



GA TODAY

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR GENERAL AVIATION WITHIN THE LEHIGH VALLEY AIRPORT SYSTEM.

ISSUE #9

IN THIS ISSUE! **PAGE 1** Finishing Touches! **PAGE 2** Alternative Aviation Expo **PAGE 3** Funding for Runway Project - Nighttime Closures of Runway 6-24 **PAGE 4** It's Airshow Season! - Women In the Aviation Workforce

FINISHING TOUCHES!

A new Terminal Building at Braden Airpark (N43) has reached final approach, with full occupancy expected in July.

“We’ve been given a thumbs up from the PennDOT Bureau of Aviation (BOA), so it’s about finishing touches both inside and out, arranging office spaces, and opening the doors,” said Ryan Meyer, Director of Planning & Programming, Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA).

With 2,300 square feet of space, the new terminal building provides meeting space for local groups / organizations, FBO offices, and pilot services with a lounge.

“Braden Airpark will serve as the perfect backdrop for community gatherings, while also remaining an important general aviation facility that helps to foster the next generation of aviation enthusiasts,” said Thomas R. Stoudt, Executive Director, LNAA.

Having received a \$325,000 matching state grant from the BOA, the LNAA and lead engineer McFarland Johnson, Inc. purchased the pre-engineered building through The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) – providing substantial cost savings on the project. Working with the PennDOT Bureau of Aviation was critical in ensuring the needs of the project were met with financial success and necessary grant funding.

“Financial support from the Bureau of Aviation was critical in changing the public face of N43, helping to ensure the next chapter in the Airpark’s history can really takeoff,” said Meyer.

On Monday, June 13th, LNAA representatives, members of the construction and consultant project team, and PennDOT Bureau of Aviation staff were onsite for a final inspection and walkthrough of the facility.

“Working with the LNAA to utilize a pre-engineered building will allow the BOA to share the success’ with other airports looking to

make cost effective investments in their facilities,” said Rob Betz, PennDOT Bureau of Aviation Project Manager.

Outstanding project elements include repaving of the vehicle parking lot, and some additional building enhancements, such as a front entrance pergola and a rear entrance awning are all expected to be complete later this summer.

“Unlike Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) and Queen City Airport (XLL), N43 relies on only state funding for capital improvements, and we must work closely with the BOA to achieve airport development objectives at the Airpark,” said Stoudt.





ALTERNATIVE AVIATION EXPO

On Saturday, June 4th, Braden Airpark (N43) hosted the First Annual Alternative Aviation Expo sponsored by Fidelity Bank.

“Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) are no longer operating within the extremes of a recreational tool for photography vs. mission objectives for the military. They’ve become resources for various businesses, medical professionals, law enforcement, etc. The drone industry will only continue to grow, so this event is really the perfect exposure for those interested in viewing this growing trend,” Glenn Geissinger, event organizer.

Participating vendors included Influential Drones, CamFlite, Tracer Drone Technologies, Warren UAS, Master Your Drone, and PA Drone Association.

Beyond vendor demonstrations of the latest technology, beginners were encouraged to try their hand at flying small, personal drones, while the larger, more complex drones were flown by professional drone pilots.

“We saw the banner and thought it would be neat to try it out,” said Tammy, a Forks Township resident.

She and husband David were aware of various events held at Braden, but this was their first visit.

“This is so cool,” said their son Nathan, 10.

“He wants one now,” said David with a smile. He wasn’t the only one.

Crowds gathered to watch flight demonstrations before visiting vendor tents to learn more about what drones can do. Displays outlined the multitude of drones that are operating today, such as those to fly for fun, some that take simple aerial photography, and even others capable of creating high-resolution terrain mapping, all depending on the type of UAS used.

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) served up hamburgers and hot dogs, as the event gave the public a chance to see that there is more to aviation than traditional aircraft visible in the skies around Braden Airpark.



FUNDING FOR RUNWAY PROJECT

Queen City Municipal Airport (XLL) has received \$2,064,121 from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to begin rehabilitation of Runway 15-33, with funds stemming from the Airport Improvement Program (AIP).

The runway rehabilitation is a multi-year construction project, with work elements in this grant covering the pavement rehabilitation along the entire length of the 3,160 ft long by 75 ft wide runway, and approximately 1,000 ft of pavement rehabilitation along the adjacent Taxiway B near the Runway 33 end. The pavement rehabilitation will also provide strengthening of the pavement section to meet future demand and weight requirements based on the 2019 Airport Master Plan Forecast.

Future LED lighting upgrades for the runway and a portion of Taxiway B will be covered under a separate grant anticipated in FY2023.

“This is a multi-phase and multi-million-dollar investment which is critical for safety and certainly enhances the potential for future aviation growth at XLL,” said Thomas R. Stoudt, Executive Director, LNAA.

