



PENNSYLVANIA

PILOT

Spring 2018

www.aeroclubpa.org

Vol 29 No 1

Aero Club of PA celebrates at the annual Wright Brothers Dinner



2017 Wright Brothers Dinner

Speaker: Major John Brennan

Our guest speaker was Major John Brennan (ret. USMC) who spoke about his missions flying the EA-6B Prowler, an electronic warfare aircraft used to block and eliminate the effectiveness of foreign radar. John spent four years with the VMAQ-4 Sea-Hawks based in Cherry Point, NC where he was deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, for the Unit Deployment Program.



Speaker: Major John Brennan (ret. USMC)

65 Aero Club members and friends celebrated at the Desmond Hotel on December 17, the anniversary of the Wright Brother's first flight in 1903. Attendees at this year's dinner included past Aero Club presidents Dr. Jack Schreffler, Jeffrey Kahn, Walter Ellis, Robert Dant, James Kilduff, and Bruce Thompson.

As has been customary, the night started with a reception and a silent auction to raise funds for the scholarship program. The silent auction raised \$2500. Auction items included dinner packages, aircraft models, Flight Safety sim time, a hot air balloon ride, vintage aviation books, jewelry and photographs.

The evening continued in the main ballroom with President Michael Dunleavy presiding over our annual business meeting to elect five new board members, Michael Little, Robert Dant, John Lewis, Steve Jordan, and Tom Birsch. We also thanked our five outgoing board members, Mike Bem, Carl Bianchini, Jim Kilduff, Alicia Sykes, and Elaine Farashian. 2018 officers are selected at the first Board Meeting of the year on January 18, 2018.

Past president Brigadier General Bruce Thompson introduced our guest speaker, retired Major John Brennan. Major Brennan spoke about his missions in the Middle East and Asia as part of the U.S. Marine Corps (see inset left).

Following a three course dinner, the evening concluded with the 2017 Aero Club year-in-review and with recognition of our dinner planning committee and our 2017 scholarship donors.

Member wins warbird ride

Member, and past scholarship recipient Gerardo (Nico) Palumbo, won a ride on a B-29! The annual raffle raised nearly \$800 for general Aero Club operations. The ride will take place at the WWII Weekend in Reading in June.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Michael Dunleavy & Robert Smith

Looking back, it seems like yesterday that I was elected the President of the Aero Club. Now, a new leader takes over. Bob Smith is a scientist, CFII, Commercial and Charter Pilot and a great supporter of the Aero Club and a friend of many years.

It has been a fun time for me: I met a lot of wonderful people involved in our passion for aviation. I got to work with a talented team of officers, Board Members and volunteers. I cannot thank them enough for their dedication, good counsel and hard work. A few have to be singled out: Rob Dant, who handles everything from our newsletter, web site, A/V and IT. Deb Harding without whom our scholarship program would not run so efficiently, not to mention our knowledge of ballooning, Jim Kilduff, the go to guy to get things done, Walt Ellis who seems to know everybody in aviation and how to get them to become speakers or sponsors of our meetings and events. John O'Toole, hard-working treasurer and sage business counsel, Jeff Kahn our down to earth Legal Counsel. When you think of busy, you have to look at Michael Little who handles Membership, record keeping, billing, etc., and rebuilds airplanes besides working a regular job, and, Carris Kocher, a board member, world-class idea person and get-it-done volunteer. It has been my privilege to serve with them. They and you make the Aero Club of Pennsylvania the World Class Organization it is today and a leader in helping young people get their future made a bit easier as recipients of our scholarships.

The club is in great hands going forward. As Bob Hope used to say "Thanks for the memories."

Mike Dunleavy

Greetings! I am Bob Smith and have been serving as Mike's VP for the last two years. Please give Mike a hearty "Job well done!" for his leadership. In addition, I would like to add my thanks to Rob Morrow, who has volunteered to take over the Membership Chair and allow Mike Little some well deserved time to actually go flying. We also look forward to filling the position of Vice President.



