

Event Planning

Golden Age Air Museum...

The Aero Club visited the wonderful collection of aircraft at the GAAM Museum at Grimes Airfield in Bethel, PA. on July 20. Most of the aircraft are meticulously restored to good flying condition and regularly take part in museum events. See photo below.

Wings and Wheels...

The Aero Club will have a table at the annual Wings & Wheels Day on September 7 at Wings Field. The annual event is a 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 plans to make a private visit to the Eagles Mere Aviation Museum in northern Pennsylvania on August 25. If you are interested, email us at aeroclubpa@gmail.org. Museum information is available at the website www.eaglesmereairmuseum.org.

Hammondsport, NY...

Some members of the Aero Club plan to visit the Glenn Curtiss Museum on September 14 during the annual seaplane homecoming event sponsored by the museum. For information, contact us at aeroclubpa@gmail.com.

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

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Scholarships awarded; Aero Club visits Hamilton

Over \$30,000 awarded

Nearly 80 members, recipients and family members attended the annual scholarship dinner on June 20 at Wings Field. The Aero Club of Pennsylvania Memorial Scholarship Fund along with the Eastern PA Chapter of the Ninety-Nines awarded over \$30,000 to 14 recipients. Aero awards totaling \$24,000 were given predominantly to post-solo students, but two Bob Shannon Awards were given to students to start their primary training. Also, two awards were given to recipients intending to specialize in aircraft maintenance. The Ninety-Nines awarded \$7,500 to three young women aviators.

Our guest speaker, Jon Martin, is manager of New Garden Flying Field. He spoke about his lifelong love of aviation, his aviation inspirations and about ways to inspire young people to become interested in flying.

Glimpse into aviation history

Five members of the Aero Club of Pennsylvania journeyed to Hamilton, Ontario for the annual airshow at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. There witnesses the DH.98 Mosquito in flight, the same Mosquito that the club visited at the Fighter Factory in May. Michael Little recounted the trip:

Two Aero Club aircraft departed Wings Airfield for the trip to a rainy Niagara Falls and a short rental car ride into Hamilton. The next morning arrived with blue skies and a sense of anticipation. Arriving at the airport, we were instantly transformed into curious impatient children wanting to look and touch everything. On the ramp was the DH.98 Mosquito next to the Lancaster. Nearby were the replica Me 262, DC-3 Dakota, Beech Expeditor, Consolidated PB5Y-5A Canso, Westland Lysander, and B-25 Mitchell. We gawked at the Tiger Moth, Hellcat, Spitfires, FU4 Corsair and too many aircraft to mention as we retreated to watch the airshow.

The next three hours were spent looking skyward at the WWI era aircraft in a dogfight, an F18 performance, a Beech 18 aerobatics performance match none, the Me 262 in flight and the crescendo being the formation of the DH.98, Lancaster and two Supermarine Spitfire Mk V's flying low overhead and all emitting the deep tones of the Merlin engines.

As the day concluded, we thanked our gracious hosts at the Canadian Soaring Club, and our anticipation was replaced by a deep sense of satisfaction in having experienced something truly special.



Golden Age Air Museum at Grimes Airfield, Bethel, PA



British Westland Lysander at Hamilton Airshow, Canada



ORGANIZED: Dec 17, 1909; CHARTERED: May 10, 1910
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The Aero Club of PA was formed in 1909 to promote aviation in Pennsylvania and the Greater Delaware Valley. We are 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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

James Kilduff

The Scholarship Fund awarded many scholarships at the June annual dinner. Jon Martin, manager of New Garden airport (N57), gave an excellent talk. Jon runs an aviation camp at New Garden that we all should know about and support. View the website newgardenflying-field.com and click on the link for camp details.

