

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

Photo Album



Grumman Super Widgeon on Keuka Lake, Hammondsport, NY.



Pitcairn Mailwing at Eagles Mere Aviation Museum.



Annual Aero Club Fly Market at Wings Airfield.

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Pennsylvania passes aviation tax relief bill

PA Aviation Tax Relief

New legislation signed in July eliminates the sales taxes on aircraft parts and services for fixed-wing, tilt-rotor or tilt-wing, glider or unmanned aircraft in Pennsylvania. The Aviation Council of Pennsylvania has been instrumental in pushing this change to help make Pennsylvania more competitive with neighboring states. They continue to push to also exempt aircraft sales and use tax.

Glenn Curtiss Museum

Some Aero Club members attended the "Curtiss Fall Flying Festival", September 14, 2013 at Hammondsport, New York, on Keuka Lake. The annual event included a seaplane fly-in, aircraft displays, vendors, and an evening dinner at the Glenn H. Curtiss Museum. Curtiss lived and developed his bicycles, motorcycles and later aircraft engines and seaplanes in Hammondsport.

Eagles Mere Air Museum

Fifteen members and friends of the Aero Club visited the Eagles Mere Aviation Museum on August 25. Seven aircraft flew into the private field located in northern Pennsylvania. The museum is open on Sundays during the warmer months. Museum information is available on their website at eaglesmereairmuseum.org.

Fly Market sale a success

The Aero Club held its annual Fly Market at Wings 'n Wheels Day at Wings Airfield on September 7. The event benefits Angel Flight East. The Fly Market proceeds go to the Aero Club of Pennsylvania

Memorial Scholarship Fund. This year's sale raised over \$500. The sale has raised \$8000 since 2003.

Philly Seaplane Base event

The Aero Club set up a display at the annual Friends of Lazaretto History Weekend on October 5 in Essington, PA, home of the Philadelphia Seaplane Base. Current owner Tinicum Township is considering plans to improve the condition of the base.

New Aero Club website

The Aero Club of PA has completed an upgrade to their website at www.aeroclubpa.org. The new site has a fresh look and is built on a platform that will enable more features including an online member directory, events calendar, electronic scholarship applications and more.

Wright Brothers Dinner

Our annual dinner will be held again on the anniversary of the Wright Brother's first flight on December 17 at the Desmond Hotel. The event is held as a fundraiser for the scholarship fund and we will once again hold a silent auction. See details on page 7.

Membership Renewal

2014 membership renewal is due now and your membership has a new benefit. We will choose one active member as of January 31 to represent us on a donated seat on the Commemorative Air Force's B-29!



Be a member and maybe take a ride on a B-29!



ORGANIZED: Dec 17, 1909; CHARTERED: May 10, 1910
 PO Box 748
 Blue Bell, PA 19422
www.aeroclubpa.org
www.facebook.com/AeroClubOfPa
mailbox@aeroclubpa.org

The Aero Club of PA was formed in 1909 to promote aviation in Pennsylvania and the Greater Delaware Valley. We are 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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Secretary	Elaine Farashian
Asst. Secretary	Nancy Kyle
Treasurer	John O'Toole
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VP Spec Projects	Walt Ellis
VP Scholarships	Debbie Harding
VP Print & Web	Robert Dant
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

James Kilduff



The chances are that you are a certificated pilot, licensed by the FAA to fly an airplane in US airspace; probably always interested in airplanes. If as a teenager you didn't hang out at the airport and wash planes for flying time, you had some connection to flying: model airplanes, books or magazines. And somehow an opportunity to take the first lesson presented itself. There was lots of information to absorb quickly, new manual skills to learn, self-doubts about can I really do this, then on to the solo, the cross-country and the check ride. At the end: "Private Pilot!"

Then came the realization. I can fly in the same space, talk on the same frequency to the same controllers, even land on the same runways as the airline pilot (caution, wake turbulence!) This was both a thrill and an admonition. You had to be up the challenge and the responsibility. You took friends for a flight and the sense of responsibility deepened. These help-less civilians who know not the first thing about flying are literally putting their very lives in my hands!

