

TAILWINDS



**EAA CHAPTER
974
NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2025**



Butler County Regional Airport
Hamilton, Ohio



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COMING EVENTS

- **APRIL 13 CHAPTER GATHERING**
- **APRIL 19 YOUNG EAGLE RALLY**
- **MAY 18 CHAPTER GATHERING**



CHAPTER GATHERING MARCH 9 2025

It looked like we had all our chairs filled and some folks standing. That should tell us we had another great gathering. Of course it didn't hurt that we were here for a long anticipated presentation by air traffic controllers from CVG. There will be more about that in this edition. Most of all, thank you Joey and Brandi for feeding us so well!



Young Eagles

Young Eagles Coordinator Scott Balmos reviewed plans for the upcoming rallies., the first scheduled for April 19. Randy Adams and Greg Rolls will coordinate radio control model displays at the rallies. Scott urged us to check the parent page that he will send out and make up a pretend rally with made up kids names. This is to test and exercise the site. Scott reminded us to check our membership profiles and to be sure we have current Youth Protection Certificates.

Butler Tech

Randy Adams is working with Rich Packer at Butler Tech asking for volunteers to help with an RV12 build at the school.

Ray Scholarship

Chapter President Tom Martin announced \$12,000 Ray Scholarship approval from EAA for our chapter. There are two applicants one of which is Teddy Stricker who was with us at this gathering. There will be more on our candidates soon. Teddy is pictured right.

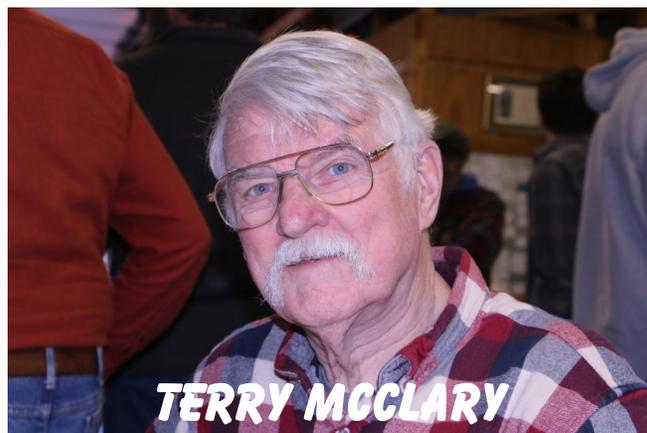


Announcements and Chapter News

Brief discussion held about the possibility of pancake breakfasts this year. More on that soon.

Oshkosh Camping

Jake Jacobs, who has taken on organizing and securing a camping area for the chapter at Airventure, announced that He has secured our area. It will be in the chapter camping area in 101 Woods as last year. Kevin Gassert has done the same for Warbirds Squadron 18. Chapter 974 will have space committed for 6 campsites, and these have all been taken. Those of us that committed to campsites should immediately reimburse Jake as he has paid for our campsites personally. A big thank you Jake!!



Please welcome new chapter members Michael, Matt and Terry. Michael actually joined last month. I found out too late and did not get a good picture of him. Hopefully, I've made up for it!

WELCOME ALL!

Project and Flight Reports

Billy Bie reported diving into a project to remove protective scuffguard tape from the leading edge of the flaps on his RV7A. Details will be found further in this edition.

Scott Hersha flew to Sporty's on 3/8 for the traditional Saturday hot dog Fly-in. He wanted us to know that this is still going on.

Joey Shreve is hoping to return to work on his Double Eagle repair. His hangar has been too cold for meaningful work.

Mark Taylor is working on a Legal Eagle Ultralight that he picked up a long time ago but confessed to not doing much with it until recently. He hopes to have it flying while he awaits a decision on his suspended medical certificate.

Jason Pratt confessed an apology to me for having missed the Gathering. He was able to make a first flight on his RV6 as we were meeting. It's been down for over 11 months! He was under a time constraint. Pictures and details to be found further in this edition. Congratulations Jason!

