

Published quarterly by the Aero Club of Pennsylvania for those interested in aviation in the Greater Delaware Valley

## Event Planning

### Wings and Wheels...

The Aero Club will have a table setup at the annual Wings & Wheels Day on September 8 at Wings Field. The event is an annual fundraiser for Angel Flight East, but the Aero Club also sells aviation items to raise funds for the Aero Club Memorial Scholarship Fund.

### Eagles Mere...

The Aero Club planned to make a private visit to the Eagles Mere Aviation Museum in northern Pennsylvania on August 5 about the time of the printing of this newsletter. Museum information is available on their website at [www.eaglesmereairmuseum.org](http://www.eaglesmereairmuseum.org).

### Hammondsport, NY...

Some members of the Aero Club plan to visit the Glenn Curtiss Museum on September 15 during the annual seaplane homecoming event sponsored by the museum. For information, contact Walt Ellis at [wellis1903@yahoo.com](mailto:wellis1903@yahoo.com). See story about Glenn Curtiss and the museum on page 5.

### Seaplane Base...

The Aero Club plans on having a display at the Friends of Lazaretto "History Weekend" on October 6 on the porch of the Lazaretto House at the Philadelphia Seaplane Base in Essington, PA.

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## Aero Club and Ninety-Nines award \$29,000...

### 17 recipients awarded

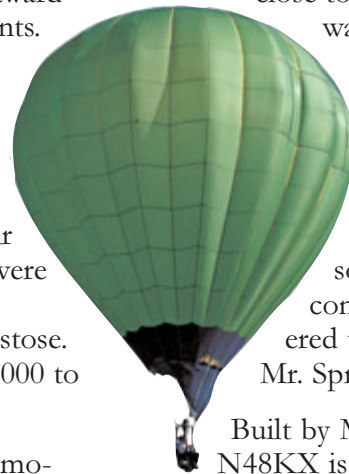
Over 60 members, recipients and family members attended the annual scholarship dinner on June 14 at Wings Field. The Aero Club of Pennsylvania Memorial Scholarship Fund along with the Eastern PA Chapter of the Ninety-Nines awarded nearly \$29,000 to 17 recipients. Aero awards totaling nearly \$23,000 were given predominantly to post-solo students, but four awards were given in honor of Bob Shannon to deserving students to start their primary training. Two awards were given in honor of local pilots Michael Dunn and Bill Backenstose. The Ninety-Nines awarded \$6,000 to three young women aviators.

Our guest Speaker Captain Timothy Fields of the Delaware National Guard spoke about flying C-130 airlift missions in Afghanistan during his five combat deployments from 2006-2011.

The Aero Club of Pennsylvania Memorial Scholarship Fund has awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships in the last 10 years. Scholarship applications are accepted each spring.

### Balloon rises above PACC

Following the July 19 Aero Club Board of Directors meeting, our special guest Keith Sproul demonstrated the inflation and tethering of a one-person, hot air balloon. About 30 members and local pilots got up close to the balloon as it was inflated on the grounds of the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club at Wings Field. A number of brave souls also took the controls and tethered themselves under Mr. Sproul's guidance.



Built by Mr. Sproul, N48KX is a 48,000 cubic foot balloon which qualifies as an ultralight aircraft. Mr. Sproul has been ballooning for 15 years and has built five balloons of his own, including his famous "tetrahedron" shaped balloons. He owns ten balloons, including "special shapes" and participates in balloon festivals across the country. More photos of his balloons can be seen at his website at [www.skychariot.com](http://www.skychariot.com).



President Jim Kilduff and Bruce Thompson on the inflation



John O'Toole is at the controls putting heat into the balloon



Paul Heintz waves to the cheering crowd



ORGANIZED: Dec 17, 1909; CHARTERED: May 10, 1910

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The Aero Club of Pennsylvania was formed in 1909 to encourage and promote aviation in Pennsylvania and the Greater Delaware Valley. We are both a social and civic organization which plans field trips, holds an annual dinner, sponsors presentations, awards aviation scholarships, and produces this quarterly newsletter.

