



17 awards given at annual Aero Club scholarship dinner

On June 19, the Aero Club of Pennsylvania, together with the Eastern PA Chapter of the Ninety-Nines, celebrated our annual Scholarship Dinner at the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club at Wings Field in Blue Bell, PA. More than 70 members, scholarship recipients, and their families gathered for an exciting evening. A dramatic thunderstorm swept through just as the event began, knocking out the power—but thanks to a quick switch to generator backup, the night carried on. The Ninety-Nines proudly awarded three scholarships totaling \$15,000 to outstanding women pursuing aviation careers (see photos page 7). The Aero Club Memorial Scholarship Fund followed with 14 awards,

amounting to \$50,000, recognizing deserving young men and women dedicated to aviation (see photos pages 6–7). Since 2000, the Aero Club and its partners have continued our tradition of lifting the next generation skyward by supported more than 260 aspiring aviators with over \$650,000 in awards.

Past recipient speaks at dinner

We regularly solicit past recipients to speak to our new awardees to inspire their journey to an aviation career. This year, Cory Hontanon spoke about how his dream of becoming a pilot unfolded through the years, beginning all the way back to early glider training to now being

a first officer at Frontier Airlines.

Chester County Balloon Festival

The annual Chester County Hot Air Balloon Festival took place at Willowdale Steeplechase near Kennet Square. Volunteers who manned an Aero Club display included club members Alyssa Mazzenga, David Harnitchek, Rob Dant, Bob Mills, Jr., Carris and Erik Kocher, Ninety-Nines members Heather Hill and Michayla Dechnik, and Aero Club scholarship winners, Charlotte Croquette and Eva Thierry. Dave Harnitchek, as part of his winning bid in our silent auction, also helped inflate Deb’s new balloon, with instruction

(Continued next page...)



1973 article rings true now

The threats to small airports are the same now and the solution is the same, too.

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Aero Club tours FSI

On June 24, members of the Aero Club visited Flight Safety International in Wilmington

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President’s Message

What a thrilling summer it has been for aviation—and for the Aero Club of Pennsylvania!

At Oshkosh, the FAA unveiled the long-awaited MOSAIC proposal, paving the way for Sport Pilots to fly an expanded list of aircraft and opening the door to innovative designs that expand the possibilities of Light Sport Aviation.

Closer to home, the Aero Club has been everywhere—hosting our signature Scholarship Dinner, cheering on balloon launches at the Chester County Balloon Festival, sharing aviation with families at the American Helicopter Museum’s Family Fest, and taking part in the annual fly-in at Naval Air Station Wildwood. Our scholarship dinner, of course, remains a highlight of the year: the *(Continued next page...)*

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Aero Club News

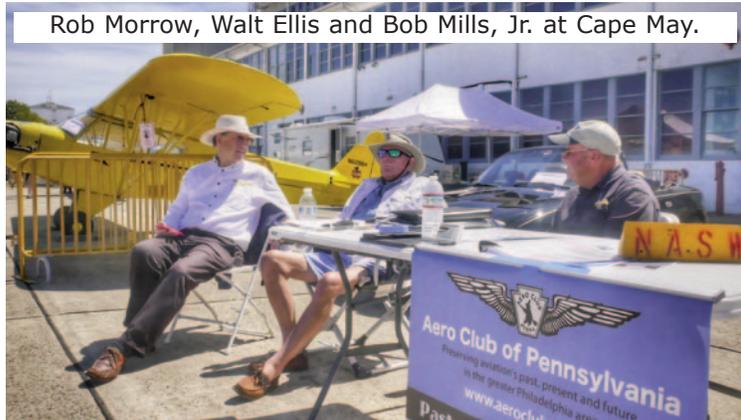
from a fellow commercial pilot from Texas with much experience in flying "special shapes" balloons.

