

EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION - CHAPTER 55

SEPTEMBER 2020

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: Drew Seguin 517-333-4531 →Vice-President: Doug Koons 517-676-5001

→Treas: Al Spalding 517-881-8757 →Secr: John Kuchar 517-203-9976 →Editor: Deanna McAlister 517-795-8171

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

→ Flight Advisor : Terry Lutz → Adult Eagles : TBD

www.EAA55.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Drew Seguin

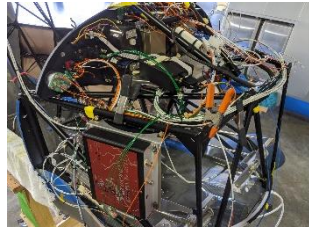
ea55.president@gmail.com

The Flying Season that (kind of) never was is drawing to a close

But not to be totally disappointed. There's plenty of good things going on at the airport. Rick Laub is making progress on his Sling, pulling and filling rivets. And there's a lot of rivets in that thing. Note the fill on those rivets.



Tim Martinson has had me over to move things around on his RV project so I know he's been making progress. And I've been stringing wires on the Carbon Cub. Dang, there's a lot of wires. I'm just hoping I can get them all stuffed in the boot cowl.



Terry Lutz has been flying his RV with the panel upgrade he put in. And Doug Koons and Bill Purosky are often up to something in there. I'm not

sure what all Stan Chubb is doing with that Bonanza but he's there a lot.

We have a new neighbor! Don Burt has relocated his Beech 18, Cottonmouth, to the field. I sure do enjoy hearing it fire up behind my hangar.



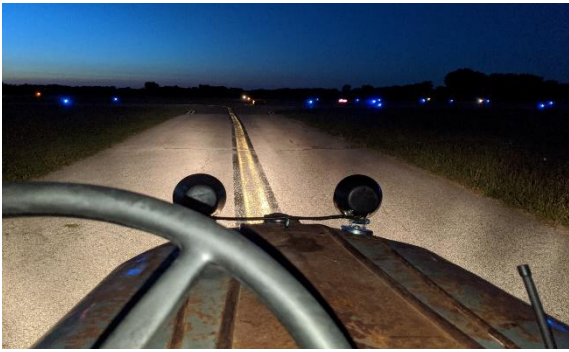
Karl Houser was a member of Chapter 55 in the 80's. He contacted me to donate a couple of pedal planes he built for his kids. Said they need a new hangar. I couldn't resist the offer so now we have a "new" Fokker Tri-plane and a Royal Air Force S.E.5.



Thanks to Karl we now have a Squadron, sort of.



Let's not forget about the upcoming parades. Thanks to Gary Nicola, Lil' Butch (my Clark tug) has lights!



Yes, I'd say we've made the best of a difficult summer situation.

For this month's meeting on Saturday September 12, let's do like we did in August. We can have an outdoor get together for socializing, bragging, and complaining while social distancing. Bring your own food. We'll make some coffee and if you want to share something feel free.

I hope to see you there,

Drew Seguin

And thinking about a Beech 18...



EAA CHAPTER 55 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JUNE 10, 2020: Minutes TBD

EAA CHAPTER 55 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AUGUST 5, 2020

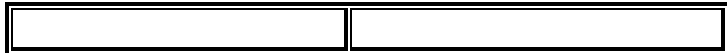
→The meeting was called to order by President Drew Seguin at 7:05pm. →Present: Drew Seguin, Doug Koons, John Kuchar, John Bobcik, Bob Clark, Gabe Blosser, and Jeff Schaud,. Absent were Mark Bathurst, Joe Madziar, Warren Miller, Bill Purosky, Al Spalding, and Ken Vandenbelt. Margie Clark, our Young Eagles coordinator was present. →Secretary's Report for July 8, 2020: No report was available due to the absence of Secretary John Kuchar, notes of the meeting by Drew will be supplied in →accept, Bob Clark supported; the motion carried. → The August 11th members meeting was canceled. An impromptu Saturday morning meeting was suggested for those who would like to meet with other like-minded members as well as a possibility of having a Tuesday evening gathering as was done last fall. →Youth Group report from Jeff Schaud: The next meetings are scheduled for August 16th and 30th at the CARDS field on Otto Road in Onieda Township. The meeting will be from 2-5pm. →The Ray Scholarship program is on hold, Jeff will look into interviewing candidates. →The meeting room rules need to be reviewed and updated if needed. →The Newberry Scholarship program is on hold for now. It is too late to do much this year. →The chapter received a letter from an owner of an experimental biplane for help in finishing the aircraft. No action will be taken on the request. →A letter from EAA national went out to all chapters about National Liability Insurance. This seemed to be in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. →Boxes of old material are available in the hangar for free. It was suggested to get rid of outdated material after one year. →There are some snow skis available, see Drew. →The Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm. →Respectfully Submitted, John Kuchar, Secretary

