



PENNSYLVANIA

www.aeroclubpa.org

Vol 29 No 4

PILOT

Winter 2018

Aero Club visits Flight Safety and invites AOPA to speak about You-Can-Fly



Sim area at Flight Safety

Flight Safety Tour

On Saturday October 6, 2018, eighteen Aero Club members and their guests visited the Flight Safety International learning facility at New Castle Airport in Delaware. Our host was Flight Safety's sales manager (and past Aero Club scholarship recipient) Yeni Ocampo. Yeni walked us through the simulator bays for a look at all 16 simulators they use. During the tour, she gave us some background information about Flight Safety International. Everyone had the opportunity to get inside the Gulfstream V or the Challenger 604 to actually see, hear and feel the simulator in action. Some of us were able to try our hand at flying. The number of attendees was limited and we were not able to accommodate everyone that was interested. We will likely repeat the tour next year.

AOPA You Can Fly

On Thursday, October 18, the Aero Club welcomed Dr. Steve Bateman, Director of the Flying Clubs Initiative at the AOPA. His team's efforts are one part of the AOPA's You Can Fly program designed to reverse the trend of a diminishing pilot population. We met at the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club for a buffet dinner and presentation. Dr. Steve Bateman is an active staff CFI, aircraft owner, glider pilot, FAA Team Safety Representative, and Air Safety Institute presenter. Prior to AOPA, Steve owned a flight school in Nebraska – and before that, had a successful career in high tech electronics in Silicon Valley having earned a Ph.D. in Electronic Engineering from Loughborough University, England. He gave an impassioned presentation about bringing and keeping would-be pilots into the aviation fold.



You Can Fly Presentation

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Although we haven't experienced a killing frost here in Woxall yet, it's already time to publish a Winter Newsletter. I'm sure it will turn cold by the time this publishes, so stay warm and keep those airfoils clean!

It's with sadness that we report the passing of Laren Pitcairn elsewhere in this issue. Laren was a long-time member of the Aero Club, and I direct you to page 3 for a full review of his most accomplished and interesting life. I had the opportunity to meet Laren on several occasions, most usually at Scholarship Dinners, and will miss his support and graciousness.

I read Rob Dant's article about Genie Rae O'Kelley (page 5) with great interest. As a Tennessee transplant myself, I knew from the title it was going to be interesting. My first brush with the aviation bug was at the Knoxville Downtown Island Airport where "Mama Bird" Johnson mentioned in the article flew. Unfortunately, my student assets weren't compatible with flying lessons, so I never had the opportunity to meet either of these ladies in their teaching roles.

After cancelling our summer board meeting due to heavy travel schedules, we were able to host Dr.

by Robert Smith

Stephen Bateman, Director of Flying Clubs Initiative at AOPA at our October meeting. Steve gave an excellent presentation about efforts at AOPA to increase the number of pilots and make flying more affordable as well as entertaining us with stories of growing up in the center of the British aviation industry in Bristol (Southwest England, not Bucks County, PA).

The Events Committee continues to arrange interesting and popular events. So popular that yours truly didn't get his reservation submitted fast enough to make the list for the sold-out visit to Flight Safety in Delaware. I think we need a repeat visit. If you agree, let Walt Ellis know. If there are other places you would like to visit send those along as well, and we'll see what we can do.

I'll close with my usual admonishment to shamelessly "push" the value of Aero Club membership. It's a bargain and keeps the lights on (and this newsletter coming out). Tell your friends and relations (great Thanksgiving dinner conversation) of the benefits of membership including fly-out and drive-out field trips

Stay warm, plug in those engine heaters, and fly safely! Blue skies - Bob

Board of Directors Report

Some board members met at Wings Field on October 18, 2018. A quorum was not present, so President Bob Smith presided over an informal meeting. John O'Toole distributed a financial report. The Club needs about 80 members to cover operating expenses. Scholarship monies not yet claimed figure \$10,000. Membership chair Rob Morrow reported 148 total members, including honorary and scholarship memberships. There have been 5 new members recently. Jim Kilduff reported on behalf of

by Elaine Farashian

the nominating committee that they nominate Debbie Harding as Vice President. Special Events chair Walt Ellis stated that 18 people attended the Flight Safety Tour, and there is a possibility for a return trip. Debbie Harding has agreed to speak about hot air ballooning at the Wright Brothers Dinner. John Stubbs, Bob Smith and Paul Heintz are investigating possible fund-raising events such as a scavenger hunt. Discussion ended around 7:00 PM after which dinner and a presentation took place.



