



Proudly Serving Louisiana,
Western Tennessee and the Mississippi Valley

Pilots for Patients News

A quarterly publication of Pilots for Patients Fall 2012

Approaching a huge milestone – 5 years as Pilots for Patients

Those of you that have been with us during this nearly 5 year journey, with the first mission flown on January 14, 2008, know how far we have come and the obstacles and hurdles we have overcome to refine this organization. It makes me proud when I reflect on the strides we have made and the accomplishments that seem to be happening on a more frequent basis.

Our 1500th mission was completed just a few weeks ago. Though not without a hurdle, the mission was flown by one of our Houston based pilots fighting fog nearing sunrise on his way into Monroe. Having to divert to Ruston before the ceiling deteriorated was Mark Robertson's good choice while working with the Monroe Approach Control. Conditions deteriorated in Monroe before sunrise as some fall mornings can dish out at this time of year. Talking with the tower and the pilot enroute we felt it was a better choice to land in Ruston and then transport the patient and companion by car. Our Board Member/Ground Angel, H.M. Butler, was most happy to accommodate the ground mission in this situation. Safety is our number one priority and all options were discussed before making the decision on how to proceed. After an hour and a half wait the fog lifted and our patients and pilot could proceed with their flight on to Houston. Although the patient was a couple of hours late for his appointment at M.D. Anderson, Mark got them there safely. We are thankful to have all of the Houston based pilots flying for PFP and joining in to help move patients throughout Louisiana. We need more pilots with big hearts willing to fly our ever growing demand of new patient requests.

The above 1500th mission scenario is a classic case of why it is necessary to fly down the day before an appointment rather than flying down the day of. The days are becoming shorter and flying down the day before a scheduled appointment reduces the risk of being stranded or missing their appointment altogether. Patients should always have a backup plan. I encourage all patients to work with our Mission Coordinator, Beth Stone, to work out the best possible dates keeping in mind the weather conditions, pilots having to cancel due to either their own sickness or perhaps even their aircraft having an issue.

We have added two interns from the University of Louisiana at Monroe (you can read about them on page 2 of this newsletter) to help with our pilot recruitment and social media awareness promoting PFP's websites and recruiting through direct contact, mail outs, and attending aviation events and or flyins. This seems to be working well as we keep tweaking and promoting new ideas to reach the 3 P's, Pilots, Patients and Patrons. Facebook and our website are still controlled by our friend and computer guru Rickey Sewell out of Spring, Texas as he dedicates his time to keeping those venues up and running.

Due to economic conditions we now have access to a fuel co-op here in Monroe located on the south side of the field that is working with PFP pilots to help with their fuel costs on missions in and out of the area. If any of the PFP pilots are needing fuel and are willing to contact us the day before their flight with an ETA and are willing to pay by cash or check (no credit card system available at the present) they can purchase fuel at the current cost of \$4.878/gallon, provided the pilot shows his PFP paperwork that he is on a mission. This is only for PFP missions but we feel this will be an incentive to cut costs while flying our patients. Please contact Precision Paper @ 318 387-9961 to make your fuel arrangements so someone on our staff can meet you at the pump. And pilots, don't forget that with every 10 missions you fly you will be given a case of 15w-50 AeroShell oil, compliments from our friends at Central Oil here in Monroe.

The future of PFP depends on all of us to keep this ministry alive for our friends and neighbors across the state needing our services. I want to express my sincere and humble thank you to all of our PILOTS that help keep the actual transportation alive by completing missions and sacrificing their time and energy in making it happen. Please help recruit another pilot friend or mentor one that might be a little unsure of the process or procedures. We are entertaining the idea of having a pilot breakfast, say once a month, at different locations around the state to just visit and talk about missions or concerns while building camaraderie. I would like your feedback on this and hopefully have a schedule at the beginning of 2013.

As we approach our 5 year benchmark in January 2013, the future of Pilots for Patients remains bright as long as we have caring individuals that give of their time and resources to help make this organization excel into the future and beyond! I would also like to wish all of our pilots, patients, patrons, partners, board and staff my best during the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season. I hope you all have quality time with your families and friends sharing your love for one another.

Houston Bound



John and Kathleen
Owens headed for
Houston

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 Pia Williams



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Editors

Beth M. Stone
Sharon P. Thomas

Milestone Mission

Pilots for Patients has reached another very important milestone. On October 25, 2012 our 1500th mission was flown. Houston area pilot Mark Robertson flew Joseph McKenzie and his wife Darlene from Ruston, LA to Houston, TX for his treatment. Joseph has flown 21 times with 12 different pilots.



