

# For Aerial Photographers

**An Open Letter from PAPA President Patrick Belanger  
President of the Professional Aerial Photographers Association**

Dear Fellow Aerial Photographers:

Welcome to PAPA! If you have found our website it is because you are interested in the art and/or the business of aerial photography. PAPA is a unique community of aerial photographers that offers a forum for the dissemination of information that is of interest exclusively to aerial photographers.

## **Should you join PAPA?**

Whether you are an established aerial photographer with a successful business or have decided to improve your existing business, or add aeriels to your photography repertoire, PAPA is for you. It is an association that was created by aerial photographers for aerial photographers. PAPA is a non-profit organization that is an invaluable source to its members for the most up-to-date advice for both technical and for business-wise interests for our field of enterprise. Much of PAPA's information comes directly from its membership. Our product reviews alone will help you select from a myriad of possible equipment purchases to help you make the right choice before you invest.

Can you be an aerial photographer without PAPA? Yes, but why would you want to? You cannot buy any book that can be a constant source of information and inspiration that PAPA can give to you. When I joined PAPA, we had just started our own aerial photography business and were stumbling with decisions and techniques and quite by accident found PAPA. I can truly say that our PAPA membership was the turning point in our business. Without PAPA, I doubt very much that we would be as successful as we are today.

As an aerial photographer, you probably consider yourself an interesting and talented person, and to friends and neighbors, you likely are. There are hundreds of other people very similar to yourself in PAPA who really enjoy each others' company and friendships. So, you owe it to yourself and them to become a PAPA member. We consider our fellow aerial photographers colleagues rather than competitors.

## **Benefits of Membership**

Check out our "[About PAPA](#)" tab and look at "Benefits of Membership" for a description of what your membership would mean and at \$195.00 per year. It is one of the best professional bargains around, and PAPA is always improving ways to bring even more value to your membership.

## **Professional Respect**

Being a member of PAPA, and advertising it in your marketing materials, will give you the strength of association that only comes with belonging to a well-known and strong organization.

Once you are a member, plan to play a major role in your own membership. Attend the regional events that are held in your area and plan now to attend the big PAPA Annual Conference held every February or March. Many of our members' favorite sayings is that "PAPA pays".

See you soon!

Pat

Patrick Belanger  
President, Professional Aerial Photographers Association, International

# Benefits of Membership

Membership in the Professional Aerial Photographers' Association provides a wealth of services and benefits to participating photographers. The quarterly PAPA Newsletter provides up-to-date information on tips and techniques, as well as commenting on issues that affect our profession. Each year, PAPA holds an educational conference, where aerial photographers meet and exchange ideas. The Annual Print Competitions provide a [showcase](#) for outstanding and creative work. Our online member database is an excellent resource for potential clients searching for aerial photographers in many parts of the world.

## Quarterly PAPA Views Newsletter

Keeps members up-to-date with what's happening in the aerial photography industry. It includes interesting technical data and classified ads. Many of the articles are contributed by our members who have developed a particular specialty that the rest of the association may learn from.

## Annual PAPA Conference

The camaraderie generated from this one event alone is worth the membership in PAPA! This yearly meeting of the minds of PAPA members brings together aerial photographers from around the world to discuss issues that impact our profession. During this three day event, members enjoy discussion groups covering topics that range from marketing and money making, equipment reviews, copyright infringement, safety concerns, practical business practices and technical expertise! The [print competition](#) provides a showcase for outstanding and creative work. The conference is held in either February or March in different locations and venues around the US.

## PAPA CHAT

PAPA's email discussion list run by PAPA International exclusively for its members is organized and managed by PAPA members. The purpose of this list is for PAPA members to discuss anything and everything related to the business of aerial photography. There are tentative plans to expand the abilities of this on-line tool to a forum type system that will allow better search and archive capabilities.

## Print Competition

One of the most eagerly awaited and planned for sessions at the annual conference is the very popular print competition. All year, members watch for their own extraordinary shots to bring to the competition. A panel of judges assesses the prints using accepted grading criteria including title, impact, composition, and technical expertise awarding the prints a variety of points. The award winning prints each year can be viewed on our [Gallery page](#).

## Regional Conferences

The popularity of the annual conference has generated three additional events with the purpose of having ongoing educational opportunities that could reach more members by being held closer to more members' homes and businesses. These workshops are held across the country drawing members to their choice of three locations across the contiguous United States with meetings planned on the West Coast, the central US, and on the East Coast. Smaller by design, Regional meetings can touch on more location sensitive issues such as flight restrictions and can even include pre-planned photo flights. These meetings turn competitors into colleagues. They are held in the fall in the above listed areas plus an International destination if conditions permit. Members can go to any or all of these conferences. These events are usually hosted by the Director of that Region and are always fun and interesting because each host tries to out-do the others with tours, parties, Bar-B-Q's, dinner boats, and aviation museums.

## International Conferences

PAPA also hosts events outside the U.S. for our international members. In 2006, our first international meeting was held in Australia, in 2007 Montreal, Canada, and in 2008 San Juan, PR.

