

UNITED FLYING OCTOGENARIANS

SQUAWK

UFO Member Newsletter ~ August 2021 ~

Editors Note: In as much as we have a new editor and in respect to our Gone West brother Bill Webber, the newsletter name SLIPSTREAM, is retired.

This publication is for you the members. Want to have a say in the content sent it to me. (brownie.ufo@gmail.com).

President's message

There Is Always Hope

There can be no doubt about it; these are trying times. Lately it seems that we—society in general and the UFO in particular—take two steps forward and then one step back. Heck, there are times when it's the reverse: one forward and two back! But there is hope.

There is also something each of us can do about it: we can roll up our sleeves and get the Covid019 shot. Also we can encourage our loved ones who for whatever reason have put off or simply refused being vaccinated to do so—right now. If everyone—and I do mean everyone—listened to reason and complied with the recommendations of the scientists, we could, in a short period of time, achieve population immunity. Then, perhaps, we could get on with our lives.

So here is the call to action: be a force for change; fight the good fight; and never give up hope.

Jim Cavender

President UFO International

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[Www.ufopilots.org](http://www.ufopilots.org)

Regional Reports: Region 0 IN MI OH

While we search for a manager for this region let 's remember who we are and what we stand for.

Charter

- 1. THE PURPOSE** is to promote longevity and safety in aviation; to represent the interests of senior pilots worldwide; to inspire youth to fly; and to promote fellowship among senior pilots.
- 2. MEMBERSHIP** is open to any pilot who has flown as Pilot in Command in any Class or Category of aircraft while in compliance with the legal requirements applicable in the nation issuing his/her flight authority, on or after reaching the age of eighty (80).
- 3. DUES** shall be specified by the Board of Directors. Payment is due annually, or to accompany an application for membership. Non-payment will result in lapse of membership.
- 4. THE LIABILITY** of each member shall be limited to the payment of annual dues.

Being a UFO is a badge of honor.

Wear it proudly



Regional Reports: Region 1 CT MA ME NH NJ NY RI VT

REPORTING FOR THE NORTHEAST REGION, UFO

Ten years ago, the United Flying Octogenarians was the best kept secret in General Aviation, but that is changing rapidly. In the last five years, the Northeast Region's annual Fly-In at the Danbury, CT airport has been covered twice by TV Channel 12 reaching nearly 3 million viewers in the tri-state area of NY, NJ, and CT.

Newspaper articles have become commonplace in the Region. A good example is this long article from the New Bedford Standard Times which was reproduced by the AOPA in their Aviation eBrief which goes to 385,000 pilots. The UFO is fast becoming a well-known organization of senior pilots.

History

On Nov. 2, 1982, eight pilots joined J.L. Robinson at a meeting to form the United Flying Octogenarians. At that time, a total of 31 pilots had mailed their \$20* membership fee and all 31 are considered our charter members. Five of them (J.L. Robertson, Harold Hoekstra, T. Jacks, Aubrey Stains and E.K. Bates) are signatories to UFO's first charter signed in November 1982.

John Miller, aviation pioneer, barnstormer, autogyro airmail pilot, US Navy test pilot, airline pilot, and UFO charter Member, served as President of the United Flying Octogenarians from 1989 to 2000. He was the author of countless articles and experiences of aviation interest. It was John who coined the phrase "from Jennies to Jets" the story of his life, a boy who bought a Jenny for \$2,000, taught himself to fly and became a commercial airline Captain flying DC-8's.

In 1988, the LA Times quoted one of the founding members, Fred Jacobs, saying that UFO had exceeded 100 dues paying members. By 2007, membership was being reported as over 600.

2011 saw membership take off when a proactive mailing program was instituted to contact all pilots 78 and older. In early 2021, UFO's membership stood over 1,600 pilots.

Region 2 DC DE MD PA VA WV

The UFO Mid Atlantic Region is sponsoring a UFO Event on Friday, August 20 at the Military Aviation Museum in Virginia Beach, VA. The meeting will be hosted by UFO member George Kickhofel, a resident of Virginia Beach and a volunteer at the Military Aviation Museum (MAM). Members, guests, spouses, and prospective members are welcome.