Four years ago, the Aero Club celebrated its 100th anniversary. This year, the Aero Club of Indianapolis will celebrate its 80th anniversary and your club sent them a congratulatory letter on that occasion. Their website is www.Indyaeroclub.blogspot.com

See elsewhere a recounting of an Aero Club trip to Hamilton, Ontario, Canada for an air show of WWII airplanes. There were just a few of us from the Aero Club. The setting was relaxed, and we were able to walk right up to every airplane and put our thumb prints on all.

It was a Merlin weekend. Most of the engine sounds that we heard were Merlins, made by the US auto company Packard under license from Rolls Royce -- wonderful sounding V-12's that powered the P-51 Mustang also. The planes included an Avro Lancaster four-engine bomber, one of two flying in the world, the Mosquito, the ONLY one flying in the world; two Supermarine Spitfires and two Hawker Hurricanes. Also featured were a Westland Lysander, an FW-190 and a Messerschmitt 262 Swallow, the first operational jet fighter (this was a new airplane, manufactured from the original design).

The Me 262 project has a Philadelphia component. When Steve Snyder conceived of building a copy, there was a need for information and for an actual Me 262 to reverse engineer. Snyder found the aircraft in our backyard, at the Willow Grove Naval Air Station, where an Me 262 had been sitting outside for years. Snyder made a deal with the owner, the US Navy, to restore the airplane at no cost to the Navy, and in the bargain was able to use it as a model for the new production airplanes. Several more jets are under construction. See www.stormbirds.com/project/index.html

Deb Harding and I had lunch with her father and members Bill Hahn and Jack Freeman, both US Navy carrier pilots in WWII. Both had their airplanes shot out from under them and were rescued from the sea. We will have more reminiscences from these two pilots in a future issue.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Elaine Farashian, Secretary

The Aero Club Board of Directors met at Wings Field on July 18. President Jim Kilduff presided over the meeting.

The group discussed the minutes from the April meeting, followed by financials, newsletter and membership. Membership stands at about 175.

Next, Debbie Harding reported on the success of the 2013 Scholarship Dinner.

The group discussed upcoming field trips to Grimes Airfield, Eagles Mere, Hammondsport and the Philadelphia Glider Port.

Some discussion ensued about the success of the Aero Club Facebook page and about how to increase the visibility to the page.

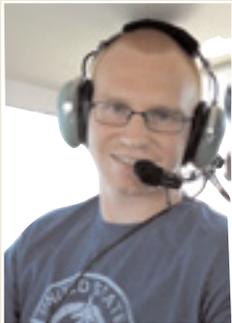
The meeting adjourned for dinner and a presentation by President Jim Kilduff about the Aero Club trip to the Hamilton Airshow in Canada.

Aero Club Scholarship Report

By Debbie Harding, VP Scholarships

The 2013 Scholarship Committee was happy to award two scholarships for aviation mechanic training. One went to a young 22 year-old Emily Ritt and the other to HS graduate Tanner Stott. Both will be attending the PA College of Technology in Williamsport. It is always difficult to get mechanic candidates to our program, but this year we have two! So, in light of our recent visit to the Boeing-Vertol plant, it is appropriate to publish a letter from one of our first awardees for aircraft maintenance in 2009, Matthew Sides:

As I walked through the turnstyle for my first day at Boeing's Ridley Township facility, my knees trembled. I walked dead center down the sidewalk for fear of stepping on the intimidating



white lines that marked the perimeter. When I stepped through the door, the sights and sounds invoked the image of Rosie the Riveter through my brain. It was as if I stepped back in time. I imagined P-51's rolling off the North American Aviation assembly line before my own eyes. Drill motors

whizzing while mechanics bucked rivets at the speed of sound with a song-like rhythm. Old dusty prehistoric jigs straddled a set of railroad tracks where an old steel foundry once moved it's product to support the Baldwin Locomotive production line. But we weren't building Mustangs or locomotives here. A different breed of war fighter was born at this plant, one capable of lifting 24,000 lbs and traveling at 170 knots. The CH-47F is not the original escort-fighter but rather today's fighter-escort.

