



## Wright Brothers Dinner hosts Francis Gary Powers, Jr.

The Aero Club of Pennsylvania hosted its annual Wright Brothers Dinner at the prestigious Desmond Hotel on December 17th, coinciding with the historic anniversary of the Wright Brothers' first flight. This tradition of aviation dinners has been a cherished part of our club's heritage, stretching back to at least 1932, and undoubtedly even deeper in our illustrious 114-year history.

The highlight of the evening was our speaker, Francis Gary Powers Jr., whose captivating narrative shed light on his father's harrowing ordeal after being shot down over Russia while piloting a U2 spy plane (read more on page 7). Over 60 members and friends attended the dinner. Distinguished guests included former Aero Club presidents, past scholarship recipients, and benefactors who have played a pivotal role in advancing our shared passion for aviation.

President Erik Kocher presided over a short "annual member meeting" to vote in five new board members for the next three years. Erik also presented a 2023 year-in-review of Aero Club activities. The club was active with in-person events, including



Aero Club Dinner at Desmond Hotel

events at Wings Field, Cape May, and Heritage Field.

Our annual silent auction raised over \$1800 for our Scholarship program. Auction items included gift packages, books, a hot air balloon flight, a large propeller and other nice aviation-themed items (story page 2).

Before the evening ended, President Kocher presented Sarah Wolfe, a current Aero Club board member, with the Wright Brothers Award for her service to the club over the last 3 years (story page 7).



### Excitement of air travel

Remembering the earlier days of airline travel when few people had the privilege

5



### Gayl Henze, 1939-2023

Aero Club lifetime member and Ninety-Nines member passed away in December

6

### President's Message

It is hard to believe that a little over one hundred-twenty years ago, two brothers took to the skies and forever changed the world. If you're reading this, aviation has no doubt touched you in some way, likely bringing some joy to your life. We are incredibly fortunate to be able to continue to take part in this wonderful experiment of flight! I want to thank Eric Kocher for his leadership as the Aero Club President over the last couple of years. He and his predecessor Debbie Harding led the Aero Club through some difficult times, while continuing to promote aviation and award scholarships to up and coming aviators in the tri-state area. Whether it is someone's intent to fly recreationally, become an airline pilot, or even pursue a career in military aviation, the Aero Club is here to help!

(Continued next page...)

### WHAT'S INSIDE?

#### Scholarship Program 2024

2024 submission period open

3

#### Airport Highlights

Airports around the Delaware Valley

4

#### Wright Brothers Award

Sarah Wolfe is honored for her service

7

#### Aero Calendar

Local and National Aviation Events for 2024

8

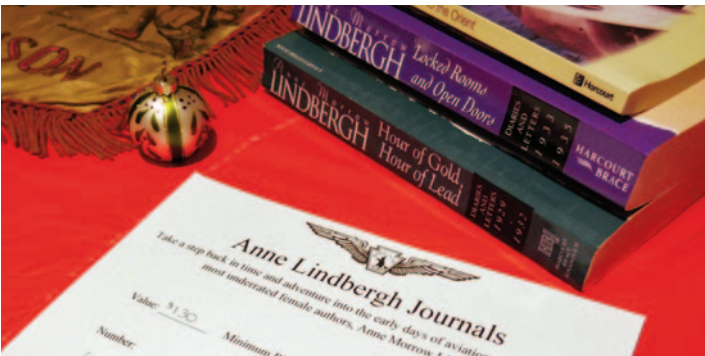
## Silent Auction *by Sarah Wolfe*

This year's silent auction at the annual Wright Brothers Dinner was a success! The club raised over \$1,800 - all of which supports our scholarship program which awards financial aid to individuals pursuing flight, mechanic, and ATC training.

Thank you again to all who donated, volunteered, and participated in this event. We had a wide range of quality items this year: from airplane ornaments, to coffee, icecream, and cheese baskets, to balloon rides, propellers, and even a historical check donated by our speaker - Mr. Gary Powers.

As a previous scholarship recipient, I can attest to the genuine and lasting difference that the Aero Club of PA makes on its community. Not only the finances, but even more so the community of like-minded and supportive individuals mean the world to those struggling to pursue their dreams. I am honored to now give back as a board member, silent auction head, and scholarship committee member.

