

TAILWINDS



**EAA CHAPTER
974
NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2020**



Butler County Regional Airport
Hamilton, Ohio



IN THIS EDITION:

APRIL 2020 ZOOM GATHERING

VMC CLUB

THE PREZ SEZ

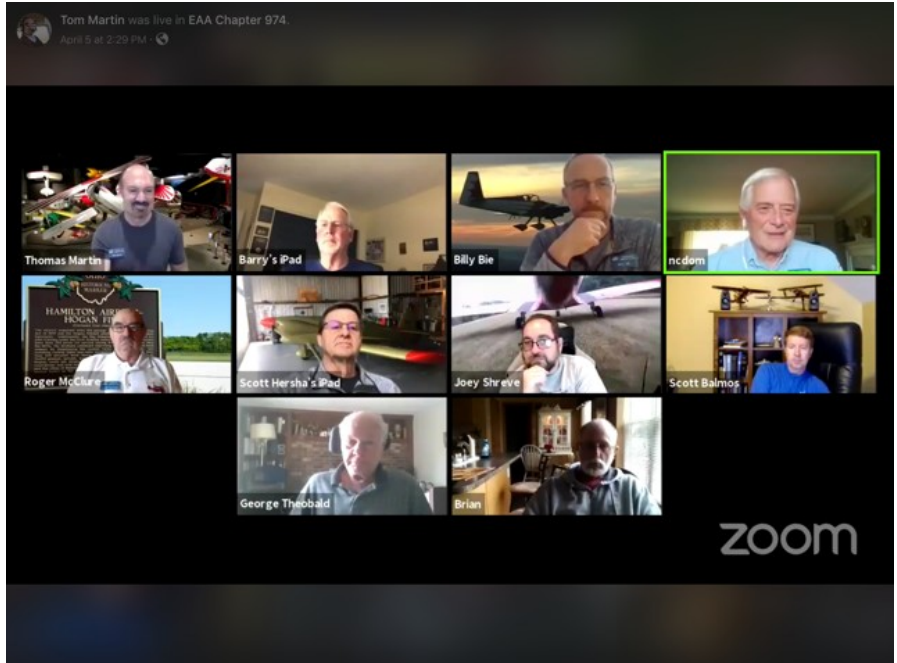
AROUND THE FIELD

MARCH 25 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

CHAPTER CONTACTS

APRIL 2020 GATHERING WRAP-UP

I always like to publish pictures from the meeting. This month was no exception with one small difference. What you are seeing are screen shots. In the interest of Covid -19 safety and the need to avoid large gatherings, we gathered electronically courtesy of the internet and Zoom. It was not too bad all things considered. We were still able to present items of importance.



Scott Balmos held a brief discussion of a possible Young Eagles Rally on June 14. Of course this will depend on whether it's safe for us and any participants in view of the pandemic.

Scott Hersha brought up the two project donations received by the chapter and their eventual disposition. The first priority is to inventory both projects then decide whether to keep them as possible chapter projects towards a future flying club or sell them outright. Any sale will give chapter members first priority.

Scott also discussed the issue of fitness to fly. We should evaluate our immediate fitness each and every time we want to fly. For example, are we feeling well and alert or sick and distracted? Are the conditions right for our skill level for an upcoming flight? We should enter a personal minimums contract or have a personal minimums checklist. On a longer term basis he relayed a suggestion from chapter member Doug Hurd about having a session on the aging pilot and what limitations we should place on ourselves as we age.

As a final note, Scott urged us to approach Basic Med honestly for those that use it. He emphasized that it is not meant to be a way to fly if you can't qualify for a 3rd Class Medical Certificate.

