

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

Photo Album



Looking out over the airport from the Philly Tower cab



A gaggle of antique aircraft at Eagles Mere Air Museum.



Aero Club Book Sale at Rotorfest, Brandywine Airport

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Aero Club calendar was chock full this fall

Philadelphia Tower Tour

On September 24, eighteen members of the Aero Club visited the Philadelphia Air Traffic Control center. The facility houses the clearance, ground and tower control, as well as, the approach control radar operation and a large training simulator. In smaller groups, we got tours of the tower and then the radar room. At any one time, there are as many as 30 people on the job at the facility. Philly International Airport is the busiest single airport in terms of operations in the northeast.

Eagles Mere Visit

The Aero Club planned a fly out to the Eagles Mere Air Museum on October 11. Six or seven aircraft had planned to go, but weather around Philadelphia was IFR most of the day. However, Eagles Mere was nice VFR and two aircraft departed IFR. A Mooney from Cecil County, Claremont Airport and a Bonanza from Cross Keys. Member John Mulvey recounts the flight. "I came via the Lancaster fly-in breakfast, filed to Williamsport; broke out of IMC about 20 miles shy of Eagles Mere, then continued VFR to land. I had to air file to get back home to 58M, Claremont Airport, and flew the RNAV to runway 13 and circled to land 31. All in all a full flying day!"

Book Sales raise \$725

The morning weather cleared for the Chester County Airport Com-

munity Day on October 4 where the Aero Club set up a table to sell books from the Al Sheves collection. The sale raised money for the Aero Club / Al Sheves Memorial Scholarship. We repeated the same sale at the annual Rotorfest helicopter show at Brandywine Airport. The two events raised just over \$700.

Chester County Warbirds

On September 14, members of the Aero Club visited a private collection of warbirds at the Chester County Airport. See the full story on page 3.

Seaplane Base Event

On October 4, members of the Aero Club setup a display at the "History and Mystery Weekend" event held at the Lazaretto House in Essington, home of the Philadelphia/Essington Seaplane Base. The Aero Club is working with Essington Township in an effort to revive regular seaplane operations at the seaplane base. In support, a Cessna 185 and a Searay flew into the event, the first operations at the base in quite a while. Read more details about our effort on page 5.



Seaplanes at Essington on Oct 4

Be a member and take a ride on a warbird!



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. Sign up for membership at aeroclubpa.org

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Special Projects	Walt Ellis
Scholarships	Debbie Harding
Communications	Robert Dant
Airports	Elaine Farashian

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PENNSYLVANIA PILOT

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bruce Thompson

Fall is nearing an end, already! For many, Fall is their favorite time of year. In the northeast we are often blessed with cool crisp mornings followed by sunny afternoons. Convective activity diminishes substantially compared to the summer and all this lends for a beautiful time to slip the surly bonds. As the cooler months turn to winter, take a few moments to dust off your text books and the POH regarding aircraft icing and the effects of cold weather flying for we always want the number of takeoffs to equal the number of landings.

Looking back over the last ten months the Aero Club of Pennsylvania has been busy as ever. We are wrapping up our quest to bring our By Laws into the 21st century. Our membership chair, Michael Little, and his team are implementing a new membership database system with the express intent of better managing our membership rolls and getting membership cards, tax letters etc. out in a timely fashion. This past year Walt Ellis and his team organized tours of the Philadelphia International Airport Air Traffic Control Tower, a visit to Jim Beasley's hangar at Chester County Airport to see his vintage aircraft, and a fly out to Eagles Mere, PA to visit the Eagles Mere Air Museum.

Looking back, the Aero Club of Pennsylvania has been busy as ever.

The Trustees of the Aero Club of Pennsylvania have proudly joined forces with Bob Mills Jr. as he strives to create a scholarship in his dad's name - Bob Mills Sr. Many of you are familiar with the Philadelphia Seaplane Base that Bob Sr. ran for many years. The Trustees have agreed with Bob to manage and administer any and all funds that are raised in his father's name. This creates one more tool at Debbie Harding and her team's disposal to offer scholarships across the entire spectrum of aviation which is the intent of Bob Mills Jr.

