

TAILWINDS



**EAA CHAPTER
974
NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2016**



Butler County Regional Airport
Hamilton, Ohio



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THE GREAT 2016 HANGAR CRAWL!



Bill Conn, Hangar T5-1 was our first stop. Bill has two projects in the works. First, he is restoring Sonerai N974GV. He is currently working on wiring upgrades. He is also installing a dual ignition system on the VW-type power plant. Bill is also working on his Flybaby N3826 restoration. He is changing the engine from a 65 HP to a 75 HP. An electrical system will also be added. There's nothing like juggling two projects, eh Bill?



Photos: ed.



Howard Plevyak's hangar was our next stop. Howard recently completed his beautiful Glastar Sportsman, N19HL which he started in 6/1998. He won a Bronze Lindy at Airventure 2016. It's powered by an EXP 360 of 180 HP and a Whirlwind prop. He reports a top speed of 141K and cruise of 135K. First flight was 4/2015. He now has 169 hrs of flight time. Howard keeps his Glastar sparkling clean Wash & Wax-All. We can all attest to that, Howard! It always looks beautiful



Photos: ed.



Ken Jones, in Hangar T9-B is another two-project juggler. Ken spent 18 months in a massive restoration of a Glasair involved in an incident by the previous owner. He converted it from a tail dragger to tricycle gear. It is powered by a Lycoming O-360. First flight was in 7/2016. He is currently working on new fairings and the transponder. Check out the beautiful interior (inset photo). Ken's other project is a Sonex which he has been flying for some time. He is completing it's condition inspection.



Photos: ed.



We next visited Dick King and his beautiful Glastar, N12YR in hangar T10-A. His N number is code for the 12 year construction time, and it's completion year, 2012. Dick reports 4200 hrs of build time for his project. It's powered by an IO-360 of 180 HP.

Photos: ed.





Out final stop was a visit to Mark Wyss' Zenith 750 in hangar T10-C. Caleb Schmidt was helping Mark on a regular basis until he went away to college. Mark says construction has really slowed down without Caleb's help. The power plant is an O-290 D2. Mark is planning to put the Zenith on floats. He is currently flying an RV-4 which he restored earlier. Also nearby in the hangar is a Starduster restoration project which is currently on hold until the Zenith is complete.



A final note about the Hangar Crawl. It is an old Chapter 974 tradition which had not happened since 2007. It was once known as the Project Tour, but I think the title Hangar Crawl gives it a little zing and a little class. Your editor would like to say a special thanks to President Mark Wyss and Vice President Al Kenkel for spearheading and organizing the Crawl. A special thanks goes to Mark for leading the Crawl when Al had a last minute obligation which kept him from being there. Finally, a huge thanks goes to those members who offered to show your projects:

*Bill Conn
Howard Plevyak
Ken Jones
Dick King
Mark Wyss*

I'm sure I speak for the chapter when I say the Hangar Crawl was a fun and educational experience. I'm already looking forward to the next one! Thanks to all!!

Bob Dombek, editor

THE PREZ SEZ.....

A thank you to all who took time to check out the auction items and especially to those who bid on items. The total of bids from Chapter members was \$ 1951. An additional \$ 938 was raised via classifieds placed on the Vans Airforce site. Several items are yet to be listed on the Vans site, so we expect the total amount raised will grow as more items sell.



Now a shout out to Al Kunkel. Al has done a great job as Chapter VP. He researched the possibilities for the year's programs, asked for input on program choices, and adjusted the program choices based on Chapter input. The result was consistently interesting programs this year. Al organized the successful Hanger Crawl and made sure there were snacks at each meeting. I am sure he will do an equally fine job as President of the Chapter in 2017. Great job Al.

Thank to the many folks who pitched in this year to make my job easy.

Mark Wyss

EAA CHAPTER 974 CONTACTS

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

president@eaa974.org — will reach chapter president (Mark Wyss)

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

list.admin@eaa974.org — to be added or removed from the group email list

SECRETARY'S REPORT...MEETING MINUTES

EAA Chapter 974 Monthly Meeting
Sunday, November 6, 2016



Call To Order & Pledge of Allegiance: 2:01pm

Guests: Bob Schrempf – From Indiana, 1946 Ercoupe

Secretary's Report: Minutes from October accepted.

Treasurer's Report:

+ \$430 income, -\$619 expenses (\$585 of which is hangar condo fee) = -\$189 for October
20 people still have not paid 2016 dues, others missing payments for 2+ years

Historian/Librarian/Newsletters (Bob Dombek): Nothing of major note. October newsletter is available.
Thank you for the ongoing contributions!

