

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

Dinner Highlights:

Silent Auction raises funds

The Aero Club held a silent auction in conjunction with the Wright Brothers Dinner. Four tables of interesting items were auctioned to raise funds for the Aero Club Memorial Scholarship fund. Items included vintage books, jewelry, certificates for helicopter and hot air balloon training, artwork, quilts and a champagne basket. The auction raised over \$3600 including \$1800 from a vintage watch sold simultaneously on eBay.

Wright Brothers Award

President Robert Dant presented Debbie Harding with the Aero Club Person-of-the-Year Award in appreciation for her dedication to the Aero Club, especially her work with the Scholarship Program. Debbie was instrumental in 2012 in helping us merge the Aero Club and Bob Shannon Scholarship funds and in coordinating the scholarship interviews.



Debbie Harding receives award

Issue Index...

President's Message, pg 2

Event Calendar, pg 3

Airport News, pg 4

One man's trash, pg 5

Helping out - aviation style, pg 6

Renewal Announcement, pg 7

Flight Safety, pg 8

Aero Club celebrates at Annual Dinner

The Aero Club of Pennsylvania held its annual Wright Brothers Dinner and fundraiser on December 17 at the Desmond Hotel. 66 members and friends attended the event.

The event began with a reception and a silent auction which raised money for the Aero Club Memorial Scholarship Fund. Auction items were donated by members and local businesses. Additionally, a vintage watch was donated and auctioned on eBay (see story on page 5). Altogether, the event raised over \$4500 for aviation scholarships.

Following dinner and dessert, President Robert Dant presented the 2011 Aero Club year-in-review, highlighting the major events of the year. Rob also conducted the official annual member meeting with the approval of five new board members: Michael Dunleavy, Timothy Fields, Dan Kurkjian, Michael Little and Bob Smith. Also announced was this year's recipient of the annual Wright Brothers Award, Debbie Harding (see details at left).

James Kilduff introduced our guest speaker, Jane Gardner Birch, who presented on her book "They Flew Proud" about the Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPTP) before and during WWII. Her father and other instructors trained cadets at the first Grove City Airport in

western Pennsylvania. The book received the 2007 Combs Gate Award given by the National Aviation

Hall of Fame to encourage the efforts of researchers and preservationists and award a winning project with a \$20,000 cash prize to help complete the research.

Altogether, the event raised over \$4500 for aviation scholarships.



Speaker's Table: Civilian Pilot's Training Program Display

After final acknowledgements and thank-yous, the 2011 Wright Brothers Dinner adjourned just after 10 P.M.

Airport Highlight: New Garden Flying Field [N57]



New taxiway at New Garden Airfield

Exciting changes are happening at New Garden Airport in Toughkenamon, PA, home to over 100 based aircraft. A new full-length taxiway is now complete and eliminates the need for back taxiing. New hangars are being planned and a small museum is being developed. Planning is underway for the 4th annual aviation Summer Camp and the 41st annual air show, both in August. See more details and other airport news on page 4.



ORGANIZED: Dec 17, 1909; CHARTERED: May 10, 1910

PO Box 748
Blue Bell, PA 19422
www.aeroclubpa.org
AeroClubPA@aol.com

The Aero Club of Pennsylvania was formed in 1909 to encourage and promote aviation in Pennsylvania and the Greater Delaware Valley. We are both a social and civic organization which plans field trips, holds an annual dinner, sponsors presentations, awards aviation scholarships, and produces this quarterly newsletter.

New Membership is only \$20
Signup at www.aeroclubpa.org

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President	James Kilduff
1st Vice President	Mary Wunder
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Asst. Secretary	Nancy Kyle
Treasurer	John O'Toole
Asst Treasurer	John Stubbs
VP Membership	Mary Wunder
VP Spec Projects	Walt Ellis
VP Scholarships	Debbie Harding
VP Print & Web	Robert Dant
VP Airports	Elaine Farashian
Solicitor	Paul Heintz, Esq.

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2 Year Term:	Elaine Farashian Nancy Kyle Juliet Lindrooth Glenn Long Dennis Ryan
1 Year Term:	Denise Burke Walt Ellis Jeff Kahn Jeff McFadden Deb Harding

TRUSTEES

Aero Club Mem. Scholarship Fund:
Bruce Thompson, Chair
Jeff Kahn
James Kilduff, ex Officio

PENNSYLVANIA PILOT

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

James Kilduff

The Board of the Aero Club, and I in particular, wish to thank Rob Dant for his service as President the two prior years and for his long-standing and continuing service as editor of this newsletter.

