

# EYES ON THE HORIZON

Official Newsletter of Aurora PPG, Inc.

## 2nd Annual Fly-In

AUGUST 23RD-25TH JERSEY SHORE, PA

We hope you will be able to join us for our 2nd Annual Fly-In. We are so thankful to the Jersey Shore Airport in Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania for allowing us to host it at their airport again. If you are planning on attending here are a few things you should know:

- Onsite camping is included in pilot registration this year. Onsite camping is DRY CAMPING (no electricity and no water provided) but generators are welcome.
- Pilot Preregistration is strongly encouraged but not mandatory. This helps us with planning resources (porta-potties, food trucks, etc.) and other event logistics. Preregistration will close on August 15th.
- T-Shirt Preorders will close on July 25th. If you plan on attending and want a t-shirt please preorder. There will be limited onsite t-shirt sales.
- We will make the shirts available for individual orders after the event for anyone that would like one.
- The Jersey Shore Airport is a PRIVATELY OWNED airport and will be an active runway this year. Please be patient with us as we work to manage logistics of approved launch, landing, and camping areas. We will have air bosses helping during busy times.
- We will continue to update social media, the Facebook Event Page, and our Website. Follow us and RSVP to stay up to date.

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Preregistration is OPEN

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## Sun 'n Fun 2024

We were delighted to launch our Outreach and Education Program at Sun 'n Fun this spring, connecting with aviation enthusiasts. At our tent, we engaged with over 165 individuals, aiming to increase the number of women and girls in our sport. Not only did we showcase the most affordable form of aviation, but with lighter and ever improving gear available, powered paragliding has become more accessible to all. Many women were encouraged to try on a paramotor and discover their potential to soar through the skies!

The week was extraordinary, with more female pilots than male pilots taking flight at Paradise City during some of the flight times. The event featured numerous exceptional pilots who represented the sport remarkably. We extend our gratitude to the volunteers and everyone working diligently behind the scenes to make our first Sun 'n Fun a success.



Pictured are four out of five of our board members that were in attendance. From left to right: Wendy Weaver, Susan Ray, Ghada Baz, and Rain Vela.



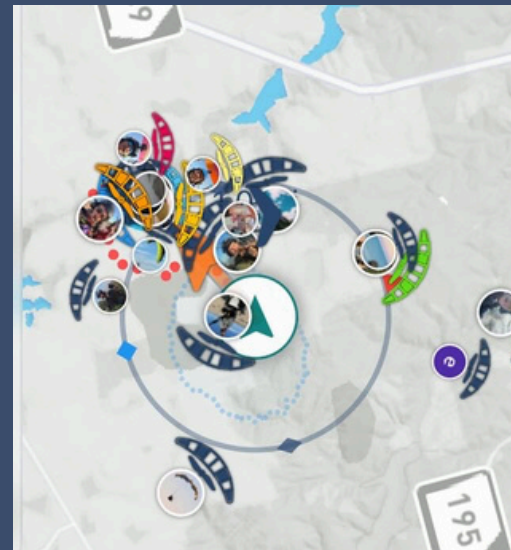
## Bad Apples 2024

Thanks to the success of the Bad Apples Fly-In, our fundraising efforts for 2024 have advanced. Through the kindness of the Bad Apples Fliers and the supportive community, who set a new attendance record, purchased raffle tickets, and backed numerous non-profit organizations, we received a generous donation of \$3,500.

We take great pleasure in sponsoring this event due to its excellent organization, the opportunity to reunite with our paramotor friends and family, and the breathtaking location. It's also a rare occasion where we see a large gathering of female pilots in one place. This year, we welcomed around 35 women and girls, an increase from last year's 25. If you missed it this year, be sure to mark your calendar for next year.

During our time in Georgia, where the event was held, six out of our nine board members were in attendance, allowing us to squeeze in a meeting. Three years ago, as we embarked on this journey, we could not have foreseen the many ways the paramotor community would unite in supporting our emerging mission.

Thank you again to everyone involved in the Bad Apples Fly-In!





Maria Blandin

## Our Current Board of Directors:

GHADA BAZ  
VP OF STRATEGY

MARIA BLANDIN  
DIRECTOR

RACHEL BLOCKER  
SECRETARY

JADE LEAR  
VP OF SOCIAL MEDIA

DEWESE MILSTEAD  
VP OF COMMUNITY

SUSAN RAY  
PRESIDENT & CEO

RAIN VELA  
DIRECTOR

WENDY WEAVER  
SR. VICE PRESIDENT

GILLIAN WINTERMUTE  
DIRECTOR

## Welcome Maria Blandin

Please join us in welcoming Maria Blandin as the latest great addition to our Board of Directors. Maria grew up on the coast of south Texas. She currently resides in Louisiana with her pup Lyla. She has a passion for aviation and adventures. With a 10 year history in the health/ dental field Maria now enjoys being a flight attendant. She has been blessed to travel all around the world pursuing her love of powered paragliding and paragliding.

Nurturing a high-drive personal nature, Maria experiences a healthy and active lifestyle weather that be in the gym, yoga, cycling or long walks with her pup. With high energy and a motivational style of leadership Maria loves to empower and inspire women through aviation. She holds USPPA PPG 1, 2, and 3 foot launch ratings as well as a P3 from the USHPA.

## About Us

Aurora PPG, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID Number: 88-0559258

Our mission is to increase the participation of women and girls in the sport of powered paragliding through experiences, education, training, and community with a focus on its use in overcoming past trauma.

Our vision is to be a strong community that is built on supporting one another through progression in PPG. This includes before, during, and all of the years after training. While the joy of accomplishing a first flight is incomparable it is only the beginning.

Outdoor sports and recreation undoubtedly have a positive power to strengthen confidence and resilience but there is something unique about flight and its ability to foster change and growth in individuals. The goal of our scholarship program is to provide financial assistance to women to train and progress in the sport. Priority is given to those using training as a way to foster post-traumatic growth.