

I.A.C. Chapter 88 Southeastern Michigan

NEWSLETTER

August 2009

www.IAC88.org

President's Column

Many thanks to Shannon Harris & the EAA and BAA folks for the very entertaining Corn Roast. A good time was had by all. Our contribution was provided by Rob as the peanut drop bombardier. The youngsters enjoyed the scavenger hunt and the peanuts. We had an informal meeting and plan to discuss the upgrades and construction of box markers at the Sept 20 meet in Howell. Now that we are able to place markers at the north side of the box, we need more markers; and the condition of the current sheets implies new materials are due. Bring your best (or any other) ideas for discussion.

Concerning the loss of Vicki Cruse:

It is my opinion that our best way to pay tribute to our late president is to actively engage in the accomplishment of her goals for our organization. A common thread in her columns in Sport Aerobatics has been the need for active participation in the recruiting and encouragement of new members. This needs to be one of our highest priorities as we proceed.

Think good thoughts and enjoy,

Sandy

Chapter Meeting Notes, August 22, Brighton Airport

Members present: Sandy Langworthy, Dave McKenzie, Robb Butts, Virginia Jacobson, Gunter Niederbacher

Notes:

- The discussion about box markers was postponed to the next meeting, Sep. 20 in Howell

IAC News

EAA and IAC Mourn the Loss of Vicki Cruse

August 22, 2009 — EAA and the International Aerobatic Club are mourning the tragic loss of IAC President Vicki Cruse, who perished in a plane crash while participating at the World Aerobatic Championships in England earlier today. She was 40.

Cruse was flying as a member of the USA Unlimited Aerobatic Team in the biennial world meet held at Silverstone, Buckingham, England. A local police spokeswoman said that authorities were notified early Saturday afternoon (U.K. time) that a single aircraft taking part in the competition had come down on the circuit.

Cruse was pronounced dead at the scene. No one else was injured in the incident. Investigators from the British Civil Aviation Authority are on their way to the scene to begin their investigation.

American team manager Norm DeWitt said Cruse was flying the early-round "Q" program when she lost control of her Zivko Edge 540 aircraft by what appeared to be a mechanical problem in flight. She was at an altitude that prevented her from bailing out of the aircraft.

"The USA lost one of its most outstanding pilots, and the IAC lost the finest President we have ever had," DeWitt said. "More information will be made available to IAC members as soon as it becomes available. We all suffer the heartbreak of a horrific loss and extend our deepest sympathy to Vicki's family."

Cruse was re-elected as IAC president last month and in that role, also served as an EAA director and board member. According to IAC's bylaws, newly elected vice president Doug Sowder will assume the president's duties.

"Vicki was an outstanding competitor and was passionate about flying, her leadership as IAC President, and as an EAA Director," EAA chairman/president Tom Poberezny said. "Her flying skills and enthusiasm were highly valued. This is a tremendous loss for aviation, EAA and IAC. Our condolences go to Vicki's family and many friends."

Cruse was born in Springfield, Mo., and had logged more than 2,500 hours of flight time, nearly all of it in tail-wheel aircraft. She won the U.S. national unlimited aerobatic championship in 2007, and had been a member of the U.S. national team in 2002, 2004 and 2006, as well as this year.

Among Cruse's other aviation accomplishments were U.S. sportsman class national champion in 1998; intermediate division champion at the Championships of the Americas in 2000; and became the first woman to qualify to race in the sport class at the National Championship Air Races in Reno, Nev.

Cruse, whose educational and professional background was in marine biology, also wrote a technical counselor column for IAC's monthly Sport Aerobatics magazine. She had served as IAC president since 2005.

More information on funeral services for Cruse will be posted as it is confirmed.

Contest Information

Doug Yost Challenge, Spencer, IA, August 14 - 16

Hello everyone,

just checking to find out whether the practice in Marine City is still on. I am planning to be there if weather cooperates.

Talking about weather, I flew 670 miles one way to Spencer, IA, to find very marginal weather on Saturday and Sunday. Thursday and Friday were perfect, no cloud in the sky, but stiff winds out of the south. We got one Sportman flight and 80% of the intermediate category done on Saturday morning before the scud clouds were rolling in from the west making it impossible for the pilots to avoid getting into the clouds. Sunday morning looked better, however, before getting the last two intermediate pilots up, the scuds rolled back in again. Naturally, when we finally called the contest Sunday at 2 pm, the sky opened up with very few clouds in sight. So, besides 2 practice flights on Friday, I did no more flying until my trip back home on Monday. Having had a good tailwind and flying at 5,500 I made record time getting home; 4 hrs air time. There were a total of 30 competitors, 4 in UL. Spencer is a great place for a contest, we were housed in a spotless and air-conditioned huge hanger. The city and airport wanted this contest very badly.

Hope to see you next Saturday.

Hugo



From the Editor

We have received an interesting suggestion from Steve Tupper, producer of 'Airspeed' – see letter below. This could be one way of getting people without their own airplane (like me) into the air and have some fun.

I would like to get back with Steve to answer some of his questions and let him know what we think about this idea. Please give this some thought and let's discuss in our next meeting in September.

Greetings.

I produce Airspeed, the widely-distributed aviation and aerospace podcast and radio show (see www.airspeedonline.com for details) with a worldwide audience and 19,000+ downloads a month during the airshow season.

After having trained in aerobatics on and off for a couple of years at Pontiac, it struck me that it might be fun to invite 6-12 listeners to southeast Michigan to do some aerobatic training together. An 'Acro Camp" for lack of a better name.

Basically get a block rate for the aircraft and instructors somewhere in SE Michigan, do some ground school, and go up with the instructors for whatever the attendees want to do. Anything from initial tailwheel instruction to unusual attitude/spin recovery to introductory competitive maneuvers. And shoot video/record audio of all of it.

I see that you guys are the only IAC chapter in Michigan. Would you be interested at presenting at such a gathering (and, of course, making a pitch for the IAC)? I'm thinking a three-day weekend next May, so there's plenty of time to think about it.

Additionally, I'm familiar with the acro instruction available at KPTK and I've heard about Pitts training in the area, but wondered what aircraft and instruction are available at Livingston County. Can you enlighten me?

Many thanks in advance for any information you'd care to share.

Best regards,

- Steve

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Chapter 88 Calendar

For back issues of the newsletter, and other chapter information please go to the chapter web site.

*Note: All chapter meetings are held on the **third Sunday** of each month at **1:00pm** at the **Howell Terminal Building** Howell MI, unless stated otherwise.*

Sept. 20	Chapter Meeting	Howell, MI (KOZW)
Sept. 20 – 25	U.S. Aerobatic Nationals	Dennison, TX (KGYI)
October 18	Chapter Meeting	Howell, MI (KOZW)
November 15	Chapter Meeting	Howell, MI (KOZW)
December 12	Chapter Meeting / Holiday Party	TBD



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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION / Renewal FORM 2009

Annual Dues are **\$20.00**. If joining after July 1, the dues are **\$10.00** for the remainder of the year.
Send to: Robb Butts, Treasurer 1702 Sycamore Ct., Saline, MI 48176.

NAME: _____ SPOUSE: _____
ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: () -- _____
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