New Membership is only \$20  
Signup at [www.aeroclubpa.org](http://www.aeroclubpa.org)

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|                           |                   |
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|                     |  |
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**Aero Club Mem. Scholarship Fund:**  
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**Jeff Kahn**  
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### PENNSYLVANIA PILOT

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

James Kilduff

The planned fly out to the Curtiss Museum in Hammondsport NY was cancelled due to uncomfortably high temperatures and prediction of thunderstorms all along the route. As it happened, thunderstorms did not materialize here until evening, which produced the usual second-guessing of the decision to cancel. One would never fly in summer if thunderstorm threats were universally a reason for canceling. In this case, it seemed right to err on the side of caution. The instrument currency of all pilots is not known by the Trip Committee and we should not be putting pressure on fellow ACPA pilots to fly in situations beyond their comfort.

*The highlight of the trip will be to see the flying reproduction of the America.*

No sooner had that been debated, than Bruce Landsberg, the AOPA Safety Institute head for many years wrote on his blog of two in-flight break-ups near thunderstorms, reinforcing the danger that those storms represent and emphasizing the importance of making the right decision when convective weather is possible. Bruce's blog can be seen on the AOPA website.

The trip is not cancelled. We will go to the Curtiss Museum September 15th, the day of celebration of flight from water, of which Curtiss was a pioneer. The chief highlight of the trip is opportunity to see the flying reproduction of the America, commissioned by ACPA member Rodman Wanamaker to attempt a crossing of the Atlantic Ocean. WWI intervened and what happened next is chronicled elsewhere. But it is staggering to think that 100 years ago this year, only 9 years after the first powered flight of an airplane, Curtiss and Wanamaker were bold enough to think of an Atlantic crossing.

Jim

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Elaine Farashian, Secretary

The Aero Club Board of Directors met at Wings Field on July 19.

President James Kilduff welcomed the group, and then Elaine Farashian presented the minutes from the April meeting. The group discussed financials, membership and newsletter details. Paid membership stands at just over 180 members.

Debbie Harding and Bruce Thompson reported on the success of this year's scholarship program and the awards dinner.

The board talked about upcoming events, including a repeat visit to the Eagles Mere Air Museum and a trip to Hammondsport, NY to

the Glenn Curtiss Museum on Keuka Lake. Additionally, the club will likely participate for a second year at an annual event held at the Lazaretto House, home of the Philadelphia Seaplane Base. The club has a long history of involvement in the base operations.

Planning ensued for the upcoming Wings and Wheels day at Wings Field. The club participates by holding a small sale of aviation items to raise money for the scholarship fund.

The meeting adjourned for dinner and a demonstration by balloonist Keith Sproul. Keith is a long time pilot and balloon builder.

# Aero Club Scholarship Report

By Debbie Harding, VP Scholarships

In the last newsletter, I wrote about the upcoming commitment of this year's Scholarship Committee to determine the final recipients for the Memorial Scholarship and Shannon awards out of 37 applicants. It was a daunting task taken on with diligence, wisdom and good humor by Scholarship Trustee and Committee Chair Bruce Thompson, board member Dan Kurkjian, and Assistant Treasurer John Stubbs. I, too, had the privilege to serve, sharing time and stories with these fine gentleman and getting a glimpse of the future of aviation.

The interviews are the appropriate time and place for these young applicants to share their most lofty dreams and brag about their current accomplishments. We met a young man who is attending school in Wilmington, DE, who takes his bike on the train and pedals from the station to New Garden Airport for lessons. Then there is the Psychology grad that got 100 percent on his written and would like to offer more personalized service as a Commercial Airline pilot. And, the 16 year old woman who would like to be an Air Traffic controller but wants to be a Captain of her own ship too, maybe as a hurricane hunter. There is the young man who wants to privatize a space program, and the practical young man who wants to figure out a way to make learning to fly easier and less expensive.

Ours was a daunting task, because there were so many great candidates and we realized how little the actual awards would cover in the expensive field of aviation. We hope that we compensate a bit by providing candidates with our lessons from experience along with gentle career counseling and firm support. Some of the committee even gave out of our own pockets as well.

Bruce reminded me that In 1975, he received an \$800 scholarship from the Aero Club of Chester County in the amount of \$800 during a time when dual instruction was around \$20.00/hr. Today, our Shannon awards are typically \$1,000, while the cost for dual can exceed \$150/hr. Inflation complicates our goal to award scholarships large enough to make a real impact. So, to the membership and to those who read this newsletter; aviator and aviation enthusiast alike, our club is dedicated to promoting aviation in the Delaware Valley region. All donations, whether cash or in kind through items donated to our auctions, go to actual people striving for a career in aviation. Think of it as an investment in the future of aviation. We can continue to advance the art, the science, the business and the sport of flying through these young people through direct contribution to their success.

