

EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION - CHAPTER 55

MARCH 2023

Meetings are the 2nd Saturday of each Month

EAA Chapter 55 Hangar; Mason Jewett Airport; 643 Aviation Drive, PO Box 443, Mason, MI 48854

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→ Flight Advisor : Terry Lutz → Adult Eagles : TBD

Website: chapters.eaa.org/ea55



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Margie Clark

ea55.president@gmail.com

Wow, we are already three months into the New Year and the winds are blustery. Between the rain, winds and snow I hope you are staying safe. Hopefully those that want to fly are able and being careful as well.

A reminder to all and especially our new members, the second Saturday of the month is our infamous pancake and sausage breakfast from 8:00am to 9:00am. Extra hangar talk time from 9:00am followed by our membership meeting at 9:30am. Presenters of some very interesting topics are after each meeting (except June-July-August which are Young Eagles Rallies). Last month, we had a great presentation from Rosie the Riveter. This month it will be Mark Bathurts and Todd Cotter from LCC. Come out and join us!

The big event for EAA this month is Sun n' Fun in Lakeland, Florida. It is earlier this year starting on Tuesday, March 28 thru Sunday, April 2. If you haven't been it is a lot of fun!

Happy St Patrick's day to you all!

EAA Chapter 55 Board Meeting Minutes for December 7, 2022 –

No meeting due to lack of quorum.

EAA Chapter 55 Membership Meeting December 10, 2022:

Minutes yet to be provided for publication.

EAA Chapter 55 Board Meeting January 11, 2023
Minutes published in the February 2023 WingTips

EAA Chapter 55 Membership Meeting January 14, 2023:

Minutes yet to be provided for publication.

CHAPTER 55

BOARD MEETING: 7:00pm: Wed: March 8th

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 9:30am; Sat March 11th
with Breakfast served from 8:00am to 9:00am

EAA Chapter 55 Board Meeting Minutes for February 8, 2023

Minutes yet to be provided for publication.

EAA Chapter 55 Membership Meeting Minutes for February 11, 2023

Minutes yet to be provided for publication.

SCHEDULED PROGRAMS:

MARCH

Mark Bathurst/Todd Cotter-LCC
"Prepping aircraft for flying season"

APRIL

Dave Trojan – Aviation Historian

MAY

Gabe Blosser – Getting Your Pilots License

JUNE-JULY-AUGUST

Young Eagle Rallies

CONTACT DAVE COUREY WITH YOUR SUGGESTIONS

UPCOMING BREAKFAST TEAMS:

<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>
Ward Harris	Don Frank
John Schwartz	Dave Courey
Doug MacKenzie	Don McAlister
George Spencer	Ken Vandenberg
Mark Jacob	Dave Trojan
Mike Franzago	Martin Pfenninger



YOUTH GROUP

By Jeff Shaud

jlshaud@wowway.com

Greetings EAA 55 members,

March Meeting Schedule

Our March 2023 Young Aviators youth group meeting will take place on **Sunday March 12 and Sunday March 26, 2023** from 2:00 PM until 5:00 PM at the EAA Chapter 55 hangar.

Progress Made on Tri-Pacer Wing

EAA55 Young Aviators made significant progress on the donated Piper Tri-Pacer wing at our last youth group meeting on Sunday February 12, 2023. Most of the sheet aluminum skin panels have been removed by drilling out all of the rivets retaining it to the wing ribs. A ton of walnut shells and a few pounds of pink fiberglass insulation was also removed from the interior of the wing. We will begin the process of cleaning the spar(s) and the wing in preparation for our top secret (maybe) upcoming project with the wing!



YOUNG EAGLES COORDINATOR

by Margie Clark

margieclark172@gmail.com

It's time to gear up for three very busy days this summer. I'm hoping that you are planning to complete the Youth Protection Policy exam so you can join us as a pilot to fly youth or be a part of our ground crew. The more hands the better. Young Eagle Rallies are June 10, July 8 and August 12. "Aviation seeds must be transplanted to future generations if we are to see our rich heritage passed on for others to see, to feel, to touch, to fly." ~ Paul Poberezny



MEMBERSHIP

by Vickie Vandenberg

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NEW MEMBERS: Chapter 55 welcomes new member Jim Zook. Jim flies a Piper 235. We also welcome Frank Garcia. Frank hopes to build a plane in the future. And, we also welcome our new Student Member, Ava Jesse. Last month we welcomed Paul Creger. Paul flies a Piper Warrior.

SNACK SALES: You may be feeling the effects of inflation each time you stop for groceries. Well, it is also affecting our snacks. So far, the worst hit seems to be for soda pop and chocolate candy. But, I am working very hard to find all our favorite snack items on sale so that we can maintain our reasonable prices. Fingers crossed the price increases ease as we go into summer !

