



June 2021

A Newsletter for Members

Westerly Airport Association

PO Box 2053, Westerly, RI 02891

www.westerlyairportfriends.org

Dear Members,

Here we are already in June; flowers and trees are blooming, lawns are green, plus our world here in the Northeast is beginning to recover, in good measure, from the Pandemic. Many residents are fully vaccinated. The year that has passed, and now in 2021, makes one realize what is truly and most important in our lives. It has brought families and communities closer and certainly taught us all how resilient we can be. May you continue to be well, strong, and have vitality in the days ahead. Still be sure to wear your mask.



I hope that you will find this June WAA Newsletter, informative, with interesting and happy news in the Aviation community of Westerly and surrounding towns.

Wishing you Blue Skies,

Carol

WAA President

About those facemasks...

While CDC and state guidelines are easing mask requirements, some private businesses are still requiring staff and or visitors to wear masks. The Westerly Airport Terminal building is among the public places still mandating masks.

2021 WAA Humphrey J. Amedeo, Jr. Aviation Scholarship Foundation News

A record number of scholarship applications was received this year! The WAA Scholarship Committee met recently in the Westerly Airport Conference Room under the direction of Co-Chairs Dotty Stumpf and Linda Theadore, to review the student application forms, essays, transcripts, and letters of recommendation. After much discussion and a second in-person committee meeting, it was decided to award \$1000 each to eight students, among them both new high school graduates just starting their college careers, and new and repeat awards to students partly through their post-secondary studies.

The high schools are not hosting in-person awards ceremonies this year; a school official will read the award for each recipient at their private assemblies. Therefore, a tentative date of June 19, 2021 has been set for WAA to host a small reception for all of the recipients, at 10:00 AM at the Westerly State Airport.

We will release the names of the recipients in our next newsletter, after they have been informed of their selection.

WAA and these students are extremely fortunate that between our prior fund raising and the generosity of some individuals, these awards are possible this year in spite of the COVID 19 pandemic and the resulting inability to hold our usual events in 2020 and 2021. Donations to the WAA Scholarship Foundation are always welcome.

Is This Some Kind of New Math?

See page 2 to find out!



at the airport

by WAA Founder Sandy Niles

Based on a recent article in The Westerly Sun, there may be some feelings of relief among those who use, maintain, and appreciate the runways at Westerly State Airport. A Rhode Island Superior Court judge has ruled that the state's Department of Transportation acted lawfully in applying Eminent Domain for easements to clear obstructions from private land in runway approaches.

Any celebrating is premature, though. There is still disagreement from the four plaintiffs in the lawsuit by objecting property owners. The attorney for these residents argues that the issue falls under a different law; that the effort to assure safe runway approaches falls under Economic Development, and Eminent Domain should not be used. RIAC and DOT see the clearing of obstructions as an aviation safety issue and obligation. The next hearing on the case is set for June 22.

Westerly Airport Association Officers and Board

President: Carol L. Amedeo

Vice President: Bernard Stumpf

Secretary: Derek Ferris

Treasurer: Dianne Morrone

Chairman of the Board of Directors: Jim Gueltzow

Directors: Carol L. Amedeo, Steven Christina, Derek Ferris, Carl LaFleur, Dianne Morrone, Sandy Niles, Suzanne Scully, Bernard Stumpf, Linda Theadore, Virginia Wallace



A periodic newsletter for members of the Westerly Airport Association. It is compiled by Carol Amedeo, and edited/designed by Sandy Niles.

We encourage members to send news and photos to: sandy@snilesdesigns.com

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So, Is It New Math?

Not really! But it is a symbol for a very new kind of partnership. **Ocean House Management (Ohm)** plus **Rhode Island Airport Corporation (RIAC)**, whose geometric logo represents wings in flight) equals... a Westerly Airport café! In an innovative partnership between the Ocean House and RIAC, a new kitchen and lounge are being outfitted in the Westerly Airport terminal.

The lounge will be exclusively open to members and guests of Ocean House Properties – a private and pleasantly appointed place for them to relax with a complementary beverage before takeoff or after touch-down.

Aptly named “Plane Food,” the kitchen will be open to the public, and will feature breakfast items like coffee, egg sandwiches, freshly made croissants and egg burritos. For lunch, expect salad offerings, sandwiches, hot dogs, and gourmet grilled cheese selections. Meals can be enjoyed indoors or on an outdoor terrace with a runway view. Meals can be packed up in a cooler “to go,” as well.

Thus far, the only outward sign at the airport is the installation of new awnings to shade the windows on the runway side of the building (see photo), but rumor has it that work is going on behind those blocked-off windows to the room that has lain empty and unused since the building was constructed.

This should prove to be a very welcome new part of the airport. We will be sure to sample the offerings this summer, and invite WAA members to do the same!



WAA Member News

We welcome back *Al Almeida*, a former long time member of the Westerly Airport Association, to active membership in the WAA. We all look forward to seeing Al again, and working with him especially in support of the CAP missions.

New England Airlines is doing what it has done for over 50 years: providing scheduled flights and charter services. In spite of the progress with COVID, masks are still required to be worn both in the airport buildings and in the NEA airplanes. Here is a photo of the new sign, purchased last year as a gift to Bill Bendokas in celebration of the 50th anniversary of his airline. Sue Cowley, NEA's Chief Pilot and coordinator of the gift project, shared that the back of the sign is covered



EAA Chapter 334 News

Hello to fellow members of the Westerly Airport Association from the Experimental Aircraft Association local chapter 334,

Spring has sprung into a promising great new year after the past twelve months of Pandemic. But wait, the Pandemic isn't over and caution must be used. As vaccinations are being administered, the elderly are nearly all vaccinated, the group of forty to sixty five year olds are mostly vaccinated, and some of the sixteen to forty years olds are now vaccinated. The youth of ages up to sixteen may not become vaccinated this year, maybe 2022.

