



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

Aero Club makes its annual trek to the Eagles Mere Air Museum

16 Aero Club members flew in seven aircraft into the Eagles Mere Air Museum in northern Pennsylvania on September 24. Weather in the Philadelphia area kept some aircraft on the ground, but for those who managed to make it, weather was quite pleasant in northern Pennsylvania. The group was ferried by the museum staff into town for a buffet lunch provided by the Eagles Mere Inn. Returning to the airport, guests visited the many aircraft displays and car museum. This private airport and museum is open to the public on weekends from late May until early October.



Aircraft at Eagles Mere Air Museum



Aero Club members at Eagles Mere Inn



Auto Museum at Eagles Mere

Aero Club at history event

Aero Club board member Erik Kocher spoke briefly at the annual History and Mystery weekend held at the Lazaretto in Essington, PA., home of the Philadelphia Seaplane Base. Erik spoke about the Aero Club's mission to encourage aviation. The event celebrated the 100th anniversary since the establishment of the flying school for the Army Air Corps at the location and the 50th anniversary of the Civil Air Patrol.

Chester County Fall Festival

The Fall Flying Festival at Chester County Airport was held on the new south ramp at KMQS on October 8. This was the 4th year of this community outreach event and fundraiser for aviation scholarships. The festival features free admission, static aircraft displays, aircraft fly-bys, airplane rides, food vendors, music, and other activities.

Presentation after board meeting

After our October Aero Club board meeting, Walt Ellis spoke about his recollections of Bob Mills and the Philadelphia Seaplane Base. Walt first visited the Base in 1961, and he recounted some of the interesting seaplane activity that took place in Philadelphia over the many decades.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Michael Dunleavy

Winter is upon us, but the Fall flying weather was cool and nice. The Aero Club had a fly-in to Eagles Mere Air Museum as guests of George Jenkins, its founder, where the attendees got to visit the collection and have lunch before heading home. Unfortunately, the weather did not permit my being part of the group, although some hardier individuals from Wings were able to make the flight. Next year, for sure!

The best parts of being a member of the Aero Club is the wonderful people you become acquainted with

We are busy planning the Wright Brother's Dinner at the Desmond Hotel on December 17th. We have a great speaker lined up and are looking forward to another banner event supporting the Scholarship Program. Please let us know if you have an interesting item or two, three, etc., that we can place in the silent auction fundraiser. Volunteers are always welcome, it is also a great opportunity to bring a few friends and introduce them to the Aero Club and its work to assist others to learn to fly or become part of this marvelous institution we call aviation.

Also in the plans for next year is another visit to one of the airshows in the UK. We are making arrangements for a visit to the Imperial War Museum Duxford in early September, the 9th and 10th to be exact, for a two-day show "Meet the Fighters". The museum contains many

exhibits from early flighters through the space age. The American Museum exhibit contains just about every plane flown by the U.S. since WW I. The rebuild shops are open to the public and you can talk to the restorers and mechanics who rebuild and keep the fleet flying.

One of the best parts of being a member of the Aero Club is the wonderful people you become acquainted with and the great things they do for aspiring aviators. We have just received a gift of \$5,000 from Dr. James Jordan for use in our scholarship program. It is in honor of his wife, not a flyer, who encouraged her son, Craig, and grandson Steven, both Aero Club scholarship recipients, toward careers in aviation. Thanks to Bruce Thompson, a good friend of the Jordan family and former President of the Aero Club for his work in formalizing this important gift and our sincere thanks to Dr. Jordan for this wonderful tribute to his wife, Minnie.



Captains Craig Jordan & Bruce Thompson, flight planning c.1984



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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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Board of Directors Report

Elaine Farashian

The Board of Directors met at the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club at Wings Field on October 20. President Michael Dunleavy presided at the meeting.

The group approved the minutes from the July meeting. Discussion ensued about financials, newsletter and membership. Active membership stands at 153. Discussion centered around ways to encourage

renewals and make the process easier.

The scholarship committee reported on a recent donation to the scholarship fund to be used for advanced training. See Scholarship Report page 5.

