

# TAILWINDS



**EAA CHAPTER  
974  
NEWSLETTER  
MARCH 2022**



Butler County Regional Airport  
Hamilton, Ohio



## **IN THIS EDITION**

**MARCH GATHERING REVIEW**

**VMC CLUB WITH BILLY BIE**

**THE PREZ SEZ**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**CHAPTER CONTACTS**

**PROJECT REPORTS**

**SCOTT HERSHA'S RV6 COWLING**

**SCOTT BALMOS RV9A CENTER**

**CONSOLE**

## **COMING EVENTS**

**APRIL 10-EAA 974 CHAPTER GATHERING**

**APRIL 16-CINCINNATI WARBIRDS T-6 AT  
KHAO**

**APRIL 23-EAA 974 YOUNG EAGLE RALLY  
AT KHAO**



## **MARCH 2022 GATHERING REVIEW**

*The March Gathering filled the chapter hangar nicely! Thanks to our new heater and VP Joey's excellent pasta and strawberry shortcake, we were too comfortable to be legal! Thank you Joey!! I didn't get a head count but the turnout was great! I think we have really learned to appreciate the fellowship that comes from in person gatherings!*



### GATHERING NOTES:

*Young Eagles Coordinator Scott Balmos formally announced our next Young Eagle Rally will take place on April 23 starting at 10 AM. Scott noted that pilots and other participants from the last rally should have already received an email of invitation. He stated that we should set a limit of 30 Young Eagles.*

*Kevin Gassert announced that the Cincinnati Warbirds T-6 will be on the field for rides and display on April 16. This will be preceded by a meeting of the Warbird Chapter on April 8 in the terminal building. He asked for chapter members to display their aircraft and that the chapter display its banner.*

*President Tom Martin will present a program at the next gathering about his trip to the Bahama Islands. He will talk about technical, legal and safety requirements for such a flight. This will be something to look forward to!*

*Roger Rose gave us sad news of the passing of member and former chapter hangar master Sharon Burke. She had been ill with multiple medical problems since the end of last year. The chapter offers sympathy to Roger, who was a dear friend, and to her family.*

### PROJECT REPORTS:

*Technical Counselor Ray Parker reported that Bill Duffy completed weight and balance on his recently completed RV-9*

*Scott Balmos showed his nearly completed center console for his RV-9A. This will be shown later in this edition.*

*Dave Griffith completed installation and testing of Garmin G5 screens in his Diamond.*

## **MARCH 2022 GATHERING, CONTINUED**

### PROJECT REPORTS CONTINUED:

Kevin Gassert has completed another Ercoupe restoration. He reported running into a carb-cylinder mismatch which lead to rough running. This has since been solved.

Paul O'Connor reported on progress on his RV-14 project. He has finished all empennage parts.

### CHAPTER SERVICE AWARDS:

President Tom Martin gave chapter service awards for 2021. Absent but no less deserving: Brandi Brewer, Secretary; Scott Hersha, Flight Advisor; Bob Burkhart, Young Eagles;



**JOEY SHREVE VICE PRESIDENT**



**ROGER MCCLURE, TREASURER**



**BILLY BIE, VMC CLUB INSTRUCTOR**



**RAY PARKER, TECHNICAL COUNSELOR**



**SCOTT BALMOS, YOUNG EAGLES**



**BOB DOMBEK, NEWSLETTER EDITOR**



## RETURN TO FLYING AFTER WINTER OR LONG TIME OFF

We've all been there. After a long break from flying due to winter, prolonged maintenance, illness or just life getting in the way, Billy asked us how we return to flying safely. There are two concerns, pilot and aircraft.

For the pilot, skills get rusty without practice. Slow step your challenges. Know your personal cross wind and weather limits and pad them for those first flights. Be prepared to divert to an alternate field if things change that could challenge your return while you are up. Focus on basic skills and try to make it fun.

For the aircraft, be methodical. Do a thorough pre-flight inspection. Do a good engine run-up, listening and watching for warnings, unusual sounds or engine behavior.

## VFR PATTERN OPERATIONS AND RADIO CALLS

Billy held a review of the 3 preferred traffic pattern entries.

1. 45 degree to downwind entry
2. 500 feet above pattern altitude with teardrop to 45 degree entry
3. Midfield crosswind to downwind entry. Common error is departure end crosswind

Billy encouraged us to observe radio communication standards. There is often confusion when pilots use towered airport terms at non towered airports. We should use plain English and avoid long conversations. Don't hesitate to query other traffic as to position. Direct entry to downwind and long final approaches can be very problematic at non towered fields. Be ready for anything. Keep your head on a swivel, especially if operating without radio.