Young Eagles Report (Bob Burkhardt): Previous one request for a ride was passed along to Bob Dombek. No return email yet since.

Hangar Master Report: Still here. Nice work on the wall.

Tech Counselor Report (Ray Parker): Nothing of note

Project Reports:

Bob Dombek – Engine is hung on the Tiger Moth

Scott Balmos – Prop is on. Many things going on at once

Mark Wyss – O-290 engine is hung on the 750 project. Doing cowling work now. Carb needs to be refurbished

Chapter Business:

2017 Officer Elections:

Al moves up to President

Scott Balmos elected to Vice President

Tim Morris elected to Secretary

Roger continuing as Treasurer

Christmas Party: Slated for Friday, December 2, dinner to be served 7:00pm-ish. Will be in the Gold Room of the Houston Inn. Full open menu, everyone pays their own bill.

Auction proceeding. 10-12 bids so far (around \$900 committed). Closes Nov. 16.

Scales have been refurbished center pad wire extended for taildraggers

Heater will be worked on soon. John's plane can't be moved at the moment, and is in the way temporarily

Hangar garage door will be in another few weeks, once John Chappell calls for help

Mark Webb from Chapter 174 informed all that Batesville, IN airport (HLB, old Hillenbrand private airport) went public this past year. A nice 6000x100 strip, with 3 courtesy cars available to take you into town for a bite to eat. Looking for people to come and increase airport traffic

Adjourned: 2:30 pm

MEETING MINUTES, CONTINUED

Hangar crawl afterwards, visiting various projects' hangars around the airport – a long-lost Chapter 974 annual tradition revived.

Submitted,
Scott Balmos – Secretary

RED BULL AIR RACE, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Thanks to chapter member Steve Chapla, we have some shots of the Red Bull Air Race held at the Brickyard (Indy 500 race course) on Sunday, October 2nd. Weather-wise, it did not look like the most promising of days, but the race looked exciting all the same. Steve included some shots of B-17 Yankee Lady. Very cool. Thanks Steve!



Now here's a pair of happy guys. Left is FAA Examiner Mike Puehler and right is chapter VP Al Kenkel. Al is happy just having passed his checkride at Wilmington Airport. Al says Mike is happy having survived the ride! Come on Al! I know it was better than that! Al confessed it truly went well. The sharp looking aircraft is an Aerotrek from the Czech Republic. Congratulations Al!! Photo: Al Kenkel



Center and right we find Al Kenkel and Brian Charlton working on "the wall". (No, not THAT wall!) It's good to see the chapter hangar taking on a more finished look. It's still a work in progress but it's looking good guys! Many thanks Al and Brian.



Photos: Mark Wyss

Hey John! Taking a nap? Here's a scene that repeats itself everywhere I look. I've been there myself. Haven't we all? I caught John Prince working under and behind the panel of his Glasair restoration project. It's up on its gear in the chapter hangar. Looking good John!

Photo: ed.



CHAPTER MEMBER PROFILE—KEVIN GASSERT

From time to time I hope to include a chapter member profile. Featured this month is a profile of Kevin Gassert. It was submitted by Bob Louderback who says he would like to present other members as their stories become available. Thanks, Bob!

Kevin Gassert is a very active member of EAA Chapter 974 and believes in Ercoupes Uber Alles. He has quite a bit of productive experience in the type and says “A lot of people buy them because I’ll work on them, but nix on 150’s.



Kevin grew up in Goshen an unspecified number of years ago and served six years in the Navy where he specialized in A6 Intruder radar and electronics.

He completed the aviation technician program at Cincinnati State College and holds an A and P. Most members know him for throwing a summer cookout at his hangar annually.

He had his first sport aviation ride with an older cousin, in of all things, a Cessna 150.

Kevin got into computers as a day job and decided to buy a plane and get active in EAA or give up aviation. He found his first Coupe weed-surrounded at the late lamented Blue Ash Airport. He really knew nothing of Coupes but thoroughly researched them and had it airworthy in a year.

Well enamored of sport aviation, he sold it and bought a Navion in 1996 from owners who had lost their medical. He flew it a few years, sold it, and bought another Coupe which he restored and traded for Bellanca Cruisair, which he traded for his current Coupe. He used an Airtex kit in the job, which took a year. The ship is an early example of the type, having left the factory in January of 1941.

Kevin and his wife live in Mack in Western Hamilton County.

Photos: ed.



KEVIN RESTORING A RECENT ACQUISITION