



PENNSYLVANIA

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Vol 30 No 3

PILOT

Fall 2019

\$35,500 of scholarships awarded by Aero Club and Ninety Nines

The Aero Club of Pennsylvania put on a wonderful evening at the annual scholarship dinner on June 13th at Wings Field. This year, 70 members, guests and awardees attended the dinner. \$28,500 in Aero Club scholarships was awarded for various levels of flight and mechanic training. The Ninety-Nines also awarded \$7,000. A time to recognize future leaders in the aviation industry, the scholarship dinner this year also gave up-and-coming aviators the rare chance to see one of



2019 Scholarship Recipients

their fellow aviators be acknowledged for his lifelong commitment to aviation. Mr. Walter Ellis - past Aero Club President - was honored with the FAA's Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award for over fifty years of civil flying experience (see page 7). Our guest speakers for the event were Philadelphia FSDO Manager Joe Kain and FAA Safety Program Manager Eric Sieracki, who showed an inspiring video about the Wright Brothers and presented Walt with his award.

See recipients on pages 6 and 7.

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Smoketown Helicopters Expands



Smoketown Helicopters, a training and sightseeing operation located in Lancaster County, has now opened a location at Brandywine Airport. They are offering helicopter training in a Robinson R22, as well as, sightseeing tours around Philadelphia. They also announced that the Smoketown location is now a Certified Robinson Service Center.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Robert Smith

It's July in Woxall, PA, possibly the hottest and wettest summer on record, so it must be time for the Fall newsletter. In addition to the heat and rain, Woxall suffered 110 mph winds in May from which we are still recovering. Hopefully, fall will settle in as a nice season this year. We're due.

Despite the crazy weather, the Aero Club has had its usual busy summer. The scholarship committee culminated its activities with the annual Scholarship Dinner at the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club and awarded over \$35,000 in scholarships. Good job all! The evening was capped off by a presentation by Philadelphia FSDO Manager Joe Kain and Safety Program Manager Eric Sieracki outlining the FAA's Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. After wowing us all with the rigorous requirements to receive this award (and leaving us all convinced we'd never qualify) they presented one to our very own Walt Ellis. I believe all the conspirators involved in Walt's nomination were successful since Walt seemed completely taken by surprise. Thanks to Joe Case and the PACC staff for another wonderful event.

Elsewhere in this issue please read the details of the annual Seaplane Splash-In at the Essington Seaplane Base. I am so pleased that the township is maintaining the site and renovating the historic and impressive quarantine hospital. In addition to Rob's report on the event, please read Sarah Wolfe's by-line contribution (p. 5). Sarah is an Aero Club Scholarship recipient, a student at Purdue University, and also contributed to the "History of Ballooning Display" article (p.4) with Carris and Erik Kocher. It is wonderful to see our young members getting involved in club activities. They are our future.

The just mentioned ballooning article highlights the incredible accomplishment for Aero Club Vice-President Debbie Harding in convincing the Franklin Institute to

It is wonderful to see our young members getting involved in club activities. They are our future.

let the Connie Wolf "Blue Bell" balloon out of the confines of the museum for a cold inflation at the Chester County Balloon Festival. Next time it should be hot air!

In July we coordinated a presentation by Lt. Col. Christopher Downey (Ret.)

about his time as the Presidential Airlift Coordinator at the White House during part of the Bush and Obama administrations.

Fall is usually a wonderful time for flying so check out the calendar on Page 6.

Highlights include several air shows, Wings and Wheels at

Wings Field (KLOM) where the Aero Club will have an outreach booth, Lancaster Aviation Days (KLNS), and perhaps, but not yet confirmed, fly outs to Eagles Mere Museum and the Hammondsport Seaplane weekend.

We marvel at the rich aviation history in the Delaware Valley area, but we continue in that tradition today. Recently I called ready for take-off at Northeast Philly (KPNE) and was told to hold short for landing traffic. Much to my surprise the traffic was a civilian tilt rotor, the AgustaWestland AW609, which I understand will be produced at the Northeast Philly Leonardo facility. What an amazing looking machine.

It's still hot here in Woxall, but I can attest to the fact that it's quite comfortable at 6500 ft.

Stay cool and Blue Skies - Bob



Member Presentation: Lt. Col. Chris Downey, Ret.



