

# Pottstown Aircraft Owners & Pilots, Inc.

Originated February 26, 1948 – Incorporated January 15, 1960

3310 W. Ridge Pike, Pottstown, Pa. 19464



April 2019

[www.paop.org](http://www.paop.org)

## Regular Monthly Meeting

### FLYING FROM THE MIGHTY TO THE MINI

The Boeing Vertol Ch-46 Sea Knight served the US Navy and Marine Corps from the 60s until its retirement in 2015, for troop transport, combat support, search and rescue, and search and rescue. Tom Brannan, our April dinner speaker, flew these, including a stint in Iraq. At the other end of the aviation scale, he's building a Zenith. He'll be sharing these experiences with us.

This meeting will be on Thursday, April 25 at the Copperfield Inn at Lakeside, 594 W Ridge Pike, Limerick. Join us for cocktails and conversation starting at 1800, with dinner around 1830, or just for the presentation about 1930. Contact Gene Poppel (484-431-9660 or [genepoppel@comcast.net](mailto:genepoppel@comcast.net)) and let him know you're coming, by Tuesday, April 23.

## Flyout

### BRUNCH AND MAYBE A MUSEUM

It's a lovely flight to the Delaware Coastal Airport in Georgetown, DE (KGED), home of the Delaware Aviation Museum. It's not that near the coast, but they're entitled to call it what they wish; it was formerly Sussex County Airport. This late summer trip will take us down the heart of Delaware, even affording a look at some very big, grey planes at Dover AFB.

On Sunday, April 28, we'll fly for brunch at Arena's Deli and Bar. In addition to their regular menu, they have an all-you-can-eat brunch buffet. We should be there in under an hour from Heritage Field. After brunch, we can enjoy a visit to the museum, home of many WW-II aviation artifacts, memorabilia, and displays. See [www.delawareaviationmuseum.org](http://www.delawareaviationmuseum.org) for more info.

We'll gather at Penn Airways at 0930 for 1000 takeoff. Take a non-pilot or a student along, for an introduction to the world of general aviation—the fun and camaraderie. Contact Gene Poppel (484-431-9660 or [genepoppel@comast.net](mailto:genepoppel@comast.net)) and let him know if you'll need a ride or have seats available in your plane.

## From the Prez

Saturday, April 13th was the PAOP cleanup / workday to get the club house / Roost opened up for the 2019 season. Even though we had some setbacks with plumbing leaks upstairs, the day was a success. Barry and his son Tod endeavored to preserve and by lunch hour it was fixed. We had an Asplund chipper this year to make all the sticks and tree limbs down over the winter disappear, and Laura brought coffee, donuts, cake and oranges. I am glad to say a lot got done. All the picnic benches were washed, and the garage cleaned out, organized, and the damage from our furry friends was dealt with. I want to make a special thanks to the 10 or so that made the scene and pitched in. Thank You.

The meeting room at the Roost has a different appearance, comfortable and now aviator oriented. When you get a chance, come check it out at one of our activities or on a weekend when you see someone there, like Barry or me working on something. The beer and soda is cold in the fridge now. Our first meet and greet Breakfast is coming up May 5th. Anyone interested in helping please contact me at 267-718-4890. See you at the Roost.

Thanks again

Erik Forde

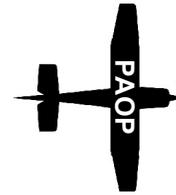
President:  
Erik Forde

Vice President:  
Mike McNamara

Secretary:  
John Green

Treasurer:  
Gene Poppel

Directors: Berry Kerchner, Thomas Kozel, Andy Landis, Laura Poppel, Jeffrey Stouter, Tim Drager (President Ex-Officio)



## Board Minutes

### PAOP Executive Board meeting



April 4, 2019

**Attendees:** John Green, Gene Poppel, Laura Poppel, Erik Forde,

**Secretary Report:** Minutes from the March 2018 meeting were read and approved.

<b>Treasurer Report:</b>	Mar. 2018
Starting Balance	\$3,255.85
Income	\$0.00
Expenses	\$245.18
Ending Balance	\$3,010.67 - incl. \$679.38 for Youth Education Fund)
Gain (Loss)	\$ (245.18)

