

Piedmont Aero Club

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Message from the President



Happy New Year Fellow PAC Members,

It's hard to believe we have entered into another year of aviation fun and excitement. I am honored to be your President again for this next year. Been a few years since I sat over in the left seat of the Club, and I look forward to helping us really achieve many great things this year.

However, before we do that, I want to send a hearty shout-out and thanks to the 2015 Board of Directors who guided us through this last year; everything from finding us some aircraft deals so we can get more members achieving their dreams of flight, or others to returning and remaining in the sky as well as to the many events that we participated in....thank you.

As for 2016, this will be the year we focus on "Value for Your Membership." Yes, your 2016 Board wants to concentrate on finding the maximum value for your membership, and what we can do to also involve more members in participating in events; whether flying , driving or local opportunities to converse and enjoy aviation, as that is what we are, and Aero Club, to an occasional distant location. With that, this past year, as I dug up the data, we had to cancel more than 33% of our events due to a lack of participation. We need our membership to tell us what you want to do, and I need (and will be asking) many of you to take a hand in organizing, planning and executing some events.....of course, the Board will help you, as we always do, but we can't do this alone and for the Club to prosper, we need your ideas and help.

We are also going to incorporate a Saturday Breakfast Club, which will be every other month, finding a new place to fly for breakfast. Could be a restaurant, or just an EAA fly-in, but we will post the dates.

Effective January, all Board of Director meetings are scheduled to be held on the 2nd Monday evening of each month, which will give you, as members, an opportunity to come to the Board, see the inner workings of the Club as well as present ideas...or concerns. We are here to help.

On January 21st, we will kick off our new year with our first Club meeting of 2016, and it is imperative that our membership be represented. We have decided that for any significant purchases or use of Club funds, we want membership input. The evening will be capped off with a great presentation by CJ Land, former FAA Safety Inspector, and he will tell us how pilots get subject to that dreaded 709 checkride, and what he has seen....should be very interesting.

Again, it's going to be an exciting year; most everyone knows my passion for aviation, and I want to spend it with all of you....so, get involved, and let's start the year off right. See you on the 21st!

Jon Wells

President, Piedmont Aero Club, 2016

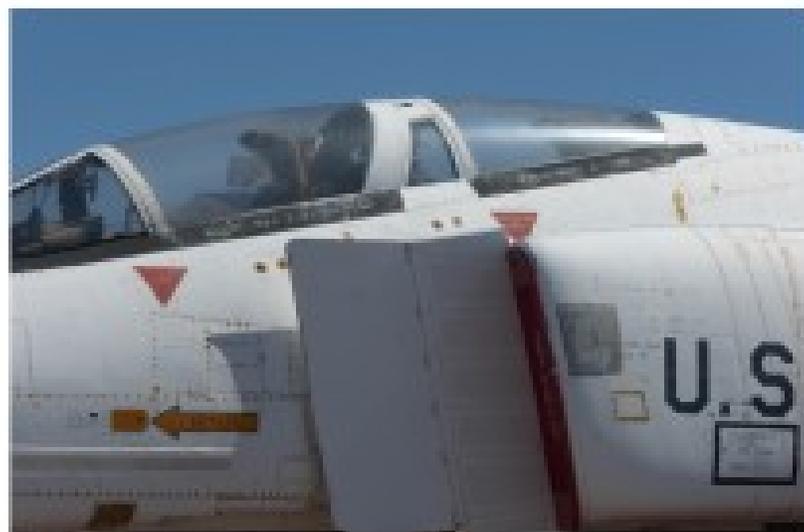


THANK YOU!! AL LAWLESS



The Piedmont Aero Club would like to extend a big THANK YOU to AL LAWLESS for leading the 2016 Board of Directors elections!

Al jumped in without hesitation to handle the process and make sure our PAC members could vote. Al has been a long time member and is employed at Honda Aircraft Company. Most recently he received the prestigious SFTE Kelly Johnson Award!!



Meet the 2016 Piedmont Aero Club Board



President – Jon Wells

Jon is a former club President and one of the original Club founders. He has been flying for over 20 years and has over 4,000 hours in various aircraft, including single-engine, multi-engine and gliders. Jon has instructed for over 19 years and has been designated an FAA Gold Seal Instructor. He is certified to instruct Airplane Single Engine Land and Sea, Airplane Multi-Engine, Instrument and Gliders, as well as Advanced and Instrument Ground Instructor.

He is a proud owner of a Cessna 182 (N3307R), which he uses frequently in support of multiple charity organizations like Angel Flight, Veterans Airlift Command, and Pilots n Paws. Jon is a retired Marine Corps Officer and Gulf War Veteran (1990-1991).

Vice President – Brandon Potter

Brandon grew up in Greensboro, NC and wanted to get his wings since high school, when his friend and her father took him flying in a small plane for the first time. It was a really freaking awesome ice cream run! Brandon completed his PPL in 2012 and his instrument rating in 2013.

Brandon lives in Winston-Salem with his wife, Holly (whom you will not find in anything smaller than a 737, but they're working on that) and their baby Evan. He Brandon loves any excuse to fly, a good cross country, exploring new places that have long runways, or flying for Pilots N Paws.



Treasurer Chris Werling

Chris obtained his PPL in 2012 after overcoming a head-on collision just hours before the FAA checkride. Fortunately, there were no serious injuries but his planned prep time was all but eliminated, making for above average stressful day.