Before I outline my goals for the next term, I'd like to say how humbled I am to be in this position. As a newcomer to aviation, having started flying in 1999, and to the Delaware Valley (Karen and I moved here in 1980), I am overwhelmed by the breadth and depth of aviation history in the area and awed by those that seem to know everyone and everything related to it. I promise to keep learning. Fortunately, the organization is populated with tremendous institutional knowledge. By contrast, I grew up in an aviation wasteland in rural Tennessee with only a small county airport and an abandoned WWII barrage balloon training camp to fuel my youthful flying interest.

My goals are simple: First, we must continue to vigorously support the Memorial Scholarship Fund allowing us to continue to offer meaningfully sized awards to deserving flight and mechanic applicants. Second, strive to offer more and exciting trips and presentations to our members (and prospective members). Walt is, at the moment, setting up a trip to the FAA Research Center in Atlantic City. This all-day event should be on everyone's must-do list. Third: we must continue to grow our membership, both in basic membership (that pays the bills) as well as scholarship directed memberships. I'm looking forward to working with Rob in the effort. Clear Prop!



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

PENNSYLVANIA PILOT

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Roscoe Draper

As of this writing, there have been 17 requests for scholarship applications, and one completed submission; a higher number than usual for this time of year. The credit should be given to our membership for getting the word out so quickly! And to Rob Dant for getting the Scholarship announcement bulletins into their hands! The scholarship application deadline is April 13th; interviews will be held at Brandywine Airport Saturday May 19th; and award announcements will be made at the Scholarship Award dinner, Thursday, June 14th at the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club. Thank you, Joe Case, for having us back once again! Steve Jordan, Alicia Sikes, airline pilots, and Nancy Rohr from scholarship sponsor Flight Safety International are slated to do interviews.

We have one new award this year in the name of Jack and Joyce Schreffler, specifically designed to aid those seeking the ATP certification needed to become an airline pilot. A big “thank you” to our outgoing President, Mike Dunleavy for

his leadership, guidance and support of the scholarship fund, and a hearty welcome to new President, Bob Smith. Already this year he was able to connect with PA College of Technology to get scholarship applications into the hands of eligible aircraft mechanics in training. And, so far, the result has been fruitful. Scholarship trustees Alicia Sikes, Dan Kurkjian, treasurer, John O’Toole, counselor Jeff Kahn, and Bob Smith (ex officio) will determine the amount of funds to be awarded this year, a tough job due to the ever-changing flux of the stock market and yearly corporate and individual contributions.

However, it is with gratitude the Aero Club of PA thanks its membership! It is mostly membership contributors, folks like Major John Brennan who allocates a portion of his wages to give to the fund monthly, and Erik Kocher and Ray Conaway who take advantage of their corporate gift match programs from Boeing, as well as Lou Fitzpatrick, Paul Heintz, Esq, Norm Blanchard, Mike

Little and so, so many more! And with the incorporation of the named scholarship program the Aero Club will always have award money to give out like the Schreffler, Hatcher, Jordan, Sheves, Mills and Wood awards. So, save the date of June 14th and join the camaraderie of the experienced aviators with those just starting out.

What your contributions do:

Moses Joknkial II successfully obtained his multi-engine rating, 8/17

David King successfully obtained his Commercial, 1/18

In the spotlight: Aero Club of PA Scholarship recipient Michael Sullivan successfully attained an IFR rating in 2017, however the real news is that as a teacher he leveraged his experience to increase membership in his flight club for Harriton High School students, located in Lower Merion, quadrupled the size, and has added avionics and mechanical programs. He also reports that 50% of enrollees are young women. Keep ‘em flying Mike!



2018 Aero Club Scholarships



The Aero Club of Pennsylvania Memorial Scholarship Fund is

accepting applications for scholarships to be awarded on June 14. Applications are now available online at www.aeroclubpa.org and are due April 13.