It has been my pleasure and honor to be the 39th person to fill the president's chair.

You took more training, practiced even beyond the requirements, listened to and learned from pilots more experienced than you. But no advice changed the fact: you had become Pilot-in-Command. It was up to you and you alone.

The airplane became a magic carpet. You took trips to places never possible except in a private plane. Along the way, you met other pilots who accepted you into the society of aviators. A bond quickly formed and long lasting.

After a time, did you notice that non-pilots were eager to talk with you about flying? Could you maybe see in some of them the yearning to fly? Maybe you helped and encouraged someone. Maybe you even arranged a lesson with your instructor. Isn't it natural to encourage this enthusiasm, hoping to help another realize the gift, the magic of flight, which is so powerful in your life?

And you joined the Aero Club of Pennsylvania! Because this club is all about meeting, getting to know, reading about and flying with other pilots. And this club is about encouraging aspiring pilots to learn; even paying the way for young people to complete training by donating to the Scholarship Fund.

The Wright Brothers Dinner is a few weeks away. Will you come to dinner and donate to the scholarship fund? This newsletter tells you how. And will you join us on a field trip? And encourage other people to join the Aero Club, to expand your circle of fellow and hoping-to-be pilots?

It has been my pleasure and honor to be the 39th person to fill the president's chair in the 104-year history of the Aero Club of Pennsylvania. In December, at the Wright Brothers dinner, we will announce our nominations for new officers.

New President and Board

Five new board members for the year 2014 will be nominated and confirmed at the annual meeting to be held during the Wright Brothers Dinner on December 17. The new board will then vote on new officers at the January Board of Directors meeting, including a new president to replace James Kilduff who has served the last two years. Other officers will be confirmed at that time as well.

Scholarship Report

by Debbie Harding

Exciting News on two fronts:

The Scholarship Fund trustees have made it their mission to raise individual scholarship awards by 100% for 2014. The objective is for individual awards to have the same impact that they once did when the cost of flight training was much lower than what it is now. The trustees have asked the current board and membership to contact their personal aviation network for contributors, sponsorships and grants, and to develop an organized effort to solicit contributions from past recipients, persons currently working in the field, and recent flight school graduates.

On another front, scholarship applications will go electronic in 2014. Not only will the application acceptance and selection process be easier to implement, the trustees and committee believe that going electronic will improve program credibility, attract qualified applicants, and help gain support (contributions) from outside sources. With a recent new look to our website, a Facebook presence, and now electronic scholarship applications, this old Aero Club is flying forward to the future.

Here's hoping that the end of 2013 and the Wright Brothers Dinner will be the beginning of our drive to raise award amounts in 2014! Join the effort with your monetary donations, or in kind donations with silent auction items or just participating in the dinner event! Join the fun while also promoting the future of the sport, business and adventure of aviation.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Elaine Farashian, Secretary

The Aero Club Board of Directors met at the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club at Wings Field on October 17. President Jim Kilduff presided over the meeting.

The group reviewed the July minutes, financials, newsletter details and membership. Membership stands around 175.

Next, John Stubbs and Debbie Harding reported on the 2014 scholarship program. Plans are in place to take the scholarship application process online. Also,

the Scholarship Trustees are considering ways to increase the amount of individual awards in light of inflation associated with aviation training.

The group discussed recent field trips and future plans, including a planned November 3 visit to the Philadelphia Glider Port in Hilltown, PA.

The meeting adjourned for dinner and a presentation by Erik Kocher, a former Navy pilot and a current helicopter test pilot for Boeing Aircraft.