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

PENNSYLVANIA PILOT

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SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

by Steve Jordan

While it makes our job more difficult, the review board was very excited to receive so many quality applicants from a great group of young aviators. It is always a pleasure getting to know everyone at the awards dinner, and I can say beyond a shadow of doubt that it makes all the work well worth it!

This year, we had the pleasure of awarding \$28,500 and a tailwheel training scholarship to aviators of many different backgrounds and experience levels. However, one thing that everyone shared was a passion for aviation. I can say with confidence that this group of recipients will be very successful in their endeavors, and will certainly do well in promoting avi-

ation – both general and professional – in the Greater Delaware Valley.

It is always great to see past recipients get involved in the club

I would be remiss not to thank the other members of the scholarship review board for a job well done! It is not easy work, and this great group of people makes it look easy. Thank you Captain John Lewis, Steven Devine, Captain Jeff Bennett, Deb Harding, and Captain Alicia Sikes for all the hard work you put in this year. Our goal is to help as many young aviators as possible, and that simply wouldn't have happened without their dedication and effort.

Having so many great scholarship

recipients made the dinner inspiring for both members and awardees alike. I hope to see some of the recipients on the "other side of the table" in a couple years, helping to allocate scholarships to young aviators like themselves. It is always great to see past recipients get involved in the club, as it is not only a great resource of seasoned pilots who are more than willing to offer advice, but a great group of people to spend time with!

Thanks to all who support the scholarship fund and make all of this possible, as well as, our Treasurer John O'Toole and our trustees Bob Smith, General Bruce Thompson, and Alicia Sikes, as well as the PACC for always being fantastic hosts. Thank you all for another successful year.

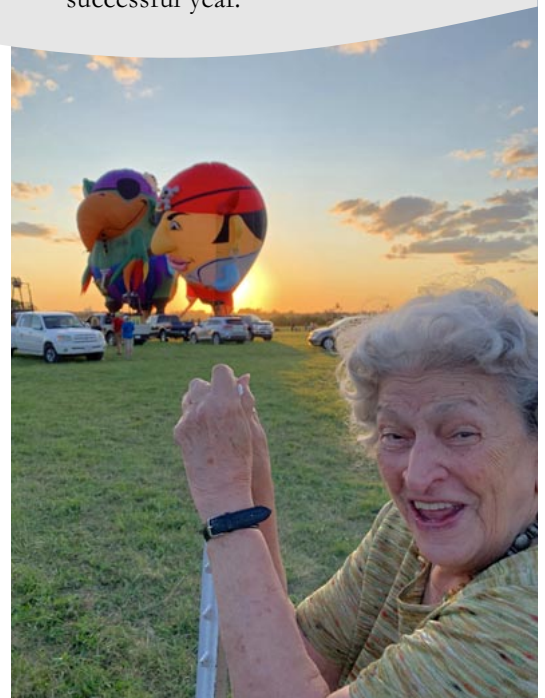
Eleanor Vadala inducted into the Hall of Fame

Pennsylvanian balloon pilot, Eleanor Vadala, was inducted into the Balloon Federation of America Hall of Fame, in Indianola, Iowa, July 28, 2019. She was inducted for her contribution to the promotion of the science, sport and adventure of Ballooning, particularly in the early 1950's and 60's prior to the establishment of the sport of hot air ballooning as we know it today. She has joined the ranks with such local notables as Anthony Fairbanks, Pete Pelligrino, Francis Shields, Malcom Forbes, Don Piccard, and Connie Wolf. Connie was a member of the Aero Club of Pennsylvania and a Ninety-Nine. Aero Club Vice President Deb Harding had the honor of



At the Hall of Fame with nephew Earl and Niece Linda Vadala.

introducing Eleanor at the award ceremony as both a role model and a pioneer of women in aviation.



Eleanor Vadala after the induction, at the Indianola Balloon Classic

Board of Directors Report

by Carris Kocher

The Board of Directors met at Wings Field on July 18, 2019 for dinner and a presentation.

Vice President Debbie Harding began the meeting until President Robert Smith arrived and declared a quorum. April minutes were approved. John O'Toole reported on finances, Debbie Harding reported on Scholarships, and Rob Dant reported on mem-

bership and communications.

Carris Kocher gave an overview of the "pop-up museum" at the balloon festival in June, and Rob Dant reported on the details of the Seaplane Splash-In at Essington on June 29.

