

TAILWINDS



**EAA CHAPTER
974
NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2020**



Butler County Regional Airport
Hamilton, Ohio



IN THIS EDITION, A PROJECT TOUR:

BILL MORRIS POLISHING HIS SONEX

JOEY SHREVE'S DOUBLE EAGLE

KEVIN GASSERT'S NEXT ERCOUCPE RESTORATION

RAY PARKER'S BRAKE LINE REPLACEMENT

BOB DOMBEK'S TIGER MOTH

WOLFGANG HOHN'S MINI DEFIANT

JOSH COMB'S KR GOES TO KANSAS

CHAPTER CONTACTS

BILL MORRIS POLISHING HIS SONEX

This month's newsletter will be a little different. The Christmas party was cancelled due to Covid concerns and there was no board meeting or gathering of the chapter membership. So, without the usual content, I thought it would be fun to showcase several projects in progress around the field. I know there are more projects going on, and I apologize for not including everyone. These were projects that were either immediately available to me or members sent me pictures and stories. Hint, hint! Send me pictures and stories!! Thanks to those who did for this edition.

Below I caught Bill Morris polishing his Sonex. He's been working hard on this for several weeks. Our hangars are back to back, and I hear the sound of his polisher through the back wall of my hangar almost daily. Bill says it's an arduous job and kinda dirty. He has been trying to do this outside as much as possible due to the fine debris it leaves inside his hangar. Until recently he's lucked out on the weather. Bill, I saw you taking off a few days ago. The left side of your fuselage caught the sun. It was beautiful! Keep up the good work!

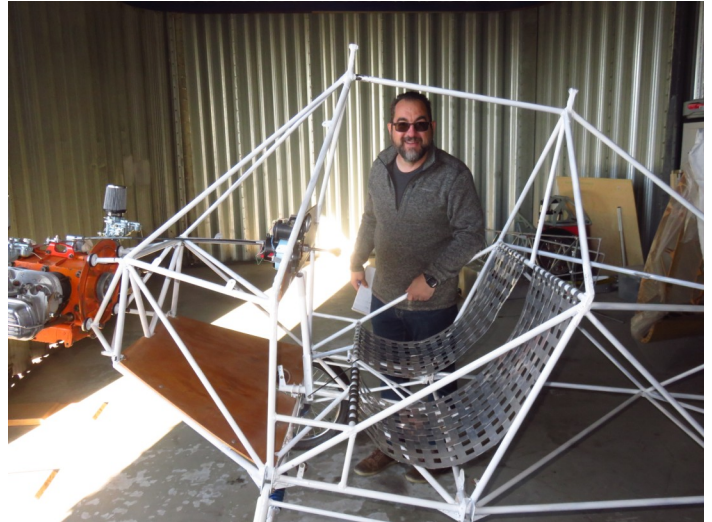
Photos: ed.



JOEY'S SHREVE'S NEW RIDE—A DOUBLE EAGLE

Here we have VP Joey Shreve with his Ercoupe replacement. It's a VW powered Double Eagle. It's derived from the original Legal Eagle which was originally designed as a part 103 ultralight. It has grown into a two place light sport aircraft. Construction consists of a welded steel tube fuselage and wood wings. Everything will be covered with fabric. Joey purchased the project from another builder in Kansas City, Kansas. As seen below, Joey's son, Logan, is grinding and cleaning up some of the welds in the fuselage. Joey says that some of the welds need to be re-done and he has just the guy to do the job, his son! Being an old ultralight guy, I'll be in line for a ride!

Photos: Joey Shreve, ed.



ANOTHER COUPE FROM THE WIZARD OF COUPES!

Another Ercoupe restoration is taking place in Kevin Gassert's hangar. It's a model 415D that Kevin acquired a while back. It had a corroded spar center section which Kevin has replaced. As seen in the first picture lower left, the fore and aft fuselage sections had to be separated, which to me looked like quite an undertaking. Nothing stops Kevin! Here we see the separation, installation of new spar center section and reassembly. Upper right, Mike Wood was in town and lent a hand. Talk about true chapter spirit! As shown in the two lower right pictures, N99217 is up on her gear and the engine is mounted. This project is not the end. There are two more Coupes in the pipeline! Fantastic work, Kevin! You are the true Ercoupe wizard!

