



# PENNSYLVANIA PILOT

Vol 11 No 2, Fall 2000

Published quarterly by the Aero Club of Pennsylvania and the Aero Club of Pennsylvania Memorial Scholarship Fund

## Gear Up Landing, IFR Down Under, Future Flight, Cockpit Cams...

### MEMBER NEWS

#### Thousands witness gear-up landing

The pilot of a Piper Comanche 250 received an unexpected audience recently as he joined the ranks of “those who have” landed gear-up. The Comanche was directed to Burbank, Calif., airport where the event received all the attention it deserved ... and then some. In a city where police freeway pursuits are routinely broadcast live from TV station choppers, TV crews became aware of the situation and were waiting when the Comanche arrived over Burbank. As the Comanche pilot executed a “picture perfect” landing, thousands of local TV viewers witnessed his belly flop on live TV.

#### New Basic IFR rating created in Australia

In what it says is a first in the world, AOPA Australia recently announced that private pilots can now qualify for a basic instrument rating. The rating allows pilots to fly en route through clouds between a VMC departure point and a VMC destination. Tony Mitchell, of AOPA Australia, said “This rating is a quantum leap ahead of the U.K. rating and simply much better than the U.S. rating.”

#### CHAOS at PHL

Bad news always comes in threes, as Philadelphia International Airport is discovering. Recently, the airport’s radar system shut down due to computer malfunctions; then the

mayor fired the airport’s aviation director; and the next day, US Airways flight attendants picketed an airline ticket office in downtown Philadelphia. The F/As were mak-

#### Airport Highlight



Digital Photo by Patrick Walsh

A new FBO began operating at Pottstown-Municipal Airport on May 9 of this year; New T-hangers are in the planning stages. See more **Airport News** on page 3...

ing good on their threat to disrupt flight operations in unspecified ways under a program they call CHAOS (Create Havoc Around Our System), to dramatize their demand for a new contract. The incidents were unrelated.

#### Fuel problems plague Australia

Any government official in the U.S. who doesn’t realize how important general aviation and small planes are to a country’s econo-

my need look no further than Australia. For every week the 5,000-plane piston fleet is grounded due to a fuel contamination problem, the Australian economy is losing \$12-plus million.

Exacerbating the problem is the fact there is no sure way to tell if fuel is contaminated with the Ethylene Di-Amine or not. Mobil said it was close to perfecting such a test. Mobil, despite a building crescendo of angry voices, is declining comment on any possible compensation payouts to airports or aircraft operators.

#### NASA studying the future of flight

NASA is looking at developing a network that would provide more than 5,000 GA airports with the ability to land light aircraft day and night in most kinds of weather. The program, dubbed the Smart Air Transport System (SATS), intends

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## AERO CLUB OF PENNSYLVANIA



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PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Al Schnur

Fall is rapidly approaching and there still is ample time to do some of the best flying of the year. You may want to consider flying down to Eastern Maryland and attend the annual Waterfowl Festival. I can assure you that this is a class event. Transportation is available from the airport to the sign-in area. From there you are on your own to savor the fun, food, festivities and artisan displays.

This has been one of the better years for the Aero Club. We managed to award four scholarships. Congratulations to \$1,000 recipients:

Ryan Patrick Koch,  
Ruth Niederhause,  
Charles P. Hunter,  
Phaedra N. Nusselman.

In addition the Bob Shannon Memorial Fund granted scholarships to:

Donald Miller, \$1000  
Craig Fenoff II, \$500

And finally, the Eastern PA Chapter of the 99's awarded scholarships to:

Tripti William  
Alison Laird (Wolf Memorial)

All awards were made at the annual Scholarship Dinner at Wings Field on June 23, 2000. My personal congratulations to all the recipients.

On page 7 of this newsletter you will find an invitation to send in your Aero Club renewal for 2001. A timely response is greatly appreciated. And why not take advantage to sign up a new member and reduce your membership costs by \$5.00 for each member.

Blue Skies,

Al Schnur, President

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

### July 28, 2000

The Board of Directors met at the PACC on July 28. The minutes were approved, as was the second quarter statement of the Trust Fund. The approval of the Treasurer's report was deferred pending additional changes. Also, Norm Blanchard was unanimously approved to succeed Lou Fitzpatrick as Trustee for the Aero Club of Pennsylvania Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Rob Dant introduced the new newsletter; it has a more professional look, including more article titles, a redesigned calendar, and a 'featured airport'. Mike Modes will solicit new advertising with the goal of making the newsletter self-sustaining. Depending on the number ads, the newsletter may have to be expanded.

