

TAILWINDS



**EAA CHAPTER
974
NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2023**



Butler County Regional Airport
Hamilton, Ohio



IN THIS EDITION

- **OCTOBER GATHERING PHOTO REVIEW**
- **KEILAH GILL, RAY SCHOLAR STORY**
- **BOARD BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**
- **HANGAR CRAWL**
- **FOR SALE**

COMING EVENTS

- **NOV 8 CHAPTER BOARD MEETING KHAO HANGAR T5J**
- **NOV 12 CHAPTER GATHERING 2 PM**
- **NOV 14 HOGAN FIELD OPEN HOUSE 5-7 PM**
- **DEC 6 CHAPTER BOARD MEETING**
- **DEC 10 CHAPTER GATHERING/CHILI COOKOFF**
- **JAN 6 CHAPTER CHRISTMAS BANQUET**



CHAPTER GATHERING OCTOBER 2023



It doesn't show quite as well from these photos but we had a great turnout for the October 2023 Gathering. The big draw this month was Cincinnati Style Chili provided by Prez Tom and served by Grace Hogan and Keilah Gill. Of course the other draw (almost an afterthought after great chili and fixins) was to look at and talk about airplanes. We made a special event of that this month by hosting our annual hangar crawl, once known as the project tour. We visited 7 member hangars on the field, each with it's own unique project. This year we visited each hangar on a schedule as group, spending about 15 minutes at each point. Each stop was an education in itself as each member talked about the challenges and learning experiences with their projects



Pictured left is Buddy Smith. Buddy passed his Sport Pilot Flight Test on September 9, 2023 at Red Stewart Field. He trained over 60 hours in a Champ, taking 13 months. His instructor was Mike Stewart. Buddy said life occasionally got in the way which caused things to stretch out. Congratulations Buddy!! Photos: ed.



YOUNG EAGLE KEILAH'S FIRST FLIGHT

feeling like I wouldn't be ready on time. I chose two or three topics to review each week and my parents quizzed me with lots of practice questions. A webinar from the Girl's Love to Fly organization and conversations with Billy Bie really helped me know what to expect going into the test. Leonora Pallotta did a couple of mock check rides with me the week beforehand, acting as the DPE, which was good to fly with someone testing each maneuver.

My aviation journey began with my first Young Eagles flight at the age of 13. That flight made me decide to become a pilot, but I had no idea where to start. Fast-forward to 2022, when I became more serious about starting flight training. After spending one year applying for as many scholarships as I could find, I was blessed to receive the Ray Aviation Scholarship from EAA. The past six months of flight training have been amazing, and I've learned so much.

After completing all the required training hours, the checkride was scheduled one month in advance. I was nervous at first,



WITH INSTRUCTORS LEONORA AND BILLY

Then came the checkride on October 9th. I arrived at the airport an hour early to finish my cross country flight plan and weather briefing, double check the maintenance logs and preflight the airplane. The oral exam began at 9:00 AM and lasted for 1.5 hours. The main topics I struggled with were chart symbology and airspace rules, but everything else was easier than I expected. During the oral exam, I remembered information from conversations with different people- discussing weight and balance with Tom Martin; practicing radio communications with Robin Kidder; learning about engines and systems with Joey Shreve, and I'm sure there were others that I'm not recalling now (thanks for your help!).



FIRST SOLO!

RAY SCHOLAR KEILAH GILL

The cross country flight was planned to KMDW (Chicago Midway International). We diverted to KOXD after 2 checkpoints. He tested me on steep turns, a power-off and power-on stall, emergency descent, slow flight, a turn-around-a-point, about five minutes of hood time and one unusual attitude. Then three landings back at KHAO- normal, short, and soft. During the last landing, he pulled the power to idle on downwind, so it was a simulated engine-out, soft field landing. Our flight time was 1.9. A few people told me that's surprisingly long, but I was purposely taking my time with everything- pausing between each maneuver to make sure I had fully recovered, before setting up for the next one. He mentioned that one reason people fail their checkrides is because they're rushing through everything, trying to finish too quickly- I didn't want to do that.

After taxiing back to the hangar and shutting down the engine with no problems, I assumed that I had passed, since the examiner had not told me I had failed. During the debrief, he mentioned a few small errors (forgetting to use the carb heat once, for example) but said that overall, it was a good flight. He said, "The important thing now is

that I trust you to carry passengers", which is when I knew I passed. I've been looking forward to that day since my first flight in 2018. And it finally happened



KEILAH TAKES HER MOM FLYING

Currently, my long-term goal is to be a missionary pilot. Missionary pilots help transport people and supplies to and from remote areas in other countries. Next steps include getting my instrument rating and possibly an A&P license (many missionary aviation organizations require their pilots to also be mechanics). I'm also planning to volunteer as a Young Eagles pilot. Thank you to Chapter 974 for your help and support through my training! I'm looking forward to improving my skills as a private pilot and to learning more! All Photos: Cheyenne Gill



KEILAH WITH DPE AFTER PASSING TEST!



CELEBRATION WITH MOM & DAD!

CHAPTER BOARD BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

6:02 p.m. - Meeting called to order by Tom Martin

Attendees: Roger McClure, Grace Hogan, Scott Balmos, Tom Martin

Secretaries Report –

- Motion made to wave reading minutes- posted in chapter newsletter.