Helicopter Museum event

The American Helicopter Museum at Brandywine Airport held its annual Family Fest in June. The Aero Club's Deb Harding provided a hot air balloon display. Board member Dan Sundt brought his homebuilt RotorWay helicopter. Longtime flight instructor and former Aero Club board member Dan Kurkjian was in attendance, promoting the Aero Club and General Aviation. And, Tinu Wu, formerly from the N.A.A., volunteered at the event (photo below).

Aero Club coordinates event at Cape May

The Aero Club and EAA Chapter 216 coordinated a fly-out to the annual NAS Wildwood Museum "AirFest" at Cape May on Saturday, August 30. Participating pilots displayed their aircraft on the museum ramp for public viewing. Fifteen aircraft flew in and were greeted by large crowds. This is the 4th year that the Club has coordinated this event that offers aircraft owners an opportunity to show off their airplanes to the public. Last year's event was stifled by a presidential TFR and high winds. The event featured tours of the Naval Air Station Aviation Museum, live music, food trucks, exhibitors, and historic aircraft. See USNASW.org.



Rob Morrow, Walt Ellis and Bob Mills, Jr. at Cape May.

Presidents Message

(Continued from page 1...)

culmination of months of fundraising, applications, interviews, and, most importantly, celebrating future aviators as they launch their aviation journeys.

"Members can look forward to a very special Wright Brother's dinner"

And we're not done just yet. As the year closes, members can look forward to a very special Wright Brother's dinner in December. We will close out the year in style with our traditional celebration of the Wright Brothers' first flight on December 17. This year's keynote speaker is Adam Basaran, Goodyear Airship Pilot, who will give us a rare inside look at flying Goodyear's modern fleet of airships.

And for the grand finale: thanks to the generosity of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, our silent auction will feature a once-in-a-lifetime experience—a 45-minute flight for two aboard the world-famous Goodyear Blimp! We are one of only a handful of charities receive this incredible donation each year. We can't wait to find out who the highest bidder is!

John Brennan



Tina Wu (N.A.A.) and Deb Harding (Aero Club) at The American Helicopter Museum



Aero Club of Pennsylvania
Promoting aviation in
the Greater Delaware Valley

1399 Narcissa Rd, Blue Bell, PA 19422

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

PENNSYLVANIA PILOT

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EX OFFICIO: John Brennan
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HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Roscoe Draper (Tuskegee)
R. Anderson "Andy" Pew (1936-2022)

Airport Highlights

by Elaine Farashian

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PHILADELPHIA INTL [PHL]

American airlines, in partnership with Landline, will launch a new bus route connecting Trenton-Mercer Airport to PHL. Operations will be 3 times daily on Landlines' luxury motor coaches. This route expands existing service from PHL to Lehigh Valley Intl, Atlantic City Intl, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Intl and Wilmington. Passengers can book trips

directly through American Airlines as they would a regular flight. They check in with TSA at their origin airport and have checked bags automatically transferred to the final destination. Upon arrival at PHL, travelers are dropped off airside at Terminal F and allowed to proceed directly to connecting flights without additional screening. This same process applies to returning passengers. This service offers a time-efficient bus alternative to short-haul flights under 200 miles. American also recently announced the addition of Santo Domingo, D.R. (SDQ) daily service beginning in December; increase of 2 daily flights to Aruba (AUA), 3 daily flights to San Juan, PR (SRJ), 1 daily flight to St. Maarten (SXM). For the first time, American will begin special flights to Albuquerque (ABO) October 3-13, ahead of the world's largest hot-air balloon festival.

NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA [PNE]