Many of you are aware that this past summer saw the passing of Alex Sheves, former manager of the Chester County Airport for well over three decades. Pat, Al's widow, graciously donated Al's aviation book collection to the Memorial Scholarship Fund. For a period consuming over 70 man-hours a group of Aero Club members cataloged his collection which is now for sale with all proceeds benefiting the Scholarship Fund. If you would like to take a look at the listing of books contact the Aero Club and we will gladly send it your way.

Mark your calendar for 17 December. We hope to see you at our annual Wright Brothers Dinner. This dinner is the annual membership meeting for the Aero Club, and is a time to catch up with long lost friends, experience a fine meal at the Desmond Hotel and keep up to date with the business of the Aero Club of Pennsylvania. Year end is upon us, and if it all possible, please contribute to the Scholarship Fund.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Elaine Farashian

The Aero Club Board of Directors met at Wings Field on October 23. President Bruce Thompson presided over the meeting.

The group discussed the minutes from the July meeting, followed by financials, newsletter and membership. Membership stands at about 145.

The group voted on changes to the Aero Club bylaws to bring them more inline with the way the club has been operating in recent times. Changes were

made relating to officer roles, titles and terms. Also, previously, changes were made to the membership levels.

The board discussed recent club events and planning for the upcoming Aero Club Wright Brothers Dinner to be held again at the Desmond Hotel.

The meeting adjourned for dinner and a lively presentation by Mike DeLorey on his experiences flying helicopters for the U.S. Navy.

Aero Club Scholarship Report

By Debbie Harding

Jack Scheffler, one of the founding fathers of the Shannon Memorial Scholarship Fund and past President (1971-1974) recently asked the question to the current board whether we keep track of our scholarship recipients. It is a good question, Jack!

With the advent of electronic communication such as email, Facebook, and LinkedIn, the ability to keep connected to past recipients has been greatly enhanced. Many of our past recipients keep us up to date on their aviation activities.

To name but a few, three-time scholarship recipient Stephen Jordan has posted videos shared on the Aero Club Facebook page (Facebook.com/AeroClubOfPa), as an adjunct to his article on banner tow flying this summer. And, Chris DeAugustine shared another of one of his cross country flights. Keith Stover, a 2009 Dunn Award recipient emailed thanks to the club this August and reports he is now Airport Operations Co-coordinator at Morristown Airport in New Jersey. He also reports getting an associate degree from Mercer and an ATC degree from Beaver Community College, as well as a Bachelors in Business from Rider U. He loves his present job and its wide spectrum of duties from airfield inspections, airport security, billing, fuel quality control to snow removal in the winter to name just a few. This past March, George Seel (2007 and 2009) became first officer (Citation Sovereign) for Resorts World Genting, a hospitality company headquartered in Ft. Lauderdale. This was after going to Learjet

The ability to keep connected to past recipients has been greatly enhanced.

School in Dallas in order to upgrade to Captain at then his current job with Air Ambulance International.

If you are a scholarship recipient, we would love to have you send your updates, including photos or videos, to nkyle111@gmail.com who will post to our Facebook page or just email to scholarships@aeroclubpa.com. The membership would love to hear from you!

I am also happy to report more recent scholarship recipients volunteered in the fund raising effort in person. Steve Jordan, Keith Heisler (2013 and 2014 scholarship recipients) and Matt Daly (2012, 2013) came out to help sell the wonderful collection of aviation books donated by Al Sleeves' wife Pat, in his honor. The sale raised funds for the Scholarship fund at two local community days held at the American Helicopter Museum (Rotorfest) and Chester County Airport.

