

# POTTSTOWN AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS

Originated February 26, 1948 – Incorporated January 15, 1960  
www.paop.org, Facebook: PAOP, Inc. a/k/a "The Flyers Roost"  
3310 West Ridge Pike, Pottstown, PA 19464

~~April~~ **MAY**

2020 News, enticing articles, and more...

Dear members,

It is unfortunate that this year we have the threat of COVID-19 affecting the activities of PAOP. If you have other medical issues it would be best to take some extra precautions. However, to shut down an economy and a capitalist societies' freedoms for a worst-case scenario is a mistake. Mankind has been around for thousands of years and survived many viruses before. If adventurers and innovators such as the Wright brothers had worried too much about the worst-case scenario mankind might never have flown. This shut down and lockdown is a death sentence to Capitalism, freedom, and civilization itself.

For those of you that wish to venture out this Memorial Day holiday, we that attended the executive board meeting this month decided to have a country style cookout from 11:30 to 3:00 ? on Monday, May 25. This is an invitation for PAOP and EAA members and local pilots if they wish to mingle with the like. A 10-dollar donation for our expenses would be much appreciated . I left it up to the food committee to purchase. I am sure there will be plenty. If you wish to bring a salad or dessert or something special, please do. I hope the weather cooperates, it will be nice to see some familiar faces and catch up on what is happening in the aviation community. We will be grilling with masks and gloves and our pavilion will provide ample social distancing for mask-free eating.

Weather dependent we plan for a fly out to N40 Sky Manor for breakfast 5/31. It would be great to have you along with us. Contact Gene Poppel (genepoppel@comcast.net) if you plan to come.

On another note we will be having a cleanup day at the Roost Saturday morning before Memorial Day 8 to 12. If you wish to help you can contact me or just show up. 267 718 4890

Stay safe healthy and smart. Just use the common sense the good Lord gave us, and we will get through this too.

Thank you, your Prez

Erik Forde

## Planned 2020 PAOP Flyouts

Date	Event	Comment
5/25/20	Cookout at the Roost	Noon to 3PM, Burgers, Dogs, n Beans + ?
5/31/20	Sky Manor (N40)	Brunch
6/28/20	Kentmorr Marina, Stevensville, MD (3W3)	Crabs!
7/26/20	Ocean City, NJ (26N)	Brunch
8/30/20	Cape May, NJ (KWWD)	Sunday date afternoon dinner
9/27/20	Sky Acres (44N)	Brunch
10/24/20 (Sat)	Grimes	Great Pumpkin Fly-in
11/22/20	Sky Manor (N40)	Brunch
12/20/20	Millville (KMIV)	Brunch at Verna's
1/31/21	Frederick, MD (KFDK)	Brunch

### 2020 Officers and Directors

President: **Erik Forde** Vice President: **Mike McNamera** Secretary/Treasurer: **John Green**  
Directors: **Gene Poppel, Barry Kerchner, Andy Landis, Kathy Brenneman/Laura Poppel, Alan Jones**  
and **Tim Drager** (President Ex-Officio)

PAOP Board Meeting

May 14, 2020

**Attendees:** John Green, Erik Forde, Mike McNamara, Andy Landis, Kathy Brenneman, Laura Poppel, Gene Poppel, Tim Drager

**Treasurer Report:** April 2020

Starting Balance	\$3,285.75	
Income	\$1,018.62	
Expenses	\$ 698.90	
Ending Balance	\$3,605.47	- incl. \$235.23 for Youth Education Fund and \$325 for 501(c)(3) filing
Gain (Loss)	\$ 319.72	

As of May 8<sup>th</sup>, 39 of 139 members have renewed. This does not include the ten who do not pay dues based on past presidency.

Motion made and carried to accept the Treasurer's report.

**Old Business:**

- 501(c)(3) has been granted. Need to file IRS Form 990-N at pay.gov starting in 2021.
- Need to repaint breakfast PAOP signs or have banner signs made at Vista Print. Cost is approximately \$50 each. We are considering buying 2 or 3 to use for the Pancake Breakfast. John G. Will look to repaint current signs in June/July timeframe.
- Need to level sidewalk and bathroom step.
- Remove old PAOP sign from side of shed on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Organize burning the burn pile and then eliminate the burn pile. Erik to speak to Josh Desmond about the township fee. Decision to use woodchipper to dispose of burn pile.
- PAOP Breakfast on 9/13/20 (decision @ July meeting) , may also do lunches during the summer.
- Cost of annual insurance ~ \$1,000.

