



Proudly Serving Louisiana,
Western Tennessee and the Mississippi Valley

Pilots for Patients News

A quarterly publication of Pilots for Patients Spring/Summer 2014

General Aviation is a Blessing written by Philip Thomas, early 2014, Published Statewide

Here in Louisiana, we like to believe that our communities are all about helping our friends and neighbors. That's why my organization helps Amy, a woman from Monroe suffering from late-stage breast cancer, who must travel to Houston every week to receive chemotherapy. In addition, because of fractures in her back, she is not able to make the five-hour car ride it would take to get there.

Pilots for Patients, based here in Monroe, organizes pilots who are willing to volunteer their time and money to fly patients to the medical care they need. For the last six years, we have been flying Amy and other patients to treatments they need on a regular basis with our aircraft.

Since we formed, we have flown about 1,870 flights, all free of charge for the patient, and with 90 active volunteer pilots, we are ready to serve more.

The truth is that unless one owns their own aircraft or depends on it for emergency response, specialized medical care or a variety of important services, most people aren't aware of how much of an integral part these aircraft are in terms of delivering services and protecting our public safety, daily life and infrastructure.

For emergency medical responders, firefighters, law enforcement, fish and wildlife authorities, search and rescue teams, not to mention the countless charitable organizations like mine, general aviation makes it possible to perform a variety of specialized functions that would otherwise be unmanageable.

In the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and Hurricane Katrina, general aviation helped to track the movement of the oil for the most effective coordinated response.

General aviation and our local airports are also crucial for business and commerce. Offshore oil platforms rely on helicopters to move material and personnel on and off the platform, as do remote construction projects such as power lines and pipeline.

In addition, businesses of all types, of all sizes, rely on general aviation to more productively meet their travel needs and interact with other businesses and customers. Especially in rural and isolated parts of our state, general aviation provides the access to the broader marketplace that companies in larger cities take for granted.

For example, my business, Precision Paper & Board ships paper products to 22 states. I use my aircraft to travel to visit clients and reach far-off markets. I am able to meet with multiple clients in multiple states, minimizing my time away from home.

Despite the benefits and the diversity of general aviation, some in Washington still don't understand what a lifeline and benefit general aviation is for businesses and communities around our state. For example, a proposed \$100-per-flight user fee which was included in President Obama's recent budget would not only heap new taxes onto farms and businesses that are already struggling to recover from the economic downturn, but these new taxes would also decimate operators in bureaucracy as they struggle to keep up with these fees upon fees.

The system in place now is a pay-at-the-pump system — it is simple, efficient and proportionate to use.

Fortunately many of our leaders in Louisiana understand the vital importance of this industry and form of infrastructure. Gov. Bobby Jindal recently declared March to be "Aviation Appreciation Month" in Louisiana. In addition, Congressman Jeff Landry and Sen. David Vitter, R-La., are members of the General Aviation Caucus.

We applaud these efforts, and encourage all of our leaders to help educate the public and other lawmakers about the crucial importance of aviation, and general aviation in particular, to our national and local economy.

Philip Thomas is the president of Pilots for Patients, president of Precision Paper & Board and a member of the Alliance for Aviation Across America.

Ready to Go



Patient Peggy Sue Barr
Pilot Clay Dean

The mission of **Pilots for Patients** is to provide free air transportation to those patients needing diagnosis and treatments at medical facilities not available to them locally. Our goal is to eliminate the burden of travel allowing the patient to concentrate on getting well.

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Patient "Max" McGough



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Online Donations can be made on our website at:

www.pilotsforpatients.org

PayPal or Credit Card.

Thank You
for supporting
Pilots for Patients !!!

2013 YEAR IN REVIEW

2013 was a year of growth and milestones

10 new pilots joined Pilots for Patients...of those **7** flew at least one mission. These **7** pilots flew **13** missions....1 pilot flew **6** missions!

286 missions were flown,

107,347 miles were flown **883.1** hours were flown (Hobbs time)

Of our **82** active pilots, **49** pilots flew at least 1 mission – **60%** !!

Pilot Clay Dean (New Caney, TX) flew the most missions – **41**.

Our **1600th** mission was flown on April 9, 2013.

Our **1700th** mission was flown on July 25, 2013.

Our **1800th** mission was flown on November 12, 2013.

Pilot of the Year – Philip Thomas from Monroe, LA

71 different patients were flown/driven to and/or from treatment.

