



# The PLANE PAPER

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Members of Rhode Island Pilots Association and the Rhode Island General Aviation Business Owners Association in the Statehouse Rotunda 26th April 2018 for RI Aviation Lobby Day!

## RIPA—Working For YOU!

April was “General Aviation Month” in RI and Governor Gina Raimondo said so! Her proclamation recognized the \$213 million and nearly 1,500 jobs that GA contributes to the State of RI. That \$213 million represents 22% of the overall aviation income to the state. No small matter.

So April 26th in conjunction with the Rhode Island General Aviation Business Owners Association and assisted by AOPA we mounted a lobby day at the Statehouse.

Our principal aim was to educate representatives about the benefits the 5GA airports bring to the state and alert them to deteriorating conditions at those airports. In order to try and redress the management issues

RIPA and RIGABOA were also seeking support for a bill that would increase the size of the Rhode Island Airport Corporation Board to 9—with 2 board members being nominated from General Aviation by each organization.

Our information package also took positions on the following bills:

H.7400 & S.365 – Clean Energy Investment proposal – similar to prior ‘carbon tax’ bills. AOPA and RIPA will be opposed on the basis of ‘revenue diversion’ and anti-competitiveness of increase costs.

H.8065 & S.2377 – Airports and Aviation Fund – At the request

of RIAC, proposes a 7% excise tax on Jet Fuel for the purpose of generating additional funding for projects at PVD. We oppose on the basis of its ‘anti-competitive’ impacts at the GA airport jet fuel retailers and the fact that as the sponsor for all the airports, RIAC need not apply a tax only increase the sale price at the pump; unnecessary regulation that serves only to punish retailers. AOPA does not always oppose this sort of tax if it genuinely creates funding for airports. RIPA opposed on the basis that the revenue earned at the GA Airports would be diverted to Providence and not spent on the airports that earned it. RIPA also pointed out it made an already uncompetitive fuel price in RI even worse. If the tax were to go through—RIPA would seek to have it apportioned among the GA airports generating it as

ADDITIONAL income instead of sunk into Providence.

RI S.2367 – Airport Property Leasing – at the request of RIGABOA to allow DOT (through RIAC) to issue leases for a period up to 50 years AND require one member of the RIAC Board of Directors have a pilots license. AOPA and RIPA partially supported this measure. We supported the 50 year leases but asked that the “pilot license board member” be rolled into the next and newer bill.

Not yet numbered—a bill increasing the size of the RIAC board from 7 to 9 with one being nominated by RIGABOA and another by RIPA in order to get some real representation for

*(Continued on page 3)*

## From the President



**Jim Burns**

It has been an incredibly busy and exciting month and I'd like to thank ALL the members who helped prepare for and attended the GA Lobby Day at the Statehouse. You can read about it more in this issue.

RIPA is back on the map and our voice is beginning to be heard. To use all the terminology—we are now a registered “entity” at the Office of the Secretary of State that can “lobby” in Rhode Island and have “engaged” a “lobbyist” (volunteer and free to us) so we may speak for General Aviation.

I'd also like to recognize the significant support and counsel we are receiving from the Airplane Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) in helping us “do it

right”. They have been more than counsel— Sean Collins their Eastern Regional Manager has been attending events with us. Those AOPA membership dues have never seemed better value than now!

Hope to see you at the Safety Forum and May Meeting where **Stephen K Brown** from the Boston FSDO will be tell some tales of “what really happens”.



*On a personal note—if anyone is interested in buying my 1990 42ft Sea Ray (boat—not plane) in “like new” condition with all the bells and whistles—please give me a shout. She is lying at the Harborside Restaurant in East Greenwich. 401 884 0750*

## Notice of Meeting



Date: Tuesday 8th May 2018  
Time: 6:30pm Cocktails  
7:00pm Dinner  
Place: Chelo's in Warwick  
Airport exit off Rte.95 to Post Rd South, 500 ft on right  
Dinner is a buffet menu of special selections of entrees with coffee and desserts

Price: \$25 per person;  
\$45 per couple;  
\$5 just coffee and dessert.

Please make your reservations by May 6, 2018 via email at [president@ripilots.com](mailto:president@ripilots.com)

Please indicate if you are coming for full dinner or just coffee and the talk

## May Meeting Speaker—”Through the eyes - FAA SAFETY”



**Stephen K Brown**

Boston FSDO Aviation Safety Program Manager (A.K.A FAASTeam Manager). A career long advocate for General Aviation, Stephen is an ATP and CFI in airplanes and gliders. With over 7,000 hours as an instructor he has trained more than 80 CFI's. He is a National Resource Inspector for the FAA in the Eclipse 500/550 very light jet, tailwheel and gliders. He regularly flies a wide variety of aircraft, from powered parachutes, gliders, skiplanes and small corporate jets.