The Military Aviation Museum is home to one of the largest private collections of World War I and World War II era military aircraft in the world. Details about the Military Aviation Museum may be found at: <https://militaryaviationmuseum.org>

This event will include a lunch by Mission BBQ, a museum tour, a FAA Wings eligible program, and a discussion of UFO items of interest.

If you plan to attend, please contact George Kickhofel at Kickhofel@msn.com

You may also contact George at (757) 288-5469

Region 3 AL FL GA KY MS NC SC TN

Today, 26 June 2021 was a big day at the Brooks County Airport (4J5) in Quitman, GA. Jim Piche, Tallahassee, FL, a member of the Rose City Soaring Association in Quitman, and an active member of the UFO (United Flying Octogenarians) successfully completed his first solo flight in a glider. Here, Jim is shown after his solo flight, with his instructor, Joe Blandford, also of Tallahassee and also a member of both organizations. As a matter of interest, UFO membership consists of any pilot who has flown as Pilot-in-Command on or after his/her 80th birthday. Jim is 83 years old and Joe is 84, making their combined ages when flying dual in the Schweizer 2-33A glider at 167 years, probably a record of some sorts in the gliding community. For more information on the UFO, please visit ufopilots.org.



Congratulations, Jim, Well Done!!



I recently was contacted through a mutual friend by a gentleman desiring some mountain training before flying to Colorado. Although eastern Tennessee mountains are not as intimidating as those in Colorado can be, nevertheless they serve well for teaching some basic principles. Wanting to honor and compliment his desire to get training I agreed, so after a couple of hours of ground and about four hours of flight training in his CE-182 he went on his way. I believe he will be a better and safer pilot as a result. I just renewed my CFI for another two years.
Joe Hopkins Johnson City TN

Region 4 AR CO LA NM OK TX

The deep south has a problem that our northern brothers don't have. It's so hot and humid during June, July and August that we don't have any fly-ins. However, we do fly in the winter and several area airports even host a New Year Day celebration serving all of the typical Southern dishes. This year we saw over 30 airplanes and many drive-ins at the Ellerby Airport, just south of Shreveport, Louisiana, hosted by John Prince and family. Airplanes in attendance ranged from Piper Cubs, Crop Dusters, to light twins.

One event that continues year round is the Tuesday evening "Prayer Meeting" (We pray that we don't run out of beer) at Bluebird Hill Airport (5F5) from 5 to 7 PM. This event is hosted by Hugh and Clara Hunton and might see from 6 up to 30 people in attendance, mostly depending on the weather. Also, 5F5 is having their annual fly-in on October 30. Lunch is provided by the Shreveport Chapter 343 EAA and is a well attended event.

Let's hope that this is the final surge of COVID so we can get back to normalcy!

Hugh Hunton

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As far as South Texas: The Virus issues at restaurants and airports have prevented me from moving forward with a South Texas Fly-In (which is way over due).

Most airports are under the control of some Government agency. I have planned an event at KBAZ (New Braunfels). However, the City has their Mask Rules in a state of Flex. The airport manager supports us as soon as the City lets up on the mask requirements.

I have 89 UFO members on my South Texas email distribution list. They are ready to go as soon as the World gets back to what ever we used to know as "Normal."

John Larrison UFO South Texas Rep.

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Region 5 IA IL KS MN MO ND NE SD WI

MO/IA/KS UFO Aug 21 The flying events in the mailing are taken from a list sent periodically by "andya@diamondcity.net". More information is available in his distributions. If you send a request to him, he will add you to his mailings. I find them to be comprehensive lists of pilot interest events in the Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Kansas areas. He includes detailed information about each event. I summarize the data, place and contacts for the events. If anyone knows of a similar list in your general area, please let me know.

I am pleased that I am now the UFO Area Representative for Kansas, as well as, Missouri and Iowa. I was born in Hutchinson and resided in Kansas for 26 years. I taught music in Herndon, Minneola and Chase. My paternal grandparents lived in McPherson. Kansas UFO's don't be surprised to get a phone call from (417)709-3045 or an email from normlbeyer@gmail.com. Norm Beyer

Long range planning: Sept 17-18; Harrison AR - Boone County Airport (KHRO) 26th Annual Balloon Festival Festival. Sept 18; Garfield AR - Lost Bridge Village Airport (40AR) 11:00 am - 2:00 pm; BBQ and Music Sept 29 - Oct 3 - Cass, AR - Byrd's Adventure Center (51AR) see ArkanSTOL.com; for ever emerging details! ((I viewed this sight recently and they had some amazing STOL demonstrations!!)) Oct 22-24; Gassville AR 72635 "11th Annual Roller Fly-in

Region 6 AK ID MT OR WA WY

No report from AK, ID, MT OR, or WY.

