



# THE WINGS CLUB

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# NEWS

## THE WINGS CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

The Yale Club ballroom was the setting for the 67th Annual Meeting of the Wings Club held on March 23, 2010. A record setting 194 members and their guests gathered for the installation of Jeffrey Knittel as the 68th President of The Wings Club and the election of the fifteen new Board Members.

In addition to the meeting's official business, the evening featured the "Year in Review" video which showcased the past year's eight Aviation Leader's luncheon speakers, the naming of this year's five Golden Eagles, including recognition of Jennie Sefton, the inductee present at the meeting and the announcement of the 2010 Distinguished Achievement Award recipient, Allan McArtor.



Passing of the Gavel- Jeffrey Knittel receives gavel from Dave Barger

The evening's most memorable moment was when former Wings Club President Ken Gazzola and IAWA's Ellyn Slow presented the first Wings Club/IAWA Outstanding Aviator Award to the Claude B. Govan Tri-state Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen. Over 60 of the original airman, their families and friends were in attendance to witness this special honor.

Incoming Wings Club President Jeffrey Knittel presented outgoing president Dave Barger with the traditional president's rocking chair, a Certificate of Appreciation and expressed the Club's gratitude for his exceptional leadership.

The evening ended with Knittel challenging the membership to join him during the upcoming Club year in working to expand the membership roster, expand our commitment to scholarship and launch a campaign to help attract the most talented youth into the field of aviation by making aviation "cool" again.



The Tuskegee Airman; Recipients of the 2010 Outstanding Aviator Award

### Allan McArtor 2010 Distinguished Achievement Award Recipient

The Wings Club proudly announces that Allan McArtor, Chairman, Airbus Americas, Inc. and former Wings Club President will receive the 2010 Distinguished Achievement Award. Acknowledging outstanding accomplishments in the field of aviation and astronautics, the award will be presented on October 22, 2010 at the 68th Wings Club Dinner-Dance to be held at the Waldorf = Astoria Hotel in New York City.



Distinguished Achievement Award Recipient Allan McArtor





# THE WINGS CLUB

## A Message From The President

May 2010

Dear Wings Club Members:

At the March 23 Annual Meeting, I was honored to be elected the 68th President of The Wings Club. I look forward to this opportunity to serve the Club and its members.

Our Club continues to grow, and I plan to build on the foundation strengthened by my predecessor, Dave Barger. During his term he brought energy to every meeting, moved us in new directions and demonstrated admirable leadership. Dave, we all thank you.

It's with excitement that I look to this new year. I have proposed, and the Board has accepted, three new initiatives for the 2010-2011 Club year. These will be pursued while we bring to completion under committees chaired by him, two of Dave's initiatives: moving to new office space and creating an endowment. The new initiatives are:



### **Making Aviation "Cool" or MAC**

Over the last few years, many of you have voiced your concern that aviation is no longer attracting the best and brightest talent as we compete with the fast-paced banking and technology industries. Although many of us could never imagine being in another industry, our young people have many choices. I believe The Wings Club, as the premiere aviation club of the world, should spearhead a campaign to help attract the most talented youth back into the aviation field. I have formed a committee that has already begun tackling this task.

### **Scholarship Fund fundraising**

In the last few years, our Scholarship Fund has made major strides to build cash reserves. It will soon be able to bestow more and/or larger scholarships from internally generated funds. I am aware of some innovative approaches that the ISTAT Foundation has taken in its fund raising and giving. To further grow The Wings Club Scholarship Fund, I have asked one of my staff – also an ISTAT board member to work with The Club's Scholarship Fund Board and the ISTAT Foundation to investigate and develop ideas that will allow us to tap into this resource.

### **Broaden the membership base**

Finally, let's continue to expand our membership roster. My goal is to broaden the reach of The Wings Club to include in greater numbers areas of the industry like corporate aviation and the defense and government sector. This initiative will be guided by the Membership Committee and its Chairman, Kevin McAllister.

The 2010/2011 Wings Club event calendar has already produced some noteworthy events, with more to come:

At the second joint luncheon with the Aero Club of Washington, our April Aviation Leaders Series Luncheon featuring Randy Babbitt, FAA Administrator, drew 220 guests.

