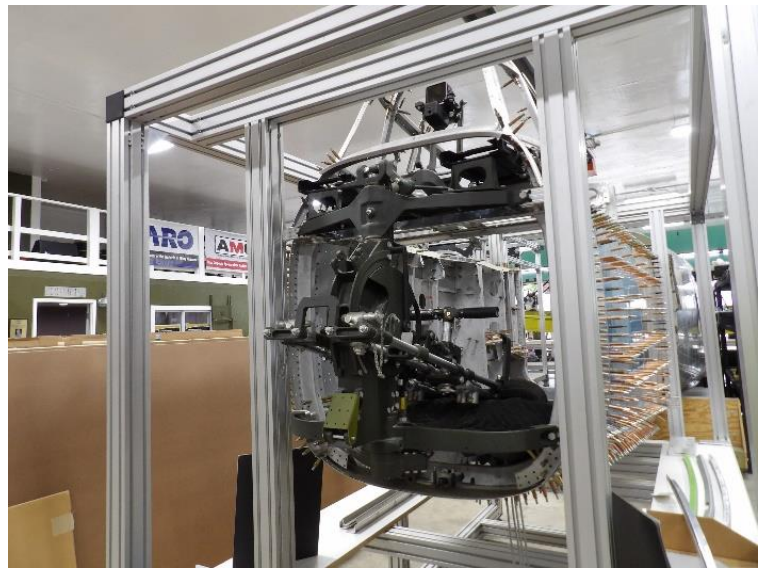


Student Apprentices use this equipment in restoring the B-25, at the Warbirds of Glory Museum.





Aileron and Rudder parts waiting for assembly



Top Gun Turret



Upper Gun Turrets



Survival Gear as noted at top of case



Not sure what this is, but I'll bet some of you pilots can figure it out!



View from entrance to Warbirds Museum. The whole museum is pretty much visible in this picture, minus a gift shop room off the the right near the rear.



These are the guns mentioned in the article that are still in use today, as explained by Apprentice Sean Cushing.

#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

Jun 1 – Young Aviators Meeting (YA)  
 Jun 14 – EAA55 Young Eagles Flights (YE)  
 Jun 14 – Rides & Tour of the C-47 Hairless Joe  
 Jun 15 – Dawn Patrol Fly-In Breakfast (DP)  
 Jul 12 – EAA55 Young Eagles Flights  
 Jul 21-27 – AirVenture in Oshkosh, WI  
 Aug 9 – EAA55 Young Eagles Flights  
 Aug 16 – EAA55 Mason Aviation Day (MAD)

#### **WEB EVENT CALENDARS:**

[www.eaa.org/ea/events](http://www.eaa.org/ea/events)  
[www.michigan.gov/aero/](http://www.michigan.gov/aero/)  
 and various Facebook pages

#### **FLYERS FROM OTHER AIRPORTS POSTED IN TEW TERMINAL**

#### **CRAA BOARD MEETINGS:**

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



**MASON JEWETT FIELD TENANTS & USER  
MEETINGS:**

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

**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](mailto:vickie7463@gmail.com) Hope to see you on Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.



**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.

**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 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)

J.D. Ramey; Piper Archer]

Cam Robinson; 1962 C-185

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

## CHAPTER 55 CLASSIFIEDS:

**FOR SALE:** FLY MICHIGAN decals. Available in red, blue or white. Great for your plane and/or car. Only \$5.00 each. Contact [vickie7463@gmail.com](mailto:vickie7463@gmail.com) or look me up at meetings and/or events.



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

## HANGARS FOR RENT AT TEW:

Stephanie (Brown) Borczak; 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

## 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.

Contributions, corrections and additions to "WingTips" are welcome and can be made by contacting

Gilda Tucker ([cwtucker1@comcast.net](mailto:cwtucker1@comcast.net))

**Deadline: 5pm on Wednesday preceding the 1st Saturday of each month.**

Other Contacts: Joe Madziar "Breakfast Teams" ([madziars@msn.com](mailto:madziars@msn.com)) and Jon Iversen "Monthly Programs" ([jon.h.iversen55@gmail.com](mailto: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



**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.