



**TO IRAQ AND BACK
APRIL 26, 2007 AT CUTILLO'S**

Iraq Transport

Action in the Middle East has been the main focus of our military, and it takes a lot of transportation and support to make it happen. At our April 26 meeting, Col. Jonathan H. Groff, of the Delaware Air National Guard will tell us of some of the highlights and challenges. He commands the 166th Operations Group, which includes the 142nd Airlift Squadron, 142nd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, and the 166th Operations Support Flight. He also manages all full-time civilian technicians and active duty personnel for the 166th Airlift Wing as the Air Commander.

A native of Sellersville, Col Groff started his flying career in general aviation, beginning in Allentown, and he was a glider instructor at Kutztown. He enlisted in the USAF in 1978, and rose through both the technical and flying ranks.

This month, we'll be meeting at Cutillo's. We gather for dinner starting about 1800. For those not having dinner, plan to be there before 2000 for the presentation.

Call the restaurant (610-327-2912) to let them know you are coming. Tell them you are with PAOP. Cutillo's puts on a fine dinner, or just snacks, and have provided us with comfortable, private meeting and dining facilities.

A Good Day in Johnstown

On March 25, the first Sunday of Spring, we actually had a Spring-like day for a flight across the Alleghenies for brunch at Johnstown. The restaurant in the large, and largely un-busy airport, served us well. Eight planes with 21 people made the trip, with hearty attendance from the Pottstown Municipal crowd.

Dues are Still Due

We've received many checks and lots of promises, but there are still nearly 50 of you who are still unpaid.

Rising costs have made it impossible to keep the dues at the same level they've been for over ten years. Associate and Regular membership is now \$15 per year. Sustaining membership, with no-charge use of the Roost, remains \$25. You'll save us some postage if you pay promptly. Be sure to check your address and contact info to see that it's current. Send your payment to PAOP, PO Box 140, Devon, PA 19333.

Members, New and Otherwise

Welcome back to Kathy and Felix Campos, who have rejoined PAOP after a couple of years' absence.

Sullivan County—We Try Again

In past attempts, the weather has thwarted our planned excursions to Sullivan County airport (MSV), Monticello, NY, in the beginning of the foothills of the mighty Catskill Mountains. Well, maybe not that mighty. It's a 94 nm scenic trip. We'll try again on April 29.

This airport, with its 6300 x 150 ft runway was developed in the 1960's to serve the now mostly gone Catskill resorts. Check out <http://tinyurl.com/3a60lc> for more info about the airport. Breakfast is at the aptly named Fly-In Saucer Café.

We'll gather at Penn Airways at 0830 for 0900 departure, to get there in time for breakfast. Guests are always welcome, as long as seats are available. If you will have an extra seat, or if you need a ride, contact Gene Poppel 610-647-1332 or genepoppel@comcast.net.

School Days

From time to time, PAOP reaches out to the community, serving one of our goals of promoting aviation. On April 13, Barb Zeigler, Ethel Bailey, and Gene Poppel participated in a Career Day at Upper Providence Elementary School. Three classes of third and fourth graders learned about some of the fun in aviation and had exposure to some possibilities for an aviation career.

Last Flight West

PAOP Life Member Arden Clark passed away last month at age 79. A veteran of the Korean War, he had moved from this area to Wadmalaw Isle, SC in the 1990's, where he resided with his wife.

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