

### CELEBRATING AVIATION AT CHICAGO EXECUTIVE AIRPORT

On February 3rd we held our monthly Board meeting at Atlantic Aviation. The decision to change our meeting night to the 1st Monday was made by all elected officers and directors in order to facilitate their attendance. We reviewed our financial report for the 2024 YE and gave tentative approval to a 2025 Budget. Each member of the board has taken on a task for the coming year—many hands make light(er) work. We hope to add more community outreach in 2025.

If you are a long time pilot/user of our airport, you probably know or know of Lou Wipotnik. Lou was an early President of this organization, and is an inducted member of the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame. He has been actively flying at PWK for a very long time, and has just recently retired from instructing flying. We celebrated his vast accomplishments and his career highlights in a joint event with Leading Edge Flying Club held at Harper February 11th. See a brief report and some pictures on page 4 of this issue.

On February 26 CEPA member and owner of WAir, Dan Wirt, spoke to our pilot members and guests about Flight Simulators and how much you can and should learn in a simulator.

We welcome your participation and want to seek your help.

Join in,

*Madeleine Monaco;*

President, CFI and Co-Founder of CEPA in 1986



#### JOIN US ON MARCH 26th AT 7:00 PM

#### For our regular monthly Safety Program

Joe Long, Commander, Palwaukee Composite Squadron, IL Wing CAP Standardization and Evaluation Officer

#### SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT



CFI, CFII and MEI Joe Long will present a program on risk management. With about 2000 hours over 30 years as a pilot, Joe will bring his unique perspective to this presentation. His past as a KC-135 Boom Operator and a Chicago PD Lieutenant should make it an especially interesting evening.

Please join us in the conversation!

#### WINGS CREDITS AWARDED AT END OF PRESENTATION



[Learning and Career Center](#)

1375 South Wolf Road, Prospect Heights, 60070  
Located on Wolf Road, one block south of Palatine Road

#### Meet our New CEPA Members

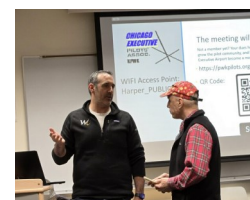
Ibrahim	Abu-Ghallowis
Francine	D'Amico
Borys	Pawlowski
Sabel	Raymond
Malcolm	Stewart
Jadalynn	Vile

We welcome them and invite them to become active. New ideas and new members are the lifeblood of an organization

#### Our February 26th Safety Program featured Dan Wirt of WAir speaking on the value of simulator training.



Photo credit Ken Swain



JOIN US ON  
APRIL 23rd AT 7:00 PM

For our regular monthly Safety Presentation  
At Harper College in Prospect Heights

### 2025 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Madeleine Monaco	847-431-1847
	99mjm@sbcglobal.net	
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NOMINATING		Vacant

### 2025 CALENDAR

**OUR BOARD MEETS MONTHLY 1st Monday 7pm  
Atlantic Aviation Conference Room 7:00pm**

3-3	8-6	Atlantic Aviation Conference Room
4-7	9-3	
5-5	10-1	
6-2	11-5	
7-7	12-3	

#### SAFETY PROGRAMS

3-26	6-25	10-22
4-23	8-27	11-12
5-28	9-24	HarperCollege Prospect Hts



7-9

SCHOLARSHIP  
AWARDS EVENT

**Membership** in Chicago Executive Pilots Association is open to any user of Chicago Executive Airport. Dues are \$40.00 annually and include a subscription to our monthly newsletter.

**Associate Members** (family members, businesses at KPWK, youth aviation organization members-like Aviation Explorers, Civil Air Patrol and others) are \$15.00 per year.