Future events were discussed, including an upcoming invitation to the Union League for a pres-

entation entitled "who shot down the Red Baron?" Also, the Aero Club will host a table at "Wings 'N Wheels" on September 7 at Wings Field.

The group adjourned at 7pm for dinner and a presentation by Lt. Col. Christopher Downey (Ret.) about his time as the Presidential Airlift Coordinator at the White House from 2008-2010.

History of Ballooning Display *by Carris & Erik Kocher, and Sarah Wolfe*

What a better time to learn about the history of hot air ballooning than at the annual Chester County Balloon Festival? This year's "A Brief History of Ballooning" display, sponsored by the Aero Club of Pennsylvania, featured an extensive history on the development of hot air ballooning - from the time of the first hot air balloon flight in Paris in 1783 to the first around the world flight in 1999 and beyond. The display was even graced with a striking inflated model of the 1783 Montgolfier hot air balloon thanks to Bob Sparks. It was a popular place in the "pop-up museum" for visitors to get their picture taken. This was the third year that the Aero Club ran the history booth, and it continues to be a well-visited place for both young and old alike.

2019 is the 50th anniversary of the first Moon Landing AND the 20th anniversary of the first circumnavigation of the earth by balloon, so the impact of ballooning on flight and exploration was on display at the museum.

A highlight of this year's festival was the inflation of Connie Wolf's "Blue Bell" balloon that she commissioned for Philadelphia's 300th birthday in 1982. The "Blue Bell" balloon features a 20-foot likeness of William Penn on each side, and its official number is N300WM. After several flights, Connie

donated the balloon to the Franklin Institute where it has been in curated storage for nearly 30 years.



Connie Wolf balloon

Collaborators on the Franklin Institute balloon team from left to right: Tom Robins, designated balloon repair station, Cheryl Hughes, long-time local crew chief, researchers Erin Kello, Rachel Wilkinson, author Jean Marie Laskas, and researcher Tim Maddocks.

Connie Wolf was a prominent member of the Aero Club along with her husband General Alfred Wolf. She was also a founding member of the Balloon Club of America (BCA) in 1952, the only one in existence in America at the time. On November 19-20, 1961, she set 15 world records during her 40+ hour flight. To highlight Connie's position as a role model for women in aviation, Debbie Harding, Vice-President of the Aero Club, with the help of Tom Robins, Jean Marie Laskas, Tim Maddocks, and Michael Fairbanks, negotiated with the Franklin Institute to bring Connie's bal-

loon out for a "breath of fresh air!"

It was a reference to Connie Wolf in the *Pennsylvania Pilot* that caught the attention of Jeanne Marie Laskas, an author doing research for a book about Connie's life. So this year, the "pop-up museum" hosted Jeanne Marie and her team of assistants. They recorded interviews with several folks who had known Connie Wolf and happily joined in the thrill of inflating Connie's balloon.

Inside the pop-up museum, Michael Fairbanks, a lifelong balloonist and ballooning historian who had flown with Connie, set up special display boards featuring Connie's ballooning career. Along with Michael and Bob Sparks, Eleanor Valada joined us on Saturday to impart knowledge and the stories of the ballooning adventures that the three early members of the BCA made over the years. (Read about Eleanor's induction into the Ballooning Hall of Fame, page 3.) Our own Debbie Harding - who was the first woman to hot air balloon over the North Pole and organizer of the festival - was also present to share about her adventures.

Special thanks to Club members Deb Harding and Rob Dant, and to the Aero Club for sponsoring this "slice" of aeronautical history.



Essington Seaplane Base Splash-In

The first heat wave of the summer hit Philadelphia just prior to June 29, the date for the annual seaplane splash-in at Essington, Pennsylvania. Hot conditions and afternoon storms were forecast, but a morning start time helped keep the worst of the heat in check. Six seaplanes, from as far south as the Virginia/North Carolina border, participated in the event.

Ramp operations here are only possible from mid to high tide due to the condition of the ramp that has not seen regular maintenance in many years. It is surprising how few summer Saturday lunchtimes fall at high tide here.

The crowd numbered around 100, including pilots, passengers, local aviation enthusiasts, neighbors and township officials. A small local caterer provided wonderful food for the event. Yours truly also surprised folks with a cooler full of ice cream kept on dry ice.