The Special Events committee discussed planning activity and speaker preparations for the upcoming Wright Brothers Dinner and silent auction in Decem-

Braden Airpark

Recently threatened by closure by the Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority, Braden Airpark is set to receive funds to rehabilitate the runway and update this airport east of Allentown. "The Morning Call" newspaper reported in September that a plan is in place to lease more than half of the airport's 72 acres for private development to raise money to build new hangars, construct a new terminal building and resurface the 1,956-foot runway.



Edwin Braden, a packaged-meat seller, opened Easton Airport in 1938. With an active flight school and maintenance facility, this was a place where thousands of pilots learned to fly over the decades. The Braden family sold the airport to the authority in 1999.

In 2011, the authority considered selling the airport to pay off a large court judgment but ultimately sold other land and is now looking to secure the airport's future.

Still, plans must be approved, zoning changes made and efforts put forth to bring back activity to the airport. The threats of closure caused Braden to lose its longtime flight school and over half the planes that were once based there.

ber. Our speaker will be Dr. Rick Porcelli. See page 7.

The meeting adjourned for dinner and a presentation by Walt Ellis about Bob Mills and interesting things that occurred at the seaplane base over the years.

Regional Airport Report

Elaine Farashian

SEPTEMBER, 2016

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL

1100 feet of micro tunneling is complete beneath runway 9L/27R. Carrier pipes are being installed through the tunnel boring. Boarding bridges for gates B14 and B16 will be completed in September. The project will proceed to gates C24 and C26. Fluorescent lamps are being converted to LED fixtures throughout the terminals increasing the light levels 20% and decreasing energy consumption by 50%.

PHILLY NORTHEAST [PNE]

The substation upgrade is ongoing. The switchgear was delivered. The gear assembly is in progress with estimated completion the end of 2016.

ATLANTIC CITY INTERNATIONAL

2016 and 2017 projects include taxiways A and F rehab, maintenance and storage bldg. rehab, solar energy improvements project, parking garage renovation and rental car quick-turn-around facility. Additional plans include runway extension, new cargo facility, a direct connector off the AC Expressway as well as a hotel site and a new rail line station.

BRANDYWINE [OQN]

The airport is continuing to remove trees at runway approaches. Also in progress is a study report for an LPV approach for runway 9/27. The airport has not yet received reply to its application for construction of four nested box hangars. AWOS III replacement and runway lighting rehab are future projects.

CHESTER COUNTY [MQS]

The runway and taxiway redesign is in progress. About 200 young people attended the 2016 Boy Scout Aviation Day with 160 earning merit badges. The October Fall Flying Festival is expected to attract 3,000 visitors.

DOYLESTOWN [DYL]

All necessary aerial easements have been acquired. This allows the airport to remove tree obstructions at runway 5 approaches provided the current grant is amended. Tree removal on three additional properties will completely clear 5/23 approaches. The annual picnic honoring volunteers was held August 24th. Leading Edge Aviation planned multiple Aero Camps this summer. Grants are anticipated for constructing bypass taxiways, paving

grass, tie downs, phase II obstruction removal and land acquisition.

HERITAGE FIELD [PTW]

The fly-in breakfast was a success. The airport is working on a layout plan.

NEW GARDEN [N57]

The summer activities included Fly-the-Ford EAA Tri-Motor, Chester County Balloon Festival, Air and Car Show Festival, Run the Runway 5K Race in addition to July and August Future Aviators' Camp. Closure of runway 6/24 for reconstruction and widening is scheduled for early October. The Multimodal Transportation Project for hangar development is almost complete and final occupancy permits are being obtained from the Township.

QUAKERTOWN [UKT]

Work continues to gain access to properties around the airport for obstruction removal. Bids are out for more runway 11 obstruction removal in the fall. Runway 29 tree obstruction removal will begin spring of 2017. Based pilots offer "Young Eagles" rides monthly. Future plans include rehab and expansion of terminal apron and replacement of Quonset hut equipment storage building.

SOUTH JERSEY REGIONAL [VAY]

Construction is complete for rehab of the main tie down apron. Telephone pole removal, utility line burial and tree topping are projects on hold until Transportation Trust Fund funding is resolved. FAA has approved the environmental determination for runway widening/taxiway relocation project.

TRENTON-MERCER [TTN]

Taxiway H, B, F phase II rehab construction is 50% complete. Security fence improvements are nearly complete. Phase I of Runway 6/24 pavement rehab, lighting, and signage project will begin early 2017. The Master Plan update will be complete in November. Terminal upgrades are estimated to be finished in October.