The Aero Club is 102 years old. Its members have storied connections to aviation. The most enduring and widespread of these is the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. Its founders were members and officers of the Aero Club of Pennsylvania. Other names include Harold Pitcairn, Wallace Kellett, Bob Mills, Frank Piasecki and Rodman Wanamaker. Every new officer comes into the job with big ideas. Here are mine:

Membership. There are 8,000 licensed pilots in the area and only 200 or so are members of the Aero Club. I have often wondered why that is so. The Aero Club is a way to get to know what's happening locally in aviation and even more, it's a way to get to know fellow pilots and aviation lovers. We are looking for missionaries, to spread the word about the Aero Club and about aviation. Mary Wunder is membership chair, so send her your ideas for new recruits at (marymmwunder@aol.com).

Scholarship. Our recently retiring Board member, Jeff Adelman, 23 years old, was a scholarship recipient. He learned to fly, received advanced ratings, worked for a local aviation company, and reached his goal last fall of landing a corporate job as First Officer in a Challenger 605. Can we get the word to aviation companies locally that the Scholarship Fund helps young people begin careers, and that by contributing to the Scholarship Fund they are helping find potential recruits for their businesses? If you have any ideas about scholarships, contact Debbie Harding (deb@air-ventures.com) or Bruce Thompson (c130driver44@epix.net).

Trips. Nothing we do is more fun than the aviation field trips we take. Udvar-Hazy, Eagles Mere, Bellanca Museum, Flight Safety, to name a few of the recent destinations. Let's have fun this year doing things aeronautical this year. If you have any ideas, contact Walt Ellis who is in charge of field trips (wellis1903@yahoo.com).

Those are my goals and I need your help to achieve them. Feel free to contact me with any thoughts you may have to ensure the future success of this historic organization: jim@kilduffco.com.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Elaine Farashian, Secretary

The Aero Club Board of Directors met at Wings Field on January 19 and confirmed new President James Kilduff and other officers. Mr. Kilduff welcomed the new group of officers and board members.

Elaine Farashian presented the minutes from the October and December meetings. The group discussed financials, membership and newsletter details. Mary Wunder reported that the membership renewal campaign is underway.

Next, Debbie Harding reported on the 2012 Scholarship program. The trustees and scholarship committee

will be meeting to finalize the details of this year's program.

The board talked about upcoming field trip ideas including visits to local aviation museums and some fly-out possibilities.

President James Kilduff discussed his priorities for the year and provided recommendations for encouraging new membership.

The meeting adjourned for dinner and a presentation by Frank Ianni about the Friends of Bellanca Museum and the history of the Bellanca Aircraft Company.

AVIATION EVENT CALENDAR

MARCH

03 Fly-in BBQ/Seminar, American Flyers, Morristown (MMU)
27-01 Sun'n Fun Fly-In; Lakeland Florida

APRIL

14 Fly-in BBQ/Seminar, American Flyers, Morristown (MMU)
19 **Aero Club** Board of Directors Mtg, Thursday, 6PM, PACC
30 **Last day** to submit scholarship applications

MAY

05 Fly-in BBQ/Seminar, American Flyers, Morristown (MMU)
19 **Scholarship Interviews**, Brandywine Airport (OQN)
19 EAA 240 Pancake Breakfast, New Garden (N57)

JUNE

01-03 Reading WWII Weekend, Reading, PA (RDG)
14 **Annual Scholarship Dinner**, Thursday, 6PM
16 EAA 240 Pancake Breakfast, New Garden (N57)
15-16 Chester County Balloon Festival, www.WBYA.org
 at Embreeville Sports Complex, Rt 162, Embreeville, PA
20-23 Sentimental Journey Cub Fly-in, Lock Haven, PA (LHV)

Frank Ianni speaks about Bellanca

After the January 19 Board of Directors meeting, Frank Ianni from the "Friends of Bellanca" museum in New Castle, Delaware presented about the history of Giuseppe Bellanca and the Bellanca Airfield.



Frank Ianni presenting

G.M. Bellanca immigrated to the U.S. from Italy in 1911 to continue his passion for aircraft design. His aircraft achieved numerous endurance and efficiency records, and his plane Columbia was Charles Lindbergh's first choice for his trans-Atlantic crossing. Lindbergh was unable to secure the plane, but two weeks after that Lindbergh's flight, Columbia was flown non-stop from New York to Berlin (3,911 miles). In 1931, Bellanca's "Miss Veedol" was the first plane to fly non-stop across the Pacific from Japan to Washington State.



