

TAILWINDS



**EAA CHAPTER
974
NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2026**



Butler County Regional Airport
Hamilton, Ohio



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- **AUG 9 CHAPTER GATHERING**
- **AUG 15 YOUNG EAGLE RALLY**
- **AUG 15 KEVIN GASSERT'S HANGAR PICNIC**



CHAPTER GATHERING REVIEW



Another great Chapter 974 Gathering is in the books, with at least 47 of us present and accounted for. Top billing on this page is the awesome tacos from Mark and Cathy Reising. Thank you both so much and what a great example you've set. The chapter continues to need volunteers to provide gathering snacks and food.

REMINDER! Many chapter members are in arrears for their dues. Please see treasurer, Roger McClure to bring yourself up to date.

Young Eagles: Coordinator Scott Balmos reminded us of the next rally scheduled for Aug 17. He further noted that it is hoped that Mission 2.5 will record 2.5 million Young Eagles will have been flown by no later than the conclusion of Airventure.

Oshkosh Camping: Jake and Kevin updated us on the status of our camping compounds. They have gone up to establish our compounds and are all set. Jake noted that it will be pretty full but will try to make room for late comers with a tent or modest needs.

Tool Crib Addition: Chapter president Jason Pratt proposes that the chapter consider the purchase of a safety wire cable gun. This device enables you to access hard to reach parts and puts correct tension and number of twists on safety cable. This device was originally developed by GE for engine production. Approximate cost is \$700. He will send out details to all chapter members for review.

Flight Simulator: It appears that we have not used our donated motion capture flight simulator. It requires some reprogramming and repair that may be beyond the interest or expertise of the chapter. Jason will attempt to define its market value and proposes to sell it on Facebook Marketplace.

Light Sport Inspector Repairman Course: The chapter will host a local LSRAI course on Sat-Sun Aug 22-23 in our hangar. Registration will be held for chapter members only until Aug 1 then opened up to all. The course can accommodate 30 participants. 7 have registered so far.

Photos: ed.



CHAPTER GATHERING REVIEW

Caleb Schmidt expressed his heartfelt thoughts and thanks about the value of his membership in the chapter. Caleb has been with us since he was 12 and is now 28, flying as a captain with Royal Air Freight. He praised the chapter for being a valued community and for accepting him as part of it. He felt the chapter gave him a good foundation for his life and career. He encouraged us to encourage others to keep the spirit going!

Project Reports:

Jason Pratt has been working on installing a new prop governor for his RV6. He reports that his efforts have been successful.

Steve Pollak Continues to work on his Kitfox project. He posed a question to the chapter in general about how to glue his wood horizontal stabilizer ribs to the metal airframe outline.

Joe Seibert mad his first engine run on his RV3A project. That's always a big step. Congratulations Joe!

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)

eaa974@googlegroups.com — group e-mail to all chapter members

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS!



On left are Jerry Brownwell and father in law Chris Otte Jerry and Chris are licensed pilots. I have known Chris for several years and knew his father, a pilot and RV4 builder, before that. Jerry and Chris are searching for a hangar in the area and would like to find a Cessna 140 to share as partners. They joined the chapter at this gathering. What a great pair and addition to the chapter! Welcome Jerry and Chris!

Seen right is Jay Shafer. Jay is an RV owner and pilot and flew in a multiship formation event with Jason Pratt.



Newslette



On left is Mallory Becsok . She is a student pilot at Xenia Green County Airport Lewis Jackson Regional Airport KGDK. She hopes to become an airline pilot. Welcome Mallory!

Seen right is Jaxon Gillespie. He joined the chapter at this gathering. Jaxon earned his private pilot license at Hogan Flying Service just days ago on 7/8/26. Jaxon is also a Butler Tech student. Congratulations Jaxon and welcome to chapter 974!
Photos this page: ed.



THE PREZ SEZ

OUR NEXT GATHERING IS AUGUST 9. WE WILL BE GATHERING IN THE CHAPTER 974 HANGAR T5J AT 2:00 PM

BRING YOUR AIRVENTURE 2026 STORIES. WE WANT TO HEAR ALL ABOUT YOUR TIME AT OSHKOSH.

COME READY TO SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT NEW PRODUCTS YOU SAW.

TELL US ABOUT ANY INTERESTING CLASSES OR FORUMS YOU ATTENDED.

SPOTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR THE LSRAI COURSE. THE LIGHT SPORT REPAIRMAN AIRCRAFT INSPECTION IS SET FOR AUGUST 22 THROUGH 23 IN OUR CHAPTER HANGAR.

YOU CAN RESERVE YOUR SEAT DIRECTLY ON LINE.

REGISTER TODAY AT:

<https://buy.stripe.com/9B64gs2Ij5EY2mSg0P0ZW05>.

FLY SAFE AND SEE YOU ON AUGUST 9!