The question of membership renewals was discussed; it was agreed that in addition to the announcement on page 7 of this newsletter, an additional mailing will be sent to non-respondents to remind them to pay the dues.

Soon, the FAA will again make pilot addresses available to vendors. This will us to solicit new members, as was done in 1996. Lee Paynter will be looking into the matter to make the process less labor intensive. The new membership drive will take place in the Spring of 2001.

# Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Meeting Report

## AIRPORT NEWS

June 15, 2000  
By Steve Najarian



### PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL [PHL]

The new Atlantic Aviation facility will be completed for the Republican National Convention this summer. The new overseas facility will be completed in the Spring of 2002. The precision runway monitoring (PRM) system will be completed in November 2000 and will allow simultaneous use of 8/28 and 9/27.

### DOYLESTOWN AIRPORT [DYL]

Land acquisition is being studied for possible construction of new T-hangars. Security fence and controlled access is installed. ASOS is available on 118.875; METAR code is KDYL.

### QUAKERTOWN AIRPORT [UKT]

Property at the end of the runway has been purchased. Clearing of the land is on hold until community concerns can be resolved. ASOS being installed and "Weathermation" will be installed by July 2000.

### NEW CASTLE/WILMINGTON [ILG]

Taxiway Foxtrot will be improved and new tower under construction is slated to be open by year-end.

### DELAWARE AIR PARK [33N]

State of Delaware Airport Authority has purchased this private airport for public use. Normal runway length and width is 3700 x 50. Grass overgrowth has reduced it to 3000 x 35. The State plans to restore the runway to its original dimensions.

### SOUTH JERSEY REGIONAL [VAY]

Runway extension and Improvement is on hold until community opposition can be resolved.

### POTTSTOWN LIMERICK [PTW]

A State grant funded ramp rehabilitation. EAA Fly In Breakfast event was a great success.

### FLYING W [N14]

Five hangars are under construction. The runway surface has been improved. REILS will be installed. The owner of the hotel and restaurant has expended one million dollars in hotel construction improve-

ments with the objective of making Flying W a fly-in resort airport.

### WINGS FIELD [N67]

The Commonwealth Court has PS 2210 under consideration as to its constitutionality. Judge Kelly is writing an opinion. Its disposition is on hold until the panel rules. "Vintage Aircraft Day" open house is planned for September 9th.

### NEW GARDEN FLYING FIELD [N57]

The State of Pennsylvania Aviation Bureau awarded \$4500 for the purchase of snow removal equipment. The Wilmington Chapter of EAA opened a Club Hangar on site. The EAA flew 150 Young Eagles for their first ride in a GA aircraft on June 10th to celebrate the opening of the EAA Chapter Hangar Center. The annual air show occurred June 11.

### CECIL COUNTY (f. RAIN TREE) [58M]

Installation of medium intensity runway lighting is almost complete. Acquisition of 30 acres of land is under study. Construction of 13 additional T-hangars plus a maintenance hangar is planned. A GPS IAP is in the works by the FAA.

### SPITFIRE AERODROME (f. OLD MANS) [7N7]

An airport master plan is in the works to revitalize the airport with State/Federal funding. Homeowners or developers adjacent to the runway are requesting access to the runway "through the fence". The airport decision regarding this request is on hold.

### BRANDYWINE AIRPORT [N99]

The principals of the New Brandywine Airport Club met with the Bureau of Aviation to get approval for an upgrade to funding the Airport Master Plan for the year 2000. This will position Brandywine to apply for FAA/PA funding for airport improvements in the next fiscal year. A study is underway to develop available acreage for more tie downs or T Hangars in the future.

### OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED:

#### Concerned Citizens from Bucks Co PA

A group of citizens' from Bucks County, PA addressed the DVRPC meeting with concerns relating to the expansion of the terminal building at Trenton/Mercer County Airport. They

are concerned about the increase of low flying aircraft from runway 24 and are opposed to changes that they perceive will increase traffic and noise. They insist that an Environmental Impact Assessment be conducted and an Environmental Statement be produced. The FAA will conduct the E.A. and will address the results with the NJ regional airport authorities to determine if there is an impact on residents. Public hearings in New Jersey will probably follow. The complication is that the problem crosses state lines. The airport has been in existence since 1924. The developers of the land in Bucks county who built the homes in the path of the runways were not obliged to tell prospective buyers of the exposure to airport noise.

