



PENNSYLVANIA

PILOT

Spring 2019

www.aeroclubpa.org

Vol 30 No 1

Annual Wright Brothers Dinner celebrates the anniversary of flight



2018 Wright Brothers Dinner

Speaker: Debbie Harding

Our guest speaker, Debbie Harding, has been flying hot air balloons for over 30 years and has flown over five continents. She owns and operates Air Ventures, Inc, a commercial balloon flight business in Chester County. She also manages the annual Chester County Hot Air Balloon Festival. Debbie presented photos and stories about her ballooning adventures leading up to an historic trip to the North Pole where she became the first woman to fly a hot air balloon over the North Pole. She spoke about the challenges of transporting a balloon and a support team into and from northern Russia to the North Pole.



Speaker: Debbie Harding

66 Aero Club members and friends celebrated at the Desmond Hotel on December 17, the anniversary of the Wright Brother's first flight in 1903.

The night started with a reception and a silent auction to raise funds for the scholarship program. The silent auction raised \$2000. Auction items included dinner packages, aircraft models, a hot air balloon ride, vintage aviation books, jewelry, paintings and photographs.

Attendees at this year's dinner included past Aero Club presidents Robert Dant, Michael Dunleavy, Jeff Kahn, Walt Ellis, James Kilduff, Bruce Thompson, and Dr. Jack Schreffler.

The evening continued with President Robert Smith presiding over our annual business meeting to elect five new board members, Steven Devine, Elaine Farashian, David Harnitchek, James Kilduff, and Alicia Sikes. We also thanked our five outgoing board members, Donald Eicher, Walter Ellis, Gayl Henze, Nancy Kyle, and Rob Morrow. 2019 officers are selected and confirmed at the first Board Meeting of the year in January.

Past president Robert Dant introduced our guest speaker, Debbie Harding who spoke about the incredible challenge of transporting a flight team and a hot air balloon through Russia to the North Pole for an historic flight (see inset left).

Following a three course dinner, the evening concluded with the 2018 Aero Club year-in-review and with recognition of our dinner planning committee and our 2018 scholarship donors.

Member wins warbird ride

Member and former board member Donald Eicher has 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, Pennsylvania in June.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Robert Smith

When I wrote the President's Letter for the Winter newsletter, I commented that we had not yet experienced a killing frost here in Woxall. Cruel irony has me starting the Spring issue letter on a day where the temps struggled to get into double digits. Since the last newsletter, we have enjoyed the annual Wright Brothers' Dinner where our own Debbie Harding wowed us with the recounting of her successful quest to become the first woman to pilot a hot air balloon over the geographic North Pole. Well done Debbie! As a reward the Aero Club Board of Directors elected Deb as our new Vice President at the January board meeting. Thank you, Deb. I'd also like to welcome our new board members (pg 1) and thank them for generously giving of their time.

Over that last few years I've taken on several new activities reasoning that continued learning keeps one young (fingers crossed). These new interests remind me that we see the world through lenses ground by our experience and looking at the same scene after acquiring new knowledge and interests reveals things never noticed before.

A friend recently gave me a copy of The American Heritage History of Flight. Published in 1962 it traces the history of flight from Icarus and Daedalus to, just barely, John Glenn's first orbital space flight. I discovered that while reading my Aero Club of Pennsylvania antennae would vibrate as I picked up on significant aviation events and people that originated in our Delaware Valley area. Previously these items would likely have passed without much recognition.

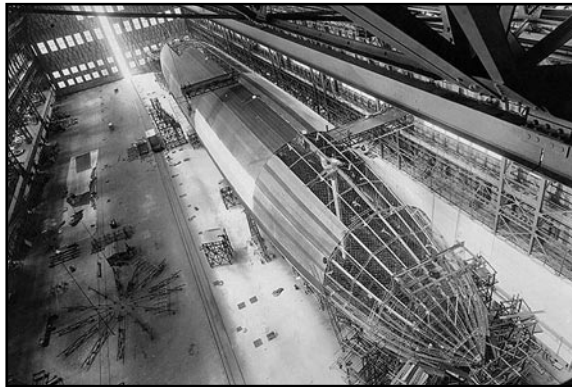
For example, we all know the significance of ballooning in Philadelphia (see Debbie's article on pg 4), but did you

know about our area's contribution to dirigibles? The structural components of the Navy's first rigid airship, the USS Shenandoah (ZR-1) were built in the Naval Aircraft Factory at the Philadelphia Navy Yard in the mid-1920s; the final assembly being done at the blimp facility in Lakehurst.

