

I.A.C. Chapter 88 Southeastern Michigan



NEWSLETTER

December 2023

<https://chapters.eaa.org/iac88>



President's Column

My thanks to everyone who participated in the election of the Chapter officers. I am honored to have been elected Chapter President to take over the leadership. A complete list of the election results is posted below. Please join me in welcoming the elected officers to the chapter board.

As acting President for the last few months, I would like to thank our past year's officers and volunteers for their support and time spent to serve Chapter 88. A special thank you to Sandy Langworthy, who served in the position of chapter President for a total of 15 years. I myself enjoyed serving the chapter as vice president for the last 9 years and as interim newsletter editor during the past three years.

I will do my best to grow the chapter membership and promote safe aerobatic flying. The chapter will continue to provide educational training in form of practice and critiquing sessions and judges school classes for current members and new aerobatic enthusiasts. Furthermore, our members are quite happy to share their experiences and exchange knowledge with anyone interested in learning more about our sport. In addition, please go onto the chapter website (<https://chapters.eaa.org/iac88>), it provides valuable information such as contacts, events and technical reports. For non-flying aerobatic enthusiasts, the chapter offers a great number of volunteer functions that provide inside knowledge of what we are doing, and not to forget, a chance to socialize with chapter members, competitors and judges.

I know there are quite a number of aerobatic aircraft owners in Michigan, if you know any of them, let them please know that we want them to join our chapter and participate in our practice sessions and annual competition. We have a number of established aerobatic pilots in the chapter who are anxious to assist them and get them ready to fly safe aerobatics.

During the course of 2023 we announced that an anniversary banquet is being planned as part of the golden anniversary celebration. As the competition season diverted more time and attention away from the planning of that event, the officers decided to move the 50th anniversary banquet to mid April next year. This allows extra time during the winter months to focus on the planning of the banquet. An inquiry will be mailed shortly to get a preliminary tally as to the number of attendees to expect.

With the year rapidly coming to an end, the chapter officers decided not to plan for a December meeting. The next chapter meeting will be January 20, 10 am at Premier Jet Services - PTK.

Peace and joy to you and your family this holiday season.

Hugo

Chapter 88 Election of 2024 Officers - Results

President	Hugo Ritzenthaler
Vice Presidents	Wayne Buescher Tim Stackhouse
Secretary	Laura Buescher
Treasurer	Dave Germann
Newsletter Editor	Tim Stackhouse
Web Master	Hugo Ritzenthaler

Note: Wayne Buescher and Tim Stackhouse tied for Vice President. Since the chapter by-laws make provision for more than one V.P., we elected to have both serve on the board.

November Chapter Activities

The last two official practice days this year did not happen due to weather issues. An unscheduled practice/critiquing session was arranged on short notice by Hugo on November 14. It turned out to be a perfect day, sunshine and a temperature in the low fifties. Jason Ledbetter and Hugo made use of this opportunity to get some practice in before the snow flies. Jason, flying his Bücker Jungmann, is working on the Advance Smooth Patch. At this session, he flew a few more of the 12 required figures. As of this practice session, Jason has achieved satisfactory grades on 7 of those figures.



Jason's Bücker in the background

Congratulations, Jason, for all your good work practicing these figures. Your efforts certainly paid off and showed during the demonstration flight.

Hugo practiced the 2024 Unlimited Known, for him it was the first time flying the sequence in a box and in front of a certified judge.

2024 Chapter Membership Dues

A brief reminder, January is the time to renew your membership. Please mail the form on the last page of the NL with dues payment to: David Germann, Treasurer, 32793 Greenwood Drive, Chesterfield, MI 48047, or bring form and payment to the next chapter meeting.

Your \$20 membership fee will help to off-set expenses associated with our major chapter events. Thank you.

Looking back at this year's chapter events

IAC Chapter 88 Celebrates 50 Years

It is 50 years since a few pilots suggested to organize an IAC Chapter in the Detroit area. On November 17, 1973 13 people signed the chapter incorporation application and sanctioned and organized aerobatics had come to Michigan. In the early years, the chapter held a series of flying meetings in order to gain publicity and new members. By 1975 the chapter obtained a waiver for a permanent practice area and in 1977 the chapter was able to hold a three-category contest at Milan, Michigan. The significance of that contest was that in Michigan aviation history, it was the first aerobatic contest ever held in the state. Following this very first contest, the chapter held at least one, and for some years two contests, every year with the exception of 2020 when COVID forced a cancellation.