Before I knew it, managers were picking their new employees like the NHL Draft. I was picked to work as a mechanic in the Final Assembly line, installing flight controls which are featured in today's modernized F-Models as part of the digital 'glass' cockpit. The next three years seemed like a blur as construction crews brought new life to the plant. Boeing's \$130 million dollar investment said goodbye to the old, and spared no expense for the new. Although I was surrounded by a new facility with a bright future, I never forgot where I started and those who helped pave my runway, including the Aero Club of PA. Aspirations of continuing education rank highly on my list, in hopes of taking my career to a greater altitude. A bachelor's degree in Aviation Maintenance Science seems to fit the best,

AVIATION EVENT CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 17** Mid-State Fly In (PSB). Korean War Theme. BFast, Lunch
- 24-25** New Garden Pancake Breakfast and Airshow (N57)
- 25** **Aero Club visit** to Eagles Mere Air Museum

SEPTEMBER

- 7** **Wings & Wheels**, Wings Field (LOM)
- 7** EAA 643 Fly-in, Sky Manor Airport (N40) 10AM-2PM
- 8** Heritage Airfield/PAOP Fly-In Breakfast (PTW)
- 14** Allen Airstrip Pancake Breakfast (3NJ9)
- 14** Ocean City, NJ Airfest (N26), 10AM-3PM
- 17** Essex Skypark Annual Wheels & Wings (W48)
- 14** **Aero Club Fly-Out**, Curtiss Museum, Hammondsport

OCTOBER

- 5-6** History Weekend at Lazaretto, Philly Seaplane Base
- 5** EAA 216 Fall Festival, Lunch 11-2, Alloway, NJ (NJ02)
- 5** EAA 240 Pancake Breakfast, New Garden (N57)
- 12** Allen Airstrip Pancake Breakfast (3NJ9)
- 17** **Board of Directors Mtg**, Thursday, 6PM, PACC

NOVEMBER

- 8-10** Waterfowl Festival, Easton, PA (ESN)

Board of Directors Mtg, Oct 17

Wings Field, Philadelphia Aviation Country Club

The Aero Club will hold its next quarterly Board Meeting on October 17 at the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club at Wings Field.

Following the board meeting at 6PM, we will have dinner and a presentation by Erik Kocher about his career in aviation. Mr. Kocher is currently a helicopter test pilot for Boeing. Members and guests are welcome to attend our presentations.

Dinner (optional) begins at 7PM and the presentation begins around 8PM. RSVP at aeroclubpa@gmail.com if you would like to attend. Dinner is around \$30 per person, not including drinks.

Scholarship Donation Drive

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 2014. 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

because I'd like to advance into a management position within The Boeing Company or a Part-135 charter operation. Earning my Private pilot's license is also a long-term goal.

I'd like to congratulate the Aero Club's two newest A&P scholarship winners Emily Ritt and Tanner Scott. I advise you to pay attention to everything, and if you are willing to learn, there will always be someone willing to teach. You never know where this career can take you. Welcome to the Aero Club of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely, **Matt Sides** (2009 Aero Club A&P Scholarship Winner)

Terry Hatcher, 1923-2013

Member Story by Walt Ellis & Rob Dant

Terry Hatcher, former Aero Club of Pennsylvania president, took his last flight on May 3, 2013.

Terry Hatcher was one of the longest continuing members of the Aero Club of Pennsylvania. He joined in 1958 and was a member for over 50 years. In retirement, he stayed active in the Aero Club, was a Trustee of the Bob Shannon Memorial Scholarship Fund, was a Quiet Birdman and was active in the aviation club of the Union League of Philadelphia.



Terry Hatcher

Terry Hatcher was a long standing asset to the Aero Club and we are very proud to have had him as a member. He was president from 1974 to 1984 and was instrumental in resurrecting and preserving our Aero Club and Bob Shannon scholarship funds. Even after his passing, Terry will continue to support us. His estate will donate to the Aero Club Scholarship program over the next decade and additional donations are being taken in his memory.

