



PENNSYLVANIA

PILOT

Winter 2017

www.aeroclubpa.org

Vol 28 No 4

Main Line Airport marker. Air Victory Museum. Opposing privatization.



Main Line Airport Marker Dedication

Main Line Airport marker dedicated

On October 5, a new historical marker was erected at the original site of the Main Line Airport in Malvern, PA, near the intersection of Swedesford Road and Valley Stream Parkway. A couple hundred people attended the unveiling. A number of dignitaries spoke, including Roger Thorne from the Tredyffrin Easttown Historical Society, who was instrumental in getting the sign erected. Others spoke from East Whiteland Township, Civil Air Patrol, American Helicopter Museum and Pennsylvania Senator Andrew Dinniman. The event culminated with the unveiling and a fly-by of a number of antique aircraft.

Visit to Air Victory Museum

The Aero Club of Pennsylvania held its October Board Meeting at the Air Victory Museum at South Jersey Regional Airport. Most members drove, while some flew in. The meeting included dinner in the museum and a tour by museum staff Bob McGonigle and Fred Koch. The Air Victory Museum contains a wealth of World War II memorabilia, aircraft models, engines, and about a dozen military jet aircraft, including an F-86L "Sabre", F14 "Tom Cat", A-4C "Skyhawk".



F86 Sabre Jet at Air Victory Museum

Advocating against privatization

The Aero Club, along with 170 other aviation organizations was contacted by representatives from the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) to add our name to a letter to Congress opposing House Bill 2997 that aims to "privatize" air traffic control. The NBAA hand delivered the letter to members of the Pennsylvania delegation in Washington. The letter included very compelling pleas from famous aviators that oppose the bill that is favored by the airlines and some other industry groups:



"Sully Sullenberger, the hero-pilot of the Miracle on the Hudson, publicly said the bill would devastate rural communities. Jim Lovell, the heroic commander of Apollo 13, and several other astronauts claim H.R. 2997 will turn our system over to a private board unaccountable to Congress or the Executive Branch and could be a threat to our national security. Former commanders of the Blue Angles and Thunderbirds said H.R. 2997 will add billions to our nation's budget deficit, negatively impact our national security, and needlessly complicate border protection."

The House bill is sponsored by Pennsylvania Representative Bill Schuster. To date, the bill has had limited support in the Senate.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The flying weather was just spectacular this fall. Loads of sunny days and light breezes. The fall foliage was beautiful although somewhat subdued in color. The weatherman says that is due to the stresses the trees have endured this year along with dry conditions. Still, for those who made it, it was worth a flight to the Alleghenies, Pocono's, Catskills or Adirondacks for the color. Alas, winter is upon us.

We held our October meeting at the Air Victory Museum in Lumberton, NJ at the South Jersey Regional Airport (KVAY). Bob McGonigle and Fred Koch hosted the event for the museum and acted as our guides detailing the background and history of the many interesting displays. Well worth a visit to a little gem just a short distance from Philadelphia.

Thank you, Bob and Fred, for your hospitality.

There is a great article in this issue by John Stubbs who again visited Duxford in the U.K. for the Battle of Britain Airshow. We are working on another Aero Club Event in the U.K. for next year that could include a ride in a Spitfire. Stay tuned for more information in an upcoming newsletter.



by Michael Dunleavy

Planning is underway for the Wright Brothers Dinner to be held on Sunday the 17th of December at the Desmond Hotel and Conference Center in Great Valley. Since the dinner falls on a Sunday we are scheduling the Cocktail Reception one hour earlier at 4:30 PM with our speaker to follow at 5:45 and dinner at 6:45 PM. 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 and to become part of the aviation community.

Our next Board meeting will be on January 18th at the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club. We have a very interesting speaker lined up who creates videos of fly-ins and museums that he visits. He will share his videos and techniques. I have seen several of the pieces he has put together and will tell you that it will be a presentation worth attending.

