

The Aero Club of Buffalo,
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President's letter to Members and Prospective Members.
September 2023

Dear All,

I hope you are all well and have enjoyed your summer. For those who do not fly south as the cooler weather sets in, I hope your thoughts return to the Aero Club of Buffalo, to all things aviation and to becoming a member of this historic organization, the oldest in the United States and 2nd oldest in the World. I am both honored and privileged to be chosen as the 90th President of the Aero Club of Buffalo and as such I am writing to you as pilot in command, so to speak, and asking for your help to keep this wonderful organization airborne. You can help to keep the Aero club "flying" by becoming a member, renewing your membership, (somewhat lapsed during the pandemic) and by paying your subscription in a timely fashion* and most importantly, introducing new members to this organization. I challenge you all to bring a guest to the monthly dinner meetings and introduce them to the club and what it has to offer. Not forgetting our younger people, who are considering a career in aviation and flying, I hope you will give generously to the scholarship fund as well. (As many of you are aware learning to fly is very, very, expensive.)

We have a wonderful selection of speakers this Fall due to the generosity of Walter Gordon and the AIAA (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics) to entertain you at the monthly evening dinner meetings. These meetings will continue to be held at Rizotto's Italian Eatery and Sweetery, 930 Maple Road, Amherst NY 14221, usually the 3rd Thursday of the month unless you are notified otherwise. (You will receive a meeting flyer in due course.) By coming to the meetings, you can meet friends, old and new, and enjoy the camaraderie of those with like-minded interests.

In March of this year a new website was developed under the direction of Mark Ables the previous and 89th President of the Aero Club. (Check it out at www.aeroclubofbuffalo.org) You will be able to pay your subscriptions to the club, pay for dinner meetings, and order apparel etc., via PAYPAL. Donations to the scholarship fund can also be made via the website. You can also mail in your checks to the above PO BOX address if you prefer. In the next few months we will be asking the members if they wish to be paper free or remain on the mailing list for meeting notification etc., in an effort to reduce costs.

Dinner Speakers and topics include

21 September – Paul Fardink, a retired Army LtCol, his talk will be about Bell Helicopters and Floyd Carlson the pioneer Bell helicopter test pilot.

19 October - Becca Sepan NASA Mission Specialist speaking about the Dragonfly mission to fly a helicopter on Saturn's moon Titan and the history of helicopter development to missions in Outerspace!

16 November – Chris Scolese - Director of the National Reconnaissance Office and previously director of NASA Goddard. His subject is to be determined but may include his perspective and the future of NASA's programs.

14 December (2nd Thursday of the month) - Col Andrew Carlson, commander of the 107th Attack Wing, on the MQ-9 Reaper operated by the National Guard based at Niagara Falls. This meeting will also include a silent auction to benefit the scholarship fund, so dig out your unwanted treasures and bring them along for the auction!

Please come to the next meeting: You will be very welcome.

Yours very sincerely, Mary Eugenie Mattocks (Willy)

90th President of the Aero Club of Buffalo.

* Remember dues are payable by January 1st 2024. During the pandemic I think many of you forgot! (With a generous donation to the scholarship fund we may declare an amnesty!)