The fleet ultimately grew to five airships, but I believe only the ZR-1 came from here. All but the Luftschiffbau Zeppelin-built USS Los Angeles (ZR-3) were lost in accidents in little more than a decade. However, given the US availability of the rare and expensive helium lifting gas none suffered the incendiary failure of the Hindenburg. I highly recommend reading the available literature on airships - they are quite interesting machines.

All this history rambling brings me to our upcoming event - an Aviation History Scavenger Hunt. A crack committee is hard at work putting together a contest in which, after

flying to various local airports, contestants will compete for cash and (hopefully) prizes by answering questions that show their knowledge of aviation history in our tri-state environs. The area is rich in history, so start studying! Blue skies - Bob



Shenandoah at Lakehurst in 1923



Shenandoah moored at San Diego



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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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SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

by *Debbie Harding*

I am so excited to announce our new Scholarship Chair, Steve Jordan! As many might remember, Steve was a Memorial Scholarship recipient himself for several years and is now an Piedmont Airline Captain. Steve presented at the 2017 scholarship award dinner and has served as reviewer on the board for the last two years. He has played an active role in updating and monitoring our application website, as well as, interfacing with applicants when they have technical difficulties. He is uniquely qualified for the job having been both on the receiving end as well as the giving!

And although, I would like to credit the Aero Club Scholarship award for Steve's accomplishments, I cannot. Quite frankly, I know he would have been successful without the financial aid provided, because of his own personal drive and support of his family, including his Grandparents James and Millie. (Yes that's right, we have a scholarship in his Grandmother's

name). I know he would have found a way. I can offer credit to the Aero Club for the continued generous contributions to the fund that has inspired Steve, as others, to "pay it forward."



It has been an honor and privilege to me to be entrusted with this position for many years, and I know Steve feels the same way. I am looking forward to seeing Steve's individual signature on this wonderful program that we do. I see his addition a possibility of more growth in both club membership and scholarship fund coffers and recipients because of it.

I also want to thank out going trustee Dan Kurkjian for his steadfast support of the scholarship program and overseeing that the Shannon Fund

was represented as the Shannon trustees intended, as well as representing the trustees and their mission at the award dinner. Always a pleasure Dan working with you, and don't think you are off the hook now!

I would also like to thank Mike Bem for his work to support scholarship recipients receiving training at Chester County Airport. I hope we can keep that relationship alive with the Airport Owners and Tenants Assoc in the future. It has been a good run, to the tune of \$23,000 over the last 4 years and we are ready to start a new one.

In closing, at the opening bell of the 2019 application period, we already have 40 something applicants from the Del Valley region, including PA, NJ, and DE. And I would just like to say thank you to our generous member contributors for contributing the 96% of the steady \$33,000 we have averaged annually over the last 4 yrs. It's been a pleasure working with you all!!!

2019 Aero Club Scholarships

The Aero Club of Pennsylvania Memorial Scholarship Fund

is accepting applications for scholarships to be awarded on June 13. Applications are now available online at www.aeroclubpa.org and are due April 15.

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.



2019 Ninety Nines Scholarships

The Eastern PA Chapter of the Ninety-Nines is accepting applications for scholarships from women age 16+ who reside, work, or attend school in the Delaware Valley or who are members of the chapter. Scholarships will be awarded on June 13. Applications must be received by the end of April and are available by contacting EPA99sScholarships@gmail.com. More information is available at www.epa99s.org.



Board of Directors Report

The Board of Directors met at the Wings Field on January 17. President Robert Smith opened the meeting and welcomed five new board members to the club. This was followed was the election by the board of the 2019 officers, including Debbie Harding as the Vice President.

The group approved minutes from prior meetings and discussed the financials. John O'Toole reported on the financials of our funds and the club. This newsletter is our biggest expense. Alicia Sikes reported on the 2019 scholarship program. A trustee meeting was scheduled for February 7. Rob Dant reported on this newsletter preparation and Rob Morrow reported that membership stands at 163, including 28 lifetime members.

The Special Events committee discussed ideas for upcoming events, including a visit to Millville Army Air Museum, a movie night, a scavenger hunt, a tethered balloon event, and tour of Carson Helicopter.