Major infrastructure upgrades are underway at PNE. During the facility overhaul, staff is moving into a temporary trailer for the next 9-12 months. Exterior walls of the administrative building will remain, but the main entrance will be relocated to improve accessibility and ensure ADA compliance. The interior will be completely redesigned to yield a more functional and modern workplace. This project is designed to receive LEED Gold Certification for its sustainable design and construction and is the first pursuing LEED certification led by the Dept. of Aviation. The airport will be implementing a geothermal system to generate renewable energy for HT/AC. 500-foot-deep wells will regulate building temperatures and each office will have its own thermostat. Energy-efficient LED lighting, sustainable bldg. materials, sustainably sourced furniture supplies, enhanced security cameras, roof solar panels, bicycle storage and 2 EV chargers are among the upgrades. A security perimeter fence replacement will take up 65% of the airport's fencing. Four vehicle gates are being replaced with electric drive-through gates with upgraded operating systems and closed-caption CCTV cameras. This project began in March and is expected to be completed by winter 2025. The final phase of a 3-year rehab project on taxiway L has earned Envision Silver verification for its 30% recycled products paving, energy-saving signage lighting and 95% recycled construction demolition materials. The upgraded taxiway will be 50 ft. wide with 20 ft. paved shoulders. Simultaneously, taxiway C is undergoing phase I of a 2-yr. rehab to mirror the improvements of taxiway L. Half the 5,000 ft. taxiway is being done this year, and the remainder in 2026.

New terminal building planned for OC, NJ

A new terminal building at Ocean City, N.J., is one of the major improvements in 2025 Ocean City's five-year capital plan. The city will spend \$3 million for the project and combine that with a \$3 million donation from Leon Grisbaum, owner of Berger Realty in Ocean City. Leon, now in his 90s, was an avid pilot for 70 years. This project is part of a \$67 million plan for infrastructure improvements in the city.

BRANDYWINE [OQN]

Four new corporate hangars have been completed after many years of planning. The LED runway lighting project is complete, including a new, larger windsock. Tree mitigation along Ward Avenue on UPS property is complete. The runway widening project has been delayed due to various engineering and FAA "administrative factors," but the project is still proceeding.

DOYLESTOWN [DYL]

2025 projects include new taxiway lights, terminal ramp paving, resealing of east ramp taxiways and additional tiedowns. 2026 will bring a new fuel farm with self-serve 100LL, and work towards new approaches, new PAPI's/REILs, and reconstruction of the west itinerant apron.

CHESTER COUNTY [MQS]

The FAA installed PAPIs on runway 11 end in June. The FAA needs to test fly them before they are commissioned. At that time, the VASIs will be decommissioned and removed. Installation of a new AWOS is expected soon after technical issues are resolved.

HERITAGE FIELD [PTW]

The FBO apron rehab is scheduled to start in September. Site work for corporate hangars is awarded with completion to be by Winter 2025. Hangar construction is expected in 2026. Alex Smith is the new Maintenance Director of PennAir Repair, LLC which has expanded capabilities and schedule availability. Aero Club's own Nancy Kyle is now the Service Manager. Pitcairn Flight Academy is busy and continues to grow.

NEW GARDEN [N57]

East taxiway renovation project is now complete as is the main driveway project. Future Aviators Summer Camps were held in July and August with 270 campers participating. Festival of Flight Weekend Air, Car and Tractor Show took place August 23 & 24. The AOPA Rusty Pilot Seminar took place July 19.

QUAKERTOWN [UKT]

2025 projects in progress include obstruction removal, repaving around hangars, crack-seal and remarking of runway. 2026 projects include plans for 10 new T-hangars and a 3-unit hangar.

VAN SANT [9N1]

Regrade of part of runway will occur in 2026-2027. Dinner and Movie Night Under the Stars was held August 30 featuring the movie The Rocketeer.

WINGS [LOM]

Preparations were made for the 33rd Wings N' Wheels event on Saturday, Sept. 6. The static display included "Placid Lassie", a C-47 that participated in D-Day invasion of Normandy in WWII. The newly completed West itinerant apron will be officially dedicated this fall.



Architectural rendering of terminal building at Ocean City

1973 airport article resonates today

by Paul C. Heintz, esq.

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October 28, 1973

Sunday Pilot

Private
Fields
Dwindle

By PAUL C. HEINTZ..

PILOTS, like everyone else, are optimists. They tend to think their favorite airport will be around forever — or at least until they need it no longer.

But most pilots, the ones who use privately-owned fields, have no reason to be optimistic. It's only a matter of time before the owner of their airport will succumb to increasing costs, complaining neighbors and lucrative offers from developers and finally sell out. It happens whenever population pressures encroach on private airports.

