

TAILWINDS



**EAA CHAPTER
974
NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2026**



Butler County Regional Airport
Hamilton, Ohio



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CHAPTER GATHERING REVIEW

Greetings EAA Chapter 974! Our September 2026 Gathering was a good one with 33 present or accounted for. Our mini-spit heat pump did a good job of protecting us from the heat and kept us comfortable! Thank you Scott Balmos for leading the Gathering in the absence of president Jason Pratt and VP Robin Kidder. We are fortunate to have a depth of leadership when primary officers are unable to attend.



Thanks Brian Charlton for providing our terrific lunch of fried chicken, and potato salad.

We did not have a formal program for this gathering, but there were several announcements and project reports to hold our attention. Lets get to them!



YOUNG EAGLES:

Young Eagles Coordinator Scott Balmos told us that we flew 19 kids out of 25 registered at our last rally on Aug 15. Our next rally, scheduled on Sept 19, again has all 25 registration slots filled. Our final rally for 2026 will be Oct 17.

FLY-IN:

Brandi Brewer will coordinate our upcoming Fly-In on October 10. Hours are 10am-2 pm. There will be a swap meet.



LIGHT SPORT REPAIR AND INSPECTION COURSE:

The LSRAI Course that was held in the chapter hangar on Aug 22-23 was successful. It was attended by 27 registrants. The chapter will receive \$1000 for providing the venue for this. Several chapter members attended.

CHRISTMAS GATHERING:

Christmas plans uncertain at this time. It appears we lost our previous venue. Stay tuned!

CHAPTER GATHERING REVIEW

PROJECT REPORTS:

Since our last gathering, John Wilemski made his first flight in his Cozy Mk 4. John told us that his Cozy has been a 33 year project, due to family and other obligations. We understand that John. Good for you to make family a priority. Congratulations on your first flight!

Daryl Habit has been working on his Zenith 601 in our chapter hangar. Is planning to attend the Zenith Open House and will be meeting William Wynne of Corvair fame. Needless to say, Daryl's Zenith is Corvair powered. The engine installation and general construction are first class. Daryl hopes to be flying by this time next year.

Scott Balmos has ordered a tail kit for a RV14. He has ordered lots of new drill bits and other supplies. Congratulations on your new project Scott!

RAY SCHOLAR :

Our Ray Scholar, Jackson Blight, is working on landings and preparing for cross country work. Steve Pollak is his instructor, teaching in his Citabria.

SAFETY CABLE TOOL:

The safety cable gun, well not really a gun but a tool, has been ordered. This was presented and voted on at our September Chapter Gathering.

NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS:

Please welcome Kate and Sarah Schaefer. Kate is on the wait list for Sporty's Academy and has flown as a Young Eagle. Kate was accompanied by mom Sarah who is seen on right. Kate is very interested in an aviation career. Kate, Chapter 974 will be with you to help any way we can.



Jennifer and Romano Reyes joined today. Romano has his Private Pilot Certificate and rents to fly at Clermont County. Welcome Jennifer and Romano

Wyley Gump is another new member at this gathering. Your editor apologizes for not capturing his picture.

Editors Note: I should point out that newsletter pictures of new members and visitors are optional and done only with permission of the subjects.

Chris Otte and Son in law Jerry Brownwell joined us again. They are looking for a hangar in the area. Once they find one, they plan to become partners in a tailwheel aircraft. Their top choice would be a Cessna 140. Chris told us how great it was to become part of an active chapter and feel connected to a thriving aviation community. Welcome again to you both!



Mark Taylor had just returned from Brodhead, Wisconsin in his Hatz Biplane shortly after the gathering began. Mark, Shane Alexander, Fred Hogan, Stephen and Brandi Brewer attended a vintage fly-in in Brodhead over the weekend. Hopefully we will see some pictures from that even in a future edition.

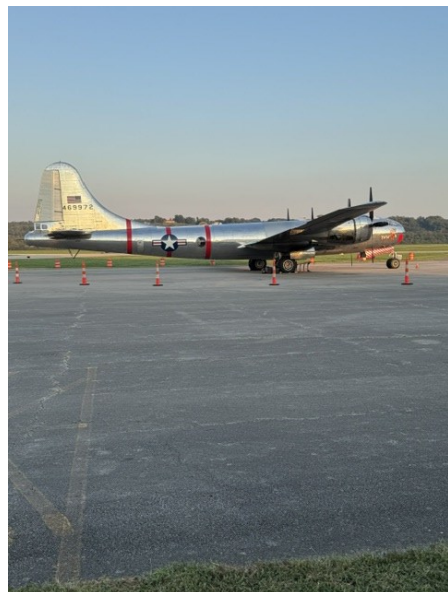
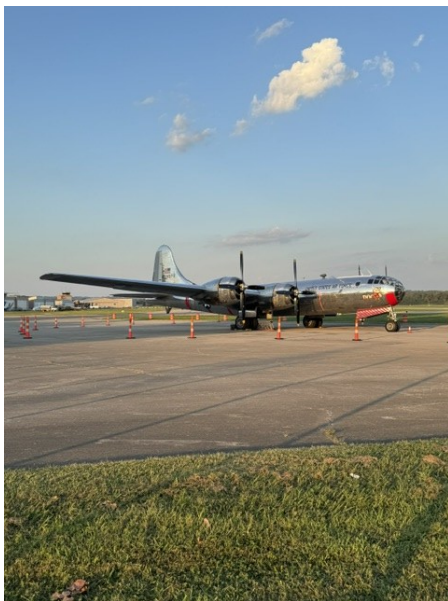


