

VOL. 1 ISSUE 2 · OCTOBER 2023

EYES ON THE HORIZON

Official Newsletter of Aurora PPG, Inc.



1st Annual Fly-In Recap

AUGUST 11TH-13TH JERSEY SHORE, PA

In August, the Jersey Shore Airport in Pennsylvania played host to an unforgettable gathering of paramotor enthusiasts, and we are thrilled to declare it a resounding success! With an impressive turnout of 70 pilots hailing from over 15 different states, our inaugural fly-in was an exhilarating display of community, safe flying, and camaraderie that defines the spirit of paramotoring.



One highlight of the weekend was the friendly and entertaining "Duck Drop" competition. Pilots could pick up a duck at the registration table and then set off on designated flights to collect additional ducks at specified locations. These ducks had the pilot's unique number and would eventually be dropped near or on the target during Sunday morning's festivities. We are proud to announce that Whitney Horky emerged as the winner in the women's category, while Jacob Hutzler secured the top spot among the men.



It was heartening to witness the enthusiasm and courage of participants, especially the many female pilots who had never intentionally landed at alternate locations or dropped objects from their paramotors before. This event served as a platform for personal growth and challenge, and it was remarkable to see so many embrace these experiences.

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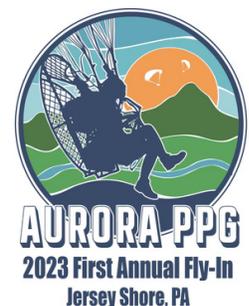
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Where will we see you next?

USPPA EVENT CALENDAR

OUR TENTATIVE 2024 FLY-IN STOPS:

SUN 'N FUN

BAD APPLES

NORTHERN LIGHTS

EAA AIRVENTURE OSHKOSH

MOONSHINERS

AURORA PPG

PURDIN'S

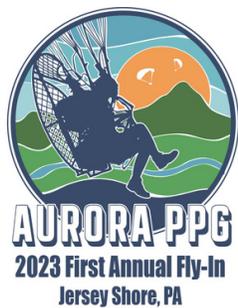


The fly-in was particularly special because it brought together a diverse group of pilots, including 20% women, not to mention the female balloon pilot who joined us in the skies. This unique blend of old friendships being rekindled and new connections being forged made the event truly exceptional.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of this fly-in, although the list of thanks is long, and we can only mention a few. Our sincere appreciation goes to the event committee, comprised of Rachel Blocker, Karen Upp, and Wendy Weaver, who laid the foundation for what we hope will become an annual tradition. A special shoutout to Wendy (and Justin) Weaver for their unwavering dedication and hard work in coordinating numerous aspects of the event. Karen Upp's readiness to tackle any challenge was invaluable, and her early arrival and assistance during setup were greatly appreciated, especially amidst the unexpected storms.

We must also express our gratitude to Just Ducky Hot Air Balloon for adding smiles to the event and Kelly Hilberth's infectious enthusiasm, which created memorable moments on the ground and in the air. Our sincere thanks extend to Taylor Weaver, Kat Moxey, Keith Wilt, Steve Upp, Jade Lear, Eric Lear, and Savannah Lear for their assistance without which the event would not have been possible. We are also grateful to Aviator for generously sharing their staff and showcasing the Vitorazzi EFI, along with their donated items.

We'd like to acknowledge the Gamble Farm Inn & Suites and the Williamsport Grandview Hotel for their exceptional hospitality, as well as Real Taste for their delicious Friday night food truck offerings and Simply Savor Cookies for the delightful baked goods on Saturday.





During this year's Aurora PPG Fly-In, we had the privilege of introducing our new Annual Awards, named in honor of their first recipients. The Flying Flamingo Resiliency Award, presented to Jade Lear, acknowledges her remarkable resilience. The Milstead Friendship Award, awarded to Dewese Milstead, celebrates her loyal friendship to another female paramotor pilot. Lastly, the Wendy Weaver Award recognizes Wendy Weaver for her outstanding service to the organization. These awards will be bestowed annually upon deserving female paramotor pilots through a nomination process, and in a year filled with challenges, these incredible women have shown us the power of perseverance and giving back.

