

THE FLYER

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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, March 5 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		

This Month's Contents: 1) Board Meeting Notes, 2) Member's Profile, 3) General Chapter News, 4) Project News, 5) February Speaker, 6) Contributing Writers

1. The board met at 6:30 PM, February 6, 2008. We discussed revisions to our bylaws, some of the requirements for the Treasurer are obsolete, i.e., the \$100 check limit without board approval. Also discussed was the annual audit requirement and officer duties. We do not have a "Membership Chairperson" so that title and responsibility needs to be changed to the Treasurer. Board members Steven Wellman and Chuck Furgason suggested we meet with the Jackson Community Foundation director to explore administration opportunities in support of the Aviation Scholarship fund.
2. This month's profile is on **Jim Buist**, our intrepid *Web Master*. Jim was born in a small log cabin in Illinois where he studied web design by candle light while chopping wood to warm his squirrel soup. – ed.

While EAA is well known for "fabrication", it seems that to get to the non-fiction, one needs to go to the source. So, I'll tell my own story from this point forward! – Jim

Let's start by learning how to pronounce my last name. I've heard it all, including "burst" (no, I won't pop) and "bust" (nope, I'm not well endowed on the topline nor will I break). The real way to say it is with a "b" sound at the beginning followed by "you" then the "st" sound at the end: b-you-st. Let's say it all together: "b-you-st"!

My aviation experience started in my hometown of Kalamazoo. My first "experiment" was made possible by my big brother coming home with an old dresser that was mine to dismantle. So, living at the bottom of the biggest hill in town, what was an 8 year old boy to do in mid-winter but to turn the drawer bottoms into a pair of wings....and strap them on to my sled! When I didn't become airborne that way, I added a ramp. Still no success, so that spring I rigged them onto my bicycle and rode around the neighborhood trying to "rotate" by popping wheelies. Oh, by the way, did I mention that they had the sweepback as a DC-9? In hindsight, I'm glad none of that worked or I might not be able to write this today!

After surviving childhood, I attended WMU, majoring in Aviation Technology and Ops., where I earned my Commercial Pilot Certificate with Instrument Rating, along with my CFI & CFII in both Single and Multi-Engine Land. Having graduated in the late '80's, I discovered what the other 9 out of 10 new pilots found.....there were virtually no jobs to be found flying airplanes at that time....and the few jobs

that did exist required flying gauze and band-aid covered, rubber band or pedal powered, day VFR only airplanes in a night IFR environment for less pay than a rookie burger flipper at Hot 'n Now.

So, since it became obvious that I was going to be unable to pay the rent or eat using my professional credentials, I did the next most logical thing: I went into the music business! I went from flying in the cockpit with a stick to playing on a big organ at the piano store. Eventually, I used my instructor abilities to teach people how to play piano, then bought a store, sold it, moved to Kansas City, taught more piano, moved back to MI to direct music at a church, then left the church to teach piano once again.

While I have let my CFI lapse and am not currently current, I did log some 1,200 hours prior to grounding myself in 1991. I hope to get back in the air again soon and have been studying the *Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge* to find out what I used to know....and then learn it all again. Hopefully, the recurrent in-air training will begin soon.

My big dream now is to build my own airplane, but I still need to figure out what that will be. I'm leaning towards composite pushers, but at this point would probably consider just about anything and those little, highly efficient designs from Sonex have me rather curious.

My last note of interest is that I am in transition from living in Napoleon to residing in New Jersey. Needless to say, moving from the founding county of the Republican Party to an extremely liberal state that loves Billary is a tough transition and I plan to be back in the Jackson area on a regular (monthly?) basis. Actually, I am hoping this relocation is not much more than a "touch and go" and that I'll be able to some day make a "full stop" back in this area! For the time being, I'll continue as the designated "Web Master", but fellow member George Race will be assisting me from this pocket of the electronic flight bag. So, if you have any web thoughts, pass them along to either one of us. If we like your ideas, you'll see them on-line. If we don't, we'll just pretend they got lost in cyberspace or cleared to land at a different airport!

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. I'm easy to reach:

smmatthe@gmail.com or smmatthews@cmsenergy.com. or 517.789.8798. Our Master Web designer will also be creating a 'mail box' on our web site for members to communicate and/or post information on their projects.

We sponsored a CAP (Civil Air Patrol) meeting February 19. I'll report on the meeting and potential relationship with our Chapter in the next publication. There is a CAP poster on our bulletin board with more detail and information. If you'd like to get into a uniform again, this may be an opportunity.

