



Club News March 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

By: Dave Starnes

Hello everyone,

Thanks to members, Joe Hass and Clark Johnson, the TOPS club successfully co-hosted an awesome event in February. Joe wrote an article describing the day's events. Be sure to read the story below.

We have two new members: Scott Anttila and Steve Parkins. Scott is a CFI and regularly tows banners at VLL and around the country. Steve is building an experimental aircraft down in Bravo hangar row and is also working on his Private Pilot certificate. Steve is also an excellent painter and is currently sprucing up some old warts on N64477. (Yes...it's still green.) Welcome to the club!

See you at the airport.

Dave



Michigan Aviation Enthusiasts Host Endeavour Astronaut

A unique collaboration of full size aircraft pilots, a model club specializing in indoor flying and one of the largest R/C clubs in the country are responsible for hosting “Inspiration and Exploration-The Final Flight of STS-134-The Shuttle Endeavor” on February 2, 2012. Shuttle Pilot Colonel Greg Johnson was the featured speaker in Troy, MI.

The Troy Oakland Pilots Flying Club (TOPS), the Michigan Indoor Aircraft Association (MIAA) and the Skymasters Radio Control Club of Michigan (Skymasters) all facilitated the visit.

The idea got started when TOPS member Dr. Clark Johnson of Michigan State University wondered if there would be interest in a visit by an astronaut. After a resounding “YES” by those present at a Michigan Department of Transportation training session in September of 2011 the challenge of putting a program together was on.

TOPS president Dave Starnes made the initial contact with Col. Johnson (yes, Col. Johnson and Dr. Johnson are related). Dave handed the project off to Joe Hass. There were 2 major issues, finding a date and a venue. After numerous calls, Dick Streetman, a retired assistant principal with the Troy School District, made contact with assistant superintendent Richard Machesky who was able to make the beautiful facilities at Athens High School available for the evening of February 2. It was the only day available for the rest of the school year. A call to Col. Johnson confirmed that the day would work for his busy schedule.

Trying to maximize Johnson’s time in Troy, a plan was developed to have Johnson come from the NASA facility in Cleveland, OH the evening of Feb 1. That allowed Johnson to address 3 middle schools in the Troy School District the morning of Feb 2. Starting early, Johnson enthusiastically spoke to over 800 youngsters, intermixing a slide show and a multimedia presentation before answering the student’s questions. The day was busy as Johnson had a number of conference calls to handle in conjunction with the John Glenn 50th anniversary space flight celebration.

Johnson had been so busy he didn’t have time for a haircut prior to trip. With the conference calls over a bit early a visit to a local Troy salon, The Tortoise and the Hair, was arranged. It was their first visit by an astronaut and the topic of lot of discussion. Again Johnson was kind enough to pose for pictures and supplied autographs.

There was also a late afternoon presentation to the Boys and Girls Club of Troy. Only a little time for a quick bite of dinner before the evening presentation was

available.

Over 400 people attended the program at Athens High School. ETOC and XFC pilot Chris Hass of the Pontiac Miniature Aircraft Club performed the “opening act” by flying his aerobatic electric foamie from the Athens stage. He actually did torque rolls down between the aisles to the amazement of the crowd.

Col. Johnson then enthusiastically took the stage at 7 PM to roaring applause from the audience. He launched into a discussion of the shuttle program and his specific flights with slides to accompany his presentation. He then presented a video taken in the International Space Station. The magnificent views, eating M and M candies floating in the air and racing through the ISS while weightless had the crowd mesmerized. Johnson then handled numerous questions from the crowd before spending almost an hour autographing and posing for pictures. Well past 9 PM Col. Johnson was joined by relatives for the rest of the evening before flying back to Cleveland early Friday morning. Prior to his departure Johnson was presented with a specially made wallet created by Mark Freeland of Retro R/C that included a beautiful depiction of a 1930s model magazine cover printed on the outside and commemorative photos and Endeavour symbols on the inside.

The whirlwind day was made possible by the support of TOPS, MIAA, the SKY-MASTERS, the Troy School District and NASA. Our thanks to all for providing such an exciting day to the community.