The LNAA received competitive bids in April of 2020 and the Board of Governors accepted the AIP grant in May 2022. Construction is expected to takeoff this Fall.



NIGHTTIME CLOSURES OF RUNWAY 6-24

In April 2022, nighttime closures of Runway 6-24 at Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) resumed as part of Package #4 of the rehabilitation project which includes: final pavement strengthening, shoulder underdrain and shoulder pavement construction.

The closures are scheduled on Monday through Friday, between 11:00 p.m. and 5:30 a.m., Runway 6-24 is closed for inbound and outbound aircraft. Runway 13-31 remains open.

The Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA) also received \$4.6 million of funding from the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) to begin Package #5 of the Runway 6-24 Rehabilitation Project this summer.



IT'S AIRSHOW SEASON!

Every summer, you'll hear radial engines roar, warbirds buzz in flying formation, and look to the sky as hot air balloons glow during Air Show season.

Airshows are among the events that helped spread to popularity of aviation among women. Lady daredevils participated in the 1929 National Women's Air Derby. This cross-country race ensued from Santa Monica, CA to Cleveland, OH, over high mountain peaks, vast deserts, waterways, and farmland. Navigation tools were limited to searching for landmarks, following road maps, and flying railroad lines. Louise Thaden crossed the finish line 1st in Cleveland, after flying 2,800 miles in 19 hours and 35 minutes.

Beyond wing walkers and stunt flyers, women also joined the barnstormers' craze – a pilot or team of aviators would land at a local farm and negotiate with the farmer for the use of one of his fields as a temporary runway from which to stage an air show and offer airplane rides to customers.

Florence "Poncho" Barnes was the most famous female barnstormer of the day. Poncho Barnes was a pioneer aviator and founder of the first movie stunt pilots' union. She brazenly broke Amelia Earhart's airspeed record in 1930, raced in the Women's Air Derby, and was one of the original members of The Ninety-Nines. She later became known as the owner of the Happy Bottom Riding Club, a bar and restaurant in the Mojave Desert, which catered to legendary test pilots and aviators who worked nearby.

On November 2, 1929, the first meeting of The Ninety-Nines, an international organization of women pilots, met at Curtiss Airfield on Long Island. Today, The Ninety-Nines are made up of over 6,000 women pilots as members from various parts of the world and continue to promote the advancement of aviation through education, scholarships, and mutual support.

WOMEN IN THE AVIATION WORKFORCE

Women have always played a part in the 116 year history of aviation. From the early flights of Harriet Quimby and Bessie Coleman to the record settings of the Amelia Earhart, Jackie

Cockran, and Pancho Barnes, among others, they have been contributing to the world of flight. In 1943, there were 310,000 women representing 65 percent of the aircraft manufacturing workforce during WWII. While women are still represented in all fields of aviation and aerospace, the numbers have decreased significantly. Only 6.33 percent of commercial pilots, 2.34 percent of mechanics, 4.08 percent of flight engineers, and 5.29 percent of aircraft repair workers are women.

Women in Aviation International is an organization dedicated to the encouragement and advancement of women in aviation career fields and interests by offering mentoring, fellowship, and scholarships. The Ninety Nines International Organization of Women Pilots, the first pilot organization in history established in 1929, also promotes and offers scholarships for flight ratings and further endeavors for women. Non-profits like the Association for Women in Aviation Maintenance (AWAM) recently provided \$140,000 in scholarships to 30 women for their A&P training and certifications.

There is a growing and immediate demand for more women in aviation careers from pilots to mechanics and avionics technicians. In April 2019, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Promoting Women in the Aviation Workforce Act as part of the FAA Authorization Act. With veteran mechanics and pilots retiring in large numbers, the future for women to step into these traditionally male career positions has never been greater. Boeing noted in a recent careers outlook report that 626,000 new maintenance technicians will be needed globally by 2040. The opportunity for women with a passion for aviation to find careers and fulfillment in this exciting industry is now.

2022 SUMMER EVENTS SCHEDULE:

- **July 29 - 31** Festival of Ballooning, Solberg Airport, Readington, NJ
- **July 30 - August 6** Warren County Farmer's Fair and Balloon Fest, Phillipsburg, NJ
- **August 24** Thunder Over the Boardwalk, Atlantic City Airshow, Atlantic City, NJ
- **October 14 - 16** Lehigh Valley Spooktacular Hot Air Balloon Festival, Slatington Airport (69N)

For more information on the Keystone Chapter of the 99's (based in Allentown, PA), email: Keystone99s@gmail.com



WE'RE SOCIAL!

Visit the Facebook pages for Queen City Municipal Airport (XLL) and Braden Airpark (N43)!