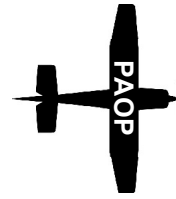


# Pottstown Aircraft Owners & Pilots, Inc.

Originated February 26, 1948 – Incorporated January 15, 1960

3310 W. Ridge Pike, Pottstown, Pa. 19464



February 2018

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

## Regular Monthly Meeting

February's Annual Meeting will be held at Copperfield's (594 West Ridge Pike, Limerick, PA, 484-938-7082) on Thursday February 22, 2018.

Drinks at 6:00, followed by Dinner at 7:00 and the monthly meeting immediately following.

Folks coming for dinner should contact Gene Poppel by January 24 at 610-647-1332 or [genepoppel@comcast.net](mailto:genepoppel@comcast.net).

## Flyout

### BRUNCH AT VERNA'S—TRYING AGAIN

On Sunday, February 25, we'll journey to Millville for brunch at Verna's Flight Line Restaurant. A favorite of hungry aviators and their guests for many years, Verna's is located in a building that was the original Provost Marshal's office, when this airport was a P-47 Army training base in World War II.

This quick, 50 nm flight can provide practice in Class B airspace, with a stunning view of downtown Philadelphia and the airport. More likely, ATC will detour us around the Class B airspace toward a river crossing below Chester. It's a nice flight whichever way we go.

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 (610-647-1332 or [genepoppel@comcast.net](mailto:genepoppel@comcast.net)) and let him know if you'll need a ride or have a seat available in your plane.

Also, let him know if you're planning to fly from another airport and meet us there, just so we can notify the restaurant. Verna gets a bit testy when a large, unexpected group shows up.

## RENEW YOUR PAOP MEMBERSHIP— EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

At its January meeting, the Executive Committee voted to increase the annual dues to \$32.00. However, if you renew by April 1, you need to pay only the current rate of \$29.00. Send your check made out to PAOP, Inc. to: PAOP, 3310 W. Ridge Pike, Pottstown, PA 19464. You can also pay by PayPal. Just go to [www.paop.org](http://www.paop.org), and click on the link.



## From the Prez

Airplane Batteries  
by Tim Drager  
11 February, 2018

Keep your batteries topped off and they'll keep you on top. Most GA airplanes have tightly sealed or loosely sealed lead-acid batteries.

### Tightly Sealed

Maintenance-free does not mean they can be neglected. These tightly sealed batteries are called VRLA (Valve Regulated Lead Acid). The valves will recombine excess hydrogen into the electrolyte, up to a certain pressure. When the

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Tim Drager

Vice President:  
Mike McNamara

Secretary:  
John Green

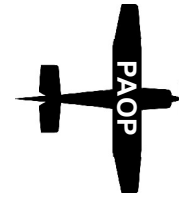
Treasurer:  
Gene Poppel

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pressure is excessive, the valve will “blow” and quickly release hydrogen gas and/or electrolyte into the battery box. They should be inspected monthly by checking the terminals for security and corrosion. Lead-acid batteries are like people. They need frequent attention, so they should be charged weekly and kept at 100% SOC (State of Charge) at 13.6 volts. This stirs the electrolyte so it does not get stratified, a phenomenon where high-acid electrolyte sinks to the bottom. Flying the airplane also stirs the electrolyte.

Some GA aircraft, especially experimentals, can use AGM (Absorbed Glass Mat) batteries. The electrolyte is trapped in a fiberglass mat so it is less prone to stratification. However, if overcharged, it can gas and be easily destroyed. AGMs still need weekly exercise and charging to 100% to maximize longevity.

## Unsealed

Watered batteries use vents to loosely seal in the electrolyte. They are good in that the electrolyte can be replenished by adding water. They can take abuse in the form of overcharging, something that can happen on a hot day or a hot engine. I would not recommend watered batteries because they can spew acid into the battery box, which can corrode your firewall and surrounding area.

In summary, keep your batteries at 100% charge to maximize longevity. Top them off weekly. Fly them weekly. Check the charge voltage of your alternator. It should be no more than 14.6 volts. The no-load voltage should be no less than 12.8 volts. A voltmeter should be part of your instrument panel. If you cannot check the battery yourself, connect a battery tender or battery minder. These devices will keep your batteries in top condition.