Air Service Hangar still stands today and serves as museum

In 1928, Bellanca and Henry B. duPont built an airfield, aircraft plant, and service hangar along Route 273 in New Castle, DE., south of present day New Castle County Airport. The plant produced approximately 3000 aircraft before closing in 1954.

Today, the service hangar along Rt. 273 is the last remaining building and now serves as the "Friends of Bellanca Museum."

Board of Directors Mtg, Apr 19

Wings Field, Philadelphia Aviation Country Club
 The Aero Club will hold its next Board Meeting on April 19 at Wings Field. Following the board meeting at 6PM, we will have dinner and a featured speaker to-be-announced. All members and guests are welcome to attend our presentations.

Dinner (optional) begins at 7PM and the presentation begins around 8PM. Contact Jim Kilduff (jim@kilduffco.com) to announce your intention to attend. Dinner is around \$30 per person, not including drinks. Attire at PACC is business casual.

Scholarships available

The Aero Club of Pennsylvania Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Eastern PA Chapter of the Ninety-Nines are accepting applications for scholarships to be awarded at the scholarship dinner on June 14. In 2011, the combined organizations awarded \$29,000 in scholarships. Applications are available online at the Aero Club and Ninety-Nines web sites and are due by the end of April.

Each organization offers unique scholarship opportunities. The Ninety-Nines offer scholarships to women who reside, attend school, or are employed in the Greater Delaware Valley, or who are members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Ninety-Nines. The scholarship awards may be used for any aviation purpose.

The Aero Club offers awards to men and women who reside in the Greater Delaware Valley. Scholarships are available to pre- and post-solo flight students and to those seeking careers in other aviation-related careers.



<http://www.aeroclubpa.org>



<http://www.epa99s.org>

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Meeting Report

Airport News

December 15, 2011

By Elaine Farashian

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL [PHL]

Runway 9 Right safety area is 40% complete. Design and bids are in for Runway 9L/27R. A new Wawa has opened at 84th and Bartram Ave.

NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA [PNE]

Taxiways F, G, H, and A are nearly complete.

BRANDYWINE [OQN]

Final inspection of runway and taxiway safety areas was held November 30 with the Bureau of Aviation (BOA). Close-out paperwork will be submitted to the BOA.

CAMDEN COUNTY [19N]

Projects include apron rehab, runway and taxiway sealing, security perimeter fence and gates, precision lighting approach slope indicators and 10 ft. runway widening.

CECIL COUNTY [58M]

The airport recently discussed formation and recognition as Autonomous Airport Authority with the county's Association of Mayors (8 towns). It is pursuing land acquisition for runway protection. It might also serve as a medevac unit base.

CHESTER COUNTY [MQS]

The airport will discontinue south apron work for the winter while Verizon installs TV cable in the area. Sikorsky helicopter is seeking to connect a taxiway to the airport and is taking this plan to the township supervisor for approval.

CROSS KEYS [17]

Runway and taxiway rehab projects are complete. The other projects cannot proceed until NJDOT approves grant extension requests.

DOYLESTOWN [DYL]

The Authority is in the process of obtaining easements for properties under the runway 5 approach. Obstructions will be removed after easement acquisition.

NEW GARDEN [N57]

Final inspection of the parallel taxiway extension was held with the BOA in November. New T-hangar development is expected this spring.

NEW CASTLE COUNTY [ILG]

90 people attended Aviation Career Day sponsored by the Delaware Army National Guard.

PERKIOMEN VALLEY [N10]

Licensing requirements and township ordinance amendment are being discussed with the Bureau of Aviation. The township has not made the recommended DVRPC and Kimball changes to the Airport Hazard Zoning Ordinance. The Bureau is pursuing this issue with the township.

POTTSTOWN MUNI [N47]

Runway lighting project is complete. Preliminary engineering and environmental study has begun for extended runway safety improvement.

QUAKERTOWN [UKT]

Navigation easements are being sought under the runway 11 approach. Plans are in development for underground fuel tank removal and new 10,000 gallon above ground tanks. Project bidding is expected by March. The Authority is looking to acquire two parcels of land under runway 29 approach.

TRENTON MERCER [TTN]

Streamline Charter is still operating two flights daily to Boston and may add 4 more destinations including one to Florida.