ASRS Reports: discussion was held about the use of Aviation Safety Reporting System Always work toward stable approaches., especially as you cross the runway threshold. Poor fuel management is one of the most frequent causes of accidents/forced landings. Unplanned surprises, malfunctions in flight, example: door pops open or breaks free. How do we respond?

Rough engine, power loss, emergency landings. Where to land? Expressway, divert to nearest airport? Know how far your airplane glides without power.

Don't hesitate to talk to ATC in emergency but be aware most ATC's are not pilots and may not fully understand your situation. Still, it's best to confess your problem and speak clearly to controller. You will get special handling and guidance.

## What's The Olympics Got To Do With It?

Hi everyone,

February 2022... At our house that meant Winter Olympics. You may or may not know, but my wife Barb is an Olympics Junkie. If the Olympics are being broadcast, the TV is on! (Which also means very little sleep for two weeks.) Winter or Summer, she doesn't care, but although she hates the cold, she prefers the games of the Winter Olympics, particularly the ice skating.



I too enjoy watching the games. With the high speeds and slippery surfaces there are certainly those “thrill of victory and agony of defeat” moments that make for nail biting viewing.

This time as I was watching each competitor, I thought about all of the dedication.... Each session and years of practice, the same activity over and over, working perfection. The “village” of support from family members, coaches, and all of the time and money dedicated. In the end it comes down to proving who is the best in the sport... On **that** day, and sometimes only separated by thousandths of a second!

**What does that have to do with us?** When I think about what it really means to be an Olympian, to me it means being so passionate about a discipline that you want to become a master of it (And win the Gold!). In many ways our passions for aviation are similar... Our desire to master the art of flight, our ability to master the build of our flying machines, and for some it is being a spectator that enjoys the passion of flight itself.

One of the lightning rod personalities of this years games was Eileen Gu. A US born citizen, she chose to compete on behalf of her mother's native country, China. She won 3 medals at the game. Regardless how you feel about her decision to compete as a Chinese athlete, one of the primary reasons she stated for her decision was the need to inspire the next generation of female freeskiers –

*“I hope that I'm able to use this platform to inspire more young girls to take part in freeskiing. That's always been my biggest goal since day one.”*



As we master our aviation discipline, let's always be passionate about passing the torch and igniting the hearts and minds of the youth, for they will be the next EAA Olympians.

I can't wait to see everyone soon and to have the opportunity to gather as a community!



Blue skies! Tom

**Tom Martin EAA #1061241**

President, Chapter 974

E: [President@EAA974.org](mailto:President@EAA974.org)

C: 513-417-1430

## **09 February 2022 Board Meeting Minutes**

**6:04 p.m.** - Meeting called to order by Tom Martin

**Attendees:** Thomas Martin, Roger McClure, Brandi Brewer, Joey Shreve, Scott Balmos  
Robert Dombek, Scott Hersha

### **Secretaries Report –**

Motion was made to wave the reading of meeting minutes as they were posted in the chapter newsletter.

### **Treasurer's Report –**

Income	\$ 874.00
Expenses	\$ 100.00
Balance	\$ 23,581.11

### **Young Eagles –**

Scott Balmos would like to schedule YE event mid to late Spring (April 16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>). June 11<sup>th</sup> is Young Eagles Day.

### **Old Business -**

Chapter By-Laws are being revised; progress is being made. Will be sent via email for review/comment and then voted on upon completion.

The need for an Operational Policy was brought up and discussed.

Scott Hersha recommended we consider offering to other Chapters Prop Balancing for \$100 - Consider a spring workshop out to other chapters as fundraiser. Will need to investigate parameters around EAA Insurance as an event. THIS IS ON HOLD DUE TO COVID.

Inventory and value assessment need to be completed this year for all Chapter inventory.

Insulation in Hanger needs to be rehung by the back door – A leak was discovered in the roof that needs to be repaired before the insulation can be rehung. For this to be repaired, roofing tar and adhesive needs to be purchased.

The question was brought up about the possibility for an investment committee to explore possible investments for the Chapter with a portion of the recent income.

Extra 100-pound propane tank that are full to use for the next three meetings.

## **New Business –**

Hangar Cleanout will be May 15th

In May, EAA dues will increase from \$40 to \$48 per year.

Reminders will be sent for all of our items to maintain Chapter Gold status by Tom Martin.

