



Comm One



News of the Reading Aero Club

May 2026

President's Message – Drew Drebitko



RACers,

TIME – The most valuable of all commodities! Everything in life is a measure of time. It is continuous and can never be recovered. We measure EVERYTHING with time. What TIME did we get to sleep? What TIME do we need to get up? What TIME do we eat? So, what does your flying club need from you- TIME! We record our flying with TIME. We fly to save TIME. If your passion is flying, then your club needs you to commit some TIME. If you fly for business, your club needs some of your TIME. How can you contribute some of your time? Volunteer TIME at one of the club social events. Show up for meetings to keep up with club events. How about the most fun event; FLY!!! Commit some TIME to keep current in the club airplanes. Commit some time to smash some bugs on the windscreen. Log some TIME! It takes TIME to keep these airplanes flying. Spend some TIME flying them.

Commit some TIME to tell your Executive Board what you like about RAC and what you would like to see change. Your club has some large decisions some TIME soon. When will we rebuild engines? When will we replace aging aircraft? What time will be required to fly our first Jet aircraft? (That's just to see if you're really paying attention!)

Your Executive Board continues to expend substantial TIME behind the scenes to manage the affairs of RAC. In return, all we ask is some of your TIME to be active and interested in the affairs of RAC. Engines, avionics, airframes, insurance, rising fuel costs, dues consume so much TIME to keep the club functioning.

Since I don't have much TIME to talk about TIME, it's TIME for me to call TIMEOUT and get back to work! Hopefully, I will see you around the clubhouse or at a RAC social event someTIME!

Drew Drebitko - President



Maintenance Director – Chris McCauley



The time has come to plan the overhaul for 68f. We collected quotes and lead-times from several vendors and narrowed the viable options down to the ones that fit the club's objectives. We will be conducting a vote this week to decide what option we are going with.

73K is still grounded. The fuel servo and divider were sent back to the manufacturer AvStar on April 23rd with a 3-4 week lead-time before they would be able to test and overhaul the components. We are hopeful that we will have news in the next week or two. All the parts for the LED wingtip and beacon lighting upgrade have shown up, and Steve is planning on completing this while we are waiting for the fuel system parts.

46B continues to operate without issue. It recently had an oil change and an oil sample was sent out for analysis. While it was in for that, some small squawks were addressed including a new co-pilot PTT switch, the right-side wing root seal was glued back in place, and the pilot's armrest pad was secured with new screws.

68F has been operating without issue. It recently had an oil change and a sample was sent out for analysis. Steve also adjusted the nose strut pressure at that time.

As always, if any discrepancies need to be reported, or if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at maint@readingaeroclub.org

Chris McCauley,
Director of Maintenance



Upcoming Events



Club Meeting: 5/14/2026, 7:30 PM. **Food = Pizza**

WWII WEEKEND IS COMING

June 5th, 6th, & 7th 2026

Even though we know the outcome, a hoard of thirsty onlookers will overrun the north ramp to see if the Germans and Japanese can change history. Just as the allied forces coalesced to defeat the axis of evil, the Reading Aero Club must prepare to meet the needs of the thirsty hoard on June 5th, 6th & 7th.

As in years past, volunteers are needed to setup for water sales on Thursday, man the water sales wagons on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and provide transient aircraft parking, ticket sales, and driving on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Avoid the draft and enlist by signing up for as much fun as you can tolerate. Sign-up sheets will be available at the May meeting and thereafter until the days of the event.





Safety Officer - Brian Stoltzfus



If you didn't know, Copies of the emergency Quick Reference Handbook (QRH) are in the Cessna. The team is already working on the editions for the Cherokee and Dakota. You can view and download a copy at this website (1). For a tutorial on how to use the QRH, see this link. (2) You need to have the password to the website, which is on the bulletin board next to the restroom in the clubhouse.

In other news, I'm sure many of you have heard about the United airlines flight that hit a bakery truck and light pole on short final RWY 29 at EWR.(3) Whatever the reason for the United Flight to be low, it's a reminder to NEVER fly below the glideslope. For almost every flight, I do not land without loading an approach and/or If available, fly the PAPI or VASI. Do not be tempted to dip below it to make a certain taxiway. If you fly the glideslope to the ground, and your speed is appropriate, you will land on the 1000' markers.

One cool feature of the Avidyne IFD440 is that it has Visual Approaches for runways-even those with NO instrument approach. The default approach angle is 4 deg which should keep you clear of any obstacle. (Always check NOTAMS and other FAA information for obstacles near runways) For information on how to load and fly a visual approach (including how to change the approach angle), see this tutorial video (4). The visual approaches are listed AFTER the instrument approaches for any airport (press the PROC button to access the drop down menu). If you are a Cherokee pilot, learn how to use the Visual Approach feature of the Avidyne IFD 440.

Fly Safe,

Brian



RAC Membership Meeting Minutes - April 09, 2026

(In the absence of the Recording Secretary, minutes are provided by Rick Hartman's AI software)

Meeting Purpose

Review club operations, maintenance, and membership decisions.

