

# NORTHAMPTON AERONAUTICS

AT THE NORTHAMPTON AIRPORT

May 2005



Periodic Newsletter

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*The airport build-out is well underway...*

### **Airport Improvements**

This spring we were able to cut several dozen trees on the approach to runway 14. Over the years, these trees had grown to interfere significantly with the approach to 14. We were able to obtain approval from the city of Northampton and Massachusetts Highway to cut the trees in March. The governmental cooperation and support in our effort to make the airport safer was excellent.

We also hope that you will notice our reinstalled windsock located midfield. The windsock had taken quite a beating over the last few winters; it was leaning, unlighted and generally in poor condition. That has all changed; the sock has been reinstalled on a new mast and the lights are back on.

### **New FBO Location**

We are well into the construction of the new FBO office. The new facility will include a classroom area, briefing/office areas, lounge, and new men's and women's restrooms.

The new FBO offices are located in the lower section of the building, formerly known as the balloon building. We expect to make the move into

## **Building Update**



this building by mid-summer.

### **New Tee Hangars**

Construction of the two new tee hangars has begun. The foundation for the new buildings will be completed by the time you read this. Most of the site work will be completed soon, with paving of the ramp areas to follow shortly after that.

The demand for the hangars has been wonderful, with several new airplanes relocating to the Northampton airport. Attracting new users to the airport has been the cornerstone of our plan to keep the airport open and viable as a privately owned public use facility.

All of these hangar spaces are currently filled, but if you would like to be placed on a waiting list for any openings, please call Sarah at 413-584-7980.



## **Spring Hours**

**Every Day 8:00AM– 6:00PM**

**Northampton Aeronautics, Inc.**  
www.northamptonairport.com

**413-584-7980**  
info@northamptonairport.com

## AOPA Safety Volunteer

In order to have direct contact with each public-use airport located throughout the country, AOPA's Airport Support Network has developed the Airport Volunteer Program. Airport Volunteer applicants must be nominated and then chosen by the AOPA Safety board, and each airport is allotted one volunteer.

We are proud to announce that our flight instructor David Bloomberg has been selected as Northampton airport's volunteer and is available via email at [dbloomberg@northamptonairport.com](mailto:dbloomberg@northamptonairport.com) to answer any airport questions or concerns.

# Safety Section

## FAA Safety Counselors

Aviation Safety Counselors are private individuals dedicated to the promotion of aviation safety. Counselors are selected for their interest in aviation safety, their professional knowledge, and their personal reputation in the aviation community. Northampton Aeronautics, Inc. has three FAA Safety Counselors on our staff: Mary Shea, David Bloomberg, and Rich Maclsaac.

Please feel free to contact Mary, David, or Rich with any aviation safety questions you might have at 413-584-7980.

## Holyoke Community College Update



The partnership with Holyoke Community College Flight Training program continues to be an important program for the Northampton Aeronautic flight school. Students are able to complete the ground and flight training time required to obtain a private pilot certificate, instrument rating, commercial certificate, and flight instructor rating while completing an Associate Degree in Aviation Management.

Flight students **Jeremy Kappenman**, **Brian Mizula**, and **Mark Grella** have all made it to the solo stage of the program, and **Alex Rafalskiy**, **Slav Rafalskiy**, **James DePace**, and **Rob Gleason** have all obtained their private pilot certificates.

You can access the flight training program at [www.hcc.mass.edu](http://www.hcc.mass.edu) by clicking on "Learning at HCC" and then on "Academic Programs."

Holyoke Community College is the Commonwealth's oldest community college, with more than 6,500 students and more than 90 degree options and 44 certificate programs, as well as noncredit and workforce development courses. The college has the highest transfer rate of any community college statewide, holding articulation agreements with 27 colleges and universities.

## Local Pilot Profile



**Name:** Mary Shea

**Occupation:** Retired Secondary Teacher of English and Flight Instructor

**Ratings:** Private, Commercial, CFI, CFII, MEI, and Ground Instructor Instrument

**Pilot Since:** 1966

**If I Could Fly Any Model:** A DC-3

**Favorite Aviation Story:** Mary recalls that once she tried to taxi while still being tied down. Now, this is an honest mistake that many pilots make, but unfortunately, Mary happened to be piloting a scenic flight in a Piper, which meant that her passenger had to get out in order to let her out to untie the plane. To add insult to injury, at that time the airport had a large speaker out near the tie-downs, and someone's voice announced, "It works a lot better when you untie the plane first."

