

TAILWINDS



**EAA CHAPTER
974
NEWSLETTER
JULY 2026**



Butler County Regional Airport
Hamilton, Ohio



IN THIS EDITION

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CHAPTER GATHERING REVIEW JUNE 14 2026

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Another great EAA 974 chapter gathering is in the books and hopefully in the newsletter history. When all the chairs are off the carts and there are a few members standing or sitting on the soft stairs, it's a sign of another good turnout. 53 was my best count. Thanks to Grace and Rick Hogan we had great sandwiches, broccoli salad and cupcakes Thanks grace and Rick and nice job chapter 974!



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jackson Blight, our new Ray Scholar flying with Stever Pollack has soloed at 10 hours. Fantastic and congratulations Jackson!

From Jason and Scott, our new airport manager is Kandace Braddam. We were hoping to meet her but she was unable to attend. All the same, welcome Kandace!



Young Eagles Coordinator Scott Balmos recapped our most recent rally flying 25 Butler Tech students at Middletown. Scott offered special praise and thanks to Mark Reising for managing YE and pilot registrations Our next rally, scheduled for 6/20, has 22 signed up so far. He thinks EAA is on track for 2.5 million YE's flown by Airventure. Scott hopes to have a table set up at the GCRCC Flying Circus. Randy Adams offered to expedite a table.



Oshkosh camping coordinator Jake Jacobs stated that we will partner with Chapter 284 at Red Stewart Field for additional camping.

Fly-in Coordinator Brandi Brewer is requesting volunteers for our Oct 10 Fly-in. She is also recruiting volunteers to help at the Youth Aviation Center at Airventure.

Chapter President Jason Pratt showed a new Borescope he purchased for the tool crib. He requested that members be sure to use the sign-out sheet for the borescope and any other tools borrowed from the crib. Jason also gave us a slide demonstration of a IR scanner that he has used to make new gear leg fairings for his RV6. The old fairings are scanned, then saved as a CAD file which could be used with his 3D printer. Jason will show the final result at a future chapter gathering.

JUNE 14 GATHERING REVIEW CONTINUED

Art Balph, long time former member, came to tell us that his airstrip, known as King Knoll is no longer registered but is still functional as he continues to maintain it. It is a 1800 grass strip running east-west essentially due west of us almost on the Ohio-Indiana line. Art invited any of us who can use a short strip to land there but cautioned that it would be at our own risk. I remember landing there twice over the years. Nice strip and thanks Art!

PROJECT AND FLIGHT REPORTS

Jason Pratt reported on work on his new prop governor

Joe Seibert has an IO 320 for his RV3A Project with help from Tom Hogan. Ray Parker helped fit the wings.

Billy Bie and Jason Pratt will be taking the MOSAIC Maintenance Class in Greenboro, North Carolina.

Billy Bie gave us a special warning about under inflated tires. He told us about having a flat tire on his RV-10 on his way home from a family gathering in eastern US. He felt certain that an underinflated tire allowed the tire and tube to rotate on the rim upon landing. This caused the inflation tube to shear off. Fortunately no damage was done other than the inconvenience of having to get home for a new tire and tube.

NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS

Please welcome new member Gary Curtis, pictured on right. Gary is finishing an RV12 started by another builder. He just got a hangar at Lunk-en Airport and has an instructor lined up to train him in his RV12 once it's finished. Welcome Gary!



Please welcome Parker Edwards seen on left. Parker is part of the incoming Butler Tech Aviation Center class. He flew with Robin Kidder during the Butler Tech Young Eagle Rally at Middletown in May. Welcome Parker!

Hot-weather flying is here. High summer temperatures mean higher density altitude. Your aircraft will take longer to accelerate. It will climb much slower. Always calculate your performance before takeoff. Hydrate prior to flying and bring water with you.

Convective activity builds fast now. Summer heat creates rapid thunderstorm development. Check the weather frequently (a great benefit of ADSB in!). Give cell build-ups a wide berth. Do not try to skirt around active storm cells.

Our next meeting is July 12th. We will gather at the hangar at 2:00 PM. Come early to enjoy lunch. Mark Reising is generously providing the food.

We need future lunch volunteers. We always look for members to feed the group. Please volunteer to provide lunch for an upcoming monthly meeting. See me at the meeting to claim a month.

Mark your calendars for August 22-23. Our chapter hangar will host a Light Sport Repairman Airplane Inspection (LSRAI) course. The cost is \$550 and will run from 8am to 5pm each day. Class size is strictly limited to 30 students. Registration link is <https://buy.stripe.com/9B64gs2lj5EY2mSg0P0ZW05> . Registration is currently members-only. It will open to the general public exactly three weeks prior to the class. Secure your spot now before the remaining seats open up.

We have shifted our communications. Our chapter group email distribution list has officially changed. Please update your address books. The new address for all group communications is eea974@googlegroups.com.

Fly safe, stay cool, and see you on July 12th!

