



PENNSYLVANIA

PILOT

Fall 2020

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Despite Corona, Aero Club and Ninety Nines award scholarships

Scholarships awarded

The Aero Club of PA awarded nine aviation scholarships amounting to \$33,000 and the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Ninety-Nines awarded three scholarships amounting to \$8,300. For both organizations, the scholarship interview process went online, with candidates being interviewed via Zoom video calls. The June scholarship dinner was cancelled with tentative plans for a future celebration. Read more details about the process in the Scholarship Report on page 3 and see recipient photos and bios on pages 6 and 7.

Featured Article

Seeking Fly-In Picnic Tables
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Rare summer fly-ins at Cross Keys airport

While most fly-ins have been cancelled this summer, the EAA chapter 216 at Cross Keys Airport has been making the most of it. During the traditional June date for the Reading WWII Weekend, the chapter held a “Hoagie fly-in, take-out” where fly-in traffic could order a sandwich and fly away or bring chairs to sit under the wing. Over 30 aircraft, including a few warbirds flew in. Being the “only game in town,” they got visitors from as far away as North Carolina! The event raised \$800 for the local firehouse.

On July 25, the chapter again held a fly-in. Cacia’s Bakery of South Philly provided their legendary Italian Roast Pork Sandwiches for \$10 and

Cannolis for \$5. About 25 aircraft flew in. The day was sunny and hot and busy with local parachute activity.

New hangar construction during pandemic

On July 27th, officials at the Lehigh Valley International Airport (KABE) opened a new 54,000 square foot hangar to accommodate the latest generation of corporate aircraft. “If you search the Northeast corridor, hangar space is extremely limited. We are confident that



Hangar 11 delivers a competitive advantage in attracting new tenants,” said Thomas R. Stoudt, Executive Director of the Airport Authority. An \$8.8 million Bureau of Aviation grant aided this \$16.3 million project.

At New Garden Flying Field, a row of six 60’x60’ owner-built corporate box hangars are being constructed adjacent to the west end T-hangars with completion scheduled by the end of August.



In reviewing the draft newsletter just now as I work on my President's message here, I could not help but smile! Wow what a club we are! It is with great pleasure that I see all the shiny happy smiling faces of our scholarship recipients along with their words of accomplishments and goals. Truly inspiring. And truly, despite all the obstacles put in place due to the virus, the scholarship committee was 100% committed to the completion of the selection process of this year's recipients. Together, with our generous donors and trustees, we came through with scholarship dollars that literally were unaffected by the financial downturn in the market. This always truly amazes me. Just like in 2008, with major losses, we stayed true to our commitment to paying it forward. Thank you all for your contributions in both time and contributions. On this, we are all united.

As to recognizing our recipients, we cancelled our scholarship dinner, but I still want to see some form of acknowledgment that the dinner provides. With pandemic schedules being so upside down, this will be challenging. One of our board members has suggested a picnic, however we will need volunteers for such an undertaking.

The Club has had two virtual board meetings, the 2nd being a hybrid in-person, Zoom meeting. Although the latter did not quite work (see page 8), one decision did

come out of it. We will not attempt to organize a solely in-person Wright Brother's Dinner. I am looking for volunteers to design a virtual event, including fundraising. I am attending a "Virtual and hybrid fundraising webinar" this month if anyone wants to join me.

During pandemic times, staying connected virtually is essential. The Aero Club has a multi-faceted social media presence with the recent inclusion of Instagram.

I ask everyone to join our **Instagram** page that was created by student pilot Nick Ericson (20nericson@gmail.com):

<https://www.instagram.com/aeroclubpa/>

And reminding everyone of our public **Facebook** page. Post to or send updates and photos to Nancy Kyle (nkyle111@gmail.com) to share with the public:

<https://www.facebook.com/AeroClubOfPa>

Board member Steve Devine (mauleflyer@verizon.net) has set up a Facebook Group for us to share group activities, fly-ins and aviation-related events with our members:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/329577861084101>

Let us take advantage of the virtual connectedness to keep abreast with our "fellow" like-minded aviators.