I told you the story of Terry's aviation career a few years back, but it is worth repeating the details...

Terry was one of those people who was interested in aviation for almost their entire life. When he was four years old he wanted to emulate Charles Lindbergh and be an aviator. World War II gave him the opportunity.

In 1942 he was accepted into the Aviation Cadet program of the U.S. Army. After training at bases in Ohio and Texas he graduated in 1944 as a 2nd Lieutenant and entered combat as a co-pilot on a B-17 bomber. Stationed in Foggia, Italy during that time he completed 24 strategic

bombing missions in Germany, Austria, Poland, Yugoslavia and Italy. But it was the 19th mission, on March 16, 1945, in which he bombed the Schwechat oil refinery in Austria, that he called his "longest day."

On March 16, 1945, the plane took off early that morning with a 6,000-pound payload and rendezvoused over the Adriatic Sea with hundreds of other planes. Their mission was to bomb the Schwechat Oil Refinery on the Danube in Vienna, Austria. Just after releasing their bomb load and starting a turn back, they encountered heavy flak, and engines #3 and #4 quit. They were able to feather #3, but were unable to feather #4. The decision was made to stay with the airplane and try to get out of enemy territory. Shortly after that a third engine quit and the airplane would no longer hold altitude and started descending at 1500 ft/min. They were able to make it to the Hungarian border and made a gear up landing on some farmland. They were greeted by local farmers, one of which had a bottle of vodka and offered "Do you want a drink, comrade"? The answer "why not?". The farmers turned the crew over to the Russian military that took them east and turned them over to an American Mission.

Later in 1945, Terry was assigned to an Air Transport Group ferrying troops. He returned to the U.S. and was discharged. He then accepted a commission as a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps Reserve. He served for 26 years and retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.



As a civilian flight instructor for the U.S. Army during the Korean War around 1952.

After the war, Terry enrolled at the University of Maryland and graduated with a degree in business administration.

Terry then flew DC-3s for Turner Airlines in Indianapolis. Turner Airlines was owned by Roscoe Turner and later became Lake Central Airlines. During his time with Lake Central, Terry was assigned to the CAM (Civilian Air Movement) in San Antonio. There he flew military personnel in civilian DC-3s and C-46s. Terry was soon laid off when the military contract dried up. He heard that instructors were going to be needed by the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics in Greenville, Mississippi for a civilian contract training Air Force pilots. As Greenville was on his way home to Maryland he stopped in and applied. After attending the Air Force flight instructor school Terry went to work there instructing pilots in T-6s. After three years Terry was beginning to feel burned out so he resigned and went to work for the Martin Company in Baltimore. He worked in the flight test department as a Human Factors Engineer for five years.

In 1958 Terry went to work for Atlantic Aviation as an airplane salesman. He later worked for Page Beechcraft



Terry seen here in December 1974 as the current Aero Club President with former club presidents. From left to right: Normay Greene (1954-56), Jack Schreffler (1971-74), Joseph Simcock (1949-50), Terry Hatcher (1974-94), Haig Kurkjian (1968-69), and Thomas Keyes (1969-70).

Continued...

and became Vice President of sales. He retired in 1991.

Recently Congress authorized a program called "Voices of War" to interview World War II veterans and preserve their stories. Terry was interviewed by WHYY and his story is featured in the Ken Burns film "The War" which is currently housed in the Library of Congress.

We will miss Terry Hatcher very much. He had aviation in his blood and he was a true gentleman. Surviving Terry are his wife, Terri (Theresa); two stepsons, a brother, and six grandchildren.

Donations in memory of Terry are being made to the Aero Club of PA Memorial Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 748, Blue Bell, PA 19422 or The Home Care Network, Jefferson Health System, 240 Radnor Chester Road, Radnor, PA 19087.