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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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Secretary	Elaine Farashian
Asst. Secretary	Nancy Kyle
Treasurer	John O'Toole
Asst Treasurer	John Stubbs
Solicitor	Paul Heintz, Esq.

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

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3 Year Term:	Tom Birsch Robert Dant Steven Jordan John Lewis Michael Little
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Honorary Life Members

Roscoe Draper (Tuskegee)
R. Anderson "Andy" Pew (AOPA)

Our Memorial Scholarship Fund has been promoting all forms of aviation, to local men and women, for over 75 years by leveling the financial playing field for future career aviators. Starting in 1938, with a total sum of \$500 in awards, we've expanded to our now \$40,000 plus in the last couple years! 100% of all the years' donations plus half the capital gains go into the year's contributions. Amazing!

In 2010, we adopted the Bob Shannon Memorial Scholarship Fund. Bob was an aviation advocate, local flight instructor and airport owner. And a few years back, we began a fund in the name of Bob Mills, Jr in recognition to Bob's long-standing influence in the field of aviation through the Essington Seaplane Base. Bob's father Frank started a flight school with several early Aero Club of Pennsylvania and National Aeronautical Association charter members in 1915 (see phillyseaplanebase.com). Around 2009, we began offering scholarships in memory of other movers and shakers:

Steve Najarian, Terry Hatcher, Al Sheves and Peter York Wood. We have also added scholarships in the names of aviation proponents like Dr. Jack & Joyce Shreffler and Millie Jordan, families dedicated to flight.

All this history, I bring up to give examples of the influence of this club's membership in preserving local history and protecting general aviation, as well as, promoting the future through our scholarship fund. And I am humbled how aviation families like Kurkjian, Pitcairn, Piasecki, and Mills helped form the Delaware Valley Region legacy as a cradle of aviation. I recently saw the photo of the first Pitcairn Airfield in Bryn Athyn during its grand opening in 1924 when some 20,000 people attended!

I think the Aero Club of Pennsylvania

has stood the test of time due to the generosity of all those that have gone before. This club has been 100 percent volunteer run and our scholarship contributions come from our members who believe that aviation is a wonderful gift and want to keep that gift going for future aviators.

The Aero Club has stood the test of time due to the generosity of all those that have gone before

Because, for those in the business of aviation, there is little distinction between work and play, and for those in general aviation, it serves as a vacation from the day to day.

Amelia Earhart wrote "the fun of it is worth the price." Come join us "for the fun of it" at the Wright Brother Dinner on December 17, at the Desmond Hotel, and rub shoulders with some of the finest folks I have come to know. I'll miss you Laren Pitcairn; I will have no one to outbid, outsmart or out play at the silent auction fundraiser. But I'll be thinking of you!



Laren Pitcairn 1931-2018

Laren Pitcairn, a lifetime member of the Aero Club of Pennsylvania and member of The Union League's Aviation Club, flew west on September 13 at age 86. His service was held on September 24 at the Bryn Athyn Cathedral.

We knew Laren as a gentleman and pilot, having earned a pilot's license in 1957 and a glider rating in 1994. He flew out of his own grass field in Bucks County, PA. Others knew him as an entrepreneur, baritone opera singer, music lover and great philanthropist. He hails from a family of industrialists, musicians, theologians, and aviation pioneers. His grandfather was John Pitcairn, co-founder of Pittsburgh Plate Glass and his uncle was Harold Pitcairn, famous American aviation inventor and pioneer.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Eleanor, his daughter Elizabeth, a renowned classical violinist, son David, an aerospace engineer, pilot, and Aero Club member, and two grandchildren. Laren has

two living sisters and a brother.