51 new patients requested our services (not all flew in 2013)

Most frequent route flown was **Monroe to Houston**

SINCE THE BEGINNING...1/14/2008 TO 12/31/2013

417 patients have requested our services
295 have been flown
159 different airports have been used
111 different pilots have either flown or driven at least one mission.

Year	Missions	Miles	Hobbs
2008	211	68,931	467.4
2009	250	87,787	595.0
2010	310	113,615	871.2
2011	391	137,198	1,052.3
2012	385	142,848	1,131.4
2013	286	107,347	883.1
Total	1,833	657,726	5,000.4

DELTA STYLE MAGAZINE AWARD

President of Pilots for Patients Philip Thomas was named the Delta Style Magazine 2014 Healthcare Hero Volunteer of the Year. Pictured (right top) are Philip and Sharon Thomas. Pictured (right bottom) is Mr. Thomas and last year's recipient Vicki Caskey, Founder of Wiggin Out, a resource partner of Pilots for Patients.



DeltaStyle *A portrait of the arts, culture and people of the Delta*

Life is an incredible gift. Using that life in the service to others in their darkest hour is a life altering experience. Unknown author

Pilot Mission Count for 2014

Pilot	Missions	Pilot	Missions	Pilot	Missions
Alair Tudor	2	Guy Williams	2	Michael Harris	1
Andy Barham	4	Heidi Higginbotham	5	Peter Perez	5
Bo Hunter	6	Hugh McFarland	2	Philip Coyne	2
Brian Barham	3	Jack Hayhurst	1	Philip Thomas	14
Charlie Adams	10	James Johnson	7	Richard Rose	2
Christopher Trahan	5	James McDonald	6	Robert Bash	1
Clay Dean	13	Jason Clements	2	Wally Mulhearn	2
Clyde White	2	J.Smith Thomas	1	Warner Angelle	2
Dolphus McKenzie	3	Larry Lehmann	3	Warren Brown	2
Donald Imhoff	7	Mark Robertson	1	Wayne Petrus	10
Florence Bethard	6	Marty King	1	William McGehee	2

(through April 30, 2014)

Top 10 in 2014

Philip Thomas	14
Clay Dean	13
Charlie Adams	10
Wayne Petrus	10
Donald Imhoff	7
James Johnson	7
Peter Perez	7
James McDonald	6
Florence Bethard	6
Bo Hunter	6

(through April 30, 2014)

Mission Milestones

The following pilots have reached significant milestones as members of Pilots for Patients.

50+ missions

Larry Lehmann, Florence Bethard, Keith Odom, Philip Coyne, Clay Dean, and Bo Hunter

100+ missions

Wayne Petrus, Andy Barham, and Donald Imhoff

200+ missions

Philip Thomas

Congratulations and thank you to these pilots for their accomplishments. We appreciate them and all who fly to make a difference in so many lives.

Richard A. Worthington: 8/10/20 – 4/3/14

Richard A. Worthington, better known to his students and friends as “Doc”, and one of the founding members of Pilots for Patients, passed away on April 3rd of this year leaving a legacy topped by few. A small man in stature, he was tall on talent. He not only was a pilot but a distinguished musician as well. Doc was Director Emeritus of the School of Music at ULM, Founder of the Monroe Symphony Orchestra, and former Director of Arkansas Razorback Marching and Concert Bands. Doc served in WW II in the U.S. Army Air Corps, was a member of the Downtown Monroe Lions Club and he served as District Governor of the Arkansas Lions Club. He was Grand President of the Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma Band Fraternities. Doc also served as the Commander of the Monroe Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, Mission Instructor and Check Pilot. For many years he served as the Commercial, Instrument Rating and Chief Flight Instructor for McMahan Aviation in Monroe. So long our friend and mentor.