The Buehls, Shannons, Turners and other individuals who own and operate popular private fields in this area already subsidize our flying — as any good accountant can tell you. But they can't be expected to withstand forever the pressures that convert airports into shopping centers, industrial parks and apartment complexes.

WINGS Field, near Ambler, is an excellent example of an airport suddenly surrounded by communities and now living on borrowed time. For over 40 years, it had been almost under the total control of one man: J. Story Smith. Upon his death, not too long ago, it fell into the hands of his estate which could do nothing but sell it. After coming perilously close to being sold at auction, it was finally sold for about \$750,000 to a group headed by two men, who are, at least temporarily, interested in preserving the land for airport use.

That hasn't saved Wings, of course. It has only delayed its death. The same pressures are affecting the new owners as afflicted as Smith — the same pressures that helped make the operation a loser in the last few years of his life.

Meanwhile the reaction of the owners of the 150 planes based there seems to be a collective yawn.

But what can they do?

PLENTY. As a start, they could form an association of pilots and aircraft owners to talk to the airport owners to find out what their plans are and under what circumstances they would work to preserve the field.

The association's next step would be to encourage the county or state to buy the airport for use as a community field.

This solution, while ideal, is not always possible. The county or state may not deem it worthwhile to purchase the airport or politics and community resentment may make the acquisition impractical.

If that fails, the only recourse is to convince the airport owners to sell all or most of their interest to those most interested in preserving the field — the members of the association, themselves.

The association could form a corporation to continue to operate the airport as a business. Or they could form a non-profit corporation, sell "memberships" and institute annual dues as did the Philadelphia Glider Council which owns an airport in Bucks County.

ANOTHER possibility is to convert the airport into a condominium. Every aircraft owner would be expected to buy his tie-down spot or hangar and a percentage interest in the runway, taxiways, administration building and vacant ground.

The advantage of the condominium method is that each aircraft owner would receive a deed for his "unit" and could treat his tie-down area or hangar just as he does his home. He could rent, mortgage and sell his interest whenever he desired. The care and operation of the airport generally would be handled by someone hired by the unit owners.

If the convenience and luxury of a private field is worth preserving, the pilots must be willing to pay the price and undertake the battle themselves. If the pilots cannot or will not do it, it is unfair and unrealistic to expect the airport owner to cover for them.

And the earlier pilots begin the battle, the better. The preservation of a privately-owned airport in the midst of the suburban sprawl only gets tougher and more expensive as time goes by.

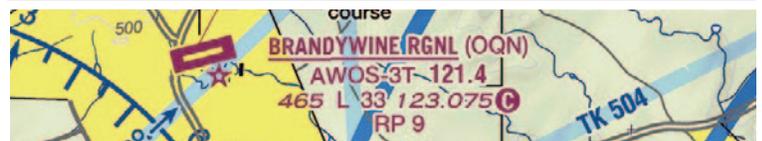
← From the Editor: Paul Heintz wrote the Sunday Pilot aviation column in the Philadelphia Sunday Bulletin from 1969 to 1982. In 1973, events at Wings Field prompted him to write an article about the threats to privately-owned airfields. The article resonates today as much as it did then. Paul recounts...

"At the time of this article, I had been flying from Wings Field for about six years and co-owned a Cessna 205 hangared here. J. Story Smith, who owned the airport, had died the year before. I remember well how shaken I was by his death, but had forgotten that his death motivated me to write this piece. How interesting to realize that what I hoped would happen did happen at both Wings and West Chester Airport (now Brandywine) then owned by Bill Wilson a former Navy pilot turned into developer. In both cases, the local pilots rallied round to purchase their favorite field, helped by the patience of the sellers. And, in both cases, the pilots consummated their purchase almost exactly 25 years after the date of the article."



