Smoketown Helicopters is a quality flight school that was founded in 2015. Garrett Snyder and his wife Jen opened the flight school in hopes of bringing attention to aviation for the upcoming generations. They are a veteran-owned and operated business with a love for aviation. Garrett completed his training in Florida with dreams of opening a flight school in his hometown. In 2015, the opportunity to open the flight school came about and has turned into a full-time venture today. They offer helicopter and fixed wing training, ground school, and aircraft rental. Smoketown Helicopters trains with Robinson R22 helicopters and Cessna aircraft.

“We pride ourselves in preparing every current and future pilot with the proper knowledge, training, and skills required to be successful in aviation.” says founder Garrett. "We offer a small school feel with one-on-one training but have the availability and tools to meet each student’s needs. We also pride ourselves on unmatched customer service." says Jen.

Garrett recently conducted a seminar on helicopter aerodynamics at the Smoketown Airport fly-in the second weekend in August. The flight school recently launched a website and has a social media presence on Facebook and Instagram. In addition to operating the flight school, Garrett and Jen both serve in the Air Force and became parents last year to their son Landon.

Smoketown Helicopters is located at 311 Airport Drive, Smoketown, PA. SmoketownHelicopters.com Phone: (717) 344-4871
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As I write this newsletter I, and three other of our board members, Rob Dant, Mike Little and John Stubbs, are just back from a trip to the UK where we attended two great airshows, The Royal International Tattoo at RAF Fairford, which is the home base of the RAF and The Flying Legends Airshow at the Imperial War Museum Duxford, which was a base used during the Battle of Britain and throughout WWII by both British and American forces fighting in the skies over Europe. There is an excellent article covering the trip along with pictures in this issue so I will not dwell on the details, but do want to tell you that it was a great trip, well worth the visit and we are already planning for another trip in September of 2017 to again visit Duxford for the “Meet the Fighters” show. Duxford contains a number of museums covering flying from its earliest days to our journey into space. Duxford houses a number of workshops dedicated to restoring historic aircraft. They are open to the public and you can talk to the people involved in keeping these aircraft flying and see them at work. There is also a superb museum dedicated to aircraft flown by American forces from WWI to the present.

Our summer Board Meeting was held on July 20th and featured a presentation about the two air shows narrated by Rob Dant. Michael Dunleavy presided at the meeting.

The Board of Directors met at the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club at Wings Field on July 20. President Michael Dunleavy presided at the meeting.

The group approved the minutes from the April meeting. Discussion then ensued about financials, newsletter and membership. Next, the scholarship committee reported on the success of the scholarship awards dinner held on June 16 at Wings Field. We awarded scholarships to 14 recipients.

Ideas for a speaker for our December Wright Brothers Dinner were discussed as were ideas for upcoming field trips to Philly International and Eagles Mere. The meeting adjourned for dinner and a presentation by Mike Dunleavy, John Stubbs, Michael Little and Rob Dant about their July trip to the England to attend airshows at Fairford and Duxford.

Plan to be at our next meeting on October 20th and add the Wright Brothers Dinner on December 17th to your calendar.

Board of Directors Report

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Plan to be at our next meeting on October 20th and add the Wright Brothers Dinner on December 17th to your calendar.

Michael Dunleavy

Elaine Farashian
The current review board offers help and mentorship to applicants and awardees alike.

The Scholarship dinner is an opportunity for the membership to share in the excitement of granting scholarship awards to a wide range of aviation like-minded folks who will mold the future of aviation. It is also a time to remember the members that have set the bar. Please remember and read about our award honorees on page 7.

This year it is also a great pleasure to grant an award in honor of outgoing Aero Club President Brig. Gen (Ret.) Bruce Thompson. Through his involvement with the Scholarship Review Board, Bruce made his expertise and advice available to these young aviators and he continues to offer individualized mentoring.

Scholarship Review Board member and fellow Air National Guardsman Tim Fields speaks about Bruce, “It has been a privilege to have had Bruce as a professional mentor as well as friend. His advice has always been sound, honest and unbiased. His contributions to the Aero Club of Pennsylvania have been nothing short of inspiring, and I can’t think of a more deserving person to name a scholarship after.”