In early May, Greg Thomas, the new President of our Club's European Chapter, conceived and organized a very successful luncheon in Geneva, Switzerland in conjunction with EBACE. More than 300 guests attended and heard Eric Connor, Chairman & CEO, Netjets Europe, speak.

We continued the General Harold R. Harris 'Sight' Lecture series of luncheons in New York with our May luncheon speaker Governor Tom Ridge.

For our Aviation Leaders' luncheons going forward, speakers will be Jim Guyette, President & CEO, Rolls-Royce North America, in June; Alan Mulally, President & CEO, Ford Motor Company, in September; Jim McNerney, Chairman, President & CEO, Boeing, in November; and Gary Kelly, Chairman, President & CEO, Southwest Airlines, in December for his third visit. I am sure you will agree that this is an impressive list of speakers. I hope you will join us at each event.

The 68th annual Dinner-Dance will be held on Friday, October 22 at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. We are honored to have Allan McArtor, Chairman of Airbus Americas and a former Wings Club President and long time Board Member, as this year's Distinguished Achievement Award recipient *"for outstanding accomplishments in the field of aviation & astronautics."*

We have a great year ahead of us. I will leave you with a final thought. This is your Club. You should get involved in some way. Contact me and tell me what you would like to do.

Best Regards,

C. Jeffrey Knittel  
President  
The Wings Club



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM WINGS CLUB EVENTS

## SEE WHAT YOU MISSED



JANUARY



**January 21, 2010**

**Glenn Tilton, Chairman & CEO**  
United Airlines

Tilton opened his remarks with the statement of a “reasonable premise” as a frame for his discussion: “A safe, secure, sustainable and profitable airline industry that provides good value to customers is in the best interest of the US economic recovery and the country’s global competitiveness.” He then went on to enumerate the “barriers” to the premise which included excessive taxation, inadequate infrastructure, outdated regulation and dysfunctional behavior both inside and outside the industry. Pointing out that the majority of the factors were the same as they were six years ago when he last spoke at the Wings Club, he called for “the creation of a culture where there is the ability to discuss important and difficult issues.”

FEBRUARY



**February 25, 2010**

**Bill Flynn, President & CEO**  
Atlas Air World Holdings

Providing an overview of Atlas Worldwide and an update on the Air Cargo segment of our industry from the leadership position of the top operator of 747 freighters, including a cautiously optimistic report of the returning yields and recovering demand, Flynn kept the keen attention of the luncheon crowd in spite of a severe winter snow storm taking place right outside the Yale Club’s windows. Highlighting the importance of air cargo to international commerce, he made the thought provoking statement that air freight moves 35% of all international cargo value yet only three percent of the weight.

MARCH



**March 24, 2010**

**Bruce Nobles, President & CEO**  
Air Jamaica Limited

“Have a good time but don’t talk about Air Jamaica,” was the email message Bruce Nobles received from his Chairman just minutes before he stepped to the podium to address the luncheon audience on the challenges of being a national carrier in today’s competitive, highly regulated and, in the Caribbean, very political environment. Since it is a critical point in the negotiations between Air Jamaica and Caribbean Airlines, Nobles stated that “I can’t talk about specific details of where we are going but I can tell you a little about how we got there.” He could, however, assure his audience and all future customers that the changeover would be seamless from a customer service and convenience standpoint.



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM WINGS CLUB EVENTS



## SEE WHAT YOU MISSED

### The Wings Club "On the Road"

Dublin, Ireland  
March 10, 2010  
**Christoph Mueller**  
CEO, Aer Lingus

The fourth annual luncheon in Dublin, Ireland was held at the Four Seasons Hotel on March 10, 2010. Dave Barger, Wings Club President, welcomed everyone to the luncheon and then, on behalf of the immediate past president of the European Chapter, Jim King, passed the gavel to incoming president Greg Thomas.

Taking the podium, Thomas thanked his predecessor, Jim King, and brought a laugh of appreciation when in his introduction of speaker Christoph Mueller, he noted that aviation has truly become an international business. "The speaker at the first Dublin luncheon was an Irishman running Aer Lingus, Dermot Mannion; the second speaker was an Irishman running British Airways, Willy Walsh; the third speaker was an Irishman running Qantas, Alan Joyce and today's speaker is a German running Aer Lingus, Christoph Mueller."