Planning events to maintain Gold status for Chapter. Movie night, FlyIn & Cruise/In, Grill Out.

Need to sell donated items. Will set-up in hangar to offer to members to bid on.

Mailing List – Local EAA members to contact for membership or donations.

### **UPCOMING 2022 MEETINGS**

MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>

APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>

MAY 15<sup>TH</sup> CLEANOUT DAY

JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup>

JULY 10<sup>TH</sup>

AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup>

SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> MOVIE NIGHT

OCTOBER 9<sup>TH</sup>

NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

DECEMBER ?? CHRISTMAS PARTY

**6:50 p.m. - Meeting adjourned by Tom Martin**

## ***CHAPTER CONTACTS***

### ***CHAPTER CONTACTS—HOW TO CONTACT EAA CHAPTER 974***

[officers@eaa974.org](mailto:officers@eaa974.org) — will reach president, vice president, treasurer, secretary as a group

[president@eaa974.org](mailto:president@eaa974.org) — will reach chapter president (Tom Martin)

[newsletters@eaa974.org](mailto:newsletters@eaa974.org) — will reach newsletter editor (Bob Dombek)

[youngeagles@eaa974.org](mailto:youngeagles@eaa974.org) — will reach Young Eagles Coordinator (Bob Burkhardt)

[techcounselor@eaa974.org](mailto:techcounselor@eaa974.org) — will reach technical counselor (Ray Parker)

[general@lists.eaa974.org](mailto:general@lists.eaa974.org) — group e-mail to all chapter members

[list.admin@eaa974.org](mailto:list.admin@eaa974.org) — to be added or removed from the group email list

# **MARCH 2022 BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

## **09 March 2022 Board Meeting Minutes**

**6:04 p.m.** - Meeting called to order by Tom Martin

**Attendees:** Thomas Martin, Roger McClure, Brandi Brewer, Joey Shreve, Scott Balmos  
Robert Dombek, Scott Hersha

### **Secretaries Report –**

Motion was made to wave the reading of meeting minutes as they were posted in the chapter newsletter.

### **Treasurer's Report –**

Income	\$ 40.00
Expenses	\$ 0.00
Balance	\$ 23,581.11

### **Young Eagles –**

- Scott Balmos would like to schedule YE event on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. This Will begin at 10:00. Any participants are asked to contact Scott Balmos and are asked to arrive before 9:30. Kolaches and donuts will be provided for members.
- We will also have an event on June 11<sup>th</sup>, which is Young Eagles Day. Details to follow.

### **Old Business -**

- Chapter By-Laws are being revised; progress is being made. Will be sent via email for review/comment and then voted on upon completion.
- The need for an Operational Policy was brought up and discussed.
- Scott Hersha recommended we consider offering to other Chapters Prop Balancing for \$100 - Consider a spring workshop out to other chapters as fundraiser. Will need to investigate parameters around EAA Insurance as an event. THIS IS ON HOLD DUE TO COVID.
- Inventory and value assessment need to be completed this year for all Chapter inventory.
- Insulation in Hanger needs to be rehung by the back door – A leak was discovered in the roof that needs to be repaired before the insulation can be rehung. For this to be repaired, roofing tar and adhesive needs to be purchased.



# ***MARCH BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED***

The question was brought up about the possibility for an investment committee to explore possible investments for the Chapter with a portion of the recent income.

Extra 100-pound propane tank that are full to use for the next three meetings.

In May, EAA yearly dues will increase from \$40 to \$48 per year.

Reminders will be sent for all of our items to maintain Chapter Gold status by Tom Martin.

Planning events to maintain Gold status for Chapter. Movie night, FlyIn & Cruise/In, Grill Out.

## **New Business –**

Hangar Cleanout will take place during our May 15<sup>th</sup> gathering. We will also have a grill out that day.

Need to sell donated items. Will set-up in hangar to offer to members to bid on.

Mailing List – Brandi Brewer will handle this item by contacting Serena from HQ. Local EAA members to contact for membership or donations.

Any event for our chapter will need to be insured and marked as a public event for points to count toward our Gold Status with EAA. All events need to be insured!!!!

Kevin Gassert has asked for volunteers on April 16<sup>th</sup> for the Cincinnati Warbirds. They will be bringing the T-6 to HAO and have asked for volunteers.

The group from Lunken that is refurbishing the building is meeting at FAO FBO on the first Thursday of April (7<sup>th</sup>) at 6:00 p.m. Everyone from our group has been invited to join.

