



# GA TODAY

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR GENERAL AVIATION WITHIN THE LEHIGH VALLEY AIRPORT SYSTEM.

ISSUE #11

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“Investment in infrastructure improvements remain a high priority for the Airport Authority. We want to ensure that pilots and tenants have the best customer experience,” said, Thomas R. Stoudt, Executive Director, LNA A.

Scheduled to begin in 2024, Phase 2 of the project includes installation of upgraded LED runway edge lighting, new airfield guidance signs, and a dedicated airfield electrical vault.

## APRON REFRESH

Completed over the course of two (2) weekends this month, the XLL Main Apron crack sealing and sealcoating project was completed. This process extends the useful life of the Apron pavement at a substantial savings over the cost of a complete rehabilitation.

The final apron paint markings will be completed in July.

## READY FOR TAKEOFF

The reconstruction of Runway 15-33 at Queen City Airport (XLL) is complete.

As part of a multi-phase / multi-year project, construction crews started Phase 1 in April by structurally repairing the distressed asphalt surface while strengthening the pavement section to meet future demand and anticipated aircraft weight requirements.

“Through a process called full-depth asphalt reclamation – the contractor recycled a majority of the existing three inches of asphalt and utilized the material as the base coarse prior to the final paving. This process reduces waste, reduces cost, and improves efficiency,” said Ryan Meyer, Director of Planning and Programming, LNA A.

16,120 tons of asphalt was applied during the Runway 15-33 rehabilitation. The LNA A received \$2.064 million in federal grant funding to support this portion of the project.



## NIGHTLY CLOSURES RESUME!

The Runway 6-24 Rehabilitation Project has entered Phase 5 of construction.

Through November 2023, nightly closures have been reinstated on Runway 6-24 between 11:00 p.m. and 5:30 a.m.

\*Note: The overnight work schedule is during weekdays only, effectively starting Monday night (11:00 p.m.) and ending Saturday morning (5:30 a.m.).

Phase 5 includes the following elements:

- Installation of paved runway shoulders along the entire length (7,599 feet) of Runway 6-24
- Taxiway widening and realignment at Taxiways A1 & A2
- Installation of new LED runway edge lighting

Runway 13-31 will be available during overnight construction of Runway 6-24.



## RETURN TO SERVICE!

Taxiway E (North of Runway 6-24) reopened for aircraft operations on March 27th.

This marks the completion of a five-year closure for reconstruction as part of the Runway 6-24 Rehabilitation Project.

The reconstruction included:

- New pavement surface
- Installation of new LED lighting and signage
- New paint markings

Turf restoration surrounding the Taxiway is underway.

## A SUMMER ROAD (AIR) TRIP

Article contributed by: Rosanne Stencil-Johnson

Keystone 99's Chapter Vice-Chair, American Airlines  
Airbus 320 First Officer

Where is the best destination to keep your kids entertained this summer, that also provides an education?

Of course, the answer is, Air Museums. There are so many locations within a quick drive or flight to not only get your aviation fix but perhaps ignite a passion for aviation with the next generation. Plus, it's a perfect adventure that won't feel like "summer homework".

Imagine the delight of women aviators across the country when they heard that the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum (AEBM) would open their doors earlier this year. Both the AEBM and The Ninety-Nine's Museum of Women Pilots, located in the Will Rogers World Airport, Oklahoma City, OK, honor and recognize contributions women have made in aeronautics, as well as continue to educate us and future generations.

Born on July 24th, Amelia's historical legacy is encapsulated at the AEBM, and represents an unbreakable link to the world's most famous female aviator. Beyond aviation, the museum provides insight into Amelia's love for her family and photography, while also sharing details about other interests including being a clothes designer, college advisor, and an author. Many exhibits within the walls of the AEBM surround you with Amelia's dreams of flight and are sure to inspire you!

The Ninety-Nine's Museum of Women Pilots features over 5,000 square feet of displays and artifacts. Perhaps the most interactive exhibit within the facility is the Penny Nagy Youth Education Center, which features live flight tracker with Flight Aware, Microsoft simulator's where you can fly helicopters, commercial, military, and general aviation aircraft and airships, or utilize navigation charts with weather and Foreflight flight planning, as well as various avionics demonstrations.

