

FALL 2021

WASP Works!

Official Publication of the
Williamsburg Aviation Scholarship Program



Thanks to your support, WASP has sponsored 23 new private pilots!

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FALL 2021

Meet the Class of 2022

By Ron Salyer, Recruitment Director

This year the Williamsburg Aviation Scholarship Program had the largest applicant pool since our inception and thanks to all of our benefactors we were able to select our largest class ever: 9 student candidates for the Class of 2022. They represent the entire Tidewater Region between Norfolk and Williamsburg. There is a mix of 6 different public schools and 3 home schools represented.

The selection process starts with an online application, then getting additional records and recommendations into the selection committee, lead this year by Retired Army Helicopter pilot, and WASP Board Member, Ron Salyer. We scheduled interviews with the top scorers, and down-selected to 9 students. They began flight training 1 July 2021! Here are the students!!!

Ben Brooks, a rising Junior, is home schooled and lives in Newport News. Ben was also the recipient of an Air Force scholarship for initial basic training and ***soloed this summer at Whiting Field near Pensacola, FL***. Ben is active in the community as a member of Boy Scouts of America and tutors as part of the Newsom-Bailey Project. Ben desires to attend the Air Force Academy and become a fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force following his family's tradition of service.

Micah Hughes is a Senior at Denbigh High School in Newport News. Micah is enrolled in the Denbigh's Aviation Academy and participates in sports and maintains an afternoon job. Micah dreams to be a fighter pilot and attend the United States Air Force Academy or enter the Reserve Officers Training Corp.

Rachel Jacobsen, a Senior, is home schooled and is a resident of Newport News. She is active in the community and desires to attend Embry Riddle Aeronautic University. Her goal is to be an Aerospace Engineer at NASA and eventually become an Astronaut. ***Rachel completed her first solo flight on September 6th***.

Avery Martin, a Senior, is a Williamsburg resident and attends Jamestown High School. Avery's motivation to fly comes from her grandfather who was a flight instructor and Eastern Airlines pilot. Also, her father works in one of NASA Langley Research Center's wind tunnels as an Aerospace Engineer. Avery is a Swimmer in the local 757 SWIM club and active in the community. She plans to attend college and continue pursuing an Aviation Career. ***Avery completed her first solo flight on August 24th***



Ben Brooks



Micah Hughes



Rachel Jacobsen



Avery Martin



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Meet the Class of 2022

Eric Price, a Senior at Kecoughtan High School in Hampton, resides on Langley Airforce Base. He is an active member of the Civil Air Patrol and has received accolades from his Wing Commander for mission performance. He desires to go to college and become a pilot in the U.S. Air Force and serve his country. **Eric completed his first solo flight on August 12th.**

Bryce Spain is a Senior at Denbigh High School in Newport News. Bryce is also a member of the Civil Air Patrol, has been awarded his Part 107 Commercial Drone Pilots certificate and had a Glider scholarship as part of the Tidewater Soaring Society. He is active in sports and supports the local Community Knights non profit activities. He desires to go to college and pursue an aviation career. **Bryce completed his first solo flight on August 29th,** then passed the FAA Knowledge Test two days later!

Mckenna Stapleton is a resident of Norfolk and a Junior at Granby High School in Norfolk. Mckenna's inspiration to fly comes from her family where the majority have been involved in aviation; Mckenna is part of the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp at her school. She had already taken some flight lessons and desires to attend College and pursue a career in the Navy as a Naval Aviator in helicopters. **Mckenna had her first solo flight on September 7th.**

Kali Bonner is a Junior at Phoebus HS and lives in Hampton. She is relatively new to aviation, but the flying bug has hit hard. She's taking college courses at school and is a runner and basketball player. Originally the #1 alternate for Class of '22, she become a full-time member on 9/21. She's been flying with friends and several pilots at KJGG in various aircraft at the airport. Her goal is to attend college and combine flying with business or law.