In the spirit of camaraderie, we also urge you to check up on this year's recipients taking flight lessons at TAS at Brandywine Airport, Chester County Aviation, Gateway in Queen City, New Garden Flying Field, the Philadelphia Glider Council, Hortman Aviation and Horizon Helicopter in Delaware. As we know, all our members are rich in aviation experiences and connections.

The annual **Aero Club Scholarship Donation Drive** begins now with your contribution to help young men and women advance their careers in aviation. Donations can be made by mail or online. A \$100 or more donation includes free membership for the year 2013. One hundred percent of your donation goes to scholarship awards each year.

**Aero Club PA Scholarship Fund**  
PO Box 748, Blue Bell, PA 19422  
[www.aeroclubpa.org](http://www.aeroclubpa.org)

## AVIATION EVENT CALENDAR

### AUGUST

- 5** **Aero Club** Fly Out to Eagles Mere Air Museum
- 17 (Fri)** Atlantic City Airshow, Thunder over the Boardwalk
- 25-26** New Garden Flying Field Airshow and Pancake Breakfast

### SEPTEMBER

- 8** **Wings & Wheels**, Wings Field (LOM)
- 8** Allen Airstrip Pancake Breakfast (3NJ9)
- 8** EAA 643 Fly-in, Sky Manor Airport (N40) 10AM-2PM
- 9** Heritage Airfield/PAOP Fly-In Breakfast (PTW)
- 9** EAA 70 Breakfast and Fly-In, Braden Airfield (N43)
- 15** Ocean City, NJ Airfest (N26), 10AM-3PM
- 15** **Aero Club Fly-Out**, Curtiss Museum, Hammondsport

### OCTOBER

- 6-7** History Weekend at Lazaretto, Philly Seaplane Base
- 6** EAA 216 Fly-in Breakfast, Alloway, NJ (NJ02)
- 6** EAA 240 Pancake Breakfast, New Garden (N57)
- 13** Allen Airstrip Pancake Breakfast (3NJ9)
- 18** **Board of Directors Mtg**, Thursday, 6PM, PACC

### NOVEMBER

- 9-11** Waterfowl Festival, Easton, PA (ESN)



## Board of Directors Meeting October 18, 2012

Wings Field, Philadelphia Aviation Country Club

The Aero Club will hold its next quarterly Board Meeting on October 18 at the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club at Wings Field.

Following the board meeting, we will plan to have a presentation by a local aviator, yet to be determined. We will announce the speaker via our email list. Members and guests are welcome to attend our presentations.

Dinner (optional) begins at 7PM and the presentation begins around 8PM. Contact Jim Kilduff ([jim@kilduffco.com](mailto:jim@kilduffco.com)) to announce your intention to attend. Dinner is around \$30 per person, not including drinks. Attire at PACC is business casual.

# Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Meeting Report

## Airport News

June 21, 2012

By Elaine Farashian

### PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL [PHL]

Runway 9L/27R rehab is underway. Paving of taxiway K extension is due to be complete by the end of June.

### NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA [PNE]

Runway 6/24 crack repair project is 40% complete.

### BRANDYWINE [OQN]

Recently completed projects include the repair of east end runway and taxiway, the repainting of the taxiway center lines and the delivery of a new tug. Additional 2012 projects include drainage system repair between the hangars and a new lighting system in preparation for runway widening planned in 2014.

### CAMDEN COUNTY [19N]

The Civil Air Patrol is finalizing a contract for basing an aircraft here. The airport's solicitation of Autonomous Airport Authority was presented to mayors of 8 towns. They are seeking clarification of potential liability to the towns. Medevac basing is being sought.

### CECIL COUNTY [58M]

Recognition as "Autonomous Airport Authority" has been solicited. The airport might serve as a medevac site and is pursuing land acquisition for runway approach protection.

### CHESTER COUNTY [MQS]

The construction of the south apron project is continuing. A revised helicopter flight path information has been disseminated to all of the helicopter tenants on the airport and

this information is available on the Chester County Authority website.

