



CONTACT

Publication of Pilots for Christ, Int'l

September 2011

August 2011 ...A Month to Remember!

By Steve Barbour

After a year of planning, stressing, strategy, and more planning, the Annual Pilots for Christ Convention assembled in Gillette, Wyoming..... Yes, there is truly such a place on the map! The NE corner 'Wing' of Wyoming PCI Chapter was honored to host this year's convention. Along with the convention, the Wyoming Pilots Association also held a conference for pilots and mechanics. Sadly, this conference was lacking in attendees, but vendors and hourly seminars added to the event for everyone's benefit.

It was a blessing indeed, for the members of the Wyoming Chapter to meet and put a face to all those we have interacted with "long distance" during the past five years. Did we get to know each other?.....

I think we all felt like one big family; visiting, sharing experiences relative to what each chapter, collectively, was doing across the nation. Wow!so many individuals and families that we have been able to minister to, by the giving nature of PCI's volunteer pilot and non-pilot members.

After meetings and fellowship on Friday, the evening guest speaker was James V. (Mac) McElhiney, a WWII Navy "night fighter" pilot. Mac went into the service at age 17 and retired from the Navy after the Vietnam conflict. His presentation on nearly 25 different military aircraft he had flown during his service to the United



Incoming President Tim Layne, Outgoing President Lee DeArmond and Wyoming Chapter President and convention host Steve Barbour

States of America was colorful and enlightening. This presentation started with a Taylorcraft and ended with the F4 Phantom. His favorite aircraft of all time was the Corsair, although his stories included many memorable events in each plane.

Saturday's agenda included chapter reports in the morning and an afternoon round table discussion teleconference with representatives from chapters unable to attend the convention. The round table discussion was lead by our outgoing PCI President, Lee DeArmond, with introductions of the new President, Tim Layne. We thank Lee for his years of dedication and leadership, and welcome Tim with his vision for the future of PCI.

Many of the members were able to take air tours by three of the local membership to surrounding sites of the Wyoming landscape. Our Keynote speaker was included in the tour group, and I believe all were flying high having enjoyed the time in the air, as tourists!

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Board of Directors

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President's Column

We had a wonderful convention in Gillette, Wyoming in August. I want to express my sincere thanks again to Steve Barbour and all his members for hosting us. The Board of Directors held its annual meeting, as is our custom, and recommended a new slate of officers to lead Pilots for Christ. The membership in attendance at the convention voted to approve the new officers. You can see the full list of officers on the front page of the newsletter.

Just as God led me to step up to take over the organization six years ago I felt His leading to step down this year. Serving Pilots for Christ as president has been one of the most satisfying chapters in my life. On the one hand it has been a heavy burden to hear from hurting people around the country who are desperate for help and many without hope. On the other hand it has been a marvelous joy to see God move insurmountable obstacles and provide a path forward. It has been an honor to work with so many dedicated Christians who live out the Great Commission day in and day out by being the hands and feet of Christ.

I believe God has even greater things in store for us. I know Tim Layne will be a strong leader to move us forward as an organization. Tim and Lori have such a strong love for the Lord and are committed to sharing His good news. Please pray that God will best and prosper Tim's leadership.

My sincere thanks again to each of you who give so much to make Pilots for Christ the wonderful ministry that it is.

God Bless,
Lee DeArmond

***1 Peter 3:15b** Always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.*

Reminders

It is with great sadness that we learned that new North Dakota member Addie Mathison passed away. Addie and her husband Lu worked for years in Africa for Our Lord. Please be in prayer for the family and the forming North Dakota Chapter.

We are looking for Regional Directors. If you are interested in doing more for the organization outside your current commitment, consider this opportunity. For more information contact Tim Layne.

Please check your membership expiration date. You will find the date on the newsletter mailing label. An application for joining/renewing your membership can be found on our website at: www.PilotsforChrist.org/joining

Members, check out the on line scheduling service at: www.shiftboard.com/pilotsforchrist/. If you have not been emailed an ID and password contact Lori Layne at: pilotsforchrist@pilotsforchristmi.com

If you would like to receive the newsletter via email please contact Lori Layne.