TRENTON ROBINSVILLE [N87]

Ongoing projects include security camera installation, runway crack repair, seal coat and markings.

WINGS [LOM]

A bid package for demolition of hangars 3 & 4 as well as construction of new ones will be submitted soon. Complete by mid-summer is expected. Itinerant apron construction will be suspended due to weather. Work remains for the removal and replacement of the taxiway B connector which should be completed late spring of 2012. The new FBO, Advanced Aircraft, will be an authorized Cirrus training, maintenance and sales center.

New Garden Flying Field

The management at New Garden is trying to make this not just an airport but also a destination. The airport has a very active aviation community with over 100 based aircraft. EAA Chapter 240 coordinates many fly-outs and pancake breakfasts and supports experimental aircraft building in the area.

The airport is planning its 41st Annual Air Show for August 25th and 26th. And, the 4th annual "Future Aviator's Summer Camp" is being planned, with two separate camps in July and August for different age groups. The idea behind the camps is to find ways to get kids involved and exposed to aviation to help secure the future success of GA. For the first year, there were 20 kids. The camp has grown every year to last year's count of 58 campers.

The new full-length taxiway is complete and plans are in place to expand the airport facilities. Development is planned for two rows of new steel T- and box hangars to be sold with a land lease at the airport. The development supports the vision of the

airport to offer facilities for all types of aviators from the Piper Cub pilot to the business aviator.

N57 is a great place to visit on weekends. They are usually running a 100LL fuel special on the weekends. Also new to the airport is a "mini museum." Thanks to the efforts of Bruce Roberts, the airport is renovating an area in the main hangar for aviation relics for all to see. And, the main hangar now houses many privately owned vintage aircraft. This is a great addition to the airport and will be used as an educational tool for the summer camp and to hold scheduled tours for Scouts and school groups. The museum is currently accepting donations of vintage aviation relics, including models, photos, old airplane parts, etc.

Contact Airport Manager, Jon Martin, for more information about activities at the airport.

New Garden Flying Field,
610-268-2619,
www.newgardenflyingfield.com

One man's trash

Member Story by Nancy Kyle

Aero Club old timers will remember Gabby Renninger. He was a crusty old pilot with a heart of gold, who survived at least one “controlled” small airplane crash that I know of. When he passed away, we were pleased to learn that he left the Aero Club of Pennsylvania Memorial Scholarship Fund a portion of his estate. This consisted of cash and some aviation memorabilia that he had accumulated over the years. I volunteered to pick it up from his estate and found that it was a small collection of old books, aviation lapel pins, prints, photos, and an old, sad-looking watch.



1957 Breitling AOPA
Navitimer 806 Chronograph

I promptly deposited the items in my shed and figured I would look them over at some point. Over a year later, I was cleaning out the shed and thought I better do something with this stuff, so I dusted off the books and thought they may have some value at our annual silent auction fund-raising event. Likewise, the pins.... The prints and photos were pretty shabby so I put those aside. I took a glance at the watch, and pulled it out of the box to take it and the books to the auction planning meeting for our committee to consider.

The committee liked the books. I passed around the watch and got some pretty pessimistic comments like “look at how faded the face is” “that old thing” and “pretty ugly.” Then, a sharp-eyed committee member said “hey, that’s a Breitling!” We sat up a little straighter in our chairs and peered closer at ‘that old thing.’ One of the early skeptics immediately fired up his iPad, looked on eBay, and discovered that some models were posted

at \$5,000! We left the meeting, excited with our prospects for more scholarship money, dollar signs dancing in our heads.

It turned out that the only authorized Breitling repair shop in Pennsylvania was in Boyertown, about 15 miles from my home. I deposited the watch in my purse and made an appointment at the repair shop later that week. Once I arrived, much to my surprise, I found that I knew the father of the owner, so we established an immediate connection. The owner, his wife, and junior associate were extremely helpful in performing a complimentary examination and valuation.

The watch would need quite a bit of repair, cleaning, and some parts replacement. It was a vintage 1957 model with an AOPA insignia.

AOPA members are familiar with these models as Breitling still advertises them in AOPA Pilot. Serious collectors try to accumulate a model from each year, so we decided to take our chances and offer it on eBay as is. We also learned about eBay Giving Works, a service allowing anyone to register items for sale on eBay and have the proceeds go to a registered non-profit. We used this service, loaded the details onto eBay, and watched the bids roll in with great anticipation. After a 7 day auction, the final bid price was... \$1,795, the winner, a collector from Massachusetts who will likely refurbish the watch and resell it on eBay.

