



August, 2003

Newsletter of the Worcester Area Pilots Association

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2003 Event Schedule

WAPA Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month 6:30 pm at the American Legion Hall, 570 Mill Street, Worcester. The schedule for the 2nd half 2003 follows:

- ◆ **September 4th** – Young Eagles Planning, Business Mtg
- ◆ **October 2nd** – Safety Seminar
- ◆ **October 10th-11th** – WPI Worcester Fly-In
- ◆ **November 6th** – WAPA Meeting - TBD
- ◆ **December 4th** – Safety Seminar

If you would be able to bring a pot-luck dish to one of the WAPA meetings, please e-mail feedback@worcestera.org, or call George Clark at 508 852-8023.

WPI is planning a Fly-In at ORH on Oct. 10th and 11th. They will be looking for area pilots to show off their aircraft, and assist with the festivities. More information on the web.

2002-2003 WAPA Outreach Report

Jack Kvalita

Our first year of outreach activities has been both a success and learning process. We have conducted activities in two Worcester Schools, North High and Nelson Place.

At North High we worked with a specific science class taught by Mr. Mike Haddad. Following his 3 week lesson on flight we brought 12 students up to Amity Flight School and gave them a practical overview of how GA is conducted. The program broke down into four segments: Weather, Maintenance, Simulator, and Aircraft familiarization. All Students were invited back to participate in an actual Flight Experience under the auspices of EAA Young Eagles Program. Two Students availed themselves of this offer.

At Nelson Place we were contacted by Ms. Sandra Gass and were invited to present a panel to discuss GA with approximately eighty 5th and 6th graders. The students had been previously visited by an Airline Captain and a Military Pilot both talking of their respective flight experiences and careers. Marc Catanese, Dominic Scalera, and I spoke on Maintenance, Flight instruction, Charter Operations, Pleasure Flying, and Model airplanes. There were many questions and all were invited to our upcoming Youth Aviation Day.

As I said in the beginning this was also a learning experience. Talking and listening to these young people we found many feared GA due to misinformation but the wonder and curiosity of flight was evident in even the most timid. The misconceptions and lack of knowledge within the general population is immense, however, I believe the time and effort WAPA invests in outreach programs will not only fuel the passion of future pilots but will help promote understanding and tolerance in the general public.

Youth Aviation Day, Saturday, May 3, Southbridge Airport

Chris Hallinan

As Saturday, May 3rd approached, we all watched the weather pretty closely. There was a frontal boundary stretching from the mid-plains states eastward over New York and Southern Net England, spawning numerous disturbances during the week prior to our scheduled Youth Aviation Day at Southbridge airport. The system produced numerous cold and warm front passages over our local area for several days prior to Saturday.

The weather briefer's were calling for Northeast winds gusting over 20 knots, with winds aloft at 3000 feet in the high thirties. Worcester ATIS was calling 6000 broken, but I had to stay below 2,500 feet from Hanscom Field at 8:30 Saturday morning to stay below a broken ceiling at that level. It looked like a lousy weather day to take eager kids on their first airplane ride.

As the day unfolded, it became apparent that nothing could have been further from the truth. The morning started out cloudy and cool, with the forecast northeast wind blowing straight down runway 02 in Southbridge. Shortly after 9am, a few kids were actually gathered ready for their first ride. Andrea Pastick and her son Alex from Auburn were among the first to arrive. They had read about the event in the Worcester T&G. Andrea was just a little hesitant, but not Alex. When the ride was over, Alex, like all the other kids who went flying, was grinning from ear to ear.

Later in the morning, a large group of boys started to crowd the registration desk. The boys were from Valley View Private Boys School in N. Brookfield. They, too, had read about the event in the T&G. My first 'Young Eagle' was a boy from Valley View named Matt. I think Matt was about 14 or 15. He had never been up in a small plane before. As part of the experience, the pilot would introduce the airplane by doing a brief walk-around, explaining the pre-flight inspection we perform. Then we climbed aboard for Matt's first flight experience.