It is with Godly reverence and great respect for all the members of Pilots for Christ, International that I accept the responsibility, of president, for operating this dedicated organization. I want to first thank, Mr. Lee DeArmond for his faithful service, and leadership, over the past (6) years, as our PCI president, and I will certainly continue to seek his counsel and advise, as he continues to be a voting member of the Board of Directors. I know that the work he has done is immeasurable and he will be missed. I ask that your prayers be continuous, in asking Our Lord, to provide me with wisdom, strength, and understanding, as we together move ahead with His will.

I also want to personally thank all the current Board of Directors, both those that continue to serve, in this important capacity, and those who were recently elected to serve. With their help and assistance, we will move forward to spread the Gospel and transport individuals in need, throughout this great country and Lord willing, beyond our National borders. Please look for opportunities to serve within PCI that will present themselves in the future. With the addition of ground transportation to our National Mission Statement, we have truly become "Our Lord's Force" in transportation throughout the United States.

There are many challenges facing Pilots for Christ, as the economy, regulations, and increased mission requests impact us on a daily basis. I know that with God's help and guidance, we need not concern ourselves with worry, as long as we trust in Jesus and work each day according to His will. As Lee and I transition the PCI presidency, I will begin to focus on continuing to grow the membership of PCI and seek new funding for our special air show events. I plan to publish the Newsletter, continue to work as the National Flight Coordinator, (for the time being), and most of all, work hard to continue communicating our mission, challenges and organizational results to all our current and new members.

With my last, but certainly, not least comments, I want to personally thank Lori, my wonderful wife, for her outstanding support, encouragement, and help, with the Michigan Chapter, National Flight coordinating and just being there when I needed her. With (6) children and (13) grandchildren we (she), can at times have her hands full. She always does it with a smile and gladness in her heart!

My favorite verse:

***Proverbs 3:5-6** "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths."*

Thank you Michigan Chapter and Thank You all members of Pilots for Christ, International

Tim Layne

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**Keynote speaker
Jessica Cox**

Jessica Cox, a young motivational speaker; born without arms, wears a black belt in Tae Kwon Do, and obtained her private pilot certificate, rounded out our Saturday features as our banquet Keynote speaker. We were blessed to have a huge attendance and conference attendees and the public at large enjoyed Jessica's motivational presentation.

Not only was she inspirational but her down to earth demeanor made visiting and interacting a pleasurable and memorable time. How do you shake hands with someone without arms? Both lift your right foot, and give each other a low five. I found out a simple hug sufficed also. Thank you, Jessica for your Inspiration!

Sunday morning found those of us up early, attending the Cowboy Church Service with Elgin Fabor, a local pilot-Pastor. Being a pilot, Elgin easily related to the service Pilots for Christ provides to those in need. Sunday afternoon was spent seeing everyone off and realizing the event is not over, but only starting a new season. We will see everyone in Virginia next year!



**Attendees were treated to a close up aerial view of
Devil's Tower**

Chaplain's Corner: Haven of Rest

by Dan Verner

On August 23 of this year, Virginia was stuck by a 5.8 magnitude earthquake centered in Mineral, Virginia, about 90 miles southwest of Washington D.C. Earthquakes of any kind are rare in the area, so it occasioned quite a reaction. It was felt strongly in much of central Virginia and southern Maryland and noted throughout the eastern US from central Georgia to central Maine and west to Detroit, Michigan and Chicago, Illinois, as well as in many parts of southeastern Canada from Montreal to Windsor. Widespread damage occurred from central Virginia to southern Maryland including the Washington D.C. area, including catastrophic damage to local schools near the epicenter and significant damage to the Washington Cathedral in NW Washington, DC.

There is some debate about the safest place to be in an earthquake (besides space). An earthquake engineer (someone who engineers earthquakes?) had this opinion:

The best place is wherever you can get temporary cover from falling objects, and then get out of the structure into an open area where there's nothing overhead. When we engineers perform earthquake reconnaissance missions to study damage effects from earthquakes, rescue/recovery teams we work with often find most of the dead bodies under desks, tables, chairs, etc. The lesson to be learned: a desk or table won't protect you from a collapsing ceiling or wall.

A couple of people opined that the best place to be was in the air, although some voted for hot air balloons over aircraft since runways might be damaged during a 'quake. My vote, though, is for an airplane. Some of this might come from watching too many apocalyptic movies in which an airplane takes off just ahead of an earthquake, flood, fire or attack by aliens. *Independence Day* showed Air Force One outrunning a shock wave and fire from a huge explosion... Right. There's a spiritual side to all these considerations. One is that God is constant in the way the universe is set up. I personally do not think God sends earthquakes and other natural disasters to punish people (I know some would disagree); they are natural occurrences in our fallen world. The same conditions and forces that produce earthquakes are as reliable in their nature as conditions and forces that enable us to fly: we have air at certain pressure to move through, and we have the forces of lift, thrust, drag and weight to enable controlled flight. Forces like Bernoulli's Principle are part of God's design for the universe.