### ***Here's a few Museums to put on your list:***

1. Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum: Atchison, KS ([ameliaearhartmuseum.org](http://ameliaearhartmuseum.org))

2. The Ninety-Nines Museum of Women Pilots: Will Rogers World Airport, Oklahoma City, OK ([museumofwomenpilots.org](http://museumofwomenpilots.org))
3. International Women's Air & Space Museum: Burke Lakefront Airport, Cleveland, OH ([iwasm.org](http://iwasm.org))
4. EAA Aviation Museum: Oshkosh, WI ([eaa.org](http://eaa.org))
5. National WASP WWII Museum: Sweetwater, TX ([waspmuseum.org](http://waspmuseum.org))

### **PA Museums:**

1. Golden Age Air Museum: Bethel, PA
2. Harold Pitcairn Wings of Freedom: Horsham, PA
3. Mid-Atlantic Air Museum: Reading, PA
4. Eagles Mere Air Museum: Laporte, PA
5. KLBE Air Museum: Latrobe, PA
6. Piper Air Museum: Lock Haven, PA

### **Neighboring States:**

1. Millville Army Air Field Museum: Millville, NJ
2. NAS Wildwood Aviation Museum: Cape May Airport, Cape May, NJ
3. Aviation Hall of Fame and Museum of NJ: Teterboro, NJ
4. Air Victory Museum: Lumberton, NJ
5. Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center: Washington Dulles (IAD), DC
6. National Air and Space Museum-Smithsonian: Washington, DC
7. Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum: New York, NY
8. Wings of Eagles Discovery Center: Horseheads, NY
9. National Warplane Museum: Geneseo, NY
10. New England Air Museum: Windsor Locks, CT

Keystone 99's Chapter Vice-Chair, American Airlines  
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## FLIGHT OF A LIFETIME



What sparked Remy Oktay's interest in flying?

"My grandparents have flown for about 35 years and would take my sister and I in the air once or twice a year. During COVID-19, we both decided to go through flight school together and that connected us with our grandparents in a new way," said Oktay

Fast forward, Oktay '24 - an Engineering Studies and Environmental Studies double major at Lafayette College - made history last Fall when he completed the first flyover at a sporting event in an electric plane.

### NEW HOBBY

While attending the [EAA AirVenture Oshkosh](#) in 2021, Oktay had his focus drawn to electric and hydroelectric aircraft.

"Combine my two areas of major studies with aviation, and demonstrate these new technologies to get people excited, to get more buy-in, and then we can accelerate the rate at which we are adopting these new technologies while also developing new ones," said Oktay.

After returning from the conference, he went back to

flight school to get his multi-engine rating and instrument rating, and by the time he returned to Lafayette for the Fall '22 semester, Oktay had a plan.

"I sat down in President Hurd's office and said, 'Can I fly an electric plane over the Lafayette-Lehigh Football game?'

She said, 'Sure, let's do it!'" said Oktay

### SIMPLE AND COMPLICATED

The key question: where could Remy get an electric plane?

As part of a green aviation initiative, Phil Smith - owner and an instructor at Learn to Fly Connecticut flight school purchased an approximately \$200,000 Pipistrel Alpha Electro, one of only a handful in the United States.

Lindsey Rutka owns the Hartford Jet Center at Hartford-Brainard and provides the home base for this aircraft.

"Pipistrel to me is a great opportunity to train students at reduced cost because operating these aircraft, whether

it's electric or the reciprocating version with a Rotax engine, it's a lot less overhead. Currently, we can't use it for flight training because it's an experimental aircraft, but hopefully regulations will change soon," said Smith.

A partnership blossomed between Oktay, Smith, and Rutka which catapulted the project forward.

## PLANNING THE JOURNEY

Smith served as Pilot-in-Command for the flight from Hartford, Connecticut to Braden Airpark (N43) - which made it the first multi-state flight completed by an electric plane.

Meanwhile, Oktay worked on the logistics of the flights, such as finding volunteers with Ford F-150 Lightning pick-ups to charge the plane's batteries for the initial trip to PA and on the day of the stadium fly-over.

Using the trucks to charge the plane's batteries was not a simple solution. An inverter supplied by Textron (as of 2022 the new owner of Pipistrel) was needed to switch the F-150's AC power to DC for the plane. In addition, the team needed to get the amp standard changed due to the plane being of European design versus the American-made vehicle.

On November 12th, Oktay and Smith made the 250-mile trip, charging three times along the way before landing at Braden Airpark.

"We worked with Remy and their team to set up the electrical charging provisions for the aircraft and provided assistance for the team at the Airpark," said David DaSilva, FBO Operations and Maintenance Director at N43.

## GAME DAY!

With "Go Lafayette" on the underside of one wing and "Bring the Roar" on the other, the Pipistrel Alpha Electro plane departed Braden Airpark and flew to Fisher Stadium for the "anti-flyover" at 500 feet above ground level for a quick 2-minute flight.. Oktay circled over the stadium with Smith as the Pilot-in-Command.

A quick return trip to recharge at N43, there was a second "anti-flyover" during the first quarter - a moment that was broadcast on ESPN.

"Hopefully we demonstrated the future of air transportation, as the popularity of electric planes continues to grow, while the volume of aircraft noise reduces," said Oktay.



## WE'RE SOCIAL!

Visit the Facebook pages for Queen City Municipal Airport (XLL) and Braden Airpark (N43)!