**New Business:**

- Motion made to return \$300 to James Rouiller, this was a donation to cover estimated \$600 for 501(c)(3) filing costs.
- Motion made and carried to hold a Memorial Day picnic on May 25<sup>th</sup>, as our monthly dinner meeting, for the local aviation community. Hot dogs, burgers, sodas from 11:00- 3:00.
- Pavilion cleanup day on May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8-12.
- Fly-out for May 31st to N40 Sky Manor for outdoor (?) eating.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
John Green

One of my biggest thrills in aviation has got to be my flight out to Oshkosh in 2014 in the Piper Archer II owned by PV Rec Flight LLC. Armed with my wife's blessing, and the right seat managed by private pilot Tom Hagerty, we flew West. I had prepared for the event by registering, and then eating up any information I could lay my hands on about arriving at the event. Being a cautious first-time pilot flying into Oshkosh, I took the advice of a more experienced EAA pilot and flew into Northern Indiana and stayed overnight so I could approach the event fresh and prepared.

We had a relatively low ceiling, and once we were in the approach traffic, we listened to all of the converging traffic, with both Tom's and my own head swiveling to get a fix on all of the planes in our immediate vicinity flying at 900 feet. It all worked out as the EAA arrival package had planned, and we landed on the Green Dot, then taxied twice as far as the runway's length to park. We were both exhilarated and delighted to be safe and, on the ground. We stayed and were amazed for four days of the event before heading back to KPTW and home.

But this article is not about that trip, but about the reality of the event, and what is missing because of the protections in place which led to the cancellation of the 2020 event. To get there, I have to give some of the numbers published by the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) for last year (2019) so that the reader can get the feeling for the size and numbers of the massive volunteer event.

Approximately 642,000 people attended in 2019, whether they flew, flew commercially, or drove. We have had PAOP members and friends arrive in all three ways over the years, including long time members Wayne and Patty Long who drive their Motor Home and camp at the event almost annually.

Jack Pelton, EAA CEO, stated in the May 2020 issue of "Sport Aviation" that "...More than 10,000 aircraft arrived at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh and other airports in east-central Wisconsin. At Wittman alone, there were 16,807 aircraft operations in the 11-day period from July 19-29, which is an average of approximately 127 takeoffs/landings per hour." A little more crowded than coming into the pattern at KPTW on a busy Sunday afternoon.

Numbers don't always tell the whole story, but at Oshkosh 2019 they are a story in themselves: According to the EAA May 2020 edition: "Total show-planes: 2,758 including 1,057 homebuilt aircraft (including a record 592 homebuilt aircraft campsites), 939 vintage airplanes, 400 warbirds (6 percent increase), 188 ultralights and light-sport aircraft, 105 seaplanes (40 percent increase), 62 aerobatic aircraft, and 7 in other categories." Additionally, there was camping at the event there were more than 12,300 sites in aircraft and drive-in camping accounted for an estimated 40,000 visitors.

I did have the opportunity to revisit the great event in 2016 as a passenger in the right seat of Mike McNamara's Beech Bonanza. The Bonanza made the trip faster, and we camped under the wings which made the event even more interesting. My thanks to Mike for that opportunity. Just like the Annual Fly-In Drive-In Breakfast which PAOP hosts at KPTW every September, it can't be done without the volunteers who at Oshkosh in 2019 numbered "...More than 5,500 contributing (Volunteers) in excess of 250,000 hours of work."

Right after the May 2020 edition of the EAA magazine was delivered to members and friends, Jack Pelton had the burden of announcing that EAA's big event for 2020 was being cancelled because of the realities of the Corona Covid-19 Virus assault on American and the rest of the world.

The numbers restated above are staggering, and the safety record of the event is incredible, with lots of people to thank for the planning and the safe flying. For a first-time pilot it was intense, exhilarating, and rewarding, and I appreciated being a member of the General Aviation community. We literally met pilots from around the world who flew in and stayed in the elementary school which was turned into a home for many pilots from across North America and around the globe.

The Archer bears a decal from the event, and I can bear witness to how great an event it is to plan for and fly into. So, 2021 is the next chance we all have to plan, fly, drive, or hitchhike to and worth the planning and the wait.

My next goal is to set things up so I can fly Suzanne, who is not a pilot, nor is flying her first priority, but who also will be amazed and grateful to have had the experience. Besides airplanes – It is all about the people you can meet.

It's a beautiful day to fly...

Mike "sky-hawk" Sehl

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*Editor's Note:*

*The backwash of this newsletter is Runway 10 at PTW as Kathy and I taxi for take-off on Saturday May 16. Mike McNamera and Kathy and I had another memorable and exciting flight to the beautiful NYC skyline tour. This Saturday is clean-up day in the morning so perhaps we could do a little flying in afternoon. I intend to continue these Saturday morning flights so get that plane ready for the sky and let's go flying together. Send me your ideas or concerns.*