EAA CHAPTER 55 MEMBERSHIP MEETING AUGUST 8, 2020

→Meeting cancelled; no minutes.



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



SCHEDULED PROGRAMS:
CONTACT DAVE COUREY or DREW SEGUIN
WITH YOUR PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS



YOUNG EAGLES
by Margie Clark
(margie@eaa55.org)

See you at the airport!

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



MEMBERSHIP
by Vickie Vandenberg
(EAA55.mems@gmail.com)

TRIAL MEMBERSHIP: September already. Pretty amazing that it was a summer lacking in events and yet the months still flew by. While we haven't had meetings or fly-ins at the chapter to network with aviators and the public, you may still have someone reach out to you about aviation. Remember that we still offer a **FREE SIX-MONTH TRIAL MEMBERSHIP** to EAA National, which will include all the benefits of being a national member plus eNewsletters from Chapter 55. Application forms are in the meeting room or contact me if you would like an electronic copy. In addition, we encourage parents of youngsters interested in aviation to sign up for a membership to gain knowledge to share with their kids.

MASON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Are you interested in keeping up with news of the Mason area business and events (with big hopes that events resume) ?? You can request to be added to the Chambers eNews email list to receive their latest updates. Just send an email to masonareachamber@outlook.com and ask to be added to the Constant Contact list to receive emails.

NEWSLETTER MATERIAL: Don't forget - if you have any interesting stories, articles, historical info, photo memorabilia or aviation jokes you are willing to share, send them off to Deanna or me. We are always looking for stuff to publish each month. And, we are also looking for historical info for our website.

OLD NEWSLETTERS: I am working on completing the chapter files with copies of old newsletters and/or copies of minutes for all meetings. I have some records that go back as far as late 1974 ... if you have any others 1974 or prior – could I borrow them to make copies?? Contact Vickie Vandenberg

WEBSITE: Speaking of the website, hope everyone has taken time to check out the info. I am still missing a few members pictures for our Members Roster. And, being able to match members with their planes is also fun to see.

DO YOU HAVE ANY NEWS OR INFO TO SHARE?? Contact Vickie

1978 NEWS ARTICLE ABOUT THE MASON DAWN PATROL

Info & Photos Submitted by Don Frank

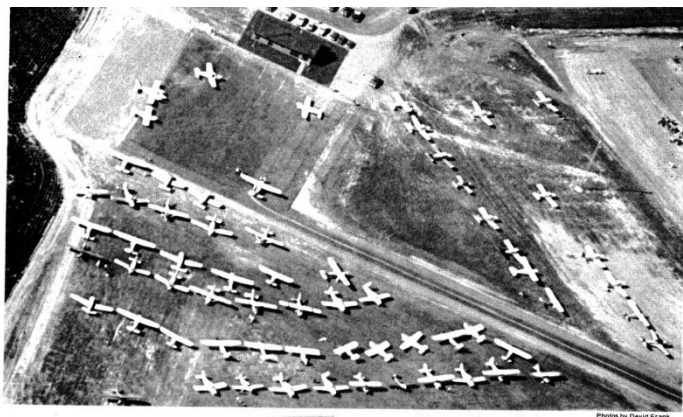
At the same time Don Frank found the 1947 photo, he came across his copy of a July 19, 1978 Towne Courier newspaper clipping with photos and a short article on the Dawn Patrol at Mason that summer.



I'm hoping Don will keep us in mind if he runs across any more historical information about the airport we call home.

1947 DAWN PATROL AT MASON:

Don Frank accidentally came across this photo in one of his old files. It may be of some interest to Chapter 55 members if they haven't seen photos of aircraft at Mason like this before. Don has had it tucked away since some time in the 1970s. Don says "When I have thought there are a lot of aircraft flying into Mason for an event, I often think of this photo of the airplanes that had flown into Mason for the Dawn Patrol on August 9, 1947. I think most of us have no idea of the amount of personal aviation activity in the years right after WWII!"



