



PENNSYLVANIA

Vol 26 No 3, Fall 2015

PILOT

www.aeroclubpa.org

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

Aero Club, the Ninety Nines, and Chester County tenants award \$48,500

On June 18, the Aero Club held its annual scholarship dinner at the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club at Wings Field in Blue Bell. The Aero Club of Pennsylvania Memorial Scholarship Fund awarded \$41,000 in aviation scholarship awards to 12 young men and women from the Philadelphia

area (see photos on page 6). That includes \$2500 from the Chester County Airport Pilots and Tenants Association awarded in the name of recently deceased Alex Sheves. The Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Ninety-Nines also awarded \$7500 in scholarships to three women. 79 members, recipients and family members attended the ceremony.



2015 Scholarship Recipients

Our guest speaker, Heidi Laird Clinton was a past scholarship recipient, now working as a first officer for Air Wisconsin. She recounted the challenges of joining and climbing the ranks as a commercial pilot.

The Aero Club has been awarding aviation scholarships through its affiliated scholarship funds since 1938. Since 2000, the club has awarded over \$280,000. The funds are raised from donations, fundraising, and investment income. See more details in the Scholarship Report on page 3.

AgustaWestland Tour

Over 40 Aero Club members and guests were hosted at a private dinner and tour by AgustaWestland Helicopter at Philadelphia Northeast Airport. Agusta operates a very large facility that assembles and customizes three helicopters and is developing the first civil tilt-rotor aircraft. We saw the forth tilt rotor prototype being built. Our host, Kim Piersig and her colleagues presented an overview of the history of AgustaWestland, served a very nice buffet dinner and provided tours of the factory floor.

American Heli Museum

The Aero Club visited the American Helicopter Museum at Brandywine Airport on May 30. The facility is one of the nation's premier rotary wing museums. Twenty club members joined with museum members for the highlight of the event, a presentation by Fred Piasecki on the impact of Piasecki in the Philadelphia area. The most significant contribution was the development of the tandem rotor helicopter, including the CH-47 Chinook, still produced here by Boeing Vertol.

Member wins B-29 Ride

Dr. William Gerhard of Lancaster earned a ride on the B-29 "Fifi" by renewing his membership early during our 2015 membership campaign. Fifi is the sole B-29 flying today, operated by the Commemorative Air Force. The ride took place at the annual WWII Weekend at Reading. The Aero Club has awarded a war-bird ride for the last two years as part of our membership renewal campaign. Stay tuned for details on the 2016 campaign. See a photo and more details about this story on Page 3.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bruce Thompson

As I write the President's message for our fall newsletter I try to capture the images in my mind of a clear, crisp fall day. We relish the moderate temperatures and low humidity. I write that with a smile as I sit at my computer at the end of July with temperatures soaring into the nineties and humidity so high you want to melt. I pause to look back at the year to date. Overall, 2015 has been a very good year for the Aero Club of PA.

This year our Scholarship Committee awarded a record amount to 12 deserving candidates to assist them in their quest for careers in aviation. That includes an award from the Chester County Airport Pilots and Tenants Association. Fundraising for scholarships is something we do year round. Recently we reached out to the Boeing Corporation and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association to inquire about the possibilities of donations and or grants. Debbie Harding, the Chair of the Scholarship Committee and Rob Dant gathered some historical data as we made application for these donations/grants. Since 2000, the Aero Club of PA has awarded over \$280,000 to 142 candidates. Our recipients span the spectrum of corporate, airline and military pilots to include at least one aeronautical engineer. The membership of the Aero Club should be proud... we do make difference.

This information is very relevant in light of our recent field trip to the AgustaWestland assembly facility located at the Northeast Philadelphia airport. They graciously hosted us, not only

for a tour of their facility, but we held our July, Board of Directors meeting there as well. Kim Piersig, Corporate Communications Director for the facility gave us an overview of the company and facility. A portion of her presentation was eye opening and to some degree alarming. She stated that this facility employs 300 people. They continue to hire, but are stymied in their quest to hire locally as the field of qualified candidates for the type of positions to be filled cannot be filled from local sources. They find themselves going not only outside the local area to recruit talent, but reaching beyond the shores of the USA to find the qualified personnel they require. This is an area that all of us should have grave concern over.

The membership should be proud. We do make a difference.

We look forward to our annual Wright Brothers dinner. We believe that this year, like last year, we have a superb keynote speaker that will address us. Please keep your eyes open for our newsletters and on our website for more information. We hope to see each and every one of you there. I leave you with this thought...