AVIATION EVENT CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

8-10 Waterfowl Festival, Easton, Maryland (ESN)

DECEMBER

- 1** Massey Air Museum, Hangar Fly-In (KMD1)
- 7** American Flyers free BBQ Lunch & Seminar (KMMU)
- TBD** Santa Fly-In, Angel Flight East, Wings Field, 11AM-1PM
- 7** Christmas in the Air, Reading, PA (christmasintheair.org)
- 14** Betty Vinson Meml Toylift, VA Chapter of the Ninety Nines
- 17** **Wright Brothers Dinner; Desmond Hotel**

FUTURE PLANNING

- Jan 16** Aero Club Board of Dirs Mtg, Wings Field, PACC
- Apr 1-6** Sun'n Fun Fly-In; Lakeland Florida
- June 6-8** M.A.A.M., WWII Weekend, Reading, PA
- Jul 29-04** EAA AirVenture; Oshkosh, WI

Board of Directors Mtg, Jan 16

Wings Field, Philadelphia Aviation Country Club

The Aero Club will hold its next quarterly Board Meeting on January 16 at the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club at Wings Field.

Following the board meeting at 6PM, we will have dinner and a presentation by a special guest. Members and guests are welcome to attend our presentations.

Dinner (optional) begins at 7PM and the presentation begins around 8PM. RSVP at mailbox@aeroclubpa.org if you would like to attend. Dinner is around \$30 per person, not including drinks.



Speaker Erik Kocher at the October Board of Directors Meeting

Dinner Presentation October 17, 2013

After our October Board of Directors meeting, our special guest speaker was **Mr. Erik Kocher** (Navy Retired), currently a helicopter test pilot for Boeing Helicopters in Philadel-

phia. Mr. Kocher, who grew up in California, spoke about his unlikely entry into the Navy Aviation Office Candidate School in 1976 and his experience flying fixed winged aircraft like his beloved T-28, his time as a Navy helicopter pilot and flight instructor, and his current career at Boeing Helicopters as a test pilot flying the CH-47 Chinook.

Earlier in the year, Mr. Kocher coordinated a private tour for the Aero Club of the Boeing Vertol Factory in Ridley Park, home of the CH-47 Chinook and V-22 Osprey assembly lines.

Remembering Peter York Wood, 1928-2013

by Robert Dant

Peter Wood grew up in an ornate five story stone mansion on Baltimore Pike in Springfield, PA, and from an early age he believed that the airplane represented the future. Pete's **Springfield High School** yearbook read, "It's a bird, it's a plane, it's Pete!!"

Pete's father, **Everett Wood** gave his son a unique offer while he was still in high school. "I will pay for your college education, or I will buy you an airplane and you can be on the cutting edge of this 'future.' See what you can do with it." Pete chose the airplane, a Piper Cub, and he never looked back. Pete later taught his father to fly, something that opened his father's life tremendously.



Springfield High School, 1947. Sky minded.

Pete flew the Cub in and out of **Paoli Main Line Airport** with his friend **Pete Conrad** (later to become the third man to walk on the moon). It was a time after the war when civilian airports were popping up throughout the nation and attracting many young men to learn to fly.

For awhile in the 1950's, Pete operated **Delco (Benedict) Airport** located near Foulk and Kirk Roads in Booths Corner, Delaware County. **Bernie May** remembers as a youngster



Colorized aerial view of Benedict Airfield

washing airplanes at Benedict. "Pete was one who encouraged a young boy to dream his dream." Mr. May went on to become a missionary pilot flying the Amazon jungle for 18 years. "Pete Wood's encouragement steered me into the career path that I followed." Benedict airport closed in the late 1950s, seized by eminent domain for the development of an oil tank farm.

Pete was the top Piper dealer east of the Mississippi River for a time, often flying his customers to the closed **Atlantic Aviation** sales hanger at Philly International on the weekends, leaving a sold sign on the prop for the Atlantic salesman to see on Monday morning. Pete would say that he was selling his customers not just an aircraft, but "I sold them a whole new world."

