



JANUARY 2020

# Museum Chatter

**“If you are looking for perfect safety, you will do well to sit on a fence and watch the birds...” - Wilbur Wright (1867 - 1912)**

**“In the early days, the chief engineer was very often also the chief test pilot. This tended to result in the elimination of poor engineering.” – Igor Sikorsky (1889-1972)**

**Greetings, 2019 has flown by and it's time to report on last year's happenings and next year's activities planned at Massey. But first, the BIG NEWS!**

Our mission is to promote grassroots aviation with an emphasis on local aviation (DELMARVA). One of our goals is to display an aircraft produced by each of the MD & DE airplane manufacturers. In June, the



1911 Model T Touring car posed with Don Sloan's & Nick Mirales' Stearmans for "The Vintage Ford" magazine cover by Tyler Campbell.

Museum Board voted to investigate the construction of a Museum Hangar which will allow us to properly display our Bellanca Cruisair and hopefully a Fairchild 24 (one potential future acquisition). It will also give us more space/flexibility to conduct activities like the Student Aviation Engineering class. Thanks to the ongoing support from our members and a few very generous and unexpected donations, we think we can make that happen in the next year or two. To that end, the Board has earmarked \$50,000.00 to this project. It is estimated that the new building will exceed \$150,000. Planning is ongoing, and once we have the project fully funded, we'll break ground for it next to the existing terminal building. Don Hooker has produced this professional rendering, (< left) first displayed at our Open Hangar Party. Check it out the next time you visit.

Unlike 2018, there were no large projects such as the T hangars and only one of the aircraft restorations has flown, however that doesn't mean we weren't busy. After the issuance of a new Certificate of Airworthiness in

December, Joe Molz formally completed the restoration of his Piper Pacer with a first flight of over an hour on Jan. 18th - with NO squawks!



Joe Molz's 1950 Piper Pacer (Complete restoration done here at Massey)

Keeping the airport and museum running requires a lot of time and effort by a dedicated group of volunteers in addition to the partners, starting first and foremost with John Williamson who is here almost everyday. Our beloved Howard-Price bat-wing mower got a rebuilt radiator which cured the overheating - a surprisingly Big Job. We installed a plastic skirt on the bottom of the T hangar sliding doors as a seal to keep out birds and rain. Family commitments have prevented Don Hooker from spending as much time at the airport as