Photos by David Frank



Winging it

Don says "That was second-to-last one while I still had my FBO at Mason. The last one was in 1980, just before I graduated from law school and sold my FBO, but 1980 was a sad one with a crash during an aerobatic demonstration."

The 1978 Dawn Patrol was certainly much more recent than 1947 and 1978 was much more humble than in 1947.



Any long time Mason pilots will recognize that the 1947 photo shows the airport pretty much like it still appeared in the early-mid 1970s, before Art Jewett

sold the airport to the Capital Region Airport Authority. But the photo cut off some hangars immediately to the north along Eden Road. And, Don says that big barn was gone by the time he started flight instructing at TEW in 1971.

Photo by
VERSILE D. BABCOCK
308 W. Columbia
Phone 2-3983
Mason ✪ Michigan

Don also scanned the back of the photo. Don says “The back doesn't mean anything to me, but it does give the name of the photographer and his phone number in Mason: 2-3983. I thought that was an interesting 1947 telephone number.

BALLOON FLIGHT OVER THE SERENGETI

Info & Photos Submitted by Don Frank

Dan Frank and his wife, Nancy, made an incredible and true adventure trip to Africa for a safari in March (and got home just as the world we now know was created). Included are a few pictures from their Serengeti sunrise balloon ride.

Don advised “This was an absolutely great way to see some of the animals, particularly hippos, which are otherwise comparatively hard to see because they spend most of their time in the water. Besides just being a very enjoyable balloon ride, we also saw a lot of giraffes and elephants and we landed in a field among a large herd of water buffalo! We came across a large pride of lions on two-track drive to the pre-dawn launch site, but we didn't see any lions from the balloon. We thought our pilot was joking about landing with a massive water buffalo herd occupying the area where we landed. But it turns out that the water buffalo are afraid of the balloon and the sound of the burner so they ran far enough away to let us land.”





YOUTH GROUP

By Jeff Shaud

(jlshaud@wowway.com)

August 2020 EAA55 Young Aviators Youth Group Activity – By Jeff Shaud

Well, after a five month hiatus; we're back at it! On Sunday August 16, 2020, the EAA55 Young Aviators youth group was graciously hosted by the **Capital Area Radio Drone Squadron (CARDS)** at their airfield located on Otto Rd. in rural Grand Ledge, Mi. It was a gorgeous day to partake in radio control (RC) aircraft flying.



Because of COVID-19, all of the necessary, and state mandated, precautions were taken. Social distancing, hand sanitizing, mask wearing, and sanitization of commonly used tools and equipment were observed and practiced throughout the day.

Upon arrival, the youth were registered in the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) as “trial members” which allows them a free 60 day membership and insurance coverage for the day’s activities. After the 60 day trial membership, the Young Aviator may renew as a “Youth” member for only \$15 per year! The youth membership includes a subscription to the award winning publication, Model Aviation. For many in our youth group, this is a very economical way to get started in aviation and learn about aeronautics.



After our opening ceremonies the youth were divided into “groups” to either train on RealFlight® RC aircraft PC based computer simulators or, learn how to perform a preflight inspection of the actual trainer RC aircraft. The CARDS organization made available four such simulators along with experienced instructors to guide us in the operation and training activities. This allowed all of the youth present to be actively learning some aspect of RC aircraft flight. After practicing on the computer simulators for 20 to 30 minutes, each student was invited to the flight line to take control of an actual, in-flight training RC aircraft!

Designated instructors were available to assist the Young Aviators in getting started flying the trainer models, which are very similar to the RC aircraft we are building back at our chapter hangar in Mason, Mi. Through the use of a “buddy box” system, the youth had the opportunity to learn and practice straight and level flight, coordinated turns using cross control of the rudder and ailerons, climbs and descents using the elevator and throttle controls. The youth’s transmitter is coupled to the instructor’s transmitter through a Bluetooth wireless connection. The instructor is able to take control of the RC aircraft with the simple flip of a switch when needed. The simulator practice and the actual flight experience will be valuable acquired skills that directly transfer to real aircraft flight if the youth chooses to pursue pilot training.