Pete once flew a new Piper aircraft to the **Devon Horse Show** to have it on display during the event. And at

some point, Pete and his father Everett, along with **Dick Wolfe** and others schemed to park an Ercoupe at a Media service station as a marketing stunt. It's not clear



Ercoupe at service station in Media, PA. The building still exists today as a bagel shop.

where they landed, but a photo shows the Ercoupe taxiing down Baltimore Pike. In another image, the Ercoupe is parked at **McCafferty's Service Station**.

Pete was an "idea man" and ahead of his time. In the 1960's, he told a friend in the oil business that airports should have "automatic fuel tanks," where the pilot can pull-up any time day or night and use a credit card to buy his fuel, thus dispensing fuel without the need to have an attendant on duty at all hours. He brought his ideas to many aviation organizations including the **Aero Club of Pennsylvania**, the **Delaware County Aviation Association** and the **Balloon Club of America**.

Pete's father was President of the Aero Club in 1952, and Pete was Secretary of the club from 1959 to 1976. Pete helped to invigorate the club after some period of inactivity, and at the time of his death he was the longest active member. As part of the Delaware County Aviation Association, he was a driving force in trying to develop a new regional general aviation airport in Delaware County after the closing of Benedict left the county without a public use general aviation airport.

Long before the present-day pilot guides, Pete developed the **Skymaster Travel Guide** and the Skymaster Club, offering pilots a listing of selected inns that had private airstrips or access and easy transportation to nearby public airports. Membership provided free reservations, free ground transportation, and other services. Pete is reported to have flown around the country to find interesting destinations for the travel guide and to



Pilot Travel Guide developed in the 1950's by Pete Wood.

establish friendly relationships for general aviation pilots.

In the early 1950's, Pete teamed with **Don Piccard, Tony Fairbanks** and others from Swarthmore to obtain surplus WWII gas balloons, forming the Balloon Club of America. One of these became the famous "La Coquette" in the film "Around The World In 80 Days." That same balloon was flown all over the world by Tony Fairbanks and also inflated on January 9th, 1968, outside of **Bookbinders Restaurant** in Philadelphia when the Aero Club and Balloon Club held a dinner commemorating the "First Air Voyage in America" flown on that day in 1783 in Philadelphia by Jean Pierre Blanchard.



Pete Wood at Pauma Valley Airpark in 2012

Later in life, Pete retired to **Valley Center, California**, where he continued to have impact. In a recent local newspaper article, **David Ross** wrote that "Pete was a visionary, and to talk to him was to open your mind to the many possibilities open to the human mind and spirit." Appropriately, Pete lived adjacent to a private airstrip where he could watch the aircraft arrive and depart.

Many of us in the Aero Club were privileged to receive extended phone calls from California to talk about all things aeronautical. Pete was a keen observer of aviation history, but he also encouraged us to look to the future of aviation.

We are glad to have come to know Peter York Wood as a friend. He taught us a lot about history and much besides. He will be sorely missed. **We remember a notable aviator and a noble man.**

Thanks to many contributors, including friend Carris Kocher and daughters Wentby Wood Wilkinson and Terry Wood Abeyta.

Regional Airport News

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Report

SEPT 19, 2013

Compiled by Elaine Farashian

PHILADELPHIA INT'L [PHL]

Diego Rincon is the new Deputy Director for Capital Development. Taxiway K extension contract has been awarded. Taxiway K5 project is 50% complete. The demolition of the salt barn is in progress due to its aging condition.

NORTHEAST PHILLY [PNE]

Planning for taxiway D continues. An Airport Layout Plan update is currently underway.

PENNS LANDING HELIPORT

Delaware River Waterfront Corp. is working through Pier 36 phase I design of sea wall reconstruction. Bid documents are expected by the end of October.

BRADEN AIRPARK [N43]

Northampton County and local pilot groups are looking at ways to keep the Lehigh Valley Airport Authority from selling this airport.

BRANDYWINE [OQN]

The apron drainage project has been completed. The design for runway lighting and runway widening has been approved.