In his opening, Mueller cited a highlight of aviation in Ireland, when in 1919 the first transatlantic crossing between St. John's Newfoundland and Clifden, Ireland was successfully accomplished by two British aviators Alcock and Brown. "They took off from St. John's Newfoundland and completed the crossing, but I would not say they landed in Ireland, but rather the plane stopped flying nearby Galway."

He then proceeded to discuss the development of Irish aviation and the evolution of the Aer Lingus mission to "link Ireland with the world."



Speaker: Christoph Mueller



Jim King, Margaret Clandillon,  
Terence Black



Jacqueline Kelly-McFadden,  
Bernadette Bruen, Andrew Robertshaw



Dave Barger, Greg Thomas,  
Christoph Mueller



Ryan Kell, P.J. McGoldrick, Greg Thomas,  
Mark Reichin, Stockton Birthisel



## Distinguished Achievement Profile Series

DATE: 1976

In 1976 Neil A. Armstrong was the second recipient of the Wing's Club Distinguished Achievement Award.

For about a year NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter has been in a polar orbit around the Moon some 30 miles above the surface. One of the photographs returned to Earth shows the landing site of Apollo II's lunar module, its lower half still clearly visible as a permanent monument to the first visit by two humans on July 20, 1969; Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin.

Armstrong reportedly said once, he believed there was only a fifty percent chance of success. The landing on the Moon's surface could have been that fifty percent; but for a pen, the astronauts were faced with being stuck there. After two-and-half hours outside of the capsule, the two men squeezed back in only to find that their bulky space suits had snagged the take-off engine ignition switch, separating it from the control circuit breaker. Using part of a pen they managed to push in the breaker and start the launch sequence for the return to the service module which was circling the Moon with its commander, Michael Collins. After the splash-down in the Pacific and being picked up by the USS Hornet, the Apollo II crew was quarantined for 18 days as a precaution against having been infected by a Moon virus.

Neil A. Armstrong was born August 5, 1930, in Wapakoneta, Ohio and obtained a degree in aeronautical engineering. He served three years in the United States Navy; shortly after his 20th birthday in 1950 he qualified as a navy aviator, flying a F9F Panther in Korea. On one of his 78

missions he was hit by ground fire and lost six feet of the right wing. Struggling back to allied lines, he chose to eject rather than try to land with minimal control. He was awarded the Air Medal after 20 missions plus a Gold Star after forty.

NACA hired him as an experimental research test pilot at the Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory, Cleveland, Ohio in February 1955. At Edwards Air Force Base, he had his first incident in a converted B-29 carrying a Douglas Skyrocket D-558-2 when number four engine failed and the propeller went into over-speed. Unable to land with the Skyrocket attached, it was released just as the propeller disintegrated and damaged number three engine, so it too was feathered. Number one engine had to be feathered in order to maintain lateral control and a spiraling descent made from 30,000 feet for a safe landing. Armstrong also made numerous flights in rocket propelled aircraft including the Bell X-1B up to 11.4 miles in August 1957, and seven flights in the North American X-15, reaching 39.3 miles and a top speed of Mach 5.74. In September, 1962 Armstrong joined the NASA Astronaut Corps as its first civilian astronaut. On March 16, 1966, as Command Pilot, Gemini 8 launched and hooked up with an unmanned satellite, a first. The mission was cut short when one of the thrusters would not shut down.

Armstrong is the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, besides the naming of a lunar crater in his honor and numerous other awards.

*For more information on Neil Armstrong and the Apollo II trip visit Wikipedia at [//en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neil\\_Armstrong](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neil_Armstrong). For the video on the Apollo II mission visit: YouTube-John Glenn Lecture. 2009-Neil Armstrong.*





# THE WINGS CLUB CANDIDS

## JANUARY LUNCHEON



*William Hall, Jay Pierce, Julie Johnson, Marty Miller, Captain Garry Kravit*



*Dave Barger and Glenn Tilton*



*John Feren, Donald Schenk, Bruce Nobles, Darren Shannon*



*Brenna Gyory, Fred Catanese, Patti Hudziak*



*Head Table:*

*Seated: Lisa Piccione, Dave Barger, Glenn Tilton, Jeffrey Knittel, Dave McKay, Kevin McAllister;  
Standing: Ken Gazzola, Bob Craft, Henri Courpron, Marlin Dailey.*



