



# Comm One



**News of the Reading Aero Club**

**February 2026**

## President’s Message – Drew Drebitko



Happy New Year RACers,

Every past President of RAC that I’ve spoken to all indicated that the most challenging part of the position is writing their COMM ONE every month. While I expect that tradition to continue, this month will not fall into that category!

Just like our wife’s (singular or plural for those that didn’t learn their lesson the first time) tell us, there is no such thing as too many “THANK YOU”. THANK YOU to all

who currently serve this club and THANK YOU to all who preceded us; you leave huge shoes to fill. So many members of the current Executive Board have served this club for many years and in many different capacities; THANK YOU. Many more have preceded us and it will take even more to help this sad group of aviator’s steer RAC into the next 100-year history. My biggest concern with taking on this role as club President was not feeling worthy nor prepared in the workings of RAC and leading us straight into CFIT (Controlled Fear Into Trouble). I now realize that there is strength in numbers and there is so much support within this club that the remainder of your strong Executive Board will keep me on the magenta path. My other day job company is also almost 100 years old, and I constantly tell our management team that we are all simply the current caretakers of a 100-year-old organization and our only goal is to make our best decisions to help those that follow make it to their 200- year history. Every club member is a part of that history in their own way. When I joined this club just a few short years ago, I did not know any of the members when I was looking for connection with an aviation minded community and for access to a simulator. As a group, you welcomed me (and suckered me in) and helped me grow as a pilot with such a wealth of combined experience that all one needs to do is show up to meetings and events and you can’t help but be a better pilot because of it.

As I write this when it is 30 F outside, I just keep reminding myself that spring is right around the corner! Winter flying offers some different operational challenges, like getting the plane out and back into the hangar, but it can also be a fun time to fly with preparation. Make the time to fly. The air is crisp. The performance is outstanding and the planes are more readily available. Go have some fun!

Keep aware of club activities and show up. Help out. Absorb the experiences like a sponge. MOST OF ALL, remember why you started flying in the first place and enjoy the ride.

See you around the clubhouse!!

Drew Drebitko - President



### Upcoming Events



**Club Meeting: 2/12/2026, 7:30 PM. Food = Pizza**



## Maintenance Director – Chris McCauley



I want to start off by thanking all the members who elected me to this position. I am a new member, and freshly minted private pilot as of September 2025 so first I would like to introduce myself to those of you who I have not had the opportunity to meet, I am Chris McCauley. My background is in the automotive field as an Auto Technician of 20 years, working in Allentown, and I believe that my mechanical background will suit this position well. I look forward to serving the club and its members to the best of my abilities.

Joining me as the Assistant Maintenance director is Josh Collester, who also has a strong mechanical background as an auto repair shop owner. Together we will strive to keep the airplanes well maintained, and in operation to the best of our abilities. As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or need to report any squawks/discrepancies with the airplanes, please email the maintenance email at [maint@readingaeroclub.org](mailto:maint@readingaeroclub.org), and myself or Josh will handle it accordingly.

### Squawks/Discrepancies/Updates:

#### N168F

- VFR only – GPS update failed which added to the ongoing issues with the Avidyne, the unit was removed and sent back to the manufacturer. Replacement Avidyne unit should be installed and working within the next week.
- Engine is past TBO, we will be sampling oil at every oil change (50hrs) and monitoring closely
- Outstanding squawks will be reviewed and cleaned up

#### N2373K

- Aircraft is currently at Steve's and all the engine checks came back good so repairs have been started. The new prop is here, and we are planning on having it back in the air within the next 2 weeks with a fresh annual.
- Broken door panel and leaking window will be addressed. Waiting on assessment from two interior shops, pending aircraft's return to service
- Outstanding squawks will be reviewed and cleaned up



## N2946B

Outstanding squawks will be reviewed and cleaned up this winter providing some of the coldest weather we have seen in a few years, I would just like to touch on some winter operation practices.

### Winter Operations tips:

- Verify tires and landing gear struts are properly inflated.
- Verify working CO detector - Important due to the use of cabin heat.
- Verify crankcase breather tube is free and clear, especially post flight for ice buildup.
- Cold grease and oil may cause things to work differently (ex. Flaps stickier in 46B and 68F).
- Lycoming recommends >1000rpm while warming up and not performing the run up until a minimum of 75°F oil temp, and 100°F before takeoff.
- 165°F oil temp in flight to evaporate moisture in crankcase. If unable to maintain a high enough temperature, please contact me so we can make a plan for future modifications for winter use.
- Travel with extension cord for preheater if parking at other airports
- Power off descents are not recommended due to the increased risk of shock cooling. Plan your descents ahead of time to maintain a consistent power setting. This will also apply to training practices.