CECIL COUNTY [58M]

(Update Oct 18) The airport was auctioned to a New York resident who wants on continue operating it as an airport. The 129 acre property sold for a total of \$1.35 million.

CHESTER COUNTY [MQS]

Phase 5 of 6 of new south apron construction project is underway.

CROSS KEYS [17N]

AECOM has provided scenarios under the grant which are out for discussion with DOT and sponsor.

DELAWARE AIRPARK [33N]

The airpark is waiting for an FAA grant to begin runway expansion. The acquisition of parcels needed to move ahead has taken many years.

DOYLESTOWN [DYL]

As part of runway 5/23 obstruction removal, the airport authority is in the process of finalizing acquisition of numerous easements for properties located under runway 5 approach. Stormwater management project is underway.

HERITAGE FIELD [PTW]

The crack seal and remarking project was recently completed. Visual runway improvements are in process for existing non-precision landing. An Airport Layout Plan update is being prepared.

NEW CASTLE [ILG]

Frontier Airlines began commercial service to Tampa, Orlando, Houston, Denver and Chicago on July 1, 2013. A draft of impact study has been received and early impressions show fewer numbers since the last study.

NEW GARDEN [N57]

The runway widening project is ready for construction pending funds. Apron project bids came back higher than budget. The airshow was a huge success.

QUAKERTOWN [UKT]

Airport is seeking easement acquisition to conduct structure removal.

QUEEN CITY [XLL]

No new news, but the Airport Authority has committed to keeping the airport open.

SOUTH JERSEY REGNL [VAY]

The Master Plan update is under review. The drainage improvement project is currently on hold. Jet A fuel farm is expected to be completed by the end of November.

TRENTON MERCER [TTN]

The second of four runway arresting systems is under construction. The terminal building has been remodeled and the parking lot capacity has doubled to accommodate 1200 cars. The automobile traffic pattern around the airport will be rerouted. Taxiways H, B and F are to be realigned and reconstructed. Frontier Airlines is offering flights to 10 destinations and is doing well. The security fence is in the design phase.

WINGS [LOM]

A walking trail along Narcissa Road has been dedicated. The terminal restoration is now complete. The flight school, Fly Advanced, has experienced increased activity. A land use plan is being developed for the airport. The Wings and Wheels Angel Flight event in September was very successful.

Provide scholarships with your donation

In 1970, a Private Pilot's certificate cost about \$1,500 to obtain. Today, the cost is \$10,000 or more. This is a daunting sum and it is just the start for a prospective airman on the road to a career in aviation. Thanks to your donations and investment income, we have made an impact and have awarded \$100,000 in the last 5 years. But in order to maintain a meaningful impact on future aviators, the Memorial Scholarship Fund needs your continued support!

For every gift of \$100.00 or more you will receive a one year complimentary membership in the Aero Club of Pennsylvania. For gifts of \$1,000 or more we will attach a name to a scholarship in someone's memory. Lastly, please consider including us in your estate planning. Your donation is tax deductible.

Join us for our Silent Auction and Raffle

Please join the Aero Club of Pennsylvania at our fourth silent action and raffle event on December 17th at the Wright Brothers dinner. This is a fun opportunity to contribute directly to next years' Scholarship recipients. Bring your friends to join the fun of getting the winning bid while raising funds for our scholarships. Items will include dinner and overnight packages, a hot air balloon flight, vintage aviation books, a basket of cheer including Champagne and cheeses, and other items.

If you would like to donate a nice item or would like to contribute ideas for the fundraiser, please contact Debbie Harding at deb@air-ventures.com. We hope to see you there to help us celebrate and to raise funds.

A E R O C L U B O F P E N N S Y L V A N I A

2014 Membership Renewal and B-29 Ride

Renew online at www.aeroclubpa.org

Renew your membership today with the form below or online at our website. If you choose to donate \$100 to the Scholarship Fund, your membership dues are waived and your donation will be used to promote aviation. Contributions are tax deductible.