Florida has allowed the EAA Sun & Fun Aviation Event to go on with seemingly success and safety in April. Florida is not Connecticut or Rhode Island, however. The Connecticut Airport Authority has decided not to have any "Open House Events" at the CT State airports this summer. These are events that EAA 334 has participated in with Young Eagle Flights

with the names of all known persons who have served at the company, including counter staff, maintenance staff, office staff, ramp help, and pilots. Since the "new" terminal was built, there had been no sign inside, leaving unfamiliar passengers and airport visitors sometimes a little bit confused.

Barbara Bartkiewicz, who has been a WAA member for several years, had taken a fall while trying to hang on to her son's dog while taking him outdoors. The dog bolted and Barbara fell. We are so sorry to hear that several injuries resulted from the fall. We send her our Best Wishes for excellent healing.

Happy to hear the great news that *Dianne Morrone* has recovered well from her respiratory illness and is back at her position at Washington Trust, taking a course at CCRI, plus working a part-time job at JC Penney's. Dianne is our valued WAA Treasurer and is one busy lady.

A huge "Thank You" to *Carl LaFleur*, a retired deacon, who has sent our members letters several times over the past year, to keep the faith during this difficult and challenging time. As Carl mentioned in his most recent letter, he and his wife Dawn wish you all a peaceful, successful and energetic future.

for kids eight to seventeen years of age. (the un-vaccinated age group). Call me old-fashioned, but I respect and favor the CAA caution in regards to the general public events.

If a vaccinated member pilot wants to give a child a flight experience as a Young Eagle, and uses the proper precautions, that is perfectly OK. The same for the Eagle Flights for adults over eighteen. These can and should be one-on-one experiences. The risk seems to me to be minimal. YE Flight Rallies for the general public are quite a different story, and must be avoided again this year for our Chapter, EAA 334.

Blue Skies and Tail Winds to all,

Dave Sellins

EAA 1053112

President: EAA 334



Meet Matt Hallett:

Helicopter Pilot, Flight Instructor, Business Owner

Matt's interest in aviation began at a very young age. He grew up in Clinton, Connecticut. After high school, he wanted to travel – and did, seeing much of the United States. Eventually, he landed in Utah and lived directly across from a flight school. His interest peaked and he started taking flying lessons in airplanes. One day, he opted for a demonstration flight in a helicopter, instead. He was so excited with it, he knew then and there what he wanted to do. From that day on, his plans progressed. He continued his pilot training there and received his private pilot certificate. He moved back to Connecticut, and worked at New England Helicopters in Ellington, CT. At the same time he also worked on his Commercial Pilot and Flight Instructor certificates. Upon completion, he worked at the same company for a year and a half, as a helicopter flight instructor.

At the age of 28, in 2016, Matt moved to Westerly and started his own helicopter business, namely, Heli-Block. With offices in the Dooney Aviation building, Heliblock has been providing helicopter tours, charters, and photography from both Block Island Airport and Westerly Airport. Matt has a staff of three helicopter pilots along with himself. He owns two helicopters, and has logged over 4,000 hours in the air.

I asked Matt what a person interested in learning to become a helicopter pilot must possess. His answer:



“A person simply needs a strong desire to learn to become a pilot, and be willing to put in the necessary time and effort.” “To become a helicopter pilot there is much studying, hard work and dedication. It is very important to have a mechanical understanding of how a helicopter flies. In reaching your goal, it is extremely rewarding.”

Now at the young age of 33, Matt has accomplished much and has been very successful. He enjoys each day of instructing and flying.

All Best Wishes to you, Matt, for continued success as you move on your journey of teaching students to fly helicopters, and also flying people on tours and charters. May you inspire other young people to take pilot training and continue on with your lead...

by Carol L. Amedeo

Nota bene:

The WAA Golf Committee Chairman Jim Gueltzow discussed the Elm Ridge Golf Tournament with the President and a decision was made to wait until next year (2022) to hold the Golf Tournament. Our world will be in a better place by then.

News from the Civil Air Patrol

by Major Brian Smith

The Civil Air Patrol, Rhode Island Wing, (RIWG) conducted a communication exercise at the Westerly State Airport (KWST) on Saturday, May 8, 2021. This was a Wing-focused training exercise that tested the ability of the communication team to deploy and establish radio communications with other CAP units. The success of providing adequate communication support to CAP missions is largely dependent upon the reliability and effectiveness of the communication network.

All qualified personnel and cadets participated in the exercise, including members of the Westerly Composite Squadron.

This training focused on VHF and HF radio communications. Aircrews departed Quonset Airport and transported personnel and equipment to KWST.



Communications teams were responsible for establishing a remote communications station at KWST, and then practiced communicating with the Wing Mission Base at Quonset.

The Communications team and equipment returned to Quonset at the conclusion of the exercise.

The Rhode Island Wing successfully conducted this exercise to evaluate its effectiveness in deploying and establishing a radio network.

Serving our local and national CAP!

Major Alcino Almeida is showing his support and service to the community. Al was interviewed on WBLQ radio on May 27th, 2021, to talk about what CAP is doing in the local area and describe the CAP's three missions: Cadet Program, Aerospace Education, and Emergency Services. There is plenty of opportunity for those who wish to serve.



Who Remembers this blast from the past?

An early project for the WAA was well-intended: to provide a no-cost, honor system Courtesy Car for pilots arriving at Westerly Airport and needing local transportation. WAA secured a used car, and we had repaired, painted, and sponsor names applied. Sadly, the maintenance and insurance were just too costly, and pilots were not always courteous in leaving gas in the car for the next user. This distinctive vehicle was sold in 2011.