The local township is undergoing revitalization, including the refurbishment of the historic quarantine hospital to be used as township offices and museum space. The township officially maintains the license for the seaplane base. A number of township officials were present at the event.



by Robert Dant

REGIONAL AIRPORT REPORT

by Elaine Farashian

JUNE 2019

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL [PHL]

The busy summer schedule is underway. Gate capacity is a focus as is maintaining passenger transport vehicles and acquiring parts to support remote deplaning. Renovation of restrooms is about 1/3 complete and the goal is to complete by 2026 in time for the city's 250th July 4 celebrations. Planning and design are underway for the 130 acre west cargo expansion. Design is 30% complete for the relocation of a portion of Tinicum Island Rd. The Master Plan update is in selection phase. Focus will be on terminal plus gates, land-side transportation and development planning for the airport's east area.

NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA [PNE]

There is a study to identify growth of activity by sector because operations have increased. Due to impending runway 6/24 reconstruction, there will be temporary closures. The project is expected to take three years. The ALP update is being finalized to identify 10+ year projects.

BRANDYWINE [OQN]

The airport sponsored a charity bike ride to benefit the Chester County Challenge for Cancer. The American Helicopter Museum was the venue for an antique car show and helicopter rides on Fathers' Day. The Brandywine Flight School is active and expanding. It operates eight aircraft.

NEW GARDEN [N57]

The Chester County Balloon Festival was attended by about 20,000 people. Future Aviators Camps are scheduled for July 8-12 and August 5-9. The custom-built timber-frame pavilion benefitting the

Future Aviators Program and the community is now complete. The Festival Flight Airshow is scheduled for August 17 and 18. The hangar project is a plan for (6) 60'x60' owner-built box hangars on the west ramp. The Aviation Center Maintenance Shop can handle small to large repairs and is in search of an A&P mechanic. The New Garden Flight School Connection is operating.

RED LION [N73]

This airport is no longer a public use airport with a new identifier JY73.

SOUTH JERSEY REGIONAL [VAY]

Regarding obstruction removal, comments will be included in the final permit application before submitting to DEP. John Scarnell of the Windwalker Aero Club hosted the June DVRPC meeting on the airport grounds and presented a brief history of aviation in New Jersey. John is trying to promote interest in general aviation in New Jersey. Following the meeting, a tour of the Air Victory Museum was offered to the attendees.

TRENTON-MERCER [TTN]

Final inspection of taxiway H,B,F rehab was completed in March. A closeout document is expected. Areas of rutted asphalt at the approaches to two of the Terminal parking positions will be removed and replaced with concrete slabs. A contract is in place to construct taxiway D 2, a stub taxiway connecting taxiway A to runway 16/34. The project is part of the larger taxiway D-G connector program and will allow shifting commercial jet traffic away from a portion of taxiway C that is failing under the load of certain aircraft. Bids were opened for reconstruction of taxiway F and work might begin Fall 2019. The airport plans include preliminary engineering and development of an Environmental Assessment for a replacement air carrier terminal. Public hearings have been held and will be forthcoming.

WINGS [LOM]

The flight school is waiting for approval from the Veterans Administration for offering training to vets under the GI Bill.

My First Splash-In

I have only been involved in aviation for a few years, but funnily enough I can't ever remember a time when I haven't been fascinated by seaplanes. Every time I watch one take off I am entranced by the way they glide gracefully across the water, skim, hop, and finally take to the air. The 2019 Splash-In at Essington Seaplane Base was my first chance to see the magic up close. Announcing their arrival with the quiet rumblings of an engine from afar or twinkling like a small speck on the horizon, the seaplane arrivals captured the attention of attendees who quickly ran to the banks to watch them land and taxi up the ramp onto the grass. Throughout the day, I had the opportunity to watch planes land and takeoff, talk with pilots about their experiences and hear their stories, and enjoy a fun day of plane spotting with good food and good people. I am encouraged by the dedication to revitalizing the seaplane community in the Philadelphia area so that generations to come can continue to be

by Sarah Wolfe

captivated by this unique aspect of the general aviation community. Keep your eyes open for news about upcoming seaplane events - they're sure to make a big splash!



Sarah Wolfe and sister Amanda

2019 Aero Club of Pennsylvania Scholarship Awards

The Aero Club of PA Memorial Scholarship Fund awarded \$28,500.

