

# TAILWINDS



**EAA CHAPTER  
974  
NEWSLETTER  
NOVEMBER 2024**



Butler County Regional Airport  
Hamilton, Ohio



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- **THE PREZ SEZ**
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- **2024 HANGAR CRAWL**
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- **PROJECTS—ERCOUPES GALORE!**

## **COMING EVENTS**

- **NOV 10 CHAPTER GATHERING WITH ELECTIONS**
- **DEC 8 CHAPTER GATHERING WITH CHILI COOKOFF**
- **JAN 4 CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY**



# OCTOBER 2024 GATHERING IN REVIEW

Another great EAA 974 Gathering is in the books. While VP Joey Shreve served up his usual outstanding faire, Scott Balmos conducted a brief meeting prior to the Annual Hangar Crawl. Joey's best count was 51 in attendance, maybe not a record but close.



EAA Chapter 974 wishes to express its condolences to the Hogan Family following the death of Grace Hogan on October 22, 2024. Grace and her children, several of whom are closely associated with this chapter and this airport, made numerous contributions to aviation and other areas. We are here, in many ways, because of her!

## Young Eagles

Scott Balmos announced that the next Young Eagle Rally would be 10/19. We now know this was cancelled. This was to be the last rally for the year. Stay tuned for more to come next year. Thank you Scott for your hard work and dedication to the Chapter and the Young Eagle Program.



## Projects and Events

Robin Kidder continues to have problems with oil pressure and oil loss in her Piper Clipper. Tom Hogan and others have been helping her and offering their expertise. This is a prime example of the benefit of chapter membership as we learn from each other.

Terry Casten reported on an excellent flight to Auburn, Indiana to visit the Duesenberg Museum. The airport offered a free courtesy car. The flight up and the museum visit made for a great day.



Mark Reising reported on his trip to Poplar Grove Airport to see the Cessna 120-140 Fly-in.

The Gathering adjourned early for members to enjoy the annual Hangar Crawl featured in this edition.

# **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

## LEO TRIPP

*Leo Tripp is new RV8 owner based on the field. Before the RV8, Leo flew with The Victory Aero Club.*

*Welcome Leo!*



## ANDY SCHECTER

*Andy just built a highly modified Pitts S4. He is based at Obanon Creek, OH66*

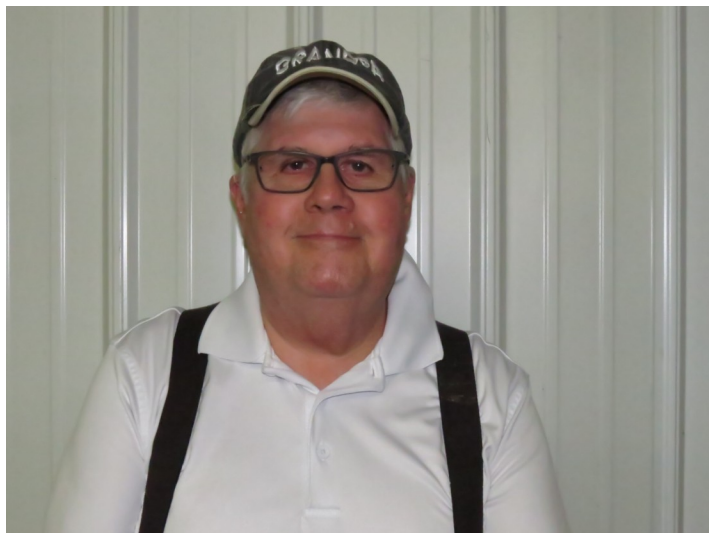
*Welcome Andy!*



## STEVE CAIN

*Steve has been flying with Hogan Flying Service after not flying since 2004. He has been flying mostly with Tom Hogan.*

