

# TAILWINDS



**EAA CHAPTER  
974  
NEWSLETTER  
JANUARY 2020**



Butler County Regional Airport  
Hamilton, Ohio



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# **THE GREAT AERO LIFT ADVENTURE**

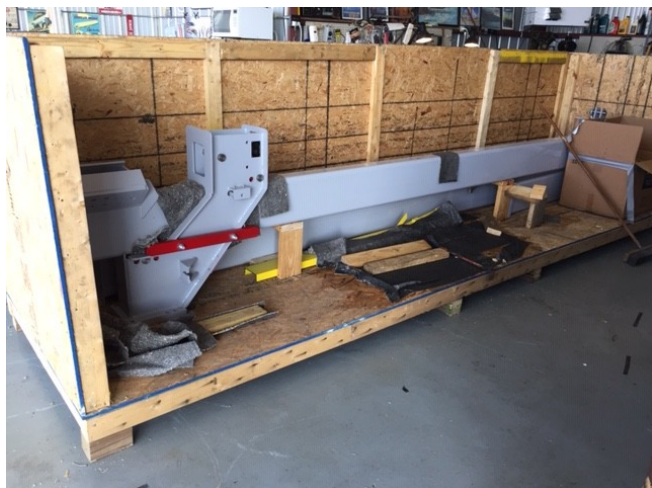
By now, many of you have seen my hangar lift, aka Aero Lift. This was my choice between, renting a second hangar, selling my existing hangar in the hopes of buying a bigger one, or coming up with some sort of vertical storage. These things are built to order. I placed my order in mid August, and it arrived 3 months later, on November 16. It took another month of tweaking to get the beast working right, but I've been happy with the end result. It wasn't cheap. The trade off will be to drive my 10 year old car another 3 years! I'll let the pictures tell the rest of the story.



Delivery from Lynn Haven, Fla via flat bed trailer courtesy of Mullins Transport



Driver and owner Curtis Mullins looks on as Brian Charlton lifts from trailer with chapter forklift. Crate and contents 3000 pounds



The big crate partly opened to show the Parts. Some adult assembly required. Batteries not included!



Chapter member and pro fork lift guy Brian Charlton hoists Aero Lift to vertical position

# AERO LIFT ADVENTURE, CONTINUED



Couldn't have done it without lots of chapter Help. Many others helped at critical points



Assembly complete but needed some tweaks before ready for plane



Rans S7 on the lift. Starting to look like This might just work!

Below, breaking up the crate.



Just enough clearance to squeeze the Tiger Moth in. Geez! My hangar almost looks neat!

Below, Tom Hogan wanted the crate, but a few scraps went to my wood stove



**The Prez Says** – January 22, 2020  
Cincinnati, OH

## **EAA's Leadership Academy**

Hello everyone,



This past weekend I had the special opportunity to attend *EAA's Leadership Academy* held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Similar to the one-day bootcamp event held in Indianapolis, and attended by Joey and Roger this past year, this is an expanded two-day format, with Chapter leaders attending from across the globe. We had two attendees in from Hawaii, and another from Alaska.

After arrival Friday evening, we got to network with each other before dinner, then on to a behind the scenes tour of the Sonex Aircraft factory with Director of Chapters leader, Charlie Becker. Wow! Getting to see the advances they have made in delivering laser cut, preformed, aluminum pieces with pre-drilled pilot holes was truly impressive. I've included some pictures of the tour below.

Saturday and Sunday were power packed days with back-to-back one-hour sessions! Things got kicked-off by Jack Pelton, EAA CEO. He covered key initiatives that are being focused on in 2020, his perspective on the climate of Aviation in America, and specific advocacy areas where the EAA is partnering with the FAA to protect our freedom to fly. This includes changes in the Light Sport Aircraft category to significantly increase the qualifying aircraft weight and may even include removing the weight restriction all together, moving to performance-based characteristics instead.

The balance of the sessions were presented by Charlie and the Chapters leadership team. Talks spanned from resources available to Chapters, how to keep our Chapter vibrant and growing, how to partner and work with local press outlets, as well as covering new digital system rollouts tied to Young Eagles, and a new website offering.

The passion, enthusiasm, and creative ideas shared by the leadership, and amongst everyone in attendance was invigorating, and a great way to kick off 2020! I look forward to getting to talk more about the session at the upcoming Chapter gathering, but here are a few photos from the weekend to enjoy.

