

TAILWINDS



EAA CHAPTER
974
NEWSLETTER
May 2026



Butler County Regional Airport
Hamilton, Ohio



IN THIS EDITION

APRIL CHAPTER GATHERING
NEW MEMBERS & VISITORS
SCOTT BALMOS AT SUN N FUN
KEILAH GILL AT SUN N FUN
VMC WITH BILLY BIE
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
NEW WINDSOCK!
CHAPTER CONTACTS
FUNDAY SUNDAY

COMING EVENTS

MAY 16 YOUNG EAGLE RALLY
MAY 17 CHAPTER GATHERING
MAY 30 YE'S AT BUTLER TECH



April 2026 Chapter gathering review

Another great chapter 974 gathering has come and gone but not forgotten. I didn't get a good head count this time but all the chairs were in use which meant there had to be close to 40 of us. It didn't hurt that we were served chicken enchiladas, aka "firehouse enchaldas", by Brandi and Stephen Brewer. Desert was chocolate cake and pineapple upside down cake. Thanks Brandi and Stephen!!



PROJECT REPORT

Bryan Charlton announced that he and Josh have mounted wings on their Aeronca Champ restoration project. As we always say, first flight will be next Tuesday!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Young Eagles Rally will take place May 16, followed quickly by a rally at the Butler Tech Aviation Center at KMWO on May 30. This will be a morning and afternoon rally.

Known Sun n Fun participants are Scott Balmos, Scott Hersha and Jason Pratt. We'll look forward to full reports.



Jake Jacobs is Oshkosh chapter camping compound coordinator again this year. Slots are filling fast so be sure to send reservations to Jake soon!

May gathering speaker will be the president of the Aeonca club. Chapter Prez Jason is looking for speakers for future gatherings.

New chapter shirts became available at this gathering. They look great! Thank you Grace!



The chapter newsletter is available for sales. Contact me, Bob Dombek. Please send pictures of sales items. as jpeg files not later than one week before next chapter gathering.

Photos: ed.

Chapter gathering review, continued

Gathering Meals

We've been spoiled by Joey and Brandi. We will need volunteers to step in. They don't have to be fancy. We can always go with crackers but cook if able! We will be covered for May but June, July, and August are open.

Our October Fly-in is in the planning stages. Lots of volunteers are needed. Please see Brandi Brewer.

New members and visitors

Please welcome Josh Vaught. Josh is a CFI at Hogan Flying Service.. I have it on good authority that Josh is a terrific instructor..He did a flight review with me last October. He put me at ease and made it a great and fun learning experience. Thanks Josh and welcome to the chapter!



Please Welcome Eric Dye. Eric is an advanced student at Hogan Flying Service. He already has his private, and instrument ratings . He has tail wheel and complex high performance endorsements and is currently working on his commercial rating. Eric is well on his way to an aviation career! Welcome to the chapter Eric!



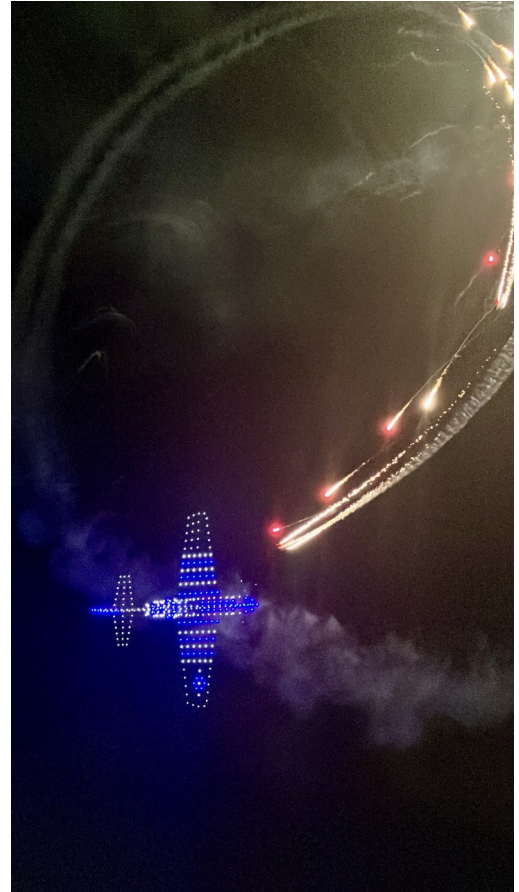
Photos: ed.

