



Monthly Flight Log

9/2/2015
KRST-KGRR
Mike Miller
and Drew Grooters
Baron

9/13/2015
KBIV-KICT
Gary Sage
and Paul Segard
Golden Eagle

9/14/2015
KGAI-KGRR
Timothy Brenner
and Jeff Schmitt
Cirrus

9/14/2015
KGRR-KGAI
Peter Santangelo
and Ron Black
Golden Eagle

9/18/2015
KICT-KBIV
Gary VanderVeen
and John Van Baren
Citation Bravo

9/24/2015
KUES-KFCM
Thomas Wilkoski
and Jimmy Szajkovic
Baron

9/25/2015
KBKL-KGRR
George Schraft
and Kyle Curtiss
Cessna 310

9/25/2015
KGRR-KBKL
Greg Frost
and David Baird
Arrow

9/27/2015
KGRR-KRST

From the Staff...

Policy and Procedure.

As pilots for Wings of Mercy, we know that you all want to do all that you can to help our passengers get to their destinations, and to do so in the most comfortable and convenient manner possible. But there are rules and procedures that are set in place for Wings of Mercy flights that sometimes we can easily forget about.

In a recent situation, a pilot ran into a question from a patient that could easily have led to operating in a manner that would not meet the established procedures for a Wings of Mercy flight.

Here are some of the pilot's notes from the situation:

"The patient was brought to the airport by her mother and father. The father was expected to be traveling with her, but at the last minute the question was asked if we were coming right back to Grand Rapids and if so, could her mother travel along for the entire trip. I politely responded we could not because the weight and balance had been done for just the patient and her father and the entire luggage. She understood and apologized for asking the question to which I said no apology was necessary. After we were airborne I was thinking about the mother asking to come and my response and then it occurred to me the REAL reason I should have been thinking about was the fact she probably had not signed any waiver and therefore would not be eligible for the flight."

The situation was handled tactfully and appropriately by our seasoned Wings of Mercy pilot and we share it as a reminder that all persons on a Wings of Mercy flight must have a signed waiver on file with the office staff. This policy is in place to protect the legal safety of Wings of Mercy, the volunteer pilots, and the aircraft owners, as are the rest of the policies that are in place.

It is also important to consider policy restrictions that are outside of the Wings of Mercy limitations that a pilot may have on their own aircraft. For example, if you are providing an aircraft in which you will serve as SIC because you don't meet the Wings of Mercy PIC requirements and another Wings of Mercy pilot will be the designated PIC for

George Schraft
and Frank Clark
Cessna 310

9/29/2015
KCMX-KRST
Bill Klungle
and Andrew Kusneske
King Air

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the flight, will your insurance coverage be valid? If you have an insurance policy that only allows one designated pilot, does not have an open pilot warranty, or for any other reasons prohibits other pilots to be the PIC of the aircraft, if you are operating under Wings of Mercy policies to designate another pilot as the PIC and you as the SIC, you may be operating in contradiction to your current insurance policy. Which means that if something goes wrong, you may be left without insurance coverage.

It can be frustrating to have to say "No" to a flight for seemingly small and trivial "rules", but these little rules are important. Make sure you consider them all before a flight and always be willing to call our office if you have any questions about whether the flight can or should be conducted in the way proposed.

A Patient Story

On Tuesday, September 22, Steve Crowley called Wings of Mercy to see if we could help get his daughter to her appointment at Shriners Children's Hospital in Minnesota on the 24th.

The last minute appointment made it difficult for the family to get affordable transportation and they were faced with having to drive or postpone the appointment.



Audrey is an 8 year old girl who was born without a lower right arm (below the elbow) and was being fit for a new prosthetic.

What is exceptional about Audrey is not the fact that she lacks a right arm, but rather that she possesses an athletic ability at skiing. Yes, Audrey is a competitive downhill racer! She even has a prosthetic designed to hold the ski pole and this young lady has aspirations of becoming a professional skier. She has met with the coach of the US Paralympic ski team and her story has been featured on [ABC's World News Tonight for their #AmericaStrong segment](#).

The Crowleys live in Wisconsin near our pilots Tom Wilkoski and Jimmy Szajovics, so we gave them a call and in no time the mission was set up and Audrey was on the way to her appointment.

We are very thankful that Tom and Jimmy could help out on short notice for this wonderful, inspirational young lady.

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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