Josh Welty is a Senior and is homeschooled through Riverview Home School. Josh lives in Williamsburg. Josh is active in the community and has a part time job to help out his family. Josh is very mechanically inclined with many hobbies in building computers, repairing bikes and working on automobiles. Josh is interested in pursuing a career in commercial aviation as a corporate pilot. **Josh has been cleared to solo next flight!**



Eric Price



Bryce Spain



Mckenna Stapleton



Kali Bonner



Josh Welty



Meet the Class of 2022



Rachel Jacobsen back from her Solo.



Erik Price after a ride w/Tuck

It's not official until the tail feathers are clipped!



Mckenna Stapleton after her Solo.



Kali Bonner checking out the flightline after the a Pancake Breakfast.

Joey Ritchie (WASP), Bryce Spain (2022), Abdalla Elrahhah (2021), Buzz Wilson (TSS) Abdalla and Bryce were in the Tidewater Soaring Society before earning a WASP Scholarship. Abdalla has his glider license and Bryce has soled a glider.





WASP Alumni Update

Jack Weidman, WASP Class of 2017-2018.

Since receiving his private-pilot license, Jack hasn't stood still. Time has literally and figuratively flown by for the ambitious WASP alum.

After high school graduation in 2019, Jack headed to the Kent State University [College of Aeronautics and Engineering](#) where he has pursued a B.S in Aeronautics and enrolled in the flight school. In just two years Jack has completed multiple FAA ratings (Instrument, Multi-engine, Commercial, Certified Flight Instructor and Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument) and is currently a flight instructor at Kent's flight school. He has one semester remaining to complete his BS and looks forward to accumulating flight time as fast as he went through his ratings and BS. His goal is to get to a regional airline and ultimately one of the major airlines, like United, FedEx or Delta, before he turns 30.

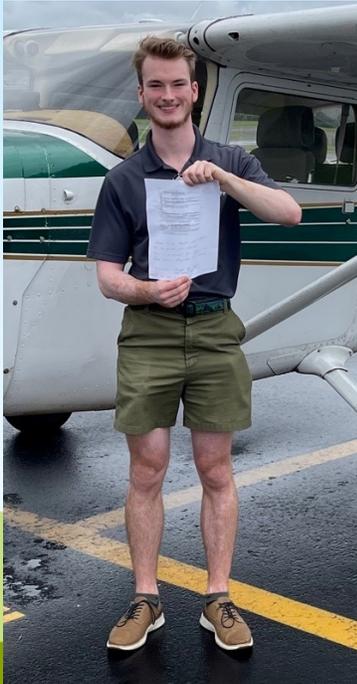
Jack has said that going to school year round to get through his ratings and degree had lots of advantages. He says that since he was always flying, that he never had to spend time refreshing his skills with extra flights before starting flight instruction again after a long break. Also, he says that summer semesters allowed him to take prerequisite classes for courses that would have been otherwise unavailable to him, such as the intro to ATC course where much of the instruction was conducted in an FAA ATC simulator. Jack adds that "the ATC course made me a much better pilot and appreciate how hard controllers work".

Jack has said that instructing has made him a better pilot too. "I have to be able to demonstrate the maneuvers and explain concepts, mechanical workings and regulations in terms that new students will understand quickly so it makes me really have to make sure my knowledge is the best it can be in order to do that. I'm always learning and trying to update my understanding so I can be a better

instructor and ultimately a better pilot".

It's a long road to the airlines and as the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated, the industry can be derailed at any time making that road even longer and more uncertain. Jack has taken the long-view on his career aspirations and has concluded that the faster he gets qualifications and flight experience, the harder it will be to get knocked off the path to being an airline pilot. He says that coming from a family of military and airline pilots that he feels better educated to the reality of being a professional pilot. Jack looks at the past for his future and says "despite pilot furloughs and massive economic setbacks to the airlines during 2001, 2008 and 2020 things always came back and pilots eventually always seemed to be in short supply once the bad times were over".

Jack's one piece of advice for aspiring professional pilots: "always keep flying".



Joseph Reynolds as a newly minted Private Pilot

Class of 2021 Where Are They Now?

Joey Ritchie

The Class of 2021 just finished a successful year of flight training. Here's where they are now:

Abdalla Elrahhah is a Senior at Denbigh High School in Newport News and blazing trails in his community!

Ryan Kordek is a freshman attending Liberty University (Lynchburg, VA) and is enrolled in their aeronautics Program.