The "value" of the books was highlighted by the dialog between a 7 year old boy and his 9 year old sister. With the younger one clutching "The Encyclopedia of Helicopters" to his chest while telling his Dad that he really needed this book, the sister chided him saying "you can't even read!" She, too, proudly walked away with a book entitled "Air Shows." These kids were excited and interested to learn more about what they were experiencing at the the airshow, and although they could certainly pull up books about it on their electronic devices, instead, they they were able to walk away with something in hand to spur on their interest. Priceless!

Chester County Warbirds Tour

By Jim Kilduff

On Saturday, 14 September, Aero Club members went behind the scenes into the hangar of James Beasley, Jr. Owner of several warbirds, an air show pilot and second generation lover of airplanes, Beasley maintains his fleet at a Chester County airport hangar. Beasley inherited the planes and the love of flying from his father, who as a CFI taught his 20 year old son to fly the Mustang.

His director of maintenance, Rich Palmer gave a dozen or more Aero Club members a personal walk through of the airplanes, which are P-51D Mustang "Bald Eagle", Supermarine Spitfire MK IX, Navy SNJ trainer, L-21 piper liaison plane and another SNJ in pieces on the floor.

Jim Beasley is qualified to fly formation with current fighter jets such as F-18's and with a variety of WWII "pursuit" airplanes. The difference in speed and flight characteristics makes this kind of formation flying especially demanding.

Beasley is a mainstay at the Atlantic City Air Show. He

flew his Spitfire and his teammate, Andrew McKenna, flew a P-51D. The USAF Thunderbirds were also featured in that show.

There are several Packard-Rolls Royce Merlin engines sitting in crates or in pieces on the floor. Keeping 70 year old airplanes flying is a physical and fiscal challenge. And to have spare engines is almost a necessity, as parts may have to be manufactured when replacements cannot be found.



NAVY SNJ Trainer

During WWII, Great Britain could not keep up with the demand for engines and thus licensed the design to Packard, which actually manufactured the engine. From the beginning to the end of the war, Packard manufactured 55,000 plus Merlin engines. Frequent readers of this space will recall that

the American Curtiss P-40 and North American P-51 were Merlin-engined, along with the British Avro Lancaster and deHavilland Mosquito bombers and the Spitfire and Hawker Hurricane fighter planes.

My summer of banner towing

Member Story by Stephen Jordan

Pulling up to Paramount Air, I didn't know what to expect. As a newly minted commercial pilot, I had zero experience with any flying that wasn't in practice for a new rating or license. I had seen the banner planes buzzing over the Jersey shore as a young child in Avalon, New Jersey, but knew little about them other than that they were loud, slow, and old.

Paramount Air Airfield is easy to miss. Just off of route 47 in Green Creek, New Jersey, it sits a long gravel road. Jutting between two fields full of sweet corn, the small country road ends at a green hangar. The hangar, flanked by three trailers on one side, is perched at the end of a 2,000 foot long, 100 foot wide grass field that leads to the Delaware Bay. The field is far from smooth. The entire place feels much more like a farm in the deep south than an airfield in Cape May County, New Jersey.

The pilots of Paramount Air come from all over the country. This past summer, we had six pilots. From Seattle and Colorado, to Pennsylvania and Cape May County, we were a motley group. Ranging in age from myself, the youngest, to Mark, a local utilities worker who flies on the weekends, and has done so since the late 1970s. Most of the pilots who work at Paramount live in the trailers right next to the hangar. The company, founded in 1945, has given many young pilots the hours necessary for jobs in the airline and corporate flying industries.

Our fleet was composed of 10 Piper aircraft, including three PA-18 Super Cubs, three PA-12 Super Cruisers, and four J-3 Cubs. Every plane was silver, with different colored tails and wheel struts (so the boss knew who to yell at when one of us did something stupid). During the first week, we picked our airplanes for the season. The guys who have been there for longer chose first, and the new hires got whatever was left. My bird was a late 1950's PA-18 Super Cub, named "Blue Tail".