### CROSS KEYS [17]

DVRPC has completed 80% of the Airport Layout Plan update project which is on hold awaiting a grant extension. Grant extension requests to NJDOT have been submitted. Meanwhile, all projects must wait.

### DOYLESTOWN [DYL]

Acquisition of easements is being sought for properties under the runway 5 approach. The airport is awaiting grants for runway 5/23 obstruction removal and construction of bypass taxiways for the runway ends.

### FLYING W [N14]

Nothing to report for the airport.

### HERITAGE FIELD [PTW]

Nothing to report for the airport.

### NEW GARDEN [N57]

Taxiway A punchlist is complete. Design for hangars at the airport east end is imminent and construction is expected to begin before fall. The airport is anticipating a grant for the design for reconstruction and widening of runway 6/24. Future Aviators' Summer Camp was offered again this July and August for ages 8-15. The airport will host the Festival of Flight Air and Car Show August 25 & 26.

### PERKIOMEN VALLEY [N10]

Nothing to report for the airport.

### POTTSTOWN MUNI [N47]

A feasibility study for extended runway safety improvement for runway 8/26 has begun. The preliminary engineering is completed while the environmental and next phase formulation are yet to be done.

### QUAKERTOWN [UKT]

The Authority is waiting for permits to

remove the underground fuel tank and provide a new site for a 10,000 gallon fuel farm for AVGAS. It has also acquired 2 parcels of land under the runway 29 approach.

### SOUTH JERSEY REGIONAL [VAY]

A vendor has been selected for the REIL installation, but funding requires approval. A consultant is designing the Jet A fuel farm installation and preparing an RFP package. Capital Budget has been released by the Governor to acquire land for runway obstruction removal.

### SPITFIRE [7N7]

The new owner wants to pursue grants for a fuel farm installation and security gate and fencing.

### SUMMIT AIRPORT [EVY]

Nothing to report for the airport.

### TRENTON MERCER [TTN]

The grant for runway 6/24 Emergency Materials Arresting System has not yet been approved, however the EMAS construction is scheduled to begin soon. Both ends of runway 16/34 will be done simultaneously in about 4 months.

### TRENTON ROBBINSVILLE [N87]

A vendor has been selected to install a security camera.

### VANSANT AIRPORT [9N1]

A new FBO is operating the airport and the Authority continues to address tree obstructions.

### WINGS [LOM]

Hangars 3 and 4 demolition is underway and will be complete by July. New hangar service is expected by January, 2013. Completion of apron seal coat and pavement markings is planned for August. The Vintage Aircraft and Car Show date is the weekend after Labor Day.

## Pennsylvania House approved new aircraft tax relief

From the Aviation Council of Pennsylvania:

The PA House of Representatives has passed House Bill 1100 which eliminates the sales and use tax on fixed wing aircraft sales, parts, maintenance and repairs. HB 1100 will allow airports and their local communities to attract new aviation and aerospace firms. There is a strong economic development component to be realized once the PA Senate takes the required steps to pass the legislation. The bill passed with a vote of 179 to 19. It now moves to the Pennsylvania Senate.

Senator David Argall has introduced Senate Bill 1552. It is now in the Senate Appropriations Committee chaired by Senator Jake Corman.

The Aviation Council of Pennsylvania encourages Pennsylvania aviators to contact their local PA Senator to see where they stand and to encourage them to support the bill. If your Senator is a member of the Appropriations Committee, it is especially important that you make personal contact and ask that the bill be moved to the Senate floor for a vote. More information is available at [ACPFly.com](http://ACPFly.com).

# Curtiss, America, and the Aero Club connection

Aviation History by James Kilduff

The Curtiss Museum in Hammond-sport, NY, is home to the creations of Glenn Curtiss, the first volume production American aircraft manufacturer. Of particular interest to Aero Club of PA members is the reproduction of the flying boat America.

Rodman Wanamaker was a member of the Aero Club of Pennsylvania and son of John Wanamaker, the founder of the department store known of that name in Philadelphia and New York. The younger Wanamaker managed the European operations for the department store company, living in Paris at the time that Glenn Curtiss won the first air race ever held, the Gordon Bennett Cup in Rheims France in 1909.