Secondly, true safety is never to be found in the creations of humankind, but in the care of the Father. Whether we are earthbound during a disaster or flying high above it, or in our ordinary daily walk, we believers are held safe and secure in the arms of God. Praise God for His mighty power and care for the people of God! Amen.

Chapter Reports

Alabama Chapter

By Tommy Lee

God continues to bless Pilots for Christ in Monroeville, Alabama as we strive to help those brothers and sisters who are ill, and in need of air transportation. Since our last report, we have flown as far away as Orlando, FL; Houston, TX; Raleigh, NC; and Wausau, WI. Most of our mission trips are for those in need of specialized cancer treatment to MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston as we realize that cancer remains the disease many people are battling today.

Our Chaplain, Fred Kelley and his wife, Janet, recently attended the PCI Convention in Gillette, WY, and thoroughly enjoyed fellowship with other chapters in attendance. Fred accompanies us on many of our trips, and not only does he have a powerful testimony, but he also possesses wonderful gifts from God such as a great sense of humor and a peaceful spirit that always helps to put everyone at ease during flights.

Please join us in prayer concerning Fred as he is in need of a heart transplant. Although his physical heart is weak



Pictured left to right are Iris Prosch, Chaplain Fred Kelley, and Amy Hagler

and worn, his spiritual heart is strong and healthy, and we pray that God will grant this transplant soon so that Fred can continue to help our chapter to serve others.

May we all make every effort to be "strong and healthy" of heart as we seek God to carry on His will for Pilots for Christ!

Arkansas Chapter

By Lance Winn

I stand amazed at how God continues to use Arkansas Pilot for Christ to touch the lives of individuals and families. As of this writing APFC has taken part in 22 missions this year with one more on the schedule. As President, I am truly blessed with the privilege to work with some wonderful people who give of themselves day after day to do the work of this ministry. It is an exciting time for APFC as well as PCI and I can't wait to see what God is going to do next!

On September 6th APFC pilot Dr. Barry Hendrix transported Elizabeth Williams and two of her daughters from Springfield, IL to Memphis, TN. We had previously transported Elizabeth and her children to Springfield so she could arrange health care for her father who is suffering from kidney failure.

On September 9th APFC pilot Charles Pool transported 19 year old Michael Hill from Cherokee Villiage, AR to Texarkana, AR where East Texas President and pilot Richard Yazell met us and took him on to Temple, TX. Michael needed transportation to Temple to help care for his terminally ill Grandmother who will soon leave this life for the next one. Michael plans to stay with his Nanny until the Lord calls her home.

On August 15th APFC pilot Steve Smith transported Christopher Felix and his mother to Memphis, TN where Christopher was to undergo treatment at St. Jude for leukemia. This mission was a joint effort of the Michigan and Arkansas chapters of PCI. The Michigan chapter transported Christopher from Pontiac, MI to French Lick, IN where APFC met them to continue the 2nd leg from French Lick to Memphis, TN.



Dr. Barry Hendrix & Elizabeth Williams



Pilot Charles Pool with Michael Hill



Christopher Felix (center) with Mom & Steve Smith

Minnesota Chapter

By Paul Pankratz

What a blessing it was to represent Pilots for Christ as an official exhibitor at the 2011 EAA AirVenture fly in and convention in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Our booth, which was located in one of the four main exhibit halls, was well staffed by members from the Minnesota and Michigan Chapters. A professional 10'W x 8'H display module tastefully projected the Pilots for Christ image in a well lit 3 dimensional manner and the front table remained stocked at all times with many types of give away items.

The odyssey leading to Oshkosh, began with Jeff Christina, PCI-MN Treasurer and Neale Thompson, PCI-MN Vice President and Chaplin, driving from Northfield, Minnesota on Saturday July 23rd in Jeff's loaded down Chevy Suburban pulling a 19 foot camper, the use of which was donated by Steve Olson. God was truly watching over the Minnesota team by giving us Jeff to do the driving. Jeff makes his living as an over-the-road big rig hauler and his skill was put to the test in that during the portion of the trip from Northfield, MN to just south of La Crosse, Wisconsin, Neale and Jeff drove through the worst storm seen in that territory in a long time.

