

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.

This month's meeting will be Wednesday, October 1 at 7:30 PM. The Board will typically meet one hour earlier. You are welcome to attend and listen.

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 Summary, 2) Member's Profile, 3) General Chapter News, 4) Pacer News, 5) Meeting Notes & Speaker, 6) Contributing Writers/Events

1) **Board Meeting Notes:** The board established our October meeting for the membership to vote on the revised bylaws. Also discussed and approved a young eagle's flight program this October 18th, 9:00AM for pilots and 8:30 AM for us ground support folks. Sunday is the rain day. The board established a small committee to review hanger rent amounts and establish a procedure for scheduling our facilities to better serve members and the public -- Dan Stanton & Charles Moore and I are the committee. If you have an opinion or concern on the subject please let one of us know. We plan to report our efforts to the board in November.

2) **This month's profile is on:** Poetry!

Low Flight

Dedicated to all Helicopter Pilots

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And hovered out of ground effect on semi-rigid blades.
Earthward I've auto'ed and met the rising brush of non-paved terrain,
And done a thousand things you would never care to
skidded and dropped and flared low in the heat soaked roar.
Confined there, I've chased the earthbound traffic
and lost the race to insignificant headwinds;
Forward and up a little in ground effect
I've topped the General's hedge with drooping turns
where never Skyhawk or even Phantom flew.
Shaking and pulling collective, I've lumbered
the low untrespassed halls of victor airways,
Put out my hand and touched a tree.

3) **General Chapter News:**

To all of you currently building a project, please tell us about your project's progress on the chapter website. Your fellow members would love to hear how you are coming along. That, and other posted information, will also help our Newsletter Editor (Steve) find things to include in the monthly newsletter. If you have any questions or have any trouble signing in to use that part of the site, call Jim or email him at jimbuist@yahoo.com.

A personal note from me -- We would like to find ways to generate more interest in the chapter and our projects. Please put on your 'thinking hats', share with us (the board et al) your thoughts, experience, and counsel to help attract more/younger members and further our efforts to become more visible to the public at large

4) **Pacer Project News:** At September's meeting, we moved the wings and tail surfaces into the workroom to finish the final taping. We'll resume meeting each Thursday from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM or so, and again on Saturday and Sunday mornings to work on the project. We are very close to completing the wings. The tail feathers will require a bit more taping but it should go fast, especially if we can round up some unpaid labor.

5) **Meeting Notes & Speaker:** As of this writing I am not aware of a speaker, however, the voting process on our bylaws may take up most of the meeting, assuming many questions and discussion prior to the vote. We also have the possibility of a very interesting video George Race discovered and is willing to share with the rest of us. A hint, flying stunts you will not believe!

6) **Contributing Writers/Events:** Safety Wings...Relearning opportunities from FAAST & ASF - Jim Buist

FAAST & ASF - The FAA Safety Team & AOPA's Air Safety Foundation put on numerous, FREE safety seminars each year. A recent seminar I attended was advertised by both organizations and presented by one of ASF's speakers. This seminar was titled "Mastering Takeoffs and Landings" and was, in one word, fantastic.

Review is only good if the review is beneficial. This review was better than good. It was presented in a serious way with appropriate humor followed by the seriousness of each situation. It called attention to many things that we hopefully already know of, but reminded us the whys and hows, and introduced good suggestions. For example, how much safety margin do you add to those book figures in the POH for takeoff or landing? Do you really think you and your airplane can perform as well as the test pilot did with his new off the line plane under ideal conditions. ASF and my former university training highly recommend adding a 50% safety margin to the numbers you see in the book. Therefore, for example, if the POH says it will take 800' to clear those trees, you might be better off assuming you need a minimum of 1,200'. I can attest, from personal experience, with even with the safety margin, those trees can suddenly look awfully big and close!

In a recent discussion with a group, the question of "was it worthwhile" came up. The answer was a definite "yes", but not necessarily, because there was so much new information. The bottom line is, to borrow a phrase, "safety is no accident". Safety takes conscious, active participation. Contrary to popular belief, walking away from the airplane without a scratch on you or your machine does NOT mean the flight was conducted safely. Just because you didn't have an accident doesn't mean you were safe. Safety is an act in itself. Participating in the safety seminars put on by FAAST &/or ASF, by attendance and attention, is one more item in your safety arsenal. As you remember some of those finer points you don't often use, you make yourself a safer pilot.....Safer for you, safer for your passengers, and safer for those with whom you share the skies and ground.

FAAST administers the “Wings” program introduced by the FAA some 20 - 30 years ago. The idea was, offer pilots the opportunity to attend some great refresher seminars on various topics of interest and get them thinking of recurrent training and experience beyond the scope of the typical biennial flight review. Today, the wings program has matured and entered the digital age, with records of seminars attended and individual instruction received being maintained on-line. Moreover, many educational “courses” are actually available on the web, with credit towards your next wings level.

I would strongly encourage you to check out the totally free educational resources available. Why not take advantage of the chance to relearn something that may just save your life?

FAAST (FAA Safety Team): www.faasafety.gov

AOPA ASF (Air Safety Foundation): www.aopa.org/as