Stephen has a BSc in Aviation from Daniel Webster College and a Master's from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University,

He has worked or flown for companies such as Comair, Embry-Riddle, Sporty's and Cape Air. As an FAA Inspector, has won the Eastern Region's Excellence in Public Awareness and New England Region's Safety of Flight Awards.

A member of numerous aviation associations he has served on

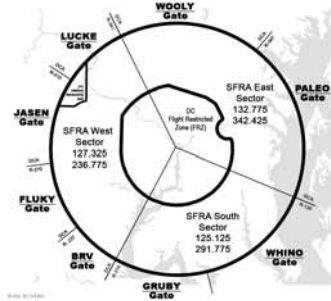
various industry committees including the National Air Transportation Association and Regional Airline Association. His talk will focus address:

**“There is always more to the story.”**

Here some of these “stories” with more of what was thought, suspected and what “really” happened. Learn what really “gets the attention” of the FAA.

# Safety and Regulatory

## Flight Plan Changes in Effect for DC SFZR



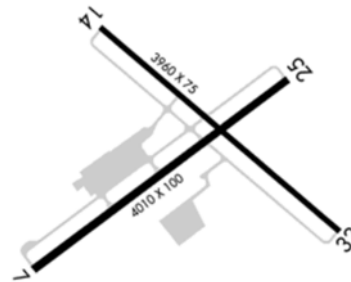
The FAA have transferred responsibility for filing flight plans in the Washington DC Flight Restricted Zone (FRZ) from Flight Service to the Flight Data Unit (FDU) located at the Washington Air Route Traffic Control Center (ZDC). Pilots

will call 703-771-3476 to file FRZ flight plans and identify themselves using their assigned waiver number and/or confidential pilot identification number. This includes all flights in/out of the FRZ, Maryland Three Program (MD3) airports, and the general aviation operations to/from DCA (DASSP Program).

In addition, all pilots flying under Visual Flight Rules (VFR) within 60 nm of the DCA VOR/DME must complete special awareness training for the Washington DC Metropolitan Area. Please visit the FAA Safety [website](#) to learn more about requirements for flying in the DC FRZ.

<https://www.faa.gov/gslac/ALC/CourseLanding.aspx?cID=405>

## Runways thresholds displaced at Westerly



Because the taking of trees by eminent domain to prevent them growing up into the approaches is tied up in contests in court—the FAA ordered that the runway thresholds be displaced and PAPI's and VASI's have been turned off. Instrument approaches are also affected. Check NOTAMS before attempting flights into Westerly.

# RIPA— Working for YOU !

*(Continued from page 1)*

stakeholders at the airports. AOPA and RIPA will support this measure.

In a completely unexpected alignment of the stars on the same day as our Lobby Day—the **Senate Finance Committee** posted notice to hold hearings on S2376 (50 year leases) and S2379 (Fuel Tax).

RIPA and RIGABOA members along with AOPA stayed on for extra duty and quickly prepared testimony. Thanks to quick thinking by RIPA member Gerry Kempen we were able to have our position paper inserted into the committee package.

As the session developed at very short notice—we had not had an opportunity to reach out to RIAC through the GA Working Group to discuss our viewpoints so it was a slightly charged session as RIPA opposed RIAC's S2377 with 12 testimonies—8 spoken.

After some discussion and after RIAC were offered a second chance to give testimony the Committee put the bills on hold pending answers from RIAC to concerns of their own and to points RIPA had raised.

And back in late March RI S2188 sought to establish a carbon tax on all fuels sold in the state of RI. The tax would seek to establish a fund to be utilized for "Green Energy" projects around the state.

Paul Carrol and Graeme Smith attended the **Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture** to give testimony on the effect this would have on aviation in the state.

Save The Bay, The Audubon Society, RI Students for a Clean RI and similar groups gave testimony. Many individuals also spoke including young people worried about climate change.

Opposing testimony from The New England Petroleum Council (generally bad for the economy), National Grid (seeking some change of language so they could still operate) and then RIPA.

Graeme's testimony—concentrated on legal and economic issues and the unintended consequences the tax could have on aviation as Federal Law requires taxes on aviation fuels are returned to aviation and cannot be diverted for other purposes without hazarding 90% Federal Grants given for airport improvements.