A military aircraft had gear problems on landing, and as the plane was skidding down the tarmac the tower controller asked if they needed assistance. From the plane came a laconic southern voice: "Dunno - we ain't done crashin' yet."

Board of Directors Report

Elaine Farashian

The Board of Directors met at the AgustaWestland Helicopter facility at Philadelphia Northeast Airport on July 9, prior to our tour there. President Bruce Thompson presided at the meeting.

The group approved the minutes from the April meeting which was held at Wings Field. Discussion then ensued about financials, newsletter and membership. Active membership stands at 185.

The scholarship committee reported on the success of

the scholarship awards dinner held on June 18 at Wings Field. We awarded scholarships to 12 recipients.

Ideas for a speaker for our December Wright Brothers Dinner were discussed. Our goals always are to have an aviation related speaker who will also appeal to guests that are not pilots.

Dinner adjourned and the board joined a larger group for dinner, presentation and a tour of the helicopter manufacturing facility.



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Organized December 17, 1909 to promote aviation in the Greater Delaware Valley. We are a social and civic organization which plans field trips, holds an annual dinner, sponsors presentations, awards scholarships, and produces this newsletter.

PENNSYLVANIA PILOT

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SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Debbie Harding

The Aero Club Scholarship Review Board reviewed over 30 applications and interviewed 17 scholarship applicants for this year's scholarship awards. We chose 12 young men and women residing in the greater Philadelphia area to receive a total of \$41,000. Three of the awards went to current or future practicing A&P mechanics, including a special named award from funds raised in the memory of Al Sheves. This award was combined with a \$2,500 award for mechanic training from the Chester County Airport Pilots and Tenants Association also raised in memory of Al Sheves.

Additional named awards were given in special memory of Peter York Wood by his family and friends, George Watson, longtime pilot and friend of Wings Field, Terry Hatcher, past president of the Aero Club and major promoter of our scholarship programs, and, of course, Bob Shannon, as with all of these men, who devoted their lives to the promotion of general aviation. The newly established Bob Mills, Sr. Fund has not reached a funding level yet in which awards can be made; but donations are continuing to be made.

Last year the Aero Club gave out \$35,000 in awards and still our funds continue to grow. From the beginning, our consideration for giving awards is always "applicant driven" first and foremost. That is, if we have no qualified applicants, we will give no awards

and vice versa. However, in 1996, at the advice of then trustees a suggested guideline was established to determine yearly award totals. Very simply put, we make available 100% of the current year's contributions and one half of our investment income or losses (as has been the case). Together, this formula and our process of appointing awardees and amounts based on the quantity and quality of the year's applicants, has impressively stood the test of time.

While our funds continue to grow to over \$200,000, the Aero Club has been able to give as much as we have managed to accumulate in the coffers over the last 15 years! (See chart below). Certainly it's a testament of money being well used to "pay it forward" in order to help grow our pilot population.

By request of BOD member and Boeing test pilot Eric Kocher, the Aero Club united together to apply for an employee gift match program offered by Boeing. The scholarship fund has been accepted into the Boeing gift match program as of this writing. The club has also applied to the AOPA Grant Program as suggested by BOD member Carol Knight. I believe we are due to hear about that by mid August. Here's hoping! Both would offer real support to continue raising our bar, through these awards, to meet the ever-increasing aviation training costs.

Dear Aero Club,

Thanks to the Aero Club of Pennsylvania, who provided the ticket, I rode the awesome B-29 'FIFI' on June 5 during the spectacular Mid-Atlantic Air Museum WWII Air Show at KRDG.

We were 10 along for the ride, with a Crew of seven, led by Captains Jeff Limbaugh and - you would never guess it - Jeff Skiles!