Rob Dant reported on the sales of the club's war-bird raffle to raise money for the Aero Club. A winner is chosen each January 31. Also, over 35 embroidered shirts have been sold.

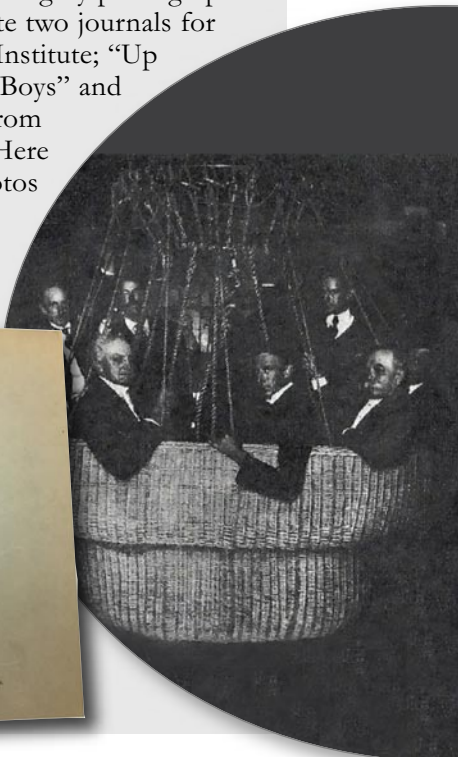
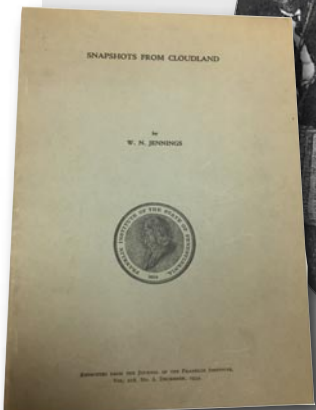
by *Elaine Farashian*

Aero Club History: Above Philadelphia

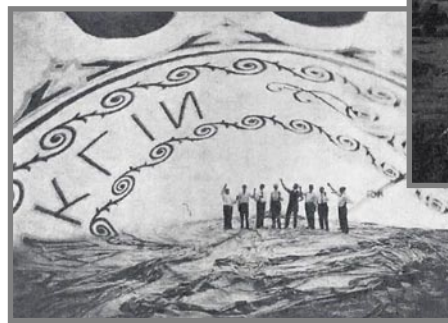
by Debbie Harding

Recently, Ralph A. Jennings contacted the Aero Club shortly after seeing a newspaper article about our organization and the First Air Voyage in America. He was wondering if his grandfather, W. N. Jennings, was an early Aero Club member. He thought the club might be interested because Jennings may have been the first to take an aerial photograph from a balloon. Later, he flew with Victor Dallin (Aero Club President in 1948) in a Bellanca biplane for a new company, the Aero Service Corporation, one of the first aerial survey companies. He also shared that his grandfather is credited with taking the first successful photographs of lightning. Indeed, W. N. Jennings was an honorary member of the Aero Club of PA, along with self-proclaimed balloonetic, Samuel A. King, the Philly-based gas balloon manufacturer and pilot.

W. N. Jennings was not the first person to make an aerial photograph, however, in 1893, he was the first to photograph Philadelphia from the skies in King's balloon, the "Eagle Eyrie". In 1930, he was awarded the Wetherill Medal of The Franklin Institute in earth science for being the first to capture lightning by photograph. Jennings wrote two journals for the Franklin Institute; "Up in a Balloon, Boys" and "Snapshots from Cloudland." Here are a few photos from those journals.



The "Ben Franklin" was an eight-passenger balloon, constructed by Samuel A. King for the first aeronautical society in America, the Ben Franklin Balloon Association of Philadelphia.



Jennings photo of Fairmont Park taken July 4, 1893, while on a balloon flight with Samuel A King.

Members of the Ben Franklin Aeronautical Society of Philadelphia inside the partially inflated Ben Franklin gas balloon. They had to crawl in through the small gas balloon valve.

The Ben Franklin Aeronautical Society members included the first Aero Club of PA President Arthur T. Atherton. In his "Up in a Balloon, Boys" publication, Jennings shares a story about asking Arthur to hold his feet down during a flight so that he could lean out over the side of the basket holding only on to his new camera to take the perfect shot. It made Arthur dizzy when he saw what Jennings was doing and he almost fainted- Jennings quotes himself then saying "And then, you Boob, I could have lost my new graflex (camera)."