CHAPTER GATHERING PROGRAM—"ASK AN ATC"

Air Traffic Controllers from The Greater Cincinnati Airport, CVG, presented a terrific program for us today. From left to right:

Drew Binegar

Joel Green

Blythe Wolfe

Tim Solet

All of them have had extensive experience in air traffic control. Prior to working at CVG they were all at other cities of various sizes. Three of them had military training and two of them have private pilots licenses, one with an instrument rating. They are all members of the LSC, the Local Safety Council.



They explained to us that CVG Class B specification is there to enhance safety and protect both commercial and general aviation. There are periods during the day when traffic will be light, typically 8 AM through around 1 PM. During the period 8:30-10:30 AM CVG can be essentially wide open. They encouraged us to fly down and shoot some landings. Additional traffic via general aviation helps with ATC training. Every take off and landing counts toward individual controller credit and credit toward the airport's preserving Class B status. This is especially important due to the increased commercial freight traffic. Amazon and DHL have established large terminals at CVG.

Between 9 PM and 1:30 AM CVG becomes very busy with freight traffic. They advised that this is not a good time for general aviation pilots to attempt non essential operations or practice. They also advised avoiding heavy passenger traffic pushes during the afternoon.

In terms of safety they said that ADSB has greatly improved the ability of ATC to identify aircraft within their coverage area. If we are engaged in making approaches to the CVG, they encouraged us never to hesitate to ask for a repeat of any instruction we don't understand. An important note, there are no landing fees for any practice approaches or landings. Actually, just out crossing the approach threshold counts as a landing for them.

EAA Chapter 974 thanks you Drew, Joel, Blythe and Tim for your excellent and informative presentation! A special thanks also goes to chapter president Tom Martin. He reached out and made contact with our controllers, encouraging them to make time and effort to meet with us. Thanks Tom!!

THE PREZ SEZ.....APRIL 4, ELEUTHERA, BAHAMAS

Volunteering... Giving back but getting more!

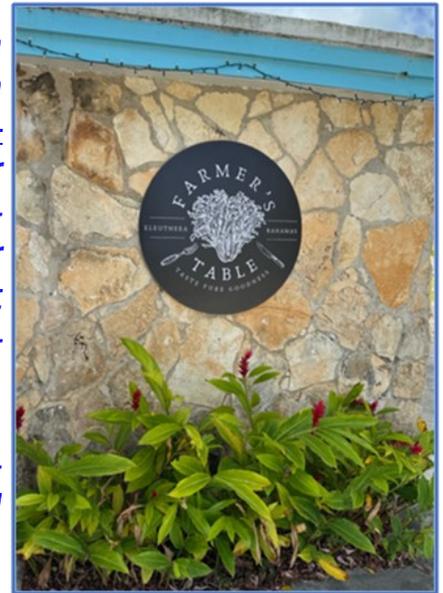
Hi everyone,

As many of you know, Barb and I LOVE the Bahamas, and specifically the island of Eleuthera. (If you ever want to know more, just let me know!). Normally we fly one of the Flying Neutrons Cessna 182s into Governors Harbour Airport (MYEM).



Back in Cincinnati we are big supporters of Santa Maria Community Services where the internal motto is “Providing a Hand-Up, not a Handout” by helping Greater Price Hill families to attain their educational, financial, and health goals.

It’s a long story, but on Eleuthera during Covid we came to learn about The One Eleuthera Foundation CTI. They have a similar mission to help locals on the island advance their own skills for employment opportunities, but in the process improve the overall economy.



Part of that mission is to bring farming back to Eleuthera. Currently 90% of the food consumed on the island is imported from the United States.

During this year’s trip to Eleuthera we spent two days working in the greenhouse alongside the local students and farmers. The food that is grown on the farm is sold to locals, local restaurants, and is also used on the CTI property at the student run restaurant “The Farmers Table”. It felt great to not only be part of the broader mission, but we got to meet and get to know some truly amazing people! We look forward to returning again next year.