SCOTT BALMOS AT SUN N FUN



Wings of Grace Ministries at Sun n Fun, Keillah Gill

I chaperoned a weekend trip to Sun n Fun with Wings of Grace's youth ministry, we drove down from Brunswick, GA and Melbourne, FL with a group of almost 40 people (most of whom were high school students interested in aviation). The students in my group enjoyed searching for their favorite aircraft and checking out the career fair tent, exploring possibilities for future flight careers. The Saturday night airshow was definitely a highlight of our trip!



Vmc club with billy bie



Billy started off by showing us a cracked propeller back plate. He found this during the inspection of his own aircraft and described it as something that could easily be missed during a casual inspection.

Billy went on to review best practices at non towered airports, such as our own. He emphasized careful use of our radios, paying careful attention to the frequency you are tuned to. Many CTAF frequencies are close making it especially hazardous if airports with close frequencies are near by distance wise. For example, our CTAF is 123.05, Middletown and Cincinnati West are 123.00 and Warren County is 123.075. It's very easy to mis-tune or forget to change frequencies between these fields especially when we often visit them.

Billy gave us a review of best practices in radio communication, especially important at busy non towered fields like ours.

- 1. When announcing location in or near the pattern, give distances instead of location. Landmarks or airway intersections may not be useful to other pilots*
- 2. " Short Final" is not a good call. Give distance from runway.*
- 3. Go around and state your intention to do so clearly if feeling rushed by other traffic*
- 4. If you find yourself in a conflict with other traffic on downwind, It's tempting to do a 360.. It's much safer to leave the pattern and re-enter on a 45 degree approach to the downwind. Announce your intention.*
- 5. Be especially careful when attempting a midfield crosswind pattern entry . Be aware of other aircraft making overhead pattern entries such as jets which typically fly a wide 1500 ft pattern. When in doubt it is better to cross at greater than 500 feet above pattern altitude, continue on and make a teardrop entry.*

Photos: ed.

As always, Billy , Chapter 974 thanks you for your excellent insights into safer flying!!

Chapter board business meeting minutes

EAA Chapter 974

April 12, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

12 April 2026 / 12:36 PM

ATTENDEES

Jason Pratt, Robin Kidder, Roger McClure, Grace Hogan, Bob Dombek, Scott Hersha

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income	\$ 1,023.00
Expenses	\$ 174.11
Checking	\$ 4,294.35
CDs	\$ 17,172.83
Savings	\$ 504.61
Total	\$ 21,971.79

YOUNG EAGLES

- Total for April 2026: 19 kids flown
- 5/30 Young Eagles Flight for Butler Tech Students
- Next date:
- May 16th

2026 Young Eagles:

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

Meeting minutes, continued

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.
- Chapter was approved for the Ray Scholarship for 2026: Chapter approved candidate. Waiting for EAA HQ response.
- Garage door needs to be fixed due to leaks and insulation installed.

New Business

- Moving the website to the EAA server and increasing social media presence.
- Establish Fly-in Committee
- Rotating chef- signups starting in June
- Christmas Party Location

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Chef
April 12th	Brandi
May 17th	Brandi
June 14th	
July 12th	
August 9th	
September 13th	
October 10th- Saturday	FLY-IN
November 8th	Chili Cookoff
December 13th	

Meeting adjourned by Jason Pratt 1:14 p.m.

New windsock!

Here we have brave Mike Wood putting up our new windsock on March 24. He had able assistance from Brian Charlton . Photo was taken by Roger McClure.

I should have inserted this into the April edition. I received this shot in March while Nancy and I were on Hilton Head Island. In a bit of a rush to finish and publish, I forgot that it was still in my phone, attached to a text message. My apologies to all who participated, especially if I missed you for credit.

Thanks all! We sure needed that new sock!! It looks great!



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

CHAPTER 974 SATURDAY LUNCH BUNCH!

Here is a picture of one week of the lunch group to let the newer members know of the long tradition of us going to lunch on Saturdays to solve not only air-plane problems but also world problems.

We have been going to Bob Evans across from Meijer north of 275 on South Gilmore rd at 12:30 for the last couple of years photo: Kevin Gassert



CHAPTER 974 AT FUNDAY SUNDAY photos: ed