Our first hosted fly-in was a testament to the tight-knit and supportive paramotor community. We look forward to many more successful gatherings in the years to come, fueled by the same passion and camaraderie that make paramotoring such a thrilling and rewarding pursuit.

CONGRATULATIONS to this year's annual award recipients!

**JADE LEAR:
FLYING FLAMINGO
RESILIENCY AWARD**

**DEWESE MILSTEAD:
MILSTEAD
FRIENDSHIP AWARD**

**WENDY WEAVER:
WEAVER
ABOVE AND BEYOND
AWARD**

**Keep an eye out for nomination forms in 2024.
Excited to make it a tradition.**





Summer Fly-In Round Up

NORTHERN LIGHTS, EAA AIRVENTURE, MOONSHINERS, PURDIN'S, EASY PACE

In addition to the Aurora PPG Fly-In we have been busy!

We kicked off the summer with two events in Wisconsin. The Northern Lights Fly-In in Tomahawk was extra special this year. Seeing Jade Lear's smiling face in person (and out of the hospital!) was much needed. So happy to meet more women pilots and spend time on the ground and in the air.

A few days spent at EAA Airventure Oshkosh was next. Wendy Weaver and Susan Ray both attended and also flew from the ultralight field. Hopefully we will be able to have a tent and table next year.

August was perfect temperatures for the Moonshiners Fly-In at the Johnson County Airport in Tennessee complete with flying, live music, and fireworks. Then it was Labor Day weekend flying in Ohio with absolutely perfect weather at Dave Purdin's 24th Annual Fly-In. If these two events are not on your list we highly recommend adding them.

We ended our season with a few days at the Easy Pace Fly-In near Ridgeway, Virginia for a smaller, more vacation like, event. Now we are looking forward to cooler temperatures and fall leaves for our 2024 planning.





Fall Fundraising

ENDING THE YEAR STRONG

While we work to get our first funded scholarship recipient in the air we can't wait to move another applicant or two off of our waitlist! We have just set up a specific campaign for 2024 scholarships. You can [donate now](#) and help us end 2023 strong and ready to hit 2024 running.



2024 Scholarship Campaign

\$0 raised of \$12,000

Want to donate and designate funds specifically to our scholarship fund? We've set up this campaign just for that!

1st Sundays

3 PM EASTERN, 2 PM CENTRAL,
1 PM MOUNTAIN AND 12 PACIFIC

With the holiday weekend and all of the flying we missed regrettably missed September. October will see the return of our "1st Sundays" women's only virtual paramotor chat via Zoom.

We are looking forward to creating a environment where women paramotor pilots and future pilots can connect. If you are a woman pilot or interested in getting into the sport and would like the login information just reach out to us at info@aurorappg.org and we will be happy to share it with you. We ask that you be kind and courteous, don't engage in hate speech or bullying, respect everyone's privacy, and promote safety.

Our virtual chat is just an open forum for us to ask questions, talk through challenges, and support one another. We do want to keep it women and girls only and ask that if you are going to join you do so in a private area and not with guys in the same room.



Taking inspiration from Aurora, the Roman goddess of the dawn, we aspire to renew ourselves every morning and fly across the sky announcing the arrival of the sun.





Our Current Board of Directors:

RACHEL BLOCKER

JAMIE MABE, SECRETARY

SUSAN RAY, PRESIDENT

LESLIE STEWART

RAIN VELA

WENDY WEAVER

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING
OUR BOARD IN THE FUTURE PLEASE
REACH OUT:
INFO@AURORAPPG.ORG



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.

We are so grateful for all of our current supporters!

aurorappg.org