



# LOOKIN' UP

The EAA Chapter of Modern Explorers  
 EAA Chapter #1093 - Midland, Michigan  
 P. O. Box 2464, Midland MI 48641-2464

Monthly Meetings held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM - Barstow Airport (3BS)

**Volume XIV Issue 3** **March 2008**

### Officers

<b>President</b>	John Abbott	989-631-5244	<b>Treasurer</b>	Mike Rehberg	989-631-6625
<b>Vice-President</b>	Bob Trent	989-839-0491	<b>Secretary</b>	Janine Rairigh	989-615-1103
<b>Advisor/Past President</b>	Paul Ries	989-631-9444			

### Class II Directors

<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Linda Langrill	989-631-4530	<b>Programs</b>	Tom Tolton	989-835-5828
<b>Membership</b>	Dot Hornsby	989-631-4342	<b>Flight Advisor</b>	Pat Howe	989-687-9588
<b>Technical Advisor</b>	Jim Dobben	989-689-4441	<b>Young Eagles</b>	Dave Schmelzer	989-631-7590
<b>Historian</b>	Donna Witkop	989-687-5205	<b>Bldg. Manager</b>	Bob Harrington	989-496-3887
<b>Publicity</b>	Joyce Woods	248-613-6746			

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS – 2008

Mar 6	Chapter Meeting 7:00 pm
Mar 8	Young Eagles 9 am – 12 pm
Mar 20	Chapter Board Meeting 5:30
Apr 3	Chapter Meeting 7:00 pm
Apr 12	Young Eagles 9 am – 12 pm
Apr 17	Chapter Board Meeting 5:30
May 3	Pancake Breakfast 7 – 11 am

### SPECIAL EVENTS – 2008

March 25	Barstow Airport Aviation Advisory Commission Meeting – 5:00 pm
April 8-13	Sun 'n Fun, Lakeland, FL
May 3	Chapter Pancake Breakfast
June 16-21	Midland Aviation Camp
June 28	Chapter Pancake Breakfast
July 19-20	Camp Trooper, 82 <sup>nd</sup> Airborne
July 28	Airventure, Oshkosh, WI
Aug 18-20	Tri-Motor Rides at Midland
Sept 7	Chapter Pancake Breakfast

### March Meeting: Angel Network, March 6, 2008

**Ken Grakauskas**, pilot for the Angel Network and member of EAA Chapter 1093, will be our guest speaker on **Thursday, March 6**.



Ken is originally from Chicago Heights, Illinois and moved to this area in 1983. He began flying in 1989, joined EAA Chapter 159 and began looking for an experimental aircraft to build. Later he joined EAA Chapter 1093. He started building a Cozy and later sold it and bought a share of a Piper Archer. He is currently transitioning into a "beautiful '78 Mooney M20J."

Join us for social time at 6:30 pm and meeting and program at 7:00 pm.

## From the Flight Surgeon – Dr. Greg Pinnell

Belong to the over 40 club and need multifocal glasses or contacts with “cheaters” to correct for near and distant vision? Another option is available to you, which a lot of pilots don’t know about.

Multifocal contacts which correct for both near and far are gaining popularity. Multiple versions are on the market and the brain “figures out” the image. Visual acuity can be very good with them and the documentation needed for the FAA is minimal. Consult your eye care professional. Fly safe and see the traffic!

Gregory Pinnell, MD  
Senior AME/Flight Surgeon USAFR  
[www.ok2fly.com](http://www.ok2fly.com)



## Safety Corner – Dr. James Rieke

In the last two months we have emphasized some hazards of winter and night flying. Now as we approach Spring (hopefully), I would like to add the rapidly changing weather that March and April bring. Thunderstorms and freezing rain often appear quickly. To be prepared, now is an excellent time to review your flying skills with emphasis on weather related emergency procedures.

One tool available is the free offerings of the AOPA Air Safety Foundation. For more information visit [www.asf.org/quizzes](http://www.asf.org/quizzes). Note: If you don’t have a computer at home, the computer in the Midland Barstow Airport Terminal and in the EAA clubhouse are available.

James K. Rieke, Commercial Pilot

## Chapter Dues for 2008 are Due Now!

It’s that time of year to support your Chapter by sending a check for \$25 to EAA Chapter 1093, P. O. Box 2464, Midland, MI 48641-2464. If you haven’t already done so, please mail your check as soon as possible.



## Young Eagles Saturday, March 8, 2008

Shovel your hangar drive, warm up your oil, and join us for the next Young Eagles event on **Saturday, March 8** from 9 am – 12 noon.

Dave Schmelzer, Young Eagles Coordinator  
[schmelzerdavid@sbcglobal.net](mailto:schmelzerdavid@sbcglobal.net)  
989-631-7590

## Builder Project: SeaRey – Terry MacNeill

'Keep it light, keep it light, keep it light' is the mantra that Terry MacNeill listens to as he builds his SeaRey kit plane in his heated workshop attached to his house in Freeland. This plane is a true amphibian and thus able to land on pavement, grass or water. From his first airplane ride in a Stinson in 1947 in his hometown of Lincoln, MI, to his pilot's license in 1987, to his ride at Oshkosh in 2001 in a SeaRey, his destiny was to build an airplane. He was so impressed with the visibility in the SeaRey – 'breathtaking' - it was a "I-have-to-have-one-of-these-planes" moment. The complete kit arrived in Flint for pick up in early 2003 and the project was started in the basement of his former house.