ROSIE THE RIVETER: If you missed the February presentation (or would like to see it again), Rosie will be doing a program at the Mason Area Historical Society on November 15th.



We are still looking for ideas on what to do with the aluminum skin panels. We would like to do something that will teach the youth a valuable skill, perhaps something to do with metalworking. Your suggestion would be greatly appreciated.

Generous Donations Greatly Appreciated

I, along with the youth members, would like to express our sincere appreciation to those of you who have graciously donated to the youth group fund to help us cover the rent of the EAA 55 Builder's Hangar. We would not be able to take on the Tri-Pacer wing project without your generous donations. To see the enthusiasm on their faces make all this worthwhile. The kids are learning valuable life skills.



result is some type of certification with strong job prospects. Nursing, dental hygiene, robotics, welding and other technical career programs, including aviation maintenance, are in this category.

There are about 180 FAA-certificated 14 CFR Part 147 schools in the United States that prepare students for careers as certificated maintenance technicians. Five of those are in Michigan. MIAT (near Detroit), SMAT (School of Missionary Aviation Technology) in Ionia and Andrews University in Berrien Springs are private schools that offer the program in various lengths. Western Michigan's program is four years, and LCC's is two years. Obviously tuition and fees vary by institution, and student housing may or may not be available at additional cost.

Youth Group in Need of Tool Donation

The youth group is in need of one or two lightweight (1/4" drill chuck size) air drills. We are also in need of #30, #40, 7/64" & 1/8" jobber length drill bits. If you have any these items and are willing to donate them to the youth group, please see either Jeff Shaud or Bruce Boardman.

LCC's program offers significant value for the investment. If a student lives in one of the 15 school districts immediately surrounding LCC who support LCC through property taxes, the total cost for the six semester, two year program is about \$27,000. This includes tuition, course (lab) fees, books and other associated college costs. If a student lives out of the local district, but within the state of Michigan, the cost jumps to about \$38,000 for the six semester, two year course. Room and board is not included. LCC students who wish to additionally receive two Associates' degrees (one in Airframe Maintenance Technology and one in Powerplant Maintenance Technology) complete five additional courses in addition to the aviation maintenance program. LCC's current tuition rate is \$114 per credit hour, and compared to WMU or MSU, this is a significant savings. And, as I have previously discussed, the Associates' degrees transfer to both WMU and Sienna Heights University where our graduates start as juniors with full credit for all coursework at LCC. With almost half the seats already filled for this fall's class, it's clear that awareness of the value and benefit of the program continues to grow. We have seen higher employer interest in talking to our students than any time in the past decade, and starting salaries are at record highs. Aviation maintenance is a great place to find a career.

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



LCC - MASON JEWETT CAMPUS
 By Mark Bathurst
bathursm@star.lcc.edu

In the past, our program was populated mainly by recent high school graduates. At this point in the academic year, most high school seniors are into their decision-making process about what to do following graduation. In a change to that, what we are now seeing is the enrollment of many older students either changing careers, or venturing into aviation maintenance as an initial career with a period between high school graduation and enrollment in our program. The average age of our student population is now 24.

Students who choose to not to enroll in a four year college (MSU, WMU, etc.) can decide on specialized programs requiring less than four years to complete. Those programs are typically tightly focused and the



EDITORS PROLIX
 By Deanna McAlister
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See you at the Airport !!

Our February program was presented by Clair Dahl the Yankee Air Museum at Willow Run. Clair shared interesting memorabilia from the women who built B-24 bombers at the airport.



Pictured: EAA55 member Karen Meirndorf with YAM Rosie Clair Dahl.

think of on the way up there was the great homemade soups and the homemade pies that this place is known for. The weather was cold but clear with very little wind which happen to be a headwind going there as well as a headwind coming back at the same altitude in each case. Only the lucky ones get this happening to them! Luckily the wind was only about 5 to 8 knots. We got to Clare in about 40 minutes and landed on the long runway 22. We stopped, chocked and locked and went to use the courtesy car. Unfortunate for us, the battery was “deader than a door nail”. (I wonder where that saying comes from?) It didn’t have enough juice in it to unlock the electric door locks. With great disappointment, we got back in the plane and headed for Owosso which was kind of on the route back to Mason. You can’t go wrong with the good food there. By that afternoon, the winds had increased a little and we got a bumpy ride back to TEW even though we climbed up to 3500 feet.