Parris Maurer is a Senior at Lafayette in Williamsburg and is in the advanced degree program attending Thomas Nelson Community College. She is also in the college hunt.

Joseph Reynolds is also attending TNCC and looking to start additional flight training for his instrument rating. Joseph plans to transfer to a 4-yr program in the second semester.

Micah Stark is attending the USAF Academy.

Thomas Young is attending the USAF Academy.

RJ Wartofsky graduated from Tabb HS and has relocated

to the Ft. Rucker, AL. area while considering employment, Army, and the local community college



Ryan Kordek

FALL 2021

2nd Annual
WASP GALA

FUNDRAISER FOR HIGH SCHOOL AGED STUDENT PILOTS

Oct. 8 2021 / 6:00 – 8:30

Kingsmill Resort/Williamsburg, VA
James River Grand Ballroom
\$120 per ticket / Black tie optional

Keynote Speaker:
LtGen (ret) Bruce “Orville” Wright
Silent Auction

TICKET PURCHASES: WWW.WASPSCHOLARSHIP.ORG/FALL-GALA

TICKET DEADLINE: OCTOBER 3RD

INQUIRIES: WASPKJGG@GMAIL.COM OR HERON WEIDNER (757-969-2954)



Lt Gen Wright spent 34 years in the Air Force. His last assignment was Commander of 5th Air Force and U.S. Forces Japan. During his time in the Air Force, he was extensively involved in joint and coalition combat operations, lead 65 combat missions, commanded an F-16C squadron during Operation Desert Storm, and commanded a composite operations group during Operations Provide Comfort in northern Iraq and Deny Flight in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

General Wright is the Air Force Association's top executive and directs the association's professional staff. He is responsible for the management and operations of AFA and its 97,000 members, and he serves as the publisher of *Air Force Magazine*, the official journal of the Air Force Association.

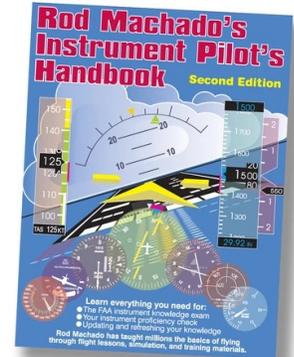
Lt Gen Wright is an avid proponent of programs like WASP that provide a pathway to flying careers for aspiring pilots. General Wright and his wife, Kerri, reside in Arlington, Virginia.



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I Have My Private Pilot Certificate, Now What?

By Kurt Weidman



That's a question many new pilots have once they receive their PPL. It's natural to ask that question once you're check-ride is complete and there might not be a clear purpose to your flying. If your goal is to continue flying, then you should view your flying skills like milk in the refrigerator, it will go bad if it's not used. There's a 100% chance that without continuing to fly and gain experience on a regular basis that your skills will diminish and possibly become unsafe. I would hope that no one reading this would think that they could go a year, or even a month, without flying and assume that their skills would be as good as the day they took their check-ride. Flying isn't like riding a bike.

So what's next? Fly, fly and fly some more, it's the only way to get better. There are no shortcuts to experience. Here is a short list of recommendations if you're a newly minted private pilot and looking to keep moving forward with purpose:

1. Find another pilot to be your flying buddy. Make your flying social and find someone to share expenses and help you learn. An extra set of eyes and ears helps a lot, regardless of your experience level but especially when you're new to flying. It's a great way to improve safety, lower costs and we all learn more when we fly with another pilot.
2. Find learning and motivational resources that will keep you engaged. I've provided some suggestions later on in

this article. Be curious about gaining new skills but also get better at the basics. Perfect your short field landings, make better radios calls or improve your rudder control. Being brilliant at the basics will set you up for success as you move into more advanced areas.

3. Take a flight with an instructor to sharpen up skills. Even if you're flying regularly, getting a refresher with a CFI can really tighten up skills and knowledge that may have slipped a little.
4. Solicit feedback on your flight skills and use it to be better....sometimes times it can be difficult hearing feedback, but it's vital that you keep the door open to the important learning you get from "debriefs". In flying, no one is too good or too old to be debriefed.