Here was another aircraft parked outside the chapter hangar. I have no idea whose it was, but it was a neat little plane. In looking at its ID plate it was shown as a Headwind. Not sure if I read that right and was unable to read the owners name.



LUNKEN DAYS 2026

Several chapter members participated in Lunken Days over the Labor Day Weekend. Of course the B-29 Doc was star of the show, but that does not take away from some beautiful ships that chapter members flew in. Those that didn't fly still participated in a meaningful way by helping with set up. Thank you Bob Burkhardt, Brian Charlton, Charlie Corder, Jim Sitts Mike Wood and Bill Greenwald.



YOUNG EAGLE RALLY SEP 19 2026

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By all accounts our September 19 Rally was a success in spite of a low ceiling. With a little distraction, it was easy to find yourself surrounded by mist as you penetrated the cloud base at 1700-1800 ft agl at least during the early flights. Thankfully, the day improved, enabling us to fly 22 Young Eagles. Thank you escorts, pilots and record keepers for a great rally!



RED STEWART FIELD LABOR DAY WEEKEND AIR SHOW

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I had never attended the Saturday Airshow opting only for the Sunday morning pancake breakfast. This was a neat home-spun show with exciting aerobatics from a Pitts and an unexpected Navion performance, complete with smoke. Grimes Twin Beech was there complete with smoke and lights! Sorry not to have more info about performers. Fun Show



SOUTH WEST OHIO REGIONAL FLYIN, AKA SWORFI

I could easily fill a couple of pages with SWORFI pictures. This is a big annual event that was transformed from EAA Chapter 174's annual fall picnic. This has been combined with Cincinnati Warbirds Squadron 18. It takes place on Todd Winemiller's beautiful farm airstrip who serves as host. It always falls on the last weekend in September with the fly-in itself falling on Sunday. There were several campers who spent much of the weekend there. Chapter 974 represented itself well with several chapter members flying or driving over. Let the pictures speak for themselves. Thank you Todd Winemiller, EAA Chapter 174 and Cincinnati Warbirds Squadron 18 for a great weekend!



CHAPTER 974 MEMBERS FLEW IN TO SWORFI

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I wanted to capture those that flew over from KHAO but there were several other members there as well. Ray Parker, Dick King, and Bill Hauck drove.....who have I missed?



SCOTT HERSHA RV6



SHANE ALEXANDER, CHAMP



BOB DOMBEK TIGER MOTH



ALEX & DOUG HURD ERCOPE



LEO TRIPP RV8



MARK TAYLOR HATZ



JAKE JACOBS LUSCOMBE

PROJECT REPORT, JOHN WILEMSKI'S COZY 4

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I've been wanting to capture John Wilemski's recently completed Cozy 4 since we learned of his Cozy getting its Airworthiness Certificate and making its first flights at our September chapter gathering. John's Cozy has been a long project which he started in 1993, but was set aside for 10 years due to family and other obligations. He has it flying in Phase one of it's flight test program and John tells me he has just over 15 hours logged. It's been a learning process due to its configuration, but John tells that other than being a little pitch sensitive, it handles well. I've seen him in the pattern several times recently and maybe some of you have as well. The yellow color is stunning and eye catching, making it hard to miss. John, your workmanship is beautiful. Thank you for sharing with the chapter! Congratulations on a standout aircraft!



CHAPTER CONTACTS

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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

CHARLIE & MARY LOU CORDER AT CESSNA 120-140 CONVENTION

Here are pictures sent by Charlie and Mary Lou Corder from the Cessna 120-140 Convention in Fredericksburg, Texas. It took place on September 22-26. They stopped at Mary Lou's home town, Amarillo, on the way down. Would you not agree that they had quite an adventure? Charlie sent more pictures than I have room for, but thank you both for sharing your adventure with us!



CESSNA 120-140 CONVENTION, CONTINUED

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