Staying connected virtually has become essential

Aviation events cancelled

While a few aviation events occurred over the summer, most large aviation events were cancelled, including the largest of them all, **Oshkosh**. Our own **Aero Club Scholarship Awards Dinner**

was cancelled and plans for a in-person **December Wright Brothers Dinner** are in flux.

The June **Chester County Balloon Festival** was cancelled due to community concerns. The **New Garden Summerfest Airshow**

is now rescheduled for 2021, and despite yeoman efforts to allay safety concerns, the **Future Aviator camps** were both cancelled. The Atlantic City "**Thunder over the Boardwalk**" was cancelled. All are hoping for a better year in 2021.



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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.

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SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

by Steve Jordan



While it seemed like just about everything was working against us this year, the scholarship committee is happy to say that we were able to interview and award scholarships to nine truly deserving candidates. Without being able to conduct in-person interviews, we relied heavily on group video chats. While it was certainly a transition from our normal way of doing things, everything ran smoothly all said and done. As usual, the hardest part came in deciding who to give the scholarships to.

This year, we had 23 completed applications. While this was a slightly smaller amount than last year (31), almost all applications

were of very high quality. We awarded nine scholarships in total, amounting to \$33,000 in funding for flight training. Our applicants heard about our scholarship program through the following means: 44% through a flight school, 17% via google search, 13% from an Aero Club member, 9% heard about it around their local airport, 9% through the 99s, and 4% each from the Civil Air Patrol and online scholarship guides. As a past recipient, I can tell you just how important these scholarships are. They enable our recipients to follow their dreams, and have lasting positive impacts.

None of this would be possible without your contributions, and for that we thank you.

While we eagerly look forward to the day we can give our recipients the in-person celebration they deserve, we hope that this newsletter can serve as our absentee celebration of their success - both past and future. Please join me in wishing these aviators great success in their endeavors, and welcoming them to our club. To our recipients: please know that the club is a wonderful group of mentors who are happy to help you along your aviation journey. Don't hesitate to reach out, and we look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Peter Griffing, 1921-2020

Former Aero Club member "Pete" Henry Burnett Griffing, USMCR ret. of Audubon, PA, passed away at age 98. Some of you around Wings Field might remember Pete, who started as an aviation mechanic just after World War II and became the service manager. Pete went on to become a Beechcraft salesman for Atlantic Aviation and VP of Page Avjet.



Peter Griffing and Wife Joanne

Born in Blue Bell, PA on May 23, 1921, Pete was the son of the late Alfred and Jennie Griffing. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Joanne M. Griffing, whom he married on June 10, 1950. He was a three-sport athlete and graduated Valedictorian from Whip-pain High School in Blue Bell, PA in 1939.

In 1943, Pete enlisted and was active in the South Pacific with Marine Fighter Squadron 218. He volunteered to be dropped behind enemy lines in the Philippines to repair scarce Corsair aircraft. Following Japan's surrender, he served in China in support of the Nationalist Chinese Government against Communist forces and helped disarm Japanese forces. Pete was

one of 23 men decorated for distinguished services by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek in Tiananmen Square with the Special Breast Order of the Cloud and Banner.

After the war, Pete served in the reserve out of Naval Air Station Willow Grove, PA, until full military retirement in 1966. Later in his career, he partnered with his wife Joanne in Griffing Associates, selling airplanes and providing corporate aircraft fleet consulting services. They remained active in the industry as members of the Beechcraft Old Timers Silver Fox Group, the Aero Club of Pennsylvania and the National Business Aircraft Association, Inc. Pete was also a long-time dedicated member of Kiwanis and former deacon of Jeffersonville Presbyterian Church, Jeffersonville, PA.

Carris Kocher remembered "Mr. Griffing visited the Aero Club booth at Wings Field last fall with his daughter. After hearing a bit of his story and his long connection to Wings Field and to the Aero Club, I asked permission to get this picture. I had no idea about his decorated service in China with Chiang Kai-shek!!"



