



TROY OAKLAND PILOTS FLYING CLUB, Inc.

Oakland / Troy Airport, Troy MI. (VLL)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE... December 2013

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

2013 has been a year of accomplishment for TOPS. A big change occurred when N6508K moved into the 21st century with the addition of a Garmin 430W, adding both VFR and IFR utility. Several members added a high performance and/or complex rating flying N737LM. Matt Schepperly made a trip to Traverse City to add a commercial rating to his list of aviation accomplishments. We also had three members achieve one of the most exciting milestones – the Private Pilot certificate. Father and son, Kent and Nathan Grathwohl learned to fly together, while supporting and challenging each other throughout the training. Clark Johnson is also floating around the airport after earning his certificate. Sharing the accomplishments in the background is a dedicated group of club members who: maintain the airplanes; keep the bank accounts in the black, provide training; and all the other unseen activities that keep the club running smoothly. Thank you to all the dedicated members who made TOPS a great place to fly in 2013.

See you at the airport in 2014.

Dave



Operations Good Cheer

Submitted by TOPS member Robert Eger

N737LM, my daughter Sydney and I participated in Operation Good Cheer on Saturday December 7, 2013. This is my 4th successful trip on the first Saturday in December each year. Twice we have been shut out due to weather. (85M and 08K flown by Joe Hass and Dick Moy also participated this year.)

Operation Good Cheer has been delivering donated Christmas presents to foster children throughout Michigan since 1971. This year 5000 foster children will receive more than 15000 gifts. The goal is that the kids have a Christmas despite their circumstances. Yes, the gifts could be delivered in trucks or SUV's or even UPS but that is not why we fly.

On Tuesday December 3rd my cell phone rings and it is Jerry Drew, the now retired PTK air traffic controller. After a quick hello he asks that I land at KPTK at 1050 local time. This will be my first goal for Saturday morning which arrives with some frigid sunshine and a few snowflakes. However, the weather looks okay in most of the Enchanted Mitten and the forecast looks for improvement throughout the state.

After touching down at KPTK at exactly 1050 things get busy in a hurry. We are marshaled to the ramp and shut down. There are planes everywhere including a group of helicopters that will be flying together. Entering Barnstormer's we are instructed to check in with the Operation Good Cheer desk. They ask us to take a load to Big Rapids (KRQB). Alongside the check in desk is a weather station. I know that lake effect snow has been hanging around that area and I quickly see that weather at KRQB is getting worse not better. Back to the OGC desk I go and sure enough 3 other pilots have also opted to ask for another destination. Port Huron was now loading and they ask us to go to KPHN. The people working the OGC desk asked us to return to KPTK after our trip because they need 50 more planes that they need for later in the day. We then stop at the ATC desk. They quickly put us into the NA system. The weather is clear towards the east and we opt for VFR flight following. This ends up saving lots of ground time. ATC hands us a sheet with specific procedures and frequencies to monitor. A quick taxi to truck #1 and we literally stuff 7LM to visible capacity. The wrapped presents are extremely light so weight and balance was not an issue. Sydney has become an expert at squeezing every last gift into the plane. During our very long taxi we got to see the helicopters all take off at once as well as the landing of the Canadair Global Express that took a load to the UP.

Our arrival at KPHN was met by some very thankful volunteers who helped, but wouldn't touch the plane without my permission. Smiles were everywhere. After another quick flight back to KPTK and the Barnstormer's ramp we could quickly tell that there were far fewer planes than when we had left. We were met at the door by OGC volunteers who asked if we could take a

Operations Good Cheer

load to Gladwin (KGDW). A quick look at weather, another loading by Sydney and we were off. The volunteers at Gladwin welcomed us with hot chocolate and pizza after we unloaded the plane. These people really work hard for the children. During our return flight at 5500 we enjoyed a smooth ride and a tail wind pushing our ground speed to 171 knots.