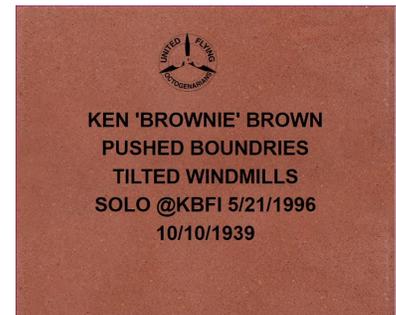


ID Here's a picture of the award I was to have received on March 24, 2020 at the Lewiston, Idaho EAA. Covid interfered, however, and the event didn't happen. The Spokane FSDO finally mailed it to me. Perhaps there will be an official presentation at a later date. Carleton B. "Barney" Waldrop Clarkston, WA

Great accomplishment and congratulations Barney from all of us in the Northwest Region.

WA Washington Area Rep Report.

As Washington continues to fight the Covid-19 Virus and especially the new variant D strain, meetings are slow to develop. It is better to be safe than to rush headlong into potential problem. Just like flying, do the weight & balance of all the options.



Locally at W28 Sequim (skwim) Valley Airport the local EAA 430 chapter has a fund raising event for providing scholarships to aviation college students. The chapter is selling bricks for their "Pave the Way to the Future" recognition plaza. This is my brick. Don't miss an opportunity to be promote the UFO's. Wear it as a badge of honor, because you are very special.

Friday Harbor WA. (KFHR) We are glad to report that our first airport terminal is alive and well. It was constructed by Roy Franklin 61 years ago as he developed Friday Harbor airport and the first scheduled air service for the San Juan Islands. Five months ago, it was threatened by replacement by an 80 X 60 hangar, but that fate was put to rest when it became apparent that FAA requirements would not permit the hangar to be so close to the taxiway and runway. The building has been updated and now houses the Ernest K. Gann Pilot Center, the Roy Franklin Aviation Museum, and Ernie's Cafe. Together, they will again become an attractive fly-in destination for pilots from the Pacific Northwest and beyond. This event has been cancelled due to increases in Covid-19 variant. John Geyman, UFO member for 10 years

Idaho and Wyoming both need an area representative. If interested contact [Brownie](#)

Region 7 AZ CA HI NV UT

No reports from HI, NV or UT

CALIFORNIA MEMBERS Region 7!

We need your help. If you like attending UFO Get-Togethers, **DO THIS!**

1. Pick an airport with food available that you can fly or drive to .
2. Look through your UFO Directory of friends that you may or may not have met yet.
3. Call several and invite them to meet you for coffee or a meal.

It is that simple.!

You will enjoy the conversation. I always have.

As your Area Representative for California ,
I have been organizing meetings in California for the last nine years.

San Diego members contact. Ron Shipley for Get Together information.

We need more get-togethers and I need your help. . I am very able to help you with my iPad and telephone , but have no transportation. This is where you can help....you youngsters in your eighties. I do not travel anymore but you can!

Arrange to meet other members at an airport of your choice.
Four or five pilot members are a good start but the more ,the merrier.
Better yet , plan to meet monthly or weekly.

You know you like to fly to an event...so create one!

There are two Get Togethers scheduled in October . One is in Redding October 6 and the other at Santa Maria Airport (KSMX) October14. . See the website for details : [www. ufopilots.org](http://www.ufopilots.org)
The rest is up to YOU!

The cancelled meeting was due to multiple fires, intense smoke and will be postponed til conditions improve.

Annette Orton , United Flying Octogenarians Area Representative for North and Central CA
UFO Board of Directors AOL99pilot@gmail.com Mobile # 208-290-3618

Here in Arizona, we are “returning to normal” slowly. But signs of “normal” seem to be more present.

Our last “gathering” of UFO members was in March of 2020. No one has expressed interest in attending anything since then.