Valley View School Students

As we climbed out of Southbridge, I pointed out a couple other airplanes, and Matt was absolutely thrilled. I invited him to follow through on the controls with me. Soon, he was executing turns and level flight. By the end of the flight, Matt was absolutely hooked, and was already dreaming about one day owning his own airplane.

Matt was typical of most of the kids that took their first ride. I didn't see a single kid that got out of the airplane scared or uncomfortable. They all were thrilled with their first flight experience. Of course, we all hope that by donating our time and airplanes for the Young Eagles program, we might just have sparked the passion in a future private pilot.



There were plenty of WAPA members behind the scenes who made this event possible. Our very own WAPA Board Member Jack Kvalita was responsible for organizing the event. Mark Catanese was designated as public relations spokesperson, and he managed to get the word out through WXLO and Worcester T&G. WXLO even sent a couple representatives to the event. Mark also got David Clark to attend and show their wares in a 'trade-show' style, with their flagship products on display for all to see. Rosemary Kvalita manned the registration table.

The pilots on hand included George Clark, Ken Brown, Mark Catanese, Charlie Entwistle, Jim Engberg, Cary Dillman, Roger Witt, Gregg Andrews and myself. There were several other WAPA members on hand to help out with the event.



By anyone's measure, the day proved to be a remarkable success. I believe we gave rides to almost 30 kids throughout the day, and introduced general aviation to many more (parents, siblings, reporters, etc.) Plans are already in the works for the next event, and we have every reason to believe that the popularity of this event will continue to grow.

In case you missed it, the Worcester T&G gave us credibility with a great article in the following Monday's edition. In that article, Jack Kvalita is quoted as saying that the whole purpose of this outreach program is to get the community involved with the airport and with aviation in general. Every WAPA member can take pride in our organization, and the knowledge that WAPA did its part to achieve this goal, and maybe, just maybe, we've encouraged a couple new private pilots in the years to come.

Next Young Eagles Day will be held at Spencer Airport, September 20th, 9 AM to 5 PM. EAA Members are needed as pilots, along with volunteers for ground support! Contact Jack Kvalita for more information. jack@worcesterapa.org, or 508 892-4025

Hapless Harry's New GPS

John Munn

Harry left Worcester Airport in his Skyhawk planning to experiment with his new portable GPS. First he punched in "Direct-To" LAX (Los Angeles International) and flew the suggested heading. He then experimented with the various heading and moving map displays offered by his new toy. This continued for 45 minutes or so. Then Harry noticed some distinctly dark and nasty clouds ahead and then a large lightning flash.

Oops, better get on the ground quick, thought Harry as he pushed the "Nearest Airport" button on his GPS. The GPS screen slowly faded out. "Maybe I should have fixed that NAV radio" Harry muttered, "But it sure seemed dumb to buy a GPS and spend money to fix old technology like a VOR" Harry to anxiously looked out the window for a place to land. What luck! Almost directly below Harry could see a field and someone pushing a yellow taildragger into a T-hanger.

Harry immediately did an abbreviated left base entry for the airport. Harry landed long and slid to a stop, brakes locked, with less than 10 feet of runway remaining. He then taxied back to the T-hanger where an old timer was standing in front of a yellow CUB. Harry climbed out and joined him.

"Boy this is really a short runway", offered Harry. "2500 feet" replied the Old Timer, "You was pretty fast". After a pause Harry tried again. "That weather sure came up fast", he offered. "Was dark to the west twenty minutes ago" replied the Old Timer. "Not a talker", thought Harry, as he looked at the yellow taildragger. Not seeing any antennas Harry asked, "Don't you have any radios in your plane?" "Nope", replied the old timer, "No electrical system." "Well I guess that's all right if you want to stay in sight of the airport", said Harry. "Took her to Oshkosh three times" replied the old timer.

By this time the front had passed and the clouds were clearing. Harry asked "Could you tell me were I am and how to get back to Worcester? My GPS died." "Do you have a sectional" asked the old timer. "Of course" Harry answered indignantly. After all he had just bought one last year, or was it the year before.