In March, some members of the Aero Club will attend the Balloon Federation of America's convention in Philadelphia, celebrating the 225th anniversary of the First Air Voyage in America. (www.favia225.com)

Board of Directors Report

The Board of Directors met at the Air Victory Museum at South Jersey Regional Airport on October 19, 2017. President Michael Dunleavy opened the meeting.

The group approved minutes and discussed financials, the newsletter and membership. Membership, including 26 lifetime and complimentary

by Elaine Farashian

memberships, stands at around 170.

The Special Events committee discussed details and planning for the upcoming Wright Brothers Dinner and the January Board of Directors meeting. Since the dinner is on a Sunday, we'll plan to start earlier.

The meeting adjourned for dinner in the museum, and a tour of the displays by the museum staff.



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

PENNSYLVANIA PILOT

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Roscoe Draper

The human quest for air and space travel started long ago and the itch was first scratched by hot air and lighter-than-air gas ballooning. The Aero Club is part of the quest.

In the first recorded Aero Club of Pennsylvania meeting held December, 1909, long time balloon pilot, Samuel A. King was nominated by then President and balloon pilot Arthur Atherholt as an honorary member. King was a ballooning pioneer who had been flying lighter-than-air craft that he built himself (from his home base in Philly) for over 50 years. Those first ACPA meetings were held in the Betz Building where the very first Aeronautic Magazine (1908) was published called "Fly: A Popular Aeronautic Magazine for Men, Women and Children." Its publishers offered \$1000 prize to the best "air - brained" contribution by any author from any nation around the world.



In 1910, one of the first aerial photographers, member William N. Jennings did a presentation to the club on taking aerial photos in 1893 of Philly from King's eight passenger balloon "the Ben Franklin". He also took the first photos of lightning and wrote several articles on both subjects for the Franklin Institute. His journals on the subject are still housed at the Library Company of Philadelphia.

While meetings were filled with talk of lighter-than-air events, Club VP, Louis Bergdoll, wealthy heir of the Bergdoll Brewing Company had purchased a Bleriot from the Philadelphia Wanamaker's Department store and was trying to set up a flying field in Fairmont Park. Rodman Wannamaker, Jennings, and other members of the first aeronautical club in America (the Ben Franklin Aeronautical Society), had witnessed the English Channel crossing by Bleriot himself, and they caught the heavier-than-air aviation bug. Bergdoll and others felt that Philly was falling behind in the use and development of heavier-than-air craft and eventually pushed the club in that direction.

The greater Philadelphia area has a rich history in aviation starting with lighter-than-air and the first air voyage in America to the development of one of the first flying fields (Main Line) to the organization of civil air patrols and the development of rotary wing craft. And, the Aero Club has been right in the thick of things. Members contributed to the growth of aviation, recording it in our meeting minutes, newspaper articles, and newsletters. The Club protects general aviation by joining with other organizations to persuade positive legislation. And to many, our most significant role is the members' promotion of the future of aviation through the scholarship fund. The past is needed to build the future and it is exciting to see that there is so much more to explore and discover, proof seen in the letter by our young scholarship recipient adjacent.

All local, all kinds of aircraft, both men and women, the Aero Club of Pennsylvania has impacted the development of Aviation since 1909. Come join us at the Wright Brothers Dinner celebration this Dec 17th.

A letter from an Aero Club Scholarship Recipient

My name is Michael Long and I was a recipient of the Aero Club of PA 2014 Shannon Memorial Scholarship. This award directly enabled me to obtain my Private Pilot's Certificate in August of 2015, which was just before heading off to college where academics in aerospace engineering would soon takeover.

Since then, I have been studying at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach and I am currently interning at Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company, working on the Orion spacecraft for NASA's new Space-Launch-System (SLS). This Orion capsule will serve as the main operations and living quarters for our astronaut crew, and ultimately serve as our ferry to Mars in the early 2030s, and for several missions leading up to then. My specific role is acting as a Thermal Protection Systems engineer, with most of the work I'm doing in assisting my team with testing and development of the heat shield, which is the primary spacecraft component for the re-entry into Earth's atmosphere and for splashdown into the ocean upon return.