**BOB SHANNON
AWARD**



STEVEN MILLER
GLENMOORE, PA

16 years old, attending Downingtown West HS. Runs cross country and member of swim team. Pre-solo with 14 hours at Chester County Airport. Plans to complete Private and then attend Embry Riddle to pursue a career in aerospace engineering.

**BOB SHANNON
AWARD**



RHYS WHITEHOUSE
COCHRANVILLE, PA

17 years old. On the varsity football team at the Gary Benasutti School. Volunteer firefighter at the West Grove Fire Company. Aspires to be a Coast Guard search and rescue pilot. Pre-solo at Chester County Airport.

**PETER YORK
WOOD AWARD**



HALEY O'DONNELL
PHILADELPHIA, PA

23 years old. Flight attendant at American Airlines; takes flight lessons at Chester County Airport. Recently completed her first solo flight. Working toward private certificate. Wants to be an airline pilot.

**TERRY HATCHER
AWARD**



BRENDAN CALVERT
LIMERICK, PA

18 years old; attends Spring Ford H.S. where he swims, runs, and plays golf. Member of the Civil Air Patrol and an Eagle Scout. YMCA life-guard. Completed Private through the Civil Air Patrol. Will attend Embry-Riddle in the fall.

**MILLIE JORDAN
AWARD**



ABEL LEON
PHILADELPHIA, PA

33 year old aircraft mechanic at American Airlines. Working on instrument rating at Leading Edge Aviation in Doylestown in his own aircraft. Driving for Uber to subsidize his training. Abel's aspiration is to be an airline pilot.

**AERO CLUB
AWARD**



CADE HONTANON
CHESTER SPRINGS, PA

18 years old. Attends the Renaissance Academy Charter School, where he plays soccer. Has private pilot and glider pilot certificates. Will attend Kent State in the fall where he plans on studying to become a professional pilot.

**AERO CLUB
AWARD**



THOMAS MCADOO
WILMINGTON, DE

16 years old. Attends the Delaware Military Academy. Participates in marching band, track & field, and Boy Scouts. Solo'd in spring; working on private at New Garden where he earns money as a line boy. Aspires to be a corporate pilot.

**AERO CLUB
AWARD**



NOELLE YORGEY
FLEETWOOD, PA

22 years old, training at Aerotech Services, through Eastern Mennonite University. Tutors and is involved in theater. Instrument rated pilot working on commercial. Wants to become a airline pilot, or a missionary pilot.

**AERO CLUB
AWARD**



MATTHEW SINGER
AVON GROVE, PA

17 years old. Attends Avon Grove High School; runs track & field. Line boy at New Garden. Has solo'd both a glider and a powered aircraft. His scholarship will be used to finish his private pilot certificate at New Garden.

**TAILWHEEL
AWARD**



MICHAEL SULLIVAN
MONTGOMERY CO, PA

45 years old. Teacher in Lower Merion, where he has started several aviation programs to interest young men and woman in aviation. Working towards his CFI, so that he can teach his classroom students how to fly.



Joe Kain presents Master Pilot award to Walt Ellis

Philadelphia FSDO manager Joe Kain presented Walt Ellis with the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award for over fifty years of civil flying experience. This award is named after the Wright Brothers, the first U.S. pilots, to recognize individuals who have exhibited professionalism, skill, and aviation expertise for at least 50 years while piloting aircraft as "Master Pilots." Walt is also a past recipient of the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award named in honor of Mr. Charles Taylor, the first aviation mechanic in powered flight. The award recognizes the lifetime accomplishments of senior mechanics.

DR. JACK & JOYCE SCHREFFLER AWARD



SARAH WOLFE
LANCASTER, PA

20 years old. Attends Purdue University in Indiana, where she participates on the student safety committee and works as a dispatcher. She has her private, instrument and commercial ASEL and AMEL, CFI, and tail-wheel endorsement (thanks Captain Lewis!). The Commercial, CFI and Multi are completed in one checkride at Purdue.

Minoring in Chinese studies; Wishes to combine passion for volunteering with flying and has interest in flying between the US and China.

2019 Memorial Scholarship Award Honorees

Bob Shannon

Operated West Chester Airport (Brandywine) and Downingtown Airport (Shannon) in the 60's and 70's.