On-site Judges School - April 22-23

Chapter 88 organized another Judges School in 2023. There was a good cross section of students from various locations besides those attending from Chapter 88: West Virginia, Ohio, Ontario and Upper Peninsula. EAA Chapter 13 opened up their hangar at Ray airport for us to hold the class. Wayne Buescher, certified J.S. instructor, did again an outstanding job teaching the class and encouraging interaction amongst the group.



International Aerobatics Day Celebration - June 24

The chapter enjoyed a good turn out of aerobatic enthusiasts at Romeo State A/P on June 24. Unfortunately, weather was marginal until early afternoon, preventing many of the aircraft getting to Romeo. Wayne Buescher provided the audience of some 20 guests with an overview of IAC and aerobatic competition. Later in the afternoon after the ceiling lifted, Hugo flew a demonstration flight presenting the Unlimited known sequence. Before closing the event, guests Pat Hernandez and Scott McDonald arrived in a Game Bird 1.



IAC Open Championship East - Bay City

Chapter 88 was proud to host, as part of the anniversary celebration, the 2023 IAC Open Championship East in Bay City. A special contest shirt commemorating the 50th anniversary has been produced for competitors and volunteers.

Although a change in the weather forecast for the weekend prevented many competitors to make the trip, we had a good cross section of chapters and location these competitors flew in from: Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, New York, Minnesota, Ohio, Ontario Canada and Michigan. It turned out to be a 3 category contest with 5 Sportsman, 5 Intermediate and 1 Unlimited competitors. Friday was a perfect day for practicing in the box, Saturday morning turned into a hit and miss for competition flights. Late morning after few of the competitors had flown, all competition flights were put on hold due to persistent precipitation. Sunday morning we enjoyed a clear sky and excellent visibility to make it a two flights each contest.

A special acknowledgement and thank you for the generous support and contribution of our sponsors:

Butler Parachute	MT Propeller
Charlie Smith	Rowleys Wholesale
Concorde Battery	Showcase Mitsubishi
Mary Unger	Softy Parachute
Hartzell Propeller	Tempest
Hooker Harness	



Practice/Critiquing Days at Romeo State Airport

The chapter continued holding monthly practice days at Romeo where the chapter has a FAA approved Aerobatic Practice Area (APA). Unfortunately, weather has not always cooperated during the day the practice session was scheduled for. Of the 6 planned practice days, only on 3 we were actually able to fly. We may want think about offering a rain date session on the following weekend. Or on request, the APA can be activated as long as there is a ground observer present to satisfy the FAA waiver requirements. We invite every IAC member to take advantage of the practice/critiquing sessions. It's a great opportunity for you acro pilots to either practice your sequences, fly for your Smooth Patches or just simply learn to fly new aerobatic figures all in the presence of certified judges and experienced acro pilots.



Jason Ledbetter in his Bücker Jungmann and Hugo were the regulars flying at the practice days.

Chapter 88 Membership Drive

We are welcoming new members. New members receive an anniversary chapter patch, that was specially produced by Mary Unger for this promotion.



Event Calendar

- ◆ Monthly Chapter meetings - **3rd Saturday** each month
 - > Nov - Apr at Premier Jet Services - PTK
 - > May - Oct at Romeo State Airport D98
- ◆ Next chapter monthly meeting at Premier Jet Services - PTK - **January 20, 2024**



2024 Chapter 88 Contacts

President	Hugo Ritzenthaler
Vice President	Wayne Buescher
	Tim Stackhouse
Secretary	Laura Buescher
Treasurer	Dave Germann
Newsletter Editor	Tim Stackhouse
Web-Master	Hugo Ritzenthaler
Judges School Instructor	Wayne Buescher
Contest Director - 2024	Dan Unger

Tim Stackhouse will take over as Newsletter Editor starting with the January 2024 issue.

Hugo Ritzenthaler - Acting Newsletter Editor - 2023



IAC CHAPTER 88
Southeastern Michigan



Golden Anniversary Membership Application

Name		Email	
Address		Phone	
City		EAA #	
State		IAC #	
Aircraft Status	Make	Model	

Comments:

Annual Membership Dues are \$20

Membership starts January 1st

Make Check Payable to: **IAC Chapter 88**

Please fill out this form and mail with membership dues to Chapter 88 Treasurer:

Dave Germann

32793 Greenwood Drive

Chesterfield, MI 48047