It certainly is very challenging but exciting work, as there is no better reward than to contribute to America's return to deep space, and ultimately achieving the seemingly-impossible feat of placing humanity on another planet. Upon completion, NASA's new SLS rocket will be the most powerful, most technologically advanced rocket ever built, and it is not nearly as far off as one may think. Although it has been several years since the retirement of the Space Shuttle, in late 2014, we already conducted our first major test (called "EFT-1") of the Orion crew capsule using a pre-existing Delta IV rocket, and it was found that the Orion spacecraft performed flawlessly. The first full-scale SLS



rocket test with Orion atop it, entitled "Exploration Mission One" (EM-1), is currently scheduled for late 2019 and will be an unmanned flight back to lunar orbit and then returning to Earth, similar to the Apollo 8 mission albeit unmanned, for now.

I am very grateful for the support provided to me by Aero Club of PA, and I hope that you all continue to drive and foster an inspiration in America's youth for the fields of aviation and space exploration.

Regards, Michael Long

Duxford revisited

by John Stubbs

In July 2016, a small group of ACPA members visited Duxford, England, for an airshow. This time, it was just my son and I. I highly recommend buying the gold pass, which includes a VIP parking pass, a dedicated entry and exit lane, and no lines.

We arrived at ~8.30AM while the flying didn't start until 1PM. That gave us plenty of time to check out the museums. Our gold passes gave us access to the flight line to get up close to the planes. There are many museums to see, and our impression



Hurricanes on the flight line

was that airplane restoration would occupy a large percentage of floor space for many years to come. The range of planes being worked on is impressive, although it's not clear whether the goal is to return any of these planes to flying status.

Our day was a "Battle of Britain" airshow in contrast to last year, and it was a fitting tribute that five Hurricanes opened the airshow – the largest number in recent times. Far more Hurricanes flew in the Battle of Britain than Spitfires. This was followed by a Lancaster, Spitfire and Hurricane. I saw the Canadian based Lancaster at Oshkosh, so have now seen both flying Lancasters.

One of the more memorable flyovers was a display by nine Tiger Moths. This is the only 9-plane formation team other than the RAF Red Arrows that I was fortunate to see last year. A 1930's era Bristol Blenheim also gave a great display, and has only been flying since 2015. Several previously restored Blenheims were lost in accidents. An eccentric Brit apparently had the cockpit section from a Blenheim, and had converted it to a car! The last plane restoration needed a cockpit, and the owner of the car stepped in by donating his converted car. The restored Blenheim still keeps the road tax sticker on display in the cockpit as a thank you.

Many of you will have seen the recent movie "Dunkirk", and four Duxford based planes were used – the Blenheim, Spitfire, Hurricane and an Me109. The Spitfire landing on the beach was an actual landing, and the plane got stuck in the sand after engine shut down. 15 members of the film crew pushed the Spitfire onto firmer sand for a successful takeoff ahead of the incoming tide!

There was no "Balbo Finale" like last year when all of the planes take off for a final fly by. I think this



year will leave a more lasting impression on me as the finale was 16 Spitfires and 5 Hurricanes in the air making multiple passes. I noticed this last year, but these planes did more loops and rolls than I'm used to seeing in US airshows. The commentator made the comment that more Spitfires are being built every year, and the number coming to Duxford continues to grow!

I probably won't attend any airshows in Europe in 2018, and maybe a return flight to Oshkosh in our C182



Bristol Blenheim

is in order. My son and I have made a pact that our next trip to England will be to fly the dual seat Spitfire. There were several of them at Duxford (no rides!), and we want to see the same view that a Battle of Britain pilot would have experienced.



SEPTEMBER 2017

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL [PHL]

JD Power's annual airport satisfaction survey gave the airport a score of 715 out of 1,000 points, an improvement over last year. The survey measures terminal appearance, airport accessibility, security, check-in and baggage handling. PHL completed a \$161 million expansion and makeover of Terminal F, including a new baggage claim building. Currently a major revamp has begun in Terminal B, with iPads at seats in gate areas and new restaurants. Phase I is completed.