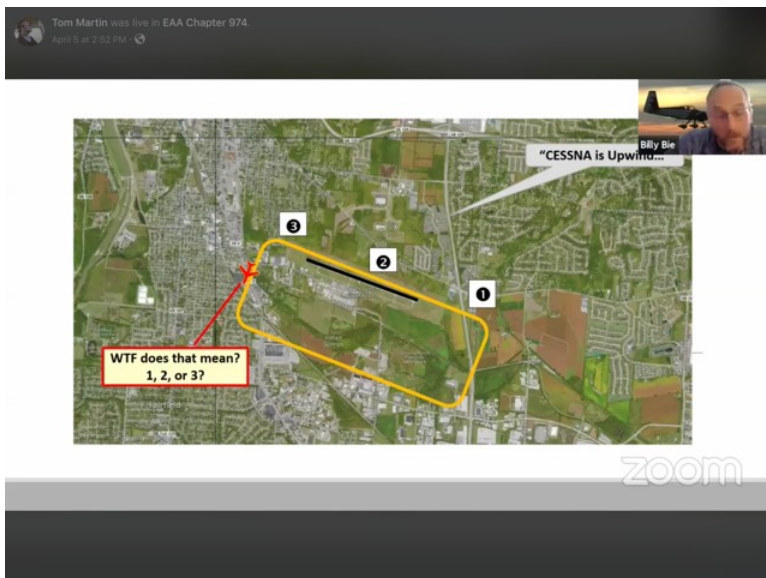
Project Reports: (Pictures to follow later in this edition)

Tom Martin reported on his success in making up D-sub connectors for his transponder

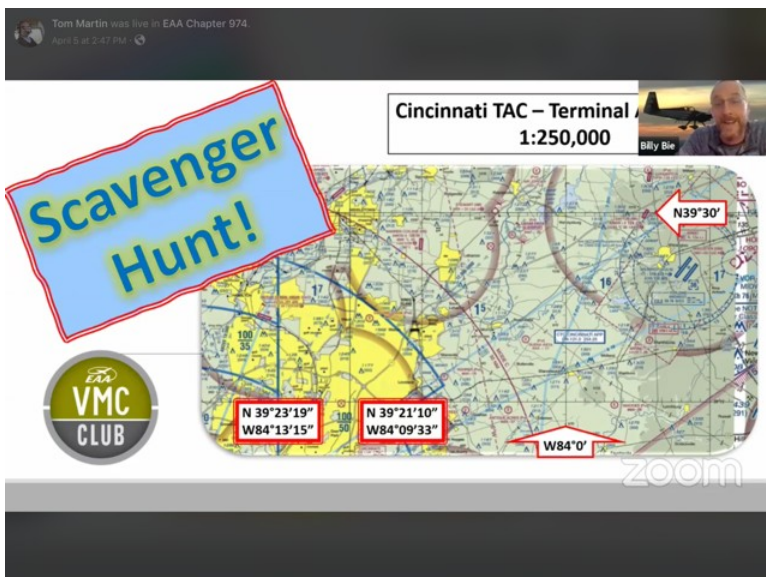
Scott Balmos reported working on fiberglass fairings for his RV-9 in anticipation of his upcoming paint shop reservation.

Bob Dombek reported on preparing to install the wings on his Tiger Moth.

Using Zoom, our VMC Club Instructor, Billy Bie, encouraged us to develop and participate in a pilot proficiency plan. This month he talked about ways we can safely simulate engine failure in various flight regimes especially in or near airport traffic patterns. This might include the “impossible turn” after take off or at other points in the pattern. He suggested using lightly used fields nearby such as Oxford KOXD or Richmond KRID.



Another topic was the stress created due to incomplete, confusing or untimely radio calls in the pattern. See upper right. Billy stressed the importance of using standard traffic pattern entry and departure procedures and standard radio terminology. It's important that we talk to each other and ask for verification of position if there is any doubt. He also stressed that we should use plain English and be descriptive of where we are.



Billy then presented a section of the Cincinatti Terminal Area Chart on which he had GPS coordinates marked for unique landmarks. See lower right. He challenged us to go out and find these ourselves as a way of using a paper chart, our GPS and our eyeballs.

