TAILWINDS

EAA CHAPTER 974 NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2026

Hogan Field EAA 974
Butler County Regional Airport
Hamilton, Ohio



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COMING EVENTS

- NOVEMBER 8-CHAPTER GATHERING, CHILI COOKOFF, ELECTIONS
- DEC 13– CHAPTER GATHERING
- JAN 16 CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE CURLING CLUB



OCTOBER 2026 CHAPTER GATHERING REVIEW

The October gathering was a little overcast with a cool breeze blowing into the chapter hangar. 44 of us were able to feast on leftovers from our fly-in the day before. Kevin fired up the grill and Brandi treated us to some great pine-apple upside down cake. Thanks Kevin and Brandi! More will be said about the fly-in later in this edition.





CHAPTER NEWS

Young Eagle Coordinator Scott Balmos reminded us that our final rally for the year will be next Saturday Oct 17 and that were are fully signed up with 25. Most other local rallies are also full.

Our annual Chili Cookoff will be next month at the November Gathering. Chili and Cheesecake!!

Our chapter Christmas Gathering will take place at the Cincinnati Curling Club on Saturday, Jan 16 2027. It will again be catered by Maggianos at $40 per person.



Fly-In—Brandi Brewer worked hard to put it together and did an excellent job. The Weather made folks hesitant to fly any distance, we still had a good crowd and lots of fun and fellowship. Brandi thanked all the volunteers and had nothing but praise for everyone's generosity and hard work. Most of all praise and thanks goes to Brandi!



T-Shirts and Sweat Shirts—There will be another opportunity for members to order Chapter clothing at the November Gathering.

Elections—Nominations for chapter officers for 2027 will be requested at the November Gathering. Elections will then be held if there are new nominees. Otherwise, current officers have consented to continue for 2027.



PROJECTS AND FLIGHTS

Scott Balmos received his RV14 tail kit ordered at Oshkosh He has started working on the rudder which he says went quickly and is nearly done.

CHAPTER GATHERING REVIEW, CONTINUED

PROJECTS AND FLIGHTS, CONTINURED

Steve Pollak flew to Hayward, Wisconsin accompanied by his wife. It was a 4 hour flight during which they stopped in Janesville.

Billy Bie flew his RV10 to Massachusetts last week, stopping in New Jersey to visit his daughter.

Billy Bie reported that Joe Seibert's RV9 was delivered and is now here on the field.

Dave Glassmeyer continues work on his kitfox. The wings are nearly painted and he is preparing to cover the fuselage.

Ray Scholar Jackson Blight continues his flight training with Steve Pollak in Citabria. He has taken and passed his written exam and is preparing to start solo cross country flying.

Russ Pfeiffer told us of encountering a dust devil on the ground near his property. He was impressed with its appearance and apparent strength.

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

THE PREZ SEZ



Hello Chapter 974 Family,
It is hard to believe we are already looking toward 2027, but it is time to shape the future of our chapter. Our annual Chapter Leadership Elections will be conducted at our next gathering on Sunday, November 8th at 2:00 PM in Hangar T5J . If your are interested in running for an office, please let Roger McClure know by November 7th. Your participation and ideas keep out chapter thriving!

Of course we are pairing our civic duty with one of our favorite traditions, the annual chili cookoff and cheesecake contest. Come ready to cast your vote for the 2027 leadership team, and stick around to enjoy some incredible food and friendly competition. Bring your appetite and your best recipes.

As you have noticed, the weather is starting to cool off around Hamilton. Before you pull the airplane out of the hangar, keep these winter flying tips in mind:

- *Check your batteries: cold temperatures quickly degrade battery capacity. Make sure yours are strong, healthy and fully topped off.*
- *Preheat properly: cold engine starts cause significant wear. If the hangar is frosty, utilize an engine preheater to get the oil flowing smoothly before turning the key.*
- *Inspect cabin heaters: Take a close look at your exhaust shroud. A hidden crack can let dangerous carbon monoxide into the cabin when you turn the heat on. Ensure your CO detectors are up to date.*
- *Dress for the survival situation: Never fly over cold terrain in shorts and a T-shirt jus t because the cabin heater works. Dress for the ground temperature in case of an unexpected off –field landing.*
- *Watch for frost and ice.: Even a thin layer of frost completely disrupts airflow over a wing. Never attempt a takeoff until your flight surfaces are 100% clean and dry.*
- *Come to vote, stay for the chili and cheesecake, and let's keep our flying safe as the seasons change. See you all on November 8th!*

