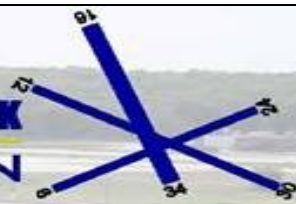


CHICAGO EXECUTIVE NEWSLETTER

PILOTS' ASSOCIATION

KPWK



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CALENDAR

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

Board Meetings Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7 At;antic FBO

Safety Programs Oct 28, Nov 11 Harper on Wolf Rd

December Holiday Party

December 13, Sunday

Chevy Chase Country Club

We have celebrated the season every December with a get together. Sometimes with entertainment, sometimes with a game or a raffle, and sometimes simply enjoying each other's company with food and drink! Last year was cocktails and snacks in Priester's Party Room. The year before pizza and beer at the bar on Lake Avenue. This year we are in the Gable Bar at Chevy Chase for a dressy casual/semi-formal attire event . Holiday party dresses, suits, maybe even ugly Christmas sweaters if that's your vibe. Join us for a lovely evening. Cozy room, our own bartender, nice buffet dinner, and whatever extra we can put together for you. Please join us!

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

From KPWK to KUGN: A CEPA Member's Expanding Aviation Vision

For Dragan Lazić, aviation began as a childhood fascination in Serbia and gradually became a professional mission. A pilot, entrepreneur, aviation educator and Rotax-certified technician, Lazić combined his interests in flying, technology, safety and business when he founded Golden Wings Team in 2021. Today, as owner of GW Aviation at Waukegan Airport, Lazić is building on that experience to create an aviation operation that does not exist at Chicago Executive Airport. He connects flight training, aircraft ownership, sport-aircraft sales, maintenance and aviation education.

Dragan's longstanding connection to flying led him to expand the aviation services available to pilots throughout north-eastern Illinois. After starting at Chicago Executive Airport (KPWK), Dragan recognized that Waukegan National Airport (KUGN) offered room to build something complementary. Rather than duplicate what was already available at KPWK, GW Aviation could broaden the region's aviation resources through flight training, sport-aircraft sales, simulation and community programming. That vision helped shape GW Aviation and the Golden Wings team. GW now provides an accessible entry point for new pilots while also appealing to experienced aviators. Bristell aircraft sales became an extension of GW Aviation. GW's flight simulator supports student and transitioning pilots with the opportunity to learn and practice in a controlled environment before applying those skills in a new aircraft.

The new GW Hangar Club will serve as a gathering place for pilots, students and aviation enthusiasts - to encourage relationships and provide more safety education. On October 13, 2026, GW Aviation will join an even broader community by hosting a Launch Night celebrating the first FAI International Day of Air Sports. Organized by the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, the worldwide event recognizes the many ways people take part in flight—from general aviation and soaring to ballooning, aerobatics, drones and emerging aviation technologies

Together, Dragan's work at KPWK and GW Aviation's growth at KUGN illustrate how the region's airports can complement one another. Each serves its own community, but both contribute to a connected aviation network that supports pilots, develops future professionals and introduces new people to flight.

Dragan supports CEPA's scholarship program. You may have met him at the Award Party at D'Agastino's in July or last January at the 99s Annual Aviation Expo and IFR/VFR Safety Seminar. Perhaps a GW Aviation facility at KPWK is in the future?



**GW HANGAR CLUB
LAUNCH NIGHT**

Celebrating FAI International Day of Air Sports

Tuesday, October 13, 2026 • 6:00 PM

GW Aviation
2960 Aviation Drive, Waukegan, IL

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Join us for the launch of the new GW Hangar Club — a casual gathering place for pilots, student pilots, aviation enthusiasts, families, and friends of flight.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Meet pilots, flight instructors & student pilots
- Explore aircraft up close
- Try the flight simulator
- Discover the world of air sports
- Enjoy light refreshments & snacks

13 OCTOBER
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF AIR SPORTS
An initiative of FAI

In the spirit of FAI International Day of Air Sports, we celebrate adventure, discovery, community, partnership, excellence, and the joy of flight.

Come for the airplanes. Stay for the people.

AVIATRIX

Chicago Executive Pilots Association wants you to



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, December 13th, 2026



Spend an elegant evening of camaraderie with aviation colleagues at our Holiday Dinner

Chevy Chase Country Club Wheeling IL

Registration and ticket information will be available soon on our website pwkpilots.org

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Looking to fly More, Fly for Fun, Get Together with other Pilots and See other things, other Places?

We've always been a club built around improving our skills, supporting new pilots, and helping the next generation get into aviation. But there's another important part of flying that we want to bring to our club—having fun together!

Going forward, we're looking at adding some fun flying adventures for our members. Think Saturday morning pancake breakfasts, lunch destinations, tours, Museums, fly-ins, and maybe even an occasional overnight trip to somewhere worth exploring.

You don't have to be an experienced pilot, and you don't have to have the fastest airplane on the field. The goal is simple: get more of us flying, introduce members to new destinations, and enjoy the friendships that make aviation special.

This is something new for our club, and we want our members to help shape it. So, dust off those charts, start thinking about places you'd like to visit, and get ready to put some more hours in the logbook—not because you must, but because flying is supposed to be fun!

We will be including a calendar of these events within our monthly newsletter. Lets go and have fun.

There are exciting things ahead for 2027. Let's go flying!

Ira Katz

This month, **CALLBACK** features incident reports that recount serious aircraft challenges in which troubleshooting was paramount to resolving each problem.

Part 91 – The Audio Connection

While IFR in IMC, this Cirrus SR22 pilot experienced a situation that deteriorated as troubleshooting was attempted. Priorities were reestablished, and the flight landed safely.

☐ Cleared for takeoff.... Given right turn to 120 at about 1000 ft. Entered clouds. Solid IMC. Flying with autopilot, heading bug, and altitude step-ups. At that moment, the audio panel went out, reverting to backup level functionality. No noise canceling. Low audio volume. Instructions from ATC difficult to hear well in that environment, but I did hear. Was given turn to 140. Heading bug moved to 140. I advised that I was having audio difficulties and began to troubleshoot the audio. Subsequently, it was evident that the autopilot was also nonfunctional. I was nose high in a shallow left turn with airspeed about 90 kts. Momentarily I regained control from the unusual attitude and began to correct course. Once basic control had been reestablished, troubleshooting checklist led to the breaker panel, where I could feel two breakers out. These were reset and the audio and autopilot returned to normal, and normal operations were again possible. The flight then proceeded normally to the destination safely.



Here is our slate of Officers and Directors for the November election.

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Vice President Christopher Oakes 2027-2028
Secretary Kevin Frank 2027-2028
Treasurer Rusty Stevens 2027-2028

Directors 2027 Michael Baraz John Doerner Ira Katz Penny Levin
Kevin Livesay Danny Tran Dan Peterson