

# TAILWINDS



**EAA CHAPTER  
974  
NEWSLETTER  
JUNE 2026**



Butler County Regional Airport  
Hamilton, Ohio



## **IN THIS EDITION**

**MAY 17 CHAPTER GATHERING  
RAY SCHOLAR RECIPIENT  
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
AERONCA HISTORY CRAIG MCVEIGH  
WACO RESTORATION, JOHN LABARRE  
BUTLER TECH YOUNG EAGLE RALLY**

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

**JUNE 14 CHAPTER GATHERING  
JUNE 20 YOUNG EAGLE RALLY AT KHAO  
JUNE 27-28 GCRCC FLYING CIRCUS  
JULY 11 YOUNG EAGLE RALLY  
JULY 12 CHAPTER GATHERING  
JULY 20-26 AIRVENTURE OSHKOSH**



# MAY 2026 CHAPTER GATHERING REVIEW

Here we have another excellent Chapter 974 gathering. My best count was 50 plus. Thanks to Stephen Brewer we were treated to excellent Firehouse Engine 46 Pulled Pork Barbecue sandwiches along with cole slaw, potato salad and cupcakes. As a reminder, we will need volunteers for future gathering goodies.



## PROJECTS AND FLIGHTS

Several members flew to Sun N Fun, Including Jason Pratt, Scott Balmos and Scott Hersha. Some pictures were included in last month's newsletter. Scott Balmos told us about having to fly from the right seat returning home due to left side brake pedal issue. Well done all!

Steve Pollak has started parts inventory on a Kitfox Kit he recently purchased.

John Wilemski just received his Airworthiness Certificate on his Cozy 4 project He has been working on this several years. Congratulations John!

Jason Pratt reported on overhauling his Whirlwind Prop on his RV6 using new O-rings from Hartzell.

Bryan and Josh have the wings installed on their Aerona Champ restoration project.

Kevin Gassert reported replacing a broken cable swedge tool in our tool crib. Thanks Kevin!

New member Bill Greenwald has an Ercoupe being restored by Kevin. Bill retired from his last flying gig with Net Jets. I hope to report on his project in a future edition.

Daryl Habit is doing final assembly on his Zenith 601 project in the chapter hangar. He started building in 2015. It is powered by a Corvair engine which he rebuilt himself. There will be pictures later in this edition.

Chapter president Jason Pratt announced that our chapter website will soon transition to an EAA hosted website and that we will eventually have Microsoft 365 available to us. Jason will also be attending the LSA Inspection course and will report on that to us.



# CHAPTER GATHERING REVIEW, CONTINUED

## PRESENTING OUR NEWEST RAY SCHOLAR, JACKSON BLIGHT

Jackson Blight was awarded the chapter's most recent Ray Scholarship. Below, he was presented to the chapter by past president Tom Martin. Here we see his father introducing Jackson to the chapter along with Tom with the rest of his family present. Below right is Jackson's flight instructor Steve Pollak. Steve is training Jackson in his Citabria. Congratulations Jackson and welcome to the chapter. We will be looking forward to your progress!



## SPECIAL PROJECT REPORT

Here is a project that currently Occupies the chapter hangar. In addition to gatherings, this is one of the top purposes our space ie giving members space to complete projects. Shown here is Daryl Habit with his Zenith 601 which he started 2015. It sports a Corvaire engine which Daryl rebuilt himself. Looks beautiful! We're looking forward to seeing it fly Daryl!



Photos page 2 & 3 ed.