If you want to learn more, Jennings Scrapbook and publications can be found at the Franklin Institute, one of the first Museums dedicated to the Sciences and technology in the United States.

Another Scrapbook and many glass photo plates are housed in the Philadelphia Library Company founded by Ben Franklin and is the first Library in America. It is located next to the Historical Society of PA, 1300 Locust St. in Philly.

The vast majority of Jennings photos are housed with the Dallin collection of more than 7,800 images at Hagley Museum in Delaware.

December 2018

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL [PHL]

There is a plan to buy 15 acres for \$5.5 million next to the 135-acre Henderson Tract, which the city acquired early this year. This purchase is for the purpose of developing a massive new airfreight complex, but the city must first approve it. A design is in place to relocate Tinicum Island Road to enable cargo expansion. Improvements for baggage handling at terminals A/B and D/E are expected in 2019. Airport entrance roadway beautification has already begun. Underway also are various pavement maintenance projects.

NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA [PNE]

Major reconstruction on runway 6/24 will begin in the spring and is expected to continue for several construction seasons. Construction continues on vehicle parking lot areas.

BRANDYWINE [OQN]

All of the obstructions located off airport property were removed as a step toward restoring night approaches. The airport is awaiting FAA approval to resume the night approaches. Review and approval for the LPV Approach Feasibility Study is continuing. The airport is negotiating with adjoining property owners to obtain temporary construction and permanent maintenance agreements. Governor Wolf announced \$150,000 state funding for the design of new hangar site infrastructure.

DOYLESTOWN [DYL]

Paving of grass tiedowns and construction of bypass taxiways are expected to begin in January and completed by the end of June 2019. A grant has been received for the rehab of runway 5/23 including paving and lighting. Design is to be completed in 2019 with construction scheduled for 2020.

HERITAGE FIELD [PTW]

Obstruction removal is continuing on the south side of runway 10. Snow removal equipment acquisition is anticipated in February. Taxiway rehab design will begin January 2019 and should be completed for bidding in June. Construction is expected in Fall 2019. Gov. Wolf announced \$261,525 state funding for new hangar design, taxiway access and an access road.

NEW CASTLE [ILG]

Phase 2 of taxiway B relocation is complete and phase 3 is scheduled for Spring 2019. DuPont VOR is being replaced with a modern "doppler" VOR (DVOR) which is less susceptible to errors from reflections off of nearby buildings. The airport consultants are making revisions in the master plan update by FAA.

NEW GARDEN [N57]

The airport will address discrepancies identified by FAA/BOA in its compliance inspection. The LPV survey was submitted for verification November 2018 and the airport is awaiting review. The new airport "planimetrics and contours" have been completed and the Engineer has developed surfaces for evaluation once the data is approved. The township is completing a project to perform site preparation for the West Hangar Development. The project entails apron development, taxi lanes for (6) 60'x 60' unit hangars and

utilities to the building pads. Hangar owners will be able to develop hangars themselves. Site preparation will start in Spring 2019 and will take a year to complete.

QUAKERTOWN [UKT]

Construction is approximately 75% complete and should be finished soon for phase 3 of runway 11/29 approach obstruction removal. Seeding, mulching and planting will be done in Spring 2019. The airport is working on acquiring easements for properties under runway 11 and 29 approaches to allow access for phase 4 and 5 of obstruction removal projects. Design work of rehab and expansion of terminal apron project is complete, but on hold until obstruction removal work is completed.

RED LION [N73]

This facility is no longer a public use airport.

SOUTH JERSEY REGIONAL [VAY]

Elevation surveys around T-hangars are finished, but a decision is to be made about whether to construct drain around the hangars or to mill and pave around them. The permit application for the environmental study for obstruction removal is being prepared by the consultant for DOT review, after which it will be sent to DEP for review and action. The FAA has issued a final document for the environmental study of the runway widening/taxiway relocation project.

TRENTON MERCER [TTN]

Phase I construction rehab of runway 6/24 pavement, lighting and signage is completed. Reconstruction of taxiway D and rehab of taxiway G are 50-60% complete.

WINGS [LOM]

An easement agreement was obtained for the installation of a permanent obstruction light, expected to be completed in December 2018. An NTP (notice to proceed) was to be issued in December for the AWOS equipment. The SRE (snow removal equipment plan) was completed and submitted to BOA for review and approval. Wings Hangar Nights resumed in September with a presentation by AOPA Ambassador, Norm Isler.