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

2018 Ninety Nines Scholarships

The Eastern PA Chapter of the Ninety-Nines is accepting applications for scholarships from women age 16 and over who reside, work, or attend school in the Delaware Valley or who are members of the chapter. Scholarships will be awarded on June 14. Applications must be received by USPS mailing by April 28, available at www.epa99s.org. Contact Carole Wyman at 610-431-4693 or wymanc1@verizon.net.



Board of Directors Report

The Board of Directors met at the Desmond Hotel on January 18. President Michael Dunleavy opened the meeting and welcomed five new board members to the club. Followed was the election by the board of the 2018 officers, including Bob Smith as the President for a two year term.

The group approved minutes from prior meetings and discussed the financials, the scholarship program, the newsletter and membership. The Special Events committee discussed ideas for upcoming events, including a visit to the FAA Technical Center in Atlantic City.

The final business was discussion about the club’s warbird raffle to raise money for the Aero Club.

The meeting adjourned for dinner and a presentation by Brent Connelly, a private pilot based at Sky Manor Airport in Pittstown, NJ who spoke about producing amateur aviation videos. Brent shared his learnings as an admittedly amateur film producer including choices of equipment, camera settings and editing tips all from the private pilot perspective. He began shooting, editing and sharing short videos on YouTube to document his weekend flying.

by *Nancy Kyle*



Friends of NE Philadelphia History present

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION of the Nation's 1st Regularly Scheduled AIR MAIL DELIVERY

Saturday, May 19, 2018 ~ 11:30 AM
Red Lion Rd & Haldeman Ave



On May 15, 1918, the 1st regularly scheduled U. S. Air-mail delivery took place at Bustleton Field in North-east Philadelphia. The success of the U S Airmail Service was the precursor to the American aviation industry and commercial aviation.

The Friends of Northeast Philadelphia History is planning a celebration for the 100th anniversary of the historic event near the site of Bustleton Field. Members of the Aero Club of Pennsylvania are cordially

invited to attend the festivities near what is now a Best Buy parking lot. Join the leap back 100 years on May 19th as we unveil an Historical Marker, commemorate the famous flight, enjoy a brass band, antique, cars, paper airplane contests, history, flight, mail trivia, and more.

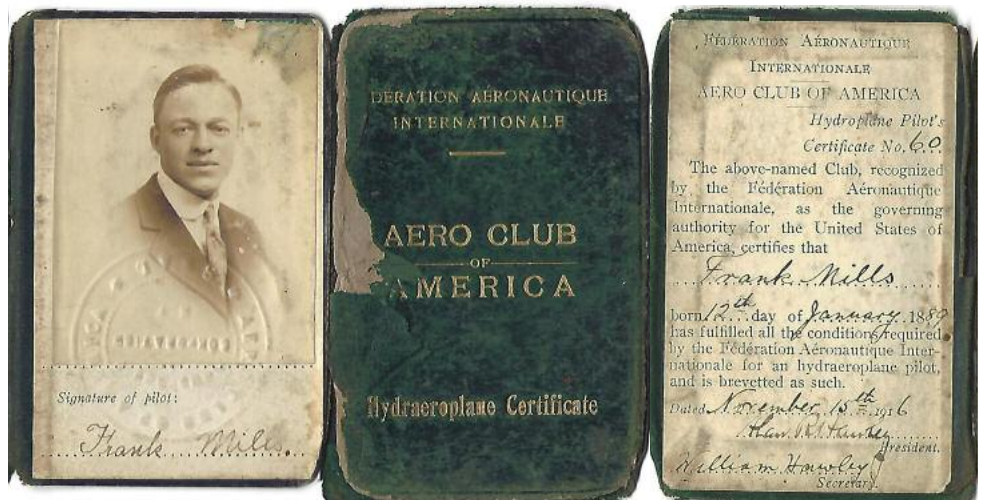
To get involved, make a donation, get more information here at 1stAirmail@gmail.com or visit www.1stAirmail.com



Lieutenant Tory Webb, Uncle Sam's first "flying postman" leaped from his plane at Bustleton at 1 o'clock this afternoon, thereby signifying the successful beginning of the new aero mail service. Lieutenant Webb brought mail from New York.