At first, Blue Tail seemed like a piece of, well, junk. With paint peeling from many sections and oil leaking out of the 160HP engine getting on the windshield, she wasn't pretty. There is no electrical system, so we hand propped the airplanes. There are no windows or doors on Blue Tail, or any of the other planes for that matter. We were exposed to the blow of the prop wash, and the deafening sound of the muffler-less engine. Put simply, we flew around the Jersey shore at 40 MPH, in a windy, loud, and radio-less plane. And we wouldn't have changed a thing about it.

Working at Paramount gave us backcountry flying experience that is hard to come by in today's day and age. No radios, no ATC, and no electronics: just you and the airplane. Picking up a banner involved diving at the ground and suddenly pulling the airplane into a nose-high attitude just feet off of the ground, causing a metal boom to swing down and grab a rope that is strung between two plastic poles. The more vertical your climb, the smoother the banner came off of the ground. Picking a banner is the ultimate ground reference maneuver, and can be extremely difficult on windy days.

By day, we flew eight and a half hours at a time; by night, we fished. That was our lives for the summer, and we didn't mind it one bit. Flying was our lives, and even on my rare days off, I found myself looking up at my coworkers in the sky, wishing I was at work. I learned to love my plane, despite her appearance and lack of comfort. I spent almost 500 hours in Blue Tail this summer, and would do it again in a heartbeat. Paramount provided a flying experience that I believe doesn't exist anywhere else, and I will always look back on this summer with extreme fondness. I met some of the best people I have ever met, and gained stick and rudder skills that will certainly be invaluable in my future air adventures.

Stephen Jordan is a multi-year Aero Club scholarship recipient. His most recent scholarship is helping him complete his multi-engine training at Lancaster Airport. He has a total flying time of 700 hours, working toward the 1500 hours needed to get his ATP rating.



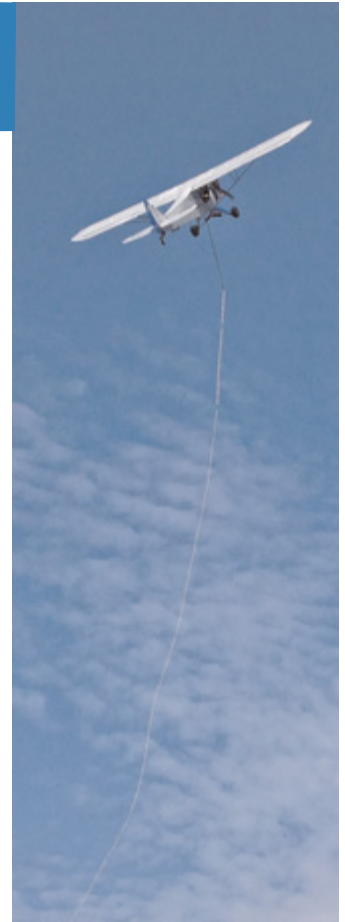
Picking up the banner



Fueling before a flight



Over the beach



Essington Seaplane Base

In 1915, members of the the Aero Club of Pennsylvania, including Robert Glendenning, established a seaplane base at Essington, Pennsylvania. 99 years, later, members of the Aero Club are working with the township to help revive regular operations at the base. With the sale of the C-172 amphib, there is no training and no ops at the base, though the base is officially still open. The township has owned the Lazaretto and the ground eight years.

The Aero Club regularly attends the Lazaretto Preservation Association (LPATT) meetings to provide ideas and demonstrate interest. This group is charged by the township to develop



Ramp on left and dock leading to Lazaretto

plans for improving the site and restoring the historic 1799 Lazetto Quarantine Station which was also the home of the Philadelphia Seaplane Base.

On September 4, the Aero Club presented ideas to the township manager and engineers who have included seaplane operations in their plans to restore the grounds. We have not yet met with township board members, but hope to do so. We are also communicating with the Seaplane Pilots Association and with engineers and township officials at Tavares, Florida, home to a very successful municipally owned seaplane base.