This has been an incredible opportunity to receive "hands-on" training in flying model RC aircraft in a safe and educational environment. The Young Aviators youth group had such a good time, and were so attentive, we have been graciously invited back to the CARDS airfield on Sunday August 30, 2020 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM to again practice our skills on the Real Time® computer simulators and fly the RC aircraft trainer models.



On behalf of the EAA Chapter 55 Young Aviators Youth Group, and from EAA Chapter 55 in general; I would like to thank the members and staff of the Capital Area Radio Drone Squadron (CARD) for their hospitality. Partnerships such as this open a world of opportunity for youth to explore the wonderful world of flight.

From the CARDS website:

"The Capital Area Radio Drone Squadron (CARDS) was founded in 1970 and is the largest radio control club in the Lansing area. The club [#353] is an AMA [Academy of Model Aeronautics] Gold Leader, and boasts the largest model aircraft runway in the state of Michigan, and hosts some of the state's largest model aircraft events. The primary focus of CARDS is to increase participation in model aviation in the greater Lansing area. They offer a safe way for others to learn how they can participate in this hobby. The club is always looking for new members, from those who have never flown a model aircraft, to those who have been flying for decades. All pilots

are welcome at CARDS." For specific direction to the CARDS airfield please check out their website at www.cardsrc.com.



LCC - MASON JEWETT CAMPUS

By Mark Bathurst

(bathursm@star.lcc.edu)

LCC's fall semester is underway and we have been back in session since August 20, having completed our spring and summer sessions earlier in August. Notwithstanding the environment in which few find ourselves, we have a record number of students in the program and are at capacity. Our students are looking out a year or two and have made the decision that aviation maintenance will be a viable career field when they graduate.

The good news for our students is that employers are still hiring. Passenger airlines have cut back based on diminished passenger loads, but employers in other sectors are still recruiting newly minted A&P technicians. Major MRO companies are actively seeking additional mechanics and have hired a number of our recent graduates. Cargo airlines are also actively hiring as the recent shift to online purchases has created significant demand for air delivery of goods nationwide.

Student learning has not been measurably impacted by the restrictions imposed to stay safe in school. Masks are worn at all times. Enhanced PPE is required when working in the hangar in small groups, and frequent sanitizing of personal and school-furnished equipment is the norm. Students are getting used to the new requirements, and understand that their safety and the safety of their fellow students is of paramount concern.

With the advent of cooler weather you will see more activity out on the ramp as our second year students are now finishing their airframe section of the program and are transitioning to their powerplant studies. Our first year students are learning basic maintenance procedures such as safety wiring, airframe components and foundational subjects on which the remainder of the program is built.



EDITORS PROLIX
 By Deanna McAlister
 (zirconmoons@gmail.com)

SEE YOU AT THE AIRPORT
 TEW OR MI71 OR PFM(market).

Contributions, corrections and additions to "WingTips" are welcome and can be made by contacting Deanna McAlister (zirconmoons@gmail.com) **Deadline: 1st of each month.** Joe Madziar "Breakfast Teams" (madziars@msn.com) and Dave Courey "Monthly Programs" (dcmi@reagan.com)

CHAPTER 55 CLASSIFIEDS
FOR SALE:

One David Clark model H10-40 noise attenuating headset. 24 db attenuation with m-4 electret microphone, 5 foot straight cord with one M643/5 and one M642/4 plug. In excellent condition with ear cushions in like new shape and little sign of wear. In the original box with all papers. It's former home was in a Saratoga. Asking \$150.00 firm. Contact John Kuchar at 517-325-3059 or see me at the members meeting.

Chapter 55 T-Shirts; size L or XL; only \$15.00 each for chapter members.

Vintage Chapter 55 Sweatshirts; size L or XL; only \$15.00 each.