Fly Safe!
Jason Pratt
President, EAA Chapter 974

EAA Chapter 974

October 11, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

11 October 2026 / 12:36 PM

ATTENDEES

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income	$ 1,736.62 (Donations $117.00)
Expenses	$ 1,327.65
Checking	$ 11,579.48
CDs	$ 17,343.64
Savings	$ 504.74
Total	$ 29,427.86

YOUNG EAGLES

24 flown in September
Next date:
October 17th- 25 registered; 7 pilots
New purchase: Booster seats
Ray Scholarship- Jackson soloed and passed written

AGENDA

Old Business

Fly-in on October 10, 2026 11-4. Expenses: $837.56 Income: $433.56

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES, CONTINUED

Clean out old equipment and hanger sale/ swap meet at Fly-in

Speakers for chapter gatherings

Christmas Party

Location: Check price for Curling Club. ($450- includes tables and chairs. Drinks available for purchase.)

Food: Check Maggiano's for delivery cost.

Cost: $40/person. 70 person max.

Improve Tool Crib check out process

Sell flight simulator. Scott has an estimated value for computer and screen. See him for details

New Business

Chili and Cheesecake Cookoff for November

Signup with Brandi

Anyone interested in running for board must submit name before beginning of November gathering

Shirts may be ordered at November gathering

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Chef
November 8th	Chili Cookoff and Elections
December 13th	
January 16th	Christmas Party

2026 Young Eagles:

October 17th

Meeting adjourned by Jason Pratt: 1:10 p.m

PROGRAM-ROTOR WASH & WAKE TURBULENCE

Thanks to a connection through Scott Balmos, we were treated to an excellent program on Helicopter Rotor Wash and Wake Turbulence. This is very relevant for us as we share operating space at Hogan Field with Air Care and other helicopter services. We learned that there are certain cautions and hazards to be aware of when operating near helicopters

The presenter was Ned Parks of Akron, Ohio. Ned has vast helicopter experience as a CFI among other qualifications. Ned came to us directly via a video connection set up by Scott. It was very interesting to say the least! Here is a brief summary.

ROTOR DOWNWASH—occurs when helicopter is in hover or slow hover 3-5 feet above ground level such as during taxi. A helicopter is considered to be in full flight The down-wash extends 3 rotor disc diameters outward.

ROTOR WAKE VORTICES—occur when a helicopter is in full forward flight. At that point there is no downwash, but there is wake turbulence similar to a fixed wing aircraft.

TAIL ROTOR HAZARD—There is danger to people and vehicles nearby from tail rotor wash or being struck by the rotor itself. The pilot is completely unable to see objects, people or vehicles behind him.

There is hazard to aircraft and objects being blown around and damaged by rotor wash.

The impact of these hazards come from lack of awareness and insufficient airport and in flight spacing.

The image below on right shows a fixed wing aircraft taking off behind a hovering heli-copter and being flipped by rotor wash. Left image is presenter Ned Parks.





CHAPTER FLY-IN AND SWAP MEET OCTOBER 10

Chapter 974 held it's first fly-in on October 10. There have been others at Hogan Field but not as chapter 974 came to life. Our Fly-in coordinator and leader was Brandi Brewer. She has been working toward this event for over a year. The weather didn't completely cooperate causing many to hesitate to make it by flying, but just look at the long row of cars on the next page! More than anything, Brandi praised the Volunteer spirit. Yes, Brandi did a great job of scheduling and organizing volunteers, but those volunteers more than honored their commitments by being there early and pitching in throughout the day, including cleanup. Chapter 974 is a great family shown by the fellowship and spirit at this event. Most of all, thank you Brandi!













OCTOBER 10 FLY-IN, CONTINUED

Not a bad day when you think about it, in spite of the weather. The weather was comfortable and there were no dust devils, sand storms or hurricanes! There was plenty to eat bargain goodies to buy or trade, and lots of good fellowship.













YOUNG EAGLE RALLY OCTOBER 17

We pulled off our final Young Eagle Rally of 2026 between a stiffening northerly crosswind and a presidential TFR scheduled to go into effect by noon. One quick round of flying got 12 kids in the air with 10 pilots on duty. Scott gave the kids and families a good pre-flight briefing, and Billy conducted his usual entertaining and informative ground school. I'm sorry I didn't catch you all I photos with your Young Eagles. My flat tail wheel tire enabled me to catch more than usual as I was grounded and free to run around with a camera so caught as many as I could. Thanks to all who participated!











OCTOBER 17 YOUNG EAGLE RALLY