Pete at Aero Club tent

Seeking a fly-in picnic table

by Robert Dant

Beyond the basic goals of getting somewhere or boring holes in the sky, I consider there to be three primary missions associated with flying: breakfast, lunch and dinner. I think I might have even done them all in one day. And, recently I've discovered a forth solo mission: dessert.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 put a major damper on these sustenance-based missions since most airport restaurants were closed or had takeout only. In addition, a summer calendar typically filled with fly-in pancake breakfasts and BBQ lunches was unceremoniously scratched out.

In order to satisfy my need for these cuisine quests, I started seeking out places to take friends for a flying picnic. It's not that easy to flight plan good picnic table destinations that I can taxi up to, especially at a nice out-of-the-way grass field. Sometimes, I try to make some phone calls if I can find a local contact; other times I spy tables at airports from Google satellite images. Otherwise, it is a matter of just flying around or remembering strips I've been to in the past.



Good friends under the big tree at Sunbury, PA

Sunbury, PA (71N)

is a wonderfully cured grass strip on an island in the middle of the Susquehanna River where it splits into the east and west branches. This is home to EAA Chapter 769 whose monthly chapter lunches I have flown into many times with flying friend Donald Hershey. We often scheme to surprise folks on a warm day with ice cream sandwiches on dry ice. On a hot summer day, our surprise tickles the fancy of the members and the children meandering about.

I called up Jim Staib from the EAA Chapter to confirm that the picnic table was still set up under the big shade tree and unencumbered by the police tape I see around so many outdoor seating areas. He assured me that it was there and we were welcome to have a picnic. I invited him to join us and we boarded two aircraft and headed off with my mini propane grill and all the supplies needed for a nice feast. We had a great picnic that day, isolated from the many campers that surround the island during the summer.

I've discovered other grass fed picnic spots over the years, too. I recently lunched at the picnic table next to the main hangar of the little 1000-foot ultralight strip at Shoestring Airport (0P2) near the Maryland

border. The challenge of making my best ultra short-field landing always gets my appetite up. And, recently, I decided to revisit the nice strip at Smyrna, DE (38N) when I discovered glorious tables under a big shade tree. I'll be back. The finely manicured grass strip at Keller Brothers (08N) field has a nice table in the breezeway, and the quirky sideways runway at Beltsville (14N) offers a couple tables, too. I'm certain that there are many more tables to be discovered.



Now, the dessert part. There is a private cropdusting strip west of Salem, New Jersey (NJ74) that I decided to drop into one day last year. It sits adjacent to Hudocks Custard Stand on New Jersey Route 49.

Tom, the owner, is kind enough to allow occasional visitors to fly in. He welcomes mostly taildraggers and antiques, but I fly my Cessna 172 in on occasions or my one-quarter share of a Piper Cub (I own the left wing and right horizontal stabilizer; the rest is borrowed). A short walk through the edge of the soybean field gets me to my favorite flying dessert, Hudock's famous "dippo." It's a soft-serve vanilla cone pre-dipped in chocolate and stored in the freezer. On really hot days, it's

the only thing that doesn't immediately

melt in the heat and create a total mess. The picnic tables are behind the store, under the big tree, adjacent to the bean field. Heaven.



Times have changed, and if this is the loathsome new normal, then maybe some old-time aviation and old-fashioned picnics are the way to accomplish these time-honored aeronautical missions.



Picnic tables in waiting at Smyrna, DE

June 2020

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL [PHL]

The airport received about \$116 million in CARES Act funding to support ongoing and future projects. There has been a recent uptick in passengers after having experienced 90-95 % activity reduction. Current focus is on processes and procedures for security queue, hold rooms, restrooms, etc. as passenger volumes increase and flights are added. Fleet mix changes accelerated by COVID are being monitored closely for gate/apron adaptation. Capital projects that have continued include: terminal restroom renovation, west cargo expansion design efforts and other essential projects.

NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA [PNE]

The airport received CARES Act funds. Operations have moved to runway 15/33 due to runway 6/24 construction which is on schedule. Construction may be finished by next construction season. The 3rd and last package to complete runway rehab should be finalized before the end of 2021.

