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# Time & Technology March on...

... and we have to keep up

Sometimes I think I'm getting old...but only sometimes. Like recently, when Amazon.com announced the introduction of Kindle, its wireless reading device that delivers books, magazines, and newspapers literally into the palm of your hand. It's the size of a small book, but it's not just one book. Kindle offers access to more than 90,000 book titles. Want to buy a book? Order it (for about \$9.95) and it'll arrive in about a minute. Order the *Wall Street Journal*, and it'll be on your Kindle when you wake up in the morning.

Wow! Did you ever imagine a device like that?

Printing has come a long way since the day I walked into my first job at a publishing company and worked on textbooks that were set in Linotype. Yup, that's right, lines of hot metal type set by masters of the trade and spaced by thin strips of metal to create the "leading" between lines of type. Guess where that term came from?

About the time I started at Wm. C. Brown Company Publishers, "cold" type was being introduced into the printing industry. It was called cold cause the type was set on computers and came out in strips of paper that was...well, cold...unlike the hot Linotype beds from which book galleys were pulled. Old-time printing professionals rued the day. I vividly recall my supervisor and mentor, Ruth Richards, shaking her head at this turn of events. "The printing will never be as good," she'd say time after time.

The printing industry hasn't stopped changing since that time. Every year new technology changes the way we produce your monthly magazines; sometimes more than once a year. Occasionally I'd like to yell, "Could you stop for a month or two?" But technology marches on, and our choice is either to keep up or get left behind, which means we have no choice.

How people communicate with each other is changing dramatically and drastically, too. Networking sites like Facebook make it easy to keep in touch with your friends daily, if

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you want. Post your news on your Facebook "page," and all your friends (whom you've accepted as friends) know what's happening in your life. That's how today's generation communicates.

Electronic paper is another new technology on the horizon...kind of like Kindle, but a little different 'cause it's a flexible piece of plastic-like "paper." It, too, will deliver books and magazines to you wirelessly. It's mind-boggling, but intriguing.

The march of technology is readily apparent in the aviation industry,

too, and the experimental amateur-built movement has led that march, and that's something EAAers should be proud of. As we approach the 55th anniversary of the founding of EAA on January 26, 1953, it's a good time to look back...and look ahead. Just as printing guidelines have changed as technology has changed the industry, so, too, the regulations that govern the building of aircraft may need revision to keep up with the times. You'll find an article, "A Rule for All Builders," in the January issue of *EAA Sport Aviation* and online at [www.EAA.org/SportAviation](http://www.EAA.org/SportAviation). Read it and think about the changes that have occurred in aircraft design because of experimenters/amateur builders. It's as phenomenal as changes in the printing industry. We invite you to send comments to [TheRule@EAA.org](mailto:TheRule@EAA.org).

While remaining committed to preserving the 51 percent rule, EAA is looking toward ways of meeting the needs of the future, ways to ensure that fliers will have access to affordable aircraft using the latest technology. Like the printing industry, the aviation industry has no choice but to keep up or get left behind...and have would-be pilots choose to spend their discretionary recreational dollars on other forms of recreational equipment. That won't help our industry grow.

In the meantime, I might start saving my pennies for a Kindle; I might like this technology stuff. Maybe I'm not getting old after all. 

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