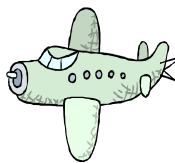
## Meet the Maintenance Team

The Northampton Aeronautics, Inc., maintenance department is one of the most valuable assets at the Northampton Airport. The maintenance staff is managed by John Bishop, who has over 35 years of experience in aircraft maintenance and mechanics and is A&P and AI certified. Our team consists of Len Alessi, also A&P certified, and Gene Lubarsky, who is in the final stages of an A&P apprentice program.

The maintenance department is available Monday through Friday, 8:00AM- 5:00PM, and can be reached at 413-387-6304.



From left to right: Gene Lubarsky, John Bishop, and Len Alessi.



NAI Will Soon Have A Piper Arrow Available for Rental

Check Back  
in June!



## Mark Your Calendar

### Northampton Airport Month

**May** is **Northampton Airport month** At **Packard's Pub and Restaurant** in downtown Northampton. Stop by each Thursday of the month to enjoy some great food and register for a chance to win some very *uplifting* prizes!

Packard's Pub, 14 Masonic St., Northampton, MA




### Sundae Fly-In to Support the Pioneer Valley Humane Society

**Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>**, fly into the Northampton Airport for hot fudge sundaes and help fulfill the Pioneer Valley Humane Society Wish List. **12:00PM- 4:00PM.** We'll have ice cream and tons of toppings available for you to build your own sundae, all you have to do is bring one of the following Wish List items that will be donated to the Humane Society:

- Dog food/cat food
- Dog toys/cat toys
- Dog treats/cat treats
- 6ft.- 8ft. Leash

Cash donations will also be accepted, *rain date scheduled for June 26th.*

Special thanks to 

### Blood Drive

**Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup>**, the Cooley Dickinson Blood Mobile will be in the Northampton Airport parking lot from 10:00AM-4:00PM. Please stop by and support a cause that benefits everyone!

### Mustang Car Show

**August 14<sup>th</sup>**, fly into the Northampton Airport to check out the Mustang Club annual car show. Admission is free, and *a rain date is scheduled for August 21<sup>st</sup>.*

### Northampton Balloon Festival

**September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>** is the Northampton Balloon Festival. Balloon pilots from all over will unite at the Northampton Airport to host balloon flights. Boarding passes are \$225 each and are **available for purchase now.**



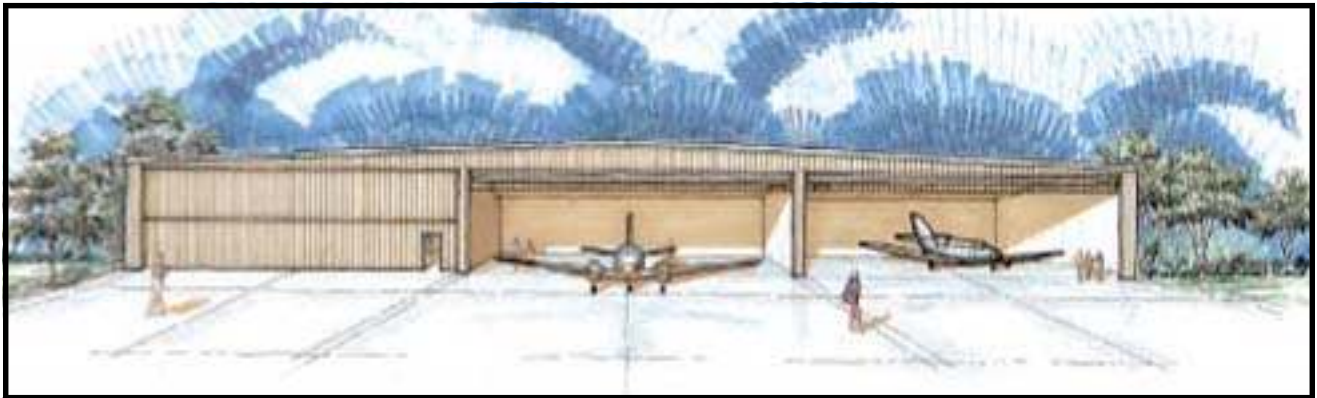
### Single and Multi-Engine Flying Clubs

Interested in building your flying time? Now's your chance! Two flying clubs are being formed right now at the Northampton Airport.

- Cessna 310
- Mooney 201

Call Sarah at 413-584-7980 for more details.

Northampton Aeronautics, Inc.  
160 Old Ferry Rd.  
Northampton, MA 01060



## Executive Hangars Sites Available



- **Steel Building**
- **Concrete Floors**
- **Electric Bi-Fold Doors**
- **Capacity for Electricity**
- **Insulated Exterior Walls and Roof**

**Will Build to Suit**

*Please contact Sarah at 413-584-7980 if interested.*