Meet some of our patients and pilots



Patient Max McGough
wife Jane McGough
pilot Jimmy McDonald



Pilot James Johnson
patient Dennis Plummer
wife Carmen Plummer



Patient Ben Hardin,
companion Shalalia Daniel
Pilot Marty King



Co-pilot Brent Johnson,
patient Rachel Cassell,
companion Tammie Woods
and pilot Bo Hunter



Patient's daughter Sadie,
companion Annette Epps,
patient Mindy Jones,
pilot Richard Rose



Pilot Charlie Adams,
wife Mary Ellen,
patient Tranisha Lumpkins
husband Eugene Lumpkins



Co-pilot Greg Williams,
patient's companion Robin
Elkins, patient Ashleigh Elkins
and pilot Guy Williams



Patient Jo Margaret Rose,
husband Bill Rose
and
pilot Warner Angelle



Pilot Chris Trahan,
patient Casey Jenkins
and
wife Jana Jenkins

In looking at the pictures in this centerfold, one thing is obvious....everyone is smiling. It's not just because they are having their picture taken. It is because of the amazing spirit each of them has. Our patients are in the middle of a very personal challenge and have allowed Pilots for Patients to help

Million Dollar Smiles



Pilot Jack Hayhurst
patient Jodi Pipes
husband Cliff Pipes



Analyse Young,
PFP President Philip Thomas
patient Sara Grace Young



Companion Garrett Williams
patient Amy Avant
pilot Peter Perez,
co-pilot Paul Welge



Ground Angel T. Barnes
patient Shelley Thomas
Pilots Heidi Higginbotham Alair Tudor



Pilot Clyde White
patient Wiley Sapp
pilot's wife Pat White



Patient Lynn Dozier
and
pilot Florence Bethard



Pilot Wayne Petrus received his 100
mission pin from his wife, Kay
Petrus (right) and his mother
Ginger Petrus (left)



Pilot Brian Barham,
Chris Jones, patient Mindy
Jones and their children



Pilot Don Imhoff patient
Shannon Emfinger
and her son
Blake Emfinger

them. Our pilots smile because they love using their God given talents and skills to help others. Both are giving and getting a blessing with each and every flight. Thank you to our patients for letting us help you, and thank you to our pilots for flying and making a difference in someone's life.

Mission Milestones

First	Monday, January 14, 2008	Wayne Petrus/Bradley Jones	Linda Fox
500th	Thursday, March 4, 2010	Philip Coyne	Christian Billingsley
1000th	Monday, July 25, 2011	Philip Thomas	Lanece Laseter
1500th	Thursday, October 25, 2012	Mark Robertson	Joseph McKenzie
1600th	Tuesday, April 9, 2013	Clay Dean	Stephanie Bond Temple
1700th	Thursday, July 25, 2013	Don Imhoff	Richard Woodruff
1800th	November 12, 2013	Clay Dean	Marie Pleasant
1900th	Saturday, March 15, 2014	Richard Rose	Max McGough

Please visit the website for details on these and other missions

Can't Fly ???

We realize there are many reasons why a pilot isn't flying at this time but there are many other ways to help.

- ✦ Spread the word about the 3 P's - Pilots, Patients, Patrons
- ✦ Host a fly-in at your home base airport or a fundraiser in your area OR distribute brochures and posters to Airports, FBOs, or Flying Clubs in your area. WE NEED MORE PILOTS !!!!
- ✦ Man a booth at an aviation event on behalf of Pilots for Patients
- ✦ Make a monetary donation and encourage others to do so
- ✦ Ask your employer about matching funds for volunteer hours and contributions
- ✦ Honor loved ones with a memorial or honorarium gift
- ✦ Offer to fly with a new pilot to help him get acquainted with PFP.

Follow us on Facebook **Pilots for Patients** Visit the Website at **www.pilotsforpatients.org**

Dr. Ralph Abraham in Mangham, LA is available to give any PFP pilot that has flown 1 mission per year his/her medical exam free of charge. Contact the PFP office to learn more.

You can do so much more on the website than just look at the available missions!

You can update your pilot info, change your password, view your mission records, read what's going on with Pilots for Patients, make an online donation, see our YTD mission stats, link to our Facebook page, read the current newsletter, view milestone mission pictures and information, download forms, and request a mission online. Visit often as there are some exciting additions and changes coming soon.

Just a Reminder

- ✦ Once you have accepted a mission, please refer to the Mission Checklist on the back of your ID badge and contact the office at 318 322 5112 if you have any questions.
- ✦ Make sure we have up to date copies of your insurance coverage and medical certificate on file at the office, even if you aren't flying right now. Please fax them to 318 388 4924.
- ✦ Please fax or email the Hobbs time and miles as soon after you complete a mission as possible so we can complete them in our records.
- ✦ Please take pictures (if the patient is comfortable with this) and send to the PFP office.
- ✦ If you wish to fly a mission involving Houston, please request it as early as possible to allow time for the ground angel coordinator to find a driver. Remember, even if the available list shows EFD Ellington or another airport, we can usually change it to any Houston area airport that our partners, the Houston Ground Angels, support. Call the office if you need to change the airport on a mission you would like to fly.

