



Comm One



News of the Reading Aero Club

April 2026

President's Message – Drew Drebitko



RACers,

Hard to believe that another month has gone by and spring just keeps teasing us but will not stick around! For me personally, I have had so many reminders recently of why I am a member of the Reading Aero Club. Sure, it includes access to three great airplanes and a fully certified simulator, but more importantly, it is definitely the relationships and pilot camaraderie. When we have questions, we have experienced people to help find answers. When we are making plans, we have pilots to seek their advice. We as a group have such a blend of novice pilots, experienced CFI's, airline types and the remainder of us weekend bug smasher types. If you are seeking input on the simplest questions or planning an around the world trip, we probably have someone in the club that has been there and done that!! I myself recently was planning a cross-country airplane ferry flight from California to PA, which is a first for me. I discussed the idea with a few club CFI's and then even found a volunteer (read sucker) to join me on this adventure. After countless changes, delays and schedule changes, Paul Jones and I set out on our loosely detailed planned agenda. And that is exactly how it went – loosely organized. What have I learned as an aviator? Plan everything to as much detail as possible and be ready to throw it all away with a second's notice. Sound familiar! Ever plan a detailed trip for weeks and it change due to weather, work, family issues or plane availability? Everybody has and if not then be ready, Murphy is looking for you! You were probably safe for the last week or so because Murphy apparently was in CA. I can also report that patience, experience, good CRM and flexibility can frustrate Murphy. On our adventure, we made countless decisions based on equipment, terrain, local familiarity, weather and other delays. Just like we all do on most trips, we just had to make them on an hourly basis for days. Nothing new, nothing different than what we all do as pilots on a regular basis, it was just making them all at once with a partial panel of resources. It sure is good to have another sucker, oops, "volunteer" along to experience this wonder of modern travel. We also had the joy to experience the wonderful side of GA in most small airports across the country. Great people, colorful people and most importantly, helpful people. Do you want to experience what GA is all about; fly to an unfamiliar small airport and look for the two elderly (I would say older but I resemble that comment) sitting on the bench and sit down for a talk. I made that comment to Paul on one of our stops when he was wondering where to park and the process at that airport. As I topped off the fuel, I suggested to Paul that the 2 guys sitting in the shade on the bench would know everything that there was to know about the place, including who poured the concrete in the 1950's. Sure enough, he learned where to park, where to eat and how to get a ride. He forgot the ask about the concrete; see what happens when you don't have a written plan! Our mission is still active, so maybe when it is complete, we will have a review after a meeting if anyone wants to learn the do's, don'ts and experiences from our adventure. The biggest thing that I want you to take away- REMEMBER WHY YOU BELONG TO THE READING AERO CLUB and use ALL of the resources and help that is available to you just by being a part of the oldest flying club in America. Drew Drebitko - President



Upcoming Events



Club Meeting: 4/9/2026, 7:30 PM. **Food = Pizza**

Wash and Wax 4/25/2026. Meet at clubhouse at 7:00 AM



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Maintenance Director – Chris McCauley



Spring is finally here and the temperatures are warming up. With that being said, the engine heaters no longer need to be plugged in.

73K recently went to New Garden to have some interior work done. Both door panels were repaired, along with fixing some broken trim around the windows and replacing the broken right side air vent panel. The right side window latch was repaired, and some extra foam was added to help seal the window frame. Unfortunately, there is still a very slight air leak but at this point, the window frame would need to be bent back into shape which risks breaking the glass, so at this time we are not going to pursue any further repairs.

68F has had some issues that were found with the new/replacement Avidyne unit and its integration with the G5 and also the lack of Wi-Fi capability. We are working on scheduling it to go to Smart Avionics to have these issues addressed. While it was getting an oil change, Steve Kunkle noted that the engine cowling is starting to break so within the next couple weeks Steve will be removing the cowling and doing some fiberglass repair. He is hoping he can do these repairs in a couple days so be on the lookout for some future maintenance down time. It has been noted that after some flights, there is some oil showing up on the top of the cowling. Steve Kunkle inspected the leak, and it appears to be coming from the front crank seal of the engine. With the engine at TBO and the leak being very minimal, replacing the seal isn't a viable option, so we will continue to monitor and assess as needed. The oil change noted no abnormalities, and an oil sample was sent out. Last week, the left fuel sump was replaced due to very slow seepage and also the left brake pads were replaced. Please be sure to inspect the brakes during your preflight checks and let maintenance know of any issues. The tug is out of commission currently and I am working on repairing and returning it to service as quickly as possible.

46B continues to operate flawlessly and is ready and is waiting for your next trip.

As a reminder, if discrepancies are found on any aircraft, please email maint@readingaeroclub.org.

Thank you all, fly safely,

Chris McCauley

Director of Maintenance



Safety Officer - Brian Stoltzfus

FLYING IS ENORMOUSLY ENJOYABLE for pilots, but it comes with some inherent risks. Responsible pilots have to plan and train (such as during a flight review, etc) to minimize those risks. With appropriate effort, we can make flying a safer activity than driving to the airport!



Our airplanes will soon be getting the new QRH. What is a QRH? It refers to a Quick Reference Handbook. The Handbook contains Emergency and Abnormal Checklists, and other information pertaining to those abnormal circumstances. Our new Quick Reference Handbooks are tailored to the N-Number and the specific equipment in each of our aircrafts. They were created by club members who participated in our Emergency and Abnormal Checklist Developing Workshop. Previews will soon be available on the members only section of readingaeroclub.org.

