



Proudly Serving Louisiana,
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Pilots for Patients News

A quarterly publication of Pilots for Patients Winter/Spring 2013

The Best Is Yet To Come

On January 14th, 2008 our board member Wayne Petrus flew our first patient from Monroe to Houston for cancer treatment. Looking back over the last five years we have celebrated many such milestones, touched many lives and grown in our passion to have a positive impact on the health of our patients. The Pilots for Patients community has indeed enjoyed a wonderful flight through our first five years, but as a great leader of mine has always said, "The best is yet to come."

Adam Ferguson, in his writing "*An Essay on the History of Civil Society*" said, "In other classes of animals, the individual advances from infancy to age or maturity; and he attains, in the compass of a single life, to all the perfection his nature can reach: but in the human kind, the species has a progress as well as the individual; they build in every subsequent age on foundations formerly laid. . . ." As I attended the last board meeting and we welcomed two new members, Don Imhoff (2011 and 2012 Pilot of the Year) and Ryan Chappell, (actually one of our patients), I reflected on the foundations we as an organization have all laid and I asked the question "Are we, the Pilots for Patients community, getting better?" For example, when I visited the doctor a few years ago and he suggested I needed to adopt a healthier diet and exercise daily, I decided to follow his advice for at least a week, maybe two. The fact of the matter is that to get healthier requires daily effort and constant personal discipline. Getting better in our organizational mission and our philanthropic goals also requires continual effort and discipline.

Throughout our five years we have had many different individuals step up and do the heavy lifting. Our desire as a board is to do whatever is necessary to make Pilots for Patients as impactful as we can. We have to be effective by being disciplined in each area within our organization. So as we begin looking over our organizational documents we see where we can get even better. We see where we can lay foundations for ages to come.

Pilots for Patients is organized as a non-profit membership corporation. Our members can be essential partners to bring together pilots, patients and patrons. This group can provide substantial support to the organization by being involved in an organized and highly effective way to enhance the quality of life of our patients. So starting in 2013, we have decided to give further structure to our entity by expanding the membership status in a greater way. We will admit as official members those who financially support our organization each year. You will be hearing more about our membership development program as we develop it online, in print and by word of mouth. However, if you are ready to be listed and shown as a member for 2013, please send us your name, address, phone and email to PFP's address. Suggested annual membership levels are \$100, \$200, \$500, \$1,000, \$2,500, \$5,000 or \$10,000. We will add the current givers to our membership list. Also, if you have a different name to be shown on the membership list, please provide it. We will hold our "Annual Meeting of the Members" at our yearly pilot awards banquet and the Members will elect our board of directors.

Pilots for Patients is a wonderful group to be associated with. Why? Because being a part of it generates an immense joy with a deep sense of personal fulfillment with the knowledge that we are helping our neighbors during their time of need. It is because it is focused on people; people with great needs in the greatest battles of their lives. Whether you are giving money by becoming a member, providing free air transportation with your airplane, or giving your precious time to serve a life, this philanthropic service is fundamentally impacting our lives, our legacy and our values. There is no doubt we are getting better each year and by each flight. It is incredibly nourishing personally to see the impact we are having on other people's lives.

Yes, The Best Is Yet To Come and we thank you for being involved in this most worthwhile mission. Daylight is burning!!

Sal Miletello

Off to Houston



Patient Dorothy Hill
and husband Milton

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 Madeline Wixom



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Online Donations
can be made
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www.pilotsforpatients.org
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Thank You
for supporting
Pilots for Patients !!!

2012 YEAR IN REVIEW

2012 was a year full of milestones

Here are some fun facts:

11 new pilots joined Pilots for Patients...of those **3** flew at least one mission. These **3** pilots flew **38** missions.

385 missions were flown.

142,848 miles flown **1131.4** hours (Hobbs time) flown.

Of our **83** active pilots, **48** pilots flew at least 1 mission – **58% !!**

Pilot Donald Imhoff (Baton Rouge) flew/drove the most missions – **51**.

Our **1500th** mission was flown on October 25th.

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

57 new patients requested our services.

Most frequent routes are **Monroe** to **Houston** and **Houston** to **Monroe**.