Terry as aircraft salesman for Atlantic Aviation

Philadelphia Class B changes

After many years of trying, the FAA has published final changes to the Philadelphia Class B airspace, designed to improve traffic flow into and out of Philadelphia International Airport. The change took effect on July 25 and new charts have been published. The biggest changes include east and west extensions of the existing Class B to accommodate traffic into and out of the main runways at Philly. Base altitudes of most of the airspace rings have been lowered and the surface area around KPHL is extended from 6NM to 8NM. The final design includes some but not all changes suggested by local pilots and aviation organizations such as AOPA, including a cutout for parachute activity at Cross Keys airport in New Jersey.

Regional Airport News

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Report

JUNE 20, 2013, ELAINE FARASHIAN

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL

East end taxiway improvements (EE and H) are in preliminary design. Taxiway K extension was bid.

PENNS LANDING HELIPORT [P72]

This heliport on the Delaware River services corporate needs and refuels medevac units. Presently, Pier 36 S seawall is being rehabilitated. Sterling Helicopter, owned by Commonwealth of PA, operates at this site and services Agusta helicopters.

BRADEN [N43]

The Airport Authority is trying to sell the airport. Local pilots are rallying to find a suitable airport owner.

BRANDYWINE [OQN]

Phase 2 of the 4-phase apron drainage project is near completion. Grants are expected for rehab and relocation of airfield lighting and stormwater design for runway widening.

CECIL COUNTY [58M]

The airport is included in the recently published Maryland airport economic impact study at www.marylandregion-alaviation.aero under the publications tab. The airport as a medevac site and Autonomous Airport Authority designation continue being discussed.

CHESTER COUNTY [MQS]

In Phase 5 of the south apron project.

CROSS KEYS [17N]

Working with NJDOT to recover expired grants.

DOYLESTOWN [DYL]

Acquisition of easements for properties under runway 5 approach is nearly complete. NTSB is investigating a tragic incident of an experimental Cricket (Cri-Cri). Grants are anticipated for obstruction removal of approaches. The Authority held its 10th annual open house.

NEW CASTLE [ILG]

Frontier Airlines began new service to five US airports: Chicago, Orlando, Denver, Houston and Tampa.

NEW GARDEN [N57]

Final design for runway widening and reconstruction will be completed in September with subsequent bidding. JMC Contractors of Glen Mills will rehab the west GA apron upon issuance of a BOA grant. Plans are

progressing for the 42nd annual Festival of Flight air show Aug. 24-25. A Piper Arrow has been added to the flight school fleet. The June 1st Open House was a success. Two week long "Future Aviators" summer camps are being conducted in July and August.

QUAKERTOWN [UKT]

The fuel farm repair project is almost complete and awaiting final approval. The Airport Authority is waiting for bids to rehab the parking lot for the former Upper Bucks Vo-Tech School that currently houses Verizon. The Authority is funding the project which will be finished in July.

QUEEN CITY [XLL]

The Airport Authority has formally committed to keeping the airport open. This releases funds that were stopped during FAA investigation about airport closure proposals. Construction of new hangar access way is being planned.

SOUTH JERSEY REGIONAL [VAY]

The consultant is preparing for submittal of final master plan update. The fuel tank installation nears completion.

SPITFIRE [7N7]

Grant reapplication will take place under the new owner.

TRENTON MERCER [TTN]

Runway 6/24 EMAS construction to begin in August. A new was grant approved for taxiway H,B,F because tests revealed damage is deeper than expected. Additional funding from FAA may be needed. Frontier Airlines now offers commercial service and tremendous passenger growth is expected.

TRENTON ROBBINSVILLE [N87]

The stormwater management plan study and the environmental assessment study are completed projects, but are waiting for final invoice for closeout. The runway repair and detention basin cleanout need time modification approval.

VAN SANT [9N1]

Family days are scheduled one Sat. each month this summer with food, activities and an outside movie.

WINGS [LOM]

The preliminary design to rehab the GA terminal apron is to be completed in August. A grant was awarded by the BOA the end of May.