Thank you again to all who attended and donated to this year's auction! If you have items you are interested in donating, we do accept donations year round and can arrange for pickup and storage at your convenience. Please contact me at sarahwolfe@windstream.net with questions and Happy New Year!



Silent Auction items

## Presidents Message

(Continued from page 1...)

Many things have changed over the years, and they will continue to do so. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued 11,225 Airline Transport Pilot certificates during 2023, exceeding analyst forecasts and airline demand for new aviators.

This is the second year in a row that pilot production numbers broke records. Additionally, the number of Certified Flight Instructors totaled 93,567, nearly a 20 percent increase over 2019, further demonstrating that the pilot pipeline remains strong and robust. The Aero Club has a unique role during this historic time; we are in a position to offer scholarships for a variety of specialties in aviation, from the pursuit of pilot certificates to that of aviation maintenance keeping the airplanes we fly safe and airworthy.

**"The Aero Club has a unique role during this historic time"**

We are committed to increasing our outreach by both increasing our membership numbers and increasing our scholarship funds. No matter your experience level in aviation, the Aero Club can use your help. The first thing that may come to your mind may be a donation to our scholarship fund, which is always appreciated. I'm going to go one step further and ask for something even more precious, your time. This could be as simple as getting the word out about the Aero Club at your local airport or flight school, or simply inviting a fellow aviation enthusiast to one of our events or a local airshow.

The year 2024 promises new challenges and opportunities, and I have no doubt that together, as a team, we will continue to raise the bar and strive for excellence for the promotion of aviation in the local area. I am aware that many of you sacrifice your personal time, and for that I thank you. Wishing you a generous tailwind, lots of luck, and always a smooth landing!

*John Brennan*



**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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ASST TREAS: John Stubbs  
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R. Anderson "Andy" Pew (1936-2022)

# Scholarship Report

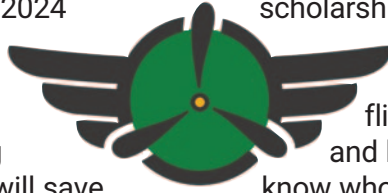
by Steve Jordan

3

Spring heralds the start of our application window for the 2024 scholarship program. This year, we are introducing a simpler application form using Google Forms, which will save us money compared to the software used in previous years.

Each year brings forth surprising submissions from compelling candidates. The process of narrowing down the list can be quite challenging and may result in the omission of some deserving candidates. However, the future appears promising for our scholarship applicants, especially considering the booming aviation industry and the high demand for airline pilots.

The success of the scholarship program always relies on generous donations and on the dissemination



of information about availability of scholarships. Please keep an eye on your inbox for a flyer to post at any FBO or flight school you frequent, and kindly inform anyone you know who might be interested in our program. Thank you for all your efforts in making these scholarships possible; I eagerly anticipate reporting on our success!

Our scholarship awards dinner is scheduled for June 20 at Wings Field, located at the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club. It is a great event and we are grateful to have such a wonderful location to celebrate.

Once again, a huge thanks is owed to everyone who contributes their time and funds to the Aero Club. Without your support, none of this would be possible!

## THANK YOU!

We would like to thank all our scholarship donors and call out some of our most generous donors for 2023:

The Kilduff Family Foundation  
 Dunleavy Charitable Foundation  
 Steve & Juliet Lindrooth  
 Brig. Gen. Bruce Thompson, Ret.  
 Erik and Carris Kocher  
 The Boeing Aircraft Company  
 Air Ventures, Inc.  
 Alicia Sikes  
 Robert & Charmaine Ekroth  
 Klauss Esser

## 2024 Scholarships



University of North Dakota

### Aero Club Scholarships

The Aero Club of Pennsylvania Memorial Scholarship Fund offers awards to men and women who reside in the Philadelphia, Delaware Valley area. Scholarships are available to pre- and post-solo flight students and to those seeking careers in other aviation-related fields.

The Aero Club of Pennsylvania Memorial Scholarship Fund is accepting applications for scholarships to be awarded in June. Applications are now available online at [www.aeroclubpa.org](http://www.aeroclubpa.org) and are due April 26.

