

The Historical Society of Hilltown Township

Newsletter for December 2009

SPEAKERS' PROGRAM



SUBJECT: PHILADELPHIA GLIDER COUNCIL

SPEAKERS: Beth Taylor and several other glider pilots

WHEN: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 at 7:30 PM (See snow date below)**

WHERE: Hilltown Township Municipal Building, 13 West Creamery Road & Route 152 (½ mile south of Silverdale), Hilltown, PA 18927

Ever look up in the sky and see a plane towing a glider up into the blue? Ever see a glider circling above? Ever think how cool that must be? Well, who would have known that right in our own backyard exists the Philadelphia Glider Council (PGC)? PGC is located at 934 Route 152, Perkasie, PA 18944, between Silverdale and Hilltown, at the site of Bucks County's oldest airport that was established in 1944. Our program will be hosted by Beth Taylor, (a wife, a mother, a grandmother, and yes,) a glider pilot. Old slides and videos will be shown with old footage of the glider port, a movie of what soaring is like today, and informative presentations by several glider pilots from the area.

PGC resources include a 138-acre turf airport, seven modern sailplanes, and two powerful tow planes. The club operates most weekends and some weekdays between April and October, as well as some of the milder days through the winter. Inexpensive student flight training is a central part of the PGC mission. All student instruction and equipment usage is free - students just have to pay yearly membership and tow fees. Call (215-822-9974) or check their website (www.pgcsoaring.org) about a glider aeronautical orientation or just go out to the field and have some fun. They have gift certificates available. Treat yourself or give a wonderful aviation experience to your favorite someone!



There is no charge to attend this program, but donations are welcomed! Light refreshments will be served. Please note that there is a **snow date of Wednesday, February 24, 2010. Alicia Snyder can be contacted regarding questions at 215-822-7386.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2010:

We ask for your continued support by renewing your membership. Please help us continue the good progress the Society is making in preserving local history with projects such as the Hartzell-Strassburger Homestead, the Thomas-Musselman Log Barn, our Speakers' Programs, our Fall Festival and the establishing of our local heritage library. Members are the backbone of our non-profit organization. Your dues help with the costs of electric, gas and oil heat, copying, postage, and repairs to our four buildings. Please fill out the enclosed membership application and return it with your dues in the enclosed addressed envelope. Please make a note on the form if you would like to volunteer on one of our committees or if you have something that you enjoy doing or a special talent that you would like to share with us. And, again this year, we would appreciate any donations in addition to your dues to help meet our 2010 expenses. Please make your checks payable to the **Hilltown Historical Society**. Please encourage others to join. You can contact Beverly Slifer at 215-257-5398 or beverlyslifer1@aol.com for additional membership applications or with any questions.

PARTNERING TO SAVE THE THOMAS- MUSSELMAN LOG BARN:

Well, it all started with the Historical Society of Hilltown Township needing assistance with the log barn – one of the oldest structures remaining in Hilltown Township (c.1727-1737). The barn is located in the Hilltown Township Civic Park on Route 152. The barn needed to be stabilized in order to save it for future restoration. And then there was the Bucks County Technical Rescue Task Force who was in need of a building (usually one that is set to be torn down) for their annual Deployment Readiness Exercise. After much planning – the drill was scheduled for November 21, 2009. The BCTRTF was going to practice its skills while saving the two-story structure. It was wonderful to see this type of team work happen. It was a win-win situation. The event could certainly be a benchmark for others to follow. The site was impressive with all types of members from the BCTRTF with all kinds of equipment, including search dogs.

You may not know that the BCTRTF is one of only a few totally county wide volunteer disaster response teams organized within the state of Pennsylvania. The BCTRTF is comprised of fully equipped, specially trained and certified volunteer members of various fire companies and emergency rescue squads from around Bucks County. Those participating were Hilltown Twp. Volunteer Fire Co., Perkasio Fire Co., Southampton Fire Co., American Hose, Hook & Ladder Co. of Bristol, Dive and Marine units from Lower Southampton Fire Co., and Haycock Fire Co., and a medical component comprised of emergency disaster physicians from Einstein Medical Center's Physicians Response Team and paramedics from Bucks County Rescue Squad. Trauma and surgery tents were in place. In addition, the task force also had independent members from other emergency service providers from throughout Bucks County. The team is capable of assisting in any type of disaster and are capable to perform disaster search and rescue (K-9), confined space rescue, structural collapse rescue, trench rescue, rope rescue, train derailments, water rescue and dive rescue/recovery. Eight members are also members of the Federal Emergency Management Agencies (FEMA) Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR).

The society sends huge “thank you’s” out to each and everyone who was part of the planning, part of the drill, as well as those who made donations to this event. Just to name a few: Barbara Salvadore and the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors, Michael McGinnis and Chief James Walter of the Hilltown Township Volunteer Fire Co., Kurt Braunle of the Bucks County Technical Rescue Task Force, Chris Christman –Township Manager of Hilltown Township, John Dougherty, Jr. – EMA Coordinator of Emergency Management, Michael Palumbo and Mark Light of The Home Depot in Souderton, Crossroads Tavern, Landis Supermarket, Giant Supermarkets... THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!

Please give Lawrence Owen (215-249-4640) a call if you would like to get involved!



RESTORATION OF THE HARTZELL-STRASSBURGER HOMESTEAD:

Again, thank you to Michael Palumbo of the Hilltown Home Depot located on Route 113 in Souderton. Michael again brought a team of employees to the homestead to work on the electrical wiring. Michael and the Hilltown Home Depot have always been there for us when we needed them. THANK YOU!

SAVE THOSE RECEIPTS (Acme and Redner's):

Please save your Acme and Redner's Markets register tapes for us. Please note that only the Redner's receipts that have been swiped with their "1% Save-A-Tape Program" can be redeemed. Please get a free store red and white card at their service desk. Please call Cindy Gery (215-249-3214) if you have saved receipts for us or if you have any questions!