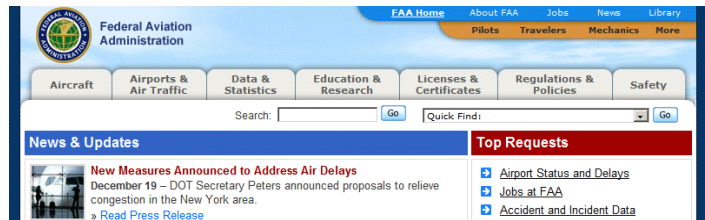
4. We have the second Piper Pacer wing covered and poly coated. Jay Cavender is doing a wonderful job insuring we amateurs do a superior job covering the wings and tail surfaces, this project holds the promise to be a winner at Oshkosh. We begin sewing the last weekend in February. John created a soldering iron needle to burn appropriate holes for the stitching. We need to measure and mark where all the stitching will be and practice on the smaller tail feathers as we get the hang of it. I gather this can be tedious and exacting work so the more the merrier! Do not be shy, doors open around 9:30 AM, the coffee's hot and the pop is cold. Below is an example of a typical Pacer, ours will, of course, be even sharper.



5. Our March speaker will be Brian VanWagnen. He plans a presentation on FAR/Airspace review for our members. It will probably take up a large part of the meeting, or all of it as long as interest and questions continue. Members should bring a Michigan chart or a Detroit sectional and an FAR/AIM book if they have one. Brian can be reached at (517)764-4193 or (517)414-6423 if anyone has questions prior to the March meeting. This will be a very good way to polish your aviation knowledge, even if you're an old pro..... or perhaps especially if you're an old geezer.
6. The next several pages are an extraordinarily complete list of everything aviation, from weather sites to a great picture of Randy Coller, rcscruffy@yahoo.com. Thank you Randy, I'm glad someone is looking out for us.

Aviation on the Web

by Randy Coller



Ten years ago, who would have thought that so much information would be available – literally at our fingertips? I used to go to the local library periodically to peruse the shelves, check current magazines and try to keep up to date on the world around us. Not anymore. There is just too much information available now on the World Wide Web.

My collection of favorite aviation web pages has grown exponentially over the years. Many of you have already discovered these links, but just in case you've missed some of the better ones, I thought I'd share them.

Weather Web pages



My favorite for checking local weather is NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov/>

Once on their site, enter your zip code and the current weather comes up. Scroll down the page to the bottom right corner and you'll see a series of links called, "Additional Forecasts and Information." Click on the link called "hourly weather graph." This is particularly useful when looking for local winds for a balloon flight.

Another good site is **Sky Vector**. <http://skyvector.com/>

Type in a loc-id in the window and a portion of the VFR sectional map appears for that location. You will see a colored dot over those sites that have weather reporting capability (ASOS, or AWOS).

At a glance, you can tell if the weather is VFR or IFR by the color of the dot.

Green = VFR

Blue = MVFR

Red = IFR

Pink = LIFR

Click on the colored dot and the most recent METAR appears along with a TAF if that site has one. This site is good for looking at locations for which you don't have a VFR sectional chart.



USA Today has some great weather pages mostly written by Jack Williams

There are some basic weather theory articles and many related to aviation.
<http://www.usatoday.com/weather/wpilots0.htm>

Here's an article on air density <http://www.usatoday.com/weather/wdensity.htm>

Many pilots like **Weather Underground** (Wunderground)
<http://www.wunderground.com/>

Weather Observations between METAR sites

One cool section of Wunderground is the weather observations taken by amateur weather geeks who have weather observation instruments in their own yard. You can use this to fill in the blanks between official weather observation sites: <http://www.wunderground.com/stationmaps/gmap.asp> or you can go to the main web page, <http://www.wunderground.com>, and click on the link "personal weather stations" and type in the state you want to browse.

Quick look at temperature and wind speeds:

<http://www.usairnet.com/weather/maps/current/wind-speed/>

Air Sports Net Wx

<http://www.usairnet.com/cgi-bin/launch/code.cgi?Submit=Go&sta=KDTW&model=avn&state=MI>

File flight plans and check weather

Flight Plan.com

<http://www.fltplan.com/>

Weather calculator

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/elp/wxcalc/wxcalc.shtml>

Weather definitions

<http://www.weather.com/glossary/i.html>

Aircraft Icing Course

<http://aircrafticing.grc.nasa.gov/courses.html>

AWOS/ASOS reports

http://www.faa.gov/airports_airtraffic/weather/asos/



Sunrise - Sunset table for your location

http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS_OneDay.php

Good calendar site

<http://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/>

Other cool web pages

Track Flights

To track an aircraft that is on a flight plan:

<http://flightaware.com/>

also good for checking on airport activity.

Operational counts at control tower airports:

<http://www.apo.data.faa.gov/main/atads.asp>

AOPA has a huge amount of information available to AOPA members. If you fly and you are not an AOPA member, I would encourage you to do so. I've been a member for years and they truly are the voice of the average pilot when it comes to standing up to the government (local, state and federal) when it tries to restrict aviation. <http://www.aopa.org/>

AOPA's Air Safety Foundation links to the NTSB for their accident database:

http://www.aopa.org/asf/ntsb/search_ntsb.cfm

Or go directly to **NTSB** to search accidents:

<http://www.nts.gov/>

Flight Planning Software

One of the benefits of AOPA membership is the ability to access their flight planning tool, "AOPA Real Time Flight Planner." After you download the software, use it anytime by clicking on the icon on your desktop as long as you are connected to the internet. It's not something to be used in lieu of flight planning, but an extra tool that aids in flight planning.

