

TAILWINDS



**EAA CHAPTER
974
NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2024**



Butler County Regional Airport
Hamilton, Ohio



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COMING EVENTS

- **DECEMBER 8 CHAPTER GATHERING AND CHILI COOKOFF**
- **SATURDAY JANUARY 4 CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY, SAME LOCATION AS LAST YEAR BEST WESTERN HANNAFORD SUITES, NEAR KENWOOD TOWN CENTER.**



GATHERING REVIEW NOVEMBER 2024

Scott Balmos led us this month in the absence of our president Tom and VP Joey. Thank you Scott for your able leadership and ability to fill in and hold it together on short notice. There were 33 chapter members in attendance. Brandi Brewer treated us to wonderful homemade chicken and noodles. Thank your Brandi!!



VETERANS DAY: Scott recognized that there are a large number of veterans in our chapter and thanked them for their service.

YOUNG EAGLES: Young Eagle coordinator Scott Balmos summarized our chapter efforts. We flew 75 kids this year. Scott told us that the new Young Eagle website will hopefully up and running. YE pilots should have their profiles moved to the chapter website. He urged us to check our Youth Protection Certificate status for currency.



PROJECTS AND FLIGHTS:

Dave Griffith told us about his experience in flying his Piper Archer to remote airports in North Carolina to deliver supplies as part of Operation Air Drop. Thank you Dave! The chapter is proud of you!

Scott Balmos described the on going break in process for his engine rebuild. As part of his condition inspection he found corrosion and several electrical connections and urged us to look carefully for this on our own projects. He encouraged us to be meticulous when doing our condition inspections.



Jason Pratt continues to work on his new custom dual battery tray and accompanying automotive type electrical system. He hopes to be flying again by Thanksgiving weekend.

Steve Pollack talked about how the screen in his newly installed Dynon system screen gets badly washed out in the sun. He returned his aircraft to Advanced Flight Systems for a panel screen replacement. He also noticed a small oil leak from his valve cover drain tubes and recommended checking for tightness if you have similar engine.

Bob Dombek: I was doing a final firewall forward inspection on my Tiger Moth in preparation for re-installing the cowling. I discovered two cracks in the exhaust. I decided to put the Moth on the lift for now while I work out the repair process.

Steve Pollack told us about FAA Webinars on Wed and Sat. Your editor has been following these as well. The Minneapolis FSDO offers a good Wings Webinar every Sat morning hosted by Laura Hermann. She introduces a great variety of guests speaking on many topics. Highly recommended.

New Airport Manager: Jerry Richardson. He replaced Josh Clayton who has gone back to flying medical helicopters.

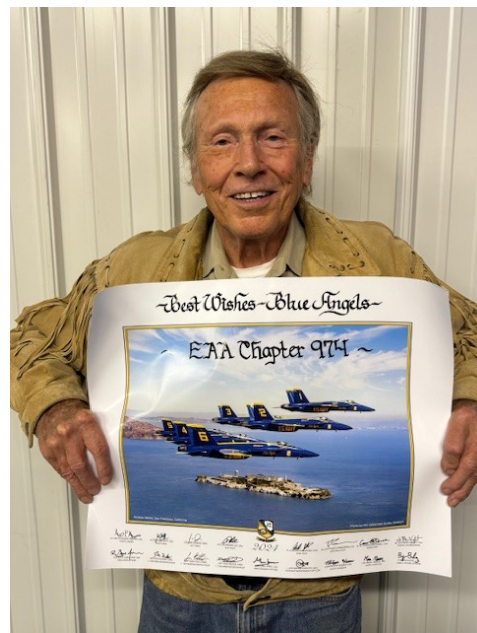
Elections: President Tom Martin has offered to serve as chapter president for 2025 but will step aside and encourage others to run. Mark Reising has offered to put his mane up for nomination as vice president. Joey Shreve will step aside as vice president. Grace Hogan and Roger McClure will continue in their posts as secretary and Treasurer, respectively, for 2025.

Please welcome new members Alex Geren, left, and his father, Mike. Alex is a senior at Mason high School and is very interested in an aviation career. Alex will enroll in Bowling Green University next school year and hopes to enroll in their aviation program. Welcome Alex and Mike!



Gary Mullins presented a poster given to chapter 974 by Gary's son who is a Navy retiree and flew with the Blue Angels. He has flown his L-39 Albatross more than once into KHAO this year. It is signed by several blue Angel Pilots and organization staff. Thank you so much, Gary, for sharing this honor with us!

All photos pages 2 and 3, editor



CHAPTER BOARD BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

6:10 p.m. - Meeting called to order by Tom martin

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

Secretaries Report –

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

Treasurer's Report –

Income	\$ 296.00
Expenses	\$ 904.00
Balance: Checking	\$ 3,580.48
CDs	\$ 16,050.25
Savings	<u>\$ 2,003.85</u>
Total	\$ 21,634.58

Young Eagles –

- Next date: Spring 2025

Old Business -

- Ray Scholarship
- Christmas Party- Same place, January 4th- \$30
- Chili Cook off for December Meeting

New Business -

- New Airport Manager
- Conversation with the CVG Controllers at February Meeting
- Donation in the name of Grace Hogan to the Hogan Family Airport Scholarship (Hamilton Community Foundation)
- Pancake Breakfast in 2025
- Nominations

UPCOMING 2024 MEETINGS

November 10th- Elections

December 8th- Chili Cook-off

January 4th- Christmas Party

7:00 p.m. - Meeting adjourned by Tom Martin

PROJECT REPORT—JAKE JACOB'S TAILWHEEL TUG

Homemade Tail Drager Tug...

Having spent 2024 getting legal (Leonora and Billie - bi-annual April), buying a '47 Luscombe 8E O200 in AZ in May, finally getting it to HAO in late July and coming up on the waiting list for a hanger with Joe C. on October I am ready to build time and confidence with my 8E. Since I live 10 min from HAO goal is to take advantage when the weather is right. Only thing stopping my solo time is getting it in and out by myself, seeing how I am not physically 20 years old any more. Mentally I'm still 15+...

I want to share what I found when looking for a reasonably priced tail wheel tug. Most I found were in the multiple thousands, rather large and bulky. While cursing Facebook Market place I found this in Dekalb IL (Chicago area). It was made by Steve Miller a Aeronca C3 owner flying out of the Dekalb Airport.

He started with a Pride Traveler disability scooter that can be bought used in the \$400 ish range. The scooters are made to break down in to 3 or 4 larger parts so you can easily transport them in a car trunk.

He made a small box channel frame for under the wheel/motor assembly and the steering control handle that has a knee joint for adjustment. He got fancy and use a geared screw motor to make the wheel pick up power adjustable using 2 different sized box channels. This could easily be a manual adjustment if needed.

He told me he had to put a forward and reverse 3-way switch on it since the normal electronics bypass the speed selector in reverse. I told him he was a genius. After getting it home and looking it over, It would be easy to replicate if you can weld. I though that if some of you can build an airplane you could easily build one of these. Feel free to contact me if you want to take a look and maybe measurements.

It is exactly what I needed. I was happy to pay \$900 for it.... Jake Jacobs

Photos: Jake Jacobs