Wings Field, circa 2025:

Today, Wings Field is a vibrant general aviation field with over 95 based aircraft. The field has a busy flight school offering training in state-of-the-art Cirrus aircraft. The airport is home to a Cirrus authorized training center, service center, and sales center. Angel Flight East has its headquarters here and sponsors an annual Wings 'N Wheel Day to raise funds for their organization. The Philadelphia Aviation Country Club, established here in 1932, is still very active and is expanding. Recent projects included a new west apron and plans to rehab of the parallel taxiway.



Brandywine Airport, circa 2025:

Brandywine Regional Airport, wholly owned by pilots, is home to nearly 120 based aircraft. The airport is considered a reliever for Philadelphia. It is home to two active flight schools, two maintenance facilities, numerous small businesses, and the American Helicopter Museum. Recent projects included the construction of four new corporate hangars, east ramp renovation, new LED runway lighting, a new airport entrance sign and tree removal in order to reinstate night approaches. The airport is slated for a runway rehab soon along with a new AWOS.

Aero Club member highlights

by Walt Ellis

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Aero Club tours Flight Safety

The Aero Club toured Flight Safety International at Wilmington, New Castle Airport on June 14. Our last tour here took place in 2018. 12-year old Nate Fryling, who has 10 hours already, came with his mother and got a chance to sit in a simulator. Scholarship recipient Liam Knox also attended and is working on his commercial rating: The Club is proud to help inspire the future of aviation!



Watkins & Crane fly transcontinental helicopter flight

In August, new Club member Owen Watkins and board member Ethan Crane (flight school owner at Chester County) captured world and national speed records in a 2025 R44 helicopter, on a transcontinental flight west to east over a recognized course from Los Angeles to New York. Owen worked with the NAA's Art Greenfield and Kris Maynard to coordinate and observe. The course consisted of three major legs, from L.A. to El Paso, on to Bentonville, Arkansas, and finally to New York City before landing at their home, Chester County Airport in Coatesville, PA. The flight hours totaled 23.73 hours, at a maximum altitude of 6,000 feet, and a straight line record distance of 2,139 nautical miles. The preliminary record is recorded with NAA which will certify and forward to Swiss-based F.A.I. (Fédération Aéronautique Internationale) for World record certification.



Ethan Crane and
Owen Watkins



AVIATION
PHOTOJOURNAL
Photo: Ricardo von Puttkammer

Lindrooth flies at Geneseo

Juliet Lindrooth flew her and her husband Steve's T-6 Texan at the annual National Warplane Museum Airshow at Geneseo, New York in July. This year's event honored the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day, with aerial reenactments and displays of both historical warbirds and modern military jets. Geneseo is a 5000 foot, well maintained, grass airfield and home to the warbird and military history museum founded in 1994. The museum restores, flies, and displays vintage military aircraft from the WWII and Korea. The airshow is billed as the "Greatest Show On Turf."

2025 Aero Club of Pennsylvania Scholarship Awards

SHANNON AWARD



CAROLINE BRENNAN

Caroline is a recent college graduate who is just beginning her flight training journey. Her long term goal is to fly for the airlines, and she will train at Chester County Aviation.

JORDAN AWARD



MAARTEN EDWARDS

Maarten is a commercial pilot with his tail-wheel endorsement. His goal is to work for the airlines. He will use his scholarship to get his CFI and instruct to build hours towards ATP minimums.

PETER YORK WOOD AWARD



MICHAEL AUDIO

Michael is private pilot who has almost finished instrument training. Will use for tail-wheel training, followed by IFR. Attending Rowan in the fall while flying after classes. Long term goal of airlines.

BOB MILLS AWARD



RYAN MISSERA

Ryan is a former nuclear tech in the Navy and a student pilot at Brandywine. He will use his scholarship to finish his private before heading to Liberty University in the fall.

