

The Prop Wash

A Monthly Publication of the Indianapolis Aero Club

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From the President

Ready to Zoom Ahead

If memory serves the pre-start and starting checklist in my Cherokee went something like this.

- Pre-flight walk around-Complete
- Brakes-Set
- Seats and Seatbelts- Adjusted and Fastened
- Radios and Electric-Off
- Fuel-Fullest tank
- Master-On
- Mixture-Rich
- Throttle-Cracked
- Prime as needed
- Area Clear
- Starter engaged

At that point, the little Lycoming roared to life, and I was off on another adventure.

The same process applies to your Aero Club. You have waited patiently, and it is time to get this club fired up. We have put together a Zoom membership for the club, so hosting virtual meetings is not a problem. We will help you with a tutorial shortly for those who have not participated in zoom meetings. It is not hard. You need internet access, but you click on a link once you are there and Zoom takes care of the rest.

Who will you hear? Well, in December, I will lay out the programs we have planned. Speakers are now becoming available, and we have the next twelve months planned. I will lay the whole thing out at our kick-off in December. All I need from you, the Aero Club members, is to hit the starter and join our meetings. We plan to have some outdoor activities as the year progresses, but it will be subject to the world around us as with this year.



I am inspired by your board and by some of the volunteers who have stepped forward. We will need help with the newsletter and with email communications soon. Martin Weaver has dedicated himself to these endeavors and organized flyouts and being an energetic board member for some time. Martin is passing on the roles this year and will work with anyone who can step up and give it a try. If you have any interest, please let me know. We can't thank Martin enough for all he has done for the club. Although he intends to remain an active member, we cannot let his efforts fizzle. Please give it a shot if you have any interest at all. We work as a team and will make sure you succeed.

At this point, look for a zoom invite in the near future. We will have a meeting in December. Also you will get a Zoom tutorial in the near future. Save it and reach out with questions. I am not an expert but have been using zoom since March so I should be able to assist.

Until then my friends let us be thankful for what we have in this Thanksgiving season. God Bless and you are cleared for take-off.

Respectfully,

Jeff Uchino

President

FROM THE RIGHT SEAT

Hello! I hope you all are staying safe in these times. I know that the COVID-19 virus has visited several in our club.

As I write this, I am relaxing from having the past week off. In that week, I was able to go deer hunting for several days at a private place that a friend permits me to hunt. Although my trail cameras confirm there are deer on the 70-acre property, they have avoided me. Elaine and I were also able to travel to our hometown in Illinois for a small family Thanksgiving. It was a blessing to spend time with them. We returned last evening, so I got up early this morning to look for those elusive deer again, without success.

I write the above because it made me think of a famous saying that no matter how wealthy we are,

we cannot buy time. Most likely, we all lead busy lives, which makes it challenging to commit to things we enjoy. Like you all, I have my faith, family, & career at the top of my list of responsibilities and responsibilities. The other essential activities & organizations I belong to can take up more of that “block of time.” I participate in them because they are fun, & I believe my time is worth the investment.

I wish to give applause to our President, Jeff Uchino, and our board of directors for their efforts in “keeping us flying” through the pandemic! We have not been able to meet and fellowship as a club for a long time. Our leadership has still been working behind the scenes via zoom & emails to develop future gatherings post-pandemic ideas.

Those plans have changed and evolved as the situation changes and fluctuates. We were hoping to have something in October; however, we had to stop it before it started due to social policy updates with Covid.

I now circle back to the value of our time. You own this club, so we depend on your input. Please consider taking some time out of your busy lives to contact your board to see how you can help & offer any ideas for the club. We all understand that a commitment to help will vary, but we will be thankful for anything you can do.

Rodney Davis

Vice President

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Aero Club friends,

it's been one heck of a ride, but another chapter comes to a close. I've edited the newsletter for the last eighteen months, and I enjoyed it for the most part. It's hard to believe, but I've also been a club director for the last four years.

The director and editor jobs happened because of two club members that I much admire. Paul King and Don Born, along with their wives, are the reason there's still an Indianapolis Aero Club. Frankly, I couldn't stand to see them doing so much work while I stood by and watched. As you know, there are

three kinds of people: Those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened. I prefer to make-things-happen.

By the time you read this, I'll probably have entered my seventh decade—it's inevitable if you live long enough. The view ahead is always different than the view behind. Lots of new experiences like transurethral resections and catheters await me. I wish I knew in youth



what I know now, but wisdom has a price. Mark Twain said life would be fairer if we were born eighty-years-old and got progressively younger. Mark is probably right, but then I would have missed some of the really stupid things I've done and enjoyed doing, but life is not fair.