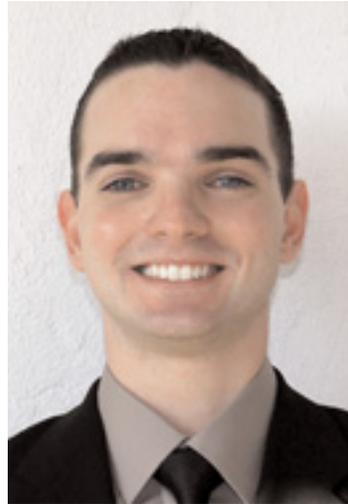
2013 Aero Club of Pennsylvania Awards

The Aero Club of Pennsylvania Memorial Scholarship Fund awarded 12 scholarships totaling \$24,000, including a \$1000 in honor of Bill Backenstose, and \$3,500 in honor of Bob Shannon.



COLLEEN COX
SECANE, PA

Colleen is a trained Medical Laboratory Tech with her Private Pilot certificate. She will use her scholarship award to finish her instrument rating and to work on a CFI rating.



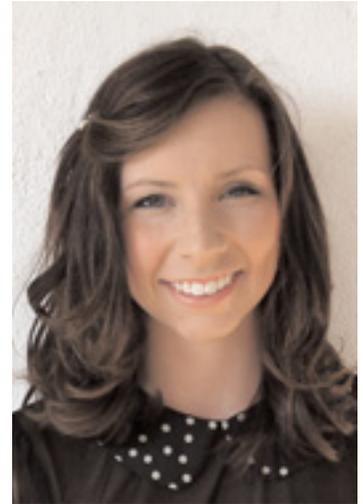
MATTHEW DALY
PHILADELPHIA, PA

Second year recipient graduated summa cum laude from LaSalle University. Aspires to become airline pilot. Matt is working on the Instrument rating at Hortman Aviation.



CHARLES KEITH HEISLER
OXFORD, PA

Attending Bishop Shannahan HS. Completed first solo on 16th birthday and will use scholarship to complete Private, with checkride planned for 17th birthday. Wants to be a CFI.



EMILY LEWIS
MICKLETON, NJ

Completed Private Pilot in high school. Second year recipient is working on her Commercial and is attending Salisbury University with aspirations of being an aviation professional.



JAMES REAGAN
HOCKESSIN, PA

Got Private at New Garden Airfield. Completed freshman year at Kent State University. On Deans List and Precision Flying Team. Will use scholarship for Commercial. Goal is to fly cargo.



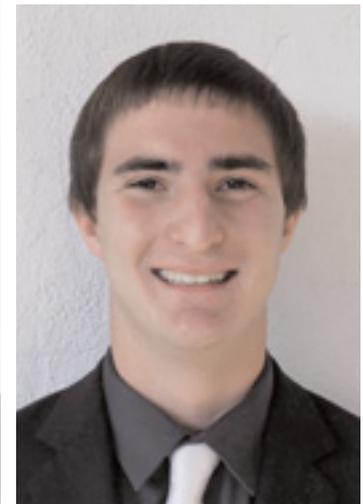
EMILY RITT
MEDFORD LAKES, NJ

Graduated Shawnee HS in 2011. She will attend the Pennsylvania College of Technology to study aircraft maintenance and will also receive an Associate's Degree in Applied Science.



JOSEPH PITTS
AVONDALE, PA

Second year recipient is an engineering student at Penn State. Working on IFR at New Garden. Aspirations to become Marine Corps pilot and be accepted in U.S. Naval Test Pilot School.



TANNER STOTT
GLENMOORE, PA

Graduated Conestoga Christian H.S. in Morgantown, PA. Will study aircraft maintenance at the Pennsylvania College of Technology in their four year Bachelor of Science program.

Aero Club Award & Backenstose Award



STEPHEN JORDAN
WEST CHESTER, PA

Recipient of two awards from the Aero Club, Stephen is enrolled in Franklin and Marshall and is a 3rd year award recipient. Training for IFR at Chester County with goal to become an airline pilot and to participate in Air National Guard.