Treasurer's Report –

Income	\$ 2,464.25
Expenses	\$ 1,023.11
Balance: Checking	\$ 4914.95
I-Bond	\$ 5,382.00
CDs	\$10,170.22
Savings	<u>\$ 2,002.76</u>
Total	\$ 22,469.93

Young Eagles

- Next date: October 14th
- 9 pilots confirmed; 29 Young eagles signed up
- Last Rally of the season!
- New flight routes

Old Business -

- Tower tour at CVG: Max 20 people per tour. Has to be weekdays during business hours. Tentatively October 18th, 24th, Nov 2nd at 1:00 PM. Sign up at the meeting.
- Study group before chapter meetings 12:30
- Public Event Ideas: hanger trick or treat
- Chili Cookoff at December meeting
- Hanger Crawl: this meeting.
- Name tags for meetings: 50 are done and on the board. Be sure to wear them at the meetings. Sign up if you don't have a nametag on the board.
- New member packet
- T-Shirts and Polos for the chapter
- Elections in November

New Business –

- Christmas Party Jan 6th: Same hotel, same delicious food, limited to 50 people.

UPCOMING 2023 MEETINGS

OCTOBER 8TH

NOVEMBER 12TH

DECEMBER 10TH

JANUARY 6TH

6:49 p.m. - Meeting adjourned by Tom Martin

Our first stop was Kevin Gassert's hangars T6 and H. Kevin's Ercoupe, White Lightning, was on the lift with Doug Hurd's immediately below. There were at least 3 or 4 other Ercoupes in various stages of restoration in his adjoining hangar. We saw quite an evolution of Ercoupe models, almost a museum. Keep up the good work and keep those Ercoupes flying! Thanks Ercoupe Guru Kevin! Photos ed.



We moved down the row to T6K to visit Brian Charlton. Brian's project is a YX which he built originally as a tail dragger, converted it to tri-cycle gear, then, recently, back to tail wheel. He felt it was really meant to be a tail wheel plane. No doubt it was a lot of work to go back to that configuration, but it looks sharp. Great work Brian, and thanks for the visit!

Photos: ed.



We next moved to hangar row T5 to see Jason Pratt's RV6 in T5I. Jason acquired his RV6 in 2021. Jason said it was built in 1998 by another builder. If memory serves correctly, he was accompanied by Billy Bie on the trip from Memphis. Jason's RV has undergone many upgrades and improvements., the most recent being new prop and auto pilot. Here we see it going through it's condition inspection. It's beautiful Jason! Thanks for the visit!
Photos: ed.



Immediately next door is your newsletter editor, (me) Bob Dombek, in hangar T5H. I have a two ship hangar thanks to an Aero Lift. Seen above on the lift is my Rans S7 Courier, finished in 2000. Below is my most recent project, a Fisher Flying Products 80% scale Tiger Moth. It was signed off in 2021 followed by the two years of engine grief. The engine was out of a 1995 Geo Tracker and converted by Raven Re-drives. Rebuilt by Total Performance Racing it's now running well.



Photos: Greg Koedel



Across the way to hangar row 4 we visited Scott Balmos in hangar T4B to see his RV9A. Scott says he started construction in January of 2012. FAA Airworthiness Certificate came on June 28 2018 with first flight on July 4 2018. Scott flew it to a paint shop in Alabama where it was professionally painted in 2021. It is magnificent and Scott has already garnered some awards including best workmanship at Sun-N-Fun in 2023. Scott likes to fly high so he's showing us his oxygen equipment. Beautiful job Scott and Thanks for the visit!



Photos: ed.

We then moved to hangar row 3 in hangar T3F to see Greg Koedel's Aeronca Champ. It was beautifully restored locally by Bill Duffy. Greg acquired it from Bill. It was upgraded from a model 7AC to a CCM When Bill installed a C-90 engine during restoration. We see Greg and son Camden flying together frequently. They have taken several trips together including Kitty Hawk. I'll bet it won't long until we see Camden flying it! Beautiful Champ Greg. Thanks for sharing! Photos: ed.



Our final stop was with Ray Parker in hangar T10F. Ray has a Long EZ and Dragon Fly. The Long EZ, his favorite, he acquired from an estate sale partially finished. The Dragon fly he's had much longer, since 1991. He flew it from California to KHAO when he moved here. Ray is our Chapter Technical Counselor. Here he is letting our Ray Scholar, Keilah Gill, try on the Long EZ for size. Looks like a good fit! Thanks, Ray, for the visit and generously sharing your technical expertise! Photos: ed.



CHAPTER CONTACTS

CHAPTER CONTACTS—HOW TO CONTACT EAA CHAPTER 974

officers@eaa974.org — will reach president, vice president, treasurer, secretary as a group

president@eaa974.org — will reach chapter president (Tom Martin)

newsletters@eaa974.org — will reach newsletter editor (Bob Dombek)

youngeagles@eaa974.org — will reach Young Eagles Coordinator (Bob Burkhardt)

techcounselor@eaa974.org — will reach technical counselor (Ray Parker)

general@lists.eaa974.org — group e-mail to all chapter members

FOR SALE

SKYTEC STARTER FOR SALE

Model 149-12PM. 12 VOLT

TEXTRON LYCOMING. PART NUMBER. 31A22100

FITS VARIOUS LYCOMINGS

\$275 PLEASE CALL DAVE 513-646-7061