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

### **Old Business:**

- Discussion on expanding PAOP presence on Facebook to improve our social media exposure. One suggestion to post photos and stories of our monthly fly-outs or any other flights that a member might take. **OPEN**
- Electronic interior sign for in the FBO at Municipal to advertise our events. **OPEN**

- Discussion on reviewing our insurance coverage and shopping, possibly through AOPA. Gene did talk to AOPA, but they had no real interest. Gene talked to State Farm and they pointed out we have some unnecessary coverage, and they declined to cover us. Gene will continue to pursue. **OPEN**
- Discussion on other breakfasts, possibly in May, June, July, and August. We would open it up to local community (pilots) only. **OPEN**
- Ideas on Fly-Outs: Change the July fly-out to a "Date Dinner" flight to Cape May (KWWD) on July 14th. Possible fly-out to St. Michaels, MD for August 25th and Grimes Field for the Pumpkin Drop on October 27th.

### **New Business:**

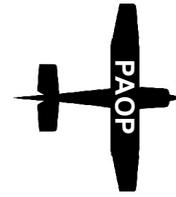
- Discussion on reviewing our insurance coverage and shopping, possibly through AOPA. Gene discussed with an insurance broker, but no insurance carriers were interested in picking up our policy. He is still working with another broker in New Jersey.
- Erik will purchase an A-Frame sign board with plexiglass cover and assorted letters for use outside the Roost.
- Gene was able to print a new members directory as a proof. We can do this in house vs. having Staples do it for us.
- Roost cleanup scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup> from 8 AM until about Noon.
- The monthly dinner meeting will be at Copperfield's on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. Contact Gene Poppel for reservations.
- Fly-out on Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup> to Delaware Coastal Airport in Georgetown, MD KGED.
- Motion made and carried to hold the next Executive Board meeting at the Roost, 7 PM on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

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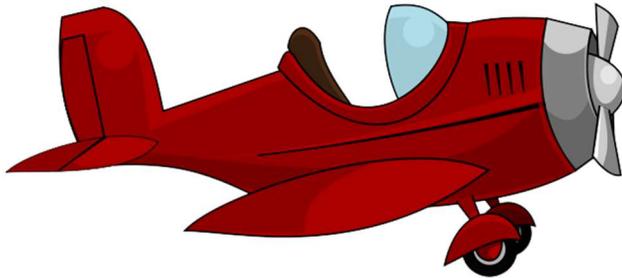
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Respectfully submitted,  
John Green



## From Mike

I received a phone call from a friend of mine from back when I worked consulting in the fast-paced telecommunications industry. We worked for contract companies that facilitated the building of the cell phone industry, one cell at a time. For a period of time I was the Legal Review Specialist for a field office that was expanding and filling in both the capacity and the coverage by putting up new cells and upgrading existing ones. That required a lot of negotiating and sales skills on the part of the Agents out negotiating the contracts. That was less than thirty years ago, but in the telecommunications world, it was generations ago.

John and I always got along well. He knew me as a general practice attorney and was even responsible for getting my introduction to the telecom scene and the job as Legal Review Specialist.

The field office was in Reading, and I was still taking flight lessons at the time. Since I was in Reading almost every day, I moved my flight lessons over to the Reading Airport during that time. I dragged John and a number of others

from the office over to the Reading Air Museum when the war birds and other interesting show planes flew in for the annual WWII weekend. By walking around the museum tarmac on Thursday you could get an up close and personal look at the planes before the show opened.

John had an early experience with flight when he was a little boy in Puerto Rico, flying with his Uncle. He never got over that. Fast-forward to today, and John has been a successful homebuilder, telecom professional, husband, father of two boys, and finds himself thinking about flying.

He wanted to know if he could come out and talk about aviation and maybe answer some questions he had about signing up for lessons. I answered that not only can we get together, but we can go somewhere in the Archer and talk over pizza or something exotic like that.

There was still plenty of snow covering Southeastern Pennsylvania as we took off for N47 to top off the tanks. One of my partners had left the plane late and instead of filling the tanks, had left cash money in the logbook to fill it up. This winter it has been too cold to stand in the dark and use the self-pump. I've been there too.

John hit pay dirt with that move. He is considering lessons at Wings in their fleet of Cirrus single engine marvels, with the ballistic chute. He was struck by what he considered to be the high cost of 80 or so hours training in Cirrus. That was part of what he wanted to talk about. But the reward came in when we spotted the Cirrus at the Flight School at N47. The same plane that just flew in from California days before in order to join the flight school and rental fleet at Fly Elite, LLC, the flight school and FBO.