Future plans include organizing a seaplane base development group, attracting persons with airport development experience, presenting ideas to the Tinicum Township board, soliciting a potential commercial operator and raising development funds. If you have interest in getting involved, contact us at seaplanes@aeroclubpa.org. We are also planning a 100th anniversary splash-in for June 13, 2015, in concert with the township community day.

Regional Airport News

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Report

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

ELAINE FARASHIAN

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL

New taxiway K5 opened July 30th. The newly extended portion of taxiway K opened Aug. 27th. Taxiway K7 and K8 work is in progress and expected opening is October. Taxiway EE and H projects were issued a notice to proceed on Aug. 11th. The interior signage replacement project which updates or replaces all interior wayfinding signs and all curbside signs is 75% complete.

PHILADELPHIA NORTHEAST [PNE]

In initiation stage is the project to replace the existing 40 year old electrical substation.

PENNS LANDING HELIPORT [P72]

Sterling Helicopter is adding 15,000 sq. ft. to its existing 25,000 sq. ft. maintenance facility.

PHILLY SEAPLANE BASE [9N2]

Next year is the 100th anniversary of seaplane operations here. Modest plans are underway to host a seaplane "splash-in" on June 13, 2015.

BRADEN [N43]

A successful pancake breakfast fly-in and airport support day took place on September 7.

BRANDYWINE [OQN]

The airport is undergoing runway 9 tree obstruction removal. The township is sending out letters to affected property owners to enlist their cooperation. Phase I of a Preliminary Design Feasibility Study for widening runway 9/27 for WAAS included a meeting with BOA to continue future work on this project. The airport is anticipating grants to accomplish a LPV Approach Feasibility Study.

CECIL COUNTY [58M]

The airport was recently renamed Claremont Airport by the new owner.

DOYLESTOWN [DYL]

Work should be completed this fall for runway 5/23 obstruction removal. The airport is awaiting a grant to construct bypass taxiways on runway 5 and 23 ends.

HERITAGE FIELD [PTW]

Josh Desmond, expects to continue the airport development that his recently deceased grandfather, John Desmond had envisioned, including a runway extension.

NEW GARDEN [N57]

Three of the T-hangar and box-hangar facilities were repainted and two hangar doors were replaced. New fuel filter canisters were installed at the fuel pumps. The Future Aviators Camp registered 130 campers this year and about 5,000 people attended the 43rd annual air show, also this year. In September, the airport hosted the Eastern PA Giant Scale RC Air Meet which brought many large scale models radio controlled models from several states. The Governor has announced a Block Grant Program of over 1.25 million dollars for runway widening and reconstruction. The airport applied to the Multimodal Transportation Fund for hangar development. The two adjacent saleable lots are being considered for a business park and an airport residential community.

QUAKERTOWN [UKT]

The Governor has announced a \$447,530 funding commitment through the Block Grant Program to acquire easements and remove obstructions. The bidding is completed and the work should be completed this fall.

TRENTON MERCER [TTN]

A pre-construction meeting regarding phase 1 and 2 of taxiways H, B, F rehab took place Sept., 19. The sponsor is writing a bid specification for security fence improvements.

TRENTON ROBBINSVILLE [N87]

The storm water management plan study and the environmental assessment study are completed.

WINGS [LOM]

The Governor has issued a \$494,527 commitment for phase 1 Final Design of the terminal apron. A work order has been issued. The airport is waiting for approval and a Tentative Allocation before proceeding. Grants are awaited for phase 2 construction. "Wings and Wheels", a traditional September event with vintage aircraft and autos, took place the 2nd Saturday of the month.

NO REPORTS FROM:

Chester County, Cross Keys, Pottstown Municipal, Perkiomen Valley, New Castle County Airport, VanSant Airfield.