As a reminder, if discrepancies are found on any aircraft, please email [maint@readingaeroclub.org](mailto:maint@readingaeroclub.org).

Thank you all, fly safely, and Best Wishes in 2026!!!!

Chris McCauley

Director of Maintenance



## Icing



As a review, two conditions are necessary (but not sufficient, in other words, if you have these 2 conditions, you don't always get ice) for icing to develop:

- 1) visible moisture and
- 2) below-freezing temperatures.

(If your airframe is below freezing, you can still get icing even if the air temperature above)

As RAC pilots, we fly airplanes that are not certified for icing. Therefore, we must steer clear of areas when both conditions are met. But, how can we know when and where these conditions are present? The first place to check is the AIRMETS for icing (1). You can do this at the website below (1) or under Imagery>Advisorys>Graphical AIRMETS>ZULU in your ForeFlight app. AIRMET Zulu for Icing is valid from current time to 12 hours in the future in 3 hour increments.

However, the question you have to ask yourself is "If I fly outside of AIRMETS for icing, will I still encounter icing conditions"? **It is possible.** Again, at the <https://aviationweather.gov/> site, click on the "weather" tab and in the dropdown menu, click icing (2). This will give you a page that looks like the photo below. The dark blue outlines sections (such as the one going from the great lakes to NC) are the icing AIRMETS (AIRMET ZULU). The blue colors WITHOUT a border are NOT an official FAA weather product. They are called the Forecast Icing Product (FIP). Here is the disclaimer from the FAA: "Note: FIP is intended for flight planning purposes and should always be used in combination with icing information from all available sources including G-AIRMETS, SIGMETs, and PIREPs." (5)

I have found the FIP to be fairly accurate. If they are showing medium to dark blue, one can expect icing at that altitude. BTW, the icing page also shows areas of SLDs (super cooled large drops) (3) shown in pink along the east coast below. Even with Flight into known icing (FIKI) aircraft, one should not fly in an area showing SLDs. When I flew the Caravan for Southern Airways Express, we were prohibited to fly in any areas showing SLDs. Absolutely steer clear of SLDs with club aircraft!! If you want a deep dive into the subject, see this FAA publication (6). Or take the FAA safety course here which is less technical (4).

(1) <https://aviationweather.gov/gfa/#gairmet>

(2) <https://aviationweather.gov/gfa/#ice>

(3) great demo of SLD-- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXN\\_fv7e\\_l8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXN_fv7e_l8)



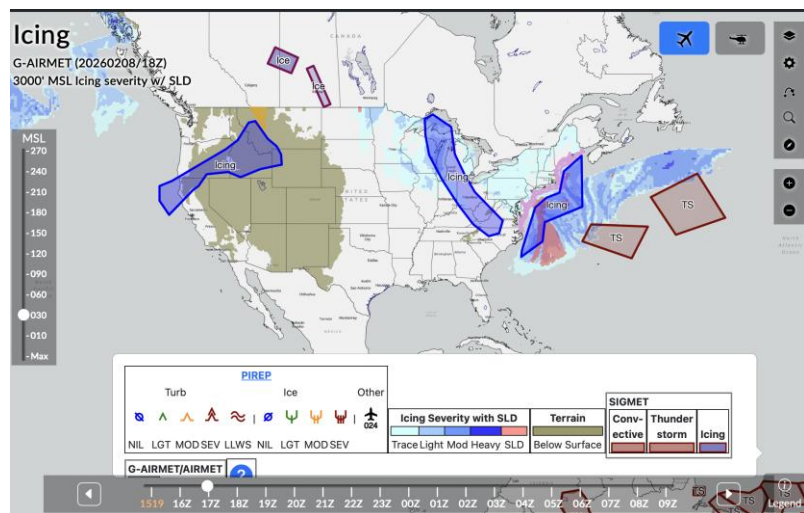
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(4) FAA online icing course: <https://tinyurl.com/y2qt7xc9>

(5) <https://aviationweather.gov/gfa/help/#products>

(6) [https://aviationweather.gov/outreach/How to properly use an Icing Forecast.pdf](https://aviationweather.gov/outreach/How%20to%20properly%20use%20an%20Icing%20Forecast.pdf)



Learn and fly safe,

Brian Stoltzfus



## Reading Aero Club Membership Meeting - January 08, 2026

The meeting opened with 26 members signed in.