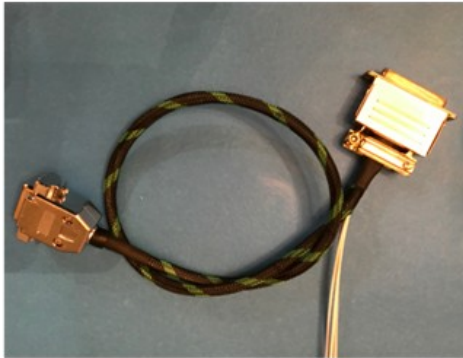
Finally, Billy held a short quiz. As this whole presentation was very visual requiring multiple screen changes and interaction between participants, I will leave this page as a summary and urge all members to go to the Chapter Facebook page where most of the VMC Club and Gathering have been recorded.

Thanks to all who participated in the VMC Club. Remember, it's good for Wings credit. Be sure Billy has your email address so he can send your verification. Most of all, thanks again Billy for a great and fun VMC Club session.

Confidence... Experience Builds It!

Hi everyone,

I've always been a mechanical "hand-on" guy. Anything that I can see, touch, and tear apart, comes fairly easily. Electronics on the other hand... Well, those invisible electrons and all their unique connective flows have always been one of my areas for struggle and improvement.



Back in September last year, I added the uAvionix skyBeacon to the Merlin to obtain ADS-B out. What that project exposed was that my legacy Narco AT-150 TSO was no longer transmitting, and in need of replacement. Tim Morris was gracious in loaning me a back-up AT-150 to get through the process of passing the ADS-B out installation, but I knew it was time to either replace or upgrade the transponder.

This past November, I encouraged everyone in the Chapter to use the winter months to consider learning a new skill. Well, as much as I wanted to simply procure a used AT-150 and slide it into the existing rack, I knew it was time to upgrade to something solid-state. I also knew, it would require me to learn some new skills.

After obtaining a "new to me" Garmin GTX 327 off of eBay with a "return to service" yellow-tag, and armed with a large pot of coffee, I set out on YouTube, Internet surfing, and book reading to learn the ins and outs of creating connection diagrams, and building D-Sub connector cables.

Wow... What a learning it was! You can see through the series of photos attached my journey along the way. Here are some of the skills I learned:

- Creating cable connection diagrams using the two manufacturers manuals to decipher the pinouts between the two devices and documenting those to construct the connecting cable
- Procuring the right connectors, pins, and related tools to construct the cable itself
- Constructing the D-Sub cable, testing, testing, and testing again prior to installation
- Creating a new mounting bracket that would fit inside the old transponder location but contain the GTX 327.

But of all the skills I learned, I don't anything can take away from the confidence I gained as I plugged in the transponder for a "smoke-test" and was rewarded for all my due diligence with no smoke, but instead a solidly transmitting new transponder!

THE PREZ SEZ.....CONTINUED

Yes, it took me all winter to replace one component in the panel, but the confidence I've gained has encouraged me to replace and update other components. (I don't think the next ones will take as long.)

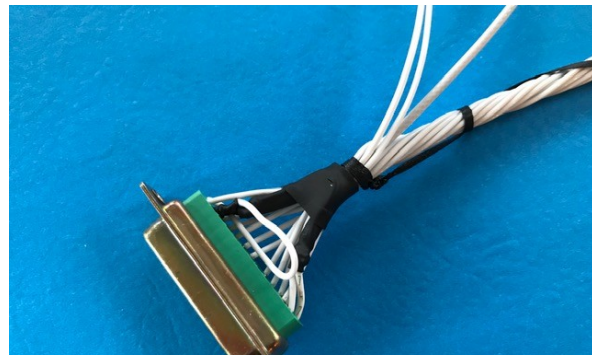
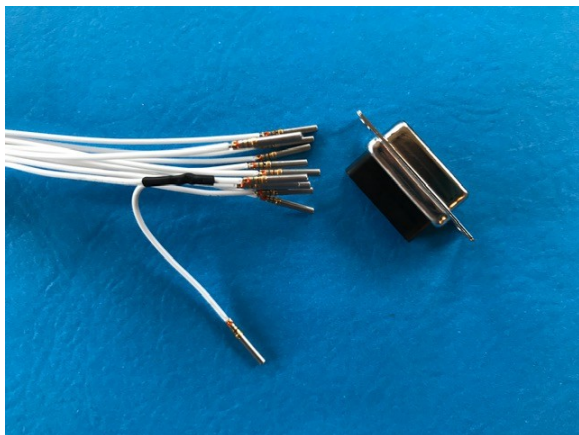
Did you learn a new skill this winter? Please share... We'd love to hear about your experience and get it published out to the team. If you have photos all the better. (Just send an email to Bob Dombek rdombek@cinci.rr.com)

We'll be having meetings virtually again this month. I hope to see everyone on-line via Zoom. If you have any questions on how to connect, don't hesitate to reach out.

