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Photo Credit: Chris Vermilya

Condor Elects New Trustees to the Board

During the October General Meeting, Condor members voted to fill the trustee positions that were up for election this year. We are fortunate to have a healthy club and committed membership and it is exciting to see the direction of the club take shape!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, congratulations to the following candidates who have been elected to serve for the next three years:

- Keith McPherson
- Chip Vignolini
- Chris Wohlgemuth
- Robert Beck

Keith and Chip are continuing their tenure and we're excited to welcome Chris and Robert to the Board! After the election results were confirmed, the new Board of Trustees met and determined the officers and responsibilities for the coming year:

- President: Keith McPherson
- Vice-President: Kip Sobel
- Secretary: Dorothy Meeder
- Treasurer: Bob Miladinovich
- Membership: Robert Beck
- Maintenance/Hangars: Chip Vignolini
- Programs: Cindy Smith
- Safety: Chris Vermilya
- Chief CFI: Chris Wohlgemuth

Congratulations again to those elected and thanks to our dedicated membership for your continued trust and contributions!

Finally, the Board would like to sincerely thank Alan Connor for his years of service on the Board, as well as his dedication to Condor. Thanks, Alan!



Leadership Corner

by Keith McPherson

Happy Autumn and thank you all for a great turnout at our October meeting! In addition to the Winter Seminar, we held our Annual Election, confirming the 2025-2026 Board of Trustees as updated on our website. Having already participated in several meetings and discussions to chart our course for 2026, I can say the level of enthusiasm and commitment is off the charts! We navigated some "headwinds" last year, but ended strong with an uptake in new members, and 100% of the Fleet back online! We look forward to continuing this trend into 2026 and providing you with regular updates. As always, your patience and support are greatly appreciated!

Speaking of the Winter Seminar, on November 1st, we begin our winter operations. The "Winter Seminar" date in your SkyManager "Flight Proficiency" must be current in order to dispatch an aircraft. If you did not attend the October meeting, you will need to review the materials available on our website and get with your instructor. He/she will answer any questions, then complete an Instructor Sign-Off Form, and place it in Dorothy's mailbox. If your "Winter Seminar" date does not show "11/1/2026" you will need to complete these steps.

Looking forward, our annual "Celebration of First Flight" holiday gathering is set for Friday, December 19th, at the Cranberry Elks. Festivities will start at 6:00PM, so be sure to mark your calendars!

Fly Safely, Fly Often, Fly Condor!

Earning Their Wings!



That first solo... the first checkride... adding ratings... and more, these pilots are celebrating, and we share in their excitement. CONGRATULATIONS!!!

- Chris Mansfield – Private Pilot ASEL – October 2nd, 2025
- Di Xiao – First Solo – October 4th, 2025
- Joe Larsen – Mulei-Engine Instructor – September 30th, 2025

General Club Meeting

The Condor Aero Club will meet on **Tuesday November 4th at 7:30pm at KPJC**. Please plan to attend for information on club business, introductions to new members, along with maintenance and financial updates. Come early to catch up with old friends, make some new ones, and enjoy some delicious eats provided by our own Cindy and JP! Our social kicks off at **7:00pm**, don't miss it!

Sky Manager Tips

Please be considerate of other club members! Only schedule a plane for the time you plan to fly. Reserving a plane for 4+ hours then only flying for 1 blocks others from being able to plan a flight. Also, if your plans change, update your reservation! Condor does not charge a cancellation fee so what's stopping you from cancelling your hold if you can't fly? Please plan accordingly to allow others to fly!

Currency – Condor requires a base level of currency to check out aircraft. You must have logged (1) hour of flight and (3) landings in the previous (90) days to be able to check out an airplane. Schedule time with an instructor if you are not current.

Winter Seminar – To fly from November 1st to March 31st, each member must attend a Winter Seminar or obtain a sign-off from a club instructor. Please meet with an instructor if you do not have signoff on the winter seminar.

Dues and Insurance – 2025 dues and insurance have been billed and are due by 12/31! Please ensure that your account is paid in full to avoid having your flight privileges suspended January 1, 2026.

Flight Medical – Don't let your medical expire! Condor maintains copies of your medical certificate and when it expires, flight privileges are revoked. Send a copy of your new medical to Dorothy to have your records updated.

Flight Review – FR dates are also maintained by the club. If your review date passes, flight privileges will be revoked until you complete your FR and provide an update to Dorothy.

Contact Us

Have a question for the club?
Interested on joining?
Have something to share?
Reach out anytime!

accounts@condoraero.com
<http://www.condoraero.com>



[Join us on Facebook!](#)

Feel free to contact any board member below if you have a specific question

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From the Right Seat



Our club instructors have seen a lot in their time sitting in the right seat. Through their experience, and randomly yelling 'more right rudder' in their sleep, they have much to share that we all can learn from to be better pilots.