We hope that that our efforts and the efforts of the countless volunteers make Christmas a little merrier for these children. I know that it has for this pilot and his daughter.



Operations Good Cheer

Southeastern Michigan Modelers Again Help Foster Care Residents

For the 42nd year Operations Good Cheer provided Christmas gifts for infants, children, teen and adults with disabilities who live in foster care in Michigan. After being “weathered out” with heavy snow and rain in 2012 aeromodelers were once again airborne in 2013 to fulfill the theme “Making Christmas Wishes Come True”.

Pilot Joe Hass and Co-Pilot Gary Weeks of the Pontiac Miniature Aircraft Club and also a private pilot removed the back seat from N9885M and then crammed 3 bikes, a tricycle and over 40 wrapped gifts for the trip from Oakland International Airport to Kalamazoo, MI. On landing in KZOO Gary and Joe were greeted by the bevy of enthusiastic Santa’s Helpers to unload the airplane and transport the gifts to waiting vehicles. In total 4,986 foster residents received almost 15,000 gifts.

Business jets took loads the greatest distances. Private aircraft travelled back and forth across the lower peninsula of Michigan helping Santa spread “Good Cheer”. The cold temperatures and lake effect snow didn’t slow down the energetic group. Other TOPS members including Dick Moy and Bob Eger flew missions too.

Co Pilot Gary Weeks’ wife Phyllis again worked on the ground crew at Pontiac. Gary said “We were able to fit so many gifts into the Skylane that Santa himself would be proud!”

Pictured is Co-Pilot Gary Weeks in the center and pilot Joe Hass on the right surrounded by enthusiastic “Santa Helpers” at the Kalamazoo, MI Airport.



Filling Stations

Coldwater – Branch County Memorial (OEB)

Prop Blast Café is a fairly new restaurant located in the FBO building at the Coldwater MI airport (KOEB) with Elite Air Service, just a few short steps away from the aircraft self serve fuel pumps. The Café is aviation themed, very cozy and comfortable. Free WIFI access is available throughout the building. The dining area overlooks the runways, taxiways and aircraft parking/fueling at the Coldwater Airport.

Prop Blast Cafe serves lunch and dinner 7 days a week from 11am to 8pm. We serve a great selection of hot or cold fresh deli style sandwiches, spinach, tomato and wheat wraps, prepared fresh daily homestyle soups, fresh made to order salads, and homestyle pizzas on fresh hand rolled dough.

All meals are prepared to order and we are happy to make it your way. Prop Blast Cafe serves whole foods with a focus on nutrition. Our meats are fresh and sliced daily. Fruits and vegetables are whole, fresh and sliced daily for the best flavor and nutrition. We purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables when available. You will find fresh romaine lettuce and baby spinach in our sandwiches and salads, no iceberg lettuce here.

All entrees are available for dine in or carry out. Carry out soups, salads, and sandwiches are generally ready in 2 to 3 minutes. Carry out pizzas will take about 12 minutes.

517-781-6000 <http://propblastcafe.com/>



From the Flight Surgeon

The FAA recently proposed routine screening for Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) in pilots. This is a condition where the person stops breathing multiple times during the night. The risk factors for the condition include short neck and obesity amongst others. OSA can contribute to medical conditions which may include heart attacks and possible sudden death at night.

The FAA's concern with this condition seems to be borne out of a NTSB study which links falling asleep while operating a motor vehicle. The incidents have been mostly motor carrier but have involved aircraft and Air Traffic Control as well.

While the concern over the disorder is valid and a laudable public safety/public health goal I have some concerns for the implications for the recreational pilot who is not flying for a living. If OSA is suspected the tests to confirm or rule out the disorder can be costly.

Our latest information seems to indicate that this initiative will likely be put on hold pending a NPRM or other further consideration. I think this is a good idea. The concept of screening for the disorder makes sense but the implementation I believe needs some further thought.

Questions? Please call or write. Fly safe!