EAA Chapter 974

June 14, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

14 June

2026 / 12:34 PM

ATTENDEES

Jason Pratt, Roger McClure, Grace Hogan, Scott Balmos, Ray Parker, Brandi Brewer, Stephen Brewer, Bob Dombek

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income	\$ 1,205.29
Expenses	\$ 27.00
Checking	\$ 7,367.73
CDs	\$ 17,229.55
Savings	\$ 504.65
Total	\$ 25,101.93

YOUNG EAGLES

25 Kids flown at Butler Tech

Next date:

June 20th- 22 registered; 7 pilots

AGENDA

Old Business

- Fly-in on October 10, 2026 11-4. Brandi going to coordinate. NEED VOL-UNTEERS
- Speakers for chapter gatherings
- Ray Scholarship- Jackson has soloed
- Website is now going to be based on the EAA server.
- Rotating chef- signups starting in June- PLEASE SIGN UP

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES, CONTINUED

New Business

- Microsoft 365 has been set up to keep Chapter Documents
- Process for purchasing new tools
- Need to set up new email list. Current system will no longer be available as of 7/1.

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Chef
July 12th	Jason
August 9th	
September 13th	
October 10th- Saturday	FLY-IN
November 8th	Chili Cookoff
December 13th	

2026 Young Eagles:

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

Meeting adjourned by Jason Pratt 1:12 PM

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

YOUNG EAGLE RALLY JUNE 20

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Thanks to Young Eagle Coordinator Scott Balmos, 9 pilots, lots of ground crew and escorts, we had another great rally, flying 25 kids. Your editor wishes to thank chapter members who participated as pilots and escorts for submitting photos. I love the way it adds color and tells the story to each of us and those that see our newsletter.



MORE JUNE 20 YOUNG EAGLE RALLY



GREATER CINCINNATI RC CLUB FLYING CIRCUS 2026

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The Greater Cincinnati Radio Control Club held what I understand to be it's 60th annual Flying Circus at KHAO. I remember Circuses from the early 1970's. They were nothing like this. Thank you GCRCC for a terrific show! Chapter 974 had a Young Eagles table and display set up. If you look carefully you will see some 974 members who are also capable RC flyers who participated in flying events in the show. Look for Greg and Camden Koedel, Teddy Stricker, and Randy Adams. Great show and terrific job all!



PROJECT REPORT

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Here is Ercoupe Guru Kevin Gassert's latest restoration project. Kevin says it flew for the First time this century after a 6 year restoration. It's last annual was done June 1995. It flew again for the first time on June 24. The new owner-pilot will be Bill Greenwald. Bill retired from NetJets where he flew Falcon 2000's. Bill is a Navy Veteran so Kevin has finished his Ercoupe in Navy livery. This will be a Great retirement project for you Bill. Chapter 974 Supports your effort!



EAA Chapter 974 has pursuits other than building and flying experimental aircraft. Another well attended pursuit is consumption of human fuel! Here's a nice bunch of chapter members enjoying the traditional lunch which now takes place at the Gilmore Rd Bob Evans. Our traditional lunches have migrated through several venues over the years. Some have closed and some have just not worked out, but the time honored Saturday (and sometimes other days!) lives on!



LIGHT SPORT REPAIRMAN INSPECTION LSRI COURSE AT OSHKOSH

Forwarded by Jason Pratt

Good Afternoon,

My name is Chris Guarente. As a fellow aviation enthusiast, I know how much time and energy you dedicate to supporting your chapter and keeping grassroots aviation thriving in your community. With Oshkosh quickly approaching, I am reaching out to share an educational opportunity that might be highly valuable to the amateur built and light sport owners in your group.

This year, Intrepid Aircraft is hosting a **Light Sport Repairman Inspection (LSRI) course** at Oshkosh on **July 18th and 19th**, just before AirVenture kicks off.

Our goal with this course is straightforward: to give Experimental Aircraft (E-AB or E-LSA) owners the knowledge, confidence, and FAA-recognized certification to perform their own annual condition inspections. We pride ourselves on offering hands-on, practical instruction rooted in real-world aviation experience, ensuring every attendee leaves fully prepared to maintain their aircraft safely.

A quick overview of what the course provides:

- **16 hours of focused training** over two days (July 18-19).
- Eligibility to apply for the FAA Light Sport Repairman Certificate (Inspection rating).
- The ability to legally perform annual condition inspections on an E-AB or E-LSA they own.
- A deeper, safer understanding of their aircraft's systems and maintenance requirements.
-

How you can help: We would be incredibly grateful if you could mention this upcoming course at your next chapter gathering, or pass the information along in your chapter newsletter, to see if any of your members would be interested in attending.

You can direct anyone interested to our website for full details and registration: <https://intrepidaircraft.com/light-sport-repairman-course>

If you or your members have any questions at all, please feel free to reply directly to this email. I would be more than happy to chat.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and everything you do for the EAA community. We hope to see some of your members at Oshkosh!

Blue skies,

Chris Gaurente

Intrepid Aircraft

Denver, CO

66-221-1866

LATE NEWS FLASHES!

From Mark Reising,
Rumor has it that Bob Overman has past his inspection Authorization Exam.
Congratulations Bob!



From Kevin Gassert,
Kevin says it has been an eventful week. "First I get a plaque in the mail from the Ercoupe Owners Club. To my surprise I was honored with this years Fred Weick Award For outstanding service to the club. Then I get to test fly a restoration project that has been in my hangar 6 years." (See page 10)

Congratulations Kevin!!



From Ray Parker,
Here we see Brandi Brewer about to take a hop in Hogan Flying Service's latest WACO. Ray didn't share the pilots I D but I'm willing to bet it's Shane Alexander. What a great way to celebrate a hot July 4th!

Thanks Ray!