Terry Hatcher

Aero Club President and long-time Bob Shannon Scholarship fund trustee. Member of Aero Club for over 50 years. Passed away in 2013.

Peter York Wood

Aviation idealist and visionary, past Aero Club officer and longest continuous member of Aero Club. Operated Benedict Airport. Compiled first nationwide Air Travel Guide.

Millie Jordan

Ardent aviation supporter and role model for her son and grandson as they pursued their careers in aviation, both of whom received Aero Club scholarships.

Dr Jack & Joyce Schreffler

Living past Aero Club president, long-time Shannon Scholarship supporter and trustee, lifelong private pilot and podiatrist. Wife of 63 years, a school teacher, passed away in 2017.

Louise Sacchi

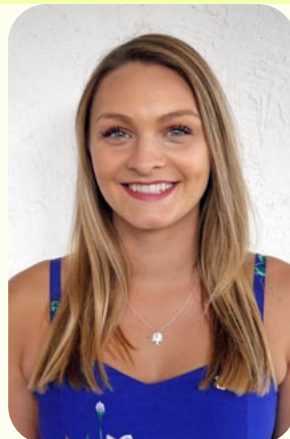
Instructor, pilot, mechanic, and engineer. Taught advanced navigation to



Risa Altman presents awards to Kayla and Haley

Eastern PA Ninety-Nines

The Ninety-Nines gives scholarships to women to foster their interest in aviation. \$7,000 was awarded in 2019.



KAYLA HOLSINGER

SACCHI & WOLF AWARD

A flight instructor and a Cirrus charter pilot at Wings Field, dreaming of becoming a corporate pilot. Graduated from Embry-Riddle in 2015. Interested in aerobatics and has a long term goal of helping design aircraft powered by renewable energy. Scholarship to be used for Multi rating.



HALEY O'DONNELL

THERESA DELLAQUILA AWARD

24 years old from Columbia, SC. Moved to Philly as flight attendant for American Airlines. Flew with a friend on an introductory flight and changed her career goal to become an airline pilot. With this scholarship, she will complete her Private at Chester County Aviation.

the RAF during WWII. Operated ferry service and completed over 300 ocean crossings.

Connie Wolf

Flew hydrogen balloons in the 50's and 60's and set 15 world records. First woman to cross the Alps in a balloon. Had a life-long love of aviation, adventure and public service.

Theresa Dellaquila

Longtime local fixed wing and helicopter pilot and Ninety-Nine. Well known within the local aviation community.



Organized December 17, 1909; Chartered May 10, 1910

AERO CLUB OF PENNSYLVANIA

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FALL AVIATION CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 17-18 New Garden Pancake Breakfast and Airshow (N57)
- 21 Thunder over the Boardwalk, Thunderbirds (ACY)
- 24-25 Lancaster Aviation Days (KLNS)
- 28-30 B17, B24, B25, P-51 Flights, Millville, NJ (MIV)
- 30-2 Airfest/Warbird flights at NAS Wildwood (WWD)

SEPTEMBER

- 07 Wings & Wheels, Wings Field (LOM)
- 07 EAA 643 Fly-in, Sky Manor Airport (N40) 10AM-2PM
- 08 Heritage Airfield/PAOP Fly-In Breakfast (PTW)
- 14 Allen Airstrip Pancake Breakfast (3NJ9)
- 14 EAA 240 New Garden Pancake Breakfast (N57)
- 14 EAA 216 Pancake Breakfast, Cross Keys, NJ (17N)
- 28-29 Gettysburg Fly-in Breakfast (W05)

OCTOBER

- 12 Allen Airstrip Pancake Breakfast (3NJ9)
- 17 **Aero Board of Directors Mtg**, Thursday, 6PM
- 19 EAA 240 New Garden Pancake Breakfast (N57)



October Speaker Series and Board Meeting

Thursday, October 17, 2019, 6-9PM

The Aero Club will sponsor dinner and a presentation on October 17 at the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club at Wings Field. Stay tuned to email announcements for more detail about our speaker for the evening.

Members and guests are welcome. Dinner (optional) begins at 7PM and the presentation begins around 8PM. Cash bar is available and a nice dinner will be available for a modest fee.

Prior to the presentation, the Aero Club will hold its quarterly Board Meeting at 6PM.

RSVP and pay online at:

www.aeroclubpa.org/rsvp