BRANDYWINE [OQN]

The LPV Approach Feasibility project is being processed in DOT grants for closeout of the grant. The runway 9/27 widening project is also being processed for grant closeout, but the airport is hoping for easement from a neighbor in order to begin construction. Phase I design of hangar project is progressing. The annual BOA Planning Session is being scheduled for a virtual meeting. This airport, as well as others, will be receiving CARES Act monies in the amount of \$69,000.

CHESTER COUNTY [MQS]

The airport is expecting to begin the apron rehab project mid July and will assess how each hangar will be affected. Since a hangar may not be accessible, National Aviation Day Program is scheduled for August 14. Due to Covid 19, operations, flight school and staff have been reduced, but full staff is/was scheduled to be back July 6.

DOYLESTOWN [DYL]

Final paving for grass tiedowns and bypass taxiways is scheduled for June. Runway 5/23 construction may be completed in the Fall. The airport is showing new plans to PennDOT for update to its Airport Layout Plan. BOA Planning Session is being scheduled.

HERITAGE FIELD [PTW]

The airport is continuing with obstruction removal program on south side of runway 10. Taxiway rehab construction is to begin in July and continue until the end of August. Hangar development design is in progress.

NEW GARDEN [N57]

The BOA is processing the final request for reimbursement and grant closeout regarding the LPV Survey. Foundations for the west hangars are being poured with completion at the end of August. The full-service maintenance shop has had steady business. Due to BOA funding depletion for this year, access road project will have to get pushed to the next fiscal year. The flight school is open and operating with special procedures. The IAP (Instrument Approach Procedure) publish date has been postponed until 4/22/21. The Future Aviators Camp July session is cancelled and the August session is not definite. The Airshow is projected for August 28, 29 & 30 (ed. note: postponed to 2021)

QUAKERTOWN [UKT]

The airport is trying to acquire easements for properties under runway 11/29 approaches for phase 4 and 5 obstruction removal projects. Design is in progress for phase 4 obstruction removal and construction is expected in Fall 2020/Winter 2021. Having removed all tree obstructions, the airport is preparing the Bernebei property for resale. The pilots continue "Young Eagles Day" on a monthly basis.

SOUTH JERSEY REGIONAL [VAY]

Permit applications are being finalized for phase 2 Environmental Study for obstruction removal. The consultant has begun design work for both runway 8/26 widening and parallel taxiway relocation.

TRENTON MERCER [TTN]

Closing is in progress for runway 6/24 rehab. The DOT is currently processing grant agreement for taxiway A design and taxiway F relocation/construction.

VAN SANT [9N1]

Dinner and Movie Night was planned for July 18th.

WINGS [LOM]

Grant is still in closeout pending status for obstructions of runway 6/24 approaches. Runway crack seal and remarking grant closeout expected soon. Grant closeout is in progress for AWOS equipment. Snow removal vehicle delivery is due at end of the year. A new 12,000 sq. ft. pre-manufactured metal building (PEMB) box hangar is to be located adjacent to the existing terminal apron. The design for this hangar is in progress. The airport is waiting for grants to proceed with phase I design for the West Itinerant Area. The BOA requested that the access portion of the project be a separate project to include any utilities to the site if required for future hangar development. Covid 19 has caused reduced activity in several airport functions.



2020 Aero Club of Pennsylvania Scholarship Awards

BOB SHANNON AWARD



JULIA LEVITINA

39 year-old avid artist. Volunteers at an after-school aviation program at Gateway Regional High School that helps struggling students, all while building a Light Sport Aircraft. She is pre-solo and will use the scholarship to obtain her private pilot certification. She hopes to eventually volunteer flying animal rescue, combining her passion for both aviation and fostering animals in need.

BOB SHANNON AWARD



KYLE DEGAETANO

15 years old. Attends Mainland Regional High School. He is a freshly started student pilot, with just a few hours of flight time at Cross Keys Airport. He plans on soloing this fall on his 16th birthday and this scholarship will help him achieve his goal. Long term, Kyle wants to be an airline pilot and plans on working his way from American Eagle to American Airlines, where he dreams of flying the 787 Dreamliner.