Key Takeaways

- **73K Grounded:** Grounded indefinitely due to a severe partial power loss on takeoff. The root cause is unknown, as the issue persists despite recent mag and plug replacements.
- **73K Light Upgrade Approved:** Membership voted to approve a ~\$4,000 LED anti-collision light upgrade, a proactive fix to replace the failing original system and avoid future AOG downtime.
- **Fuel Costs Threaten Margins:** Rising Avgas prices are eroding the club's hard-won \$60/hr profit margin. The board will monitor costs and adjust hourly rates if necessary.
- **Membership Actions:** Approved Mervin Peachy as a new pilot member, Scott Fausel's upgrade to pilot status, and Andy Heifer's move to associate status.

Topics

Financials & Fuel Costs

- **Profit Margins:** Currently over \$60/hr per plane, a significant improvement from the \$10/hr low in March 2024.
- **Fuel Price Impact:** Avgas prices rose \$0.50/gal in March and are set to rise another \$0.50/gal. This directly erodes margins, as planes burn 7–11 gal/hr.
- **Board Response:** Will monitor costs and adjust hourly rates if prices continue to climb.
- **Membership Action:** No bills required approval. Approved fuel credit memos for Bill Cano (\$348.95), Josh Collister (\$138.46), Drew (\$171.46), and Todd Weaver (\$256.29).

Maintenance & Aircraft Status

- **73K (Skyhawk)**
 - **Status: Grounded.** A partial power loss on takeoff (tach dropped to ~2200 RPM) confirmed an ongoing issue. A subsequent ground run-up was rough and unstable, prompting the grounding.
 - **Interior Repair:** Completed for \$1,500. The finish on the right door panel is "functional, not decorative," but the cost and 4-day turnaround were deemed fair.
 - **Anti-Collision Lights:** The original system is failing. A ~\$4,000 LED upgrade was approved to replace the entire system, as a simple repair is not cost-effective.
- **68F (Archer III)**
 - **Oil Leak:** A minor crankshaft seal leak was noted. Will be monitored, not repaired, as the engine is near TBO.
 - **Cowling:** Fiberglass is breaking at attachment points. Steve will repair it, as a used replacement costs ~\$2,500 and is not a direct fit.
 - **Brakes:** The left outer brake pad is wearing 50% faster than others. The pad was replaced; the issue will be monitored for a potential caliper problem.
- **46B (Dakota)**
 - **Avidyne Unit:** Configuration is complete; Wi-Fi is functional.
- **Tug:** Repair is nearly complete.

Membership & Club Operations

- **New Pilot Member:** Mervin Peachy approved.
- **Pilot Member Upgrade:** Scott Fausel approved to move from associate to pilot status.
- **Status Change:** Andy Heifer approved to move from pilot to associate status.



Comm One



- **First Reading:** Christopher Yoch (9 hrs total time) application read. Board interview is next month.
- **New Member Ambassador:** Dale volunteered to serve as the point of contact for new members????
- **Student Rate Discussion:** The board is developing a proposal for a student pilot rate. A decision will be made next month.
- **WWII Weekend Swag:** A club t-shirt/vest is being discussed for members working the event to improve club visibility.

Next Steps

- **Maintenance:**
 - **73K:** Steve will diagnose the engine issue.
 - **68F:** Steve will repair the cowling when available.
 - **Tug:** Complete the final repair.
- **Membership:**
 - **Mervin Peachy:** Onboard as a new pilot member.
 - **Scott Fausel:** Onboard as a pilot member.
 - **Andy Heifer:** Status changed to associate member.
 - **Christopher Yoch:** Board to interview next month.
- **Club Operations:**
 - **Dale:** Assume New Member Ambassador role?????
 - **Board:** Finalize student rate proposal for next month.
 - **WWII Weekend:** Develop a plan for club-branded apparel.
 - **Wash & Wax:** All members to attend on April 25 at 7:30 AM.

Action Items

- **Monitor 68F left brake pad wear; investigate cause if uneven wear persists**
- **Fix tug cable interference**
- **Coordinate 73K repair w/ Steve; verify return to service**
- **Schedule mandatory leaning instruction session for members**
- **Research FARs re: anti-collision lights for post-1996 aircraft**
- **Order 73K LED anti-collision upgrade (beacon+wingtip strobes) w/ Steve**
- **Fix 73K comm PTT button; tighten loose nut**
- **Interview Christopher Yoch before next board meeting**
- **Onboard Mervin Peachy: set up Flight Circle, assign CFI, share codes**
- **Update Andy Heifer membership to Associate; adjust dues**
- **Update Scott Fausel membership to Pilot; adjust dues**
- **Draft membership manual; include ambassador info**
- **Coordinate Apr 25 wash & wax: taxi plan, early fueling, Reading Aviation**
- **Research team-store vendor for club swag; propose options**
- **Provide food for next month's general meeting**