Born in France, Laren lived in Bryn Athyn, PA and Pipersville, PA. He received an Associates Degree from the New Church Academy and a B.A. at the Wharton School of the University of Penn. Laren served in the U.S. Army. Laren studied violin and voice and served on the Board of the Opera Co. of Philadelphia, serving as president in 1980. He also served on the Boards of the Academy of Vocal Arts, the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, Pathway School, Pennsylvania Clean Air Council, Settlement Music School, and Philharmonic Orchestra. He was a recording engineer for the Grand Teton Music Festival and received honors for his environmental work from the Sierra Club.



SEPTEMBER 2018

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL [PHL]

Runway 9R/27L extension to 12,000 feet and is open for airport operations. PHL has completed a Strategic Energy and Emissions Study that sets goals and recommends actions for the short and long term (5-10 years). The USO facility and quiet room have both opened.

BRANDYWINE [OQN]

The airport is coordinating with the FAA to re-establish nighttime approaches. Review and approval for the LPV approach feasibility study is ongoing. Regarding runway widening, the airport is seeking temporary construction easements/permanent maintenance easements with impacted properties that the airport does not own.

CHESTER COUNTY [MQS]

Runway and taxiway rehab projects are 95% complete. Runway markings and grooving is in its last phase. 104 youngsters received merit badges on National Aviation Day held on August 17.

DOYLESTOWN [DYL]

Land acquisition near the airport is not required at this time. Due to the wet weather, project work of the grass tiedowns and bypass taxiways will wait until Spring 2019. Runway 5/23 rehab design will be completed in 2018 and construction is scheduled for 2019.

FLYING W [NI14]

The airport planned to hold a Girls in Aviation Day in October.

HERITAGE FIELD [PTW]

South side of runway 10 obstruction removal is ongoing. The snow removal equipment has been ordered, but may not be received until Spring 2019.

NEW CASTLE [ILG]

Operated by the Delaware River and Bay Authority, the airport currently does not have commercial air service; however, it does operate Delaware Air Park, Cape May and Milville Airports. It earns revenue from the many businesses using the facility, among them Penske, Dupont and Dassault. The 3 FBOs are Atlantic Aviation, Fly Advanced and Dassault Falcon Jet. The Delaware Air Guard and Delaware Army Guard also use the airfield. Flight Safety operates there. ILG occupies 1,250 acres and has (2) 7,000 ft. runways. Current improvements include taxiway A, taxiway B to connect with E, taxiway G repair, terminal apron expansion and parking lot rehab.

NEW GARDEN [N57]

The runway widening and reconstruction project

closeout has been requested by the Bureau of Aviation and is in progress. The aeronautical survey for the LPV approach will be completed and uploaded pending acceptance in AGIS. There is a proposal to open the west hangar pad site for six 60x60 hangars. There is a fundraising campaign for the Future Aviators Program. Funds will contribute to building a timber-frame pavilion at the airport on the hill overlooking runway operations. This Future Aviator Pavilion will also afford the community a place to watch airport operations.

QUAKERTOWN [UKT]

Construction to address approach obstructions from runway 11/29 begins soon. Design work of terminal rehab and expansion project is completed and will be put on hold so the next phase of obstruction removal can be completed.

SOUTH JERSEY REGIONAL [VAY]

NJDOT will be responsible for drainage improvement around T-hangars. In the environmental study for obstruction removal, more archeological testing has to be done. The final document for the runway widening environmental study is nearly ready for NJDOT review.

SUMMIT [EVY]

The airport measures 550 acres and is totally fenced in. The hard surface runway is 4500 feet and the grass runway is 3,600 ft. Richard Dupont founded the airport in 1960. Greenwich Aero Group acquired Summit in 2008 and Summit Aviation, which has 220 full-time employees, privately operates it. Summit services all types of General Aviation aircraft. It builds the Sikorsky Schweizer model 333 helicopter, but the sub assembly is manufactured in Kentucky. Delaware State Police have a hangar and several other police forces are represented on site as well. Summit has been working with Boeing for the past 15 year on the Chinook helicopters and offers classroom and hands-on training for maintenance and operation of the CH 47. A Fly Neighborly Initiative for based aircraft and test pilots offers food, rides and demonstrations to those who want to view workings of the airport.