## Board Minutes

PAOP Executive Board meeting  
Feb. 1, 2018



**Attendees:** Gene Poppel, Laura Poppel, Jeff Stouter, John Green

**Secretary Report:** Minutes from the Jan. 2018 meeting were read. Motion made and carried to approve the minutes.

**Treasurer Report:** Jan. 2018

Starting Balance	\$4,819.30
Income	\$ 253.02
Expenses	\$1,859.00
Ending Balance	\$3,213.32
Gain (Loss)	\$(1,605.98)

Annual Balance through 1/31/18 (1202.46)  
Motion made and carried to accept the treasurer’s report.

President:  
Tim Drager

Vice President:  
Mike McNamara

Secretary:  
John Green

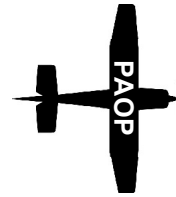
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## Old Business:

- Discussion on ways to increase membership, including a new Director of Marketing, Sponsorship, and Media. Tim Drager to start making contacts to try and get this moving forward. We discussed asking the flight instructors to mention PAOP and hand out the newsletter, also discussed free one year membership for students. Mike has drafted a letter to be sent to local schools as an invitation to STEM teachers to either come visit us or for us to meet with them. **OPEN**
- Discussion on creating a new Director of Youth Outreach, to make connections through Vo-Tech schools, community colleges, and the Hill School. **OPEN**
- Discussion on expanding PAOP presence on Facebook to improve our social media exposure. We had a further discussion on using Snapchat, other social media and personal contact for reaching out to other pilots. **OPEN**

## Flyers Roost task list:

- New roof on the shed-Erik and John-plywood and corrugated steel roofing. \$300 approved expense. **OPEN - Need more time**
- Painting of the pavilion **OPEN**
- Painting of The Roost, would probably require use of a lift **OPEN**

## New Business:

- We continue to lose money each year, based primarily on the costs associated with maintaining The Roost. General discussion on ways to improve the financials from the Fly-In Breakfast to ensure a better annual bottom line; including earlier and better advertising, earlier start on the raffle, trying Bingo Pull Tab Jar Tickets. We need to have the poster design(s) and a raffle prize chosen

prior to the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Board meeting.

- We will begin 50/50 ticket sales at every dinner meeting.
- Question raised on having a food truck at the Reading Air Show or some other event? We would love to hear ideas for fundraisers from the membership. Please submit ideas by email to the Secretary at [jody8654green@aol.com](mailto:jody8654green@aol.com)
- Gene Poppel to investigate cost of indemnification of Board Members and Officers as outlined in our by-laws Article 5 Section 6.
- Next general membership meeting will be at Copperfields on 2/22/18. Cocktails at 6 PM, dinner begins at 7, meeting begins at 7:30. Contact Gene Poppel if you intend to be there.
- Next executive board meeting is March 1<sup>st</sup> in the Heritage Field pilots lounge.
- Fly-Out to Millville, NJ - KMIV - on Sunday Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> since that venue was weathered out in January.

Motion made and carried to adjourn at 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
John Green



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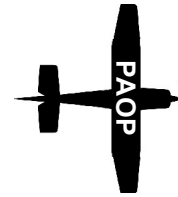
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## From Mike

### "Inspiration"

Inspiration comes from many different sources. Recently, the Delaware Valley has been inspired by the success of the Philadelphia Eagles football win over the New England Patriots in North American professional football. Keeping in the world of athletics, a 17 year old in the 2018 Winter Olympics who grew up in Ohio, named Red Gerard twisted and turned in the air and into first place for a gold medal sliding down a mountain course on a snow board doing things that human beings should not be able to do, and he did it well. He's even too young to know that snow boarding was an upstart on the slopes not long ago and regular downhill Nordic skiing types thought it was not really a sport.

Inspiration comes to parents who urge their little children to make their first step. And then when it happens they realize that their world has changed as well. Meeting a World War II "Code talker" at one of the annual "Reading World War II Weekends" was inspiring for me personally.

Watching my grandchildren (two grandsons) grow and learn continually inspires both myself and my wife.

