



Safety Director Dave Johnson

TEST PILOTS

There are many kinds of aviation pursuits that evoke a romantic image of some sort -- airline pilot, crop duster, top gun.... but probably none has quite the mystique as that of "test pilot". The guest speaker scheduled for our 2000 Hangar Banquet was among the elite of that group: Tom Morgenfeld, the Chief Test Pilot for the Lockheed/Martin Skunk Works. A change in the flight test schedule for the Skunk Works latest creation, the X-35, forced him to cancel. If you would like a second chance to hear and meet him, refer to the info at the end of this article.

Modern test pilots are very skilled, but very methodical, pilots. No white silk scarves, no "kick the tire and light the fire", no carouse 'til the wee hours then blast off at the crack of dawn into the wild blue yonder. They learn the airplane inside and out; they practice in simulators; they study performance charts to pre-determine go-no go criteria. They study the weather, plan alternates, and yes, file a flight plan. During the flight they follow their planned itinerary; spontaneous deviations are frowned upon. After a flight, they review what went well and what did not.

Does all this sound familiar? Sounds an awful lot like you, the conscientious general aviation pilot, doesn't it? And it should. After all, every time you take that aircraft up, for all practical purposes, you are a test pilot as soon as the wheels leave the ground. Just because everything worked last time doesn't mean it is all going to work this time. Take a lesson from the pros -- and the Boy Scouts: Be Prepared! And treat every flight like a test flight.

On April 30, 2004, Tom will be speaking at an awards banquet for the University of Minnesota student branch of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, at the American Wings Air Museum, Anoka County Airport [ANE] -- the same place our 2000 Banquet was held. Since he recently retired he isn't likely to cancel! The AIAA would welcome outside guests at their banquet. Cost will be about \$25, meal included (sorry, there is not a "no-meal" option); festivities begin with a social hour at about 5:30. If you are interested, contact me by email, djohnson@cloudnet.com and I will forward appropriate info as it becomes firm. His primary topic will be the Joint Strike Fighter competition and the X-35 [the subject of the PBS Nova program "The Battle of the X-Planes"], but he will address other things folks may have questions about.

From the Flight Director Glenn Young

We flew 6 flights in February, 2004 and 3 in March. We had some problems with weather in March. The phone is getting busy already in April and we could be busy if they are trips we can handle. At this point, a lot of our trips are longer distance and have a need of more space due to equipment or cast. It looks like we have a 58 Baron coming aboard soon. This will help as it is easy to load a patient with the large door in the back. Last week I had 2 calls as to whether Jamaica was with in our range. I still get a call or 2 each week about Florida and California or Arizona. There is a lot of need for medical transportation as Insurance will cover only emergency transportation. Each day I thank you pilots who put so much into this program. Things would not happen with out that. Thank you and keep trucking!!!!

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Special Thanks to the Vocational Evaluation and Training program (VET) for the collation, labeling, sorting and sealing of this newsletter. Between VET and Coborns for the printing of the newsletter, Wings cost has been drastically reduced in the producing of this informational newsletter.

VET is a work training program for students ages 14-21 with special education needs. The goal of the program is to teach students how to be productive, contributing, and valuable members of a "working community" For more information regarding this program, contact Chris Zweber at 952-835-0071.



Mercy Missions Summary Report

Total of 549 Mercy Missions

Fly-In City Breakdown

Twin City missions	338
Rochester missions	145
Northern part of MN missions	54
Out state missions	12

Monthly Breakdown

Year	Total	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1995	28				3	1	2	4	2	7	6	1	2
1996	42	1	5	3	2	2	1	1	6	8	4	5	4
1997	50	2	2	6	5	9	4	4	4	1	4	4	6
1998	42	3	3	2	2	3	9	1	9	3	4	0	2
1999	60	4	3	6	4	7	8	7	3	7	4	3	4
2000	79	7	7	9	8	10	2	6	2	4	7	10	7
2001	61	1	5	3	5	7	2	6	6	7	7	7	5
2002	105	9	3	12	6	11	5	14	9	11	*5	12	8
2003	64	11	8	8	7	0	3	4	9	5	3	6	5
2004	13	4	6	3									
* 3 cancelled due to weather													
Totals	549	42	42	51	42	50	36	48	50	53	44	48	38

Total Beneficiary Mileage since beginning = 369,123.00

Total Beneficiary Mileage 2004 = 9470.00

Children account for 315 missions, adults for 205 missions.

All totals do not add up to total number of missions because earliest missions did not compile statistics.

Wings mercy missions have transported patients to the following hospitals:

Mayo Clinic	157 trips	Milwaukee Cancer Place	15 trips
Children's / Msp	53 trips	St. Cloud Hospital	10 trips
Children's / St. Paul	8 trips	Bethesda	3 trips
Fairview Hospital	63 trips	Gillette Children's	7 trips
Parker Hughes	8 trips	Regions St. Paul	1 trips
Shriner's	89 trips	Others	18 trips

**Nowhere to go
on a Monday Night?**

Spend the last Monday night of the month at the Ground Round Restaurant in downtown St. Cloud and get 10% of your meal donated back to Wings of Mercy. Upcoming Monday night dates are April 26th, May 31st and June 28th. You must mention Wings of Mercy for the donation.

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Wings partnership with Cybertel Phone Company results in reduced phone rates.

Sign up to be a Cybertel customer and Wings receives a percentage of your phone bill as a contribution.

The following new rates are effective 5-1-04.

Interstate (State to State) rate: 3.9¢/ minute (cpm)

Intrastate Rates: (LD calls within the state) {toll free intrastate rates in parentheses}

Minnesota: 0.10 cpm {0.086}

Wisconsin: 0.0498 cpm {0.041}

North Dakota: 0.119 cpm {0.132}

South Dakota: 0.172 cpm {0.19}

Iowa: 0.078 cpm {0.075}

Illinois: 0.035 cpm {0.036}

Indiana: 0.043 cpm {0.033}

Michigan: 0.034 cpm {0.039} and

Nebraska: 0.082 cpm {0.113}

Business lines and current 800 lines/numbers can be retained. A person can have one toll-free number assigned at no charge.

Cell phone accounts cannot be serviced.

No extra numbers to dial, no monthly minimums as long as account bills over \$5.00 per month. If a customer does not bill more than \$5.00, a \$2.95 fee applies. This does not apply to existing members.

No long term contract required.

6 second billing increments, 18 second minimum.

Contact Cybertel at 1-866-242-9400.