As you are planning your summer vacations to fly away to that fun new destination, or returning to one you’ve visited for many years, consider volunteering at a local charity... You may just be amazed at how much more it feels like you got back than you gave of yourself.

THE PREZ SEZ...CONTINUED

Couple key reminders this month:

Our next Chapter Gathering will be on Sunday April 13th at 2:00pm.

Our first Young Eagles Rally is set for Saturday April 19th which is coming up super-fast!

More to follow from Scott Balmos

All for now... I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the gathering on Sunday April 13th!

Blue skies! Tom



Tom Martin EAA #1061241

President, Chapter 974

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C: 513-417-1430

CHAPTER CONTACTS

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 (Scott Balmos)

techcounselor@eaa974.org— will reach technical counselor (Ray Parker)

general@lists.eaa974.org — group e-mail to all chapter members

CHAPTER BOARD BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

6:04 p.m. - Meeting called to order by Tom Martin

Attendees: Grace Hogan, Roger McClure, Scott Hersha, Scott Balmos, Mark Reising, Billy Bie, Tom Martin, Ray Parker, Kevin Gassert, Randy Adams, Greg Koedel, Camden Koedel, Greg Roll, Jim Stitt

Secretaries Report –

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

Treasurer's Report –

Income		\$ 842.00
Expenses		\$ 1,250.00
Balance:	Checking	\$ 3,806.19
	CDs	\$ 16,323.23
	Savings	<u>\$ 1,004.15</u>
Total		\$ 21,133.57

Young Eagles –

- Next date: Starting Spring 2025
- April 19th, May 17th, June 14th, July 12th, August 16th, September 20th, October 18th
- New system for the website
- Possible Young Eagles Rally for Butler Tech new students on 5/30.

Old Business -

- Ray Scholarship- Applied and APPROVED for 2025. Chapter needs an applicant.
- Conversation with the CVG Controllers at March Meeting
- Pancake Breakfast in 2025- Possibly August
- Tool Crib: forming a committee
- Thank you gift for use of the Christmas Party room
- RV Build Mentors needed for Butler Tech

New Business -

- Young Eagles partnership with Warbird and GCRCC
- Activities for kids while they wait for their flight

UPCOMING 2025 MEETINGS

April 13th
May 18th
June 8th
July 13th
August 10th
September 14th
October 12th- Hanger Crawl
November 9th- Elections
December 14th- Chili Cook Off

7:05 p.m. - Meeting adjourned by Tom Martin

BILLY BIE RV7A FLAP REFURBISHMENT

Billy Bie decided to remove some protective scuff tape left attached by the original builder along the leading edge of the flap on his RV-7A. The tape had begun to oxidize and crack. Concerned that it might affect the operation of the flap, Billy decided to remove it. This is one of those projects that could look simple enough until you dive into it. It turned into labor intensive heating and careful scraping .



Above, note the frosty cracked appearance of the tape. It was probably the protective film that comes attached to the aluminum sheets in the original kit. Left and below, Billy is using a heat gun and razor scraper to remove the tape.

I would call this serious perseverance!



Behold! The finished product! It looks beautiful Nice work Billy! Chapter 974 thanks you for sharing your project and salutes your effort Congratulations!

JASON PRATT RV6 FIRST FLIGHT AFTER EXTENSIVE RESTORATION

Jason Pratt's RV6 restoration is another example of serious perseverance. Jason bought his RV from a Memphis, Tennessee builder and flew it to Hogan Field in 2021. It had relatively low time on it since it's maiden flight in the late 1990's, but seemed fraught with problems. It was airworthy, but there were persistent oil leaks and it had a somewhat outdated panel.

Beginning last year, Jason spent the next 11 months doing everything from an engine rebuild to a complete instrument panel upgrade and modernization and a new propeller. The engine operation was changed to automotive style fuel injection and electronic ignition systems

First flight took place on March 9 which went well. He flew again the next day, and again on March 13. Those are just the ones I witnessed. There may have been others squeezed in there!

Congratulations Jason! Chapter 974 celebrates your success and thanks you for sharing your project with us!