### Ninety-Nines Scholarships

The Eastern PA Chapter of The Ninety-Nines awards scholarships to women from age 16+ who reside, work, or attend school in the Delaware Valley or who are members of the Eastern PA Chapter. Contact Risa Altman at [scholarship@epa99s.org](mailto:scholarship@epa99s.org) to request an application by April 21. Completed applications and letters of recommendation are due by 7 pm on April 25.

For information about the chapter, contact Paige Scott at [info@epa99s.org](mailto:info@epa99s.org) or visit the website at [www.epa99s.org](http://www.epa99s.org)

# Airport Highlights

by Elaine Farashian

4



## PHILADELPHIA INTL

In 2023, PHL ranked 5th in the US and 8th in the world for on-time performance according to Cirium. Taxiway S design phase is completed. This project includes removing existing asphalt, replacing base material and repaving the surface. Spanning from the intersections with taxiway N and taxiway U, this

project will provide suitable pavement for aircraft movement forecasted through the end of 2040. This taxiway reconstruction contributes to the goal of developing PHL's future taxiway system around taxiway S, specifically the future connector taxiway T and taxiway P6. Additional design components include upgrades to airfield LED lighting, signage and drainage system improvements. The airport carried 17 million seats in 2023 and Orlando was the top destination out of PHL last year.

## BRANDYWINE [OQS]

Phase 2 of hangar infrastructure construction is complete, making way for four new corporate hangars. The last contract to construct hangar footers, foundations, floors and hangar erection will be bid. The work is expected to be completed by summer. More obstructions to runway 9 approaches are being mitigated. Bids for Phase 1 design for runway lighting rehab were received in May. A small D-row ramp revitalization effort is complete, with new drainage, power outlets and room for two more aircraft.

## CHESTER COUNTY [MQS]

The airport saw the grand opening of a new restaurant on January 13 called "The Hungry Pilot." See page 6.

## DOYLESTOWN [DYL]

The airport is planning a self-service fuel facility. Updated is the Airport Layout Plan for developing the northeast ramp area.

## HERITAGE FIELD [PTW]

Work continues on obtaining approvals for construction of 65 ft. x 62 ft. corporate hangars. Expected approval is spring and project will go out for bid. The terminal apron rehab project is ready to go out for bid about the same time. The annual Vintage Aircraft Fly-In, open to all aircraft and drive-ins, is sched-

uled for May 10, 11 & 12. Find details at [Heritagefield.org](http://Heritagefield.org). The Pottstown Airplane Owners & Pilots (PAOP) will have a full schedule throughout the year. Visit [PAOP.org](http://PAOP.org) for details and mailing list subscription. EAA Chapter 1250 is working to increase membership and expand programs. The latest completed project is a Gee Bee pedal plane to interest kids to aviation. A new restaurant, Hangar 5 Grille, has opened across the street from the FBO with weekend hours. Pitcairn Flight Academy is continuing to grow with more instructors and students.

## NEW CASTLE [ILG]

Avelo Airlines will be celebrating 1st year of operation on Feb. 1st. Runway 1/19 rehab project is complete and runway is open.

## NEW GARDEN [N57]

A major expansion is underway including new community space, hallway and new bathrooms. An Evening of Aviation and Car Show is planned for June 25. The airport is now accepting food and non-food vendor applications for the show. Afternoon and evening performances of stunts, drones and fireworks are scheduled for that date. The annual Future Aviators Camp will be held in July and August.

## QUAKERTOWN [UKT]

A vendor is installing solar panels on some hangar roofs. Bidding for a new and expanded apron took place in January and construction is expected in spring. Monthly Young Eagle Flights take place on 2nd Saturdays from 9 to 11:30 AM.

## VAN SANT [9N1]

George Taylor, the airport manager and owner of Old School Aviation, has sold the company to Tom Marden who has assumed duties as airport manager. George is still doing A&P/IA work. An article about Tom titled "Wesley's Waco Comes Home" appears in the latest AOPA Pilot magazine.