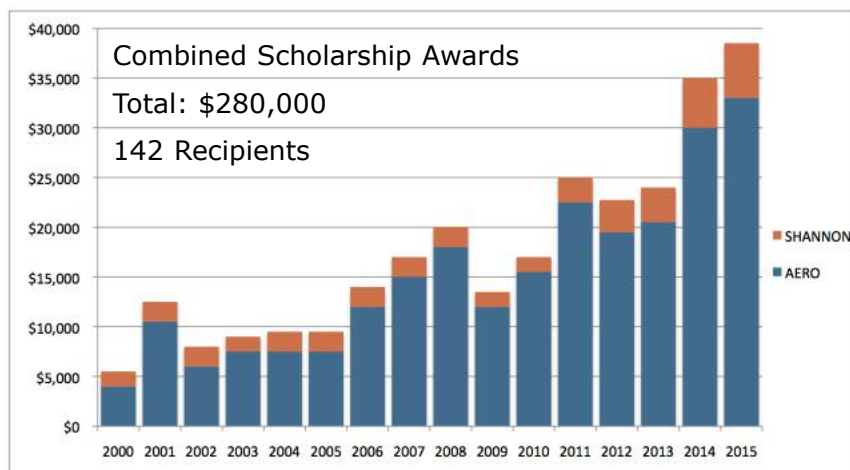
Six of us rode in the aft gunner compartment and were able to try out the tail gunner 'cubby hole' and the 360 degree view from the turret. After landing we swapped positions and could climb up into the forward compartment, cockpit and bombardier's bay.

Jeff Skiles was up there to show us around. It was an unexpected pleasure to speak to this unassuming accomplished aviator, a true gentleman, indeed! When I asked him, how one gets over the commotion of an extraordinary event like the landing on the Hudson, he answered 'to go back to work'... . He flies now internationally out of PHL.

Our son Martin, who flies for United Airlines, attended the show as a member of the WWII Paratrooper Demonstration Team. We watched them jump out of the C46 'Tinker Belle' - an additional treat!

Great Ride, great people, great Show! Again, 'Thank You', Aero Club of Pennsylvania

Bill Gerhard
N5548C; S37



Member Story

John Stubbs

75th Anniversary of Battle of Britain, celebrated at Oshkosh

2015 marks a special year in history with the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain in 1940 and 70th anniversary of the end of WWII. 2015 also happens to be the year my son, Martin, is getting married. He needed a break from wedding planning, and I am always looking for an excuse to go to Oshkosh, so we teamed up with Mike Dunleavy and off we went for the Friday and Saturday shows.

The EAA pre-show advertising led us to believe that the recently built Spitfire would be flying in, the first Oshkosh appearance of a restored Mosquito, and a possible visit of the Canadian based Lancaster, so we should have been all set for a great representation of the English Battle of Britain fleet!

The Mosquito has remained my favorite airplane from that era for many reasons. I grew up very close to RAF Sealand (just outside of Chester, UK), and have fond memories of Mosquitos that were still based there after the war that regularly flew over my house. I also attended many RAF Battle of Britain airshows while living in the UK. The last place that I lived in the UK was also very close to Hatfield, Herts., where the majority of the Mosquitos were manufactured. I left the UK in 1982 and was trying to remember the last time I saw a Mosquito flying but it's probably close to 50 years, so I had high expectations for Oshkosh.

There were two Mosquitos on display at Oshkosh this year. The non-flying model is the

one from the EAA museum that had originally been flown in, but is now just a static display. The plane of interest to me was the fully restored Mosquito (EG-Y) that was 8-years in the making, and first flown in New Zealand in 2012.

We were on the field by 9 am on Friday just in time to see the Lancaster start up, taxi out, and take off to the South – sadly no farewell fly by. Then, we met the owner of the Mosquito who had an extensive catalog of the restoration process. It was Friday afternoon and he assured me that the plane would fly on Saturday! You can check out the restoration process at (www.vicair.net/mosquito.html). It's a remarkable airplane made largely from wood, and with a top speed faster than a Spitfire. I found the engine set up a bit confusing since its powered by 12-cylinder Merlins, but there were only 5 exhaust manifolds per side. I was told that they had to combine 2 of the exhaust stacks to get the engines to fit. I will need to research this further.

By Saturday, we found out that the Spitfire had left on Thursday, and the Mosquito would not fly as promised! Turns out that the Mosquito had also flown on Thursday, so we missed them both by one day – see the Youtube video (www.youtube.com/watch?v=tP2EwhD15fI). This is the only flying Mosquito in the world so we will wait for next year to see it fly!



Essington Seaplane Base 100 Years Later

By Robert Dant

On June 13, 2015, a new windsock was raised and local seaplane pilots began to arrive by car and by seaplane to celebrate 100 years of seaplane operations at the Essington (Philadelphia) Seaplane Base. 9N2 is the oldest current “airport” in Pennsylvania and though seaplanes were flown from other locations before 1915, Essington is likely the oldest “continuously operated” seaplane base in the world (operations did cease during WWII due to proximity to the shore). Although activity at the base has been limited since Bob Mills retired in the year 2000, it is still a licensed seaplane base, owned by Tincum Township.