#### FAA Reliever Status guidelines changed

To have Airport Reliever Status to a major hub airport and therefore be eligible for FAA/State funding, the number of aircraft based at an airport requirement has been increased from 50 to 100 aircraft and 25,000 operations. This is causing major concern to the smaller GA airports that have fewer than 100 aircraft based on site. The FAA representative, Pat Sullivan, stated that they would review any appeals for exceptions.

#### New Jersey and Pennsylvania Funds

The New Jersey Aviation Authority stated that they have \$7 million to distribute to airports this coming year, not including FAA block grants for 2000.

Pennsylvania Aviation Bureau has \$7.5 million to distribute, excluding FAA block grant funds for 2000.

#### GPS Accuracy & Availability Improves

Accuracy in pinpointing location has been increased from 300 ft to 100 ft.

#### AOPA Presentation of AR 21 Airport Improvement Act

This act unlocks the Aviation Trust Fund, guaranteeing that annual revenues and interest will be fully spent. It permits the uses of general funds subject to the normal appropriation process. User fees proposed by the Administration have been tabled, though they could come back to life.

## MEMBER NEWS

Continued from Page 1...

to function primarily using advanced aircraft cockpits that have "autoflight" capability — which sounds marvelously practical while at the same time turning the joy and art of flying into an experience comparable with riding an elevator. Insiders are predicting that funding for SATS could appear as early as FY 2002.

### Stowaway gets a free ride

Baggage handlers at Memphis's airport got a shock last Friday when an unidentified man popped out of the cargo hold of a Northwest Airline flight. The stowaway had traveled all the way from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport in the heated and pressurized front section of the cargo hold, where pets travel. The man, who appeared to be in his 20s, fled on foot.

### NTSB urges cockpit cams

Throwing its weight behind a measure some have long urged (and others have dreaded), the NTSB has formally urged the FAA to require cockpit cameras in all aircraft now required to have cockpit voice and flight data recorders. The recommendation calls for installation of two crash-protected cockpit videotape recorders in all new eligible aircraft after January 1, 2003, and for retrofitting of existing eligible aircraft with one videotape recorder by January 1, 2005. Support for cockpit cameras has increased following several air tragedies for which investigators haven't been able to settle definitively on a cause based on cockpit voice and flight data recordings. Critics, including the Air Line Pilots Association, say cockpit cameras represent an unwarranted intrusion on pilots' privacy and could be used for purposes other than crash investigations.

#### Late News! Pilot Hiring Up

Airline pilot hiring continues at a record pace, with over 1,600 new positions filled in March, according to Air Inc., an airline career information services company. Of the 214 airlines/operators that report data to the company, 191 hired pilots. Activity was greatest at the majors, which hired 453 new pilots. The Atlanta based company predicts 19,740 pilot jobs will open up this year.

## AERO CLUB CALENDAR

### AUGUST

**25-27-28** Annual Airshow, Sussex Airport, Sussex, NJ

### SEPTEMBER

**7-10** Intl. Seaplane Fly-In; Greenville, ME  
**9** Vintage Aircraft Day; Wings Field  
**10** PAOPA 46th Annual Fly-in Breakfast, Pottstown-Limerick  
**14-17** Reno Air Races; Reno, NV  
**23-24** Transportation Show, Reading Regional Airport  
**30** Annual Air Festival, Ocean City Municipal, NJ

### OCTOBER

**7-8** EAA East Coast Fly-In, New Garden (N57), PA  
**10-12** 53rd Annual NBAA Mtng & Convention; New Orleans, LA  
**14-15** Rotorfest 2000, American Helicopter Museum at N99; West Chester, PA  
**20-22** AOPA Expo 2000 Long Beach, CA

### NOVEMBER

**10-11-12** Waterfowl Festival, Easton, MD

### DECEMBER

**17** Annual Aero Club Wright Brothers Dinner

### HIGHLIGHT

#### Waterfowl Festival, Easton, MD

The Waterfowl Festival, Inc. will be holding its 30th Annual festival November 10, 11 & 12, 2000 in Easton, MD. The organization is dedicated to the enhancement of waterfowl and other wildlife conservation through habitat preservation, education and research. This is a great fly-in adventure with convenient and frequent shuttle buses available to and from the airport and throughout town - all three days. Great food, entertainment and gifts. Call 410-822-4567 for advance sales and ticket info.