## WINGS [LOM]

Hangar 4A is a project for the construction of a new 12,000 SF+Pre-Manufactured Metal Building (PEMB) Box Hangar adjacent to the existing terminal apron and existing hangar 4. Construction has begun on the West Itinerant Aircraft Parking Apron and completion is expected early summer. Angel Flight East Gala will be held in large hangar April 27. Planning is underway for Sept. 7 Wings N' Wheels Day. President Biden used Wings Field on January 5 after visiting Valley Forge and giving an address at Montgomery County Community College.



## Vintage Airplane Fly-In at Heritage Field

The 3rd annual Vintage Airplane Fly-in, Camp-in will be held at Pottstown Heritage Field on the weekend of May 10-12. All aircraft and cars are welcome. Special procedures are available for aircraft that are not ADS-B compliant. Activities will include food, games, raffle, airplane rides, fly overs, camping on-site, and RV parking. Last year's event included both vintage and newer airplanes – all of them pristine and gleaming in the warm sunshine. Several adventurous pilots camped out overnight. A highlight of last year's event was a couple of aircraft flybys, one by the airport owner, David Pitcairn, in his T-6, and a second one – just a little bit faster – by a King Air based at the airport.

# The awe and excitement of air travel

by Tom Barrett

5

The empennage of the big taildragger featured a red and blue silhouette of a Native American, the "Air Chief," and along the fuselage the words "Mohawk Airlines" suggested adventure in far away places. Gantry steps were wheeled into place for passengers to ascend. So sat a DC-3 on the tarmac at Williamsport Regional Airport at the end of the Christmas season 1960.



Businessman in suits and hats (men in suits typically wore hats then, usually fedoras) and ladies in dresses strode across the apron to board. Among them was a young woman, stylishly dressed, including hat, and cashmere coat. To my eight-year-old eyes, she was a picture of elegance and sophistication. Halfway up the gantry, she turned and waved at us. She was all of 18, my cousin Beverly on her way back to college in South Carolina. What a moment for me, a kid who loved airplanes, to actually know someone who was about to depart on an airliner!

In my immediate and extended family, no one had means or a reason for air travel... Except one. My mother's brother Foster was of a bygone era; chief engineer for a Wisconsin-based paper products manufacturer who didn't go to college, whose job required a lot of air travel. He and my aunt lived in Milwaukee with her daughters Beverly and Linda, and spent Christmas 1960 in Pennsylvania with my grandparents; hence Beverly's departure on a DC-3. Various relatives were there to see her off.

In those safer pre-terrorist, pre-hijacker days one could be close enough to hear the whine of the starters and smell the smoke as first one, then the other big radial engine fired. At first the props turned slowly until the engines coughed, belched oily smoke that swirled in the prop wash, and settled into a wonderful radial drone. That smoke smelled better to me than the perfume the ladies were wearing.

Dad told me to watch the takeoff and announce the moment the wheels left the ground. Propellers and a big, thick DC-3 wing made good use of the cold, dense winter air. Ground roll began, tail

up, I announced wheels off the ground, wheels up, and watched a majestic climb and level-off until it was just a speck. 'Twas a memorable day for me. It would be another four years until I got my first plane ride, in a J-3 Cub, and another fifteen before I traveled on an airliner, Boeing 707 to the UK in 1975. The 707 is now just as obsolete as a DC-3 was in '75.

I, who as a kid got excited about watching someone I knew Board a DC-3, have never lost the feeling of awe and excitement about airplanes, all airplanes, big or small. No doubt many EAA chapter members feel the same. One need not be a pilot to share the enthusiasm, to enjoy airplanes. None of us play college or pro football, but we can enjoy the excitement, especially college ball. Think of all the films, TV shows, and entertainment venues that are aviation themed. In the 1960s, there was a Broadway play titled "Boeing-Boeing" and a film titled "Come Fly with Me." The '68-'80 TV show "Hawaii Five-0" featured a Boeing 747 descending into Honolulu in its opening credits. "Airport '70", "Airport '75", "Airport '77", "Air Force One", the comedy spoof "Airplane", and of course the '50s TV show "Sky King" all centered their entertainment value around aircraft and airports.