Following Bruce’s lead, the current review board of Tim Fields, Alicia Sikes, John Stubbs, Dan Kurkjian, Bob Smith and Stacy Culton and other board members offer advice and mentoring to not only our scholarship awardees but also applicants who were not awarded to help them with their aviation aspirations.

The majority of scholarship award monies comes from direct donations and $1,000 lifetime or $100 membership options. Additional funds come from corporate sponsorships and matching gift programs. Recently, board member Eric Kocher enrolled the Memorial Scholarship Fund in Boeing’s gift match program. I hope other Boeing employees and Aero Club members will do the same!

The Aero Club was able to keep this year’s total fund awards very close to the amount given last year despite the downturn in the market. That was helped by Chester County Airport which raised monies through a Sikorsky Helicopter sponsorship, as well as by the sale of airplane rides during last year’s community day festivities. And not a small thing - many of the scholarship recipient and guest dinners were sponsored by several members and didn’t have to be paid from fund money!

Carol Wyman from the Ninety Nines speaking at the dinner offered thanks to the Aero Club for organizing the dinner. Together with these other organizations, we are able to make real impact.

We are proud of the examples of our efforts to help aspiring aviators, as seen by our dinner speaker, Zach Gerbner, and attendee Joy Kazimer, both past recipients. Our dinner attendees enjoyed Zach’s informative and entertaining presentation about his aviation career. And Joy shared her excitement with some of our members about the opening of the flight training and maintenance facilities at Legacy Aviation at Philly Northeast Airport (see photo). She invites all to visit them at KPNE and follow them at facebook.com/herblegacy.

Due to dismal weather on Sunday, the three scheduled flights were cancelled. But weather was gorgeous on Monday and one morning flight was scheduled for passengers who could make it. There were nine passengers plus three flight crew and many ground crew. Charlie sat at the radio operator station aft of the cockpit and Rob sat next to the navigator station. The navigator seat was taken by a Swiss gentleman on a U.S. aviation tour.

Once in level flight, the flight observer seat aft of the pilot was available for everyone to take turns observing. Additional passengers rode in the aft compartment and were able to try out the tail gunner positions. The extended flight lasted nearly an hour.

Charlie Pydych was a post-Korea Air Force co-pilot on a B-47 during the cold war when the U.S. had bombers in the air at all times. They slept near their airplanes and were expected to be ready to depart within 15 minutes notice.

Members take B-29 Ride

Charlie Pydych, longtime Aero Club member and a former B-47 copilot, was the recipient of this year’s membership appreciation warbird ride on a B-29. Robert Dant volunteered to chauffeur Charlie from his home on 21st street in Philadelphia to the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum at Reading.
A small group of ACPA members attended the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) airshow at RAF Fairford on Friday July 8th for an airshow of mostly military airplanes. Some lively winds and occasional low ceilings prevented the warbirds from flying, but the jet aircraft put on a good show. I arrived with Mike Dunleavy via train from central London and then a bus ride through the English countryside to the airport. We had some interesting navigation challenges getting to our enclosure via two on-site bus rides! The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and their young son, who reportedly was disturbed by the loud jets, were also at the show, but we didn’t see them.

The Friday show was only 3-hours with many frontline fighters. I really enjoyed seeing the Airbus A400M being flown to its limits, and it was my first time seeing the F-35B Lightning doing vertical landings. The highlight of the show was the RAF Red Arrows display team with 9 Hawks giving a superb display. We needed more time needed to explore the static displays.

The trip to Duxford on Saturday was also by train passing through some of the small towns near where I used to live in England; a nostalgic trip after a 40-year absence. Though much smaller, the setup was similar to Oshkosh, and the planes were surrounded by people in period dress and uniforms. We opted for the gold pass which granted access to a huge tent, a wonderful buffet lunch and bar, and some great people to swap stories with.