Wanamaker persuaded Curtiss's partner to exhibit his plane in the store windows at Philadelphia and New York, which presumably is how the two became acquainted. Wanamaker was very concerned about warlike atmosphere in Europe and he commissioned Curtiss to build a flying boat for a transatlantic aerial crossing. The flying boat secondary mission was to promote world peace by making a symbolic flight from the

old world to the new world with a multi-national crew.

Wanamaker selected a US Navy lieutenant John Tower and a Royal Navy counterpart, John Cyril Porte to be the pilots on this pioneering attempt.



John Tower, Glenn Curtiss and John Cyril Porte. (San Diego Air & Space Museum Archive)

The America's development was interrupted by WWI. Lt Porte was called home to England and Tower assumed other duties in connection with naval aviation. However the selection of these two men proved highly

influential on the eventual crossing achieved in 1919 by NC-4.

The German submarine navy was a threat to shipping upon which the allies depended for the war effort. Lt Porte used his familiarity with the America's capability to persuade the Royal Navy to purchase the American and several sister ships to be built by Curtiss for use as anti-submarine patrol planes. These flying boats had the nomenclature H-1, H-2, H-4. The America herself sunk 3 submarines in her first year in Royal Navy service.

This success led to the several variants of the America. Both American and Royal Navies became interested in

making a "larger America" and these evolved into the H-12 and H-16 series in the US and The Porte-Felixstowe F-5 variant, produced in Great Britain. As the war progressed, the head of naval aviation in the U.S. began an effort to further modify the design so that these anti-submarine flying boats could be flown into combat instead of traveling by ship.

The Armistice put an end to the combat need for transatlantic capability, but here John Tower was in a position to influence events. Secretary of the Navy Daniels gave permission to continue the program solely to make the pioneering Atlantic crossing. Curtiss was again given the job of developing what became the NC boats, NC standing for Navy-Curtiss.

Our member, Rodman Wanamaker, provided the money for Curtiss to build the prototype of what became a series of flying boats built in the thousands in Great Britain and the United States. And Wanamaker selected the personnel who were instrumental not only in the airplane development but in the transatlantic flight itself. It was the same John Towers who commanded the NC squadron that finally succeeded in the Atlantic crossing.

Every Aero Club member should see the America reproduction first hand and know the story of this pioneering accomplishment.

Glass Negatives from George Grantham Bain Collection (Library of Congress).



Christening of America, June 22, 1914. Pilot John Cyril Porte, George Hallett, Glenn Curtiss and 16-year old Katherine Masson.



Launching of America, June 22, 1914, on the shores of Keuka Lake.

# Aero Club and Ninety-Nines award 17 scholarships...

## 2012 Aero Club of Pennsylvania Awards

The Aero Club of Pennsylvania Memorial Scholarship Fund awarded 14 scholarships totaling \$22,825, including a \$2500 award in honor of Michael Dunn, a \$2000 award in honor of Bill Backenstose, and \$3,250 in honor of Bob Shannon.



**BEN BEHRLE**  
WYNNWOOD, PA

Graduated Temple University. Works at T.A.S. Flight School at Brandywine Airport. Has Private and working on IFR. Ben plans to get his CFI and help run and improve the flight school.



**MATTHEW DALY**  
PHILADELPHIA, PA

Graduated LaSalle University summa cum laude. Just completed Private Pilot at Hortman Aviation. Aspires to become airline pilot. Scholarship to be used to start the Commercial rating.



**PAUL DABROWSKI**  
NEW CASTLE, DE

Attended Wilmington University and recently completed Instrument rating. Works at Atlantic Aviation and will use scholarship for Commercial rating. Goal is to become a corporate pilot.



**SEAN KOSTRUBIAK**  
PERKASIE, PA

Student at Lehigh Carbon Community College majoring in Aviation Science. He will earn Bachelors Degree in the Professional Pilot Program, hoping to become a professional pilot.



**C. STEPHEN JORDAN**  
WEST CHESTER, PA

Enrolled in Franklin and Marshall College. Second year award recipient. Training at Chester County Airport. His goal is to become an airline pilot and to participate in Air National Guard.



**EMILY LEWIS**  
MICKLETON, NJ

Completed her Private Pilot certificate while in high school and will be attending Salisbury University in Maryland. She has aspirations of being an aviation professional.