Philadelphia Airport Podcasts

Since 2016, Chellie Cameron has been the CEO of Philadelphia International Airport. Over the last year, Chellie has been recording podcasts that go behind the scenes of Philly International and Northeast Philadelphia Airport.

The podcasts, "Taking Off with Chellie Cameron" include episodes about the development at the airports, the artwork displayed at the airports, and international operations. The latest issue is "a Chat with Tuskegee Airman Dr. Eugene Richardson."

The 15-minute podcasts are available on Apple and Android devices and from the Philly Airport website. Visit phl.org and search "podcasts" or navigate to: www.phl.org/Pages/Chellie's-Podcasts.aspx

Dear Aero Club of Pennsylvania:

Thanks to the generosity of the Aero Club and Captain Lewis, I was able to earn my tailwheel endorsement this summer! The J3 Cub is the slowest thing I've ever flown and I absolutely loved it! I had never flown a stick, or a plane without flaps, or anything open cockpit, or taken off of a grass runway. When I applied for this scholarship, my goal was to hone my fundamental flying skills, and the unforgiving Cub helped me do just that. I enjoyed working with Captain Lewis and he gave me great advice.



Now, I'm back at Purdue University and flying again. I transitioned from the 172 into an SR20 this semester for a new challenge. Even having not flown in a month and being in a new plane, my landings were spot on! I surprised both my instructor and myself and know that my success is due in part to my Cub training.

This is my second year at Purdue and I am still majoring in Professional Flight and minoring in Chinese. I am also still on the Purdue University Flight Team. I am leading one of the sub-set teams this year and joined several others. I am working as a dispatcher, which is a

great way to meet fellow pilots and earn money for tuition. I am finishing up the second half of my commercial training and beginning instrument training later this semester. I am taking 18 credits a semester while working in hope of graduating junior year summer to save a year's tuition.

My goal this summer is to earn my CFI at Chester County Aviation. I spoke with Steve, head of flight training, to get a sense of how local FBOs do CFI training. He gave me some great advice. I am working on my CFI lesson plans now so that it won't take long to earn my CFI because I hope to find other ways to build hours over the summer, possibly banner towing. It looks as if I'll be quite busy this summer – but good busy!

I hope you've enjoyed hearing a little bit about what I am up to, and I want to thank the Aero Club again for choosing me as a scholarship recipient. Not only does the financial aid reduce the burden of tuition, but also I've formed so many relationships through the club and have been able to take advantage of unique experiences. Thank you for your dedication to helping pilots like myself pursue their goals. Being the Aero Club has made such a difference in my life and I am sure it has in others too. Thank you all and I hope you have a wonderful year! Blue Skies, Sarah E. Wolfe.

Announcements

Instructors wanted

FlightSafety International, Wilmington Learning Center is hiring instructors and copilots. Contact Nancy Rohr for information. Nancy.Rohr@FlightSafety.com; 302-383-6100.

Pennies-a-Pound flights

The Eastern PA 99s are planning on holding their annual Pennies-A-Pound on May 4th and 5th this year. We hope you can join us then. More details to follow at <http://epa99s.org/events/pennies-a-pound/>

Summer Camps planned

The annual summer camp program at New Garden Flying Field is planned for July 8-12 and August 5-9. The program offers young people ages 7-15 the excitement and discovery of aviation in a day-camp setting designed. The 5-day camp includes science projects, challenge activities, museum and airport tours, model rockets,

R/C airplanes, hot air balloons and other aviation experiences. All campers will have the opportunity to take an intro flight. For registration information and other details, visit www.newgardenflyingfield.com or call 610-268-2619.