We started our tour at the American Museum, one of many museums on site. It is crammed with many planes, but we only had time to walk through briefly on the elevated catwalk. Other museums on the field include Historic Duxford, Air and Sea, Battle of Britain, 1940 Operations Room, and Conservation in Action, but sadly time did not allow us any time to visit these displays.

There was quite a lively wind at Duxford but the ceilings were OK and the 3-hour show was not impacted. We saw Spitfires (9 from memory), 1 Hurricane, Curtis Hawks, DC-3, Beech B-18, B-25, P38, F4U, B17, P51 2 ME-109s, Gladiator, Blenheim, Hawker biplanes (Nimrod and Fury), Wildcat, Avenger, Storch, L-4, Jungmann, Albatros DVa, and a Snipe in a 3-hour display. Our narrator was a French pilot who had flown most of airshow planes adding greater insights into the display. Maybe airshow rules are different in England, but many more inverted maneuvers were evident.

Seeing multiple Spitfires in the air was the highlight, as well as being close to the taxi ramp after they landed. The show concluded with a “Balbo Finale” when everything airworthy takes off again and flies over in formation!

I have promised my son a return trip to Duxford in September, 2017, and Mike is planning to return also. We are researching flying alongside a Spitfire in the DH Rapide that was giving rides during our visit. Flights in the 2-seat Spitfire are also available at RAF Hendon but the price tag is about $3000!

We hope to have a larger contingent next year. See you in 2017!
Winds were calm and skies clear on June 18 for the second annual summer splash-in at the Essington Seaplane Base. The first visitor at 9:30 was Rich’s Adventura II from New Garden Flying Field. Rich powered up the gravel ramp and got to dry land. By this time, a number of classic cars had arrived from a Delaware County club, and many other visitors arrived by car. It was an hour and a half before other pilots flew in, but they came in quickly. Bob and Kevin in their Searey from Pennridge, Bert from Middletown, DE; Helen from Bay Bridge, Bert from Wilmington, DE, and Chuck from Ocean City, NJ.

Five flying boats lined both sides of the freshly mowed grass at the historic 1799 Lazaretto house. We fired up two grills and fed the approximate 75 visitors with burgers, dogs and kielbasa. It was nice to see quite a few local families that brought their kids to see the seaplanes.

To top it off, we cracked open the cooler loaded with dry ice and offered free ice cream to all visitors, including a crew of PENNDOT road crew who were parked at the site waiting to get back on a nearby highway project.

Although real improvements at the seaplane base are probably a couple years away, it was nice to see so much seaplane activity at Essington, if only for a few hours.

JUNE, 2016

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL
The airport has completed the boarding bridge project. 13 new bridges are substantially complete. The 27R approach light pier will be replaced. Runway 27L extension fuel lines are being extended.

PHILLY NORTHEAST [PNE]
The airport is now operating the electrical substation.

PHILLY SEAPLANE BASE [9N2]
A picnic and splash-in was held on June 18. Five seaplanes flew in.

BRANDYWINE [OQN]
Removal of tree obstructions is continuing. A study is underway for the potential of vertically guided approach. Application has been submitted for the construction of box hangars. Replacement of AWOS III and runway lighting rehab were discussed at the BOA planning session.

CHESTER COUNTY [MQS]
The airport is making repairs to its perimeter fencing. The south apron project is complete. All easements are in place for tree cutting August 19 is the 2016 Boy Scout Aviation Day where scouts from around the region earn an aviation merit badge.

DOYLESTOWN [DYL]
Runway 5/23 obstruction removal project is 90% complete. August 24 is the date of the annual picnic and the local fire company volunteers will be honored. Grants are anticipated for construction of bypass taxiway ends, paving of grass tiedowns and phase II obstruction removal.

HERITAGE FIELD [PTW]
250 Scouts recently attended an aviation camporee at the airfield. A pancake breakfast will be held the 2nd Saturday of September. The airport is in the process of tree removal at two nearby properties.

NEW GARDEN [NS7]
Closure of the runway for reconstruction and widening is scheduled for October. The Multimodal Transportation Project for hangar development is well underway. A grant is expected for phase III reconstruction and widening of runway 6/24. Summer activities include Future Aviators Camps, the Festival of Flight Air and Car Show and “Run the Runway” 5K Race, Aug. 21. The new Aviation Center is open.