Aero Club 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. This year, the Aero Club awarded \$3250 in honor of Bob Shannon.



ELEANOR GORDON

A 16 year old high school student at the STEM Academy in Downingtown. She is beginning her Private Pilot training at Chester County Airport.



YENI OCAMPO

Working in Sales at Flight Safety in Delaware, Yeni will use the award to start her Private Pilot training at Aero Ways at New Castly County Airport.

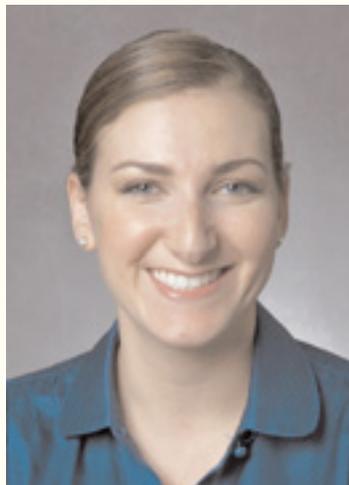
2013 Eastern PA Chapter, Ninety-Nines Awards

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 three scholarships, totalling \$7500.



JOY KAZIMER
LOUISE SACCHI AWARD

Enrolled in Aviation Institute of Maintenance pursuing A&P. Works at Northeast Philadelphia Airport and also working on her Private Pilot. Scholarship to help with tuition.



PAULINE PARENT
CONNIE WOLF AWARD

BS in Aeronautical Science from Embry Riddle, MS Aerospace Engineering from Univ of MD. Has Multi, Instrument, Commercial. Scholarship to be used to get CFI.



GRACE PETERSON
THERESA DELLAQUILA AWARD

Working on Commercial Multi at LeTourneau Univ. Goal to concentrate on mission work in Alaska, instructing in tailwheel, working as mechanic and as missionary to Native Alaskans.



Organized December 17, 1909; Chartered May 10, 1910

AERO CLUB OF PENNSYLVANIA

P.O. BOX 748, BLUE BELL, PA 19422

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FLIGHT SAFETY BRIEFING

From July/August issue of FAA's Safety Briefing Magazine:

Gen. George S. Patton: "Prepare for the unknown by studying how others in the past have coped with the unforeseeable and the unpredictable."

Be Prepared

The latest issue of FAA's Flight Safety Briefing plays on that theme as it considers ways to prepare for the unexpected things that can happen when flying a small aircraft. John Allen, Director of Flight Standards, points out that as in life, we have to make our own luck in aviation by preparing for the unknown in two key ways. First, we prepare by learning as much as possible about, well, everything related to aviation. Second, we learn from how other aviators have coped with unusual circumstances. Steve Sparks, CFI and aviation safety inspector expands on this in his article **Fly Defensively**.

Much like defensive driving, defensive flying involves staying one step ahead of the curve when it comes to safety. As we drive to the airport in preparation for an upcoming flight, we are bombarded with opportunities to exercise defensive driving skills and elude potential danger. In a similar way, navigating an aircraft — on

taxiways and in airways — can be quite challenging. It's a jungle out there!

The principle behind defensive flying is to never assume that other pilots, air traffic controllers, ground personnel, or even Mother Nature are looking out for your safety. Because pilots are human, we often get trapped in our own tiny universe and forget to consider the bigger picture. In certain cases, we have to defend against our own miscalculating and complacent ways to prevent events that could lead even the most experienced aviators down the wrong path. However, with a proper plan and good situational awareness, you'll be much better prepared for the various factors that can adversely affect aviation safety.

Mental Preparation, Prep for Takeoff, Checklists, and Preparing from Beginning to End.

Dr. Steve Sparks is an aviation safety inspector at the Wichita FSDO specializing in part 141 flight schools, human factors, helicopter operations, and educational outreach initiatives. He is a certificated flight instructor for both airplanes and helicopters.

Read the full article and download the full issue at www.faa.gov/news/safety_briefing.