Every pilot has heard it: "There's no shame in a go-around." Yet too often, we wait too long to make that call. As instructors, we see it all the time, students and seasoned pilots alike trying to salvage a landing that's already gone sideways.

Here's the truth: the go-around is one of the most professional maneuvers you can execute. It shows judgment, discipline, and awareness, not failure. So how can we change this mindset, get more practice in, and most importantly, avoid mistakes or worse by trying to force a landing?

When to Go-Around? If any of these sound familiar, you should already be thinking about pushing the throttle forward:

- You're not stabilized by 500 feet AGL (airspeed, descent rate, and alignment aren't where they should be).
- You float too far down the runway.
- A gust, crosswind, or tailwind upsets your approach.
- You're distracted (radio call, traffic, checklist).
- Another aircraft, vehicle, or wildlife enters the runway.

Common Student Mistakes - We see two main issues:

- Indecision. The pilot hesitates, waiting too long to act. A smooth go-around becomes a rushed recovery.
- Improper configuration. Forgetting to manage flaps or trim properly can cause ballooning or sink.

How to Practice

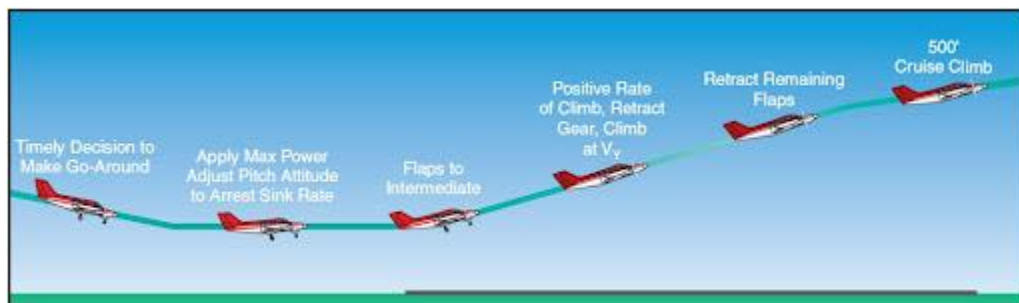
Instructors love incorporating "surprise" go-arounds during training, often right when everything looks perfect. The goal isn't to catch you off guard, but to make the transition instinctive: full power, pitch for climb, manage flaps in stages, and stay coordinated.

A Simple Reminder

Commit early. Power up. Pitch appropriately (don't let it get too high!). Clean up. Communicate.

If you practice go-arounds until they're second nature, you'll handle real-world decisions with confidence and precision.

So next time things don't look right on short final, don't "make it work." Make it safe, go around.



Member Spotlight – Meet Tyler Boyd!

What certificates/ratings do you hold?

FAA ATP, CL-65 and B777 Type,
and additionally Australian CPL

How many hours do you have?

3500+

How long have you been flying?

14 years

When did you join Condor?

March 2026

What prompted you to look skyward?

From a young age I had always been closely involved in Aviation, from helping in any way at the local airport during the airshows we had, or helping out at the aircraft mechanic shop, additionally my father was a PPL holder and we owned a Tiger Moth and a Beechcraft Musketeer. As I was getting older, he got me into flight simulators on the computer which I was naturally obsessed with and for my 12th birthday, I did my first flying lesson in a Cessna 150... Clearly the rest is history.

What is your favorite part of flying?

I love the freedom of being able to go anywhere. Flying as a job also allows me to see the sights and sounds of multiple different countries and cultures around the world.

What is your next aviation goal?

I haven't really got a goal anymore, but I would like to see myself being able to fly old Warbirds.

What is your favorite aircraft?

Grumman F8F Bearcat. But anything with a Merlin or a Radial will turn my eye any day.

Any words of wisdom to share?

Aviation is hard, but that shouldn't take away the fun that you have doing it. I reminisce on my early days of flying, and the career I've been lucky to have. I would tell anyone to take their time with aviation, and not to let your overall future goals affect the amazing times you are having in the present moment, because it will all be memories you will look back on in the end.



Welcome New Members!

Welcome to the Condor Aero Club! The following new members joined our group in the last month and we're excited to have them on board. Looking forward to seeing you around the airport!

- None this month!

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for these upcoming aviation events!

- The weather is getting colder, look for more events next spring

Looking for a fun place to fly? Check out the Recommended Airport list along with other great information at the link below. Pay special attention to the recently added slide deck containing many options. Please share your pictures as well!

[Condor Google Drive](#)

[General Aviation Accessible Aviation Museums](#)

Fleet Info

Club aircraft details can be found at
<http://www.condoraero.com>

Rental and off field reimbursement
rates are below for reference.
Rates are wet and apply per hour.

N89549 (C152) - \$90 (promotional)
N341FC (C172N) - \$145
N96573 (C172P) - \$150
N62104 (C172P) - \$150
N684SP (C172S) - \$155
N2806M (P28A) - \$155
N1963T (P28R) - \$170
N4335M (P28B) - \$180

Off field fuel reimbursement:
\$6.45/gal

Member Checklist

Remember the following items!