TOP 11

10/1/2011 – 9/30/2012

Name	Missions
Donald W Imhoff	54
Philip Thomas	46
Michael Clay	29
Bo Hunter	24
Andy Barham	23
Clay Dean	21
Florence Bethard	20
Charles Chase	16
Wayne Petrus	15
Larry Lehmann	13
Bob Bailey	13

SINCE THE BEGINING

1/14/2008 – 12/31/2012

325
patients have requested
our services

248
actually flew

1547
missions flown/driven

550,387
miles flown/driven

4117.2
hours flown/driven

SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY

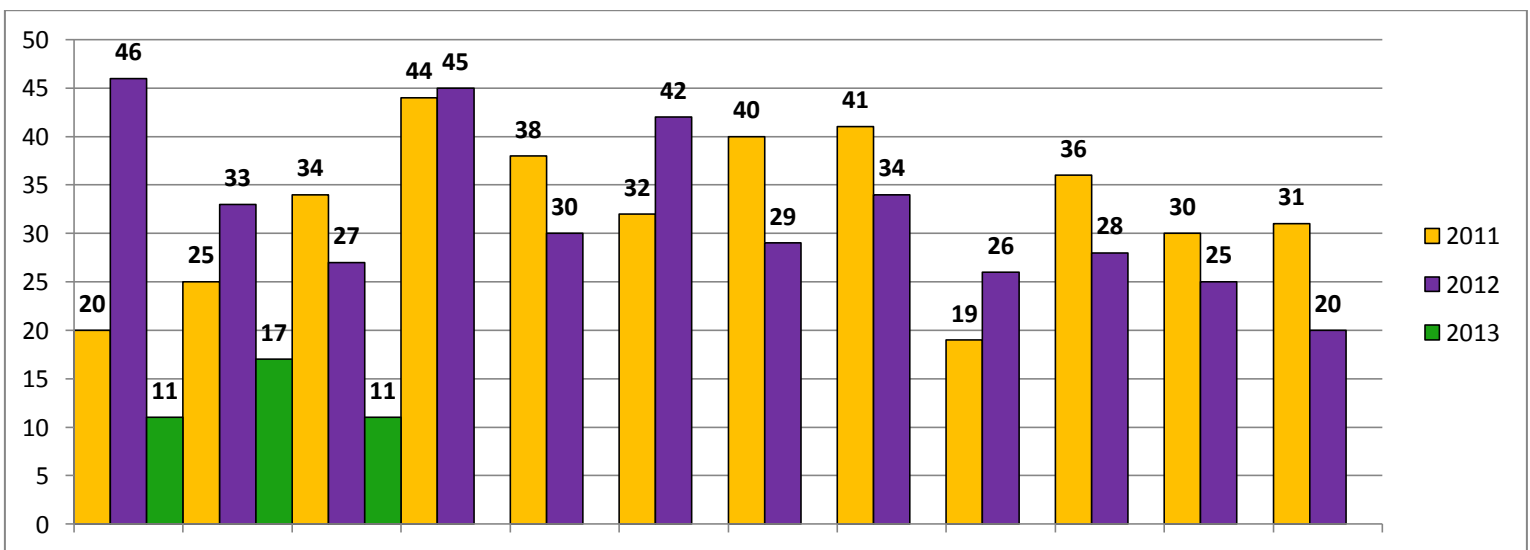
Weather is always a concern of pilots, especially this time of year. It is constantly changing and can present challenges to even the most experienced pilot. As a Pilots for Patients PIC, the safety of you and your patient is your #1 priority. When planning your flight, be sure to check the weather at point A, point B and along the complete route. Know your comfort zone and limitations. Patients are always told to have a back up plan so cancel the mission if you have any doubt about the flight.



