

# THE PLANE PAPER

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
RHODE ISLAND PILOTS ASSOCIATION  
644 Airport Road, Warwick, RI 02886  
<http://www.RIPilots.com/>

Volume X Issue 2 February 2006

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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### Protecting the "Privilege" to Fly

First, I would like to thank you for selecting me to be your President for 2006. I am proud to serve with a very competent group of officers including Beth Tetreault (VP), Marilyn Biagetti (CS), Dan Scanlon (Treas) and Korrie LaBrie (RS). There are also a number of other people who work behind the scenes to make this a great organization, such as our Activities Chair – Rene Cardon and Frank Oliveira Web master. Serving as VP last year, I have gotten to know most of you, and I am looking forward to a great year.

One of the things that makes RIPA such an important organization, in addition to being a "social club," is that it is the loudest voice for General Aviation in Rhode Island, with over 150 members. Aviation as we know it is going through a very turbulent (no pun intended) time right now, where many of the "privileges" that we have enjoyed since the Wright Brothers days are being taken away. A famous RI aviator named Frank Sherman once said to me that he feels fortunate to have lived through the "glory days" of flying, where there were few restrictions. The key issues at the national level that we need to be aware of that will impact our flying freedoms are airspace restrictions (TFR and ADIZ), user fees, and airport closures. Politics is playing a large role in all of these issues, and we need to use every advantage that we have in a large organization such as RIPA to speak out and fight to maintain these privileges.



As I write this article, all of GA is **GROUND**ED within the entire 3000 square-mile footprint of the Washington Class B airspace for President Bush's State of the Union Speech this evening. A 30 nm TFR extending into Canada is anticipated for the weekend's Super Bowl XL

game in Detroit. And a 300 nm TFR is being issued on the US southern border for UAV flights. Mayors, Governors and congressional representatives from various states are proposing or at least discussing permanent TFRs to protect their cities, without any specific credible threat. A quick glance at the New York section shows us in a precarious position between the Boston and New York Class-B airspaces, not to mention Philadelphia and Washington DC. As the number of TFR and ADIZ regions grows, our flying privileges are eroded more and more. The only way that we are going to stop this trend is to fight each and every one, as Airplane Owners and Pilots Assn (AOPA) is doing.

Another important issue is the "user fees" that are being proposed as the solution to FAA's budgetary woes. The reality is that GA already pays its fair share of FAA expenses through fuel tax. The nearly bankrupt airlines are trying to get GA to pay more to lower their operating costs. The impact of the proposed user fees (on filing flight plans, flight following, approaches, etc.) on GA could also have devastating consequences, and we have only to look to Europe to see that GA is practically non-existent there. User fees would make general aviation **LESS SAFE** because pilots would be more apt to **not** file IFR when weather conditions are marginal. By the same argument, traffic congestion would increase and become less orderly and less safe because fewer pilots would be talking to ATC, to save money. Some pilots say they are opposed to the user fees, but see them as inevitable (see J. Mac McClellan's article "FAA User Fees Coming?" in the January edition of *Flying Magazine*), and propose "reasonable fees." The problem with that philosophy is that once the cork is out of the bottle, the bureaucrats are free to increase them with little regard to the impact on GA. That is why we need to do everything we can to stop these fees **before** they are implemented.

We are fortunate to have what I consider a pro-GA quasi-public organization (RIAC) meticulously maintaining and improving our state airports. Some members may begrudge the lack of adequate GA hangars and tiedowns, particularly at PVD. But for the most part, our state airports are meticulously maintained and we are extremely fortunate for that. Other states are not so fortunate, as we witnessed Chicago Meigs Field bulldozed by Mayor Daly in the middle of the night about a year ago. I would be interested in hearing from you on local issues, and how RIPA can work with the powers that be to make General Aviation more safe and affordable for everyone; and most importantly, how together we can protect our privilege to fly.

Bill Weedon

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## MEETING MINUTES

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Dinner Meeting  
January 10, 2006

Bill Weedon, President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM at Chelo's Restaurant on Post Road in Warwick, RI. We said the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, and then observed a moment of silence. After introductions of the RIPA members and guests, a motion to approve the November 2005 RIPA dinner meeting minutes was seconded and passed. The treasurer's report, membership committee report and event committee report were approved as well.

During the dinner meeting, the 2006 RIPA board members were sworn in. The board is as follows:

President: Bill Weedon  
Vice President: Beth Tetreault  
Corresponding Secretary: Marilyn Biagetti  
Treasurer: Dan Scanlon  
Recording Secretary: Korrie LaBrie

After the board was sworn in, Jack Keenan, Bill Weedon and Rene Cardon presented the RIPA Airmen of the Year Award to this year's recipient, Dan Scanlon.

Guest Speaker, Tom Lafen - Operations Manger for the Providence Air Traffic Control Tower, provided RIPA members with the latest news from the tower.