Shutdown:

Avionics Master.....Off
Lights.....All off except beacon
Mixture.....Cutoff
Magnetos.....Off
Master.....Off

Postflight:

Lights....Confirm off except beacon
Leading Edges.....Cleaned*
Windscreen.....Cleaned*
Fuel Quantity.....Full**
Aircraft Interior.....Clean Up

*White cloths and wax cleaner for
leading edges, Yellow microfiber
cloth and glass cleaner for
windscreen

**Do not fully fill the left tank of
N89549, leave a few inches to
avoid overflow

Off Field Fuel:

Do not use club fuel cards
Use personal credit card
Submit receipts for reimbursement

Prepayment Incentive:

\$1,000.00-\$1,999.99 – 4% bonus
\$2,000.00-\$3,999.99 – 5% bonus
\$4,000.00 and greater – 6% bonus
Restrictions apply, contact a board
member for more details

HOLD for Maintenance Corner

CONDOR AERO CLUB REGULAR MEETING

Meeting Minutes

October 7th, 2025

*Please note, meeting minutes will no longer be read at general meetings. Please review the minutes from the prior meeting in this newsletter and be prepared to ask any questions at the next meeting.
Meeting minute approval will be requested at the next meeting.*

CALL TO ORDER

President Keith McPherson called the October 2025 Condor Aero Club Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The president then asked the group to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The President requested the visitors and guests to stand and introduce themselves. Keith thanked Cindy and JP for the delicious refreshments they provided for the Social Hour.

President Keith requested a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Board actions. Mike Bruce moved and Larry Schaefer seconded, "To approve the Board Actions for 2024-2025." - Motion carried.

1ST FLIGHT/CRISTMAS PARTY – Cindy Smith has arranged for the First Flight/Christmas Party to be held 6:00 p.m. Friday December 18, 2025 at the Elks Club in Cranberry Twp., on Route 19 North. Condor members will receive two free tickets all additional tickets will be \$35.00 each.

ELECTION – Assistant Election Chairman Greg Jarosz, in the absence of Election Chairman Jake Vagias, asked for any nominations from the floor. Robert Chance nominated Ed Sattely. Ed accepted.

Dan Cox moved and Fred Gropp seconded, "Nominations are closed." -
Motion carried.

Nominees: Robert Beck, Jeff Kuzma, Keith McPherson, Ed Sattely, Chip Vignolini, Chris Wolgemuth.

The ballots were collected from the members. The election committee, Greg Jarosz, Debbie Miladinovich, and Jim Moser retired to count the ballots.

MINUTES

Larry Schaefer moved and Ed Sattely seconded, "The September 2025 Condor Aero Club Minutes are approved." - Motion carried.

READINGS: 1st Reading: Christian Crockroft
 Sean Dreyer
 Ryan Markle
 William J. Vickerman

TREASURER'S REPORT

Account Balances as of 10-1-2025

Cash Flow for September 2025

Cash Basis

Accounts Receivable: - \$73,617.43

Cash Flow for August 2025

Accounts Receivable:	- \$90,839.80
TOTAL Cash Checking Account:	
Beginning Balance -	\$77,464.27
Inflows -	\$59,744.58
Outflows -	\$66,044.72
Net -	-\$6,300.14
Balance as of 9/1/2025	\$71,164.13

FIRST COMMONWEALTH Line of Credit (LOC)

Rate -	8.50%
Line Of Credit -	Line: \$25,000.00 Balance \$0.00

N341FC Loan: Payment: \$1999.28 Balance: \$130,194.80

Off Field Fuel Reimbursement as of July 11, 2025: \$6.55

August Outflow Highlights:

Phillips 66 Fuel	\$10,936.20
Maintenance	\$48,543.29
Annual Corn Roast	\$5,098.42
FCB sweep acct interest	\$176.36 - YTD \$2,585.

Fred Gropp moved and Glenn Kaiser seconded, "The Condor Aero Club September 2025 Treasurer's Report is accepted as read." -Motion carried.

MAINTENANCE

Chip Vignolini reported the maintenance completed in August and the maintenance planned for September. The complete Maintenance Report is in the Condor Aero Club Newsletter.

PROGRAM

The "Winter Seminar" was presented by Chris Vermilya. The Seminar is important information regarding the care of the airplanes in cold weather and responsible cold weather flying.

N89549 – The promotional period 90/per hour-90/days 549 is in progress. The Board discussed options at the end of the 90-90 days period. The Board decision will have to be Jason paying his own insurance or more importantly "Do we keep the N89549 in the Condor fleet."

ELECTION RESULTS:	Robert Beck – 1 year
	Keith McPherson – 3 years
	Chip Vignolini – 3 years
	Chris Wolgemuth – 3 years

ADJOURNMENT

Mike Bruce moved and Larry Schaefer seconded, "The October 2025 Condor Aero Club Meeting is adjourned." - Motion carried.