JASON PRATT

PRESIDENT, EAA CHAPTER 974

EAA Chapter 974

July 12, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

12 July 2026 / 12:34 PM

ATTENDEES

Jason Pratt, Roger McClure, Scott Balmos, Robin Kidder

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income	\$ 560.24 (Donations \$173.00)
Expenses	\$ 2368.92
Checking	\$ 11471.29
CDs	\$ 17,260.53
Savings	\$ 504.67
Total	\$ 29136.49

YOUNG EAGLES

- > 0 flown in July
- > Next date:
 - o August 15th- XX registered; X pilots (opens in two weeks)
- > Jaxson Galespie: wants to join and fly kids. Scott Balmos will do a ride with him.

AGENDA

Old Business

- > Fly-in on October 10, 2026 11-4. Brandi going to coordinate. NEED VOLUNTEERS. Candice approved date and initial plan. Must get flyer to

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES, CONTINUED

EAA for insurance. Planned expenses are food, port-o-potty, flyers.

Get info out by 1 August.

Speakers for chapter gatherings

Ray Scholarship- Jackson is prepping for his written

Rotating chef- signups starting in June- PLEASE SIGN UP

Christmas Party

Location: Check price for Curling Club.

Food: Check Magiano's for delivery cost

New Business

Improve took check out process

Sell flight simulator. Scott will get an estimated value.

Clean out old equipment

Upcoming Meetings

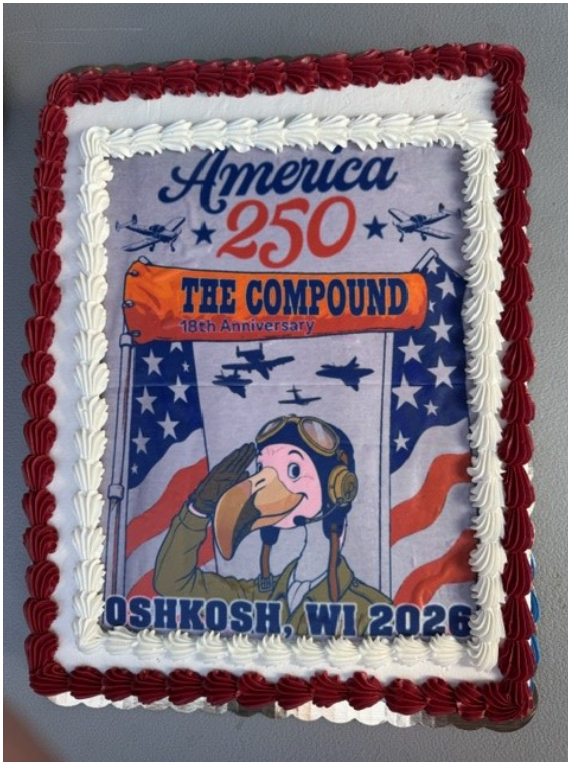
Date	Chef
August 9th	
September 13th	
October 10th- Saturday	FLY-IN
November 8th	Chili Cookoff
December 13th	

2026 Young Eagles:

August 15th, September 19th, October 17th

Meeting adjourned by Jason Pratt : 1:11 p.m

OSHKOSH 2026 CHAPTER COMPOUND CAPERS



CHAPTER CAMP COMPOUNDS CONTINUED

Pages 8 and 9 are wonderful examples of the experience of camping at Oshkosh Airventure. We shared our sites with a couple of other chapters, notably Red Stewart Field Chapter 284. What excellent chance for fellowship and hangar talk! We have been using 101 Woods for the past several years. This requires some chapter members going up early to establish our sites by setting up a few campers and obtaining camping credentials for those who paid in advance. Thank you chapter members who made the extra trip to get us set up. Kevin Gassert comes immediately to mind but I know there were others. Your editor was sorry to miss this year but will certainly make up for it next time.

A special thanks goes to Jake Jacobs for most of these photos. Other contributors were Mark Taylor and Charlie Corder. Thanks all!!



CHAPTER 974 VOLUNTEERS AT AIRVENTURE!

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Volunteers are the spirit and energy of Oshkosh Airventure! Chapter 974 members Brandi and Stephen Brewer devoted their entire week to volunteering at Vintage. Stephen is usually found outside at Vintage in Review while Brandi is usually in the Vintage Hangar to involve kids. Also seen below in the Vintage Hangar are Fred Hogan and Jake Jacobs.

Thanks all for what you do!