*Welcome Steve!*

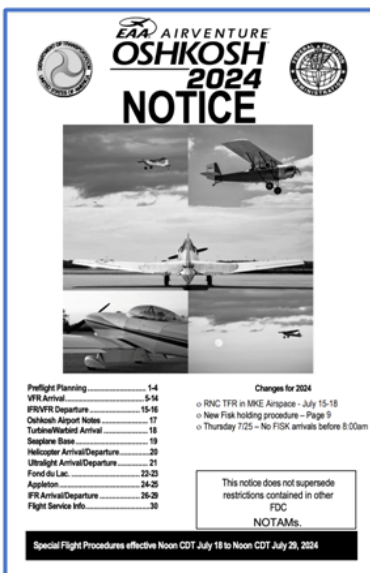


# THE PREZ SEZ

## Improving Margins of Safety... A recipe for success!

Hi everyone,

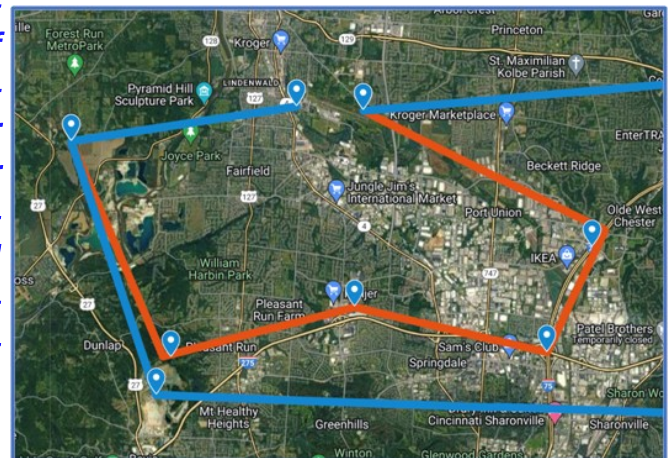
Each year the EAA publishes an annual notice to air missions (NOTAM) outlining the procedure and routes for all aircraft arriving and departing from Airventure. These procedures are the culmination of years of experience, and input from the FAA and pilot forums highlighting past experiences and lessons learned. This enables Wittman Regional Airport (KOSH) to become the busiest airport in the world for the week of Airventure. In 2024 at KOSH there were there were 16,780 aircraft operations in the 11-day period from July 18-28, which is an average of approximately 113 takeoffs/landings per hour when the airport is open!



After spending the winter refining and improving his prototype, our Young Eagles leader Scott Balmos established our own NOTAM to improve both the safety and overall experience for the 2024 Young Eagles Rally Season. WOW... What an improvement - We even got our own "Fisk" arrival intersection!

Scott established procedures for both ends of the runway and different routes for faster planes and slower

planes. These routes utilized notable local landmarks that both help the pilot be able to dead reckon the route and make the flight very enjoyable to the Young Eagle as we fly over interesting points of interest and terrain.



With up to 13 planes participating in each rally, and normal traffic operations continuing at the airport, I can personally attest that knowing where each of the rally participating planes would be made the flights less stressful and allowed me to focus more on the experience the Young Eagles were having in the cockpit.

Even with all of the runway resurfacing challenges at the airport this year we still managed to fly 75 Young Eagles this year. A BIG Thank You to Scott and his leadership for continuing to ensure we stay safe and for building out such a great Young Eagles program for our Chapter, and for all the members who were pilots and ground crew at this year's rallies!

## **THE PREZ SEZ, CONTINUED**

### **A couple key announcements and reminders:**

- Our next Chapter Gathering & Annual Meeting will be on Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. Voting of Chapter Leadership positions will be held during the Annual Meeting portion of the event.
- Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chili Cookoff will be held on Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. We have room for 8 contestants, please reach out to Brandi Brewer ([auntbrandi@outlook.com](mailto:auntbrandi@outlook.com)) if you'd like to compete!

All for now... I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the gathering on Sunday November 10

Blue skies! Tom



Tom Martin EAA #1061241  
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E: [President@EAA974.org](mailto:President@EAA974.org)  
C: 513-417-1430

## **CHAPTER CONTACTS**

### **CHAPTER CONTACTS—HOW TO CONTACT EAA 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 (Scott Balmos)

[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

# **CHAPTER BOARD BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**6:08 p.m.** - Meeting called to order by Tom martin

**Attendees:** Grace Hogan, Roger McClure, Bob Dombek, Joey Shreve, Scott Balmos, Ray Parker, Scott Hersha

## **Secretaries Report –**

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

## **Treasurer's Report –**

Income	\$ 315.61
Expenses	\$ 224.34
Balance: Checking	\$ 4,141.92
CDs	\$ 16,073.89
Savings	<u>\$ 2,003.77</u>
Total	\$ 22,219.58

## **Young Eagles –**

- Next date: October 19th (Final one for the year)
- Third Saturday of every month
- 8 pilots, 11 kids

## **Old Business -**

- Ray Scholarship
- Christmas Party- Same place, January 4th
- Hanger Crawl and Elections at the October Meeting

## **New Business -**

- New sign out front of the airport entrance
- No new airport manager
- Chili Cook off for December Meeting

## **UPCOMING 2024 MEETINGS**

October 13th- Hanger Crawl

November 10th- Elections

December 8th- Chili Cook-off

January 4th- Christmas Party

**6:52 p.m. - Meeting adjourned by Tom Martin**

# THE GREAT 2024 HANGAR CRAWL

## Hangar T4E Culver Cadet

Tim Morris, Bill Morris and Matt Wikette acquired parts for three vintage Culver Cadets in September of 2023. One of the Cadets was closer to being airworthy than the other two. Over this past year, the trio restored the Cadet shown in the pictures below. It is now flying. Tim and Bill have flown it regularly. It is powered by a Franklin engine which they have gotten running well. It is an attractive aircraft and the red and white paint scheme does it justice. Well done Tim, Bill and Matt!