I, the kid who loved airplanes, am proud to say that I personally know three airline pilots, and one corporate pilot: Jim Gilfert (owner of Sunbury Airport), Mark Hauck, Rob Staib and Tim Inns. Tim recently sent me a text telling me he enjoyed reading the newsletter "at work." He sent me a photo of our newsletter clipped to the yoke of a Boe-

ing 777 at thirty thousand feet en route to San Francisco. Another time, he texted mid-week that he was in Athens but would still make our Saturday luncheon. Not Athens, Georgia. Athens, Greece! Tim started out as a flight instructor nearby at Danville, PA, and now flies for United Airlines. I am very proud of his accomplishments.

I've not been above dropping the fact that I know professional pilots in non-aviation, social settings, tactfully, of course. There's a definite cachet attached to pilots. I personally know dozens of surgeons, but only four airline and corporate pilots, thanks to the EAA and our Chapter 769. I am proud to say, I know many pilots, airplane owners, and air-

plane builders together with non-pilots who love airplanes and support our

Chapter. The purpose of the EAA chapters (and clubs like the Aero Club of PA) is to enjoy and promote aviation, and have fun and fellowship together. We all serve as ambassadors for aviation, whether at chapter functions or in our day-to-day lives.

There's an expression, "One generation plants a tree. The next enjoys the shade." Perhaps, we are planting seeds. Perhaps, an association

with our club and its members might kindle the spark in some young person and he or she someday becomes a corporate, military or airline pilot.

**Tom Barrett, Sunbury, Penna.**

*Tom is the editor of "The Island Flyer", the monthly newsletter for EAA Chapter 769. A longer version of this article appeared in their September 2022 issue. Chapter 769 holds monthly fly-ins at Sunbury Airport, a grass airfield on an island in the middle of the Susquehanna River.*



"One could be close enough to hear the whine of the starters and smell the smoke... as the big radial engines fired."

## Gayl Henze, 1939-2023

by Nancy Kyle & Mary Wunder

6

Gayl Henze. Wife, mother, grandmother, sister-in-law, aunt, friend, pilot, gardener, world traveler, and Ninety-Nine.

Gayl excelled at all of her roles in life.

Those of us in aviation will remember her best attribute—someone you could always count on for assistance. She devoted countless hours to activities in the Ninety-Nines, International Organization of Women Pilots, joining on July 28, 1980 and later becoming a life member. From attending business meetings at the chapter, section, national, and international levels, to hosting January chili dinners and summer garden parties for her local 99 friends, painting compass roses at airports, welcoming Air Race Classic flyers, and working Pennies-a-Pound fund raisers, Gayl was an active role model, mentor, and 'presence' at countless aviation events. For the 99s, she served as chapter chair, newsletter editor, governor of the section, international committee chair, and chair of the Endowment Fund. I may have missed a few!

That red shock of hair could be seen a long distance away; getting out of your airplane and heading to the gathering

area, you just knew you would be treated to her attentive conversation, gracious encouragement, fun, gentle banter, and kind flying advice.

Gayl held private and commercial certificates; instrument and seaplane ratings. She served as cor-

her beautiful gardens, diligently caring for them, and was a true lover of nature, wildlife—and the sky!

Last, but certainly not least, Gayl was a devoted wife, caring mother, and beautiful soul. Thank you, dear Gayl, for your generous friendship and many contributions to aviation. We are all the richer for having had you touch our lives and will forever cherish your memory.

Gayl, who had residences in East Falls (Philadelphia) and Port Orange, FL, is survived by husband Herb, daughters

Laura and Diana, son Adam, grandchildren Nigel and Nshan, sister-in-law JoAnn, nephew John, and niece Heidi. She also leaves behind hundreds of worldwide friends, made during the course of a life well-lived.

Funeral services will be held on April 6, 11AM at The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown. Donations in Gayl's memory may be

directed to Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry, c/o First Presbyterian Church of Germantown, 35 W Chelton Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19144.



Gayl, left with Ninety-Nines friends

porate pilot for Penn Fishing Reels, flying the iconic Bonanza V35 and logging over 2000 hours during the course of her flying career. She was a skilled pilot, and loved dancing in the clouds. She served as Board Member of the Aero Club of Pennsylvania, and attended the Wright Brothers gala faithfully every December 17 with her husband, Herb Henze.