I had flown into Green Bay, Wisconsin on Saturday and met Jeff and Neale Sunday afternoon which was the EAA officially orchestrated "set up" day. The three of us had the booth fully assembled and functional in 60 minutes and by the 61st minute we had signed up our first new member...another exhibitor who felt compelled to stop by to see what Pilots for Christ was all about and then plunked down \$35 to join.

Foot traffic through exhibit Building D on opening day (Monday) was heady. The PCI-MN team made it a habit to keep track of the head count and other vital statistics for planning future events.

We were blessed to have Tim and Lori Layne help in staffing the booth. Tim and Lori flew in from Michigan to Green Bay on Thursday afternoon. It was an incredible encouragement to watch Tim and Lori click into action so enthusiastically upon their arrival at the booth on Friday. Their service over Friday and Saturday was tremendous and their witness for Christ was inspiring. It was difficult to get them to take a break during their days at the booth so passionate were they for the Lord and for the Pilots for Christ mission. Lori and Tim brought with them from Michigan many give away items for the booth, several of the items were hand made at their own expense.

The Arkansas chapter graciously provided a box of 65 New Testaments and aided this endeavor with a much appreciated cash donation to help defray expenses. Headquarters also donated cash to help this effort along.

One lesson learned was that the pocket sized Gospel of John was a big hit with show attendees. All 75 copies were gone halfway through the second day. We could easily have given out 100 per day.

By the time Sunday rolled around the PCI-MN team was tired but remained enthusiastic even celebrating Neale Thompson's 72nd birthday with a surprise cake at the booth. PCI member Joe Cappurcini and son found the booth that afternoon and joined in the festivities.

The Sunday crowds were light and that made it all the more interesting to witness the flurry of activity that began around 4:00pm as exhibitors began packing up and the display aircraft began being towed away. The entire grounds was abuzz with fork trucks, dollies, wheel burrows and foot traffic all like busy ants deserting their nest.

There was a little irony the next day, Monday August 1st as we all traveled back home from Oshkosh to the twin cities. Neale and Jeff driving over the road beat me home in about 6 hours while I had to land along the way at Eau Claire, Wisconsin (KEAU) to sit out massive thunderstorms blocking the way to the west. The flight from Green Bay to home base Airlake (KLVN) usually takes 2 hours and 14 minutes. I had company in the FBO which hosted 6 other weary AirVenture show goers who were each trying to wing their way back home. About 7:00pm the sky cleared enough to be safe and we all departed together heading west each peeling off to his/her own destination.

The PCI-MN booth crew Neale, Jeff and I wish to acknowledge and send along special thanks to the following, without whom the event would not have been a success. Special thanks to:

- Lance Winn and the Arkansas Chapter for their generous \$500 contribution and donation of 65 New Testaments.
- National Headquarters for their support and \$200 contribution.
- Tim and Lori Layne for their time and talent in helping staff the booth and for the many giveaway items they produced and brought with them on behalf of the Michigan chapter.
- Steve Olson for loaning the use of his brand new 19 foot camper trailer and for arranging through his employer the use of the professional display.
- Merrill Jorgenson for managing the printing of giveaway materials for the booth.
- My brother Mike and sister-in-law Sue for their gracious hospitality and for the free use of a vehicle and free accommodations for the entire week.
- Again my sister-in-law Sue for helping staff the booth on opening day and for the behind-the-scenes acquisition of many miscellaneous but important items for the booth.

Michigan Chapter

By Tim Layne

God has been good to the Michigan Chapter. We have been busy with several missions including taking Anne with MS to Pittsburg. Anne was a wonderful blessing for our Chapter as she took her second trip with the Michigan Chapter. This trip she was taken to Pittsburg while pilots Denny Wass and Tim Layne waited for several hours while Anne received a new treatment for her MS. On the trip there, Anne was not very engaged and looked to be in pain. On the way back, the change in her was miraculous! She was visiting and speaking clearly. She was full of life! Thank you Jesus, You are Great!