So an old, faded watch that sat in an unheated shed, gathering dust for over a year, will now allow the Scholarship program to offer funds

to another enthusiastic pilot-in-training, or two, and add to our proficient pilot population. Maybe those that are assisted will pilot a flight that you are on someday!

The lesson here is quite obvious. If you have any aviation memorabilia lying around in a garage, basement, hangar, or shed, consider donating it to our scholarship fund to benefit young people interested in aviation-related careers. No matter how dusty or old your stuff might be, our experience is illustrative of what the results could be. One man's trash can certainly be another's treasure! Contact the Aero Club (aeroclub-pa@aol.com) who will be happy to pick up your donations for later sale at our Wright Brothers silent auction or our memorabilia table at the annual Wings and Wheels event.

Alternately, you can sell it on eBay yourself and designate the Aero Club of Pennsylvania Memorial Scholarship Fund to receive all or a portion of the proceeds. See insert below for the instructions.

Making donations through eBay

When selling an item on eBay, you can choose to donate all or a portion of the proceeds to a non-profit. The Aero Club of Pennsylvania is a registered non-profit.

On the Sell screen, when you get to the section “Choose how you’d like to sell your item”, select the “Add or remove options” link and check the “Donate percentage of sale” checkbox. Then, in the eBay Giving Works section, click “select another nonprofit” and search and select the Aero Club of Pennsylvania. Then, choose a donation percentage.

Note that Giving Works will retain a small portion, not exceeding 5% of the proceeds.

Helping out - aviation style

Member Story by Kenneth Ford

When I lived in Socorro, New Mexico, I was one of the few pilots in town with a commercial license, an instrument rating, and a fair number of hours in my log book. So I was called on now and then to help out when an airplane was needed.

Once I flew three geologist friends to inspect a newly discovered fault near Truth or Consequences. They were satisfied with the reconnaissance but sorry that I wouldn't slow the Bonanza below 70 knots when they asked me to.

I happened to be at the local airport one day when a distraught rancher drove in. He was missing some cattle. He suspected they had been rustled and he was pretty sure he knew what varmint had done it. I borrowed a Cessna 172 so we could fly quite slowly, and we flew low over a big stretch of grazing land north of town, searching for his cattle (he said their unusual markings would make them easy to spot). No luck. The cows turned up on their own a few days later.

The person I especially enjoyed helping was the county sheriff, Sonny Baca, a lanky Gary Cooper type with a Spanish accent. Now and then he had to transfer prisoners from one part of the state to another, and he liked to do it by air. Usually, when we made such a delivery, I sat alone up front flying the plane and he sat in the back seat with the prisoner. Once Sonny sat up front with me while a psychiatric nurse sat in back with the bare-footed disheveled prisoner. Although I was a little worried on this flight, I had great faith in Sonny's ability to handle any situation. This prisoner, it turned out, remained meek.

My friend Leo Luhan was a pharmacist, undertaker, and county coroner. One day he called to tell me that a Texan had thoughtlessly died in Socorro and needed to be taken home to Lubbock. Nasty



Ken Ford next to a Cessna 305A tow plane at PGC Gliderport in Hilltown, Bucks County.

weather was forecast and no one else was qualified or available for the ferry flight. Could I handle it? I was committed the next morning to fly two people to the lovely mountain strip in Ruidoso, New Mexico, where the sun was still shining, but I said sure, I could do it today.

Around noon, Jerry Hoogerwerf, the airport manager at Socorro removed the right front seat from my Bonanza. Leo then appeared with the deceased passenger and we made him comfortable inside his two body bags with his head resting on a wooden block up front and his legs stretched under the rear seat. Indeed the weather got a bit rough as we approached the Texas border, but my passenger didn't seem to mind. I made an instrument

approach into Lubbock and taxied to transient parking.

Right on time a polished black Cadillac hearse appeared. Out of it stepped two very young men dressed in black suits, white shirts, and muted ties befitting their profession. When I told them I had to take a body bag back with me, they looked alarmed until I told them there was another one inside the outer one.

After they got the Texan out of the plane and into the hearse, these two undertaker apprentices walked all around the Bonanza and asked questions about it. How fast did it fly? How high? Did I need oxygen? How many people did it carry? Then one of them asked, "Is this what you do for a living?" "Only on weekends," I answered.