If you expect more sentimental pabulum, then fasten your seatbelts because you are in for a ride. Fair doesn't interest me. I'm only interested in what is right, and it is not right that so few members take an interest, much less a hand in preserving this club that's been such an influential part of Indiana's aviation history since 1933.

Communication is the heart of every effective organization. We hoped to make our newsletter (Prop Wash) a useful and dynamic publication to reach our members. Our ultimate goal was to evolve it into a monthly magazine with information and exciting features. With The Unknown Pilot articles, we thought the readers would find the content entertaining and unusual. We mistakenly believed some curious member might ask, who the hell is this Unknown Pilot?

Aviation is cliquish, and that is a bad thing. I was lucky to know Ray Clark—he taught hundreds of people to fly, and he was an Indiana aviation legend, ask the FAA. Ray, knowing the aviators' clannish ways, personally went around the airport and introduced every new student at his Washington Aeronautics flight school (KDCY). He wanted everyone to become friends and help each other through the courses. Lifetime friends and pleasant memories came from Ray's thoughtfulness.

By contrast, walking into an Indianapolis Aero Club dinner meeting is a daunting experience, and I don't just mean the first time. Old-time members sit with their friends in the same places month after month. My wife and I sat alone or with other newbies through several dinners. We felt like Larry Koger

and Kent Dorfman at the Omega Theta Pi fraternity rush in Animal House. I've spoken to people who said they'd never come back. Folks, everything on this planet either grows, or it dies. Our future as a club depends on welcoming new members, and welcoming is the operative word.

Jeff Ucchino was one of the newbies at our table. Jeff is a good man; he's had his share of upheaval before and during the current crisis. I'm speaking of the virus crisis, but there was a crisis that preceded it.

Paul King agreed to remain president another year beyond the regular two-year term. Paul King also has a private and business life. He was arranging monthly programs, changing and securing a new venue, and producing the monthly newsletter in addition to overseeing the website. Frankly, Paul was fried, and we needed a new president.

Don Born shouldered the search for a new leader. If you think washing and waxing your airplane is lonely, that's nothing compared to finding someone to lead an organization, especially one that's all work and no pay.

Jeff Ucchino agreed to become our president, and Rodney Davis volunteered to be vice-president. If they had not been so generous with their time, I'm not sure what would have happened. For the record, we are not unique in America today. Almost every other organization that we've taken for granted is struggling.

We also have an excellent board of directors. Rodney Davis and our executive council performed a herculean task by developing a strategic plan that we intend to use instead of gather dust on the shelf.

I implore you to volunteer to stand beside and behind these unselfish leaders. My board term ended, and our by-laws preclude my reelection. I won't lie about it, the newsletter production is challenging, but we have a creative graphic artist who takes the raw material and makes it look professional.

The reason we took Prop Wash all electronic is that nobody wanted to tackle the duty of picking it up at the printer and mailing it out to the members when our volunteer retired.

Going digital opened up limitless possibilities that we were beginning to pursue. Still, our switch to Mail Chimp as a distribution system had the dubious benefit of allowing us to see how many of you read our messages. Indeed, we know who clicks the Prop Wash link, and the unhappy fact that only about half of you bother to read it discouraged me. Every additional page costs extra money, but why go to the trouble if nobody is reading it?

Mayday, Mayday, Mayday!! We are close, awfully close to an existential decision point. The question is, do you want the Indianapolis Aero Club to grow or die? Like life itself, we are subject to the laws of nature.

I'm stepping back, but I'm not going away. I sincerely hope that some of you will pick up the challenge, as is my intent in this message. I hope to see you at future in-person dinner seminars, and there will be in-person dinners—the virus grew, and it will also die.

Martin Weaver, ATP
B767/757, DC-9, C-182
AKA Captain Roscoe E. Filtcher
and The Unknown Pilot

INDIANAPOLIS AERO CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Dues Due October 31st

New Membership \$65

Renewal \$65

25 years & under \$25

PLEASE PRINT

Date: _____

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

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Spouse First Name: _____

Spouse First Name: _____

Ratings: _____

Willing to be part of a Committee

Make Check Payable to: **Indianapolis Aero Club**

Mail to: Don & Judy Born
6917 Royal Oakland Way
Indianapolis, IN 46236
(317) 823-6917



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Every month the Indianapolis Aero Club sends out emails to inform members on monthly dinners, last minute changes, club events, and general aviation information we think you might find timely, informative, interesting, or funny. If you are not receiving these emails, please sign up to get them by doing this:

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