PENN’S LANDING HELIPORT [P72]
Sterling Helicopter is working with Delaware River Waterfront Corp. to obtain PA BOA grant funding for the restoration of the seawall and heliport deck, upgraded lighting and an AWOS system.

CROYDON HELIPORT [PS01]
This privately owned facility 5 NM northeast of Northeast Philly Airport is expanding to over 50,000 sq. ft. on 13.5 acres of land. Sterling Helicopter is a dedicated FAA Part 145 helicopter maintenance and repair station. They have expanded the avionics area to service today’s newer helicopters that are equipped with EFIS (electronic flight instrumentation systems).

QUAKERTOWN [UKT]
The first runway 11 obstruction removal project is completed and the next phase will be the removal of obstructions outside the airport roadway. A project to remove tree obstructions affecting runway 29 will begin next spring. Pilots have a “Young Eagles Day” on a monthly basis.

SOUTH JERSEY REGIONAL [VAY]
Main tiedown apron rehab is to be completed mid June. The project of telephone pole removal and utility line burial must await survey to be conducted by PSE&G.

TRENTON–MERCER [TTN]
Rehab of taxiways H, B, and F is starting. Runway 6/24 rehab is awaiting receipt of bids. A Master Plan is underway. Higher perimeter fencing is being installed. Frontier Airlines has been successful and is serving nine cities.

VAN SANT [9N1]
Dinner and movie night events are taking place on the last Saturday in June, July and August.

WINGS FIELD [LOM]
The airport is cutting trees and installing obstruction lighting in order to regain instrument night minimums. Phase II of the terminal apron rehab work should be finished in August. Anticipated projects include AWOS replacement, acquisition of snow removal equipment and rehab of runway 6/24. Wings and Wheels Day is scheduled for September 10.
The Aero Club of Pennsylvania Memorial Scholarship Fund awarded $30,000 in scholarships. Awards were given in honor of Bob Shannon, Terry Hatcher, Alex Sheves, Peter Wood and Bruce Thompson.

DAVID KING
PARKSBURG, PA
Left school in his teen years to work on the Lancaster County family farm. Plans to earn his GED and go to college to achieve the goal of working in aviation. He will use this award to get his Instrument rating at Chester County Aviation.

JORDAN LEVINE
BLUE BELL, PA
Past recipient. Attending Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia studying aviation maintenance. Has his glider rating, Private, CFI and Multi Instructor ratings. Plans on working on his commercial rating for gliders this summer.

MICHAEL LYNCH
VOORHEES, NJ
Graduating high school senior working on Private. Has flown with the Civil Air Patrol to reduce flying costs. Plans to get a degree in Aeronautical Science at Florida Institute of Technology. Hopes to become a professional pilot.

MICHAEL SULLIVAN
BALA CYNWYD, PA
Chemistry and Physics teacher, working on his Private. Then, hopes to earn his Instructor Certificate. He is incorporating his knowledge and love of flying into the classroom. Is creating an aviation physics curriculum. Has formed a high school aeronautics club.

ERIC WAIBEL
WEST GROVE, PA
Attending Eastern University in St. Davids, PA. Completing his Private now and will start on his Instrument. Hopes to get tailwheel, seaplane and glider ratings, too. Goal is to obtain is ATP and work as airline or corporate pilot.

ALEX SHEVES/
MECHANIC AWARD
BRUCE THOMPSON
AWARD
DOOLITTLE TAIL-
WHEEL AWARD
TERRY HATCHER/
SHANNON AWARD
PETER YORK-
WOOD AWARD

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DOOLITTLE TAIL-
WHEEL AWARD

TERRY HATCHER/
SHANNON AWARD

PETER YORK-
WOOD AWARD

MICHAEL DUTTON
DOWNINGTOWN, PA
Senior at Coatesville Area High School, pursuing Rotary Wing Certificate at Liberty Flight School. Recently completed solo. Plans to enlist in U.S. Army and be selected for 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment as a Black Hawk pilot.