Membership has a new privilege. The Aero Club is the recipient of a seat on an upcoming B-29 flight and one active member as of January 31, 2014, will be chosen to take the ride. Visit the Commemorative Air Force website at www.airpowersquadron.org for more photos.



Membership-only Form:

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

- Waive my 2014 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 (or fill out below)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

2013 Wright Brothers Dinner



Aero Club Annual Member Meeting

Wright Brothers Dinner & Silent Auction/Raffle

Tuesday, December 17, 2013
 The Desmond Hotel
 1 Liberty Blvd, Malvern, PA

5:30PM: Reception, Cash Bar, Silent Auction
 6:30PM: Dinner and Presentation
 Black tie optional, period dress or aviator uniform.

An event to benefit the Aero Club of Pennsylvania Memorial Scholarship Fund and to celebrate over a century of aviation.

Special Guest

Nick Engler and his wife Mary Jane will join us from the Wright Brothers Aeroplane Company.

The **Wright Brothers Aeroplane Company** is an educational institution whose mission is to teach the science, technology, and mathematics on which aviation is founded as well as its early history. They consider themselves experimental archaeologists. They study history by repeating it. They were the first group since the Wright brothers to build and test all of the Wright experimental gliders that led to the first practical airplane. They built a replica Wright Flyer that flew during the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the first flight at Kitty Hawk, NC. The organization will bring along a Wright Flyer simulator to demonstrate. Visit their website at www.wright-brothers.org

Filet and Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat: \$65 per person
Reserve online at www.aeroclubpa.org

Dinner and Membership Form:

Reserve ONLINE, or send this form and payment by December 10 to:
Aero Club of PA Meml Scholarship Fund, PO Box 748; Blue Bell, PA 19422

NAME: _____ Number Attending: ____ x \$65 = \$_____

ADDRESS: _____ Addl. Scholarship Contribution: \$_____

CITY/STATE: _____ Renew my Membership (\$25): \$_____

PHONE: _____ Total Enclosed: \$_____

ATTENDEE NAMES: _____, _____
 _____, _____



Organized December 17, 1909; Chartered May 10, 1910

AERO CLUB OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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FIRST CLASS
POSTAGE
REQUIRED

FLIGHT SAFETY BRIEFING - Aviation Citizenship

From Sept/October issue of FAA's Safety Briefing Magazine:

This month's issue titled "Aviation Citizenship" contains a series of articles discussing how we as pilots can help preserve our rights and privileges as pilots by acting with the highest level of aviation citizenship. Interesting articles also discuss what happens when common sense and the code of reasonable conduct are not followed.

The introduction is provided by John Allen, Director, FAA Flight Standards Service.

Being a good aviation citizen

"Every good citizen makes his country's honor his own, and cherishes it not only as precious but as sacred." — Andrew Jackson

As with a nation, a community of any kind has a culture and customs that arise from a set of shared values. What would be on your list of aviation values? I hope that safety is at the top of your list. The Aviators Model Code of Conduct (AMCC) was developed by a group of aviation professionals to enhance the quality and safety of flight operations.

As stated in the introduction, pilot conduct impacts the entire aviation community, including its safety culture. A

code of conduct can help achieve new levels of proficiency. The AMCC is a set of guidelines that is adaptable to each pilot and organization. Everyone is encouraged to adopt it, and to commit to the highest principles of aviation safety. The AMCC's opening section provides a solid list of behaviors that reflect the values, culture, and customs we should exercise as good aviation citizens.

Pilots should:

- Develop and exercise good judgment and sound principles of aeronautical decision-making.
- Maintain situational awareness, and adhere to prudent operating practices and personal operating parameters.
- Aspire to professionalism.
- Act with responsibility and courtesy.
- Adhere to applicable laws and regulations.

There is much more material in the AMCC than space permits, so every aviation citizen should visit the site www.secureav.com to read the full guidelines.

Read the full issue of Safety Briefing Magazine at www.faa.gov/news/safety_briefing.