



Aviation News

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[Redbird Skyport Offers \\$1/gal.
Gas in October \(In Texas\)](#)

[CFI Checkrides Now Count
as a Flight Review](#)

Logbook

Sept 6
Greg Frost and Charles Cole
KCMX - KARB
Piper Arrow

Sept 7
**George Schraft and
Brad Ziemer**
KRST - KCMX
Cessna 310

Sept 8
Gil Collver and Tim Brutsche
KSAW - KCAD
Tw in Commander

From the Board...

10/2/13

Welcome to the new Wings of Mercy Pilot Newsletter!

Wings of Mercy has long been an organization that is dependant on its pilots, but until now, our ability to communicate with you has been limited. This is the first edition of a special pilot newsletter we will be putting out the first Wednesday of every month.

It is important to communicate with our pilots and share information about WOM and stories from completed flights. We will also be including some pilot tips, articles, and aviation links that may be of interest to WOM pilots each month. If you have anything to share, please do so!

This newsletter will work best if you help us fill it with content you think would be of interest to your fellow pilots. Please share any stories you have from flights you conduct and let us know if you come across aviation news that would be helpful to other pilots. Most importantly, please communicate with us if there are things we can do to make us a better organization. We want to support your efforts so that together we can provide the best service possible to the people who need us most.

I hope you will look forward to receiving this every month and I know we will work to provide content you find valuable and interesting in each issue.

--Terry Boer
President
Wings of Mercy Board of Directors

Online Flight Scheduling New feature: Review submitted expenses, evaluations and checklists....

Chris Harper brought to our attention the fact that, once mission documents have been submitted, they disappear from your "to do" list and pilots had no way to access them. We've added the ability to go back to those documents; just go to your home page, choose "My Flights", scroll down to the mission you are interested in, then click on the hyperlink for the document that you want to review.

Sept 8
Jerry Schmid and
Paul Sullivan
 KCAD - KRST
 Stationaire

Sept 9
Jerry Schmid and
Paul Sullivan
 KRST - KCAD
 Stationaire

Sept 16
John Hughes and
Jerry Schmidt
 KTVK - KARB - KTVK
 Skyhawk k

Sept 22
John Workman and
Bill Klungle
 KRST - KARB
 Cessna 414

Sept 25
George Schraft and
Frank Clark
 KLAN - KBOS
 Cessna 310

Sept 26
George Schraft and
 Frank Clark
 KBOS - KLAN
 Cessna 310

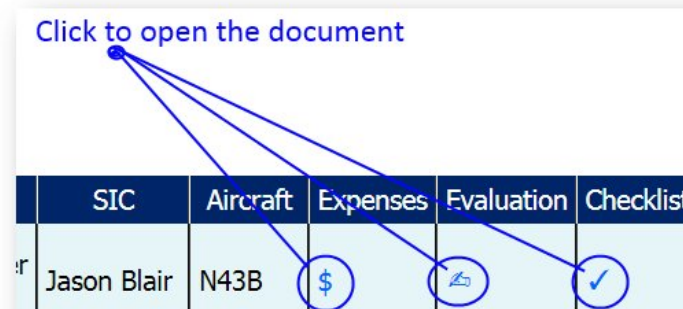
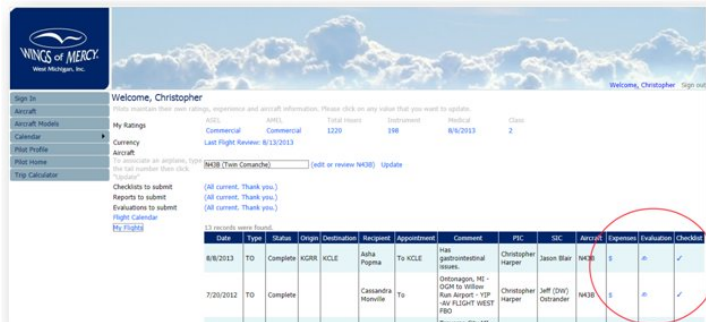
Sept 30
Greg Frost and
Charles Cole
 K3GM - KARM - K3GM
 Piper Arrow

Wings of Mercy flight needs
 change regularly. Click
 here to login and view the

Current WOM Flight Needs

Wings of Mercy is a 501 (C)(3)
 non-profit organization funded
 solely by individual and
 corporate contributions.