A Searey from Ocean City, New Jersey was the first to try the newly smoothed gravel ramp and to be the first seaplane to arrive on Essington soil for many years. In the last decade, the ramp was in disrepair



Trying the gravel ramp

and most operations utilized the floating dock. A Lake Amphib, from nearby Spitfire Airport in New Jersey arrived 30 minutes later and had no issues navigating the ramp and around the big sycamore tree. To follow was a Lake Amphib from Pennsylvania followed by two more Seareys from Maryland. The Seareys, with their tailwheel configuration, shallow draft, and narrow wingspan were particularly adept at climbing and descending the ramp,

Regional Airport Report *Elaine Farashian*

JUNE, 2015

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL

Phase 2 of restroom renovation in Concourses D,E and F have begun. Phase 1 of security bollards in each terminal is completed and construction is moving into phase 2. Bids for soil stabilization and fuel line relocation in the runway 27L extension project are being evaluated.

PHILADELPHIA NORTHEAST [PNE]

The electrical substation replacement project has been bid. Bids are being evaluated.

BRANDYWINE [OQN]

About 2,200 ft. west of runway 9, the airport plans tree removal to accommodate a new intersection and road-widening project. The LPV approach feasibility study is awaiting re-approval of the Statement of Work by FAA. Grants are anticipated for mitigating approach obstructions for runway 9/27.

June Fathers' Day weekend was the date for the Fatherfest at the Helicopter Museum and Education Center featuring helicopter rides, classic car and motorcycle shows, remote control helicopter shows and a paper airplane contest.

CHESTER COUNTY [MQS]

A letter was sent to the FAA requesting that Modena VOR not be decommissioned. Taxiway Alpha has been repaired and the main taxiway's depressions have been removed. The south apron project is in its final phase. The airport is attempting to get a control tower. National Aviation Day will be celebrated here on August 19.

DOYLESTOWN [DYL]

Taxiways will be repainted. Easements are being acquired for removal of tree obstructions in runway 5/23. The airport is close to sending out a bid. Bypass taxiways are planned for runway 5/23 ends provided that the airport receives grants.

HERITAGE FIELD [PTW]

The airport is finishing an Airport Layout Plan (ALP) and is involved in tree removal.

NEW GARDEN [N57]

Phase 2 construction of runway widening and reconstruction bids have been awarded and the neces-

sary paperwork has been submitted to the BOA and FAA for their review and determination of discretionary funding. With the planned widening, the airport would be able to pursue an LPV approach rather than depend on the Modena VOR.

Hangar development process is in procurement and site construction phase. Construction may begin soon. Chester County Balloon Festival took place in June. Future Aviators Summer Camp is taking place in July and August.

The Festival of Flight and Car Show is scheduled for August 22 and 23. This year the Lockheed Electra used in filming Amelia in addition to warbirds, antique and classic aircraft will be on display. Sept. 11-13 are the dates for the Eastern PA Giant Scale Radio Control Aircraft event.

PENNRIDGE [CNZ]

The airport is looking forward to its improvement and development of surrounding property.

PERKIOMEN [N10]

Although closed at night, the airport is still officially open.

QUAKERTOWN [UKT]

Present work is obstruction removal on runway 11 and the airport is working on the next 2 phases of obstruction removal. It has applied for grants mitigating runway 29 approach obstructions as well as rehab and expansion of terminal apron.

SOUTH JERSEY REGIONAL [VAY]

A consultant is working with the Harrisburg - Airports District Office to finalize Master Plan changes. The airport is submitting grant application and finalizing cost estimate in its rehab of main tie-down apron. Field work of environmental determination for obstruction removal is 30% complete.

TRENTON MERCER [TTN]

Taxiway H, B, F rehab construction is basically completed. Bid opening for security fence improvements was scheduled for June.

WINGS [LOM]

In an effort to regain instrument night minimums, the airport is having tree removal at both ends and installing obstruction lighting. It is expecting grants to rehab terminal apron.

even at mid tide where the ramp starts to be rutted.

Many local seaplane rated pilots who trained at Essington reminisced about operations there over the last many decades. Only the sounds of jet aircraft departing out Philadelphia interrupted the conversations; runway 27 Left is just a mile upriver. Activity also took place at the community day and flea market at the nearby park.

The local township now holds the seaplane base license, as well as the land and the historic 1799 Lazaretto Quarantine Station that dates to the time of Yellow Fever.