Paul Carrol's testimony concentrated on wider issues and how aviation could still contribute to greening the state:

Stressing the already costly, uncompetitive nature of RI General Aviation Paul argued that a tax on ALL fuels would not benefit those who would bear the burden of the tax which would affect all areas of life. In particular older citizens would pay but get no benefit

from the proposed projects they would be asked to fund while bearing a significant part of the cost.

Returning to aviation Paul stressed that it was not that aviation could not contribute – but increased taxes was not the way to do it.

He suggested – while avoiding cash taxes - aviation could contribute large areas of land for solar farms – free from neighborhood zoning complaints. A study performed while he was on the RIAC board had shown two airports could contribute \$2m a year in cash from solar farms with the added benefit of generating renewable energy which would reduce hydrocarbon burn.

He asked the committee to look beyond just taxes to find other ways to achieve their aims.

The Airline Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) also submitted written testimony opposing this bill.

## Membership News



RIPA is here to promote the mutual benefit and welfare of our members as a part of the aviation community by:

- Promoting aviation safety
- Exchanging information among our members as well as the general public concerning the aviation industry and general aviation
- Fostering good will and camaraderie among our members
- Assisting our members with issues relative to general aviation

But we want the RIPA to be an influential organization, and we can only do that with increased membership and participation. By increasing our membership, we can have a powerful voice with the organizations that affect General Aviation in RI. It is our goal to get every airplane owner, pilot, and/or General Aviation enthusiast in the state (and beyond!) to become a RIPA member. Imagine the influence

our organization could have with legislation, GA policy and spending in our state!

To that end, we ask that you participate and support RIPA whenever possible, and encourage anyone you know that is not a member yet, to join. It is through our membership that we can grow the membership we need!

For more information on how you can help, please come to the monthly meetings, visit our website at [www.ripilots.com](http://www.ripilots.com), visit our Facebook group page (@RIPilotsAssoc), and be sure to follow us on Twitter (@mediaripilots). Please don't hesitate to contact Paul or Mary Beth with questions at [Membership@ripilots.com](mailto:Membership@ripilots.com).

## Can you hear me now?

Delivering the **Plane Paper** around the FBO's and Flying Schools is a lot of fun. And on the climb over Block Island Sound—always keeping that single engine glide in your pocket—you have some time to read it (OK—kidding on that part. I was keeping a look out for traffic!). You get to meet up with folks, hear their chat and news and occasionally you can help squash some of the wilder rumors out there!

But real world—the **Plane Paper** is an expensive exercise for RIPA. We simply could not publish the print edition without AP-Navitus' generous print sponsorship.

Fortunately nearly all members have agreed to take their **Plane Paper** by email—which saves a lot of precious funds. However even a cursory examination of the email records shows we are not getting through to many members as their spam filters bounce the news back at us.

During the last few weeks the Board has been working to address these issues. Our increasingly expensive web site hosting has been replaced with a significantly cheaper and better featured service. This has allowed us to introduce proper @RIPILOTS.COM email addresses which you will see are now featured on the back page of this edition—please update your records! As officers come and go—the email addresses will remain constant—to offer us continuity. The old AOL and GMAIL addresses are no more.

The new email addresses are now linked to an email house—

originally tested by Mike Speith last year. Starting with this issue we can now send out the **Plane Paper** and news at the press of a button and more often than monthly if needed. The system should also allow us to get past many spam filters that have been stopping many of you from getting the news.

The service also allows us tie our message to new RIPA Facebook and Twitter pages. For many—a better way of getting their updates. So you now have a choice of Website, Email, Facebook and Twitter—all carrying the same RIPA message.

Future enhancements will include purchasing and renewing memberships online. Paper WILL still be available for the foreseeable future.

Your comments are welcomed at the new email address of:

[media@ripilots.com](mailto:media@ripilots.com)



# Lobby Day!



Sean Collins — AOPA Eastern Regional Manager



Speaking with House Majority Leader Shekarchi



Testimony before the Senate Finance Committee

Pictures—Graeme Smith, Mary Beth Tocco and Sean Collins

## Calendar of Events — Save the Dates!



**Saturday, 5th May 2018**, 9 to 11 AM— FAA Safety Seminar - KSFZ  
"Communication - Say what you mean" - Frank Sherman

**Tuesday, 8th May 2018**, 7 to 9 PM—RIPA's Monthly Meeting at [Chelo's Restaurant](#), Warwick, RI.  
Speaker—Stephen K. Brown of the FAA Safety Team