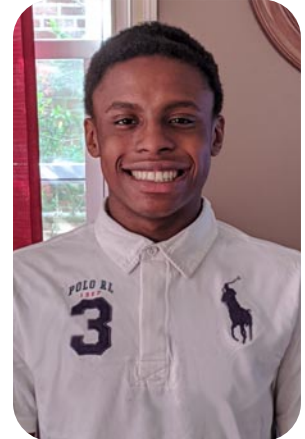
TERRY HATCHER AWARD



BRENDAN CALVERT

19-year-old ROTC student at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. With his scholarship last year he completed his private pilot and instrument rating. At ERAU, he will continue his training to obtain his commercial and instructor certificates. After graduation, he will serve his country and hopes to fly a fighter. Longer term, he wants to fly for the airlines after his obligation to the Navy.

MILLIE JORDAN AWARD



MALACHI NEAL

Malachi is an 18-year-old aspiring professional pilot. He received his private pilot certificate through the Tuskegee Next scholarship, which honors the legacy of the Tuskegee through aviation education. He will attend either Embry Riddle Aeronautical University or Delaware State University this fall, where he will continue his training. Long term, he hopes to fly for the airlines.

SHORR AWARD



ANDREW ROBINSON

Andrew is 17 years old, and is a post-solo student pilot. He has done his training at Doylestown Airport and is excited to continue his training at the Auburn University flight school this fall. He has 45 hours and is striving to obtain his private pilot certification before the end of the summer. After graduation, he hopes to achieve his goal of becoming an airline pilot.

AERO CLUB AWARD



AMY URBINE

Amy is 47 years old and is a post-solo student pilot. She currently trains at the Chester County Airport, where she plans on finishing her private pilot training soon. She is currently a medical writer, but aviation is her passion. Her goal is to become a commercial pilot and work for the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a pilot biologist, surveying wildlife from the skies.

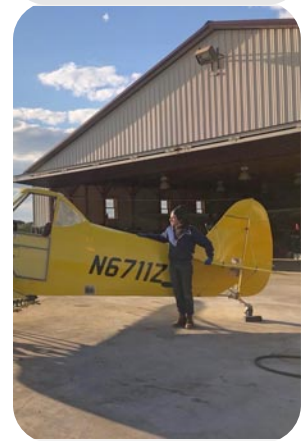
BOB MILLS AWARD



JEREMY POLK

33-year-old IT specialist working at Swarthmore University. Private pilot working on his instrument rating. He leads the campus aviation club and has been instrumental in setting a simulator, allowing the students to experience flight from the classroom while exploring aerodynamic design. He plans on merging his love for teaching with his passion for aviation by becoming a CFII.

AERO + TAILWHEEL



MATTHEW MOORE

18-year-old post-solo student pilot currently training at South Jersey Regional Airport. Working towards his private pilot certificate. Works at a New Jersey crop dusting service where he helps maintain airplanes. His aviation goals include agriculture pilot or an airline pilot. The Doolittle Tailwheel scholarship will open up many opportunities for him, from banner towing to crop-dusting.



SCHREFFLER AWARD



NOELLE YORGEY
FLEETWOOD, PA

Noelle is 23 years old and is currently enrolled in Eastern Mennonite University's aviation program. She received an Aero Club scholarship in 2019 to help get her instrument rating. She will use this year's scholarship for her commercial certificate. Noelle aspires to be an airline pilot and is well on her way to achieving her goals.

Eastern Pennsylvania Ninety-Nines Awarding scholarships to women to foster their interest in aviation



AMY URBINE

KATE MACARIO AWARD

Amy is working on her Private Pilot certificate at Chester County Aviation. She has volunteered much time for Eastern PA chapter in so many ways. Amy has been part of our Pennies-A-Pound planning committee; she has been our Flight Lines newsletter editor; she co-created our website and is the webmaster for it; and she is our Ways and Means Chair. It seems natural that she be the first recipient of this award as Kate would have been so proud of Amy's involvement, enthusiasm and love of our chapter and aviation.