The dinner meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Korrie LaBrie  
Recording Secretary

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## CLASSIFIED ADS

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**Wanted: Aircraft Mechanic Trainees.** Up to an **\$8,000.00 cash bonus, the Montgomery GI Bill and Kicker, plus a Student Loan Repayment Program, limited time only, don't miss this opportunity.** The RI Air National Guard has several openings for C-130 Crew Chiefs, Aerospace Propulsion Technicians, Avionics Technicians, Fuel Systems specialists, plus more. Paid technical training, travel, college education, and retirement benefits. - For more information contact Col Matt Dzialo or Capt Ron Cloutier at (401) 886-3549

**FOR SALE:** Ocean State Oil is offering current members a discount on AEROSHELL(cases & drums). SHELL Flight Jacket, plane care products are now available. 1339 Davisville Road, Quonset 1800 554 4557

**Free Classified ads of current members for aviation related items.**  
Marilyn Biagetti: 568 3497, Fax: 568 5392, email [biagettim@cox.net](mailto:biagettim@cox.net)

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## NOTAMS

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The board has identified 6 members that may be eligible for the Wright Brothers Master Pilots Award to be presented in June. We are attempting to deliver the

applications to Gabe Laurienzo, Tony Rappa, Don Pillsbury, Jay Strauss, Dom Donato and Tony Correia. There will be applications available at the dinner meeting for any others that we may have overlooked.

Applications must be submitted by the end of February. Contact Bill Weedon for information. Last year RIPA and the FAA honored Kenneth A. Brown, Franklin F. Sherman, Eugene A. Bielecki, Lowell Cornell Jr., Norman J. Bishop, Robert G. Danis and Joseph S. Ludovici.

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Gene Bielecki will be away from February 8<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> and March 26 to April 5<sup>th</sup>. "Please schedule any of the 7 day week.. before.. in between.. or after.. whatever...."

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From Al Lamothe:  
Please change my address to: [allamo@aol.com](mailto:allamo@aol.com)

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### BOARD MEETING

Bill Weedon, Rene Cardon, Dan Scanlon, Frank Oliveira, Paul Carroll and Marilyn Biagetti spend much of the evening discussing ways to increase membership. A good membership base goes a long way when it is time to show strength and unity, as has been demonstrated quite a few times. We are considering maximizing our exposure to students with posters at FBO's and flight schools, hopefully, getting more young pilots involved. We remind members to invite a friend to a dinner meeting; you do not have to be a member to attend.

Rene Cardon has a plan to decrease the expense of the Windsocks and will investigate his idea.

Korrie has informed us that she has a class on Tuesday and will need someone to take notes for the rest of this semester.

Due to a scheduling conflict the February guest speaker has rescheduled to April and Paul Carroll has kindly volunteered to present his trip to New Zealand.

Members are encouraged to visit our Web page at <http://www.RIPilots.com/>. It has been expanding and contains some very useful information.

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I remember when sex was safe and flying was dangerous.

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A smooth landing is mostly luck: two in a row is all luck;  
and three in a row is pure prevarication.  
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Without ammunition, the USAF would be just another expensive flying club.

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## HANGAR FLYING

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Tom Lafen, from PVD tower, updating members on the new ground radar, taxiway extension, a problem with voice quality on ATIS, a little bit of controller history and an amusing episode involving his Thanksgiving dinner. pix/FrankO



Korrie LaBrie, Dan Scanlon, Marilyn Biagetti, Beth Tetreault and Bill Weedon being sworn in by Paul Tocco pix/FrankO

Neil Arbor - WINGS VII, 1/06 w/Mark DeSousa.

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## RIPA 2005 AIRMAN OF THE YEAR



Jack Keenan with the FAA presentation for Dan pix/FrankO

Daniel Scanlon earned his pilots license in 1973. He has his Commercial, Multi engine, and Seaplane rating and is a CFII. He holds WINGS XVI. He has around 3000 hours of flight time.

Dan is a member of the Civil Air Patrol with a rating of Captain, doing Search and Rescue training and pilot check rides. A member of Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association and the Quiet Birdmen were he has held all the offices.

He has been an active member of the Rhodes Island Pilots Association for about 20 years, serving as Vice President (1 year), President (2 years) and Treasurer (3 years). Dan is active in committees, and helps with most of the RIPA functions, including dinner meetings, Valentine Day dinner, flyouts, hangar parties, Quonset Point Air Show, Greenville Seaplane flyin, and the Holiday Gala.

Dan presently will be found flying his Archer. He has been the proud owner of a Cessna 152, Cessna 182 and a Cherokee 6.

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## SAFETY SEMINARS

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You are reminded that RIPA Safety Seminars include coffee & donuts and door prizes.

