

# CYNTHIANA-HARRISON COUNTY AIRPORT

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

February 2024



1961

PHOTO  
CYNTHIANA DEMOCRAT

## ABOUT THE AIRPORT

The Cynthiana airport encountered several challenges before its approval in 1959, with Judge Executive Musser Carroll casting the tie-breaking vote to finally approve the airport plan.

After receiving the airport's final approval, the fiscal court sold 53.2 acres of county farm property to the incoming airport board for \$30,000. Additionally, the county contributed \$12,500 towards the construction of the airfield.



1962



1997

In 1962, a terminal building/office was built. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the construction was done by volunteers who donated their time and the majority of the material was donated by local businesses. A couple years later, the maintenance hangar was added to the end of the building.



Airport history continues on page 2.



2003



# FLOOD OF 1997



Several changes have been made over the years but the biggest change came in 1997. Bobby Craft had only been Chairman of the airport for a few months when the unimaginable happened.

When it started raining on the morning of March 1, 1997, no one had any idea what was about happen. The unexpected rain was just the beginning of a catastrophic flood that would change the course of many lives and leave a lasting impact on the community. As the floodwaters relentlessly surged throughout the day, people were taken by surprise and left unprepared for the ensuing destruction that unfolded.

The devastating scene that greeted Bobby and the other board members as they finally were able to reach the airport was one of utter destruction and loss. The airport terminal building and hangars had been overtaken by the flood waters. The realization that it was too late hit them hard, and they were faced with the daunting task of rebuilding and starting over in the wake of such immense destruction. Twenty-three aircraft were submerged in the flood waters, leaving pilots with mud filled airplanes.

A long time friend of the airport, Art Morgan lost three aircraft. Art began restoring these airplanes after the flood, but did not get see them fly again. Art passed away in 2001, his Starduster was eventually finished and continues to soar through the skies today. It is unknown what happen to his other two aircraft, a low wing Aeronca and a Citabria.



NOTE: There is a lack of specific regulations or statutes governing the repair and use of flood-damaged airplanes that have been written off by insurance companies. This could potentially lead to these aircraft being reintroduced into service without adequate oversight or assessment of the safety risks associated with flood damage.



It is commendable that despite the challenges brought on by the flood, the airport has managed to make progress in implementing changes. This highlights the resilience and adaptability of the airport board in overcoming adversity and working towards improvement. Their ability to push forward amidst difficulties demonstrates a commitment to maintaining and enhancing the airport for all to enjoy.

## EAA CHAPTER 1522

Discover the excitement of aviation within your community by becoming part of EAA Chapter 1522 and engaging with fellow aviation enthusiasts. The chapter offers a range of aviation-related events, educational programs, and social gatherings, along with regular meetings. Members also participate in mentoring young adults, guiding them towards a future in aviation as pilots.



In the aftermath of the flood, a notable achievement was reached in 2005 when the airport received a federal grant. This grant allowed for the expansion of the runway from 3,200 to 3,850 feet, all within a budget of \$450,000.



The airport achieved a significant milestone when it secured funding in 2009 from the Kentucky Department of Aviation, thanks to the strategic decision-making of Chairman Craft. Despite Cynthiana not being initially included in the state's plans for terminal buildings, Chairman Craft proactively engaged with the airport board and local officials to advocate for the inclusion of the Cynthiana-Harrison County Airport. Together, they successfully arranged a meeting with the Kentucky Department of Aviation Commissioner to request the construction of a new terminal building outside the flood zone. The construction of the building started in October 2009 and was not completed until May of 2012.







The addition of a taxiway in 2015 significantly improved the safety of aircraft operations at the airport. Prior to its construction, pilots had to taxi down the runway, leading to potential safety hazards, especially during events like Young Eagles where multiple planes were taxiing simultaneously. The new taxiway not only facilitated a smoother flow of air traffic but also reduced the risk of accidents and improved overall efficiency at the airport.

Following the completion of the terminal building and hangar in 2012, there was no looking back. Utilizing private funds, the board successfully erected a six-bay hangar that was promptly occupied.

### **“BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME”**

Airport board members, both past and present, can take pride in their accomplishments. The airport has become a cherished destination for pilots and aviation enthusiasts, who now have a place they can truly call home. Thanks to positive feedback from fellow pilots, the Cynthiana-Harrison County Airport has gained a reputation as one of the top airports to visit in the Commonwealth, attracting pilots from all corners of the United States.