Stephen and Brandi Brewer are going to update the First Aid Cabinet and move it closer to the fire extinguisher so it will be more accessible.

## RV6 Project -

This is taking a little longer than expected, but I am making headway. I had a setback with my canopy (cracked), but I have gotten over that, and I'm moving forward. I installed my new engine a couple weeks ago. I was hoping to get some help with this, and I had some people available, which I hadn't set up yet, but when I was finally ready, I went next door, and everyone had already left.....poor planning on my part. So - I hung it by myself. I've done this before, so it wasn't as daunting as I thought it would be, but still a challenge -



Now, before installing any accessories (exhaust system, alternator, etc) I needed to install the engine cowling. This is a fiberglass molded fixture that is made slightly oversized, and needs to be trimmed to fit. This is maybe the second most difficult task, next to the canopy, to be dealt with. Fortunately Jon (Thocker) and I bought a fixture to aid in cowl installation a few years ago, and a handful of local builders (including me) have benefited from this purchase. This jig allows you to align your cowling with your spinner backplate where you want it in terms of spacing, and secure it in that location, so you can trim the cowl to the final shape on the airframe, and install hinges, or whatever attachment form you are looking for.



Once trimmed I had to fit and install the hinges to the fuselage/firewall, and ultimately the cowling for final attachment to the airplane. Today, I did that to the lower part of the cowling, and tomorrow, I'll do it to the upper section. Vans recommends riveting and bonding this part, using an epoxy/flox blend for strength. To help this work, you should drill extra 3/16-1/4" holes for bond strength.



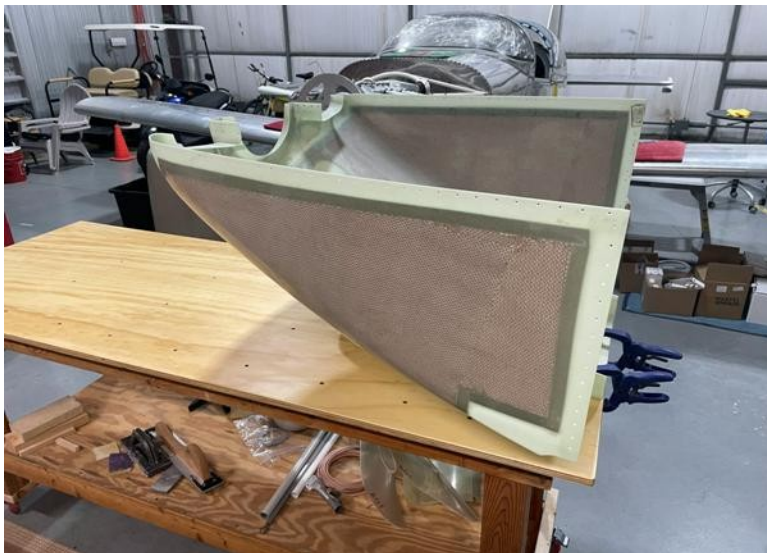
## **SCOTT HERSHA'S RV6 COWLING, CONTINUED**

The mating surface of the hinges, and the fiberglass surface had to be 'roughed up' with 80 grit to allow the epoxy to 'tooth in' prior to cure. This went well today. Top half of the cowl to come next.

Everything fit up fine, and I was pleased with the fit and clearances prior to riveting/bonding them in place. I hope this doesn't work out, like I've seen before, where, after installation of the hardware, it doesn't line up or fit like it did before. Very minor movements in a large structure (relatively) can make noticeable changes in the final product.

There are a few fiberglass cowling 'adjustments' to make before I consider it complete, but the the major portion has been done - I hope. I still hope to be flying this bird this spring, so I have something to fly this summer - even if it's just phase 1 flight testing. Painting will come late fall/winter.

Pictures and text: Scott Hersha



Editors Note: Beautiful Scott and very nice work! Thanks for sharing with the chapter!

# **RV9-A CENTER CONSOLE, SCOTT BALMOS**

Here we see Scott Balmos fashioning his new center console for his RV9A

1. Original center console as built per kit.
2. Cockpit interior after removal of original center console, upholstery and seats
3. Scott made a cardboard template to cut and fit in the space.
4. Here is the cardboard template as it compares to the finished product
5. Center console almost complete
6. Center console showing addition of fuel valve and cover plates

Editors Note: Photos and text, ed. courtesy of Scott Balmos. Great work Scott and thanks for sharing with the chapter!