After graduating from Purdue with a BSME, Chris has been employed at Honda for his entire career, working on cars and jets. Hobbies include an lifelong obsession with anything two wheels or aviation related. He recently enjoyed new adventures finding flying destinations for lunch with the wife and two kids.



Secretary Megan Davis

Megan started her career in aviation with ovens and coffee pots as a technical writer for a galley equipment manufacturer. She applied to HondaJet and was surprised and excited to move into aviation full-time.

Megan is a graduate of Virginia Tech (Go Hokies!) and is currently on a long-term PPL plan. She loves technology and travel and went to Oshkosh for the first time in 2015. Her favorite plane is a Piper Cherokee.



Activities Ashley Smith

Ashley began her aviation career in 2014 and got her Private Pilot Certificate on Saint Patrick's Day in 2015. She is currently pursuing her Instrument Rating.

Ashley has a degree in Business Administration and concentration in Marketing from High Point University.

Ashley was born and raised in the Winston-Salem. She is an avid Cross-Fit Athlete and a Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Visit piedmontaeroclub.wildapricot.org for more Board info!



Anthony McPherson: From PAC Member to Naval Aviator

For those that remember Anthony McPherson, who flew with PAC to our events last year and is still an active Club Member; we send our congratulations to him on his recent graduation from Navy Officer Candidate School (OCS).

Anthony holds an FAA Commercial Pilot Certificate, ASEL/AMEL/Instrument, and was selected in August for the Navy Flight Program. At the time, he was employed at the Honda Aircraft Company in Greensboro, but quickly received orders for Navy OCS in Rhode Island. He graduated in early December and is now off to Navy flight training as a future naval aviator to serve our Country.

Anthony holds a BS Degree in Aeronautical Science and a Masters Degree in Aeronautics with a concentration in Safety. Looks like a great candidate for serving as a Pilot and his next squadron Safety Officer billet as well.

Congratulations to Ensign McPherson on his new endeavors.....we're very proud of him.

**Start planning for summer
fun now!**



**95
Days
until
Sun N'
Fun!**



**206
Days
until
Oshkosh!**

**Make a resolution
for 2016
TO FLY MORE OFTEN!**

**Ask a Board Member
about our awesome
TAA rates!**



Jan. 21



2015

PAC Club Meeting

Former
FAA
Inspector

When: January 21st, 2016

Time: 6:30 pm

Where: GTCC AV3 – Rm 316

10,500
Hours

Guest Speaker: CJ Land

“Avoid a 709 Checkride! What Pilots do to jeopardize their Tickets!”

CJ is employed with Honda Aircraft Company as a Aircraft Safety Investigator! As a Former Marine EA6B Pilot he has flown over 5 Continents!

Also, his resume includes:

- Graduate, Univ of S Carolina, Florida, and University of Kentucky (PhD in STEM Leadership)
- Former Professor, Eastern Kentucky University, and University of Kentucky
- Former Part 135 Chief Pilot and Director of Operations
- Former Airline Pilot (Piedmont Airlines)
- Typed in 5 Different Business Jets
- Wrote Pilot Manuals for Tecnam Aircraft (Twin and Singles)



Proud owner of a 61 Piper Colt and 66 Twin Comanche!



Upcoming Activities

January 2016

Monday, January 11th – PAC Board Meeting

Thursday, January 21st – PAC Club Meeting

Full Senate Passes the
Pilot's Bill of Rights 2

February 2016

Monday, February 8th – PAC Board Meeting

Saturday, February 13th – HLX Breakfast Run

Saturday, February 18th – SSA Convention
-Sunday, February 19th

Saturday, February 27th – Prop Shop Tour

My Journey to Become a Pilot by Beau Laniel



Growing up, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to fly all around the world at a moment's notice. Planes were something that I just couldn't seem to figure out, even though I was around them so frequently. As a non-revenue passenger, I was rarely seated next to my family even at the age of 5. This however did not deter me from asking anyone around me rapid fire questions about how the airplane worked, and how the "creators" thought of these ideas. I was fascinated that someone thought a giant metal fan could make something fly! As I learned more and grew older, the questions became much more detailed and it only made sense for me to become an engineer. I couldn't choose just any school or discipline because I was still worried about how those airplanes worked!

The University of North Dakota provided the opportunity to become a private pilot as a part of their Aerospace Engineering Degree. Once I lifted off on my first solo flight announcing myself under the call sign "Green 15", I realized that this was one of the best choices I've ever made. The feeling of accomplishment was instant and unparalleled as I landed for the first time with no one else in the aircraft. Since that day, I enrolled myself in the Commercial Aviation Degree at UND and became a Multi and Single Engine Commercial Pilot in 9 months, followed by my CFI just 20 days later. The goal is simple, continue to have fun and allow more students to feel the joy and freedom of flight. To this day, I get the chills when a "Green" aircraft lands and the tower says "Congratulations and well done!" with the student's excitement able to be seen by the entire airport.

Aviation is about freedom, speed, and camaraderie. It's about going places unreachable by car, and too far for hiking. Whether it's using my required solo hours to fly home for a friend's graduation party, flying back and forth over the US – Canada border to land over a river in Baudette, MN, or taking my grandparents for their first ride in an airplane, I am fortunate to be able to share my love of flying with others.

Always remember that there are only 3 things that are useless to a pilot; fuel left in the truck, runway behind you, and altitude above you. Be safe and have fun!