### Financials & Administration

- Minutes of December as recorded in Com One were accepted
- Minutes of January 1 meeting of the Executive Board were read
- **Pending Bills:**
  - Comcast Cable: \$149.95/mo → Jim Campbell will research alternatives (e.g., FastBridge, Verizon) to reduce this cost.
  - Flight Circle: \$60/mo
  - Google Workspace: \$44.52/mo
  - Google Telecom: \$14.80/mo
  - Hanger Rental: \$1,220.10/mo
- **Volunteer Hours:** The deadline to submit hours is **January 31st**. Members will be billed for any deficit after this date.
- **Locker Program:** The board is considering renting out 12 lockers (donated by Drew) for \$5/month to generate revenue. A final decision is expected next month.

### Maintenance & Operations

- **73K (Prop Strike):**
  - **Status:** Insurance approved the \$20k claim. Steve sent the quote to the adjuster, who is expected to authorize the prop order tomorrow.
  - **Repair Details:** The \$20k cost covers:
    - New prop (6-week lead time) and bolts.
    - Mandatory engine teardown to inspect the crank keyway.
    - Mandatory replacement of both Slick magnetos (zero-hour units), as rebuilding is nearly as expensive.
- **68F (Annual):**
  - **Status:** In annual inspection.
  - **Nose Strut:** Repeatedly goes flat. Steve suspects a seal kit replacement will fix it.
  - **Engine:** Passed TBO with good compressions and oil analysis, indicating no red flags.
- **46B:**
  - **Status:** Airworthy. The electric trim is inoperative, and the landing light was replaced.
  - **Suggestion:** Upgrade interior lighting.

### Membership & Board Elections

- **New Member Vote:** Daven Martin (250 hrs, PPL-IR) was voted in as a new member.
- **First Reading:** Anthony Lichtenberger (58 hrs, student pilot) had his first reading.
- **Status Change:** Brayden Bowser was approved for associate member status.
- **Board Election Results:**
  - **President:** Drew Drebitko
  - **Vice President:** Dave Meade
  - **Operations VP:** Jim Donnelly
  - **Maintenance Director:** Chris McCauley
  - **Asst. Maintenance Director:** Josh Collester



- **Financial Secretary:** Ron Heim
- **Safety Director:** Brian Stoltzfus
- **Recording Secretary:** Gary Wright

## Club Initiatives & Events

- **Social Media:** Kevin will manage a new Instagram account to boost membership. Ron is working to fix the public Facebook page for a handoff to Kevin.
- **Membership Manual:** Todd, Gary, and Tim Ernest will create a new manual for incoming members.
- **Ubar-Hazy Trip:** Jim Donnelly is organizing a driving trip for the third Saturday in March.
- **AOPA Expo:** The event is Oct 7–10, with the career fair on Friday, Oct 9. Volunteers will be needed.
- **RNAV 31 (KRDG):** The approach has been revised and is now active. It features a 20-degree offset and significantly lower minimums (~1,100 ft vs. ~1,800 ft).

## Next Steps

- **Jim Campbell:**
  - Research Comcast alternatives.
- **Jim Donnelly:**
  - Finalize volunteer hour submissions by Jan 31st.
  - Organize the Ubar-Hazy trip for March.
- **Kevin:** Manage the new Instagram account.
- **Ron Heim:** Fix the public Facebook page and hand it over to Kevin.
- **Todd, Gary, Tim Ernest:** Develop the new membership manual.
- **Board:** Make a final decision on the locker rental program next month.
- **New Board Members:** Download WhatsApp for the board and maintenance chat groups.

## Action Items

- **Email Chris McCauley 73K door panels info**
- **Email members re: Ubar-Hazy Aerospace Museum trip (driving)**
- **Email members re: Expo career fair volunteer needs (Oct 9)**
- **Email Ron Heim re: FB page; then hand keys to Kevin**
- **Add Daven Martin to club roster/systems**
- **Update Brayden Bowser to associate member in roster/systems**
- **Add new board to WhatsApp; remove outgoing; start maintenance chat w/ Chris McCauley + Josh Collester**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:12 PM.