

# 45° North



Gaylord, MI

EAA Chapter 1095 — [www.eaa1095.org](http://www.eaa1095.org)

November 2008

## President's Corner

by Vic Briley

Hello fellow flyers:

In case you haven't heard, former president (Doug Hancock) was in the hospital, in Petoskey, for open-heart surgery. He is back home now but still under a doctor's care. We are hoping he has a speedy recovery.

Tom & Jan Kellogg's Halloween party was a great time. They had it in their house this year instead of in the hangar. I managed to sneak out to the hangar for a peak at his Challenger, which now has the engine, installed. His new job has slowed his progress, but at least he is making some progress. Tom's home brewed beer was the best ever.

Wally McCoy & Ken Schlemmer mounted the chapter name on the front of our hangar. Make sure you check it out when you come to the meeting. It looks very professional and is one more improvement done. Eventually, we will have the hangar finished, inside and out, one step at a time.

The community meal program will take place on the Friday after our meeting, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Most of the details have already been planned and enough people have volunteered to work the meal. You can expect a briefing at the meeting.

Jim Abby has put together a chapter trip for anyone that is interested. Here is the itinerary:

*(Continued on page 6)*

## In This Issue

by Phil Curtiss

This issue contains two outside stories; one by Paul Poberezny and another on Pilot Courtesy.

George McCutcheon help with the deck by using his laser level to insure that the posts were all even. Thanks George!

Two sets of minutes are here as I missed the August set. The August minutes were approved at the September meeting. I have included them here so all will have a printed copy.

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**Next Meeting November 12, 2008**

**At the Airport  
Board at 6:30pm  
Chapter at 7:00pm**

# 45° North, Chapter 1095 Newsletter

[www.eaa1095.org](http://www.eaa1095.org)

45° North, Chapter 1095 Newsletter  
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45° North is being sent by both the U.S. Post Office and by email. Those of you that agreed to the email version will not receive a paper copy. You will be sent an email telling you where to find the newsletter.

## Chapter 1095 Officers

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<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Wally McCoy</b> (989) 858-1575
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jan Loney</b> (989) 732-1939
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<b>Editor</b>	

## Mailing Address

Mail for the Chapter or its officers should be directed to:

EAA Chapter 1095  
P.O. Box 2223  
Gaylord, MI 49734-2223

## Coming Events

- Nov. 12** Board Meeting 6:30 pm  
Regular Meeting 7:30 pm  
at the Airport.
- Dec. 11** Christmas Party in the Eagles Club at 6:00 pm. No meeting.
- Jan. 14** Board Meeting 6:30 pm  
Regular Meeting 7:30 pm  
at the Airport.
- Feb. 11** Board Meeting 6:30 pm  
Regular Meeting 7:30 pm  
at the Airport.



# Ford Airport, Dearborn, MI

42.3 North / 83.22 West (West of Detroit, MI)



In 1925, the Ford Airport was dedicated, with two grass runways and flood lights for night landings. It was widely touted as being the first “modern” airport in the world. The airport was the first in the United States to operate a regularly scheduled passenger airline in continuous domestic service. The Ford Air Transportation Service provided a route between “Detroit” (Dearborn) and Chicago. Ford Airport was also the first in the US to have an airline terminal for passenger use, the first in the world to have a hotel (the Dearborn Inn) designed and built for the air traveler.

The Ford Motor Company Airplane Division manufactured aircraft at this location starting in 1925. Henry Ford erected the largest, most modern and only privately owned permanent dirigible mooring mast in 1925. From 1925 through 1931 the Annual National Air Tour started and ended at Ford Airport. This was to demonstrate safety and reliability of commercial aviation. In 1926 Ford Airport operated

flight of a commercial airliner guided by radio, using system developed by Ford Motor Company.

A total of 199 Ford Tri-Motors were eventually built at the Dearborn facility. The Tri-Motor was the first American all-metal, multi-engine, commercial airliner. Unfortunately, Henry Ford lost more than \$10 million on his airplane division, which closed in 1933.

Ford Airport was still depicted as an active private airfield in the 1946 Michigan Airport Directory. It was depicted as having two concrete runways (3,700’ and 3,200’). By this point, the airport had been converted to simultaneously serve as an automobile testing ground, with an automobile test track extending beyond the runways. Ford Airport's dirigible mooring mast was demolished in 1946.