New pilot, Mike Eriksen, took a young boy to meet up with the Arkansas Chapter for a pony express run to French Lick Indiana. This was his first experience with Pilots for Christ and he was exuberant. Both he and his wife are pilots and they took the trip together. They made the same trip two days later to return the young boy and his mother home to Michigan. Praise Jesus for this addition to the Michigan Chapter.

Lori Layne was able to obtain knitted/crocheted mega animals to give to children during flights. The artist, Christine, was so impressed with Pilots for Christ and our service that she sent out 25 animals and paid for the postage. Here is a little information on her: "I have been crocheting for about 23 years and writing my own patterns for about 18 years. I am tired of the corporate rat race and looking to start a new career doing what I love...crochet. I wrote my first book "Huggable Crochet", which was just released by Krause Publications in July 2011. It contains patterns for 20 hug-sized animals from around the world. I am now working on what I hope will be my second book." She was great to work with and we feel blessed to have made this connection.

We assisted the Minnesota Chapter at Oshkosh this year and had a great time meeting the Minnesota group in person for the first time. We made wonderful connections and talked to many people as we discussed our love of flight and our love of the Lord. What a great way to spend a day. Lastly, we had a wonderful time and made new friends in the great state of Wyoming.

The Convention this year was wonderful as we did much planning, site seeing and eating lots of good food. The speakers were inspirational and gave us a great kick start to working even harder to bring Glory to God. We are excited for Tim Layne as he is taking on the new position as President of Pilots for Christ, International! We ask for your prayers as he works to fulfill God's will for his life. God is GREAT!

Washington Chapter

By Merryam Townsend

August 6th Tom Maxwell and Jim Tracy were the pilots for ten scenic flights for a fundraising event (FAR 91.146) for Walk in the Light International. This ministry began in 2008 to provide child sponsorships in Africa. It is amazing that the price of one cup of your favorite coffee drink can provide a daily meal for a village child at school which the ministry built. Children's attendance at school would vary according to the season of available food in the village.

Camp to Belong and REACH Camp were the recipients of flights flown by our pilots Tom Tracy and Jim Tracy. Tom flew counselors Alyssa and Elena from Moses Lake, WA to Tacoma Narrows Airport, WA Friday, Aug. 12th, for Camp to Belong. On Sunday the 14th Tom flew back across the state to pick up camper, Skye, in Chewelah, WA. This is Skye's third year of flying with us making it possible for him to attend Camp to Belong plus he has been able to spend one or two nights with his brothers at their home before the three boys attend the week. Jim Tracy made one trip across the state to return the counselors and Skye after camp on Aug 20th. It is a joy for our chapter to be a participant in reuniting foster siblings for a week of activities that promotes relationships with each other in a loving Godly environment.

For REACH Camp we purchased two commercial flights for mom and her youngest child to attend camp with her

four other children who were flown to Arlington, WA by Angel Flight from Boise, Idaho. If mom wasn't able to attend camp neither would any of the children because of their young ages. Tom Tracy had a busy weekend flying down to Medford, Oregon on Sept 2nd plus the return on Sept 5th for camper, Misty, to attend her weekend experience at REACH Camp.

On Sept 3rd our chapter had a booth at the annual Bremerton Blackberry Festival Fly In. This year we were unable to offer free scenic flights but the booth provided plenty of balsa wood airplanes to children along with bags filled with brochures, writing tablets and tracts to the adults. Our volunteers manning the booth were Tony Stanley, Steve & Merryam Townsend, Tom Tracy, John & Louise Winter.



Skye and Pilot Tom Tracy

Jim Tracy and "Walk in the Light" passengers

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Acknowledgments

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Andrew Chappell	Mark Dodge	Stanley Earle	Elizabeth Fuller
Elaine Golden	Robert and Shirley Harrison	Faye Howard	Janet Jensen
John Kerley	Margaret Lewis	Ellie Marshall	PCI Store
Ralph and Molly Powell	Patsy Quinones	James Shaffer	Chester Smith
Mary Staggs	Dan and Becky Verner	Ellen Voie	Mettie Wallace
Bettie Williams	Teddy Williams		

Pilots for Christ welcomes our new members who have joined since June 2011:

Ben Armen - PA	Artie Banko - ND	John Earnshaw - WY	Michael Eriksen - MI
Jeremy Folden - AR	Barry Hendrix - AR	Michael Hensley - KY	William Julius - NY
Lu Mathison - ND	Roger Oedekoven - WY	James Plakis- NY	J.T. Rice - ND
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