New Lifetime Membership Option

In 1970, a Private Pilot's certificate cost about \$1,500 to obtain. Today, the cost is over \$10,000. 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!

New this year, for donations of \$1,000 or more to the Aero Club of Pennsylvania Memorial Scholarship Fund, we will offer Lifetime membership in the Aero Club of Pennsylvania. Your donation is tax deductible and you will be part of an exclusive group of Life Members of one of the oldest aviation organizations in the country.

Join us for our Silent Auction

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. This year, we have vintage aviation books from as early as 1917, as well as dinner packages, a hot air balloon flight, 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 us at mailbox@aeroclubpa.org. We hope to see you at the dinner 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

2015 Membership Renewal & Warbird 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 warbird flight and one active member as of January 31, 2015, 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 2015 dues with \$100 donation (Payable to Aero Club PA Scholarship Fund)
- Make a \$1000 donation for a Lifetime Membership (Payable to the Scholarship Fund)
- Pay \$30 Membership Dues (Payable to Aero Club of Pennsylvania)

NAME: _____

I am a current member with address on file (or fill out below)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____



2014 Wright Brothers Dinner



Frank Sandstrom, MD

Aero Club Annual Member Meeting
**Wright Brothers Dinner
 & Silent Auction/Raffle**

Wednesday, December 17, 2014
 The Desmond Hotel
 1 Liberty Blvd, Malvern, PA

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

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

Frank Sandstrom has always had a great interest in aviation. His grandfather was a barnstormer and flight instructor from the 1930's onward. While in the Navy, Frank took flying lessons and soloed.

After retirement, Frank joined a vintage aircraft restoration facility. He has documented photographically many of the stages and techniques of restoration. This research has led Frank to other interesting subjects of aviation history and subsequently to the development of presentations relating to this fascinating field. Frank will discuss **Jimmy Doolittle**, a true American hero. A close examination of Doolittle's career and contributions toward aviation's progress will help us to see the man himself.

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 (\$30): \$ _____
 PHONE: _____ Lifetime Membership (\$1000): \$ _____
 Email: _____ 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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facebook.com/AeroClubOfPa 

FIRST CLASS
POSTAGE
REQUIRED

AVIATION EVENT CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

14-16 Waterfowl Festival, Easton, Maryland (ESN)

DECEMBER

6 American Flyers free BBQ Lunch & Seminar (KMMU)

7 Massey Air Museum, Hangar Fly-In (KMD1)

6 or 13 Santa Fly-In, Angel Flight East, Wings Field, 11AM-1

13 Betty Vinson Meml Toylift, VA Chapter, Ninety Nines

17 **Wright Brothers Dinner; Desmond Hotel**

JANUARY

22 Aero Club Board of Dirs Mtg, Wings Field, PACC

FUTURE PLANNING

Apr 21-26 Sun'n Fun Fly-In; Lakeland Florida

June 5-7 M.A.A.M., WWII Weekend, Reading, PA

June 13 100th Anniversary, Essington Seaplane Base

Jul 20-26 EAA AirVenture; Oshkosh, WI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MTG, JAN 22

Wings Field, Philadelphia Aviation Country Club

The Aero Club will hold its next quarterly Board Meeting on January 22 at the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club at Wings Field. Following the board meeting at 6PM, we will have dinner and a presentation by Corporal Adam Davies.

Dinner (optional) begins at 7PM and the presentation begins around 8PM. Please RSVP at mailbox@aeroclubpa.org. Dinner is around \$40 per person, not including drinks.

Corporal Adam Davies

is a Maryland State Trooper and Flight Paramedic in the Maryland State Police Aviation Command. He flies medevac, search and rescue, law enforcement, homeland security, and disaster assessment missions in new state- of-the-art Agusta Westland AW-139 helicopters. He will talk about the history and missions that they do and discuss the characteristics of this aircraft that have enhanced mission operations.