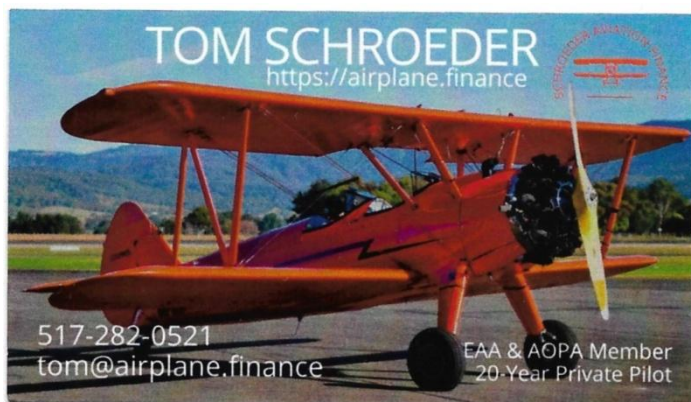
Bluebird/Songbird Houses; \$20.00 each; proceeds benefit the Mason Sycamore Creek Youth Garden Club; Vickie Vandenberg; vickie@eaa55.org

Pietenpol Sky Scout; single seat; Lycoming O-145; 65HP; good compression check; all new plugs; runs good and lots of fun ! \$5,500.00. Margaret Bradford; 517-663-3083

Pure Michigan Maple Syrup John & Connie Bobcik 517-543-8238; jbobcik@gmail.com We can deliver to EAA hangar for pick-up.

For sale!!!! 16 acres, 4 bedroom 3 bath, hangar, horse barn, runway, forest, pond, hunting, 2 big hills Haslett Schools Williamston township, 865 Barry Rd Haslett \$478,000 \$450,000 if no realtor contact Gabe Blosser 517- 896-0020





Warren Miller; Fisher 303 ultralight
 Chuck Moore; REVO Lt Sport Evolution
 George Moore; KIS Pulsar 150
 Gary Nicola; Grumman Traveler restoration
 Jim Palmer; Glasair III
 Bill Puroskey w/DKoons; Glastar
 Pat Salow; Zenith 701
 Drew Seguin; Carbon Cub EX2 ; EX3 project
 Jeff Shaud; RV-7 project
 Jim Spry; RV-8
 Tracy Tillman/Lisa Colletti; (2) E-LSA Bailey-Moyes 914 Dragonflies; (1) E-LSA Alatus-AL12 sailplane
 Ken Vandenbelt; Stearman project
 David VanderMolen; Zenith 750 project
 John VanderMolen; Zenith 750 project

FOR RENT:

Space for rent in common hangar; best for low wing but might accommodate high wing aircraft. Tim Martinson; 517-803-0462; tmartins1575@yahoo.com

Excutive/corporate heated hangar space available. Includes pilot lounge, kitchen, bathroom/shower, conference room, TV. Cloud9 248-921-0092

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

EAA55 = CHAPTER BUILDERS

Members who are working on or completed homebuilts or restorations ... (Have I missed anyone? Additions, deletions & corrections appreciated):

- David Alexander; Aventura II
- Gabe Blosser; Bushmaster SuperCub Amphib
- John & Connie Bobcik; Kitfox
- Ivan Bradley; Zenith CH650B
- Dave Cook/Greg Hover; RV-6A
- Ed Crouse; Rans
- Ken Drewyor; Kitfox
- Ron Gorsline; Zenith 650
- Ralph Gregus; Zenith 750
- Dave Groh; Stearman; AT-6 restoration
- Chuck Hacker; Zenith 701
- Greg Harris; Zenith 750 project
- Gordon Hempstone; Avid Magnum project
- Steve Houghton; RV-7A
- Doug Koons w/BPuroskey; Glastar
- Rick Laub; Sling 4
- Wm. (Bill) Long; Kolb Firefly Ultralight
- Terry Lutz; RV-8
- Doug MacKenzie; Zenith 701
- Tim Martinson; RV-6A & RV-12; RV14A project

Mason Jewett Field FBO:
 Great Lakes Air Repair
 517-525-3673
 Maintenance - Painting - Upholstery - Engines

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

WEB EVENT CALENDARS:

- <http://www.eaa.org/en/eea/events>
- <http://www.fly-ins.com/>
- <http://www.michigan.gov/aero/>



WINGTIPS is published monthly by *EAA Chapter 55 of Mason, Michigan*, for the use, education and enjoyment of Chapter members and supporters. Accurate information transfer is our goal; however readers should verify dates and times prior to attending an event.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS is the last Saturday of the month. The Editor reserves the right to edit all submitted material. Photos, sketches or artwork sent by email must be in JPEG or BMP format. Text must be in a Word format or copyable from the email. Submissions may be sent by regular mail and must be accompanied by prepaid postage if you want them returned. Submissions should be sent to: Deanna McAlister, Newsletter Editor.

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