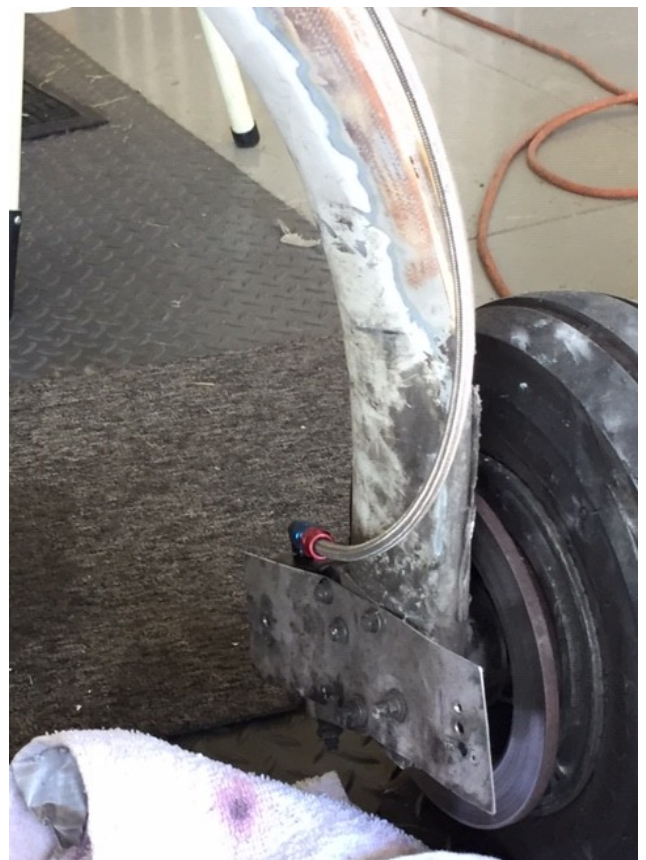
Photos: Kevin Gassert, Al Kenkel, ed.



TECH COUNSELOR RAY TEACHES ABOUT BRAKE LINES

Next is a visit to chapter tech counselor Ray Parker's hangar. Ray says there is an important lesson here about the use of nylo-flo for brake lines. Earlier in the fall, Ray was headed back to his hangar after flying his Long EZ, when his right brake pedal went to the floor. This is a big deal because the Long EZ needs its brakes for steering. Fortunately Ray was taxiing slowly, and his ship just took a little swerve toward the grass. He got a tow the rest of the way to his hangar. Ray said one of the nylo-flo brake lines, which are imbedded in the composite gear legs, split open where it enters the fuselage. Ray had to open the gear leg to remove the line. He then replaced both lines with custom made braided steel lines. He then had to partially re-glass the gear legs. Ray cautions those of us who have the nylon lines to think seriously about replacing them. Both of your editor's projects have nylon lines. I'm getting the message loud and clear! Thanks Ray!

Photos: ed.



THIS MOTH WANTS TO BE IN THE LIGHT

I don't think it's the editor's place to include too much of his own stuff. I needed content for this issue, and I've hit a near landmark. My Tiger Moth is very nearly finished. The cowling was a big piece of this, having started it in early June and not finishing it until the end of November. Look closely at the center picture. You see Ray Parker peeking around the left edge on the day he helped me put her on the scales for weight and balance. A big blow came when I discovered she's very tail heavy. Tim Morris said I could fix with a chain saw or Ex-acto knife. I think I'll just hang her up on the lift as a hangar ornament until I figure out what to do. So close and yet so far Ugh!

Photos: ed.



COMING AND GOING



Here's something you don't see every day. Seen in the above pictures is Wolfgang Hohn with his Mini Defiant. Wolfgang is based at Warren County and dropped in to consult with Ray. His Mini Defiant was built in France by a pilot who lost his medical. He purchased it, had it shipped over from France, reassembled it, and had it signed off by Stan Faske toward the end of November. By the time Ray and I encountered him on 12/5, he had been flying it for about 2 weeks. It's powered by two Rotax 912's. I neglected to get performance figures, but hopefully the pictures speak for themselves. Striking and beautiful!

Photos: ed.

The shot at lower right was sent to me by Brian Charlton. Ray Parker is helping load Josh Comb's KR. Chad Roberston, seen here with Ray, is from EAA Chapter 980 in Kansas. He purchased it from Josh and is about to take it home.

Photo: Brian Charlton



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

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

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

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

EAA CHAPTER 974