Gregory Pinnell, MD

Senior AME/ Senior Flight Surgeon USAFR

www.airdocs.net

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:

**Dr. Scott Grant
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.

Local Events

Great Lakes Aviation Expo and Conference

Date: February 14, 2014 - February 15, 2014

Time: 08:00 AM - 05:00 PM

Location: Lansing Center, 333 E Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48933

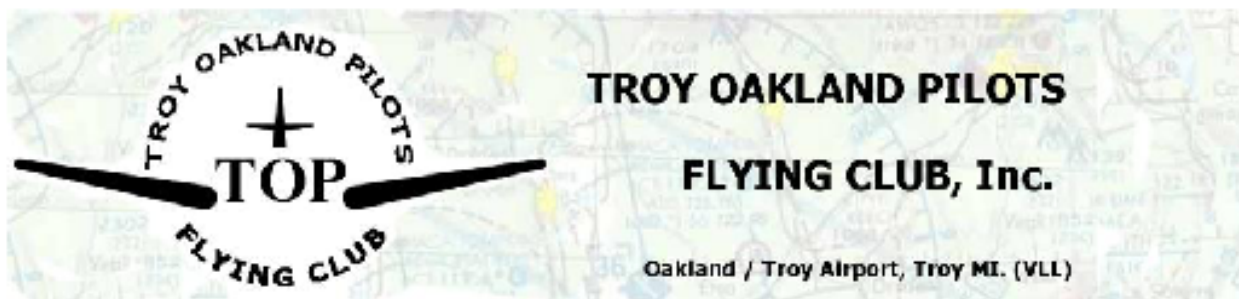
Two day Expo, Now at the Lansing Center in Downtown Lansing. Visit www.GreatLakesAviationConference.com for more information.

Here is a link to the e-Michigan Aviation Fall 2013 Publication:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/aero/Michigan_Aviation_Fall2013_438606_7.pdf

TOPS Website:

<http://troyoaklandpilots.org/>



- **\$1,800.00** (security deposit and application fee) gives you a full individual membership.
- **24 hour** Internet and telephone scheduling.
- **Indoor** hangared planes with engine pre-heaters.
- **Pre-pay** your flight time and save 10%!!
- **Cessna C172s**: IFR Certified!
- **Cessna C182** with a Garmin 430W and autopilot with altitude hold.
- **Cessna TR182** with Dual Garmin 430W, Strike Finder, TCAD, and autopilot w/ altitude preselect.
- **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 and guest speakers.
- **Great** group of friendly people!



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Date of Birth _____ Marital Status ☐ S ☐ Spouse's Name _____
 Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Work _____
 Email Address _____
 Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____
 Pilot Certificate Type _____ Number _____ Date Issued _____
 Total Hours _____ High Performance Hours _____ Complex Hours _____
 Medical Class _____ Date Issued _____ Additional Ratings _____
 Type of Membership: Single ☐ Family ☐ (Separate Application Required Per Member)

Have you ever:

Had an aircraft accident, incident, insurance claim, certificate suspension or revocation?
 No ☐ Yes ☐ If Yes, Please provide an explanation on a separate sheet.

Had an auto driver's license surrendered, suspended, or revoked?
 No ☐ Yes ☐ If Yes, Please provide an explanation on a separate sheet.

Been arrested for, or charged with operating a motor vehicle or aircraft under the influence of alcohol or drugs?
 No ☐ Yes ☐ If Yes, Please provide an explanation on a separate sheet.

Been convicted of, or pleaded guilty or no-contest, to a felony crime or misdemeanor other than a traffic violation?
 No ☐ Yes ☐ If Yes, Please provide an explanation on a separate sheet.

Had an insurance company cancel, decline to insure, or refuse to renew your aircraft coverage?
 No ☐ Yes ☐ If Yes, Please provide an explanation on a separate sheet.

Additional comments may be provided on a separate sheet.

Signature _____ Date _____

Referred By: _____ Member # _____

Office Use Only

TOPS # _____ SMID _____ SMPW _____