



# Newsletter

Summer 2001

## **Dr. Van's Corner:**

by Dr. David Van Nostrand

We are particularly pleased to have our speaker, Lyle Prouse, with us at this year's annual Hanger Banquet. It is very inspiring to have a man who has been through so much in his career come and speak to us about his trouble with "Demon Rum" and his career as an airline pilot. As an Aviation Medical Examiner and as a teacher of flight physiology, I am particularly pleased that he has made this come-back in spite of all the usual road blocks that his company and the FAA must have presented. It promises to be a very interesting evening.

On my last flight to Williston with Andy Anderson on May 18th, we counted up the number of times that 400CS, my Cessna 414, has made the trip. It has been 15 trips all told, including those made with Bob Murray. As this represents one of our longer flights, I think that is an interesting number and represents a considerable investment in the community. Everyone involved with our group: donors, pilots, nurses and staff should be proud of this effort.

There was a recent crash of a twin at St. Cloud. John Huls, a Wings of Mercy friend, was the pilot and we are all happy that he has survived and will recover quite well. We continue to send our prayers out to him and his family.

## **Executive Director's News:**

by Kate Ritzer

Great News!!!! George Maurer, a local St. Cloud jazz pianist, has agreed to increase the price of his holiday tickets by \$2.50 each. This \$2.50 from each ticket, will go directly to Wings of Mercy. The event will be marketed as Wings of Mercy and the Paramount Theatre sponsor George Maurer.

The Initiative Foundation has expressed an interest in Wings of Mercy. (The Initiative Foundation is a spin off of the McKnight Foundation.) We have been asked to submit a full proposal. Once submitted, it takes approximately 90 days to hear if we have been accepted for funding. This foundation funds innovative projects that identify and mobilize existing resources and involve local people in creative problem solving. Awards generally range from \$1,000 to \$25,000. The Parker Hughes Cancer Center, located in Roseville MN, has expressed an interest in partnering with Wings of Mercy to transport some of their patients. Each flight would be considered on a case by case basis.

# **Annual Hangar Banquet**

**Saturday, 6-23-01**

**American Wings Air Museum  
Anoka County Airport**

**Master of Ceremonies:  
Dan "Ox" Ochsner  
of 1450 KNSI Talk Radio**

**Speaker: Captain Lyle Prouse**

**Music by Union Lake**

**Social Hour 6PM  
Catered Dinner 7PM  
Speaker 8PM**

**Tickets \$35.00 each  
call 1-800-98-MERCY**

## **Safety Director's Notes:**

by Dave Johnson

In addition to passing on hints and tips on flying safety, I have had the sad duty of trying to learn something from the death of a close friend as a result of engine failure, and the embarrassment of reporting on the results of my own stupidity. Now I am visiting another mishap, this one literally close to home.

Just yesterday an aircraft went down at STC, a Beech Baron. The worst nightmare of a twin engine pilot was the cause -- engine failure on takeoff. The lone occupant of the aircraft is a local fellow, a very experienced aviator who has been a staunch supporter of Wings of Mercy. He is now recovering from the injuries he received, and I expect he will be flying again soon.

I happened to be the first at the scene - I live near the airport and heard it happen. As I approached the totally destroyed aircraft I could not imagine that anyone could have survived. He had, though, and with what I felt were surprisingly few injuries. Whether by plan or by good fortune, the aircraft had come down in a small but dense stand of trees. It appeared to me that the trees had absorbed much of the energy, and the aircraft had done its part by absorbing more in the process of being torn apart. One medium sized tree was embedded several feet into the right wing!

What transpired between the loss of power and the impact with the ground isn't the issue here. What is important is that we need to realize that dire emergencies don't always happen to someone else, somewhere else. It's time to look in the mirror and say, "It could happen to me."

There are times when you don't have time to think, just to react. Identify those crucial phases of flight, come up with some action that would be appropriate for your aircraft (your aircraft manual's "Emergencies" section is the place to start) and practice the motions that would be involved. Such a routine just might save your life sometime. It did for me, one night a long time ago.

## From the Flight Director's Desk:

by Glenn Young

Since our start in 1995, we have averaged 4 to 5 trips a month and that hasn't changed. Our peak month had 12 trips but for the year, the average held.

This March was slow but April and May have been busy.

This is the first time since we started that we have needed to cancel several trips a month due to weather. This winter and spring were not good for flying. Eric Benson made a trip to Rapid City May 21, and had to use his de-ice equipment all the way to Rapid City. It should be too warm for that.

We brought a baby from Children's Hospital to Bismarck, ND that required a ventilator and other equipment. That was a first for us. We had two nurses from the hospital go along. Wayne Kimber flew his Beech 36 along with Dwight Hackbarth as co pilot. The transfer went smoothly. We will bring another baby from Minneapolis to Fargo on the 25th of May. A nurse from the hospital will go along with this one also. It has been an interesting period with many different kinds of patients and destinations.

Date	Aircraft	Pilot	Patients/	From/
	Miles	Co-Pilot	Nurse/Companion	To
3/27/01	PA32	Gary Engler	Lady with liver	St Paul
		D. Hackbarth	transplant Ironwood, MI	386.
3/25/01	C414	Bob Murray	Baby, parents	Intl Falls
		Ken Raiber	(Brittle Bone)	Saginaw, MI
			East MI brought them to Montreal.	1120
3/28/01	BE36	Wayne Kimber	Baby, parents	Sault St Marie
		Fred Peterson	(Brittle Bone)	Intl Falls
			East MI brought them to Sault St Marie from Montreal.	1005
4/10/01	SR22	Michael Hinz	Lady with liver	So St Paul
		Coleman Rader	transplant Ironwood, MI	314.
4/17/01	PA27	Eric Benson	Man with head	So St Paul
		G Thoraldson	injury, brother in law.	Kankakee, IL
				678.
4/19/01	C414	Bob Murray	Young boy, mother,	Bismarck
		Dan Fish	brother Anoka Co.	662.
4/20/01	PA601P	Bill Hawkins	" "	Anoka Co
		Kevin Bismarck	660.	
4/25/01	BE36	Wayne Kimber	Baby	Anoka Co
		D. Hackbarth	2 hospital nurses	Bismarck
				886.
5/01/01	C414	Andy Anderson	Young boy, father,	Fargo
		Dr. VanNostrand	brother Anoka Co.	370.
5/02/01	C210	Rick Murray	Young boy, father	Flying Cloud
		G. Thoraldson	brother Fargo.	380.
5/04/01	SR22	Michael Hinz	Lady	So St Paul
		Chris Ross	Sister Devils Lake	626
5/13/01	C337	Michael DeBruzzi	Baby, parents	Intl Falls
		Tom Demaree	(Brittle Bone)	Pellston, MI
			West Mi brought them to Montreal.	959.
5/16/01	C414	Andy Anderson	Baby, Parents	Minneapolis
		D. Hackbarth	Intl Falls	460.

5/18/01 C414 Andy Anderson 13 yr old girl, Rochester  
Dr. VanNostrandMother Williston, ND 1073.

5/21/01 PA27 Eric Benson 13 yr old girl Rapid City  
G. Thoraldson no show So St Paul 876.