## **President's Corner: June's Extra Daylight and a Digital Refresh**

*As the days stretch out toward the summer solstice, we are treated to some of the absolute best flying weather of the year. Make the most of this extended daylight to get your aircraft out of the hangar and explore the skies.*

## **Young Eagles Success at Butler Tech**

*First, I want to extend a massive thank you to everyone who made our recent Young Eagles event at Butler Tech on May 30 such a fantastic success. The entire day went off beautifully with absolutely no problems. This achievement is all thanks to the incredible leadership of Scott Balmos and the dedicated efforts of all our chapter volunteers who gave their time, aircraft, and aviation expertise to inspire the next generation of pilots.*

## **Mark Your Calendar: June Chapter Meeting & Lunch**

*Our next official gathering is right around the corner! Please join us for our June chapter meeting on Sunday, June 14 at 2:00 PM.*

*Come hungry, because we will have lunch available right before the meeting starts! It is a fantastic opportunity to enjoy some food, catch up with fellow aviation enthusiasts, share project updates, and plan our summer flying activities.*

## **Maximize Your Flying Time**

*With the sun hanging high in the sky, June offers the perfect opportunity for those longer cross-country flights or just a few extra sunset laps in the pattern. Whether you are completing a condition inspection, working on your amateur-built project, or simply maintaining your currency, there is no better time to take advantage of the generous hours of visibility. Use this extra time to fly safely, practice your maneuvers, and perhaps introduce someone new to the magic of general aviation.*

## **Website Transition Complete**

*As we gear up for a busy summer schedule, we are excited to announce a major update to our chapter's digital home. Our website has officially moved to the official EAA-hosted platform to improve reliability and better serve our members.*

*Don't worry—you don't need to memorize a new URL. You can still access all of our chapter news, event calendars, and project updates at our familiar web address: [eaa974.org](http://eaa974.org).*

*Please take a moment to visit the newly hosted site, update your bookmarks, and check out what the chapter has planned for the upcoming months.*

*I look forward to seeing you all for lunch and the meeting on the 14th!*

Jason

# May 17, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

17 May 2026 / 12:33 PM

## ATTENDEES

Jason Pratt, Robin Kidder, Roger McClure, Grace Hogan, Scott Hersha, Scott Balmos

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Income	\$ 740.00
Expenses	\$ 1,432.91
Checking	\$ 9,210.44
CDs	\$ 17,200.30
Savings	\$ 504.63
Total	\$ 26,915.37

## YOUNG EAGLES

- Total for April 2026: 19 kids flown; May cancelled
- 5/30 Young Eagles Flight for Butler Tech Students
- Next date:
- June 20th

# **BUSINESS MEETING, CONTINUED**

## **AGENDA**

### **Old Business**

- Fly-in on October 10, 2026 11-4. Brandi going to coordinate. NEED VOLUNTEERS
- Establish Fly-in Committee
- Merch available in fall
- Learning sessions on how to use specialty tools
- Speakers for chapter gatherings
- Chapter was approved for the Ray Scholarship for 2026: Chapter approved candidate. Approved by EAA HQ.
- Website is now going to be based on the EAA server.
- Rotating chef- signups starting in June
- Christmas Party Location

### **New Business**

Need nomination for 2.5 Millionth Young Eagle

### **Upcoming Meetings**

<b>2026 Chapter Gatherings:</b>	<b>Chef</b>
June 14th	
July 12th	
August 9th	
September 13th	
October 10th- Saturday	FLY-IN
November 8th	Chili Cookoff
December 13th	

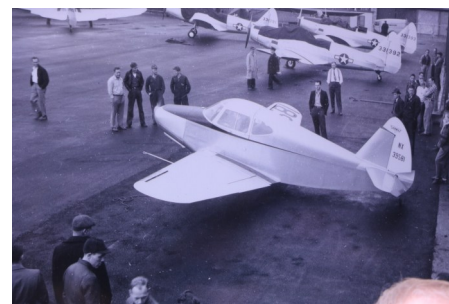
### **2026 Young Eagles:**

May 30th, June 20th, July 11th, August 15th, September 19th, October 17th

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

# AERONCA AIRCRAFT, A HISTORY BY CRAIG MCVEIGH

At our May Gathering we were treated to an excellent talk by Craig McVeigh about the history of Aeronca Aircraft. Craig is the president of the National Aeronca Association, and we were privileged to have him come to speak to us. Craig is based at New Carlisle Field and was accompanied by his bride and co-pilot. He included a huge number of slides of various Aeronca Aircraft, some familiar and some not so much. Some pictures represent pictures of aircraft the company produced in quantity, others nearly were one-off examples. I've tried to catch pictures of several of the slides and have included as many as I could squeeze onto the page. Thank you Craig for sharing your knowledge and for your excellent presentation!