Mills License will be donated to Millville museum

Frank Mills, father of Bob Mills, helped establish the Philadelphia Seaplane Base at Essington in 1915. Frank Mills' original pilots license is being donated to the Millville Museum. The condition is not great, as it probably spent some time in Frank Mills pocket. It was issued and signed by Alan R. Hawley the president of the Aero Club of America. Mr. Hawley himself made a significant balloon ascension on April 22, 1907 with our own Arthur T. Atherholt, the first president of the Aero Club of Pennsylvania.



DECEMBER 2017

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL [PHL]

Primary maintenance focus will be on the terminal building facilities. Plans for future runway construction are postponed, but significant taxiway improvements are being considered. Completion of runway 9R/27L extension is anticipated May 2018. Quiet rooms beyond the security checkpoint for special needs passengers are to be furnished March 2018. A new USO facility and mothers' nursing rooms will become available during 2018/2019. Terminal F will undergo bathroom renovations/expansions. There will be upgrading of all loading bridges as well as preparation for next generation Dreamliners and Airbus 350s. Additional international flights may require remote passenger boarding for the first time in 10 years as options are explored for adding more international gates. Reconfiguration of international concourse spacing and size will be considered in a longer-term plan. The US Post Office cargo facility will be demolished by March 2018. A Consolidated Support Facility to process and screen terminal deliveries, provide warehouse space and special cargo handling may replace the Post Office space. Airport signage study and upgrades are expected in 2018. Uber and Lyft operators have been moved from an 88-space lot to a 200-space lot. The airport will study the Atlanta power outage and its implications as they relate to PHL.

NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA [PNE]

There will be obstruction removal throughout January. Spring projects will include repaving of the administration area parking lot, some fence improvements and minor cleanup works. Design for reconstruction of runway 6/24 is scheduled to be completed by April 2018 and construction in 3-4 phases should start late summer.

BRANDYWINE [OQN]

The airport sent a letter to the FAA and is expecting to reestablish nighttime approaches. The Airport Geographical Information System review and approval are anticipated for the LPV Approach Feasibility Study. A new permit application will be submitted early 2018 for the runway widening project. The November BOA planning session included discussion of corporate hangar and equipment storage building construction.

CHESTER COUNTY [MQS]

Runway and taxiway rehab will take place April or May 2018. Application for the Multimodal Grant is for the purpose of expanding and renovating the terminal building. There is also a capital budget release request for a large clear-span hangar. The airport has planned to have a virtual/remote 70 ft. tower with 16 cameras following, confirming and relaying activities to pilots.

DOYLESTOWN [DYL]

The land acquisition for a northwest parcel is expected by end of January 2018. Paving of grass tiedowns and bypass taxiway construction will most likely begin spring of 2018. Runway 5/23 rehab design is underway and bid for construction is anticipated in 2019.

HERITAGE FIELD [PTW]

Obstruction removal continues. Crack seal and marking project is complete. Bids came in for snow removal equipment and delivery is expected in February 2018.

NEW GARDEN [N57]

The new runway is complete. The main power supply will be placed underground and a new vault will house the runway and taxiway lighting system. The LPV approach project is in progress. The FAA has required an update to the ALP/Exhibit A within 3 years, that land release requests for non-aeronautical activities be submitted and that the house within the approach of runway 24 be vacated within 2 years.

QUAKERTOWN [UKT]

The airport is preparing a project for bid for obstruction removal to address daytime and nighttime obstructions so that work can be completed in Spring 2018. Both ends of runway 11/29 are affected. Easements for properties under the runway are being sought to allow access for the obstruction removal. All work on the Equipment Storage Building is finished except for the exterior painting delayed due to weather. Design, rehab and expansion of terminal apron should be ready for bid January 2018. "Young Eagles Day" continues monthly.

SOUTH JERSEY REGIONAL [VAY]

Rehab of the main tiedown apron is completed. Phase 2 of the environmental study for obstruction is underway. Work on the telephone poles and utility lines burial is subject to being given another grant because FAA terminated the first grant. The environmental study for runway widening/taxiway relocation project should be completed in May 2018.