Joe Hass

joe Hass@gmail.com





From the Flight Surgeon

In a major announcement that was not completely unexpected the FAA announced that beginning 10/1/2012 the paper 8500-8 Airman Medical Application forms are going to be history. After that date the only way to apply for a FAA medical will be through the online application MedXPress located at <https://medxpress.faa.gov/medxpress/>. A link to MedXPress can also be found in the lower right homepage of www.OK2FLY.com. The FAA site works quite well but has some implications for those who fly LSA and cannot afford to have a denial on their medical. You should contact your AME if you have questions about how to effectively use MedXPress. See www.EAA.org for more details or visit me at www.OK2FLY.com Fly warm and safe!

Gregory Pinnell, MD,
Senior AME/Flight Surgeon USAFR
www.OK2FLY.com

Dr. Scott Grant , TOPS member, can now provide examination services for your aviation medical. Dr. Grant is located in nearby Birmingham (Maple and Old Woodward). His contact information is:

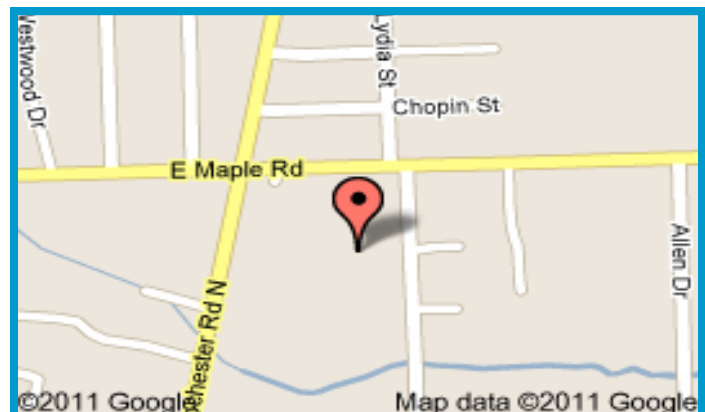
**Birmingham Medical
180 East Brown
Birmingham, MI 48009
248-645-1000**

Same day appointments are possible. Make sure you mention that you are a TOPS member.

Miscellaneous

Next Club Meeting:

**Tuesday
March 27th at 7 PM
Midwest Video
1515 Souter, Troy**



Local Events

March 13 - Pontiac Airport (PTK) — Navigating the Airport

On Tuesday March 13, 2012 at 7:00 pm
Select Number: GL2342938

Location:

PTK Airport Terminal Bldg., J. David VanderVeen Conf. Center
6500 Highland Rd.
Waterford, MI 48327

April 25—Canton-Plymouth-Mettetal Airport (1D2)7:00PM

"I Wish I Hadn't Done That" Tera Fricke

Join us for an interesting look into some recent general aviation accidents and incidents. What went wrong? What can we do differently? Let's learn from others' mistakes.

Seminar will be held in the EAA Chapter 113 Hangar.

Sponsored by the MANG Aero Club and EAA Chapter 113.

MAY, 18-20 - Pinch Hitter Course

Ann Arbor Municipal Airport (ARB) - Designed for the flying partners of pilots to be able to land safely in the event of an emergency.

Sponsored by the Michigan Chapter of the 99s. Call Rosemary Sieracki or Jennifer Phillips at 734-276-4181 or 734-419-3676. www.michigan99s.info.

2012 Club Officers & Appointees...

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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TOPS Flying Club ***(Troy Airport, KVLL)***

\$1,800.00 (security deposit and application fee) provides
you with a full individual membership.

Can be paid in our EASY payment plan at \$600 to join, \$100/month for 12 months.

24 hour Internet and telephone scheduling.

Indoor hangared planes with engine pre-heaters.

Pre-pay your flight time and save 10%!!

Cessna C172s: \$45 and \$55 per hour (before 10% discount!).

Cessna C182: \$85 per hour with Garmin 430 WAAS and autopilot

Cardinal C177RG: \$105 per hour with Garmin 430 WAAS and autopilot.

Low dues -- only \$65 per month which also covers your insurance.

Flight instructors are Club Members.

Seasonal Wash n Waxes, free BBQ's and

club meetings with training videos,

guest speakers, etc.

A great group of friendly people.

Contacts:

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TOPS FLYING CLUB
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
REVISED 03/08

LAST NAME _____ FIRST _____ MI _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ MARITAL STATUS M S SPOUSE'S NAME _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL _____ WORK _____

IN AN EMERGENCY PLEASE NOTIFY _____

PILOT CERTIFICATE TYPE _____ NUMBER _____ DATE ISSUED _____

MEDICAL CLASS _____ DATE ISSUED _____ ADDITIONAL RATINGS _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: SINGLE _____ FAMILY _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

MEMBER # _____

REFERRED BY: _____