She took great delight and comfort in



Gayl and Herb top left with Ninety-Nines at Timber Lake

## New restaurant at Chester County



A new fly in restaurant has opened at Chester County Airport. The sports-bar themed bar and restaurant is family owned and operated by Bruce McMahon, his brother Lucas McMahon and their father Bob. They opened the second week of January, after a long renovation project to rejuvenate the space that was occupied by The Flying Machine Cafe for many years.

The menu features specialty entrees, wraps, sandwiches, hamburgers, wings, chili, barret and french onion soup. The bar, of course, includes draft and specialty beers and mixed drinks.

New operations supervisor Justin McGregor at Signature Flight Support is working to set modest ramp fees for general aviation aircraft flying in to visit the restaurant. Call the FBO at 610-384-9000 for the latest information.



Bruce McMahon at the new bar

# Wright Brothers Award

by Debbie Harding

7

The Aero Club has been awarding a Wright Brothers Award most years to someone who has contributed to our club and to the aviation community in significant ways. At this year's annual Wright Brothers Dinner on December 17, we presented Sarah Wolfe with this honor in recognition for her contributions, especially in coordinating our silent auctions over the last four years.

Sarah is a multiple Aero Club scholarship recipient. She has advanced in her career as a result. She now flies as first officer on a corporate jet for FlyAdvanced, and she spends her free time doing Cirrus charter work. Flying is her passion. Sarah's success reinforces the belief by all those who donate and who work on the scholarship program that our effort has real impact.

Sarah readily accepted her 2020 election to the Board of Directors of the Aero Club shortly after her graduation from Purdue in the earlier stages of her aviation career because of her gratitude and desire to "pay it forward." She is one of the youngest members to serve and one

of the most active! Sarah has contributed articles to the newsletter and has volunteered to represent the Aero Club at various events. Her biggest contribution has been taking on the silent auction for the Wright Brothers Dinner.



**Sarah Wolfe accepts Wright Brothers Award from President Erik Kocher**

Sarah wanted to help do something to help raise scholarship funds when she didn't have the personal means yet to offer donations. So, she volunteered to start researching, choosing, and collecting items for our silent auction. Due to the pandemic in 2020, we were unable

to have an in-person dinner, so with her enterprising nature, she set up an online auction site began posting items for the all-online auction, something never done before. She has coordinated the in-person auctions ever since. Thanks to you Sarah! The silent auction raised over \$7,000 in that period for our scholarship program. Great work!

## About Sarah

Sarah graduated from Purdue University in 2020. After college, she worked as a contractor for the Navy doing flight instruction for 6 months in Pensacola, Florida, then worked for a year and a half at Quest Diagnostics transporting medical samples in PC-12s. She started her current job flying a Cessna Citation Latitude for FlyAdvanced in March of 2022 and has been doing that ever

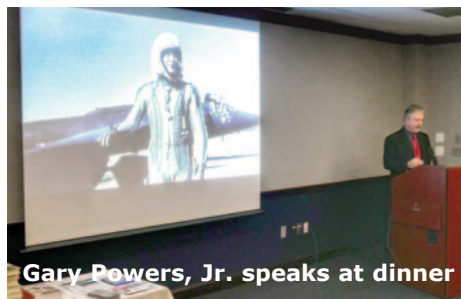
since. In her free time, she does Cirrus charter work. She also recently earned a business degree and her real estate license. She bought her first home this year - a duplex in Lititz, PA. In the future, she hopes to purchase several more rental properties and a plane of course!

# Francis Gary Powers, Jr.

by Robert Dant

**Gary Powers, Jr.** spoke at our Wright Brothers Dinner on December 17 about his father Francis Gary Powers, Sr. His father was a CIA U-2 pilot who was shot down in Soviet Russia in 1960 during the Cold War.

Mr. Powers gave specific details about the incident that most people would not have been aware of based on the news articles of the time. Of particular interest were the difficulties his father faced when his aircraft was damaged, of trying to escape the aircraft once it was clear that he could not save it, and the reason he was unable to activate the sensitive camera destruction mechanism as he exited the aircraft.