**Student Members** \$15.00 per year are expected to change to another category upon earning their first certificate.

CEPA has many ways you can maximize your membership  
Safety programs    Social events    Newsletters

Chicago Executive Pilots' Association Newsletter is published monthly This organization was formed in 1986 as a forum for the users of Chicago Executive Airport (formerly Palwaukee) and as a conduit for information from the users to the governing body and from the governing body to the users. Our mission is to promote the safety of operations and continued development of Chicago Executive Airport in a fraternal environment with the pilots, users and community. Membership is open to users of Chicago Executive Airport who support the goals and objectives as stated in the bylaws. Dues are \$40.00 annually and include newsletter.

*Letters to the Editor, feedback, concerns or questions and any articles submitted must be received by the 20th of the month. Submissions will be printed on a space available basis and may be edited for style, length and appropriate content. Send text as a Microsoft Word file attached to an email to editor@pwkpilots.org. Please make prior arrangement with the editor for any files not electronically transmitted,*

CHICAGO EXECUTIVE PILOTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER 1005 S WOLF ROAD STE 106 WHEELING, IL 60090-6408

# CHICAGO EXECUTIVE PILOTS

## Fly Market Classified Ads

### FOR SALE

¼ share **1974 182P** based at PWK

Nice paint Leather interior

Low time engine & prop

Well maintained with full Garmin stack

Garmin G5 HSI & attitude ind. Call for more info 847-736-3045



### Redbird Jay Flight Simulator and RD1 Rudder Pedals

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Reach out at (224) 256-7002 for more info



Ad paid through December 2024



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**or visit**

**[www.skillaviation.com](http://www.skillaviation.com)**

Members can place aviation related ads here free of charge  
Contact "newsletter@pwkpilots.org" by 20th of the month.

*It is time to renew your FAA Medical Certificate*

**Taher Sobhy, M.D. AME**

Chicago Executive Airport

1061 S. Wolf Rd., Hangar 9 Bay 4

Wheeling, IL 60090

Phone (847) 244-6900



All Classes of Medicals Performed \*  
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Ad paid through December 2024

# CELEBRATING PAST PRESIDENT LOU WIPOTNIK'S LONG CAREER IN AVIATION

On Tuesday February 11th, the Chicago Executive Pilots' Association joined with Leading Edge Flying Club to celebrate with Lou as he shared his long history with the aviation community. Thanks to Marc Epner and LEFC for helping us celebrate Lou and witness his presentation.

We met at Harper College Learning and Career Center in Prospect Heights and enjoyed a great slide presentation.



Opening Slide



Cake provided by Leading Edge Flying Club

The Man—Lou Wipotnik



CAP Presenting Challenge Coin to Lou



Old friends, students, colleagues, and Jan



# High Schoolers Can *(start to)* Train as Pilots for Free

<https://www.halldale.com/civil-aviation/high-schoolers-can-train-as-pilots-free>

Online pilot training provider AV8 Prep has started a new youth aviation training scholarship for any current high school student that wants to become a pilot. The scholarship gives eligible students the opportunity to get free access to AV8 Prep's Private Pilot Ground School.

The students have to create a social post, tag AV8 Prep, and get three shares to qualify for access to the private pilot course, which is a \$399 value. Follow the link above and see if it fits your teens needs!

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## Do you know what you can find on our website?

[www.pwkpilots.org](http://www.pwkpilots.org)

Our archive of newsletters—including the most current issue. Inside each issue:

Contact information for each of our Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs

Calendar of meetings, safety programs and social events

Free ads placed by some of our members of aviation related items for sale

Information and application forms for our scholarships

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## FLY THOUGHTFULLY

**Every time we fly, we complete a series of tasks that are outlined on a checklist.**

The more we fly the more those items become part of our routines, but do they become habits? A *Harvard Business Review* [article](#) describes the difference between habits (tasks performed without much or any thought) and routines (activities that are intentionally done frequently).

In flying, we complete countless tasks routinely. For example, we check the weather before a flight, preflight the aircraft, communicate with air traffic control and other aircraft, and fly standard traffic patterns. But if those routines ever truly become habits it means we aren't giving them much, if any, thought.