# FEBRUARY LUNCHEON



*Emidio Carrico, Dawn Foster, Artem Gonopolsky, Irma Krueger, Byron Callan*



*Dave Barger and Bill Flynn*



*Larry Gibbons, Russel Thal,  
Bill Flynn, Jerry Willoughby,  
Joseph Pampalone*



*Jason Grant,  
Radha Churushiya,  
Justine Fisher*



*Vaughn College Student Table*





# THE WINGS CLUB CANDIDS

## MARCH LUNCHEON



*Embry Riddle Students*



*Tony King, Sara Young, Ann-Marie Francis, Bruce Nobles, Movia Howell, Claire Johnson-Cameron, Campbell Rudder*



*Aviation High School Student Table*



*Bruce Nobles and Jeffrey Knittel*



*Head Table:  
Seated: Candice Kimmel, Dave Barger, Jeffrey Knittel, Bruce Nobles, Bob Craft.  
Standing: Greg Thomas, Todd Kallman, Marlin Dailey, Tom Donegan, Ken Gazzola.*





# ANNUAL MEETING



*Ken Gazzola, Lt. William M. Wheeler, Martin Dailey*



*Bruce Nobles, Geneive Brown-Metzger, Consulate General at the Jamaican Consulate, New York*



*Karen Berg, Niels Andersen, June Freemanzon*



*Golden Eagle Award - Dave Barger and Jenny Sefton*



*Jeffrey Knüttel, 477th Bomb Group; Major Victor Terrelonge*



*Harris Herman, Dari Levine, Peter Berendsen, Ken Gazzola*



The following letter presented the Annual Report of the Club to the members at the Annual Meeting.



## THE WINGS CLUB

March 23, 2010

Dear Wings Club Members,

As is customary each March, it is once again time for The Wings Club to elect a new President. It is my pleasure to officially welcome Jeff Knittel to the presidency, which will be made official with the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Board. With extensive involvement in the aerospace industry and more than 25 years of experience in aviation finance, Jeff is extremely qualified to lead The Wings Club as our 68th President.

This has been a busy and successful year for The Wings Club. Not only was progress made on initiatives that I outlined at the start of my presidency, but activity by the Board and our members brought about many accomplishments during the year.

- New corporate and individual members were added. In addition, membership renewals and participation in our events will result in another anticipated profitable year for The Wings Club.
- We continued our support of education initiatives by presenting scholarships to deserving students pursuing aviation careers and also by promoting our Intern Program with leading engineering schools across the country.
- Our successful Aviation Luncheon Series continued. Esteemed members of our industry addressed the Club, including former NASA Administrator Mike Griffin who gave the 2009 "SIGHT" lecture and a host of airline executives.
- Wolfgang Mayrhuber, CEO of Deutsche Lufthansa AG, was honored as the 2009 Wings Club Distinguished Achievement Award recipient and delivered a memorable speech at our well-attended 2009 Dinner-Dance.
- The Wings Club European Chapter continued to grow and hosted its fourth annual Dublin Luncheon, the best attended to date.
- We established a President Emeritus Board of Governors category to celebrate past presidents of the Club.
- The development of an endowment fund to further enhance our mission was investigated. I am honored to continue this pursuit under Jeff's leadership.
- And finally, office space in the former Pan Am Building has been selected to become the permanent home of The Wings Club. This was an effort advanced by recently departed Wings Club Board Member and a friend of many here, Bill DeCota. We are currently in final lease negotiations and expect to move in this fall.

These results would not have been possible without the assistance and partnership of the Board of Governors with whom it was my pleasure to serve during this past term. It is my sincere hope that the accomplishments made this year will serve our membership for many years to come. This organization is strong and will continue to soar in the future.

With warm regards,



Dave Barger  
Wings Club President

The Annual Report will be printed in the summer issue of the newsletter.



# NEW MEMBERS

(As of May 5, 2010)

Rich Acquino  
URS

Rohan Alce  
Etihad Airways

Carl Beardsley  
Greater Binghamton Airport

Neil Burgess  
Amentum Capital

John Burke  
ILFC

Jake Cartwright  
Solairus Aviation

Anthony Ceglio  
Suffolk County ECD  
& WFH Aviation Div.