The owner of the newly acquired Cirrus was there and was delighted to talk about and answer questions about the Cirrus 20. Fueled up, both

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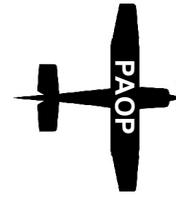
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with 100LL and the good luck of talking with the owner who had flown the plane from the west coast, we headed for our exotic destination of Smoketown, a town in Pennsylvania that John had not ever heard of.

With the chance to show off as well as share whatever knowledge I have, we headed west. I have to say my landings at N47 and S37 were not to my liking. My approaches were fine, but I made two hard but controlled and safe landings apologizing for the landings in the process.

We walked to Gabriella's pizza, ate, talked lessons, dollars, airplanes and approaches. We even talked about our families a little as well before it was time to saddle up and fly home. The landing back at PTW was better, but still not completely to my satisfaction (he'll figure that out in time). John's goal is to be able to ferry his family back and forth to Western Pa. to visit in laws, and be able to load everyone up and go on trips together. He will learn about weight, balance and useful loads from his instructors.

In the course of three hours, I was able to: introduce John to one of our favorite flight instructors, Gene Poppel; expose him to the new owner of the Cirrus 20 at N47; give him the experience of three legs (albeit short) in a single engine General Aviation Airplane; and give him another pilots perspective of taking flight lessons along with work and life. When I got home to tell Suzanne what we had done and talked about, I realized what a joy it was for me to share not only my love of what we do as general aviation pilots, but also give him a positive experience flying about on a Saturday afternoon.

Mike Sehl

For PAOP

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## Planned 2019 PAOP Event Calendar

Date	Event	Comment
2/28/19	Monthly Meeting	Copperfield Inn at Lakeside
2/16, 17, or 18/19	Flyout—Alton Bay (B18)	The Ice Runway
3/28/19	Monthly Meeting	Copperfield Inn at Lakeside
3/31/19	Flyout— Flying W (N14)	AYCE Pancake Breakfast
4/4/19	Board Meeting	
4/??/19	Cleanup	Roost 9AM
4/25/19	Monthly Meeting	Copperfield Inn at Lakeside
4/28/19	Flyout—Delaware Coastal Airport (KGED)	Brunch
5/2/19	Board Meeting	
5/4-5/5/19	99s Pennies a Pound	Heritage Field
5/26/19	Flyout— Cherry Ridge (N30)	Brunch
5/30/19	Monthly Meeting @ The Roost	Steak
6/6/19	Board Meeting	
6/27/19	Monthly Meeting @ The Roost	Chicken
6/30/19	Flyout— Kentmorr Marina, Stevensville, MD (3W3)	Crabs!
7/11/19	Board Meeting	
7/25/19	Monthly Meeting @ The Roost	Steak
7/28/19	Flyout— Ocean City, NJ (26N)	Brunch
8/1/19	Board Meeting	
8/25/19	Cambridge, MD (KCGE)	Brunch
8/29/19	Monthly Meeting @ The Roost	
9/5/19	Board Meeting	
9/8/19	<b>Fly-In/Drive-In Breakfast (Rain Date 9/15/19)</b>	
9/26/19	Monthly Meeting @ The Roost	Lobster (and optional steak)
9/29/19	Flyout— Cherry Ridge (N30)	Brunch
10/3/19	Board Meeting	
10/24/19	Monthly Meeting	Copperfield Inn at Lakeside
10/27/19	Flyout—Sky Acres (44N)	
11/21/19	Monthly Meeting	Copperfield's, Limerick
11/24/19	Flyout— Sky Manor (N40)	Brunch
12/5/19	Board Meeting	New Slate of Officers
12/7/19	<b>Monthly Meeting – Christmas Party</b>	<b>SunnyBrook Ballroom, Pottstown</b>
12/29/19	Flyout—Millville (KMIV)	Brunch at Verna's
1/2/20	Board Meeting	New Slate of Officers
1/26/20	Flyout—Frederick, MD (KFDK)	Brunch
1/30/20	ANNUAL MEETING and Election of Officers	Copperfield Inn at Lakeside

\* Steak is also available at these meeting

Erik Forde

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