Saturday, the 4th of February was the next opportunity to fly. It was a clear day but the winds were from the southwest at 11 knots and gusting to 18 knots from 220 degrees at Mason. Doug and I decided to fly to the Plymouth-Canton airport (Mettetal, 1D2) for their annual Winter Chili cook off. They didn’t have it for the last couple of years due to the Covid 19 pandemic. This is the home of EAA Chapter 313. Their building is designed as a carbon copy of Chapter 55 building but they have recently added a new addition for a large, airplane building area for their members. It is quite impressive and I’m sure it will serve them well. If you like chili, you can’t go wrong attending this event. They had 14 different chilis on line, each provided by one of their members. So our strategy is to take a small amount of each one until you have tasted them all. Of course, there is cheese and onions to add if you desire. Then get a hot dog that is provided and make a Cony Island by putting the chili that you liked best on the dog. Then, if you have room, a serious desert area is available. You must be very careful here as you can really hurt yourself! I opted for a generous slice of chocolate cake and some dark chocolate chip cookies. There is coffee, water, and other soft drinks available also. The meal cost is a donation of your choosing but they report that they always make a profit. Getting down there was a challenge. With the strong cross wind at Mason, you had to pay attention to the takeoff and keep the plane on the runway until airborne. I lined up on the northern edge of runway

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



EXPENSIVE HAMBURGERS

By Bill Purosky/Doug Koons

February 1st, 2023 was a great day to fly. Doug and I decided to go to Clare Municipal (48D) to have lunch at Harrick’s Restaurant downtown. All we could

28 and aimed for the southern edge about halfway down the length of 28. Holding a lot of aileron to the left, we accelerated as fast as we could and held the liftoff to a little higher airspeed to compensate for the gusts. We got off safely only to be immediately in turbulence until we got to 3500 feet. The turbulence was strong enough and abrupt that we had to hold on to the cage tubing to prevent hitting the roof of the cab even with our seat belts tight. We climbed at a relatively high angle to keep the speed around 100 knots, our maneuvering speed. Once at altitude, the ride was still a little bumpy but reasonable. Mettetal is located below the Class B veil of Detroit metro so you must approach it under 3000 feet. You guessed it! Slow down to maneuvering speed and hold on for the ride down. Luckily, the runway at Mettetal is 18/36 so we didn't have to deal with the cross wind that we had at Mason. Mettetal has a whole bunch of procedural and noise abatement procedures for the airport. It has a special page in the Michigan Airport Directory so if you are flying there review before you go. It would take up too much space to discuss here. After lunch, Doug and I waddled out to the plane for departure. The winds were still strong and gusty but a lot easier to take off due to the runway heading. Doug flew back and other than a hold on situation and using maneuvering speed to get to altitude it was good. The wind was more of a headwind to Mason so at 100 to 110 knots indicated, Doug was getting about 75 to 77 knots ground speed. At 4500 feet, the ride was smooth. The wind at Mason had subsided to about 9 knots from 220 degrees. The let down from 4500 to pattern altitude was more comfortable than we expected and Doug nailed the crosswind landing. Wasn't any traffic at the airport so fitting into the pattern was a non event.



RELAY FOR LIFE

By Karen Meirndorf
Team Heartwood Glad Rags

Relay For Life of Greater Lansing will be held this year on June 23 at 6pm until noon June 24. Our new location for Relay will be in Holt at the Holt Junior High School on Aurelius Road.

EAA Chapter 55 is fund raising to place our chapters name on top of an ACS facts sign that is displayed along the walking track. Please help a great cause and community event with your 50/50 ticket purchase

during the meeting pancake breakfast. The winning ticket will be drawn at the end of the meeting.



Your support enables us to continue our lifesaving work, and we're thankful for your generosity.

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:

Do you have anything you want to buy, sell, or trade?? Contact Deanna McAlister zirconmoons@gmail.com

HANGARS FOR RENT AT TEW:

Lloyd Brown; 517-589-8619
Tom Tuttle; 734-216-7532
Gabe Blosser; 517-896-0020
EAA55; Common Storage or Building hangar space;
Margie Clark; 517-853-1418 (waiting list)

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.