Ann Crook  
Elmira Corning Regional Airport

David Damelio  
Greater Rochester Int'l Airport

Diana Davis  
Greenberg Traurig

Yvonne DeFrancesco  
Air Age Media

Craig Dotlo  
AOPA

Nicholas Drivas  
Live TV

Dan Drohan  
Solairus Aviation

Volker Fabian  
Amentum Capital

Jeff Foland  
United Airlines

Erik Hepler  
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett

Michael Kennedy  
DXTK Aviation

Anthony King  
Jamaica Tourist Board

John King  
Solairus Aviation

Patrick McClymont  
Goldman Sachs & Company

Sandra McGuirk  
Parc Aviation

Manuel Melendez  
Dept. of Homeland Security

Tetsuya Mozaki  
MC Aviation Partners

Robert Muhs  
Pinnacle Airlines

Hiroshi Nakanishi  
MC Aviation Partners

Bobby Nishi  
MC Aviation Partners

Brett Pearlman  
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett

Tom Pumpelly  
PCI Financial Group

Fred Reid  
Flexjet

Ronald Rex  
TWA

George Rosen  
MC Aviation Partners

Joel Russell  
NYAMA

Olaf Sachau  
Amentum Capital

Tatsu Sato  
MC Aviation Partners

Steele Scott  
Windsock Enterprises

Neel Shah  
Delta Air Lines

Mitchell Simpson  
Amentum Capital

R. John Stack  
Brick Road

James Stewart  
SR Technics Switzerland

Dan Stone  
Amentum Capital

Francois Thilault  
Bombardier

John Toriello  
Holland & Knight

Sean Tucker  
Solairus Aviation

Shane Warf  
ILFC

Christopher Whiteside  
AJW Aviation

## The Wings Club is Pleased to Welcome its Additional 2010/2011 Corporate Members

Corporate Members are recognized in appreciation of their significant contributions to the aviation industry. Through Wings Club corporate membership these firms support the ideals and mission of the Club and concurrently extend the full benefits of club membership to a select group of their executives. They join the 65 Corporate Members that have joined since 2005.

Amentum Capital Ltd.  
Chromalloy  
Labinal, Inc.  
MC Aviation Partners  
NYAMA  
Solairus Aviation

## THE WINGS CLUB SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Officers re-elected for 2010-2011 are:

President	Abdol Moabery
Vice President	Doug Walker
Secretary/Treasurer	Frank Rosenberg

Jeff Knittel, Club President, is an ex-officio member of the Scholarship Fund Board.



## 2010-2011 BOARD MEMBERS

**Ian Aitken**  
International Aero Engines

**Susan M. Baer**  
The Port Authority of NY & NJ

**David Barger**  
JetBlue Airways

**Henri Courpron**  
Seabury Aerospace

**Marlin Dailey**  
Boeing Commercial Airplane Co.

**Barry Eccleston**  
Airbus Americas, Inc.

**Thomas Fitzsimmons**  
Gama Aviation, Inc.

**William J. Flynn**  
Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings

**Jeffrey Foland**  
United Airlines

**Robert Fornaro**  
AirTran Airways

**Henry A. Hubschman**  
GECAS

**Robert Isom**  
US Airways

**Jim Jacobs**  
JWJ, LLC

**Todd Kallman**  
Pratt & Whitney

**C. Jeffrey Knittel**  
CIT Transportation Finance

**Gary Krauthamer**  
Krauthamer & Associates

**Kevin McAllister**  
GE Aviation

**David L. McKay**  
U.S. Aviation Underwriters

**John Plueger**  
Air Lease Corporation

**Gary Scott**  
Bombardier Aerospace

**Gary Spulak**  
Embraer Aircraft Holdings, Inc.

**Greg Thomas**  
PrivatAir

**Bruce Whitman**  
FlightSafety International

**Laura Wright**  
Southwest Airlines

## IN MEMORIAM

The Club regrets to report that three of our members passed away recently. We send heartfelt sympathy and condolences to their families.

**James Kennedy**

**Roland Kenton**  
(Golden Eagle)

**Martin White**  
(Golden Eagle)

## SAVE THE DATE

The June Luncheon  
June 16, 2010  
11:45 AM  
The Yale Club

The September Luncheon  
September 15, 2010  
11:45 AM  
The Yale Club

The 68th Annual Dinner-  
Dance  
October 22, 2010  
6:30 PM  
The Waldorf = Astoria  
New York



  
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