# DF Steer, Airline Safety Fines, Pilot Meals, GA Shipments...

## PILOT NEWS

### FAA agrees to keep DF equipment

In the wake of lobbying by AOPA and other organizations, the FAA has agreed to maintain direction finding (DF) equipment at 111 Flight Service Stations for another 10 years. In 1997, the feds had announced plans to shut down all 143 DF sites in operation at the time. But the good old "DF steer" is still alive and available to pilots who've lost their way. And the FAA is even replacing older, vacuum-tube-based equipment with newer, solid-state gear.

### Airline fines rose

Fines against U.S. airlines for safety violations rose at least 80 percent to more than \$9.4 million last year, USA Today reported this week. The total could go higher since data is not yet complete. Security violations accounted for about half the fines, while maintenance violations made up 38 percent. The worst 1999

offender in dollar terms, America West was hit for nearly \$2.8 million, mostly for operating flights without performing required inspections. Delta took honors for the most citations - 177, for nearly \$2 million in fines. Continental's \$111,250 was the lowest total for the airlines surveyed.

### FAA provides real-time flight status

Taking another step to reduce passenger frustration with airline flight delays, the FAA has developed a web site that provides real-time status of flight operations at major airports in the U.S. You can check it out at <http://www.fly.faa.gov> before your next commercial flight.

### PHL security company agrees to fines

An airport security company accused of using untrained employees -- including some with criminal backgrounds -- at Philadelphia

International Airport has agreed to pay \$1.2 million to settle the case and reimburse \$350,000 to overcharged airport clients. However, three of Argenbright Holdings' former employees still face up to 25 years in prison if convicted on felony charges of conspiring to make false statements.

### 'Designee Update' is now e-mail only

For those of you who have been receiving "Designee Update" previously known as "Examiner Update" or wishing to receive it, be advised that beginning October 1, 2000 the Designee Update will only be published in electronic format. Subscribing is very simple. Send a blank e-mail to the following: For pilots the address is: [join-opsdesignee@silver.lyris.net](mailto:join-opsdesignee@silver.lyris.net). After you send your blank e-mail message, you will receive a message back which will ask for confirmation. Just reply

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**Aero Club members receive a 10% discount with their membership card.**

to that message and you will receive information via e-mail when changes occur. The Designee Update will also continue to be available on the AFS-600 web site. This is a must-have publication for all pilots, giving up to date information on recent interpretations of the regs, PTS, etc.

## Delta pilots get meals

In an effort to keep the rumbling down inside Delta's pilots, Delta management, under pressure from ALPA, may be stepping to the plate to provide its pilots with meal service. The current contract does not include meals for pilots flying domestic routes. It seems that Flight Attendants get first dibs on any scraps left behind by unwilling passengers, so members of the flight deck often go without for hours. Management is already moving ahead with a pilot meal plan. Maybe they'll call it a "happy meal"?

## GA shipments up

GAMA has issued its first quarter 2000 report that shows a total of 613 GA shipments adding up to \$2.1 billion in billings -- yes, that is a record! It's also more than a 22% increase in shipments and more than a 10% dollar value increase over last year's numbers. Aside from the 136 jets and 78 turboprops delivered, 399 brand-new piston-engined aircraft found brand-new homes -- that's better than four a day. Let's hope it lasts.

## Fewer incursions

There were fewer instances of airplanes and vehicles getting in each other's way at the nation's airports in 1999, but the numbers didn't go down by much. The FAA recorded 322 incidents in '99, just three less than 1998. Los Angeles International reported the highest total number of incursions at 10, but it ranked 21 in incidents per 100,000 takeoffs and landings. Those airports that made the top of the almost-hit parade were the smaller airports that see far fewer landings and takeoffs and more general aviation traffic.

### Shortage of Instructors...

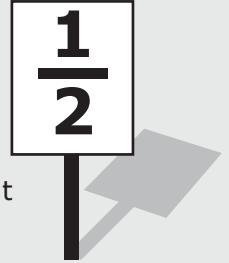
As soon as a flight instructor reaches 1000 flight hours, he or she becomes a candidate for the Commuter Airlines. Professional instructors are in short supply.