RACHEL ANDERSON

SACCHI & WOLF AWARD

Rachel is currently enrolled in a 141 Instrument program at Trident Aircraft in Easton Maryland. She would like to add more ratings after her instrument rating and would like to fly professionally and teach. Rachel is the Chapter Chair of the Delaware 99s. Her other volunteer activities include helping to organize and teach at numerous Girl Scout Aviation events and being a trustee for the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame. Rachel teaches flute and piano and holds a BA in Flute Performance.



JULIA LEVITINA

THERESA DELLAQUILA AWARD

Julia is pursuing her PPL at Freeflight Aviation in Medford, NJ, hoping to combine her aeronautic and artistic passions to make a contribution to NASA and spaceflight. She is a full-time sculptor, making her own clay, pouring, welding and finishing metal casts. Julia also writes, performs and records folk rock Americana music. Her original song "Apricot Sky" was inspired by the story of the Wright Brothers. This led her on an amazing adventure of piloting a 1946 Aeronca Champion and she caught the flying bug ever since.

2020 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.

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.

C. Robert Mills, Jr

Operated the Philadelphia Seaplane Base for over 50 years. WWII Naval Aviator, awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for operations in Leyte Gulf.

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.

James Doolittle - Tailwheel Award

Army Air Corps instructor in WWI and commander of the Doolittle Raid during WWII, the first retaliatory air raid on the Japanese homeland following Pearl Harbor. Tailwheel instruction provided by Captain John Lewis.

Joshua Shorr

Aviation enthusiast from a young age with dreams of becoming an airline pilot. Private pilot by his early 20's, but lost a battle with a very rare immune disease. Scholarship provided by Joshua's family to provide opportunity to deserving aviator to pursue their passion in Joshua's memory.

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.

Louise Sacchi

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

Kate Macario

Learned to fly as a young woman, when told that "women don't do that sort of thing." Joined the local chapter of the Ninety-Nines in 1955 and became Chair. Champion for women in aviation. Helped grow the Pennies-a-Pound fundraiser event. Aero Club member.

And honoring all our regular donors to the Aero Club Memorial Scholarship Fund, so named by benefactors such as our recently passed Lou Fitzpatrick, so that no one person is the legacy of our program



Organized December 17, 1909; Chartered May 10, 1910

AERO CLUB OF PENNSYLVANIA

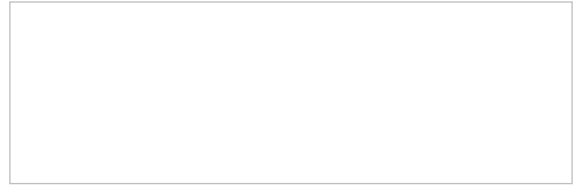
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Aero Club Board holds hybrid meeting

The Aero Club board experimented with a combined in-person, online video meeting on July 16. Five members of the board met outside on the patio at the Desmond Hotel in Malvern, PA while an additional seven members were on a Zoom meeting. President Deb Harding presided over the meeting. Technical issues, noise and interruptions hampered the meeting, but it was a learning experience for future such meetings and events.



Aero Club July Board Meeting

Board of Directors Report

By Carris Kocher

The Aero Club Board of Directors held a board meeting on July 16, part in-person and part online. President Deb Harding opened a Zoom video call from a small in-person gathering at the Desmond Hotel. There were not enough board members in attendance for a quorum.

Treasurer John O'Toole presented financial results. Our club expenses are near break-even, while the scholarship funds have fallen and rebounded with the markets.

Debbie Harding spoke about the scholarship awards and had a discussion about the possibility of an in-person or online ceremony. No final plans were made.

Rob Morrow discussed our membership and Rob Dant reported on the preparation of this newsletter.

The events committee spoke about opportunities obviously constrained by the pandemic. In-person events are largely on hold, while discussions ensued about online or hybrid options for board meetings and our Wright Brother's dinner.

The board adjourned. The next board meeting is scheduled for October 15.