BRANDYWINE [OQN]

Night approaches can be resumed to runway 27 when all obstructions are removed from that approach end. Some segments of the LPV Approach Feasibility Study have been accomplished. The grant offering for the runway widening project was awarded and the final design has begun.

CHESTER COUNTY [MQS]

The airport has applied for a Multimodal Grant to expand the terminal building and to renovate the restaurant and office space. The Capital Budget Grant is for adjacent hangars. The runway and taxiway projects have been postponed until Spring. A demonstration of a remote air traffic control tower is to be held in Leesburg, VA. This airport may be the first to have such a tower in the future. Sept 29-Oct 1 is the date for a Mitsubishi Fly-In. 30 MU-2s will be there. October 7 is the date for the Fall Flying Festival.

DOYLESTOWN [DYL]

The authority is anticipating a land acquisition northwest of the airport. The grass tiedown and bypass taxiway construction projects will probably be bid in early 2018 for Spring construction.

HERITAGE FIELD [PTW]

The crack seal and marking project is complete. Obstruction removal is continuing on the south side of the runway. The airport is looking to acquire new snow removal equipment and it anticipates a grant for phase I taxiway rehab. In its effort for community outreach, the airport hosted its 63rd Fly-in Breakfast and sponsored the Pennies-a-Pound event Sept. 25 & 26. The airport just received \$10.1 million for projects. The desire is to build hangars, corporate hangars and to replicate the large hangar now in place. Mid-Atlantic Medivac moved out, but PennStar is expected to begin in November flying between Philadelphia and Reading.

NEW GARDEN [N57]

The runway project is final stage, including recent installation of a retaining wall and relocation of electric. The Bureau of Aviation (BOA) issued a tentative allocation of funds to conduct an aeronautical survey for an LPV approach. The #FIT2FLY INITIATIVE, which promotes bike rides and multi-use trails, is part of the airport's outreach to the community. The Lindbergh Trail is part of the township's Greenway Plan connect-

ing Avondale and Kennett Square trail systems. The Chester County Balloon Festival, Future Aviators Summer Camps, and Festival of Flight Air and Car Show were highly successful. October 12 is the date for the TIGHAR program "Inside the Search for Amelia Earhart".

PENN'S LANDING [PS01]

The hangar expansion project at the maintenance facility in Croydon is almost complete making it a total of 40,000 square feet. Sterling Helicopter was the recipient of the 2017 Heliport of the Year award for the 7th straight year.

POTTSTOWN MUNICIPAL [N47]

The airport is seeking approval from property owners in completing its aeronautical study for tree removal. It received a BOA grant for rehab of the east apron. It repainted its fuel tanks. There are no more hangar spaces. There is a plan for runway expansion to be able to accommodate small jets in the future. A Wings & Wheels event was held Sept. 30th. A pavilion has been erected at the entrance gate.

QUAKERTOWN [UKT]

Obstruction removal is taking place on both approaches of runway 11/29. The airport will bid an obstruction removal/lighting project for the affected properties in Spring 2018. Ongoing is easement acquisition for properties under runway 11/29 approaches. Rehab work is expected early October for the Equipment Storage Building with completion anticipated by December 31. The pilots continue to have "Young Eagles Day" on a monthly basis.

SOUTH JERSEY REGIONAL [VAY]

Environmental determination for runway widening/taxiway relocation project is 90% complete. Removal of telephone poles and burial of utility lines must wait for in-house funding because the grant did not meet FAA deadline. Phase I environmental determination for obstruction removal is complete and phase 2 grant is in place.

TRENTON-MERCER TTN]

Phase 3 of taxiway H,B,F rehab construction will begin sometime in October. Phase I construction of runway 6/24 rehab as well as lighting and signage has begun and completion is expected by early December. Master Plan update is under review by FAA. Additional funding will be requested for the runway protection zone obstruction issue.

VAN SANT [9N1]

No Piper Cub or glider rides can be offered when President Trump spends the weekend at his Bedminster, NJ Golf Club.