**Gary Powers, Jr. speaks at dinner**

In 2015, Mr. Powers became aware of a movie in the works by Steven Spielberg that aimed to recount the events. Eager to contribute to historical authenticity, he reached out to acquaintances of the film's producer. His initiative led to a prompt invitation to meet with Steven Spielberg himself and an eventual offer to serve as a consultant on the film,

"Bridge of Spies." Despite the customary dramatization and narrative compression typical of Hollywood productions, he maintains that the movie remained reasonably faithful to the actual events.

Mr. Powers is the Founder of The Cold War Museum, a Virginia-based charity that honors Cold War veterans, preserves Cold War history, and educates the public about this time period. He has worked with the National Park Service to identify historic Cold War sites for commemoration and preservation. He has written three books related to his father's life and the life of spies, and he is working on a fourth book now.

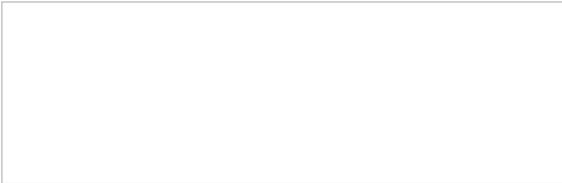


Organized December 17, 1909; Chartered May 10, 1910  
**Aero Club of Pennsylvania**  
 1399 Narcissa Road, Blue Bell, PA 19422

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## AVIATION EVENT CALENDAR

### Aero Club

**April 18** Board of Directors Meeting  
**May 11** Scholarship interviews (KOQN)  
**June 20** Annual Aero Club Scholarship Dinner  
**Aug 31** Aero Club Cape May Fly-in

### Local

**April 27** Angel Flight East Gala  
**May 10-12** Vintage Airplane Fly-In, Camp-In (PTW)  
**May 11** Chili Fiesta Fly-in, Massey (MD1)  
**May 18-19** Dover AFB Open House & Airshow  
**June 1** Antique Airplane Fly In, Massey (MD1)  
**June 7-9** MAAM Reading WWII Weekend (RDG)  
**June 14-16** Greenwood Lake Air Show  
**June 14-16** Chester County Balloon Festival (Willowdale)  
**June 25** New Garden Air & Car Show (Tuesday)  
**Aug 24-25** Ocean City Maryland Air Show (T-birds)  
**July 8-12** Future Aviator Camp, New Garden Airport  
**Aug 5-9** Future Aviator Camp, New Garden Airport  
**Aug 14** Atlantic City Airshow (Wednesday T-Birds)  
**Oct 7-9** PA Aviation Conference (Bethlehem)

### National

**April 9-14** Sun 'n Fun Fly-In; Lakeland Florida  
**July 3-7** Ninety-Nines Intl Conference (Vancouver)  
**July 22-28** AirVenture Oshkosh  
**Sept 18-24** Triple Tree Aerodrome Fly-In, Woodruff, SC  
**Sept 5-8** International Seaplane Fly-In Greenville, ME  
**Oct 5-13** Albuquerque Intl Balloon Fiesta

## Board of Directors Report

By Carris Kocher

The Board of Directors convened at Wings Field on January 17th. Eight members participated in person, while 7 joined the meeting remotely. Outgoing President Erik Kocher presided over the initial proceedings. Following the approval of minutes, the nominating committee presented its slate of candidates for board officers. No changes were proposed to the existing committee chairs. The board elected John Brennan as the new president for a two-year term, while the position of vice-president remains vacant.

Subsequently, the meeting delved into various reports covering our finances, scholarship program, membership, and communication initiatives. Our membership currently stands around 150, including complimentary memberships granted to scholarship recipients. The 2024 renewal period is currently underway, prompting some discussion regarding membership dues and the club's current operating expenses.

Further discussions centered around the 2024 Scholarship program and event planning, particularly focusing on the upcoming Scholarship dinner. Efforts are underway to secure a captivating speaker for the event. Additionally, plans for future field trips, including the Labor Day fly-in at Cape May, were deliberated upon. With the agenda concluded, the meeting adjourned for dinner.