

THE FLYER

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www.EAA304.com

Chapter Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at the Sport Aviation Center, 3600 Wildwood Ave., Jackson, MI 49202-1811 unless otherwise published... Everyone is welcome, bring a friend and we'll do our best to welcome them and make them comfortable and THEN we'll embarrass them...

This month's meeting will be Wednesday, April 2 at 7:30 PM. The Board will typically meet one hour earlier.

Officers:

President:	Earl Scott	(517) 783-3988
Vice Pres:	John Eiler	(517) 784-6242
Treasurer:	Chuck Furgason	(517) 783-1066
Secretary:	Stephen Matthews	(517) 789-8798

Board Members: Steven Wellman
Daniel Stanton
Charles Moore

Counselors:	Jay Cavender	(517) 592-3283
	Joe Phelan	(517) 783-5040

Web Master:	Jim Buist	(517) 930-2265
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This Months Contents: 1) Board Meeting Notes, 2) Member's Profile, 3) General Chapter News, 4) Project News, 5) February Speaker, 6) Contributing Writers/Events

1. The board met at 6:30 PM, March 6, 2008 and again March 12. We continued to discuss revisions to our current Bylaws. John Eiler brought in copies of the Bylaws on file with EAA National for comparison to the Bylaws we have currently, some significant differences. He also gave us copies of the typical Bylaws the national recommends. Our airport secretary scanned the documents into MS Word and Steven Wellman will bring his laptop with the scanned documents to the next meeting so we can make changes on-the-fly and record them in the new **DRAFT** Bylaws. As we get further down the road all members will get a chance to see and comment on the board's efforts.

Consumers Energy Co. (at the request of Steven Wellman) donated an arc welder from their Trail St. Lab that was no longer in use. It was on it's way to the Resource Recovery folks but, thanks to Steven, was intercepted and donated to our chapter. It's value is estimated at approximately \$400.00. A **VERY** big thanks to **Consumers Energy Co.**, you won't hear any more fussing about the cost of gas from us!

2. This month's profile is on **Steven Wellman**, who is also the chairman of the Airport Board.

Steve Matthews contacted me just the other day (procrastinator..) and asked me to write a brief profile on myself. Thanks a lot Steve, old pal! Since the interest in this news letter is airplanes, I guess I should talk about my flying. My desire to fly goes way back when I was a kid infatuated with flying model airplanes. I could never afford radio controlled so I started building u-control models. When I was 10, I thought I could name almost every airplane flying. Although, now I know that was not the case. I finally started taking flying lessons at Skyway in February, 1975. That was in the airplane many of us local pilots got our license in, the trustworthy Cessna 150, 2454Q. Being the eternal optimist, I had gotten laid off from my job, had all kinds of extra time, so why not take the extra money I had saved and learn to fly. It made perfect sense to me! Well, by May of that year, I took my check ride and had my private pilot's license and was back at work. I continued to fly, using my VA benefits, and obtained my commercial and instrument ratings. That was a lot of really cheap flying, that doesn't exist anymore. Then in the late 70's, I joined the 1064 Club, over on the east side of JXN airport. That was a great way to minimize cost but it just wasn't the same as owning your own airplane. So, in 1985, I bought my first airplane, a 1957 Tri-Pacer. That was a great little airplane but after owing it for a couple of years, it was time for a recover. That project got started but never finished. I sold the airplane in 1989, in a basket, to a Canadian for what I had bought it for in 85'. During the next several years my flying was limited. I had almost exclusive use of a Cherokee 180 that belonged to a person that never flew it. That was great but it was not the cross country airplane that I wanted so in 1995 I bought the Cessna Cardinal RG that I still

own. I kept the airplane down in Hillsdale because the negative political environment in Jackson was rumored to be a battle ground between pilots and the local politicians. The Hillsdale location lasted about a year when I decided to take challenge and move the plane to Jackson. I had been warned that you had to take sides and that is exactly what happened. I have never been one to back down from a problem so I got directly involved by getting appointed to the airport board. With the help of many of the local pilots, hangar owners and a change in airport management, the problem that was so prevalent then is non-existent now.

The EAA Chapter 304 is a great group of people that constantly contributes to the success of the Jackson County Airport. I have thoroughly enjoyed being involved with an organization that creates a great environment for people that are addicted to airplanes.

3. We have created a new member database and added fields to capture much more member information than was previously possible, including pictures of all of us, no groans, you're not that ugly, after all your mother still loves ya. Over time we'll get pictures of everyone and suitably post them for visitors to ogle.

The Secretary would VERY much like to have members email me with news on your projects or anything else you would like me to exaggerate in the news letter. Each of you will eventually be nabbed for a personal profile, so start thinking how you are going to exaggerate your accomplishments and aviation skills..... I'm easy to reach: smmatthe@gmail.com or smmatthews@cmsenergy.com. or 517.789.8798. Our Master Web designer (Jim) will also be creating a 'mail box' on our web site for members to communicate and/or post information on their projects.

4. All the flying surfaces are covered and poly-coated. Jay Cavender is teaching and supervising us in the fabric stitching process - who thought all those knot exercises as a Boy Scout would come in handy. Over the next few weeks we'll finish the stitching and begin taping the ribs, followed by the first of three silver coats. We are routinely meeting from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM or so, each Thursday and again on Saturday and Sunday mornings to work on the project. We need all the hands we can round up so please make some time to come by tie a knot or two.
5. Our April speaker is Tom Krashen. He is a designated pilot examiner, Former chief flight instructor at Lansing Community College, and is the Safety Officer for Michigan Department of Transportation, Airports Division where he flies the state's King Air 200 and the Beech Barons. He will be speaking about Sport Aircraft.
6. Here is a happy note to members from Ray Johnson, **"I want to make a special invitation to all Chapter 304 members to plan on attending the 18th annual Fly/In Cruise/In. We have special rates at the Comfort Suites for anyone coming in on Friday evening (\$55.00) see LODGING on: www.FlyInCruiseIn.com We have an early arrival party for Chapter 304 members who arrive on Friday evening. The event is on Saturday morning **August 30th, 2008**. Judy & I will then feed Chapter 304 members lunch after the morning event. We will furnish transportation to folks who Fly in. John, Earl, Tom & Chuck know how it all works. I just wanted to get a special invitation out to Chapter 304 members. When possible would you please add our event to your Calendar of Events & possibly LINK our website to yours. We will add your Chapter 304 website to our LINKS page on the Fly/In Cruise/In website. Thanks, Ray".** Be sure to update your calendar with this event for August 30.