TRENTON-MERCER [TTN]

Final inspection is anticipated for taxiway H, B, F phase 3 rehab. Rehab of runway 6/24 pavement, lighting & signage project is 95% complete. Reconstruction of taxiway E and rehab of taxiway G began in August. Terminal replacement project has begun.

WINGS [LOM]

The project of obstruction removal from runway 6/24 approaches will be completed this fall. The Crack Seal and Remarketing project of the runway is being closed out. The scope and price bid for AWOS will be submitted to the Bureau of Aviation to satisfy the tentative allocation for issuance of the grant. Wings Hangar Nights resumed September 13. Flight School is adding a Cessna 150 and Citabria for upset recovery training. Start-up of satellite Part 141 flight school will begin soon.

Tennessee transplant still inspires at 91

by Robert Dant

Near the end of her long second career as a flight instructor, Genie Rae O'Kelley began to lose her central vision due to macular degeneration. Though she was unable to provide primary instruction, she could still teach rated pilots. One day, a man arrived asking for a biennial flight review in his airplane. She might have facetiously mentioned that she was mostly blind, but could still give the flight review. Skeptically, he agreed.

Departing Knoxville's towered airport, ATC gave the man a heading and altitude. After a short while, Genie Rae admonished the pilot, "you are off your heading." Surprised, he asked, "and, how would you know?" "The heading they gave you is a common one that takes you between the two peaks ahead of us." "Oh, OK", correcting his heading. A short while later, Genie Rae mentioned, "you are off your altitude." "How would you know that if you can't see?" "I can see well enough to know that big needle on your altimeter isn't where it's supposed to be."

After that, the pilot settled down and performed OK. They landed and walked into the flight school where a number of local "hangar-outers" were sitting, the man exclaimed, "This woman is a liar! She's not blind!" The group, being intimately familiar with Genie Rae's ability as an instructor, roared in laughter.

Genie Rae O'Kelley just turned 91 and is now living in Lansdale, PA near her daughter Joanne. Genie Rae was an elementary school teacher in the 1960's when her husband Dave mentioned his



Genie Rae

offered her a flight instructor job even before she had soloed! He said she was a natural. Genie Rae went on to get her private certificate and instructor certificate.

Inspired by many women aviators, like the early air racers and Evelyn "Mama Bird" Johnson, Genie Rae went on to a lifetime of aviation experiences.

She owned many personal aircraft with her husband, Dave. They started a flight school, Volunteer Aviation of Knoxville, TN in 1982 that remained open for 20 years. She flew in

three Powder Puff Derbies and most of the Women's Air Race Classics from 1978 to 2001. She became an FAA Designated Examiner and accrued over 20,000 hours of flight time.

At one point, the flight school took ownership of a new Piper Tomahawk, and Genie Rae had to ferry it from Florida. The navigational equipment and compass failed after takeoff, and she flew the whole way reading maps of unfamiliar territory and following landmarks. Later, it was a common lesson she preached to her students not to forget the basics in the era of modern electronics.

Genie Rae flew frequently with good friend and aviation author Bill Kershner. When Bill heard about the new Tomahawk, he wanted to fly with Genie Rae in this airplane that had gained a repu-



Teaching class via Skype



Genie Rae and husband Dave

desire to get his pilot certificate. Genie Rae was nervous about it, but she agreed as long as she could learn how to land the airplane herself in case something happened to him in flight. She started taking lessons herself, and her instructor

tation as being tricky to control. They went up and did many maneuvers, including spins, and had no problems. Bill quipped, “as long as you fly it by the numbers in the book, it does just fine.” The flight school had the Tomahawk for years and it was popular with students, possibly because it had a paint job reminiscent of the World War II “Flying Tigers”, complete with eyes and a shark’s mouth filled with teeth.