Fun places to fly to in Michigan:

<http://www.funplacestofly.com/list.asp?st=MI>

Michigan festivals and events

<http://www.michiganfun.us/>

Lost and Little Known Airfields

Remember the old fly-patch you learned to fly from? Ever wonder what happened to it? You can check it out here:

<http://www.airfields-freeman.com/>

Aviation news:

<http://www.aero-news.net/>

AvWeb:

<http://www.avweb.com/>

Business and Commercial Aviation:

<http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/>

One of my favorite aviation publications is General Aviation News (GANews).

<http://www.generalaviationnews.com/>

Best site for checking avgas prices

<http://www.airnav.com/>

Find Location Identifiers (Lod-Ids)

AirNav has a link to look up loc-ids that have changed. (This is for pilots too cheap to update their GPS database).

<http://www.airnav.com/airports/id-changes.html>

Speaking of loc-ids, the FAA publishes a huge book listing all the loc-ids with cross references to encode and decode. It's 8 1/2" x 11" by 3" thick.

http://www.faa.gov/airports_airtraffic/air_traffic/publications/atpubs/LID/LIDHME.HTM

FAA orders and handbooks:

http://www.faa.gov/airports_airtraffic/air_traffic/publications/

FARs & Advisory Circulars:

<http://www.airweb.faa.gov/>

Aircraft Registration inquiry:

<http://registry.faa.gov/aircraftinquiry/>

Airworthiness Directives:

<http://rgl.faa.gov/>

Airman Certification information including search

http://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/airmen_certification/

Airport Master Record (FAA Form 5010) for any airport

<http://www.gcrconsulting.com/5010web/>

The Federal Airport/Facility Directory (A/FD):

http://naco.faa.gov/index.asp?xml=naco/online/d_afd

Instrument Approach Procedures (IAPs):

http://www.naco.faa.gov/index.asp?xml=naco/online/d_tpp

NOTAMs

<https://pilotweb.nas.faa.gov/distribution/home.html>

NOTAM contractions

http://www.faa.gov/airports_airtraffic/air_traffic/publications/notices/shared/contractions/#aviationV

FAA Pilot Practical Test Standards (PTS):

http://www.faa.gov/education_research/testing/airmen/test_standards/pilot/

FAA Safety Team:

<http://www.faasafety.gov/>

FAA Offices

http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/

GRR FSDO employee directory

http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/field_offices/fsdo/grr/contact/media/Employee_Directory.pdf

DET FSDO employee directory

not available

Military Airspace

<http://www.seeandavoid.org/>

“Landings” has lots of great aviation links:

<http://www.landings.com/>

Rent an airplane:

<http://www.rentplanes.com/>

Aviation Education:

<http://pilotworkshops.com/>

MDOT - Aeronautics including staff directory

<http://www.michigan.gov/aero/>

Michigan Aeronautics Code

<http://www.michigan.gov/aero/0,1607,7-145-6776---,00.html> - note: you will need to copy and paste this link into your browser as our PDF converter program continues to give us errors.

Many EAA chapters have their own web pages

<http://www.eaa304.com/>

<http://www.eaa113.org/>

Info on historic aircraft:

<http://www.nasm.si.edu/research/aero/aircraft/>

Aviation programs for kids**Boy Scouts of America - Aviation Merit Badge**

<http://www.usscouts.org/usscouts/mb/mb025.asp>

Av Scholars

http://www.avscholars.com/AvScholars/Channels/Outreach_Sectors/ky_main.htm

NBAA AvKids <http://www.avkids.com/>

FAA Educator's Corner

<http://www.faa.gov/education%5Fresearch/education/educator%5Fresources/educators%5Fcorner/>

Education Planet

<http://www.educationplanet.com/search/Education?offset=360>

Boeing wonder of flight <http://www.boeing.com/companyoffices/aboutus/kids/>

Ace Camps

<http://www.acecamps.org/about.shtml>

http://www.faa.gov/education_research/education/student_resources/ace_camps/

Schoolcraft College Kids on Campus program

(summer program has aviation classes)

<http://www.schoolcraft.edu/publications/koc.asp>

Care to share some of your favorite links with our membership? Send them to me in a spread sheet with the links in the left cells and a short description in the adjacent right cell. I'll compile a list and distribute them to anyone who wants it.

Link	Desc.
http://www.nbaa.org	NBAA
http://www.faasafety.gov/	FAA Safety Team

Randy Coller is the 2007 FAAS Team President. He is also the lead airport inspector for Michigan. He is an aircraft owner, a Designated Pilot Examiner (D.P.E.), and Accredited Airport Executive (A.A.E.)