**JACOB LEWIS**  
MICKLETON, NJ

Graduated Lycoming College and spent the summer towing banners at the New Jersey shore. Currently a CFI at Cross Keys Airport. Working on Multi with goal of corporate or airlines.



**JOSEPH PITTS**  
AVONDALE, PA

Engineering student at Penn State. Completing his Private at New Garden Airport with aspirations to become a pilot for U.S. Marine Corps and be accepted in U.S. Naval Test Pilot School.

Photos by Rick Shimpf

## 2012 Ninety-Nines Awards



The Eastern PA Chapter of The Ninety-Nines Awards scholarships to woman interested in starting or furthering their interest in aviation. This year, they awarded \$6000 in scholarships.



**AMANDA FAULKNER**  
THERESA DELLAQUILA AWARD  
(Working on Private)



### 2012 Bob Shannon Awards

**Bob Shannon Scholarships** are awarded in honor of Bob Shannon, who operated West Chester Airport (Brandywine) and then Downingtown Airport (Shannon Airport) in the 1960's and 1970's. The Bob Shannon program was incorporated into the Aero Club program last year. This year, the Aero Club awarded \$3250 in honor of Bob Shannon.

**CHRIS DEAGUSTINE**  
WEST CHESTER, PA  
BILL BACKENSTOSE AWARD

Graduated Unionville H.S. and will attend Embry-Riddle. Finishing Private at Chester County. Volunteer Fire Fighter with goal of military or commercial pilot.



**CHRIS ANZIDEO**  
WARMINSTER, PA  
MICHAEL DUNN AWARD

Graduated William Tennent H.S. and will be attending Embry-Riddle. Taking lessons at Doylestown. His goal is to become a fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force.



**MCAYLIE LACOVARA**  
High school student  
Philadelphia Glider Port.



**NATHAN BUXTON**  
High school student, CAP  
Cadet, starting Private.  
Goal: Air Force Academy.



**BRIAN MAHON**  
Salesianum High School  
student, working on his  
private rotary license.



**JOSEPH TUSTIN**  
Bishop Shanahan H.S.  
student working on pri-  
vate at Chester County.



**NICOLE GRAHAM**  
CONNIE WOLF AWARD  
(Working on Instrument)



**GRACE PETERSON**  
LOUISE SACCHI AWARD  
(LeTourneau University)



Organized December 17, 1909; Chartered May 10, 1910

## **AERO CLUB OF PENNSYLVANIA**

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### **FLIGHT SAFETY BRIEFING**

Excerpts from FAA's Safety Briefing Magazine.

#### **Flying for Fun**

At times, "FAA" and "fun" are not words found in the same sentence. But, this month, the entire issue of the the FAA's well-written Safety Briefing Magazine is dedicated to "flying for fun." Here is a summary of some of the articles in this issue:

#### **For the Sport of It. Safe Flying is Fun Flying.**

From the perspective of a flight instructor, Helen Woods offers her philosophy on how flying for fun and flying safe go hand-in-hand. Flying, especially for new students, is never fun if it is accompanied by fear. And fear is mitigated by developing good safe practices and personal minimums.

#### **Coming out of the Woods.**

Mark Spencer, private pilot, talks about flying the backcountry safely and for fun. Sometimes "all available information" about backcountry strips can be little to none. There are many strips that are not charted and only known by local pilots. Information can be gathered by local pilot organizations and

groups like the Recreational Aviation Foundation (TheRAF.org), backcountrypilots.org and shortfield.com. Another strategy is to seek out a local CFI and make the first trip a dual flight.

#### **Flying Just Because.**

Susan Parson offers suggestions for some fun philanthropic flying endeavors, such as flying for the Civil Air Patrol, FlightHawk, or other charitable organizations. There are some specific legal, financial and safety items to be concerned about when flying these types of flights.

#### **Beyond the \$100 Hamburger.**

James Williams talks about the reasons we like to fly and presents some interesting challenges to expand one's aviation horizons. He suggests that pilots add a "new surface" to include water, snow or just grass. A pilot can add "scope" to their logbook by planning some long distance flights. And, a new "skill" can include adding a high performance, complex of tail wheel endorsement to the certificate.

Download the entire FAA Safety Briefing magazine at [www.faa.gov/news/safety\\_briefing](http://www.faa.gov/news/safety_briefing)