



GA TODAY

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

ISSUE #10

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CHUKKA FOR CHARITY!

Pitch perfect weather conditions – bright and breezy.

Nearly 600 guests attended the 8th Annual Lehigh Valley Polo Match for Equi-librium at Braden Airpark (N43) in Forks Township.

The event raised roughly \$25,000 which benefits the organization's mission to empower individuals with special needs to reach their highest potential through horse-related activities.

"This was my first year with polo, so while I knew of the event, I wasn't sure what to expect. Braden Airpark is such a unique venue for a truly one-of-a-kind event here in the Lehigh Valley, and I think that excites people," said Jessie Shappell, Executive Director at Equi-librium.

This year's event kicked off with Melissa Wetherell, high school choral director at Wilson Area High School (Easton) singing the National Anthem before a showdown between Team East Coast Jets against Team Brown-Daub.

"Developing partnerships within the community that assist or support nonprofit missions is certainly part of our core values. This polo match has become a longstanding Fall tradition, and we're so proud to see its continued success and growth each year at N43," said Thomas R. Stoudt, Executive Director, Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA).

During half-time, the polo players and ponies enjoyed a well-earned break, as spectators participated in the Traditional Stomping of the Divots. No matter if you were wearing fancy high heels or everyday



sneakers, everyone enjoyed stomping the divots to make the field safer for players during the second half of the match.

Team Brown-Daub won the match, though both teams received beautiful crystal trophies as winners and participants in the friendly competition.

"We were very pleased with the turnout. The energy was palpable as everyone just wanted to come out, have a great time, enjoy this sport, and support a really meaningful cause. I couldn't be more appreciative of the Airport Authority and our Lehigh Valley community for coming together to make this happen," said Shappell.

Thank you to the fantastic crew at Braden Airpark (N43) – particularly Kimi Eisenhart, Jeff Oberly, and David DaSilva for their hard work and dedication in helping to get the field ready and coordinate this great event.



XLL PROJECT PLANNING

The Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA) is planning and preparing for two (2) major projects at Queen City Airport (XLL) in 2023:

- **Main Apron Rehabilitation** – this project provides pavement crack sealing and sealcoat treatment of the main apron, including updated pavement markings.
- **Runway 15-33 and Taxiway B south Rehabilitation** – this project consists of an asphalt reclamation process otherwise known as Full Depth Reclamation (FDR).
 - FDR is an in-place recycling method for reconstruction of existing asphalt pavements using the existing pavement section as the base material for the new pavement surface. The process provides a more cost-effective and greener pavement rehabilitation.

In addition, airfield lighting and signage will also receive electrical upgrades.



“The Airport Authority has stayed the course on our plan to rejuvenate N43 through capital improvements in recent years. Completion of this terminal building with support from the PennDOT Bureau of Aviation enhances the pilot experience but will also serve the community,” 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.

Front and rear entrance awnings are scheduled to be added to the new terminal by late 2022.

“Moving forward, the Airport Authority continues to evaluate the Airpark’s infrastructure and identify potential funding mechanisms to bring additional improvements. Ongoing discussions with Forks Township regarding non-aeronautical development opportunities are critical for generating more revenue to support future projects,” said Stoudt.



OPENING THE DOORS

It’s official! Braden Airpark (N43) has a new terminal building.

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.

In July, the parking lot was rehabilitated, repaved, and restriped for parking spaces.



GRAB N' GO LUNCH

The Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA) celebrated Customer Appreciation Week across the airport system in October.

Grab n' Go lunches certainly had pilots and stakeholders smiling, as the Airport Authority expressed our thanks for their patronage.



AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE BY THE BOOK

When it comes to maintenance on your certified aircraft, the use of approved maintenance manuals is not only a good idea, but it is also required by Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR's). Use of proven aviation specifications and repair techniques should be followed for all aircraft, including experimental types.

Aircraft parts - even something as simple as a screw - need to be manufactured to FAA specifications. A machine screw purchased at Lowes or The Home Depot will not meet the same hardness specification or countersink angle as an FAA specification screw. The requirement to use FAA-approved materials in our aircraft also applies to interior carpeting, upholstery, adhesives, sealants, etc.

Most aircraft maintenance manuals can be found online for free. Your aircraft parts catalog should always be consulted for sourcing hardware and components. FAA Advisory Circulars (AC) 43.13-1B/2B are an excellent resource and can be downloaded online. These AC's provide general repair techniques and hardware specifications that can be applied to maintaining your certified or experimental aircraft.

SpiritWings Aviation, LLC is located at Braden Airpark in Forks Township, PA.

Please contact us at 484-294-2659 if you have any questions or visit us online at www.spiritwingsaviation.com.

At SpiritWings Aviation, we look forward to the challenge of earning your business.



WE'RE SOCIAL!

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