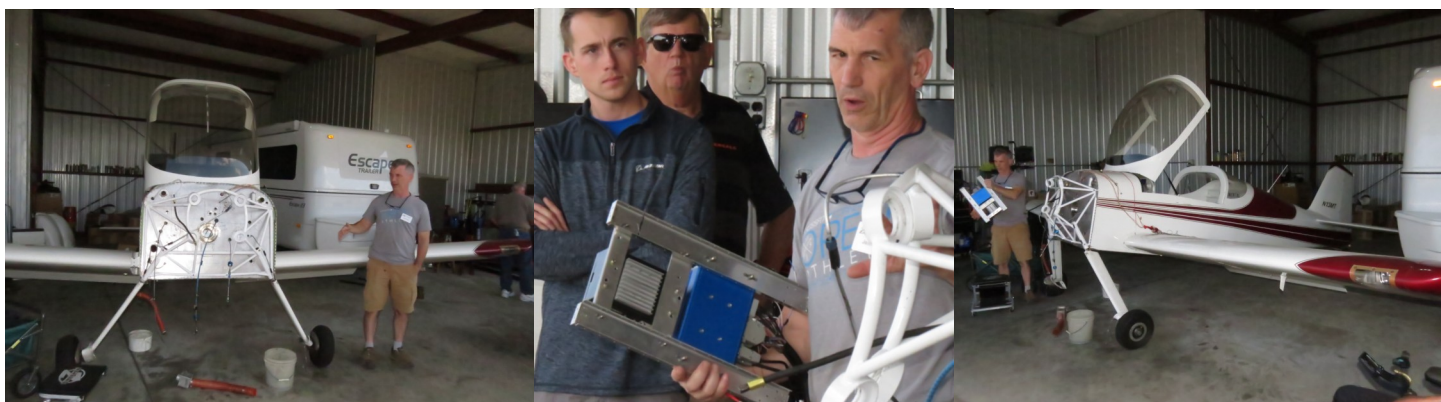
## Hangar T4B Vans RV9A

We moved next to see Scott Balmos' RV9A. Scott has been flying his RV regularly over the past several years, making numerous long cross county trips to Wisconsin, Florida and Alabama among others. Earlier this year, Scott gave a program to the chapter on how he discovered a burned exhaust valve on one cylinder due a more rapid drop in temperature in one cylinder after flying. Scott, being a very safety conscious cross country instrument flyer,, elected to replace all four cylinders. He now has his RV flying again after several intensive weeks of work. Scott, Chapter 974 salutes your example and attention to detail!



## T5I Vans RV6

Immediately across the ramp we visited my next door hangar neighbor Jason Pratt with his RV6. Jason acquired his RV from another builder. He has been flying it for several years with ongoing oil leak problems. He has essentially rebuilt his IO360 engine to "0" time. He has converted his engine to automotive style fuel injection and ignition systems which is battery dependent. Jason is installing a dual lithium battery system with computer controller seen in middle picture. He is working up a major panel upgrade which is still in progress. Beautiful work Jason! Thanks for your inspiration and for sharing with the chapter!



## T6G&H Ercoupes Galore!

If you own an Ercoupe on Hogan Field, you are in the right place. We next visited Ercoupe guru Kevin Gassert. It's his hangar where Ercoupes are kept flying or reborn from disaster. His latest restoration project is an Ercoupe Model G. We saw a completely primed and painted fuselage on a rotisserie coated in white Stewart's System paint. In his adjoining hangar we saw Kevin's personal ship, "White Lightning". Suspended over it was Doug Hurd's C model Ercoupe on the lift Kevin rescued from Sporty's showroom not long ago. Kevin works in his hangar on his various Ercoupe and automotive projects several days a week. Kevin is a resource for other chapter members and is generous with his support and assistance in ways too numerous to list here. Thanks Kevin!!





### Hangar T6K Waix

A short distance along row T6 we arrived at Brian Charlton's hangar to see his Waix, pronounced "Y-X" Brian started building his Waix in 2009 and finished construction in 2011, test flying the same year. It is powered by an Aerosport 4 engine, based on the Volkswagen horizontally opposed, air cooled configuration. It started out with a tailwheel. Later converted it to a nosewheel, recently going back to the original tailwheel set up. Brian says he now has 329 hours of total flight time. He keeps it beautifully polished. Your ship is something to be proud of, Brian!