The three main parts of the kit are the hull, the turtledeck (canopy part) and the nosedeck. It has tube and fabric wings and an aluminum (for strength) framework inside a fiberglass shell (water resistant). The kit cost \$20,000 and his 100 HP 2 cycle German Hirth engine \$11,000; this fuel injected engine will sit on the rear top side of the wing and will give Terry a cruise of 95 mph. The take-off speed is 52 mph with stall at 38 mph while using 4.5 gallons of fuel per hour.



When asked about the avionics he gave thanks to Jim Powell for steering him to a glass cockpit; he considers them lighter, more reliable, and they will be less expensive (\$4,400). A feature that he particularly likes about the Electronic Flight Information System (EFIS) and the Engine Monitoring System (EMS) is that the system has an alarm that indicates when the high/low settings are out of range.

The seating is side by side and there is blue carpeting in the cockpit. The outside color scheme will be silver; Terry will be able to save weight by eliminating the three coats of

polyspray on the wings as this ingredient will be incorporated into the three coats of silver paint that he will apply to the wings. He figures this will save him 20 pounds of weight. The N number was chosen for the ease of remembering it: N468TM.

As a former designer of foundry tooling, Terry has nothing but praise for the accompanying manual; and after about 200 hours put in so far, he is predicting the plane will be finished this Fall. Many days will find him at least 6 hours in his workspace singing along with songs from musicals such "The Phantom of the Opera." No neighbors have complained so far!

When asked if his wife Mary will accompany him he said, "She said she will." They have a lake lot in Lincoln, MI, and he plans to use the plane from this site. He was concerned the ½ mile by ½ mile lake wasn't large enough for take-offs and landings. So he asked owners of three other SeaRey's to try to land there, and they could do it in about 400 feet.



So Terry is poised to return in his cherished SeaRey to the town where he got his first airplane ride at the age of five, and what a unique return he will make! By Dot Hornsby

## Traffic Copter Tour of Detroit – Linda Langrill

It was a beautiful, sunny Friday afternoon in Detroit, January 25, 2008. I found it hard to believe that I was actually riding along with WJR radio personality Joel Alexander while he was at work surveying the city streets of Detroit from the right seat of his traffic copter. It was a fantastic experience, seeing the city from 500' AGL. Having grown up in Detroit, there were many landmarks I knew. But others had been built, such as Comerica Park and Ford Field.



Lance Howard, WWJ radio traffic reporter, was in the front left seat operating the video cam, and Mike Woodley, pilot from Port Huron, was in the back seat next to me taking photos, such as the ones shown here of the golden towers of the Fisher Building and the water tower at the Detroit Zoo. Lance and Joel spotted a fox in a northwest suburb and zoomed in on it to demonstrate the ability of the video camera. The fox's fur was rusty-red and beautiful. We also saw ice fishermen and an ice boat skimming across a small lake southwest of Pontiac. We were often flying below the elevation of the microwave antennas sprouting up across the city.



Joel Alexander was definitely multi-tasking: He was flying the helicopter and communicating with Detroit City tower and Detroit Metro Approach. He was giving live updates and receiving incoming reports of traffic tie-ups, accidents and fires. He was watching for other airborne traffic and giving position reports of his aircraft. In between he was talking with his backseat passengers and asking about our flying experiences.

Thanks to Jackie Welch for arranging for this opportunity, which Joel Alexander donated to the Wings of Mercy auction last fall. Thanks to Jim Rieke for having won the raffle and offering me the chance to see my old hometown up close and personal. It was a day I won't forget.



Linda Langrill

## EAA Chapter 1093 Website – Check it Out

The link to the new Chapter Website is [www.eaa1093.org](http://www.eaa1093.org). You will find information about Builder Projects including photos, links to other aviation websites, and photos and information about many educational projects sponsored by Chapter 1093. Thank you to Dot Hornsby for spearheading the development of the website and continuing to keep it up to date. She welcomes your feedback about the new website.

## Ford Tri-Motor Airplane is coming to Midland in August 2008



Midland will be the only site in Michigan this year to have the Ford Tri-Motor airplane stop for a visit and provide airplane rides. It will be a once-in-a-lifetime chance to take a ride in this classic aircraft. Taking you back to those days of yesteryear, young and old alike will be thrilled to glide over the city with a view from the Ford Tri-Motor.

Save the dates: Monday-Wednesday, **August 18-20, 2008**, at Midland Barstow Airport. Don't miss it!

## Newsletter Deadline is March 21, 2008

Would you like to make an announcement or submit an article for the April issue of Looking Up? If so, please submit to Newsletter Editor Linda Langrill at [LLangrill@chartermi.net](mailto:LLangrill@chartermi.net) or mail to 701 Columbia Rd., Midland, MI 48640.

## Note from the President

We have a full and exciting summer ahead of us. Three Pancake Breakfast Fly-ins featuring "Dave's Famous Donuts," Camp Trooper/82nd Airborne display; the JAARS helicopter rides, the Ford Tri-Motor visit and rides, Aviation Camp, and the Young Eagles flights the second Saturday of each month. We also expect to have two member experimental aircraft completed and certified.

We are currently planning and making preparations for the two day Ford Tri-Motor visit which begins August 18th. This will be an opportunity for all of our members to be involved with this historic event. Reserve August 18th, 19th and 20th on your calendars NOW. Chapter members who volunteer a half day of their time will have an opportunity for a "Free" ride. Be the first to volunteer and guarantee your ride. Contact me...989-631-5244. I personally want to hear from you!

*John*

John Abbott, President  
Midland EAA Chapter 1093  
[jrabbott@midcogen.com](mailto:jrabbott@midcogen.com)  
989-631-5244