Seaplanes at the Lazaretto

Plans are being prepared to renovate the Lazaretto for use as township offices and a museum. Those plans also include floating docks for boats and seaplanes. A new ramp is not yet being proposed, but a local group of aviators is encouraging the township to include that in the plans.

Another event is scheduled in the fall in concert with an historical event to celebrate the military connection here. In 1917, the U.S. Army Signal Corps used the seaplane base (which they called Chandler Field) to train National Guard seaplane pilots in preparation for WWI. Interestingly, the Pope will be in Philadelphia around that time. Perhaps, we can arrange a seaplane flight for the pontiff. A blessing of the site might help secure operations for another 100 years.

2015 Aero Club of Pennsylvania Awards

The Aero Club of Pennsylvania Memorial Scholarship Fund awarded **\$41,000** in scholarships. Awards were given in honor of Bob Shannon, Terry Hatcher, Alex Sheves, George Watson and Peter Wood.

Memorial Award Honorees:

Bob Shannon
Operated West Chester Airport (Brandywine) and Downingtown Airport (Shannon) in the 1960's and 1970's. Passed away in 1970.

Terry Hatcher
Past Aero Club President and long-time Bob Shannon Scholarship fund trustee. He was member of the Aero Club for over 50 years. Passed away in 2013.

Peter York Wood
An aviation idealist, past officer and one of the longest continuous members of the Aero Club. Operated Delco, Benedict Airport. Passed away in 2013.

Louise Sacchi
Instructor, pilot, mechanic, and engineer. Taught Advanced Navigation to the RAF during WWII. In 1965, started Sacchi Air Ferry Enterprises. Before retiring, she had completed over 300 ocean crossings.

Connie Wolf
Connie flew hydrogen balloons in the 1950's and 1960's and set 15 world records. She was the first woman to cross the Alps in a balloon. She had a life-long love of aviation, adventure and public service.

Theresa Dellaquila
Longtime local fixed wing and helicopter pilot and Ninety-Nine. Became well known within the local aviation community while traveling with her partner, Drew.

Alex Sheves
Local aviation legend, World War II veteran and a lifelong flyer and mechanic. Al managed the Chester County Airport for almost 40 years and owned a P-51, FM2 and a T6.



SHAQUILLE ENTY
MIDDLETOWN, DE

Currently pursuing his Airframe and Powerplant Mechanics Certification at Delaware Technical Community College. He intends to pursue a degree in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Delaware or Delaware State.



JOY KAZIMER
PHILADELPHIA, PA

Has her pilot certificate and is finishing her Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) Mechanics Certification at the Aviation Institute of Maintenance in Northeast Philadelphia. She will use this award for additional ratings.



PHILIP CHIDAKEL
CHADDS FORD, PA

Student at Unionville High School. Has his Private Pilot in gliders and is working on his fixed wing ratings. Active in the Brandywine Soaring Association at New Garden. Hopes to attend the U.S. Naval Academy and fly the C-2 Greyhound.



MICHAEL SULLIVAN
BALA CYNWYD, PA

Chemistry and Physics teacher at Welsh Valley Middle School. Working on his Private Pilot Certificate. Hopes to earn his Instructor Certificate and then to incorporate his knowledge and love of flying into the classroom.

DOOLITTLE TAIL-DRAGGER AWARD



CODY ALLEN
BIRDSBORO, PA

Pursuing a Private Pilot Certificate. He is a student at the University of West Virginia and a member of the 130th Airlift Wing, West Virginia ANG. Wants to become a U.S. Air Force officer and fly the C-130.



CARSEN ALLEN
BIRDSBORO, PA

Working on Instrument and Commercial. Completed basic training in U.S. Air Force. He will be attending the University of West Virginia, majoring in Business. Hoping to become officer in ANG, U.S.A.F pilot and eventually airline pilot.



JASON PRESTON
LINCOLN UNIV, PA

Working on his Private Pilot Certificate. Attending Avon Grove High School. Has received a President's Award for Educational Excellence and other education accolades. Wants to become an airline pilot.



JACOB LEVINE
BLUE BELL, PA

Working on Commercial Rating. Has glider, instrument and multi engine ratings. Graduated Wissahickon High School. After college, Jacob hopes to flight instruct and maybe get hired with an airline.

2015 Aero Club Special Awards

**BOB SHANNON
AWARD**



**BOB SHANNON
AWARD**



**TERRY HATCHER
AWARD**



**GEORGE WATSON
AWARD**



**PETER YORK
WOOD AWARD**



KATHERINE CAMPAYO
DOWNINGTOWN, PA

Graduate of the STEM Academy in Downingtown and training for Private Pilot at Chester County Airport. She will pursue an Aerospace Engineering degree at Penn State University.