If you are able to help out,
 click below to donate.

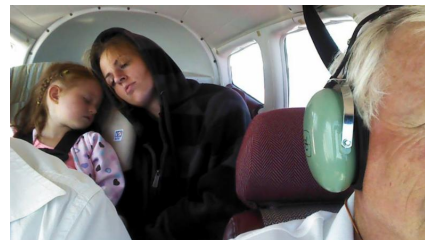


We want the Flight Management System to be friendly and useful to you.
 Thanks to Chris for the great suggestion!

--Jeff Ostrander
 Flight Management System Designer

A Patient Story...

Natalie and her mom get some well deserved rest on the way to their appointment at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor. Pilots Greg Frost and Charles Cole picked them in Houghton for their flight in a Piper Arrow on August 28th.



Natalie has been a regular traveler with Wings of Mercy pilots for over 4 years and is awaiting her liver transplant. We know many of you have flown with her in the past and are happy to report that she continues to make good progress.

Thanks to all of you who have flown with Natalie in the past and we look forward to helping her and her family with more flights in the near future!

Pilot Tips...

Important Decisions for Winter Flights by Jason Blair

Many of the flights that pilots for Wings of Mercy conduct are extremely important. "Get-There-itis" can be a strong pressure when trying to conduct a flight for someone you know really needs to get to their destination. Getting patients to their appointments and home at scheduled times is important, but not as important as making sure both passengers and pilot are safe during the process.

As we all transition our flying to new seasons, our decision making

process can be important in completing flights and keeping us and our passengers safe in the process. Midwestern weather can make flying in the winter treacherous, but there are a few tips that can improve our chances of completing a flight as scheduled.

Re-Routes are Not Bad...

Storms, lake effect snows, or even just large patches of clouds can be localized many times in the Fall and the Winter. Taking the time to carefully analyze METAR reports and/or satellite imagery can help a pilot find alternate routes.

While a straight line is ideal, it may not be the only route that will allow you to complete a flight. Flying away from areas that are immediately downwind from the Great Lakes can help us avoid localized weather. In many cases, the percentage of distance change for even seemingly large re-routing of our planned flight paths can result in minimal overall time differences in the flight while increasing safety for the flight by avoiding potentially dangerous weather conditions.

Reschedule or Leave Early...

While not all patients have flexible schedules, many are able to modify their plans. Typically, this means leaving early (leaving late can of course result in passengers missing appointments). If you keep a close eye on weather, sometimes, making a decision to leave early if weather is deteriorating can allow a flight to be completed before weather becomes un-flyable.

It is a good idea as a pilot with an upcoming flight to start looking at weather forecasts at least two days out. This will help you monitor weather trends and better plan for any scheduling changes that may be necessary.

Ask if a More Capable Aircraft is Available...

Not all of us operate fully icing equipped or capable aircraft. There is no shame in calling the office and asking if an aircraft that is more capable of handling weather conditions is available. Wings of Mercy has pilots who operate a wide variety of aircraft. There is nothing wrong with calling the office to see if a more appropriately equipped (something such as a fully de-ice equipped aircraft during icing conditions for example) can be found if you have any questions if your aircraft is capable of completing a scheduled flight.

These are just a couple of tips that may help you have a better chance of completing scheduled flights with Wings of Mercy patients and your overall flying activities. Not all flights can be completed, and some certainly should be cancelled. Wings of Mercy appreciates all the efforts volunteer pilots make and will always support any decisions by pilots with concerns about the safety of completion of any scheduled flight.

Wings of Mercy is a volunteer organization that provides free air transportation for people with limited financial means who need treatment at distant medical facilities. Patients are carried on private aircraft by volunteer pilots.

www.WingsofMercy.org

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