EAA55 = PILOTS, PLANES & BUILDERS:

Here is a list of those who are working on homebuilts and/or restorations, as well as pilots and their planes ... Additions, deletions & corrections appreciated:
Mark Bathurst; Cessna 172
Gabe Blosser; Bushmaster SuperCub Amphib
John & Connie Bobcik; Kitfox 7SS
Ivan Bradley; Zenith CH650B
John Caron; Cessna 172
Stan Chubb; Beechcraft Bonanza
Lewis (Bob) Clark; Cessna 172
Randy Coller; Cessna 182 & Hot Air Balloon
Dave Cook; RV-6A (w/Greg Hover); Taylorcraft Ultralight
Ken Drewyor; Kitfox (sold); Mooney M20C
Richard Floyd; Cessna 310
Adam Fogg; Piper Warrior II
Donald Frank; BE35P
Mike Franzago; Stearman; Starduster project
Ralph Gregus; Zenith CH750
Dave Groh; Stearman; Citabria; Beechcraft Bonanza; and Travelaire; PT-17; AT-6 restorations
Greg Harris; Zenith 750 project
Ward Harris; Cessna 177B
Steve Houghton; RV-7A
Greg Hover; RV-6A (w/Dave Cook)
Mark & Jennifer Jacob; C-120; Beech 18, C-34 project
Dawn Koepplinger; Cessna 172; Aeronca Sedan
Doug Koons; Glastar (w/Bill Purosky)
Rick Laub; Sling 4 project
Terry Lutz; Luscombe & RV-8
Edward Manturuk; Lancair ES
Doug MacKenzie; Zenith 701
Tim Martinson; RV-6A & RV-14A; RV-9A project
Don & Deanna McAlister; Cessna 172
Chuck Moore; RV-12
Gary Nicola; Beechcraft Bonanza & Grumman Traveler restoration
Jim Palmer; Glasair III
Bill Purosky; Glastar (w/Doug Koons)
Pat Salow; Zenith 701
Drew Seguin; Carbon Cub EX2 & Carbon Cub EX3 project
Jeff Shaud; RV-7 project
Tom Sheehan; C-170 & Aerosport & Funk B85C; Lincoln-Page 1928
Rockwood Shepard; RV-9A
Jim Spry; RV-8
Jeff Stetson; Aeromot Ximango
Bruce Thorburn; Cessna
Ken Vandenbelt; C-172; C-170; Stearman project

John VanderMolen; Zenith 750
John Yurkon; J3C-65; PA28-181; C-172P

MASON JEWETT FIELD FBO:
Great Lakes Air Repair
517-525-3673
Maintenance - Painting - Upholstery - Engines

POCKET CALENDAR:

Mar 28-Apr 2 = Sun-N-Fun
Jun 11 = EAA55 Dawn Patrol
Jun 24 = Jackson Aviation Day
Jun 29-Jul 4 = Battle Cr Balloon & Air
Jul 24-Jul 30 = AirVenture
Aug 12 & 13 = Thunder Over Michigan
Aug 19 = Mason Aviation Day

FLYERS FROM OTHER AIRPORTS POSTED IN TEW TERMINAL

w/special thanks to Mark Bathurst. Be sure to check these flyers out if you are looking for a weekend place to fly !!

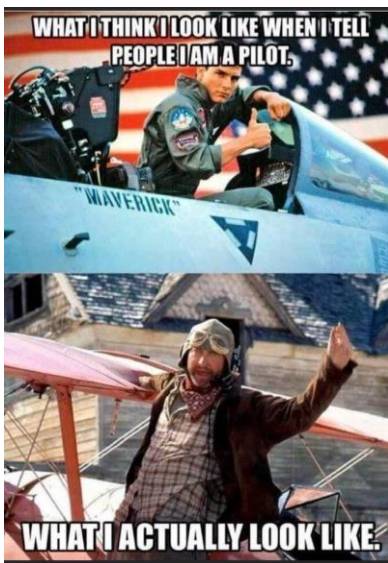
WEB EVENT CALENDARS:

www.eaa.org/aaa/events
www.funplacestofly.com/aviation-events.asp
www.michigan.gov/aero/

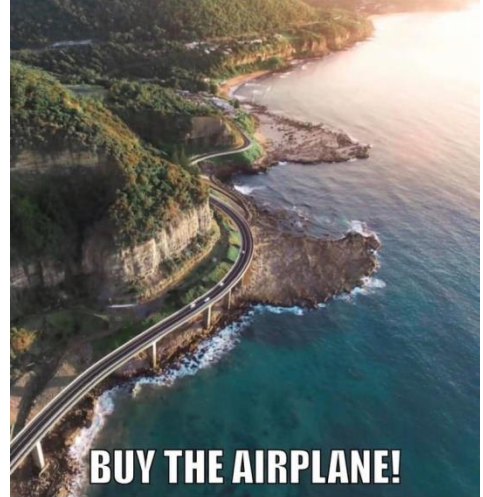
2023 CRAA BOARD MEETING
4th Monday of the Month
4:30p.m.
Marion "Babe" Ruth Community Room
Terminal Building, Capital Region Int. Airport



Anyway, there I was at 40,000 feet in my own private balloon not bothering anyone....



THERE ARE SEVEN DAYS IN A WEEK.
"SOMEDAY" IS NOT ONE OF THEM



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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