The QRH is optional. But we hope you will become familiar with it and never have an issue that requires you to use it. Some explanation as to how to use the Handbooks will be necessary for expedient application. If you are ever in a situation for which the QRH is designed, this knowledge about the information may be critical.

We did extensive research into understanding our aircrafts and their “newer equipment” to create these QRH procedures. Many of the safety features of our autopilots, flight instruments, and navigation systems, AND their potential pros and cons are not well known by many of us. For this reason it is recommended to learn about the airplane(s) that you fly, by utilizing the QRH and becoming more familiar with all POH and supplements. You can get an QRH explanation provided from one of our workshop team members. Alternatively, consider getting together with a CFI to get familiar with the complexities of the newer equipment, and to learn how the equipment behaves in emergent or abnormal conditions.

Many of you may not know what questions to ask. Here are a few questions to get you started:

- 1). How and why can the autopilot be used if I am in a certain difficult situation?
- 2). When should the autopilot NOT be used?
- 3). What are the signs that the autopilot has malfunctioned and what are the procedures for those malfunctions as directed by Garmin?



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- 4). How does our newer equipment, which is reliant on electricity, function with an electrical problem?
- 5). Am I aware of the terrain features of the GI275 and IFD 440, and what should I do if I have terrain indications?
- 6). Do I understand the safety resources well enough to utilize them urgently?
- 7). What do my passengers need to know about the airplane's equipment in an emergency?

The QRH's are designed to optimize functional knowledge of the planes and systems. Knowledge is increased power, and increased safety for all, and allows us to keep our passion for flying ENORMOUSLY ENJOYABLE

Blue skies!

The E&A Workshop Team.



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1. **MINUTES OF READING AERO CLUB MONTHLY MEETING FOR MARCH (3/12/26)**
2. Attendance – 25 Members Signed the book
3. Approved Minutes as written in Comm One
4. The report of Executive Board was read
 - a. There was discussion on NON-US Citizen membership.
 - Non-US Citizens are welcome as members but no training is to be provided.
 - Also discussed was the issue of age requirements for members. Future discussion will be had.
5. Financial Secretary Report (written report distributed via e-mail/published on website)
6. Bills Requiring Membership Approval:
 - a. Credit memos:
 - Matt Kresge 10.38
 - Ian Lloyd \$24.55
 - Scott Mystysyn \$169.18
 - b. Bills:
 - Christmas Party: \$1,540.49 (to be billed to attendees)
 - Comcast Cable: \$124.99 (reduced from ~\$150 by Jim Campbell)
 - Flight Circle: \$60
 - Hangar Rent: \$1,259.09
 - Superior Plus Propane: \$376.52
 - Local Tax Collector: \$306.79
7. Maintenance Report - Chris/Josh.
 - 73K New door panels will be installed along with fixing the window leak. Will probably be down for a week.
 - 68F – Due for an oil change. Some very minor prop nicks were noticed.
 - 46B – Running well.
8. **NEED MORE MEMBERS WILLING TO SERVE ON COMMITTEE'S WHEN OPEN**
 - 2026 Audit Dave Meade & Moosh
 - Financial Goals..... Ron, Rick
 - Operations Committee..... Jim Donnelly
 - Reading Aviation Career Expo 2026 Kevin Pannebakker/ Paul Jones
 - Social Media Committee – Kevin Pannebakker has created an Instagram account for the club.
 - Special Checklist Committee – Tim Earnst
 1. Initial QRH checklist prepared for 73K. Executive Board approved for use and is available to view on website.
 2. Two dates have been established for presentations and explanations of the QRH with a third to be named later. The two dates are Thursday 3/19 and Tuesday 3/24, both at 7:00 PM at the clubhouse.
9. Membership Items
 - a. First Readings
 - Marvin Lee Peachy (Board has not interviewed yet)
10. Other membership actions
 - a. Craig Stonaha requested move to Associate Member. Being up to date, the vote was favorable.



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11. Unfinished Business

- Membership manual – Nothing to report
- Ron Heim to contact Valerie so she can correct the Reading Aero Club FB page so public can view the page and members can post on the page. Also have Valerie setup Kevin P as admin of the page. She will likely need to contact Kevin.

12. Plane Captains

- 73K – Matt Kresge – nothing to report
- 68F – Steve Schory – nothing to report
- 46B – John Toomey – nothing to report
- Building – Ian Lloyd – Building exterior paint is peeling already. This is going to require constant oversight and remedy as the exterior dates back to the early 1940's or before.

13. Good and Welfare

- a. Jim Donnelly is organizing a trip is being organized to visit the Udvar-Hazy Museum at Dulles on March 21st. Initial plan is driving. **NEED COMMITMENTS TONIGHT.**
- b. Members are instructed to call 911 if any emergency exists after normal tower operating hours. 911 will notify the airport manager.
- c. Keith Krott reported that a spring flying event is being organized across the field to take kids for rides similar to Christmas in the air only smaller. The date has not been set. Sponsor is EAA and pilots are required to be EAA members in order to participate.

14. Tonight's presentation – The Financial Team will review the financial data and open a Q&A.

15. Next Month's presentation – The new QRH for 73K

16. Food tonight brought by – Josh Collester. Earned his PPL!!!

17. April food – ?

18. Adjourn –8:36



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