

TAILWINDS



**EAA CHAPTER
974
NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2026**



Butler County Regional Airport
Hamilton, Ohio



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- **CHILI COOK-OFF**
- **VISITORS & NEW MEMBERS**
- **BUTLER TECH AVIATION CENTER**
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- **BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**
- **MERT GASSERT'S 100TH BIRTHDAY**

COMING EVENTS

- **APRIL 12 CHAPTER GATHERING**
- **APRIL 18 YOUNG EAGLES RALLY**
- **MAY 3 FUNDAY SUNDAY MORaine APK 173**
- **MAY 16 YOUNG EAGLE RALLY**
- **MAY 17 CHAPTER GATHERING**
- **MAY 30 BUTLER TECH YE RALLY (TBD)**



CHAPTER GATHERING WITH CHILI COOK-OFF!

With at least 56 chapter members present, the program for our March Gathering was our great annual Chili Cook-Off. The "annual" part had to be stretched from last December due to severe weather with severe cold and heavy snow at that time. We weren't to be denied thanks to the inspiration of Jason and Beth Pratt, Brandi and Stephen Brewer, Cathy Reising and our four chili cooks. We sampled and voted on 4 different chili recipes. Thanks for a very successful Cook-off!



Young Eagles :

Chapter Coordinator Scott Balmos gave us a quick rundown on the upcoming Young Eagles season which will begin with our first rally on April 18.



Above and right, The chili made the rounds thanks to Jason and his bride, Beth



MORE CHILI COOK-OFF PHOTOS AND WINNERS



*Left, first place
Barry Hansel
with prez Jason*



*Right, second
place
Mark Reising*



*Left, Third Place
Grace Hogan*



*Right, all the
fantastic chili
cooks. Thanks
All!!!*



*Left, It was a
good day for a
Chili Fly-in*



*Right and both
sides below,
Everyone en-
joyed fellowship
and Chili!*



NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS

Please welcome new member Richard Sears. Richard told me he has been to occasional meetings, but joined today. He lives in Springboro, and flew his pretty Zenith 701 in from Warren County where he is based.

Welcome Richard!



Next we welcomed Nathan Kennedy seem on right. Nathan is a student at Walnut Hills High School. He is working to start an aviation club at school, and is seeking volunteers to help. You may contact him by email: NAfall11@Jcloud.com



BUTLER TECH AVIATION CENTER RIBBON CUTTING AND OPEN HOUSE

Earlier this month, The Butler Technical School Aviation School held a ribbon cutting and open house to celebrate openings of their new center. The ribbon cutting took place on Monday March 16 and the open house on Wednesday the 18th. Our chapter has a developing relationship with Butler Tech. I know other chapter members were present for one or both of these events. I took some pictures at the ribbon cutting and Scott Balmos took a nice bunch at the open house . The facility is beautiful!



As we move further into the flying season, it's hard not to feel a renewed sense of energy around the airport. The longer days, warmer temperatures, and clearer skies seem to bring both airplanes and people out of hibernation—and our chapter is no exception.

Over the past few months, I've been especially encouraged by the level of participation and enthusiasm at our meetings and events. Whether you're a long-time member, a new builder, a student pilot, or simply someone who enjoys being around aviation, your presence is what makes Chapter 974 such a strong and welcoming community. This chapter has always been about more than airplanes—it's about sharing knowledge, supporting one another, and keeping the spirit of aviation alive.

One of the things that continues to stand out is the diversity of projects and experience within our group. From scratch-built aircraft to restorations, from first solo flights to seasoned cross-country pilots, we have a wealth of knowledge right here in our hangars. I encourage everyone to take advantage of that—ask questions, offer help, and don't hesitate to share your own progress. You never know who you might inspire.

Looking ahead, we have several events and opportunities to get involved. Our upcoming meetings will feature presentations that I think many of you will find both informative and engaging. We're also continuing to look for volunteers for Young Eagles flights and other outreach efforts. These programs are at the heart of what EAA stands for—

introducing the next generation to aviation and keeping the dream alive for years to come.

If you've never volunteered for a Young Eagles event, I strongly encourage you to give it a try. Our first one for the year is April 18th. There's nothing quite like seeing the excitement on a young person's face after their first flight. It's a reminder of why many of us fell in love with aviation in the first place.

I'd also like to remind everyone that our chapter thrives on member involvement. If you have an idea for a program, a speaker, a fly-out, or a workshop, please bring it forward. This is your chapter, and your input helps shape its direction.

Finally, as always, let's keep safety at the forefront of everything we do. Whether you're flying, building, or just lending a hand in the hangar, taking the time to do things right ensures that we can all continue enjoying aviation for years to come.

Thank you for being part of EAA Chapter 974. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting—and out at the airport.

Fly Safe,

Jason Pratt

President, EAA Chapter 974

EAA Chapter 974

March 8, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES

Jason Pratt, Robin Kidder, Roger McClure, Ray Parker, Scott Hersha, Brandi Brewer, Stephen Brewer, Bob Dombek, Ray Parker

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income	\$ 589.62
Expenses	\$ 225.00
Checking	\$ 3,475.46
CDs	\$ 17,176.07
Savings	\$ 504.59
Total	\$ 21,156.12

YOUNG EAGLES

- Total for 2025: 71 kids flown
- Public Open House at Butler Tech 3/16/26- Need Representatives. See Scott if you would like to be a representative
- 5/30 Young Eagles Flight for Butler Tech Students
- Next date: April 18

AGENDA

Old Business

- Fly-in on October 10, 2026 11-4. Brandi going to coordinate
- T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, Polos available for order. Order Forms due in April
- Learning sessions on how to use specialty tools
- Speakers for chapter gatherings
- For Sale Section in the Newsletter: To place ad you need to provide a jpeg picture, contact person information and brief description. Contact Bob Dombek for an ad.

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED

New Business

- Adding a calendar with meeting agenda to the Chapter website
- Plan to build chapter membership
- Chapter was approved for the Ray Scholarship for 2026
- Garage door needs fixed due to leaks and insulation installed

Upcoming Meetings: April 12, May 17, June 14, July 12, August 8, September 13
October 11-Hangar Crawl, November 8- Chili Cookoff, December 13

2026 Young Eagles:

April 18, May 16, June 20, July 11, August 15, September 19, October 17

Meeting adjourned by Jason Pratt 1:07 p.m.

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 (Jason Pratt)

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

MERT GASSERT'S 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Many of us know Mert Gassert, Kevin's dad from our chapter lunches and activities around the field. Not all of us knew, especially me, that Mert was nearing 100 years old. Mert's was honored for his 100 years at West Chester's Back Porch Restaurant on March 9. There were nearly 100 friends and family present, many who traveled considerable distances to be part of this moment. Mert was also honored for his WWII service as a Navy veteran. Mert, EAA Chapter 974 wishes you a belated happy birthday and wishes to salute you for your service!
Happy Birthday and Many More!!