Safe landings and stay well!!

Tom Martin EAA #1061241
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Cincinnati, Ohio
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Photos both pages: Tom Martin



AROUND THE FIELD...AND OTHER PLACES

By now everyone probably knows about the project donations we received. They are two Zenith 601's, one with a Jabiru engine and the other with a Lycoming. Here are a few shots of the retrieval process. Several chapter members were involved. It looked like everyone was trying to maintain reasonable distance from everyone else, but this was a little tricky at times. The retrieval was successful.

Photos: Tom Martin



Below left and right I caught Kevin Gassert finishing a storage loft in his newly acquired second hangar. It is right next to his existing hangar in row T6. Looks great Kevin and you should be able to store a lot of stuff there. I'll bet it will fill up fast!

Photos: ed.





Above left and right Tim Morris wants to be prepared for catching the Covid-19 coronavirus. In keeping with the homebuilding spirit, he's building his own ventilator. It's great to be prepared Tim, but we hope you don't need it! Photos: ed.



This was a big moment, as the wings start to go on my Tiger Moth project. This is just a temporary mounting of the lower wings just to verify aileron pushrod length. The wings have removed temporarily, and final riveting of the pushrods is done. Next the upper wings go on followed by replacement of the lower wings. Of course I had to enlist the aid of my wife Nancy to make her feel part of the project. (Not that she didn't already, having given up most of her laundry room for over 10 years!) Thanks Nancy! Photos: ed.

CHAPTER BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES 3-25-2020

6:05PM - Meeting called to order by Tom Martin

Secretaries Report -

President Tom Martin read the meeting minutes to all present

Treasurer's Report -

- Total Income \$467.34
- Total Expenses \$500.00 - Young Eagles RC Build and Fly
- Balance \$4163.67

Young Eagles -

Scott discussed postponing all Young Eagle items until possibly June or later due to current COVID-19

Possible Young Eagle day combined with Tri-Motor/Fly-in

2019 Young Eagle credits will be received in March. We will need to determine the best use of the credits, but they will need to be applied towards supplies, equipment, or other efforts tied to the Young Eagles program.

- \$200 Young Eagles Credits have been provided to the Chapter from flying Young Eagles
- Printer/Banner/advertising
- Bob Dombek mentioned we have a Young Eagle banner

Old Business -

A member coordinator for the Chapter is still needed. Please send suggestions or self nominations to Tom Martin
The Ford Tri-Motor has been locked in for 5/22 - Will combine visit with the second annual Food Truck Fly-In - Joey Shreve on point to lead the Fly-In efforts. Many volunteers will be needed; Committee to be formed.

Tri-Motor cancelled all items through April

The Chapter has received a donated plane project for group education. The plane is a Zenith 601XL with 120HP Jabiru engine. A build committee is being established for next steps.

- Scott Discussed Zenith Aircraft and the possible issues with this aircraft
- Mentioned possible issues with the Jabiru engine
- Prez reached out to EAA - waiting on a reply about who will be the builder if we build it and insurance cost.

There is a light out on the side of the building making it unsafe after dark. - Team is investigating.

New Business -

- EAA Target List - we have large list to be able to send postcards to
Call to Action - Facebook Page assistance
- New donation of a second Aircraft with Lycoming Engine
- Schedule pickup time to grab provided aircraft and related items.
- Bob discussed Young Eagles RC Build and Fly. It has arrived and he has tested the simulator and placed storage charge on aircraft batteries. All items now stored in tool crib.

7:28pm - Meeting adjourned by _Scott at 7:28pm_____.

CHAPTER CONTACTS

How to Contact 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

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

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