What a blessing to have helped so many people since our beginning in January of 2008. We wish to thank everyone had a part in our reaching this milestone and we look forward to making a difference in many more lives in the years to come.

PRESENTATIONS EVENTS INFORMATION

The Dyer County Community Cancer Fund held their 27th annual BBQ fundraising event on October 5, 2012 in Dyersburg, TN. Pilots for Patients is a recipient of part of the proceeds from this and other local events. We appreciate their efforts in helping Pilots for Patients continue to serve those who need our services.



Please welcome 2 new faces to the Pilots for Patients family. Interns Erik Lepp and Heidi Higginbotham, both students from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, have been working with Philip and Sharon in the office to expand our social media avenues and pilot recruitment.



Heidi is a Private Instrument rated pilot working on her commercial rating and an Aviation Degree with a minor in Business Management. Heidi is recruiting pilots throughout Louisiana with mail outs, attending fly-ins and scheduling aviation events to help Pilots for Patients which in turn stimulates general aviation in Louisiana. Heidi hails from Church Point, LA

Erik is a Communications Studies major with Public Relations experience who will be graduating from ULM this December. Erik has been working on our social media outlets such as Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest. He is also working on new brochure designs and a media marketing campaign. Erik is from Monroe.

The wonderful folks at Portico Bar & Grill put on a fundraiser for Susan G. Komen for the Cure and Pilots for Patients in October. Here Portico employees Donna Tarver and Brooke Brown present the donation check to us. Thank you for all you do to help Pilots for Patients!



Online Donations can be made on our website at: www.pilotsforpatients.org PayPal or Credit Card Thank You for supporting Pilots for Patients !!!

I wish everyone a Happy Holiday season and may God Bless you in the coming year. Thank you for supporting Pilots for Patients. *Beth Stone*

TOP 11 IN 2012

First	Last	2012	Missions
Donald	Imhoff	47	54
Philip	Thomas	34	46
Michael	Clay	18	29
Bo	Hunter	19	24
Andy	Barham	20	23
Clay	Dean	21	21
Florence	Bethard	13	20
Charles	Chase	16	16
Wayne	Petrus	4	15
Bob	Bailey	9	13
Larry	Lehmann	10	13