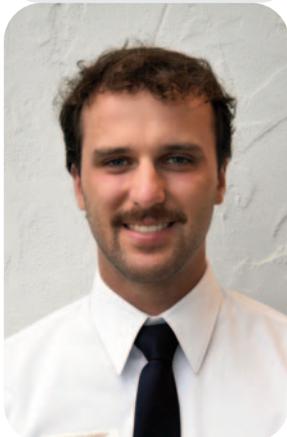
AERO CLUB MEML AWARD



IAN CATTERTON

Ian is a commercial pilot and a freshly minted CFI with aspirations of flying for the airlines. He will use his scholarship for multi-engine training.

AERO CLUB MEML AWARD



WILL MIKULICH

Will is a multi-time Aero Club recipient who used his scholarships to get his private and work on his instrument at Chester County. He will use this scholarship for his commercial certificate. He plans to work for the airlines.

AERO CLUB MEML AWARD



LIAM KNOX

A previous recipient, Liam is a private pilot and is instrument rated. In high school, he founded an aviation club. He will use his scholarship during his 2nd year at Purdue University this fall. Long term, he aspires to fly for the airlines.

AERO CLUB MEML AWARD



CONNOR LAPPS

A private pilot with an instrument rating, Connor is finishing his commercial rating now. He will use his scholarship to get his CFI at Chester County Aviation.

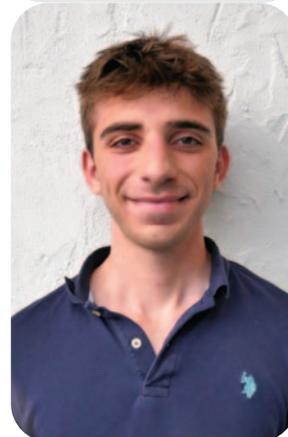
AERO CLUB MEML AWARD



LINDSEY MECOUCH

Lindsey is an instrument rated commercial pilot, who will use her scholarship to get her CFI. She plans to instruct at Aero-Tech in Lancaster, PA. She will instruct to build hours to work at the airlines.

AERO CLUB MEML AWARD



JAKE BOGNAR

Jake is private pilot who is working on his instrument rating at New Garden Flying Field. His long term goal is to work for the airlines or to fly corporate.

2025 Eastern PA Ninety-Nines Awards

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AERO CLUB
MEML AWARD**KATIA HOLMES**

Katia is a previous recipient who used her scholarship to get her private. She will use this scholarship for her instrument at Pitcairn Aviation. Her long term goal is to work for airlines.

AERO CLUB
MEML AWARD**JOSEPH MCGOUGH**

Joseph is a private pilot who is just finishing his instrument rating at Philly Northeast Airport. He is attending the University of North Dakota this fall, where he will use his scholarship for his commercial rating.

AERO CLUB
MEML AWARD**EMILY MULLIN**

Emily is a private pilot who currently works for Aero-Tech in Lancaster, PA. She is studying at LeTourneau University where she will get her flying ratings and also her A&P certificate.

AERO CLUB
MEML AWARD**GAVIN ZELLERS**

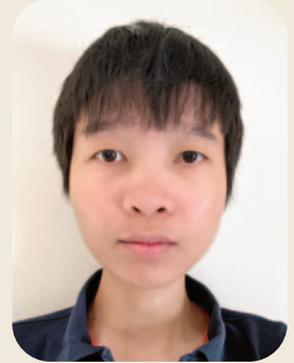
Gavin is a previous recipient and private pilot. He is enrolled at Florida Institute of Technology and will use his scholarship to get his instrument and commercial. His long term goal is to work for the airlines.

**ALICE GOODALL**
KATE MACARIO AWARD

Alice, 17, is training for her Private at the New Garden Flight School. Her passion started at the New Garden Aviation Camp. Her goal is to pursue aviation in college and become a professional pilot. She is a senior in H.S. and studied abroad in Italy last year where she had the opportunity to visit local aero clubs. She plays hockey, plays oboe with the youth symphony, sings in choir, acts on stage, and engages in horseback riding. She is a counselor for the Aviation Camp.