# Runway Half-Way Signs

## FLIGHT SAFETY

By Al Schnur

Recently, there was an update to the AIM para. 7-5-6 that introduced the use of runway half-way signs at unimproved airports. The intent of these signs was to provide pilots with a reference point to judge takeoff acceleration trends. Assuming that the runway length is appropriate for takeoff (considering runway condition and slope, elevation, aircraft weight, wind, and temperature), typical takeoff acceleration should allow the airplane to reach 70% of lift-off airspeed by the midpoint of the runway. The "rule of thumb" is that if the airplane does not reach this speed by the midpoint, the takeoff should be aborted, as it may not be possible to liftoff in the remaining runway.



There are several caveats that come along with this little "rule of thumb" and they are:

1. The airspeed indicator is not evaluated at speeds below stalling in small airplanes, and consequently may not be usable at 70% of liftoff speed.
2. This "rule of thumb" is based on a uniform surface condition. Puddles, loose gravel, high grass etc., may impede acceleration. And even if the airplane achieves 70% of the liftoff speed by the mid-point the condition of the remainder of the runway may not allow additional acceleration.
3. The "rule of thumb" applies only to the amount of runway required for actual liftoff. If obstacles affect the takeoff climb path, an appropriate distance must be available after liftoff to accelerate to the best angle of climb speed and to clear obstacles.
4. Utilization of this "rule of thumb" does not alleviate the pilot's responsibility to comply with the applicable FAR's, the performance limitations specified in the approved Airplane Flight Manual (AFM), or in the absence of an approved FAA AFM, or other data supplied by the aircraft manufacturer.

These runway half-way signs may well prove to be the next best thing since the implementation of the VASI. In the next issue I'll have some additional ideas that may be used in conjunction with these half-way signs once they start to make their appearance. Stay tuned.

Refer to the most recent AIM paragraph 7-5-6 for the full excerpt on runway half-way signs.



**AERO CLUB OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
P.O. BOX 748, BLUE BELL, PA 19422

# 2001 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Dear Member,

Just to remind you that your Aero Club dues in the amount of \$20.00 for 2001 are due by November 1, 2000. Be sure to take advantage of membership renewal discount program-discount \$5.00 off your membership for each new member (maximum three). Discount only applies if membership application(s) and dues for new members are included with your renewal. Please complete the membership subscription form below, making any changes as appropriate.

If you wish to contribute to the Scholarship Fund your donation will be used to promote youth in aviation. A donation of \$10.00 from each member will assure providing two scholarships next year. Remember, all contributions to the Scholarship Fund are tax deductible, so please consider the Aero Club when planning your 2000 contributions. If you contribute \$100 to the scholarship fund, your membership dues are waived for the year!



Blue Skies..... Al Schnur, President

Please send your dues and Scholarship donations to:  
Aero Club of Pennsylvania, PO Box 748; Blue Bell, PA 19422.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTION: \$10  \$25  \$50  \$100  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

2001 DUES: \$20.00  SCHOLARSHIP \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* PLEASE RETURN BY NOVEMBER 1, 2000\*

## SPECIAL NOTICE

### Bob Mills to Retire; PHL Sea Plane Base Sold; Mills' gala being planned.

The Philadelphia Flight Standards District Office of the FAA has notified us that our long time friend and fellow aviator, Bob Mills, has sold the Philadelphia Seaplane Base and will (sadly for us) be retiring this fall. They suggested that all interested aviation groups get together sometime in November to celebrate and honor him. We will be working on a location for this gala affair. If anyone has any ideas for a location in the western suburbs (close to Essington, preferably) please call Nancy Kyle at 610-454-0494. More information to follow as we firm up the details. For those of you who don't know Bob, he has operated the seaplane base for more years than we care to admit and has been flying for even longer. If you're affiliated with an aviation group, please plan to spread the word for this VERY SPECIAL occasion, and join us in honoring a very special aviator.

### BECOME AN AERO CLUB OF PENNSYLVANIA MEMBER COMPLETE THE APPLICATION BELOW:

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CERTIFICATE \_\_\_\_\_  
RATING(S): \_\_\_\_\_  
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**BLUE BELL, PA 19422**

### ***Pilot Alert!*** FAA to Release Pilot Data

By now, all certificated pilots should have received a letter from the FAA, allowing them the option of making their addresses available to the public again. The address lists will be made available in December. Choose carefully!! By removing your address, you will not only miss out on some annoying sales pitches, but you will not receive mailings regarding legislative and regulatory issues, key safety concerns and much more.



Organized December 17, 1909; Chartered May 10, 1910

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**Change of Address Requested**

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