**Saturday, 12th May 2018** (Raindate 19th) 9 AM—1 PM - KMMK Meriden Annual Fly-In

**Saturday / Sunday 9 /10 June** — Gates Open At 9 AM - Flying Starts at 10 AM  
[Rhode Island National Guard Open House](#) KOQU—Quonset



**Tuesday, 12th June 2018**, 7 to 9 PM—RIPA's Monthly Meeting—location TBC

**Sept. 5th-9th, 2018** 12th Annual Triple Tree Aerodrome Fly-In <http://www.tripletreeaerodrome.com>

**Sunday, 23th Sept 2018** 4B9 - Simsbury Fly In

### Recurring

NEW—April 28th and last Sat of each month.- Horizon Aviation—KPVD

Bring your family and show them why you love flying so much. Have a friend that's been curious about flying? Bring them, too! Special guest airplanes each month for you to see up close and chat with their owners. April's guest airplane: a freshly restored, highly modified Globe Swift. We'll randomly pick one attendee to receive a free 30 minute flight in our Super Decathlon!

RIPA's Fly to Lunch Bunch. Destination varies with weather. Plan to depart from North Central State Airport (SFZ) at 10 AM on Saturday or Sunday. Anyone is welcome to join.

Weeknight Dinner Flyouts—VFR Flyouts to dinner at local airports. To be added to the notification list email. Wade Leveille - [uswle@yahoo.com](mailto:uswle@yahoo.com)

Every Saturday Morning - KUUU Pilot's Breakfast - Tickets Bar and Restaurant, Middletown 8:15 AM. If you fly in - check at the maintenance hangar for a ride no later than 8 AM



# Flight Training in Rhode Island



KSFZ — North Central  
300 Jenckes Hill Road  
Smithfield, RI 02917  
(401) 216-9359  
www.airventuresri.com  
fly@airventuresri.com



## newport aviation

KUUU - Newport State Airport  
211 Airport Access Rd  
Middletown RI 02842

KWST - Westerly State Airport  
63 Tom Harvey Road  
Westerly, RI 02891  
(401) 846-2359  
www.flynewportri.com  
hdcorson@aol.com



KPVD — Providence  
530 Airport Road  
Warwick RI 02886  
(401) 736-5115  
www.horizonaviation.com  
info@HorizonAviation.com

## Pilot Successes!

RIPA congratulates the following on their successes!



Nick— Certified Flight Instructor, at Horizon Aviation



Mauricio—From Cabin Crew to PPL at Horizon Aviation

And as we go to press—at KUUU—we are eagerly awaiting the result of Rex Underwood’s PPL checkride. He is through the oral—just need some weather for the flying part.....



## Rhode Island Pilots Association

PO Box 20008  
Cranston, RI 02920

www.ripilots.com  
media@ripilots.com



Yahoo Group:  
ripa@yahoogroups.com

Printing sponsor



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RIPA—to— promote and maintain an organization for the mutual benefit and welfare of its members and of the aviation community, - promote aviation safety within the entire aviation community. - exchange and disseminate information among its members and the public concerning the aviation industry and particularly general aviation. - foster a spirit of good will and camaraderie among its members. - assist its members with the problems relative to general aviation. - promote aviation education and encourage an interest in aviation and aviation careers among the members and the general public, especially the young people of this state.

## Who is Who at RIPA?

Rhode Island Pilots is an all volunteer organization. If you feel you could help fill any of the vacancies and spread the workload the President would love to hear from you!

President	James Burns	(401) 884 0750	<a href="mailto:president@ripilots.com">president@ripilots.com</a>
Vice President (acting)	John Sulyma		<a href="mailto:vicepresident@ripilots.com">vicepresident@ripilots.com</a>
Treasurer	Dan Scanlon	(401) 885-1196	<a href="mailto:treasurer@ripilots.com">treasurer@ripilots.com</a>
Secretary (acting)	Mary Beth Tocco		<a href="mailto:membership@ripilots.com">membership@ripilots.com</a>
Membership	Paul Tocco		<a href="mailto:membership@ripilots.com">membership@ripilots.com</a>
Website	Frank Oliveira		<a href="mailto:website@ripilots.com">website@ripilots.com</a>
News and Social Media	Graeme JW Smith		<a href="mailto:media@ripilots.com">media@ripilots.com</a>

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Or maybe you like to Tweet



<https://twitter.com/mediaripilots>