Inspiration in Aviation comes from trying to do well, be safe and learn. As we have all been told as neophytes: "Your pilot certificate is your license to learn". That simply means you will be learning from every experience you have, every flight you have, every landing you have. We all know pilots who we may believe are better pilots, or are pilots with more experience than we have, or who fly more complex airplanes, but, even they are still learning from their experiences. Even if you are safe and comfortable in your skills and equipment, technology advances around us, rules change, life happens.

Not long ago, we had a President of PAOP who was a World War II fighter pilot instructor, he also flew in combat during the Battle of Midway. I knew him personally and as a Board member of PAOP as a gracious and humble man. No matter how long I live, I can never come close to his experience and expertise. Russ Appler has been gone for a number of years now, but he is one person who has inspired me.

So, who inspires you? Would you be willing to share that at the next PAOP Diner meeting?

Mike "Sky-hawk" Sehl

Past President of PAOP

ASN for PAOP at KPTW

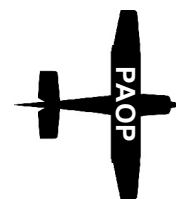
VFR Pilot"



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## Planned 2018 PAOP Event Calendar

Date	Event	Comment
1/10/18	Board Meeting	New Slate of Officers
<b>1/25/18</b>	<b>ANNUAL MEETING and Election of Officers</b>	<b>Copperfield Inn at Lakeside</b>
1/28/18	Flyout— Millville Executive Airport (KMIV)	
2/1/18	Board Meeting	
<b>2/22/18</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Copperfield Inn at Lakeside</b>
2/25/18	Flyout— Millville Executive Airport (KMIV)	
3/1/18	Board Meeting	
3/25/18	Flyout—Cambridge, MD (KCGE)	
<b>3/29/18</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Copperfield Inn at Lakeside</b>
4/5/18	Board Meeting	
4/??/18	Cleanup	Roost 9AM
<b>4/26/18</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>AOPA Presentation</b>
4/29/18	Flyout—Cherry Ridge (N30)	<b>Brunch</b>
5/3/18	Board Meeting	
5/26/18 (Sat)	Flyout—Delaware Coastal Airport (KGED)	<b>Brunch</b>
<b>5/31/18</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting @ The Roost</b>	<b>Steak</b>
6/7/18	Board Meeting	
6/24/18	Flyout— Kentmorr Marina, Stevensville, MD (3W3)	Crabs!
<b>6/28/18</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting @ The Roost</b>	<b>Chicken*</b>
7/5/18	Board Meeting	
<b>7/26/18</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting @ The Roost</b>	<b>Steak</b>
7/29/18	Flyout— Ocean City, NJ (26N)	Brunch
8/2/18	Board Meeting	
8/26/18	Flyout—Tangier Island (KTGI)	Crab lunch and sightseeing
8/30/18	Monthly Meeting @ The Roost	
9/6/18	Board Meeting	
<b>9/9/18*</b>	<b>Annual Fly-In/Drive-In Breakfast</b>	
<b>9/27/18</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting @ The Roost</b>	<b>Lobster (and optional steak)</b>
9/29-30/18	99s Pennies a Pound	
9/30/18 (Sat)	Flyout—Gettysburg (W05)	Lunch and Tour the Battlefield
10/4/18	Board Meeting	
<b>10/25/18</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Copperfield Inn at Lakeside</b>
10/27/18 (Sat)	Flyout— Sky Acres (44N)	
11/1/18	Board Meeting	
11/25/18	Flyout— Sky Manor (N40)	<b>Brunch</b>
<b>11/29/18</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Copperfield's, Limerick</b>
12/6/18	Board Meeting	New Slate of Officers
<b>12/9/18*</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting – Christmas Party</b>	<b>Sunnybrook Ballroom, Pottstown</b>
12/16/18	Flyout— Flying W (N14)	AYCE Pancake Breakfast
1/3/19	Board Meeting	New Slate of Officers
1/27/19	Flyout—Frederick, MD (KFDK)	<b>Brunch</b>
<b>1/31/19</b>	<b>ANNUAL MEETING and Election of Officers</b>	<b>Copperfield Inn at Lakeside</b>

\* Steak is also available at these meeting

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