Future Aviator jamboree

A two-day Future Aviator jamboree is planned for May 18-19 at New Garden Flying Field and will include free Young Eagle flights for young attendees:

THE FUTURE AVIATOR JAMBOREE
FLY IN AND CAMP OUT New Garden Flying Field

- Famous EAA Chapter 240 Pancake Breakfast
- Young Eagle Flights
- Burgers and Hot Dog Lunch
- Hiking, Airport Military Vehicle Tours, Archery
- Future Aviator Pavilion Dedication
- Presentations (Aviation Careers, Colleges, Scholarships, FAA FAA Team)
- Spot Landing Contest
- Pasta Dinner
- DJ Music
- Balloon Glow
- Bingo (with prizes)
- Outside Movie
- Bonfire and Smores

610-268-2619
\$30 to register (All Included)
Saturday - Sunday
MAY 18th & 19th

CAMP OUT UNDER YOUR WING AT N57



Bob Mills honored at meeting

On January 17, the Aero Club honored Bob Mills of the Philadelphia Seaplane Base by showing the year 2000 interview by Russell Davis of the Millville Army Air Museum. Mr. Davis joined us for dinner 19 years after the interview and offered some insight about interviewing Bob. Bob ran the seaplane base from just after WWII until he retired in 2000.



Aero Club shirts available

The Aero Club of PA commissioned embroidered shirts for members. Most of the shirts were pre-ordered and sold, but some shirts are still available for sale. The club will receive a small profit, but the primary purpose is for members to proudly display their membership in our prestigious club. Contact mailbox@aeroclubpa.org for more information.

Pilot liability protection passed

On October 5, 2018, the president signed the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 which includes provisions to protect volunteer pilots who conduct flights on behalf of nonprofit organizations. Volunteer Pilots will no longer have to be concerned about liability in excess of the limits of their insurance coverage. Section 584 of the Act gives this protection applies to flights for, “patient and medical transport (including medical transport for veterans), disaster relief, humanitarian assistance, or other similar charitable missions.”

The Air Care Alliance has been fighting for this legislation for over a decade with the support of aviation organizations including GAMA and AOPA. Senator Jim Inhofe’s relentless efforts over the past several years have finally

resulted in the passage of this legislation. As a result, pilots will no longer fear that their good deeds could place their families at financial risk. Pilots who have refrained from charitable flying because of these concerns can now join the ranks of countless thousands of other volunteers who contribute their skills and resources for the public good. Non-pilot volunteers have long enjoyed the same protection under the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997.

We’ve been working on this legislation for over a decade.

Jeff Kahn
Past President, Aero Club of Pennsylvania
Chairman, Air Care Alliance



New Member Highlight:

Though not a pilot, John Kane has been close to aviation since his college years. Many of you might remember the ARCO Go Patrol traffic reports on the radio in the 1970’s. John was the producer in the late 1970’s and backed up announcers John Carlton and Walt MacDonald. He worked morning and afternoon rush hours and attended Temple University during the day. Whenever he had free time, he would hang out with the traffic pilots at Atlantic Aviation, sometimes going along on “check runs” for the Federal Reserve, picking up cancelled checks

at various locations. Pilots would sometimes hand him the stick on the Bell Jet Ranger and point to some far-off fuel tanks. John spent most of the 1980s working in New York for Shadow Traffic, Dick Clark, and NBC. He was also a stock broker for over 30 years.

John is a long-time member of the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club where the Aero Club holds its quarterly board meetings. He and his wife Denise have three children and live on a horse farm above Harleysville and show horses competitively. We welcome John to the Aero Club of Pennsylvania.





Organized December 17, 1909; Chartered May 10, 1910

AERO CLUB OF PENNSYLVANIA

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AVIATION EVENT CALENDAR

MARCH

2 Lancaster Airport Breakfast / Seminar

APRIL

2-7 Sun'n Fun Fly-In; Lakeland Florida

6 Lancaster Airport Breakfast / Seminar

18 **Board of Directors Mtg, Wings Field**

MAY

4 Lancaster Airport Breakfast / Seminar

10-11 AOPA Fly-In, Frederick (KFDK)

11 Pancake Breakfast, Allen Airstrip, (3NJ9)

11 Chili Fiesta Fly In, Massey Airfield (MD1), 12PM-4PM

18 EAA 240 Pancake Breakfast, New Garden (N57)

JUNE

7-9 Reading WWII Weekend, Reading, PA (RDG)

8 Pancake Breakfast, Allen Airstrip, (3NJ9)

8 Antique Aeroplane Fly-In, Massey (MD1)

13 **Annual Scholarship Dinner**, Thursday, 6PM

15-16 Ocean City MD Airshow (KOXB)

21-23 Chester County Balloon Festival (N57)



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MTG, APRIL 18

APRIL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 18, 6PM

Philadelphia Aviation Country Club
Wings Field, Blue Bell, PA

The Aero Club of Pennsylvania will hold its next quarterly Board Meeting on April 18 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!