Work on the 1930 WACO ASO has continued throughout late winter and early spring at the Brodhead Airport in southern Wisconsin.

The remaining three wings panels were sanded, filled and painted. Then, one at a time, they were moved from the shop to the hangar.

March 20th was wing installation day. The airplane was leveled and the lower right wing was installed. Then the upper wings were installed along with the interplane struts, to support the upper wings.

Wings, interplane struts and wires installed and mostly rigged in these photos. The tail feathers were removed for a fresh coat of paint.

Before returning to Ohio, I installed the ailerons, but the restoration shop would be installing the aileron gap seals, so this photo shows all four ailerons drooping, as they would not be connected to the control system until gap seals were glued in place with Pliobond adhesive.

Before leaving the tail feathers were finished and installed with all new hardware. All the control systems were inspected, and several coats of fresh varnish were applied to the aft most bulkhead. A broken stinger was discovered and repaired.



Our plan was to return when the weather would cooperate for finishing the plane and test flying it. The week of April 19th was chosen.

A few details were left, including application of fresh wing-walk material. It really turned out nice.



I hired a sign painter from Milwaukee who has been doing hand lettering for 40 years, to drive over on April 20th and paint the N-number on the rudder and the "NO STEP" signs around the wing walk. This was how it was done when the plane was built, and I am very happy with the way it turned out. My friend says of such detail: "Imperfect is perfect"



# **JOHN LABARRE'S WACO 10 RESTORATION HOME AGAIN!**

Tuesday, April 21st was a clear but breezy day.

We completed the remainder of the Annual Inspection, and with the logbooks signed and a thorough pre-flight, it was ready to go.

I waited for the wind to settle down for the first flight since last October. The test flight went well, but some rigging adjustments were in order to correct a heavy left wing. After adjustments, it was 90% better, but not completely without some effort to maintain wings level. More minor adjustments and it was good to go.

I fueled up for the flight back to Ohio the next day.

Wednesday, April 22 was another nice day, but the forecast was for more breezy conditions at KHAO, until late in the day. It was also the last day to get the plane back to Ohio before the weather window would close for more than a week.

Everything was looking good for an afternoon departure. A tailwind was an added bonus, and I landed at Jasper County Airport in Rensselaer, IN for fuel. Always a good deal on their self-serve fuel...\$5.15/gallon. Two hours later I landed at KHAO, pulling up to my hangar at 7pm. Local biplane pilot and car enthusiast, Kevin Carroll drove up in his 1940 Ford to welcome me.

After 7 months, the project is completed, on time and under budget. Many thanks to numerous people that worked for and with me to see it to completion.

JD LaBarre



All photos: John Labarre

# **BUTLER TECH YOUNG EAGLE RALLY MAY 30!**

By all accounts, Chapter 974 had a successful Young Eagle Rally at Middletown Airport KMWO. This was for the incoming class of the new Butler Tech Aviation Center which is now located on the field. Thanks Rich Packer for sharing your students. What an enthusiastic class! Chapter Young Eagle Coordinator Scott Balmos went above and beyond to manage the rally away from our home field. 11 pilots flew 25 students. Thanks pilots and ground crew! Also, thanks Mark Reising for working the computer to keep track of flights, assigning students to pilots and printing certificates. What a great Rally! Photos, Joe Siebert, Steve Rumsey, Bob Dombek



**RICH PACKER ADDRESSES CLASS**



**SCOTT BRIEFS STUDENTS, PARENTS**



**PILOTS AND GROUND CREW!**



**HERE, LEFT AND BELOW LEFT, A NICE LINE UP OF 11 SHIPS ON A NEAR PERFECT DAY FOR A GREAT YOUNG EAGLE RALLY!**



**STEVE RUMSEY WITH ONE OF HIS YOUNG EAGLES**



**ED. WITH YOUNG EAGLE**



**ED. AND ANOTHER YOUNG EAGLE**