**CARRIGAN TAGGART**
SACCHI/WOLF AWARD

Carrigan, 18, is a graduate of the Charter School of Wilmington. She has completed her Private Pilot checkride. While she was getting top grades in high school, she balanced a 20-hour/week waitress job and flight training. She started an aviation club at her high school. She will be moving to Fort Pierce, Florida, to continue her training as part of the American Airlines Cadet Academy with the goal of becoming an airline pilot.

**NGAN NGUYEN**
THERESA DELLAQUILA AWARD

Originally from Vietnam, Ngan moved to the United States in 2011. She has a background in Information Technology, focused on software project management and development. She has a strong passion for aviation, learning about aircraft systems, staying current with aviation technology, and participating in aviation-related volunteer work, at local airshows, youth aviation programs, and aviation education initiatives. Currently, she is a VFR private pilot.

The Ninety-Nines' awards help foster women in aviation**2025 Memorial Scholarship Award Honorees****Robert "Bob" Shannon**

Operated West Chester Airport (Brandywine) and Downingtown Airport (Shannon) in the 60's and 70's.

C. Robert Mills, Jr

Operated the Philadelphia Seaplane Base for over 50 years. WWII Naval Aviator, awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for operations in Leyte Gulf.

Peter York Wood

Aviation idealist and visionary, Aero Club officer and longest continuous member of Aero Club. Operated Benedict Airport in Delaware County. Compiled first nationwide Air Travel Guide.

James & Millie Jordan

Millie was an ardent aviation supporter and role model for her son and grandson as they pursued their careers in aviation. Both son and grandson received Aero Club scholarships.

Louise Sacchi

Instructor, pilot, mechanic, and engineer. Taught advanced navigation to the RAF during WWII. Operated ferry service and completed over 300 ocean crossings in single-engine aircraft.

Connie Wolf

Flew hydrogen balloons in the 50's and 60's and set 15 world records. First woman to cross the Alps in a balloon. Had a life-long love of aviation, adventure and public service.

Theresa Dellaquila

Longtime local fixed wing and helicopter pilot and Ninety-Nine. Well known within the local aviation community.

Kate Macario

Learned to fly as a young woman when told that "women don't do that sort of thing." Joined the Ninety-Nines in 1955 and became Chair of the local chapter. Helped grow the Pennies-a-Pound fundraiser event. Aero Club member.



FIRST CLASS
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Organized December 17, 1909; Chartered May 10, 1910
Aero Club of Pennsylvania
1399 Narcissa Road, Blue Bell, PA 19422

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2025 Fall Calendar

Aero Club

Oct 16 Aero Club Board Meeting
Dec 17 Aero Club Wright Brothers Dinner

Local

Sep 5-6 Thunder over the Waves (Wildwood, NJ)
Oct 6-8 PA Aviation Conference (Bethlehem)
Oct 9-16 Homecoming 250 Navy/Marines fly overs

National

Sept 22-28 Triple Tree Aerodrome Fly-In, Woodruff, SC
Sept 4-7 International Seaplane Fly-In Greenville, ME
Oct 4-12 Albuquerque Intl Balloon Fiesta



July Board of Directors Report

The Board of Directors took a summer recess and did not hold a board meeting, but the Aero Club participated in and organized many events, including the fly-out to the Wildwood Naval Air Station Air Fest at Cape May Airport. Additionally, in an attempt to become more visible, board members set up Aero Club booths at a number of local aviation events, including the Chester County Balloon Festival, The American Helicopter Museum's annual Family Day, the Heritage Field annual Fly-In and Wheels 'N Wings at Wing Field. The board has secured an exciting speaker for our Wright Brothers Dinner on December 17. Adam Basaran is a Goodyear Airship Pilot.

The next board meeting is planned for October 16 at PACC at Wings Field.

Call for donations for silent auction

Donations are much appreciated for our Wright Brothers Dinner silent auction to raise scholarship funds. Donations do not have to be aviation related. Examples from past auctions included gift baskets, gift certificates, homemade items, wine and spirits, aviation-related mementos, unique books, aircraft rides and fun local "experiences."

Contact us at mailbox@aeroclubpa.org