Pilot Mission Count – 1/14/2008 – 3/30/2013

First	Last	Total	First	Last	Total	First	Last	Total
Ralph	Abraham	15	Carlton	Dufrechou	2	Morris	Mintz	10
Edward	Angel	2	Robert	Eisenstadt	2	Brooks	Monypeny	4
Warner	Angelle	11	Allen	Ford	1	Joe	Neathamer	7
Bob	Bailey	13	Robert	Gafford	1	Robert	Nelson	1
Everett	Baird	5	Jim	Gardner	1	Keith	Odom	69
Jack	Baker	2	John	Gaumnitz	2	Daniel	Oppenheim	3
Erle	Barham	1	Bruce	Goodbee	1	Dennis	Pennington	1
Edwards	Barham	25	Donald	Goodman	1	Peter	Perez	2
Andy	Barham	138	Craig	Gregory	1	Wayne	Petrus	80
Jason	Barrette	1	Michael	Gusko	2	Pilot	PFP	10
Robert	Bash	4	Abraham	Hakim	2	Scott	Phelps	5
Florence	Bethard	37	Michael	Hall	1	David	Powell	3
Ryan	Blakeney	2	Michael	Harris	10	Stephen	Roberts	2
Mike	Blakeney	19	Jack	Hayhurst	3	Mark	Robertson	11
Kurt	Blankenship	3	Pilot	HGA	14	William	Runyon	29
Clifford	Brown	3	Ben	Hulsey	1	John	Rutledge	8
Warren	Brown	5	Bo	Hunter	66	Phillip	Schaitel	2
Bill	Buck	2	Donald	Imhoff	148	Terrell	Sharplin	1
Daniel	Chase	34	John	Jacobi	3	Riaz	Siddiqi	16
Darryl	Christen	1	James	Johnson	17	Steve	Smith	3
Michael	Clay	42	Bradley	Jones	15	Travis	Smith	6
Richard	Cloud	18	Marty	King	17	Scot	Stanley	4
Arthur	Cole	11	Dale	Lambert	5	Aaron	Styron	4
Ed	Collins	5	Wade	Hosea	16	Philip	Thomas	202
Philip	Coyne	65	Daniel	LaRocque	4	Christopher	Trahan	31
Ronald	Crawford	1	Larry	Lehmann	46	Monte	Warne	1
Chuck	Crochet	1	Mark	Lobell	1	Robert	Watters	1
Quincy	Dalton	7	William	McGehee	13	Clyde	White	14
Thomas	Dansby	3	Glenn	McGovern	4	Doug	White	27
Dennis	Daray	5	Mac	McKenzie	40	Guy	Williams	30
Clay	Dean	35	William	McMahan	1	Richard	Worthington	10

2011 - 2013 Pilots for Patients Missions



PATIENTS and PILOTS



Pilot Phil Coyne, patient Shelley Thomas and pilot Philip Thomas



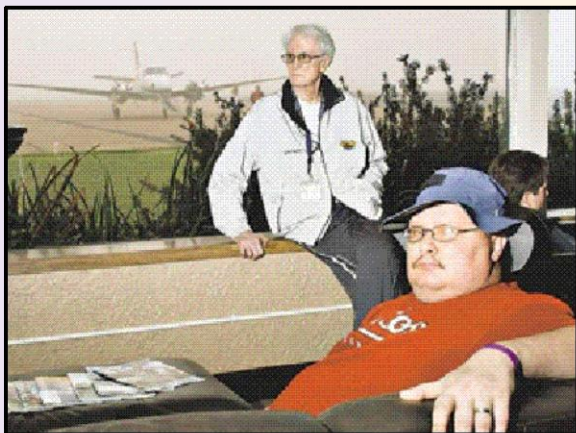
Patient Dorothy Hill and her husband Milton



Ground Angel Gloria Lyons, Martha and Delton Keyes (patient)



FFP intern Heidi Higginbotham Frances and Jerry Fletcher (patient)



Patient Joseph McKenzie (in hat) board member H.M. Butler



Patient Anthony Darby pilot Don Imhoff

It takes a combination of our patients, pilots and patrons to make Pilots for Patients the awesome organization it is. Our focus has and always will be to make our patients our priority. They are truly a blessing to us. Their determination and drive are an inspiration to all of us. We are blessed to play a small part in their medical journey. Our pilots are caring, compassionate and dedicated to making the patient's journey a little easier, using their time, money and talent to do just that. Our patrons (whether with their time, money, prayers or other contribution) are just as important to our success. Corporate donations

PATRONS AND PRESENTATIONS



Heidi Higginbotham recently passed her commercial pilot exams.



Our new friends at Wiggin' Out presenting their donation check



Philip Thomas, Bill and Barbara Palmer, Sharon Thomas



Ryan Chappell, Ray Jennings and Philip Thomas



Jimmy Smith & Hester Hill
Community Cancer Fund Dyersburg, TN



The ladies representing Portico restaurant dropped by with a check

help us to spread the word about the service we provide. Our friends in Dyersburg donate a portion of their fundraising events to us. Other donations serve to “give” back like Mr. Jennings from Central Oil and Supply who donates cases of oil to present to our pilots when they have flown ten missions. The support from family and friends through donations, prayers, and volunteering is also appreciated. Pilots for Patient’s intern Heidi attends many aviation events all over Louisiana to educate the public and to recruit new pilots. Every contribution helps us to make a difference in the lives of others.