Safe Landings,

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# PREZ TOM'S EAA MUSEUM AND SONEX FACTORY TOUR





*Your editor regrets missing the January chapter meeting. No one offered any input from the meeting but Che' Joey sent me pictures of his Beef Stew, Tiramisu Cake, Yorkshire Pudding and David's Tea. Wow!! Sorry I missed it but thanks Joey!*

## CHAPTER CONTACTS

### *How to Contact 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

<http://wiki.eaa974.org> — chapter wiki page

## **AROUND THE FIELD AND OTHER PLACES**

Here are spectacular and breathtaking shots crossing the Smokies from Prez Tom Martin taken on a family trip to Myrtle Beach South Carolina in November 2019. Tom was flying one of the Flying Neutrons Cessna 182's. I'll call this the "other places" part of this section of the newsletter. Thanks Tom! The young co-pilot seen on right is Everett, Tom and Barb's nephew.



## **NEW CURBS AND FENCES**

New curbs were poured on 11/1/19 followed by new fences between the hangar rows. Some of us were none too kind about driving over the grass or jumping the curb as a short cut to our hangars. I guess the new curbs and fences will keep us honest, may help security and will help the landscaping. We appreciate management's efforts at keeping us attractive, safe and secure.



# **AROUND THE FIELD CONTINUED, JAMIE'S VELOCITY**

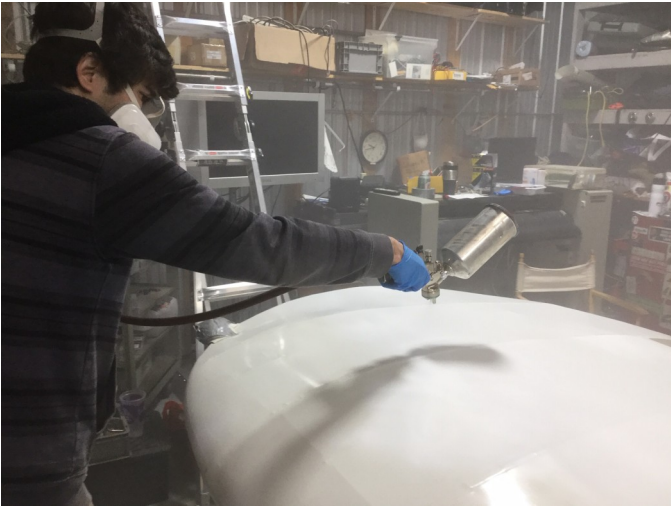
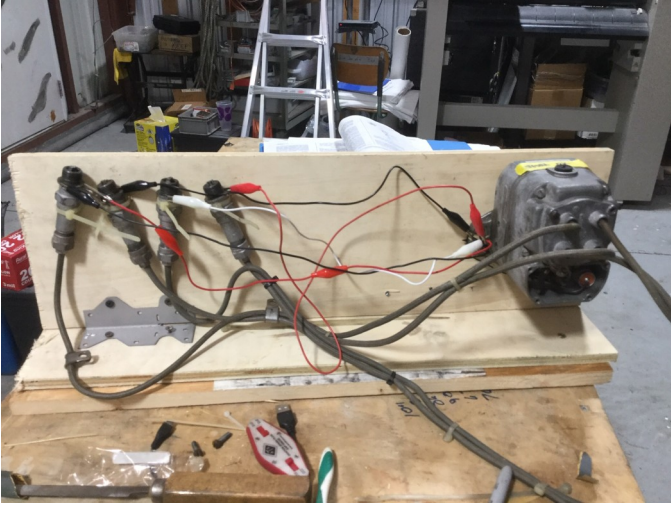
*It's amazing what we can stuff in our hangars. Just when Jamie Hicks thought his hangar was full, he found a partially completed velocity project, and amazingly, made it fit! Of course the wings are not installed, a minor detail. It has a Mazda Rotary engine installed which Jamie says he probably will not keep. Looks like this will keep you busy, Jamie, as if you needed to keep busy! Happiness is a full hangar!*





## **MORE AROUND THE FIELD, MORRIS-SCHMIDT TRI-PACER**

Tim Morris and Caleb Schmidt acquired John Prince's Tri-Pacer project and have proceeded with restoration. This is great practical experience for Caleb who is finishing his A and P course. Once done, it will give him ready access to a classic flying machine to build more flying time. Tim says projected completion was mid January but we all know how that goes. All the same, it's looking good guys. Can't wait to see it in the air.





You could call this a good news, bad news story. The good news is seen in the top row, where Kevin Gassert installs a new baggage area in Joey Shreve's Ercoupe. No sooner this is done, Joey takes his 'Coupe out for a test hop. While in the pattern, the bad news happens. Lower row shows his side window has shattered, sending a chunk of poly through his rear window, just missing the back of his head. Phew! Scary! Glad you're Ok Joey!