TRENTON-MERCER [TTN]

Taxiway H, B, F rehab is on hold for the winter, but will resume with completion expected early Spring. The security fence improvements are completed.

Rehab of runway 6/24 pavement, lighting and signage will be stopped during winter, but completion is anticipated early Spring. Phase 2 of the Master Plan Study is one to determine feasibility of relocating the localizer to runway 6. The project has been approved, but not yet started. Bidding process and documents are under review for reconstruction of taxiway D and rehab of taxiway G.

VAN SANT [9N1]

Piper Cub or glider rides cannot be operated whenever President Trump spends the weekend at his Bedminster, NJ Golf Club. The result has been a financial loss.

WINGS [LOM]

The Crack Seal and Remarketing of runway 6/24 was completed in November and project closeout is expected in January 2018. The tree removal of runway 6 is scheduled to resume January, weather permitting, with completion expected in early spring. A grant is anticipated for upgrading AWOS.



Aero to participate in FAVIA 225

For four days in March, FAVIA 225 will celebrate ballooning history in the heart of Philadelphia. The event will be held at the Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing on the Delaware River, just six blocks from Jean-Pierre Blanchard's launch site in 1793. Dates are March 22-25.

The event includes educational and networking experiences, a ballooning ground school, trade show, safety seminars, and culminates with a grand ball.

The Aero Club will have a table at the event and many members will attend the event (**volunteers welcome**). We will also publish a welcome announcement in the event program (as seen on page 7) as a way to create awareness of our club mission and to welcome participants to the cradle of early aviation in America.

March 22-25, Philadelphia
www.favia225.com

Summer Camp registration open

A summer camp program at the New Garden Flying Field in Toughkenamon, PA is offering young people the excitement and discovery of aviation in a day-camp setting, designed for ages 7-15.

The Future Aviator's Summer Camp is offered in one-week sessions, July 9th-13th & August 6th-10th. The camp is five days of aviation excitement that includes science projects, challenge activities, museum



and airport tours, model rockets, R/C airplanes, hot air balloons and other aviation experiences. Included in the camp all campers will also have the opportunity to take the controls of an airplane during an Introductory Flight and experience the thrill of what it's like to be a pilot.

Jon Martin, Aviation Director says that "this will be the 10th year for our Future Aviators Summer Camp Program at New Garden Airport. The fascination with flight often begins at a young age, and the success of this program over the last 10 years has exposed hundreds of youngsters to aviation at N57. We have designed the camp to be a week of nonstop excitement where fun and discovery are combined for an unforgettable experience, and this summer will be one not to miss." For registration information and other details, please visit us online at www.newgardenflyingfield.com or at 610-268-2619.

First Air Voyage in America

Two hundred and twenty five years ago this year, Frenchman JeanPierre Blanchard departed in a hydrogen balloon from a prison yard behind Independence Hall in Philadelphia. The prison yard was a secure, convenient space for the launch and allowed him to charge a small fee for bystanders to pay a fee to get a close up look. This was to be the first air voyage in all of America.

The flight was witnessed by nearly everyone in the country's capital city, including some well known dignitaries. A band played music while citizens gathered outside the prison, in the streets, on rooftops and in the steeples. A few minutes before 10AM on January 9, President George Washington arrived to witness the event. The president provided Blanchard with a letter, a "passport" to provide free passage wherever he landed. Blanchard departed a few minutes after 10AM.

The flight was also witnessed by Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, James Monroe, James Madison, and an estimated 40,000 citizens. Astonished at what he saw, General John Steele wrote in a letter, "Seeing the man waving a flag at an immense height from the ground, was the most interesting sight that I ever beheld, and tho I had no acquaintance with him, I could not help trembling for his safety."

Blanchard rose to nearly 6,000 feet and headed slowly south across the river in the New Jersey. While enroute, he performed a number of scientific experiments. He filled and sealed bottles with "atmospherial air" for scientific study. He took his pulse a number of times to compare with his pulse on the ground. He took temperature and pressure readings.