Mission Milestones

Mission	Date	Pilot(s)	Patient
First	January 14, 2008	Wayne Petrus/Bradley Jones	Linda Fox
100th	July 15, 2008	Wayne Petrus	Alan Smith
200th	December 13, 2008	Clyde White	Johnny Woodard
300th	May 22, 2009	Philip Thomas	Mallorie Byford
400th	November 11, 2009	Mike Blakeney	Larry Kolb
500th	March 4, 2010	Philip Coyne	Christian Billingsley
600th	June 24, 2010	Andy Barham	Dana Strickland
700th	October 20, 2010	Michael Clay	Dealva Auttonberry
800th	February 9, 2011	Ed Angel	Evangeline Henagan
900th	May 9, 2011	Bill McGehee	Gabrielle Butler
1000th	July 25, 2011	Philip Thomas	Lanece Laseter
1500th	October 25, 2012	Mark Robertson	Joseph McKenzie
1600th	April 9, 2013	Clay Dean	Stephanie Bond Temple

(future newsletters will feature every 500th mission)

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 Pilots for Patients

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 www.pilotsforpatients.org

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.

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.

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 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. Please fax to 318 388 4924.
- ✦ Please fax or email the Hobbs time and miles as soon after you complete a mission as possible
- ✦ 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.

Pilot Spotlight

Ely Air Lines *By Mike Ely and Linda Street-Ely*

Liberty County's two public airports are experiencing new life. While Jose Doblados and Debbie Mabery overhaul the Liberty Municipal Airport and welcome back pilots who haven't visited in years, Clay and Darlene Dean are doing likewise in the north end of the county.

A native of Cleveland, Texas, Clay Dean, grandson of a former constable there, grew up in New Caney and started a carpet installation business now serving hotels nationwide. Only recently has aviation invaded his life, and Darlene's, his best buddy since fourth grade.

While assisting Darlene's sister in her battle against breast cancer, they befriended another patient at M.D. Anderson who needed a place to stay. Their extra apartment in New Caney would be perfect for the (not single) school teacher mom, who had been traveling for her appointments.

In fact, it was the mode of travel that caught Clay Dean's attention. "A lady pilot from Oklahoma had flown her to Conroe for her appointment, and that's how I found out about how flying helps people," says the new Cleveland Airport Manager. "I said to Darlene, 'we can do that.'"

He'd never flown before, but found a motivation. In less than four years Clay has earned his private, instrument, commercial, certified flight instructor, and certified instrument instructor certificates, and is licensed to fly multi-engine airplanes.

Working with Pilots for Patients, Clay picks people up and brings them to Houston for their treatments. Then Darlene either drives them into Houston or loans them her car. "Instead of the hundred-dollar-hamburger," explains Clay, referring to the popular phrase for flying somewhere to eat, "we do this."

And he goes beyond that, inviting pilots working toward a commercial license to join him for these flights because it gives them an opportunity to build time that counts toward the commercial certificate, and, "introduces them to helping others."

The couple's first airplane was a Cessna Cardinal 177, which they kept for two years before purchasing the Beechcraft Bonanza they currently own. After installing state-of-the-art avionics in the Bonanza, thanking God for all he has received, Clay asked in prayer, "Lord, You gave us all we have, what do You want us to do with it?" The answer that came quickly and clearly Clay says "was no mistaking it was God's answer – I couldn't think that up that fast!" The message was, "GPSS stands for God's Plan for Salvation and Security." God had provided the tools for evangelism.

As he explains in flight the "fixes" – locations in the air for navigation – he describes how there was a time when he could pick the "fix" in life; he could choose where he wanted to go. But now that he has turned his life over to God, it's like having a GPS that tells the traveler through life, "if this is where you want to end up, here is how you get there."

Putting the future of the Cleveland Airport into the hands of the Deans has opened up new possibilities. Before retiring after 26 years as the airport manager, Alf Vien set in motion the processes which would lead to growth, including new hangars and an additional 12 acres of land. The Deans will see these plans to fruition, and have added a few new plans, including offering airplanes for rent and instruction, a full-time maintenance facility, and a courtesy car.

Life at the airport is a family affair. Clay's sister Pam helps with computer work when she's not traveling with her job as a landman, and it's becoming a familiar sight to see Darlene helping fuel airplanes, mow the grass, and clean the bathrooms. When I asked Darlene to tell me something about herself, truly a lady, what she talked about was how wonderful her grandchildren are. Seeing how the Dean family has taken such a liking to the people who come and go at the Cleveland Airport, the community and the patrons of the airport will all benefit.

Thank you Clay and Darlene for all you do for Pilots for Patients and for making a difference in the lives of others.





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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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PATIENTS



PILOTS

PATRONS



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