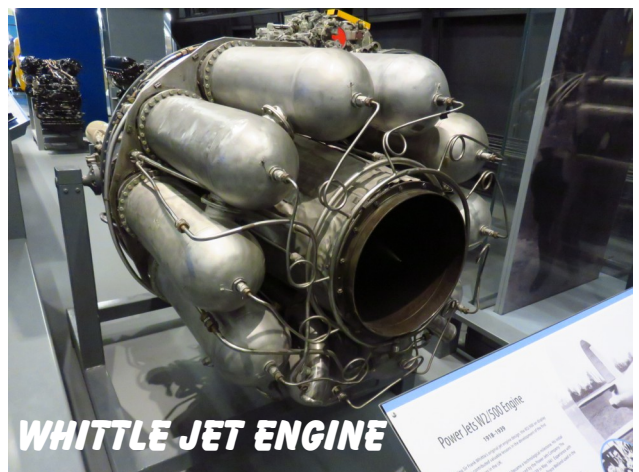
### Hangar T10A

A long hike to the west side of the field took us to row T10 to see Dick King's beautiful Glastar. It was well worth the trip. Dick's N number is N12YR. There is real significance in that. Dick explained that it took 12 years to build, he made the first flight in 2012. and he's been flying it for 12 years. A sad note to add is that Dick is selling his aircraft and hangar. Part of his hangar tour was designed to be a hangar sale where he offered tools and supplies for sale to all of us. He had a number of very nice items. Dick says he is not quitting flying, He plans to rent and continue flying without the additional responsibility for maintenance. Once all this takes place, please don't be a stranger, Dick. In the meantime, we hope we will see your beautiful N12 YR in the air around KHAO for a while.



# ROYAL AIRFORCE MUSEUM, LONDON, ENGLAND

Nancy and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary with a 2 week trip to the UK, mostly in London. At one point we each had something of special interest that we wanted for see on our own. For Nancy it was the Globe Theater and the Florence Nightingale Museum. For me, it had to be the Royal Airforce Museum. I took far too many pictures to share here but hopefully the next two pages will cover a few of the highlights.



# **MORE ROYAL AIRFORCE MUSEUM**

One page just didn't cut it. Six pages wouldn't either, but I had to stop someplace. Here's a little more of the Royal Airforce Museum, London. I would have loved to visit the biggie at Duxford. Maybe next trip!...



**SHORT SUNDERLAND**



**AVRO 504K**



**ENTRY HANGAR, HANGAR 1**



**DEHAVILLAND MOSQUITO BOMBER VERSION**



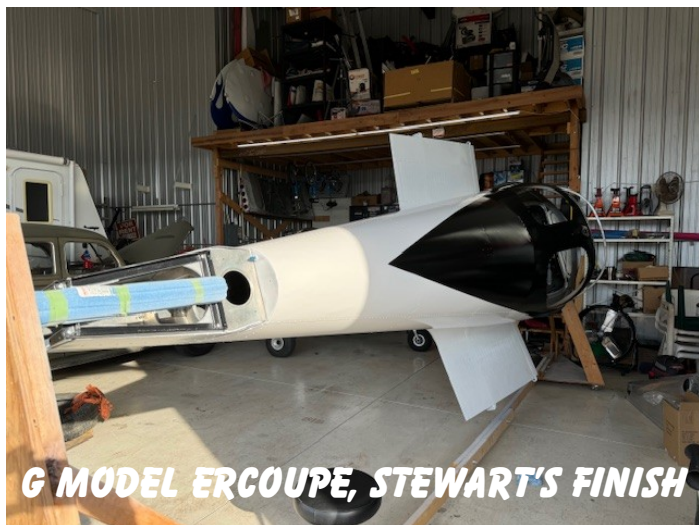
**EXHIBIT HANGARS 2,3,4**



**CURRENT FLIGHT SUIT**

## **PROJECTS—ERCOUPES GALORE!**

There is always something going on in Kevin's Hangar. It usually involves Ercoupes. I was on my way home but couldn't resist. There are 3 projects shown here plus another, Al Kenkel's, that I didn't get to see. Ercoupes and their owners live well at KHAO thanks to Kevin!



**G MODEL ERCOUPE, STEWART'S FINISH**



**ERCOUPE IN STEWART'S EKO-CRYLIC**



**MIKE'S ELEANOR GETTING HER ANNUAL**



**ELEANOR IS BACK, MIKE WILL FOLLOW**



**BARRY FEAR'S ERCOUPE AND ENGINE**



**BARRY'S REBUILT ENGINE IS READY!**