The old timer took a well worn sectional out of his back pocket and tore a small circle out of it which he handed it to Harry. "What am I supposed to do with this?" asked Harry. "Shows the airport, where you are" said the old timer as he turned and walked away. As Harry stared at the quarter sized piece of the sectional the old timer climbed into an ancient Ford pickup and disappeared down the airport driveway.

Here is the piece of sectional:



Can you give Harry the no-wind, magnetic heading, and distance to Worcester Airport? The old timer would solve this in less than three minutes.

The solution will be posted to the WAPA web site in a couple of weeks. <http://www.worcesterapa.org/>

WAPA News

WAPA Polo Shirts and Coffee Mugs have arrived. We'll have a limited quantity available for sale at the next WAPA meeting.

The FAA Safety Seminars have been our most popular meetings over the past year. We have decided to go to bi-monthly seminars, October, December, February, April, and June. This lets us avoid the New Years, and 4th of July dates.

Special thanks to Gregg Andrews of Spencer Airport and Doug Robinson of Swissport for providing support for WAPA in the form of Member Discounts, and to Paul West of Horizon Air for providing Door Prizes for the WAPA Meetings.

Web News

The WAPA website (<http://www.worcesterapa.org>) can always use more news and stories. If anyone has minutes, reports or news from your local airports, please submit them!

WAPA runs a number of mailing lists, and WAPA will not sell or share your email addresses with any other organizations. You can find out more on the "email lists" link in the upper left "WAPA Online" box on the web.

Want an impromptu flyin? A Safety Pilot? Members can reach other WAPA members by sending email to wapa@worcesterapa.org

WAPA Picnic

The WAPA Picnic was held at Southbridge on Saturday June 28th. It turned out to be a beautiful day. Jack Kvalita organized the food; Hot dogs, Sausages, Hamburgers, Salad, Watermelon, Soft Drinks, everything was Great! Turnout was light, most likely due to the short notice. Jack - with all his bluster - managed to loose the spot landing contest. (It would have helped if we told him the rules in advance - that he had to land on or **after** the touchdown point). George Clark won, Paul Horanzy provided the flour bombs and Marc Catanese won that contest.



Time for food



Spot Landing Contest Judges

Membership

Membership in WAPA is \$35.00 and runs from May to May. If you have not yet joined WAPA, **please take the opportunity to sign up now!** You can also sign up at <http://www.worcesterapa.org/signup.form>. If your membership is current, pass this application to a friend.

WAPA needs your help with committees. The Young Eagle efforts have been very successful, but we need more involvement to expand the program. We also want to take a more active role monitoring political activities around our local airports. Finally, someone organizing activities, even impromptu ones, would help. Please don't hesitate to help out.

If anyone would like to take over the WAPA Newsletter, please let us know!

New Mailing Lists

WAPA has started two new Mailing Lists as a benefit to the local airports. orh-announce@worcesterapa.org and 60m-announce@worcesterapa.org. These moderated lists are open to anyone (members and non-members) looking for airport-specific announcements that will no longer be sent to the WAPA-announce list. Ron Stella is managing the Worcester list, and Dewey Sasser and Gregg Andrews are managing the Spencer list. If other airports in the area desire a similar service, contact george@worcesterapa.org

Officers and Directors:
President: Dominic Scalera
Vice President: Larry Pray
Treasurer: Rich Tedesco
Clerk: George Clark

Directors: Marc Catanese
Paul West
Cary Dillman
Jack Kavlitia
John Munn

You can contact the officers and board by sending email to [**feedback@worcesterapa.org**](mailto:feedback@worcesterapa.org)

Worcester Area Pilots Association
53 Brattle Street
Worcester, MA 01606-2551

Worcester Area Pilots Association Membership Application

Name: _____ Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____ Phone: _____

Own/Rent: Make/Model _____ Based at: _____ N#: _____

Certificates / Ratings (Circle all that apply) :

Student, Recreational, Private, Commercial, Instrument, CFI, CFII, ATP **Wings Phase:** _____

Are you a member of other pilot organizations?:

What form of communication would you prefer? e-Mail, Web, US Mail

Send Check for \$35 To: Worcester Area Pilots Association, c/o Richard Tedesco, 13 Quobaug Avenue Oxford, MA 01540