As you fly more and meet more pilots you'll probably notice a culture of sharing, learning and camaraderie. Part of it is simply that flying is more demanding than most vocations and avocations. Unlike driving a car, you can't just pull over too look at the map or call Triple-A for gas if you've run out. So as a result, pilot's love to share and learn. As a new pilot, you should too. Everywhere you look pilots gravitate to learning, sharing experiences and being better. For example, check out MzeroA, Rod Machado, Bold Method or FlightChops on YouTube and you'll see excellent resources FOR FREE. (cont...)

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Many people put their heart and soul into producing great content because that's what pilots do; constantly learn and help other pilots learn. So get on board early and begin a lifelong habit of learning and improvement.

As you fly more, it's only natural that you will become more confident in your skills. However, if you find yourself with a few hundred hours of flight time and a feeling like "I've got this", then you need to take a look at how you're doing business. There are clear trends in civilian and military aviation that show accident rates go up with pilots who have 500-1000 hours of flight time. Accident reports are littered with narratives of over-confident and under-prepared pilots who failed to do the basics in decision making and/or flying. It's often found that these pilots usually didn't have the knowledge or skills (or sometimes didn't use existing knowledge and skills) despite placing themselves in more demanding situations. Whenever I talk about safety, I'm reminded of the old aviation quote by Captain A. G. Lamplugh, which paraphrased is "flying is not overly dangerous but is unforgiving of inattention and neglect". Flying often, continual learning and seeking feedback on your

performance are some of the best ways to avoid placing yourself in a bad situation and adding to the data points on the graph.

Learning and debriefing are a part of every flight for me and it has served me well. I'm fortunate to have a very broad set of flight experiences to include hundreds of carrier landings, flying a Boeing 777 over the north pole and accumulating over 20,000 flight hours. Despite that experience, the more I know, the more I realize that I don't know. I see every flight and debrief as an opportunity to get better. That may sound a little cliché, but it's true. Ask anyone who has been around flying long enough and I'll guarantee that my advice is not unique.

Go out and fly, enjoy what so many only dream of... but remember, a private pilot's certificate is really a 'license-to-learn'. See you at the hold short!

-kw

Around the Airport

Larry Waltrip was presented with a resolution from the Virginia Aviation Board for his 50 years of professional excellence as the airport's Owner and President. Larry Waltrip with his late wife Jean Waltrip, has been the Williamsburg Jamestown Airport Owner/President since September 1970 and the airport is the primary General Aviation airport serving the nation's 'Historic Triangle' and the surrounding area.

Mr. Waltrip oversaw 50 years of numerous capital projects and many facility enhancement projects that showcased the airport as an efficient and progressive privately owned public facility. He also led a \$1.3 million apron and taxiway rehabilitation effort that concluded in 2019 and is now leading the development of a new row of T-Hangars.

The Virginia Aviation Board congratulated the Williamsburg Jamestown Airport for 50 years of continuous operations and extends its best wishes to the airport for another 50 years of continued growth and progress.



FALL 2021

The Williamsburg Jamestown Airport
is excited to invite everyone to come celebrate
our 50th anniversary with us!

OPEN HOUSE



Sunday, September 19, 2021
100 Marclay Road, Williamsburg VA 23185
11:00AM to 4:00PM • Rain or Shine • FREE



The BBQ was awesome!



Three Amigos of the BBQ Line:
Kali Bonner, Mckenna Stapleton, Avery Martin.



Bryce Spain manning the drinks!



WASP served BBQ & worked a WASP information booth for a of crowd 1K+ at the 50th Open House



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2nd SATURDAYS PANCAKE FLY-IN (or DRIVE-IN)

RAIN or SHINE 8:00 – 10:30am

100 Marclay Dr. WBurg VA, 23185 (the airport!)

\$6 OPTIONAL DONATIONS TO SUPPORT THE

WILLIAMSBURG AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



AUGUST 14

SEPTEMBER 11

OCTOBER 9

NOVEMBER 13

DECEMBER 11



WILLIAMSBURG JAMESTOWN AIRPORT

MENU

3 Pancakes

2 Sausages

Scrambled Eggs

Coffee

Orange Juice



WASP Board members, students and parents making pancakes for funds!



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