October 1, 2011 – September 30,

Pilot Mission Count – 1/14/2008 – 9/30/2012

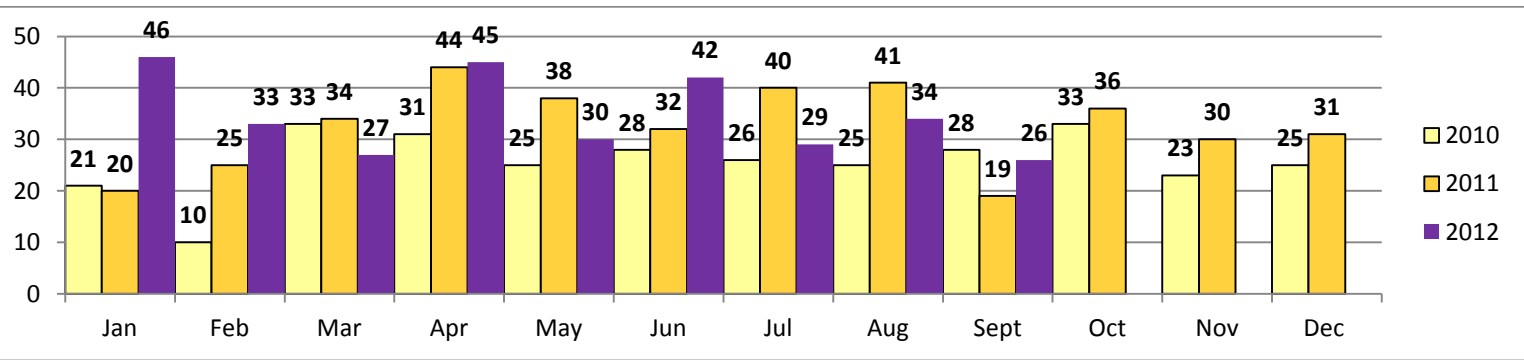
First	Last	Missions	First	Last	Missions
Ralph	Abraham	15	Ben	Hulsey	1
Edward	Angel	2	Bo	Hunter	62
Warner	Angelle	9	Donald	Imhoff	139
Bob	Bailey	13	John	Jacobi	3
Everett	Baird	5	James	Johnson	14
Jack	Baker	2	Bradley	Jones	15
Andy	Barham	137	Marty	King	15
Edwards	Barham	23	Dale	Lambert	5
Jason	Barrette	1	Daniel	LaRocque	2
Robert	Bash	3	Larry	Lehmann	43
Florence	Bethard	30	Mark	Lobell	1
Mike	Blakeney	18	William	McGehee	12
Ryan	Blakeney	2	Glenn	McGovern	4
Kurt	Blankenship	3	Mac	McKenzie	40
Warren	Brown	5	William	McMahan	1
Clifford	Brown	3	Morris	Mintz	10
Bill	Buck	2	Brooks	Monypeny	4
Dan	Chase	35	Joe	Neathamer	7
Darryl	Christen	1	Robert	Nelson	1
Michael	Clay	37	Keith	Odom	69
Richard	Cloud	18	Daniel	Oppenheim	3
Arthur	Cole	8	Dennis	Pennington	1
Ed	Collins	5	Peter	Perez	2
Philip	Coyne	61	Wayne	Petrus	76
Ronald	Crawford	1	Pilot	PFP	10
Chuck	Crochet	1	Scott	Phelps	5
Quincy	Dalton	7	David	Powell	2
Thomas	Dansby	3	Stephen	Roberts	2
Dennis	Daray	5	Mark	Robertson	7
Clay	Dean	25	William	Runyon	29
Carlton	Duffrechou	2	John	Rutledge	8
Robert	Eisenstadt	2	Phillip	Schaitel	2
Allen	Ford	1	Terrell	Sharplin	1
Robert	Gafford	1	Riaz	Siddiqi	15
Jim	Gardner	1	Travis	Smith	6
John	Gaumnitz	2	Steve	Smith	3
Bruce	Goodbee	1	Scot	Stanley	4
Donald	Goodman	1	Aaron	Styron	2
Craig	Gregory	1	Philip	Thomas	186
Michael	Gusko	2	Christopher	Trahan	29
Abraham	Hakim	2	Monte	Warne	1
Michael	Hall	1	Robert	Watters	1
Michael	Harris	10	Doug	White	27
Jack	Hayhurst	3	Clyde	White	13
Pilot	HGA	14	Guy	Williams	24
Wade	Hosea	16	Richard	Worthington	10

Ground Missions

First	Last	2012	Total
Donald	Imhoff	5	17
Jan	Rugg	0	17
Nancy	Worthington	4	14
HM	Butler	0	7
Philip	Thomas	1	5
Lori	Dunn	0	2
Mike	Hartt	0	2
Thomas	Dansby	0	2
Bo	Hunter	0	1
Larry	Lehmann	0	1
Morris	Mintz	0	1
Teri	Sims	0	1
Tracy	Hilburn	0	1
Wade	Hosea	0	1
Wayne	Petrus	0	1

October 1, 2011 – September 30,

2010/2011/2012 Pilots for Patients Missions



4th Annual Pilots for Patients Awards Luncheon



Bo Hunter
50 mission jacket



Pilot of the Year
Don Imhoff



Don Imhoff 100
mission pin



Barbara Haftmann



Jan Clay



Alair Tudor & guest



Larry Lehmann



Pia Williams
and son



Shelley Thomas
and son Patrick



Sara Grace
Young



Mary Duer Olson
and husband Bob

Our 4th annual Awards Luncheon was held in Monroe, Louisiana on Saturday, October 13, 2012. Pilots, patients, patrons, volunteers, staff and board members shared a great day of fellowship, recognition and great food provided once again by Duane Humphries of the The Warehouse No. 1 restaurant in Monroe.

Pictures: **Row 3** (l. to r.) Patient Barbara Haftmann, Jan Clay, who sang beautifully throughout the day, Alair Tudor, our newest Monroe pilot and his guest, and Larry Lehmann speaking after receiving an appreciation plaque for flying several veteran patients to treatment 2011 - 2012. **Row 4** Patients who were among many who attended the luncheon.

PILOT OF THE YEAR TOP 11 FOR 2012



Philip Thomas
Monroe, LA



2012 Pilot of the Year
Don Imhoff
Baton Rouge, LA



Mike Clay
Monroe, LA



Bo Hunter
La Marque, TX



Andy Barham
Oak Ridge, LA



Clay Dean
New Caney, TX



Florence Bethard
Coushatta, LA



Dan Chase
Baskin, LA



Wayne Petrus
Monroe, LA



Bob Bailey
Ruston, LA



Larry Lehmann
New Orleans

Pilots who fly 10 missions receive a perpetual plaque with plates given yearly noting the number of flights flown in that year. Pilots not present at the luncheon have been given their plaques: Clay Dean from New Caney, TX and Bob Bailey from Ruston, LA.