MICHAEL DUTTON
DOWNINGTOWN, PA

Junior at Coatesville Area High School, pursuing Rotary Wing Certificate at Liberty Flight School. Plans to enlist in U.S. Army with hope to be selected for Special Operations Aviation Segment.

NICHOLAS PROIETTO
WEST GROVE, PA

Student at Avon Grove High School. Volunteers at New Garden Airport for the airshow and summer camp programs. He is pursuing his Private Pilot Glider Certificate at New Garden.

KEITH HEISLER
OXFORD, PA

Graduated from Bishop Shanahan High School. Working on his Instrument Rating at New Garden Airport. Will be attending the Univ. of West Virginia, majoring in Aeronautical Engineering.

MICHAEL DUTTON
DOWNINGTOWN, PA

Has over 10 hours of rotary wing instruction at Liberty Flight School. His ultimate goal is to be selected to serve in the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment as a MH-60L DAP pilot.

Chester County Award

Chester County Airport Pilots & Tenants Association, **\$2,500**



JACOB LEVINE
BLUE BELL, PA

Jacob received this award from the Chester County group who raised money to honor Alex Sheves. Jacob, already a pilot, plans to expand his knowledge by attending Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, in their Aviation Maintenance program.

Eastern PA Chapter Ninety-Nines Awards

The Ninety-Nines award scholarships to woman to help foster their interest in aviation. They awarded three scholarships totalling **\$7500**.



ANNALIESE VETTER
CONNIE WOLF AWARD

Pursuing longtime goal to become a recreational pilot. Has her Private Glider Certificate and is 2nd Lt. in the Civil Air Patrol and senior member at the Doylestown Airport C.A.P. Squadron.



JOY KAZIMER
LOUISE SACCHI AWARD

Joy is pursuing her dream of becoming a flying mechanic. With previous awards from our organizations, she got her Private Pilot Certificate. She will take her A&P exam soon to complete that phase of her training.



TAMMI NANNI
THERESA DELLAQUILA AWARD

While working as a flight attendant, developed a passion for aviation and began flying lessons in 1996. Life changed her plans and now 14 years later, as a single mom, she is ready to restart her flying lessons.



Organized December 17, 1909; Chartered May 10, 1910

AERO CLUB OF PENNSYLVANIA

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FIRST CLASS
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AVIATION EVENT CALENDAR

AUGUST

22-23 New Garden Pancake Breakfast and Airshow (N57)
22-23 Lancaster Airport Days (LNS)

SEPTEMBER

1-2 Thunder over the Boardwalk, Blue Angels (ACY)
11-12 Reading Air Fest, Friday, Saturday (RDG)
12 Wings & Wheels, Wings Field (LOM)
12 EAA 643 Fly-in, Sky Manor Airport (N40) 10AM-2PM
13 Heritage Airfield/PAOP Fly-In Breakfast (PTW)
12 Allen Airstrip Pancake Breakfast (3NJ9)
13 Ocean City, NJ Airfest (N26), 10AM-3PM
20 Essex Skypark Annual Wheels & Wings (W48)
26 Pottstown Municipal Community Day (N47)

OCTOBER

3 History Weekend, Essington Seaplane Base (9N2)
3 Fall Flying Festival, Chester County Airport (KMQS)
3 EAA 216 Fall Festival, Lunch 11-3, Alloway, NJ (NJ02)
10 EAA 240 Pancake Breakfast, New Garden (N57)
10 Allen Airstrip Pancake Breakfast (3NJ9)
22 **Board of Directors Mtg**, Thursday, 6PM, PACC

NOVEMBER

12-15 Waterfowl Festival, Easton, PA (ESN)



Seeking airplane partnership

Experienced pilot (commercial, multi, instrument, 800 hours PIC) seeks part ownership in fixed gear single or sport aircraft at Wings Field or nearby.

Call Bernie at 610-525-5113, bernieb627@aol.com

Saturday, October 3

Essington Seaplane Base

New Date: Seaplane activity is expected at Essington during the annual History and Mystery weekend at the historical Lazaretto. This event has a military theme commemorating 100 years since the U.S. Army started training aviators at this location. The seaplane base is located behind the fire department on Wannamaker Ave in Essington. See the website at www.phillyseaplanebase.com