Photos: Jake Jacobs

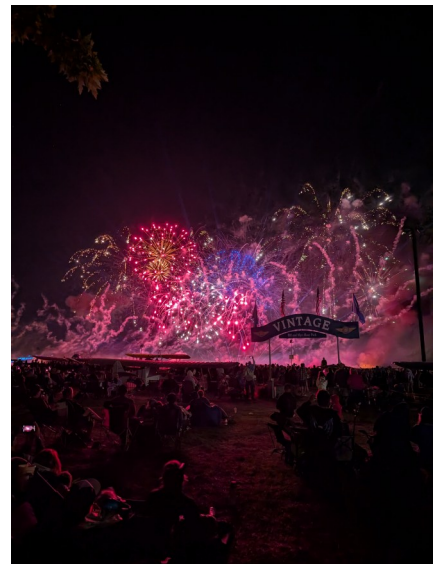
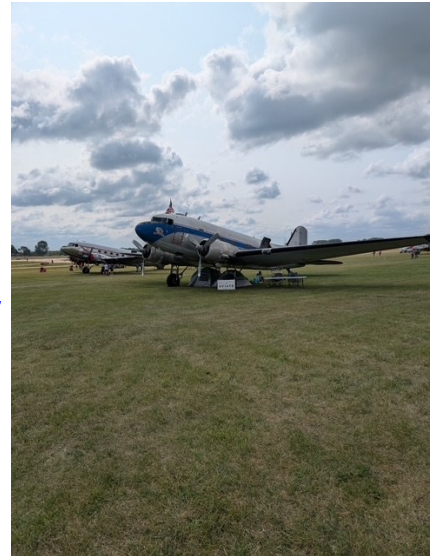


AIRVENTURE ACTION FROM FRED HOGAN

Page 11

These photos were contributed by Fred Hogan. Be sure to read the next page. Fred describes in detail his flight to Airventure along with Shane Alexander in his and Stephen and Brandi-Brewer's Aeronca Chiefs.

The DC-3 seen on right was the one that sat at Hogan Field not long ago, now restored. Below left is the Brewer Chief flown by Shane. Below center is a rarely seen military version of the Temco Swift. Next are some great fireworks shots from the night airshow on Wednesday. Lower right corner is a remarkable Chief with an outstanding logo. Thanks Fred for great shots



FRED AND SHANE'S OSHKOSH ADVENTURE!

Page 12

Oshkosh was a more of a challenge to get into this year. The Canadian smoke caused IFR conditions on a cloudless day. Shane and I planned to fly Brandy Brewer's 1940 Chief and I was taking my 1939 Chief. We kept looking at the smoke forecast, and decided to travel on Sunday, leaving Hogan Field about 8:30 am. Visibility was reporting 5



miles and mostly clear. The picture of windmills in northern Indiana show perhaps a 4 mile visibility, and you could see blue sky up and could see the ground well enough, but horizontal visibility was restricting. It would only get worse going north.

We arrived at Dodge County, 30 miles south of Osh-

kosh about 1:30 in afternoon. ATC had just declared VFR conditions as we arrived. There were airplanes sitting on the taxiways firing up and taking off trying to beat the crowd. We waited until about 5 pm before deciding to attempt our entrance to the airshow.

Conditions were marginal VFR at best and we flew west about 45 minutes west and 20 miles past Portage airport. Shane was watching flight aware activity. Again, horizontal visibility was the big problem. I was following Shane about $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 mile behind. As we listened to ATC, they advised 2 mile separation. The approach frequency was way too active with folks talking back at ATC or between themselves. ATC was waving off about 75 percent of airplanes from the Line. The aviation community was not represented well as some peoples were using the "F" word and someone said shut up Bitch to a female voice, which I think was ATC. To further the confusion, ATC shut down the 2300 approach for the faster planes, probably ATC could not see that high. Good luck to Eric with an RV and the Bonanza guy we met at Dodge

county.

Our Chiefs can only maintain about 80 mph, and since Shane had yellow wings, one transmission said couple times, "the cub needs to speed it up"....yeah, right!! Some planes were passing us which was Ok with me because they disappeared into the smoke, a would say visibility was about one and half mile at our level.

We got to Ripon and this Cessna 150 passing me and overflies Shane, but as we approached Fisk, it slows and falls in behind Shane. That was scary, and rather stupid/rude. So, ATC at Fisk waves Shane and the 150 off because they are too close. It took ATC four calls to the 150 before it finally complied. Radio transmissions never quit, Shane says I had approval to go in, but I did not hear the authorization and being low on fuel, I did not want to continue wondering into the unknown. So, I turned out north, then west, climbed to 3000 and headed south back to Dodge. We made it safely back to Dodge County and Brandy picked us up with their pickup truck. It was one long day.

Next day we could have made it, but rain in morning and wind picked up to 20 knots. Dodge County was very accommodating as they had us tie down in a grassy area and then even put our airplanes in hangar on Tuesday when there was a Tornado watch activity. It helped that the manager there was in process of buying an Aeronca TC model that his grandfather had flown for pilot training WWII.

Oshkosh was fun regardless and the smoke mostly cleared out and we departed on Thursday with no weather issues going back to Hogan Field.

Photos & Story
Fred Hogan