PATIENTS - please contact the mission coordinator at 318-322-5112 to schedule your flight requests. Please DO NOT contact the pilots directly. All requests must go through the mission coordinator. Please call or fax your mission requests as soon as you have the dates for your next appointment.

PILOT SPOTLIGHT



Cleveland High School Senior Cassie Campbell will be graduating this year with not only her high school diploma, but a pilot's license as well.

Like most teens, Cassie Campbell of Cleveland earned her driver's license at the tender age of 16. Two years later, and now as a senior at Cleveland High School, she carries a pilot's license, too.

"She actually flies a lot better than she drives," said her mother, Elaine.

According to Campbell, she has always had an interest in flying. With the help of Clay and Darline Dean, who recently took over operation of the Cleveland Municipal Airport, Campbell has been able to take flight lessons, receive her pilot's license and achieve a lifelong dream.

"I was always interested in flight as a kid," said Campbell. "My mom told me about the flying lessons [being offered at Cleveland Municipal Airport]. Clay and Darline took me in and that's when I really decided to pursue this."

Campbell has lost count of the number of hours she has spent pursuing her goal. Some of the hours are attributed to several flights with the Pilots for Patients program, which helps cancer patients make the trip to and from MD Anderson in Houston for cancer treatments.

Campbell's first solo flight, a requirement for attaining a pilot's license, took place last October.

"I think that was the most nerve-wracking part," said Campbell. "You have to have 40 hours of flight experience to get your license and I have over 100 hours, including the Pilots for Patients flights. I like knowing that I am flying for a purpose. I am doing what I love to do, but I am also helping people and that's the best part for me." She continued by saying that "the patients get excited and it is so nice to do this for such a powerful reason."

On March 23, Campbell received her pilot's license. She admits she is still in a state of both shock and excitement about accomplishing this at such a young age. She says the accomplishment came as a surprise to her classmates and friends, who knew of her affinity for flying, but were unaware that her dream was so close to her grasp. "It's really just an amazing feeling and I am so glad that I got to do it at the Cleveland airport," said Campbell. "Everyone here is like a family."

This summer, Campbell plans to be an instructor at the airport in hopes of passing her passion on to others. In addition to the Deans, she credits her parents, Joe and Elaine Campbell, and other family members for their support. "When they found out that I wanted to fly, they were really willing to help out and pay for everything," said Campbell of her parents. "It's funny though because we all kind of refer to Clay and Darline as my 'airport parents.'"

Before beginning the pursuit of her pilot's license, Campbell played several sports throughout her high school career; however, when the opportunity came to work at the airport in exchange for lessons, she was more than willing to sacrifice that time. "I think this will always be a part of my life," said Campbell. "I would feel like something was missing if I wasn't doing this. I definitely think it's a part of me now."

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Pilots for Patients has a beautiful hangar at the Monroe Regional airport for our pilots and patients to enjoy, relax and replenish and prepare, whether flying out to or flying home from their medical treatment. A great way for you to contribute to PFP is to help keep the beverage and snack supply stocked. Below is a list of items needed. Please contact the Pilots for Patients office (318 387 9961) to coordinate a time for you to come by, look around and drop off supplies.

Small water bottles (8 oz. size) Soft Drinks: Coke, Diet Coke, Dr. Pepper, Diet Dr. Pepper, Sprite, etc.

Snacks: packs of peanut butter crackers, wheat & cheese crackers, etc.

Nature Valley Sweet & Salty Nut Granola bars – almond (Find at Sam's packed 30/box)

Coffee and teas to fit a Keurig coffee maker

Paper towels Toilet Paper



3127 Mercedes Drive
Monroe, La 71201

Office: 318 322 5112
Fax: 318 388 4924

If you or your organization would like to host a fly-in, fundraiser or other event
please contact the Pilots for Patients office.

Phone: 318 322 5112 or email: pfp@pilotsforpatients.org

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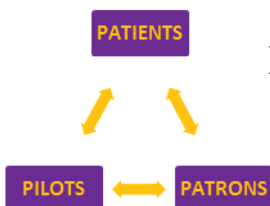
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