WINGS [LOM]

To regain instrument night minimums, the airport has installed obstruction lights, cut down several trees and has notified the FAA of the work done. Phase II construction of terminal apron rehab was completed in September. A grant is anticipated for AWOS station replacement. Wings N' Wheels took place September 10th.

Philadelphia's rich ballooning connection

Carris Kocher

Philadelphia and the surrounding countryside has played a significant role in the history of ballooning in America from the first manned aerial flight in 1793 to the formation of the Aero Club of Pennsylvania in 1909 for "educating the public on matters of aeronautics," and on to the founding of the Balloon Club of America in 1952.

And, of course, Philadelphia's own Benjamin Franklin, while serving as American ambassador to France, paid close attention and contributed financially to the early efforts in Paris. Following the first successful manned flight of the Montgolfier Brothers balloon in 1783, Franklin, along with King Louis XIV, received the first air-mail, delivered from London to Paris in the return trip of the first international balloon flight.

When asked what was the use of this fledgling pursuit, he famously replied, "What's the use of a new-born baby?" Franklin rightfully predicted that those experiments would "pave the way to some discoveries in natural philosophy of which at present we have no conception."

The year 1793 saw the first manned aerial flight in the New World - in Philadelphia! President George Washington joined the large group of spectators in the Walnut Street prison yard near Washington Square to watch the lift-off of Jean-Pierre Blanchard. Among the guests were four future presidents - John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe. Blanchard carried a "letter of introduction" from the president for his landing on the other side of the Delaware River in New Jersey.

Fast forward to early 1900s after the Wright brothers' successful flights. One of the first aeronautical organizations formed in America was the Aero Club of Pennsylvania. Their earliest pursuits revolved mostly around ballooning, but as more members purchased airplanes, the focus naturally took a shift in that direction.

So what became of balloon flight? A group of Cleveland, Ohio enthusiasts, including Anthony "Tony" Fairbanks, organized in the 1930s, but the beginning of World War II was the end of the Cleveland Balloon Club, curtailing the ballooning activities of the Aero Club as well. Then after the war the U.S. Navy decided to disband its lighter-than-air operations.



Michael Fairbanks Goodyear-built gas balloon seen here at Wings Field.

More stories and photos at <http://www.tonyfairbanks.org>

Next stop? Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. In 1952, ten men in the Philadelphia region joined to incorporate the Balloon Club of America. Once again, Tony Fairbanks was a charter member. Six of the ten lived in Swarthmore, and their equipment was stored in a garage on Crum Creek rented from the Strath Haven Inn. At that time, and for several years, BCA was the only balloon club in the entire U.S. Among those charter members were three men who had already made their mark in ballooning: Anthony Fairbanks, who had been a key member of the CBC; Lt.Cdr. William J. Gunther whose work in the U.S. Navy's operations were significant; and Don Piccard, already an experienced balloonist. Both Fairbanks and Piccard went on to successful

careers in ballooning, and, not surprising, both are in the Ballooning Hall of Fame. Significantly, Fairbanks, Piccard and Peter Wood, another charter member, were also members of the Aero Club.

While her name is not on the Charter of Incorporation for the BCA, Connie Wolf, an accomplished balloonist in her own right, was a member of the balloon club (and the ACPA) and is reported to have contributed \$500 to cover the costs of incorporating.

In 1961 the BCA met with the National Lighter-Than-Air Society and launched the contemporary Balloon Federation of America. So cheers to the Philadelphia supporters of lighter-than-air flight from Benjamin Franklin to the Aero Club of PA and the Balloon Club of America. And on to the present members of the Aero Club who maintain and promote ballooning. The Philadelphia roots of ballooning are deep, and they continue to grow.

Local pilot inducted into Balloon Hall of Fame

Local balloon pilot **Bob Sparks** was inducted into the Balloon Federation of America's Hall of Fame this year. He joins many prior inductees from the Philadelphia area, including **Tony Fairbanks, Connie Wolf, Don Piccard, Joseph Kittinger, Jr., and Captain Eddie Allen** of Ridley Park.