Ken Ford is a retired physicist living in Philadelphia. In Socorro, he was the president of the local college, New Mexico Tech. He has written a memoir on his fifty years of flying light planes and gliders, including profiles of notable aviators he has met along the way.



In Love with Flying, is available at Amazon and other booksellers, or at the Web site www.HBarPress.com.

2012 Membership Renewal



Membership is due now using the attached form or at the website at <http://www.aeroclubpa.org>, where you can pay via PayPal or credit card. Check your mailing label for your membership status. Your timely renewal saves us postage.

If you wish to contribute to the Scholarship Fund, your donation will be used to promote aviation. Contributions are tax deductible, and if you contribute \$100 or more to the scholarship fund, your membership dues are waived and 100% of your donation will go to fund scholarships for young men and women.

Mr. John Wright Doe
Membership Expired
 100 Main Street, Suite 100
 Anytownville, PA 19000

Aero Club of Pennsylvania

Organized in December 1909 and chartered on May 13, 1910, the Aero Club of Pennsylvania is one of the oldest continuously operating aviation clubs in the country.

The Aero Club has a long and proud history of civic and social activities. Originally founded in Philadelphia primarily for the purpose of “educating the public on the matters of aeronautics.” This goal still remains important as the Aero Club sponsors programs throughout the year to help communicate and promote aviation and to generate camaraderie amongst pilots and aviation enthusiasts in local area.

Recent events included our “Wine and a Movie event,” a bus trip to the Udvar-Hazy Museum, and flyouts to visit the Dover Air Mobility Museum and the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio. Other programs include:

- > The annual aviation dinner/program to honor the Wright Brother’s First Flight.
- > The Annual Scholarship Dinner awards deserving young persons with scholarships to help them pursue a career in aviation.
- > Seminars and special aviation-related events co-sponsored with the FAA and other aviation groups.
- > Aero Club web site with information about upcoming activities, back issues of newsletters, scholarship information, Aero Club history and an online pilot shop.
- > Aero Club e-mail announcement list providing updated information about local aviation activities.
- > Quarterly mailing of this Aero Club Newsletter to inform people of aviation activities in the Greater Delaware Valley.
- > An active Board of Directors and Scholarship Trustees.

Send Renewal or Scholarship Donation to Aero Club of Pennsylvania
PO Box 748, Blue Bell, PA 19422

- Waive my 2012 dues with my \$100 donation (Payable to Aero Club PA Scholarship Fund)
- Renew my \$25 membership (Payable to Aero Club of PA)
- New Membership \$20

NAME: _____

- I am a current member with address on file

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____



Organized December 17, 1909; Chartered May 10, 1910

AERO CLUB OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

www.aeroclubpa.org

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MEMBERSHIP NOTICE:

Check your label. Is your membership expired? We would like to keep you as a member. Consider renewing online at:

<http://www.aeroclubpa.org>

FLIGHT SAFETY BRIEFING

Excerpts from FAA's Safety Briefing Magazine.

The little green book goes digital

14 CFR 91.103 requires a pilot to become familiar with "all available information" about the airports being used. Published every 56 days, the FAA's distinctive green-covered Airport/Facility Directory is a valuable resource for up-to-date airport information. Much of which cannot be readily depicted in graphic form, such as preferred runways and runway length, pattern information, weather and communication frequencies, available services, hours of operation, and local procedures.

The appendix includes useful telephone numbers for the FAA, FSDO Offices, and air traffic control facilities. Also included are selected ATC preferred routes.

Now the information in the book is available online in PDF format on the FAA website...

avn.faa.gov/index.asp?xml=aeronav/applications/d_afd

The site allows one to search by state, city, airport ID, or airport name. New pages will be available 24 hours before the expiration of the previous cycle.

Color blindness does not have to ground a pilot

Most of us take our color vision for granted. But for some, limited color acuity can be a hindrance to viewing charts, instruments and light signals.

Three types of photoreceptor cells called cones provide the ability to see red, blue and green color. The conditional referred to as "color blindness" is usually an inherited condition caused by a defect in one or more of the cone types.

Because a pilot's world is involved with reds and greens, especially for night flying, evaluation of color vision is a required part of the aviation medical exam. Color deficiency can be a problem, but is not necessarily the end of the road for an aspiring aviator.

An airman suffering from some form of color vision deficiency may be eligible for an unrestricted medical certificate if they can pass an operational test. For others, it may result in a certificate with a limitation stating "not valid for night flying or by color signal control."

See full articles at www.faa.gov/news/safety_briefing