ANDREW HAGERTY
KENNETT SQUARE, PA
Graduating high school and will be studying mechanical engineering at Auburn on a Naval ROTC scholarship. Goal of becoming F-18 pilot. Will use Aero award to get Instrument rating. Has also been chosen to receive tailwheel training.

SEBASTIAN WOOD
DOYLESTOWN, PA
Ninth grader. Member of Philadelphia Glider Council and cadet in Civil Air Patrol. Would like to attend Embry Riddle and eventually become an officer in the Air Force and also have a career in the airlines.

BARBARA ZEIGLER
LIMERICK, PA
Member of the Ninety-Nines and Aero Club and on the board of the women’s Air Race Classic. Will use award to complete her Instrument rating. Long term goal is to get Commercial and CFI and become a local flight instructor.

JEREMY CHANDLER
ALLOWAY, NJ
Working for Boeing as a flight test mechanic. This award will help him take classes and prepare for his A&P test at Bakers School of Aeronautics in Tennessee. Also interested in becoming a pilot. Has enrolled at Embry Riddle for the fall.

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ALLOWAY, NJ

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DOYLESTOWN, PA

BARBARA ZEIGLER
LIMERICK, PA

PENNSYLVANIA PILOT

PENNSYLVANIA PILOT
BARBARA ZEIGLER
THESA DELLAQUILA AWARD
Barb is involved in many areas of aviation, flying since 2001. This is her fourth year competing in the Air Race Classic, where she also serves on the board of directors. Award to be used for instrument rating.

ARIEL EICKLER
CONNIE WOLF AWARD
Currently holds Private, Instrument, Commercial, Flight Instructor and Aircraft Dispatcher certificates. Will use award to earn a Commercial Multi-Engine and will be a full time flight instructor in California.

ELISE COLEMAN
LOUISE SACCHI AWARD
Office manager at Ace Pilot Training at Lehigh Valley Intl Airport. Recently completed Private Pilot and will use award to complete the Instrument Rating. Plans to become CFII and eventually pursue career in the airlines.
AVIATION EVENT CALENDAR

AUGUST
17 Thunder over the Boardwalk, Blue Angels (ACY)
20-21 New Garden Pancake Breakfast and Airshow (N57)

SEPTEMBER
9-10 Reading Air Fest, Friday, Saturday (RDG)
10 Wings & Wheels, Wings Field (LOM)
10 EAA 643 Fly-in, Sky Manor Airport (N40) 10AM-2PM
10 Allen Airstrip Pancake Breakfast (3NJ9)
11 Heritage Airfield/PAOP Fly-In Breakfast (PTW)
11 EAA Chapter 70 Fly-In, Braden (N43) 9AM-2PM
17 Essex Skypark Annual Wheels & Wings (W48)
24 EAA 321 Aviation Flea Market (RDG)
24 Ocean City, NJ AirFest (26N) (10AM-3:30PM)
24-25 Gettysburg Fly-in Breakfast (W05)

OCTOBER
1 Fall Flying Fest, Chester County (KMQS) Rain Date: 8th
1 EAA 216 Pancake Breakfast, Cross Keys, NJ (17N)
1 Fall Fly-In, Breakfast, Centre Airpark (N16) 8AM-11AM
8 EAA 240 Pancake Breakfast, New Garden (N57)
8 Allen Airstrip Pancake Breakfast (3NJ9)
20 Board of Directors Mtg, Thursday, 6PM, PACC

Board Meeting & Presentation
Thursday, October 20, 2016

The Aero Club will hold its next quarterly Board Meeting on October 20 at the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club at Wings Field. Following the board meeting at 6PM, we will have dinner and a presentation to be announced.

Members and guests are welcome to attend our presentations. Dinner (optional) begins at 7PM and the presentation begins around 8PM. A very nice dinner is available at around $40 per person, not including drinks. Attire at PACC is business casual.

Check the website for updates. Occasionally, we change the venue if interest is high. You can RSVP on the website to let us know if you’d like to have dinner or would prefer to just attend the presentation.

www.aeroclubpa.org/rsvp