Pilots for Patients currently has 80 active pilots on the roster. Of those, 86% (or 74 of them) have flown at least 1 mission since joining. Our patients are grateful for the assistance we offer and our pilots are blessed by being a part of their journey. Congratulations to our Pilot of the Year for 2012, our top 11, and to all our Pilots for Patients pilots for making a difference in someone's life nearly every day.

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

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

Follow Us




Pilots4patients OR
Pilots for Patients

 Pilots for Patients


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 very soon.

Dr. Ralph Abraham 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

Lifetime Passion Helps Patients in Need

by Gloria Hander Lyons

Longtime La Marque resident, **Bo Hunter**, knew from a very early age that he wanted to fly airplanes. Growing up in Galveston, at the age of nine (in 1947), he rode his bicycle over to the airport to watch the planes taking off and landing. He told his mother, “I want to be an aviator.” Thankfully, she replied that, with hard work and persistence, he could be anything he wanted.

When he graduated from high school at the age of 17, he decided to join the Air Force, but his mother insisted that he go to college first. He put his dream of flying on hold for four years until he graduated from Prairie View A & M with a degree in business administration.

He joined the Air Force in 1959 and discovered that he qualified for Officer Training School because of his college degree. He passed the required tests, but, once again his passion for flying was delayed—the Air Force wasn’t accepting minorities into their pilot program at that sad point in our history.

After four years in the Air Force, followed by two years in the Reserves, he returned to civilian life, settling in La Marque. He married and started a family, so his priority was finding work to support them, but he never lost sight of his goal to become a pilot. The cost for flying lessons was \$900—a staggering fee in 1963—but he was determined to succeed and began putting a small amount of money into a savings account each week. It took seven years to save the money, but Bo was a patient man who refused to give up on his dream.

He took the basic flight training, but didn’t stop there, using the GI bill to earn licenses for multi-engine, instrument, commercial and helicopter flying.

In 1994, Bo discovered a program called Angel Flight, where private pilots volunteer their services to fly patients to hospitals for treatment. He joined the Pilots for Patients program, based in Monroe, Louisiana, and Angel Flight Oklahoma, based in Tulsa. He has transported more than 500 patients to and from six states during the last 18 years. The majority of the patients are taken to M. D. Anderson in Houston, but also Texas Children’s Hospital and Shiners’ Hospital. Seeing a further need, he helped organize the Houston Ground Angels, a group of volunteers who use their own vehicles to transport patients from the airport to the hospital. There is no cost to the patient for air or ground transportation.

Bo received the “Pilot of the Year” award in 2005. All of the pilots in the Pilots for Patients program pay their own expenses, including fuel, which can range from \$4.50 to \$8.00 per gallon. He has made many friends during his service—flying some of the patients for as long as 12-15 years. He also flew supplies to Hurricane Katrina victims in Louisiana.

Bo never gave up on his dream, and once he attained it, used his skill to help others. It seems to be a common trait for him—the list of his volunteer activities for our community, in addition to flying, is long and varied, including working for the Salvation Army, Red Cross, six different school districts, the Bay Area Council on Drugs and Alcohol, La Marque Community Watch Groups, plus personally mentoring La Marque students to help them find work.

When his son discovered that they both enjoyed jumping out of airplanes (Bo during his stint in the military and his son’s recent skydiving hobby), he gave his dad a gift certificate to try skydiving, which included a period of “free-falling” from a plane at 14,000 ft. After Bo shared this photo with me, I added the caption, “Spread Your Wings and Fly!”, and hung it on the wall in my office as a daily reminder to be brave, be persistent and follow my passion... just like Bo Hunter!

(Bo has flown more than 60 missions for PFP and hundreds more with other VPOs. Bo is a great example of a kind, dedicated, compassionate, Christian man sharing his God given skills with those in need. May God bless him for all he does.)





3127 Mercedes Drive
Monroe, La 71201

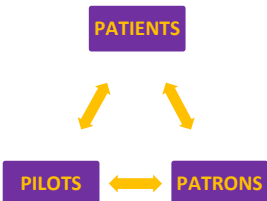
Office: 318 322 5112
Fax: 318 388 4924

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

Thank you to our sponsors and friends

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