On June 9, 2003, five vintage airplanes including two Ford Tri-Motors landed at the former Ford Airport. It was the first

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## Ford Airport - continued

*(Continued from page 3)*

time in 56 years the test track had been used as an airport. The planes were part of the "Taking Flight: Ford's History in Aviation" exhibit, which was one facet of Ford Motor Company's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Material for this article was taken from the Aerofiles web site, [www.aerofiles.com/airports.html](http://www.aerofiles.com/airports.html). A section of this site covers little known and abandoned airfields. The Michigan section includes information on Berz and the Packard Proving Ground in Utica, McKinley in Fraser, Big Beaver, Salem and other airports throughout Michigan.



2003 Ford Air Tour Show



1926 Passenger Terminal



1943 Sectional Chart

# October Meeting Minutes

## Board of Directors' Meeting

Meeting called to order by President Vic at 6:50 PM.

Motion made by Wally McCoy to accept minutes of last meeting. Supported by Don McCoy.

Treasury Report: Balance in Check-book: \$2,155.73

### Old Business:

MDOT Training seminar tentative date is sometime in January 2009, per Wally McCoy.

Community Meal Project dinner discussion, more follow-up in members meeting.

Air Fair sponsorship not and option due to EAA liability.

Phil reported on the Flagpole plaque. Current status; ordered a 6 x 8 plaque which should be here in 1-2 weeks.

### New Business:

Wally McCoy proposed a Membership Chairman be appointed for supporting anyone interested in joining the EAA. Was supported by Ken S. Voted on and approved unanimously.

"EAA 1095" Sign for our Hangar was proposed by Wally McCoy. Supported by Wally Loney. Cost: \$140.00. Voted on and approved unanimously.

Benches for the EAA Hangar deck are being priced out by Vic. Further discussion regarding a picnic table, toilet, water, and septic to be looked at in the spring.

Motion to close meeting made by Wally Loney at 7:15. Supported by Wally McCoy.

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## Members Meeting Minutes

7:20 PM meeting called to order by President Vic.

Introduced two guest and interested new members. Howard Gosser who is an A&P from Gaylord and Jim Abby from Cannon Creek Ranch and is a member of the Midland EAA Chapter.

### Old Business:

Wally McCoy has received our paperwork confirming our approved tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status.

**Community Meal project:** Guest speakers, Joe Wambo and Miriam Schlemmer discussed the process and cost to provide a hot meal for approx. 80 local citizens as well as what the meal means to many less fortunate people in this area. It was agreed by all to form a committee to discuss the date. Nominated and accepted for this position; Wally McCoy, Wally Loney, and Ken Schlemmer. Volunteers will be needed to serve and prepare the meal. Tentative date is Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> at the Congregational Hall in Gaylord.

**Christmas Party** will be held at the Eagles Hall on December 11.

### New Business:

Further discussion regarding the **Membership Chairman** position and what it entails, as well as the importance for anyone interested in joining our Chapter. A packet with an application and information should be handed to guests as well as a Wingman for new member follow-up. Wally McCoy nominated Mike Valuet for this position. Mike accepted and was approved unanimously.

**Road trip** to Ford Museum and the

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Minutes - continued

*(Continued from page 5)*

Yankee Air Museum being considered for interested members. Jim Abby is getting more details for the next meeting. The importance of making the EAA experience fun and planning group activities, such as golf outings, picnics, etc. was brought to light. More “fun” planning to be discussed. Latest Golf Outing at the Loon was a great success.

**The RV Project** progressing well in Wally McCoy’s hangar. Anyone interested in helping build can show up every Wed. @ 7:00 PM.

**50-50 Drawing:** \$18.00 won by Tom Lesinsky. Tom paid his dues and donated \$1.00 back to the Chapter.

Motion to close the meeting at 8:35 by Wally McCoy. Supported by Wally Loney.

## Beechcraft Museum

Photo courtest of  
Bob Burns



## President’s Corner - con’t

*(Continued from page 1)*

Leave Friday afternoon and travel to Midland to visit his home Chapter 1093 at Jack Barstow airport.

Leave Barstow airport and travel to motel located under approach end of runway for Detroit Metro Airport. Spend the night at motel & watch air traffic landing at Metro.

Saturday AM drive to Henry Ford Museum in Greenfield Village. Senior admission is \$13 to tour museum.

Travel to Yankee Air Force Museum at Willow Run Airport.

Depart for home after museum tour Saturday evening.

Lots of fun for everyone. We will discuss the trip and see how much interest there is.

Jim has volunteered to drive his mini-van if we decide to drive there.

This would be a fairly inexpensive trip and lots of fun.

After making plans for the trip, we will watch an aviation video (your choice).

Keep the blue side up!



Photos of the  
RV Project  
Nov. 5, 2008

Right Wing  
Shown with  
the bottom up



Shown  
Wally Loney  
Wally McCoy  
Vic Briley  
Don McCoy



**Did you do this George?**



**Short Field Land-**

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