When we check the weather, we consider how it may impact our flight, and we may change our route or time or date of flight based on the forecast. That takes a lot of thought. We gather information and consider many variables that, by definition, change each time we plan a flight.

In the same way, it's routine to preflight the aircraft, but we should use a checklist and consider each item we inspect. It's not just that we have a habit of checking the fuel quantity as a "check the box" item. We need to think about the quantity of fuel we need based on the planned route of flight, including forecast winds aloft, and make changes (e.g., add more fuel because we expect stronger headwinds). That doesn't sound like a habit.

There are seemingly endless examples of routines in flying. And there are arguably habits as well. I habitually remove all coverings from my airplane before each flight and pull the airplane out of the hangar. But there are next steps I take after that habit (inspect the areas that were covered to ensure no bugs or debris are there, for example). And even my "habit" of doing a final sweep of the cockpit before taking off (mixture rich, flaps and trim set, carb heat off, lights on) is more of a routine because I'm purposefully checking each item and not just performing those tasks without thought.

Habits can lead to complacency, but that can be counteracted by taking the time to make safe decisions—even when performing routine tasks.

By Kathleen Vasconcelos

# Meet your CEPA Officers and Directors for 2025

## **President**                    **Madeleine Monaco**

Madeleine Monaco was born in Chicago and currently lives in Lake Barrington, IL. She has been flying at PWK since 1977 and has earned ASEL and MEL, ASES, CFI, CFII and MEI. Retired from a career with IBEW as a Union leader, Madeleine has been a part time CFI since 1982. She is active with the 99s (International Organization of Women Pilots), and a member of EAA, AOPA, Chicago Flight Instructors Association, and Women in Aviation. She has owned a 172, two Mooney M20J's all with partners, and then her C150 N3103V. Madeleine co-founded this organization in 1985 with Barry Dainas and Barry Axelrod, and served back then as its third President.



## **Vice President**            **Matt Souza**

Matt Souza, a computer engineer by trade, and currently a Product Director in the tech industry, has nurtured a lifelong passion for aviation. He holds a Private Pilot Certificate with an Instrument Rating and learned to fly at Chicago Executive Airport (PWK). Since then, Matt has been an active member of the airport community, supporting the Chicago Executive Pilots Association (CEPA) and its initiatives. Matt is also a member of the Leading Edge Flying Club, based at PWK, where he continues to share his passion for aviation.



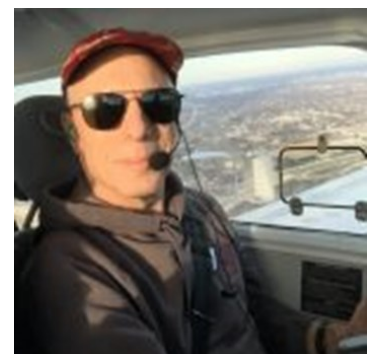
## **Secretary**                    **Kevin Frank**

Kevin was born and raised in the Chicago area and has been flying out of Chicago Executive Airport for over 20 years. When not working at his day job as an attorney, Kevin can be found flying his 1986 Mooney M20K. Kevin has served as Secretary for several other bodies, but this is his first position with CEPA.



## **Treasurer**                    **Michael Baraz**

Michael Baraz holds ATP, CFI, CFII, AGI, and IGI certificates. He is an active flight instructor and FAA Safety Lead Team Representative. He loves helping people achieve their flying goals and staying safe, current, and proficient by continuous training with WINGS credits. Michael has owned two Mooneys and currently owns a Rocket 305, he enjoys flying fast. He is a member of several flying clubs and pilot associations around Chicago and is the treasurer and a past-president of CEPA.



**Director                      John Munger**

John Munger flies a Cessna 172XP based at KPWK and holds private and instrument ratings. He shares his airplane with son Tom who holds private, instrument, and commercial ratings and with Jim Schneider who is a recipient of the FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. John is an intellectual property law attorney serving a broad range of creative producers. John and his wife Leslie live in Lincolnshire.



