



## Giving Wings to Those in Need

### Aviation News

[AOPA Insists FAA Withdraw Sleep Apnea Policy](#)

[Pilots Rely Too Much on Automation, Panel Says](#)

[General Aviation's Quiet Crisis: Not Enough Pilots](#)

[Airlines Merger Deal Guarantees Flights to 6 Michigan Airports](#)

[Impact of LAX Shooting Felt At West Michigan Airports](#)

[WMU Sky Broncos are Regional Champs](#)

[Northern Strike 2013: Joint Military Muscle in Michigan](#)

[Angel Wings: Pilots for Patients Marks 1,800th Mission](#)

[Direct Saturday Flights From Kalamazoo to Atlanta Being Scheduled by Delta Air Lines](#)

### Logbook

#### Nov 1

Jerry Schmidt  
and Rod Tinney  
KRST - KBM  
Cherokee 6

#### Nov 3

Gary Sage  
and Jason Blair  
KGRR - KRST  
Cessna 421

#### Nov 7

### From the Board...

December 4, 2013

Is there anything more powerful than a testimony? I believe real experiences shared are one of the most powerful things you can do to encourage, excite, and bless others. From a pilot to a pilot I'll share a little story.

I received a call from the flight coordinator around 1:00 a.m. for a transplant flight. I called my friend and said, "What do you think?" We checked weather and marginal was an understatement. After talking for a bit we said, "Well, we're up, let's go to the airport and make a final decision before we say no go for weather." We arrived at the airport, checked the weather, talked about the flight, looked at our out options, not that good, but we knew we could carry enough fuel to get to a good weather destination. The only problem was it was about 150 miles west and we might not be able to get home. This flight was from Zeeland to Lansing to pick up the transplant patient, then on to Minneapolis downtown to drop off the patient, then back to Zeeland. FOG everywhere! The thought of 150 miles west for our out, was not ideal, but safe. We decided to make the trip. We picked up the passengers. The flight was good, smooth, on top in the moonlight and uneventful. As we approached Minneapolis, the weather was socked in everywhere except the airport! We made a visual approach in and tanked up with fuel to head back. The weather was supposed to be bad at home also. But when we arrived at home, now just before dawn, the fog line was 1 mile east of the airport and we made a visual approach into Z98! Wow just like it was supposed to be!

Now I don't believe in coincidences, this was God all the way. God made a way when there seemed to be no way. The patient received the transplant and everything went great.

As a pilot who can relate to this real story? I believe this is why we do these flights? Who else has had a similar experience? I love to hear those stories! We could go on all day, night, week.... Look through your log book and remember...

We have had a number of flights in recent months that we have been unable to fill. Not a guilt trip, just reality. Please share your story with other pilots. Help them to realize the blessing we as pilots receive when we can share our blessing of being a pilot with others. Many of us, including myself, haven't flown as often as we did in the past. There are many reasons for each of us... consider signing up for a flight soon! Plan for how many flights you would be willing to fly in 2014.

How many people can take their hobby, passion, and make a difference in someone's life, maybe even be a part of saving their life? You can, and you have!!!

Thank you for all you do for WOM.

--Fred Honore

James Trebilcock  
and Fred Honart  
KBEH - KARB  
Cessna 210

#### Nov 11

John Workman  
and Dan Neville  
KMKG - KMSN  
Cessna 414

#### Nov 12

Jeff Ostrander  
and Derek Nagel  
KMSN - KMKG  
Bonanza

#### Nov 14

Tim Brutsche  
and Andrew Marvin  
KCMX - KRST  
Tw in Commander

#### Nov 15

Tim Brutsche  
and Andrew Marvin  
KARB - KCMX - KRST  
Tw in Commander

#### Nov 19

Bill Kungle  
and Robert VanderBerge  
KMKG - KTPA  
King Air

#### Nov 20

Bill Kungle  
and Robert VanderBerge  
KTPA - KMKG  
King Air

### Events

**Muskegon CareAffair**  
**June 07, 2014**

**Holland CareAffair**  
**August 23, 2014**

**Traverse City CareAffair**  
**September 6, 2014**

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.

### Some other WOM News...

#### Chris Boes Graduates WMU

A number of Wings of Mercy pilots have flown Chris Boes over the past few years and we wanted to let you all know that Chris has graduated from Western Michigan University! The picture to the right is of WMU President John Dunn as he shakes Chris Boes' hand and hands him the tube for his diploma during a special commencement ceremony on Monday, Nov. 25, 2013. Boes completed his studies while battling brain cancer the past four years.



#### New Wings of Mercy Website

If you haven't had an opportunity to visit it already, be sure to check out the new Wings of Mercy West Michigan website.

The new site was launched earlier this month. It is our hope that it will provide more timely and easily navigated information for all of our patients, pilots, and supporters.

Let us know what you think of it and if there are any other improvements we can make!

### Reflections from a Recent Flight...

#### by Jeff Ostrander

It is the nature of my work to meet important people and take them to exotic locations. I recognized this client right away because she was wearing a tiara, a princess who had come to survey her kingdom. The security of her reign was evident; the two people who accompanied her (grandparents, as I learned) clearly adored her, felt that her tenth birthday was cause even for such an extravagant celebration as this airplane ride.

As is often the case with little princesses in our day, there were two castles to visit, separated by many miles, reflecting an unhealed fracture of the royal family. She delighted over each of them, though they seemed quite modest to me. Her grandfather delighted in her delight and when we landed he shook my hand and gave me more money than I asked for though I sensed that, for him, it was a princely sum.

My friend Chris and I recently picked up another little princess, to carry her home from a hospital town to a far corner of Upper Michigan. Her pretty red curls and glittering eyes made the diagnosis seem unlikely; how could a child so beautiful and loved be losing a liver?

It is the contrast that strikes me, the infinite distance between good and evil that, even so, sometimes coexist within arm's reach. I am dazzled by the beauty of this world; dazzled, too, by the tragedy that stands alongside. It is safer, perhaps, to not be dazzled; to regard both great beauty and great evil out of the corner of your eye, to stare into the middle ground.

I am careful what I look at. I don't want to see the photo in the magazine, the one with a crying baby who has a terribly misshapen lip. I frightened myself the other night by staring into the cloudless sky, confronted by hundreds - maybe thousands - of brilliant galaxies and wondering how their master could possibly want to see or hear me.

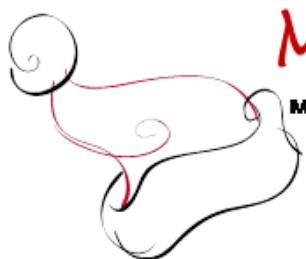
We don't want to be overwhelmed and overpowered, to be confronted

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w ith facts too large for our reason alone to process. We don't want to see the carefully crafted narrative of our existence punctured by outrageous demonstrations of good or evil, bursting into the atmosphere like an alien invasion. We cannot escape the transcendent so we consider it, if at all, through the corner of our eye, try to calculate an average between the highs and lows, as if we could calculate an average between Christ and Satan.

I said that I meet important people and take them to exotic places but then, every place on this planet is exotic, if only I have eyes to see it. Stranger still, for each person I meet, the heavens wage war and the King himself is offered as ransom.



## Merry Christmas

May the joy and love you feel this holiday season  
extend to everyday throughout the year!

With deepest appreciation,  
Your Wings of Mercy Family

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](http://www.WingsofMercy.org)

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