WINGS [LOM]

Rehab of the terminal apron is complete. A grant offer from the BOA is expected soon for the obstruction removal of runway 6/24 approaches. The Crack Seal and Remark of runway 6/24 is scheduled for the 1st week of October. September Wings n' Wheels was attended by about 2,000 people and was a great success.



2018 Membership Renewal & Warbird Raffle

Join us for our Silent Auction

Please join the Aero Club of Pennsylvania at our 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, 1:500 Chance!

The Aero Club of Pennsylvania will raffle roughly 500 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.

This is 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 raffle tickets 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)
- \$5 Warbird Raffle Tickets (1 for \$5, 6 for \$25) (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: _____

2017 Wright Brothers Dinner



Speaker: John Brennan

Aero Club Annual Member Meeting

Wright Brothers Dinner

Sunday, December 17, 2017
 The Desmond Hotel
 1 Liberty Blvd, Malvern, PA

4:30PM: Reception, Cash Bar, Silent Auction
 5:30PM: 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.

Major John Brennan served 12 years in the United States Marine Corps, accumulating over 3100 hours, 300 flown in combat. His major awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, four Air Medals, the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal. He resigned his commission in 2016 and is currently a First Officer in the MD-88 for a major U.S. airline.

John, from Exton, PA, received his initial flight training at Chester County Airport, where he also worked as a line service technician. He graduated from Embry-Riddle and then underwent Naval Aviator training at

NAS Pensacola, NAS Corpus Christi, and NAS Meridian. He graduated in March 2008 on the Commodore's list with distinction and was given his choice of commissions, the EA-6B Prowler.

John spent four years with the VMAQ-4 SeaHawks based in Cherry Point, NC where he was deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, for the Unit Deployment Program. He was later assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan as host nation military coordinator and Liaison between the DoD and State Department during the surge of ISIS in Syria.

Filet and Salmon, Salad and Dessert: \$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: 6 for \$25 = \$ _____
 E-mail: _____ Lifetime Membership (\$1000): \$ _____
 Total Enclosed: \$ _____
 ATTENDEE NAMES: _____,
 _____,



Organized December 17, 1909; Chartered May 10, 1910

AERO CLUB OF PENNSYLVANIA

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AVIATION EVENT CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 10-12 Waterfowl Festival, Easton, PA (ESN)
- 17-18 EAA Workshops Philly Northeast Airport (PNE)
- 18 Santa Claus, Paws & Planes, Hagerstown (HGR)

DECEMBER

- 9 Virginia Ninety-Nines Toy Airlift, Chesterfield, VA
(email barbaraheadley@va.metrocast.net)
- 9 Rusty Pilots Seminar, New Cumberland, PA
- 17 Wright Brothers Dinner, Desmond Hotel 4:30PM

JANUARY

- 18 Aero Club Board of Directors Meeting, Wings Field

FUTURE PLANNING:

- FAVIA, Philadelphia: March 22-25
- SUN-N-FUN: April 10-15
- READING WWII Weekend: May 31 - June 2
- NINETY-NINES Intl. Conference: July 2-7
- OSHKOSH: July 23-29

January Board Meeting

January 18, 2018, 6-9PM

The Aero Club will hold its next quarterly Board Meeting on January 18 at the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club at Wings Field.

Members and guests are welcome. Dinner (optional) begins at 7PM and the presentation begins around 8PM. Dinner cost is approximately \$40.

Our speaker is Brent Connelly, a private pilot based at Sky Manor Airport in Pittstown, NJ who will speak about producing amateur aviation videos. In 2013, he completed an experimental RV-12 light sport aircraft which was later awarded an EAA Silver Lindy at Oshkosh. While his professional work in the pharmaceutical industry is non-aviation or media related, he began shooting, editing and sharing short videos on YouTube to document his weekend flying. Brent will share learnings as an admittedly amateur film producer including choices of equipment, camera settings and editing tips all from the private pilot perspective.

RSVP and pay online at:

www.aeroclubpa.org/rsvp