## Website

PAPA's current information in all areas can be found here. There is a public side that makes available information about PAPA, its Board of Directors, benefits, corporate partners, and membership applications in pdf format. It also describes past and upcoming events, awards earned by our members and much more. Potential clients can also search the PAPA database for an aerial photographer by name or geographic area. There is a members' only side that contains announcements, pictures and articles about recent events, rules and details for print competition, PAPA merchandise, and many more member services.

## PAPA Pal

When you join PAPA, you may request that an existing, long-time member of PAPA be assigned to you as your PAPA Pal to introduce you to other members and the opportunities that are available to you with your membership.

## Product Reviews / Technical Advice

As a large group of professionals, we have collectively "seen it all" and "done it all" in aerial photography! Get the advantage of friends with experience - help is only a phone call away! Our website also features aerial photography equipment that has been recommended by our members.

## Certification and Master Designation

Our unique *Certification Program* greatly enhances your professional standing. The core certification was recently established which includes classes and testing on aircraft safety, government regulations that relate to aerial photographers, and advanced photography for the professional aerial photographer. Initial certification occurred at our March 2010 National Conference in Sugar Land, Texas. It was offered to those members in attendance. Other PAPA members will be earning their certification in the near future.

PAPA members are encouraged to earn points toward the *PAPA Master Aerial Photographer designation*. Through association involvement such as presenting clinics or classes, and successfully entering and competing in the PAPA Print Competition, members earn this highly regarded distinction.

## PAPA Shoot on the Member's Network

Participating PAPA members expand their coverage area by helping out with shooting assignments in their own geographic region. Imagine being able to offer international photo coverage to your clients!

## Membership Merchandise

Show your colors! Decals, patches, shirts, caps, camera-ready art... they are all available. They're great for promotional giveaways and for displaying your status as a true professional aerial photographer.

Name: _____		Company Name: _____	
Business Address: _____			
City: _____	State/Province _____	Country _____	Postal Code _____
Phone Number: (     ) _____		Fax: (     ) _____	
Email Address: _____		Web Site: _____	

I would like to apply for the following category of membership:

**GENERAL MEMBER**     Applicant is an aerial photographer actively involved in the business of providing aerial photography for more than one year. Verification is required for this category.  
*Please submit at least three 8x10 samples of recent aerial photography work, along with a web site link or any published business advertising (Yellow Pages, etc) and a business card or letterhead.*

**NOVICE MEMBER**     Applicant is just starting out as an aerial photographer and has been in the aerial photography business for one year or less or will be starting a business soon.  
*This is a one-year probationary membership and a member may only remain in this category for one year. Upon renewal, applicant will be asked to provide the verification of General Membership.*

**ASSOCIATE MEMBER**   Applicant is a full time employee of the sponsoring General Member \*

**PAPA CORPORATE PARTNER**   Applicant is involved in a business that sells services, supplies, or equipment to aerial photographers. Applicant must be sponsored by a General Member in good standing \*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this application, I certify that the above information is true and correct, and that I have read and agree to abide by the Code of Ethics of PAPA International.

\*Sponsor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all that apply:

**SERVICES PROVIDED:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Oblique Photography	<input type="checkbox"/> Stock Photography	<input type="checkbox"/> Vertical Photography
<input type="checkbox"/> Fixed Wing	<input type="checkbox"/> Vertical Photography	<input type="checkbox"/> Digital
<input type="checkbox"/> Helicopter	<input type="checkbox"/> Oblique Photography	<input type="checkbox"/> 35mm
<input type="checkbox"/> Tethered	<input type="checkbox"/> Video	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium/Large Format
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		<input type="checkbox"/> Video

Geographic Service Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a pilot: \_\_\_\_\_ Ratings: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you own an aircraft? \_\_\_\_\_ Type: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>DUES SCHEDULE - Annual dues renewable on anniversary date of membership</b>		
GENERAL / NOVICE MEMBER	\$ 195.00 per year	
ASSOCIATE MEMBER	\$ 75.00 per year	
Name: _____		
CORPORATE SPONSOR	\$5 00.00 per year	
INITIATION FEE	\$ 2500 one time	<b>25.00</b>
Registration fee for a new or lapsed membership		
All fees are in US Dollars	<b>TOTAL</b>	

Please make checks payable to PAPA International, and mail check with completed application to:

Mr. John Mooney, Secretary/Treasurer  
PAPA International  
10351 Stella Link Rd  
Houston, TX 77025  
Fax 713-721-6586



To pay for your membership by credit card, please complete the following form. You may mail or fax your application to the address listed on the application.

**Please supply information as it is on credit card account.**

Name:		Company Name:		
Business Address:				
City:	State/Province	Country	Postal Code	
Phone Number: (     )				

Type of card:	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Credit card number								
Expiration Date on Card				3 digit security code on back of card				

I hereby authorize PAPA International to charge my credit card for my application fee and annual dues. All charges are in US Dollars.	
Credit holder signature	Date

Please fax or mail this payment voucher along with your completed application to:

Mr. John Mooney, Secretary/Treasurer  
PAPA International  
10351 Stella Link Rd.  
Houston, TX 77025

Fax 713-721-6586