In Arizona we usually do not schedule events in the summer months of June, July, or August due to the high temperatures.

My next “gathering” will be in September of this year. Location, time and details to be sent out about one month before.

Howard Deevers area rep deeversjones@msn.com 520-241-3382

Region 7 AZ CA HI NV UT

No reports from HI, NV or UT

I am new at being the Area Rep for southern California so please bear with me.

After a long dry spell due to various things, including the infamous Covid-19, a small group of the Southern California UFO's met at the restaurant Casa Machado on Montgomery Field (KMYF). We had a "gathering" rather than a "meeting". The purpose was, of course, to reacquaint with each other rather than have a formal meeting with a guest speaker. We'll consider that for the next time, which will probably be in January. Several of the attendee's were future UFO members who have not reached the ripe young age of 80. The food was good but the stories were better. Even the new Area Rep for Northern California, Merrill Eastcott, flew down fro Camarillo to show his support.

Ron Shipley

Southern California Rep

(619) 857-5201



New Members and Bio's



Benjamin V May Aviation Biography

Always driven to defy natural laws, Benjamin May took up flying over 60 years ago. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he earned his degrees in economics, as well as a minor in psychology. He later attended NC State and earned a degree in Aerospace Technology. His fascination with airplane engineering led him to discover his passion for mathematics and mathematical logic, to which he has since dedicated much of his life.

Benny's first and favorite airplane was a Tri Pacer N8903D, which he flew to New York, Nassau, and Fort Lauderdale, among many other locations. Since this beloved plane, he has owned two Beechcraft Bonanzas. His most recent Bonanza is a 1961 N Model N345PM, decked out with GNS530, and KFC200 Autopilot, which he keeps in impeccable condition and flies regularly from his home in Virginia to his beach house in North Carolina. Perhaps the most interesting flying machine Benny piloted, was

a gyrocopter that he flew around Flagler Beach, Florida in the 80s.

Benny has embarked on a series of thrilling trips throughout his flying career, including a 2 month trip across the country in 1964. On this trip, he took his first Bonanza, N1363Z, started on the east coast, flew to Atlanta, Georgia, then to Muscle Shoals, Alabama. He stayed in the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver, Colorado, then flew to Eagle airport in Vail where he picked up several adventure-seeking ski instructors who he then giddily escorted over Death Valley. They ended in San Francisco before making their way back through Matamoros Mexico, then Vail, Dallas, Atlanta, and finally back

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Regrets:

Only A high-time commercial, multi-engine, instrument rated pilot and Flight Instructor reveals the agony and the ecstasy that resulted from of a moment's worth of poor judgment.

While flying back to the airport from a wonderful aerobatic flight, I was approaching from a direction that I rarely approach from. I was approximately 1,000 feet AGL slowing the aircraft in preparation to join crosswind for landing. As I neared the centerline of the runway, I made a decision that I immediately regretted. I lowered my nose and dived towards the runway. At approximately 250 feet AGL, I conducted a low approach down the runway. At the end of the runway, I did a barrel roll, entering and exiting the maneuver at approximately 500 feet AGL. Maybe five seconds passed between the thought occurring and me completing the maneuver. I then departed the pattern and reentered for landing.

This was an impulsive and completely stupid decision, and while it resulted in no incident and was in a very remote area posing no danger to anyone, it was a deviation from my regular flying practices that I can only conclude was ego and impulse driven. I greatly regret my actions. And I greatly regret my lack of restraint and professionalism.

I have decided, in an attempt to retrain myself, to consult with regulation and aerobatic professionals to learn and retain as much regulation [knowledge] associated with aerobatic and low-level flight as possible and to not conduct any further solo aerobatics until I have completed a refresher course specifically for safe aerobatic maneuvers. I am also taking time to refresh my mindset and to acknowledge and stop impulsive and unsafe thought from entering my cockpit in any stage of flight.

Gone West.. Final flight plan filed and completed

Walter J. McFadden, Amelia Island FL, passed away 20 January 2021 at age 96.

Eliot Potter, Topeka Kansas, passed away on April 2021 at age 99,

Donald Walls, Port Ludlow WA, passed away 2 June 2021 at age 85

Alvin P. Lehnert, Darlington Maryland, passed away 1 July 2021 at age of 92.