On December 17, 2008, Bob spoke at the Aero Club's Wright Brothers Dinner where he shared some of his many exploits as a balloonist, including two attempts to cross the Atlantic Ocean in a gas balloon in the 1970's. Sparks has over 6,000 hours in both gas and hot air balloons and holds many duration, altitude and distance records and had successful crossings of the five Great Lakes. Bob held one of the first commercial hot air balloon advertising contracts, became a sought after LTA (Lighter-than-Air) balloon instructor, FAA flight Examiner, consultant, and balloon manufacturer.

The induction ceremony was held at The National Balloon Museum in Indianola, Iowa, where local Swarthmore and LTA pilot **Michael A. Fairbanks** presented the award. Michael who is a bit of a world-renowned LTA balloon pilot himself, wrote an article about gas ballooning in this area in our Summer 2003 newsletter. Michael

was a long time FAA LTA examiner and author of the book "Down one Diamond" about his gas ballooning experiences with his father, **Tony Fairbanks** and the Balloon Club of America. The BCA, with members like **Connie Wolfe, Peter Wood, Francis Shields, Don Piccard, Eleanor Vadala and Pete Pellegrino**, kept ballooning alive in the United States until the 1960s with Air Fairs and gas balloon meets, at least one of which was held at Wings Field. It was through these meets and the invention of the hot air balloon that resulted in the inception of the Balloon Federation of America.



Sparks on the left with Michael Fairbanks on the right.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Debbie Harding

The 1976, acting Aero Club President Joseph Simcox awarded a Hollingshead-Taylor flight training scholarship on behalf of the Aero Club to a young private pilot Craig Jordan at the Edgemont Country Club on December 17. Craig remembers one of the award qualifications was residency within a thirty miles radius of William Penn's Hat. He remembers: "Mr. Simcox being so gracious as to cut me some slack on the thirty-two miles I actually was and that was our personal secret." The award was for \$500, which, in that day, went a long way. The monies were sent directly to Chester County Airport and used to get a commercial rating, and Craig believes part, if not all of his CFI. He had a job offer the "minute the ink dried." He went from flight instructor in 1977 to corporate pilot for Pfizer then Altair to US Air in 1984 to present as Captain for American Airlines.

In 2011, '12, and '13, Craig's son, Steven Jordan received a total of \$6000 in ACPA scholarship awards, monies also sent to Chester County Airport in order to achieve his commercial, multi-engine and CFI ratings over the course of those years. The Aero Club of Pennsylvania Memorial Scholarship Awards are now given at a special scholarship award dinner at Wings Field. Steven was given these awards, vetted by a scholarship review board made up 4 to 6 board members in varying capacities in commercial and general aviation. He was chosen along with as many as 15 other

awardees living in the Delaware Valley region. After a summer or two of flying banners for Paramount to build time and experience, Steven is in training for a captain's seat on a Embraer Jet for Piedmont Air.

I'm most happy to tell this story of two of our Aero Club members because Craig's dad and Steven's granddad, Dr. James Jordan has made a \$5,000 contribution to the ACPA Scholarship Fund to be used for \$1,000 awards for the next five years to commercially certificated pilots working toward an ATP. These awards will be made in honor of his wife, Millie an ardent supporter of her son and grandson's aviation career goals. What a testament to the Jordan family and what a testament to the impact of the ACPA scholarship program.



Captain Craig Jordan

The WB Dinner is coming up. Come out and enjoy the comradery while sharing the passion of flying, in whatever form it is, while helping to raise funds for this important program. And, send your scholarship stories to Facebook or scholarships@aeroclubpa.org.

2017 Membership Renewal & Warbird Raffle

Join us for our Silent Auction

Please join the Aero Club of Pennsylvania at our 6th silent auction 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 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, and other items. We hope to see you there to help us celebrate and to raise funds.

If you would like to donate a nice item to the silent auction, please contact us:
 mailbox@aeroclubpa.org, 610-909-4467

Warbird Raffle, 1:100 Chance!

The Aero Club of Pennsylvania will raffle roughly one hundred \$25 tickets for a chance to win a seat on a warbird flight at the Reading World War II Weekend in June. Proceeds for the raffle will go directly to support Aero Club operating expenses, like this newsletter, postage, PO Box, and our website.