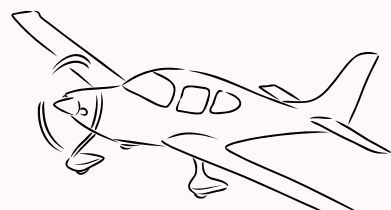
**Have a story you want to share or more information on something at the airport?  
Email: [rejeanacraft@gmail.com](mailto:rejeanacraft@gmail.com)**

# THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

## CONSTRUCTION PROJECT



The construction of 8 new hangars is near completion. The \$ 1,030,533.00 project, which was funded by grants from the FAA and Kentucky Department of Aviation, will increase the airport's aircraft storage facilities to 35. Completion of the project is set for June 2024



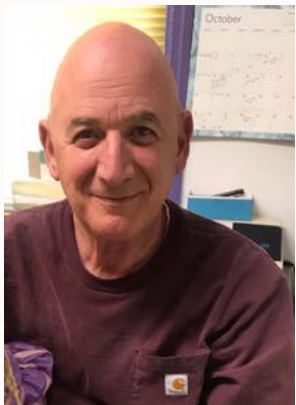
MEET THE  
AIRPORT BOARD



*Bobby Craft*  
Chairman



*Doug Jackson*  
Vice Chairman



*Avi Bear*



*Dr. Derek Clarke*



*Brent Chidsey*



*Greg Clifford*



*Jeana Craft*  
Secretary/Treasurer



# RAY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

## Lucas Whalen

Lucas took his first Young Eagles flight in 2013 with pilot Bill Stoeppel from EAA 1522 in a PA 28-201 Dakota.

I am so blessed to be awarded with this scholarship, I will be forever grateful for those who have helped me take the the first steps on the way to my dream to becoming a pilot. Thank you to everyone in chapter 1522 and at EAA. ~ Lucas



# 2023



## What is the Ray Scholarship

The Ray Scholarship initiative, providing funding for young individuals to obtain their pilot's license through the EAA Experimental Aircraft Association, demonstrates a valuable investment in the next generation of aviators. By offering financial support for aspiring pilots, this program not only promotes interest in aviation but also helps to address the barriers that may prevent young people from pursuing their passion for flying. This opportunity creates a pathway for individuals to achieve their aviation dreams and contributes to the future growth of the aerospace industry.



## Kathryn Madigan

Kathryn took her first Young Eagles flight in 2018 with pilot Doug Jackson from EAA 1522 in a Piper PA-28 Cherokee.

(Danger Zone) "You'll never know what you can do until you get it up as high as you can go" ~ Kathryn

# 2024

The next recipient will be revealed in the upcoming April newsletter. Stay tuned for more information and updates on this exciting announcement.



# Events

April 27, 2024  
10:00 - 2:00

## Wings & Wheels



Cynthiana-Harrison County Airport  
40 Airfield Lane, Cynthiana, KY.



# BLUEGRASS 150



May 11, 2024 will be the second running of the Bluegrass 150 Air Race. This race is sponsored by the Sport Air Racing League (SARL) and is a 150 mile course beginning and ending at the Cynthiana-Harrison County airport. Unlike pylon racing, SARL events are races where pilots flying any type or speed of airplane can have fun and test their navigation skills. There is even a short course for planes with speeds under 100 knots. Both certified and experimental planes can participate and are only competing against aircraft of the same type. The emphasis is on fun and safety. Details can be found online at [SportAirRace.org](http://SportAirRace.org) where registration will open soon.

This event is hosted by Jim and Donna Wilson who can be reached at 859-391-1235, [Jfw329@fuse.net](mailto:Jfw329@fuse.net) and [DonnaParrDVM@aol.com](mailto:DonnaParrDVM@aol.com).



**EAA 1522**  
THE SPIRIT OF AVIATION  
Cynthiana, KY

**EAA 1522 MEETING**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY**  
**2:30 PM**  
**AT THE AIRPORT**



**HEROES RUN 5K**  
20 APRIL 24  
**CYNTHIANA, KY**

**NEXT EDITION**  
The history the Young Eagles at the  
Cynthiana-Harrison County Aripport