Date & Time: Wednesday, February 22, 7:00 pm  
Location: Knights of Columbus Hall  
171 Jenckes Hill Road Lincoln, RI 02865

Topic: **17 Most Popular Ways to Fall Out of the Sky**  
This video program will cover common mistakes and problems associated with various stages of general aviation activities. In part I we will address preflight planning, takeoffs, density altitude, hazards, complacency, weight and balance and engine failure on takeoff. A discussion will follow the tape presentation. This seminar qualifies for the FAA Wings Program. All pilots are invited.

Speaker(s): ASC Frank Sherman  
Directions to Venue From Route 146 take the Route 123 exit. Follow the signs toward North Central Airport. The Knights of Columbus Hall is about 1/2 mile East of North Central on Route 123.

Sponsors: RIPA, Mike Bernier/New England Aviation, and Aviation Safety Counselor Frank Sherman.

To receive your Safety Seminar schedules online please subscribe by going to the following link: <http://faasafety.gov/>  
Call Gene Bielecki, Pilot Examiner, for information 231 6229

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## EVENTS

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Well the Flying events that were scheduled for January managed to get weathered out. The Mystery flyout for the 14<sup>th</sup> was domed by Thursday of that week. It has been a strange winter so far; we will see what February brings.

In March, we will be expecting our usual invitation to the St Patrick's Day Breakfast on Block Island.

The Events committee decided that the Mystery Flyouts would be held, barring weather, on the weekend after the dinner meetings so an announcement can be made at the meeting, and Rene informed us that the FLYRI cookouts will commence in May.

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## SOLOS & NEW RATINGS

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## MEETING NOTICE

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Call **885 1196** or email  
[RIPaEMail@AOL.COM](mailto:RIPaEMail@AOL.COM) by Saturday February  
11, 2006 to make your reservations.

Date: Tuesday February 14, 2006  
Time: 6:30pm Cocktails  
7:00pm Dinner  
8:00pm Meeting and Speaker  
Place: Chelo's in Warwick  
Airport exit off Rte.95 to Post Rd south,  
500ft on right  
Buffet of: Meatloaf, Baked Scrod and Chicken  
Penne, potatoes, vegetables  
Mixed Desserts, Coffee and Tea.  
Price: \$20 per person  
\$5 just coffee and dessert

### PLEASE CALL TODAY!!!!!!

Members wishing to fly into PVD can call any  
Board Member to arrange transportation to and  
from the meeting.

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## GUEST SPEAKERS

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### February speaker rescheduled

**Feb 14 – Paul Carroll**  
**Flying in New Zealand**

March 14 – Ken McDonald

April 11 – Doug Stewart  
Flying the NY VFR Corridor  
A Safety Seminar

May 9 – PVD Tower Tour

June 13 – Jack Keenan  
FAA Master Pilot Awards

President Bill Weedon - 474 8082, [WHW@appliedradar.com](mailto:WHW@appliedradar.com)  
V President: Beth Tetreault – 447 5048, [ETETREULT@cox.net](mailto:ETETREULT@cox.net)  
Treasurer: Daniel Scanlon - 885 1196, [F1212@aol.com](mailto:F1212@aol.com),  
Secretary: Korrie LaBrie - 345 4548, [korrielaBrie@hotmail.com](mailto:korrielaBrie@hotmail.com)  
Corr Secretary Marilyn Biagetti – 568 3497, [biagettim@cox.net](mailto:biagettim@cox.net)  
Website: <http://www.RIPilots.com/> Email: [RIPaEMail@aol.com](mailto:RIPaEMail@aol.com)  
Group: [ripa@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ripa@yahoogroups.com)



104 East Ironstone Road  
Harrisville, RI 02830

MAIL TO

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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## EVENTS SCHEDULE

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February 12 – **Valentine Dinner**  
The Crow's Nest Restaurant, Warwick  
Reservations needed  
14 - **Dinner Meeting**  
18 or 19 – **Mystery Flyout**  
22 - **Safety Seminar**  
Knights of Columbus Hall  
171 Jenckes Hill Road Lincoln  
28 - **Board Meeting**, PVD  
Hangar #1, 7:00pm  
March 14 - **Dinner Meeting**  
19 - **Flyout**  
22 - **Safety Seminar**  
28 - **Board Meeting**, PVD  
Hangar #1, 7:00pm  
April – 4-10 Sun'N Fun  
11 - **Dinner Meeting**  
15 - **Mystery Flyout**  
20 - **Safety Seminar**  
25 - **Board Meeting**, PVD  
May 9 - **Dinner Meeting**  
14 - **Mystery Flyout**  
30 - **Board Meeting**, PVD  
June 13 - **Dinner Meeting**  
**Wright Brothers Master Pilots Award**  
24-25 - **Quonset Air Show**  
July 8 – FlyRI cookout Newport  
August 25-26 Gadabout Gaddis Campout  
September 8-10 Greenville Seaplane Flyin