At the 1991 Air Race Classic, Genie Rae and her pilot partner Esther Lowry were asked if they could take on two passengers, one a writer for AOPA. Knowing that the weight of passengers would likely eliminate their chances to do well in the race, they did not hesitate to take them onboard. The reporter was a young Lane Wallace, later the editor of Flying Magazine. They finished the race a distant 24th, but had a wonderful time flying with the two women. AOPA published Wallace’s five-page article in the October 1991 issue of AOPA Pilot Magazine.



Genie Rae and daughter Joanne

Genie Rae served four years as a board member of the Ninety-Nines Amelia Earhart Scholarship Fund and many years as board member and then President of the Air Race Classic. In 1986, she was awarded the FAA’s National Instructor of the Year, and in 1989, she co-authored the “The Student Pilot’s Ground School Manual” with Bill Kershner.

As a lifetime member of the Ninety-Nines, Genie Rae spent many years travelling across the country to talk about the Amelia Earhart Scholar-

ships, the Air Race Classic, and to network with pilots in other chapters. She met our own Adelle Bedrossian when together, they helped set up the race terminus at the North Philadelphia airport and at Lancaster. She also got to know Kate Macario at national meetings, and she is friends with Mary Wunder. Genie Rae was a longtime member of the Tennessee chapter and a current member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter.

Genie Rae is still teaching and inspiring today, but in a new way. For over 25 years, she has been “teaching teachers” about the fundamentals of flight at the University of Tennessee’s summer course “Aerospace Education Workshop for Teachers.” Now that she has moved to the Philadelphia area, she keeps an audience of teachers mesmerized with her aviation knowledge and stories via Skype.

Genie Rae hopes that young women will continue to be inspired to fly and have careers in aviation, just as she was inspired by others who came before her.

Warbird Raffle, 1:500 Chance!

Win a seat on a warbird flight at the Reading World War II Weekend in June for yourself or as a gift. Proceeds go directly to support Aero Club operating expenses. Buy tickets online or as part of your membership or dinner invitation.



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: _____

2018 Wright Brothers Dinner



Speaker: Debbie Harding

Debbie Harding has been flying hot air balloons for 30 years. She will present in pictures and words about her many ballooning adventures.

Debbie was the first women to fly a hot air balloon over the North Pole. She has flown over five continents, including multiple trips to France and Africa.

Debbie owns and operates a hot air balloon ride operation in Chester County and she manages the annual Chester County Hot Air Balloon Festival.

Aero Club Annual Member Meeting

Wright Brothers Dinner

Monday, December 17, 2018

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.

**Filet and Salmon, Salad and Dessert:
\$70 per person**

Silent Auction

We will hold a silent auction to raise funds for our scholarship program. Items will include dinner and overnight packages, a hot air balloon flight, vintage aviation books, a basket of cheer, and many other items.

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

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): \$_____
Special Meal Requirement? _____	Total Enclosed: \$_____
ATTENDEE NAMES: _____, _____	
_____ , _____	



Organized December 17, 1909; Chartered May 10, 1910

AERO CLUB OF PENNSYLVANIA

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AVIATION EVENT CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 09-11 Waterfowl Festival, Easton, PA (ESN)
- 17-18 EAA Workshops Philly Northeast Airport (PNE)
- 17 Santa Claus, Paws & Planes, Hagerstown (HGR)

DECEMBER

- 8 Virginia Ninety-Nines Toy Airlift, Chesterfield, VA
(email barbaraheadley@va.metrocast.net)
- 17 Wright Brothers Dinner, Desmond Hotel 5:30PM

JANUARY

- 17 Aero Club Board of Directors Meeting, Wings Field

FUTURE PLANNING:

- SUN-N-FUN: April 2-7
- READING WWII Weekend: June 7-9
- NINETY-NINES Intl. Conference: July 2-7
- OSHKOSH: July 22-28
- Thunder over the Boardwalk, Atlantic City, Aug 21

January Board Meeting

January 17, 2019, 6-9PM

The Aero Club of Pennsylvania will hold its next quarterly Board Meeting on January 17 at the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club at Wings Field in Blue Bell, PA.

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

We will invite an intriguing speaker to come and speak to us about an interesting aviation topic. Check the website for details as time gets near. We hope to see you there.

RSVP at:

www.aeroclubpa.org/rsvp