After crossing the river, Blanchard vented some gas and started down. He made a landing in an plowed field near the town of Woodbury, N.J., 46 minutes after departure. Met by a shocked farmer, he quickly brought out a bottle of wine and offered the farmer an offering. Blanchard spoke little English and the farmer could not read Washington's note, but he recognized the name of Washington when Blanchard mentioned him. Other farmers and citizens arrived and upon reading and hearing of Washington's letter, offered help to Blanchard in recovering his balloon and getting him to Cooper's Ferry on the banks of the Delaware River. He arrived back in Philadelphia in the evening to cheering crowds.

The city remained excited about the flight for some time, though Blanchard was unable to recover the full cost for the flight nor secure funding for additional flights. He remained in the city for a couple years, opening an "aerostatical laboratory" and charging small admissions to see his various experiments. He spent time in South Carolina, Boston and New York, but returned to France in 1797 having failed to generate new interest or funding for further balloon flights.

Past

On December 17, 1909, the first licensed balloonist in Pennsylvania, Arthur T. Atherholt assembled fourteen citizens of the city of Philadelphia to propose a new aviation organization. Its purpose was to supervise and encourage the growing interest in aviation in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



BALLOON "PENNSYLVANIA I"

Ben Franklin, after witnessing the first manned balloon flight in 1783 quipped that just the day before "the idea of witches riding thro' the air upon a broomstick, would have appeared equally impossible and ridiculous." Asked of what good this new invention, Franklin said "of what good is a new born baby?" The Aero Club of PA adopted a winged logo depicting a witch on a broomstick bordered by the Pennsylvania Keystone.



Future

JOIN US to advocate for local aviation and to support and inspire future aviators in all fields of aviation.

**The Aero Club of Pennsylvania
welcomes FAVIA225 to Philadelphia!**

**We are happy to celebrate the
First Air Voyage in America.**

Present



Today, the Aero Club of Pennsylvania...

- Sponsors field trips
- Publishes a quarterly newsletter
- Hosts a scholarship dinner
- Holds a Wright Brothers dinner
- Supports aviation through advocacy and a vibrant scholarship program



www.aeroclubpa.org



Preserving aviation's past, present and future in the greater Philadelphia area.

Aero Club of Pennsylvania



Organized December 17, 1909; Chartered May 10, 1910

AERO CLUB OF PENNSYLVANIA

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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FIRST CLASS
POSTAGE
REQUIRED

AVIATION EVENT CALENDAR

MARCH

22-25 FAVIA 225, Philadelphia

APRIL

10-15 Sun'n Fun Fly-In; Lakeland Florida
19 **Board of Directors Mtg, Wings Field**

MAY

5-6 McGuire AFB Open House and Airshow
12 EAA 240 Pancake Breakfast, New Garden (N57)
12 Pancake Breakfast, Allen Airstrip, (3NJ9)
12 Chili Fiesta Fly In, Massey Airfield (MD1), 12PM-4PM
12-13 Millville Army Air Museum Wheels & Wings (MIV)

JUNE

1-3 Reading WWII Weekend, Reading, PA (RDG)
9 Pancake Breakfast, Allen Airstrip, (3NJ9)
9 EAA 240 Pancake Breakfast, New Garden (N57)
9 Antique Aeroplane Fly-In, Massey (MD1)
14 **Annual Scholarship Dinner**, Thursday, 6PM
16 Lebanon EAA Fly-In Breakfast (9D4)
22-24 Chester County Balloon Festival (N57)



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MTG, APRIL 19

APRIL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 19, 6PM

Philadelphia Aviation Country Club
Wings Field, Blue Bell, PA

The Aero Club of Pennsylvania will hold its next quarterly Board Meeting on April 19 at the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club at Wings Field. Following the board meeting at 6PM, we will have dinner and a presentation. 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 \$45 per person, not including drinks. Attire at PACC is business casual.

Please RSVP at www.aeroclubpa.org/rsvp

See you there!