By limiting the number of tickets, this will create a phenomenal opportunity to win a ride or give the ride as a gift. Buy your tickets online at aeroclubpa.org or as part of your membership or dinner invitation.

Renew your membership online or with the form below. Donate \$100 to the Scholarship Fund and your membership dues are waived. Contributions are tax deductible. You may also purchase a raffle ticket for our warbird ride in June and help the Aero Club fund its operations.



Renew online at www.aeroclubpa.org

Membership-only Form:

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

- \$30 membership renewal (Payable to Aero Club of PA)
- \$25 Warbird Raffle Ticket (Payable to Aero Club of PA)
- \$100 scholarship donation, includes membership (Payable to Aero Club PA Scholarship Fund)
- \$1000 donation for a Lifetime Membership (Payable to the Scholarship Fund)

NAME: _____

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

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

2016 Wright Brothers Dinner



Speaker: Rick Porcelli

Aero Club Annual Member Meeting

Wright Brothers Dinner

Saturday, December 17, 2016
 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.

Dr. Richard Porcelli was the youngest of three sons born in The Bronx to musician parents. He graduated from Columbia and has balanced a successful career as a chemical engineer with a life-long passion for all things aviation. He currently resides with his wife Linda in Barnegat, New Jersey.

Rick is author of "Naval Air Station Atlantic City" and the recently released book "Floyd Bennett Field." He writes monthly magazine articles for the NJANG, 177th Fighter Wing and is published in international aviation journals. In 2014, he received

the "Contributor of the Year" award from The Tailhook Association for articles on naval aviation history published in their journal, the Hook. He routinely lectures on aviation history to groups like ours.

Dr. Porcelli will speak about Atlantic City's rich aviation heritage. The city, known for its boardwalk and casinos has also had an important role in the development of commercial aviation dating back to just a few years after the Wright Brothers's first flight. It also played an important role in the defense of the nation during WWII, Korea and the Cold War.

Filet and Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat: \$70 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 \$70 = \$ _____
 ADDRESS: _____ Addl. Scholarship Contribution: \$ _____
 CITY/STATE: _____ Renew my Membership (\$30): \$ _____
 PHONE: _____ Warbird Raffle Tix: 1 x \$25 = \$ _____
 E-mail: _____ Lifetime Membership (\$1000): \$ _____
 Total Enclosed: \$ _____

ATTENDEE NAMES: _____,
 _____,



Organized December 17, 1909; Chartered May 10, 1910

AERO CLUB OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

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FIRST CLASS
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AVIATION EVENT CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 10-13 Waterfowl Festival, Easton, PA (ESN)
- 19 Paws & Planes, Holiday at the Airport, Frederick (FDK)

DECEMBER

- 3 Breakfast with Santa, New Garden (N57) 9:30, 10:45
(Reservations required - 610-268-2619)
- 10 Virginia Ninety-Nines Toy Airlift
- 17 Wright Brothers Dinner, Desmond Hotel 5:30PM

JANUARY

- 19 Aero Club Board of Directors Meeting, Wings Field

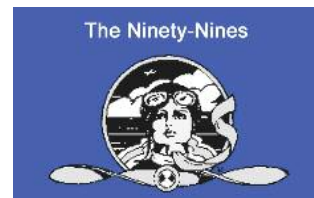
FUTURE PLANNING

- SUN-N-FUN: April 4-9
- READING WWII Weekend: June 2-4
- NINETY-NINES INTL CONFERENCE: July 11-16
- OSHKOSH: July 25-31

Virginia Ninety-Nines Toy Airlift

The Virginia Chapter of the Ninety Nines is planning their annual clothing and gift collection for veterans and their families, culminating in a toy airlift on Saturday, December 10. Pilots from all over the state will fly the toys they have collected into Richmond Executive Airport (formerly Chesterfield Airport). Soldiers from Fort Lee will receive the toys and transport them to Fort Lee for dispersal. The event will also include a visit by Santa, Christmas music, and a buffet lunch at King's Corner Restaurant.

For questions and to volunteer, contact Event Coordinators Barbara Headley 804-580-4624; barbaraheadley@va.metrocast.net or Joyce Meier 804-932-3641; n4mw@msn.com.



TOY AIRLIFT

8 AM - 2:30 PM
December 10, 2016
Richmond Exec Airport