**Director                      Chris Oakes**

Chris Oakes is a private pilot currently working on his Instrument Rating. When not flying, he practices law at Cox, Oakes & Associates, Ltd., in Schaumburg, IL, concentrating in multi-family real estate, business litigation and corporate matters. Chris is a Board Member of the International Flying Club. He lives in Glen Ellyn, IL with his wife, Christine.



**Director                      Robert (Rusty) Stevens**

Rusty Stevens has been a CEPA board member over 10+ years. He received his private certificate in 2006 and has logged 400+ hours in a 172. Rusty is a shareholder in N73213 a 1976 Skyhawk, Hangered in the NE t's at KPWK. He is a dedicated small business owner and truck driver, brings a strong work ethic and deep commitment to his community. Having run for Illinois State Representative in 2022 and 2024, Rusty earned endorsements from The Chicago Tribune, National Federation of Independent Businesses, Tech Manufacturers Association, Safe Suburbs, United Hellenic Voters Association, and DuPage County Sheriff James Mendrick, highlighting his reputation as a trusted leader.



*Contact information for each of our Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs is in every issue of our monthly newsletter.  
Please consider becoming more actively engaged with your airport community.  
Join us at safety programs, social events, and in our work in aviation and community outreach.*

**MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF OUR AIRPORT, JEFF MILLER**

*For the tenants and users at Chicago Executive Airport who are unable to attend the open meetings held quarterly for you, CEPA has asked for updates and items of interest from Jeff. We appreciate this !*

- Northeast Quadrant New Tie Down Area – Contractor signed the agreement currently at the state level for signatures. Construction on the new tiedown area in the northeast corner of the airport would start in May and end in September 2025.
- East Quad Apron Expansion Project: State agreed in writing for a full replacement, we are working with our engineering firm for next steps with contractor. The concrete did not meet specs from the original pour.
- New Taxiway Echo: The Airport has been working on a plan for a full 50-foot-wide taxiway design with the State and the FAA. The FAA new regs would limit the width to 35 feet, but we believe with a higher local match we can get to 50 feet.
- Sky Harbour Project: Ramada demo will be completed by the end of April.
- Runway 6/24 closure: Received preliminary State approval for the Environmental Assessment– there will be a further submittal in the next two weeks. No timeline on potential approvals.
- Budget process has started for the airport: Staff has proposed to the Board of Directors a 1 cent increase in 100LL from 19 cents to 20 cents and a t-hangar increase of 3.46% , all T-hangars \$0.588 per square foot up from \$0.568 per square foot, an average t-hangar increase of \$27.02 per month.



## HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT FLYING YOUNG EAGLES?

There are many airports/EAA Chapters that schedule Young Eagles Flights for kids. The Young Eagles group at Chicago Executive Airport has just published their 2025 schedule and I would like to invite you to participate. If interested please call or text, Madeleine 847-431-1847 and I will answer questions, and explain the process. Volunteers DO NOT have to fly every event. The GO/NO GO weather decision is made by you as PIC.

If you like, you can visit and help out on the ground, but please sign up in advance. Please be a mentor.



### YOUNG EAGLES AT KPWK 2025 RALLY SCHEDULE All Saturdays 9am

April 26    May 17    June 21    July 12    August 16    September 13    October 18

You are a part of the airport community. More than just a place to hangar your plane, or pay your rent bill, the Airport management office hosts the decision making body for KPWK. Educate yourself. Attend meetings when you can. Lean in.

### Chicago Executive Airport 2024-25 Board of Directors Meeting Dates

Meetings take place at the Administration Building, 1020 Plant Road, Wheeling, Illinois, at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Call (847) 537-2580 during regular office hours or email [info@chiexec.com](mailto:info@chiexec.com) for meeting information.

Mar 20    Apr 17    May 15    Jun 19    Jul 17    Aug 21    Sep 18\*    Oct 16    Nov 20    Dec 18