

# THE WASP SPINNER

Fresh Views from the Tidewater, VA, Skies.

A quarterly publication, published by the Williamsburg Aviation Scholarship Program.

## IN THIS ISSUE:

1. Message from the President of WASP
2. From the nest: Welcome, **Class of 2023!**
3. Thank you: solid results and future planning
4. Events
5. Student Alumni Updates



**DONATE**

**WILLIAMSBURG AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

102 MARCLAY RD., Williamsburg, VA, 23185

[www.waspscholarship.org](http://www.waspscholarship.org)

# BUT FIRST, WHAT'S AHEAD...

SEPT



WILLIAMSBURG JAMESTOWN AIRPORT

## 2nd Saturdays Pancake Fly-In (or Drive In)

**\$8 FOR ADULTS, \$5 FOR CHILDREN - PROCEEDS SUPPORT WASP!**

FOOD	DRINKS
Pancakes	Coffee
Eggs	Juice
Sausage	Water

Join us for a fly-in breakfast at Williamsburg Jamestown Airport provided by WASP students, parents, and board members.

- AVGAS discount for fly-in visitors
- Raffle prizes!

**2ND SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
APRIL 9TH - NOVEMBER 12TH  
8:00-11:00AM RAIN OR SHINE**



OCT



WILLIAMSBURG AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM'S

## 3rd Annual Black Tie Gala

5-COURSE GOURMET DINNER  
SILENT AUCTION  
KEYNOTE: MARY ANN SCHAEFFER  
SYSTEM CHIEF PILOT- UNITED AIRLINES

**OCT 7 | 6 PM  
KINGSMILL RESORT**

TICKETS AT  
[WASPSCHOLARSHIP.ORG/GALA22](https://waspscholarship.org/gala22)

All-inclusive auction trips generously provided again by



NOV



WorldFlight 2022 is a charity event for virtual pilots taking place over a week on the VATSIM network.





Our ability to assist such great talent is due to generous donations and sponsorships. As you'll read later, we're the proud recipients of a Ray Foundation Grant, which awards our organization a \$50,000 grant, with matched funds raised by WASP.

Along with new students, we also have some new board members to lend their talents and experiences to benefit our students and local communities. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out and let us know.

We're thankful for your support; whether it's meeting us at our pancake breakfasts, golfing with us, or participating in our annual gala, we can do so much more together.

Clear Skies and Tailwinds,

## To Infinity....and Beyond!

**WHEN** December turns to January, almost everyone who is into any sort of productivity sets goals and hopes for the year ahead. At WASP, we do that as well, but we have a little more fervor and zest for the glorious month of June, which is when we interview and select our next class of this great nation's aviation specialists. This June was no exception, as we now welcome our largest class yet. As it is every year, we are honored to be able to help such a well-rounded group of young adults. Because of others' generosity, we are able to offer local students an opportunity to gain their pilot's license before they graduate high school.



# WELCOME TO THE SKIES, CLASS OF 2023

---

We are excited to introduce you to WASP Class of 2023! The WASP Board held interviews near the end of May to determine the next class of aviator scholarship recipients. All are highly accomplished, motivated, and excited to learn what it takes to be a part of the aviation community. Congratulations, Class of 2023!

*You made it—now the adventure begins.*

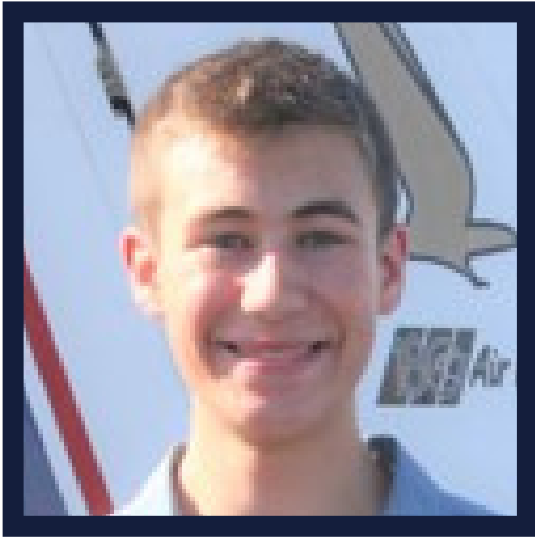
---



Sam Dabbs

**Sam Dabbs** is a rising senior from Grafton High School in Yorktown, Virginia. Sam is active in the Grafton Tennis Team, and Civil Air Patrol. Sam is interested in a career as a commercial airline pilot. Sam has logged more than 20 hours of flight training before beginning flight training with the scholarship program. His near-term goal is to become a Certified Flight instructor. He intends to attend college after high school, and then work towards accumulating flight time to become an Airline pilot.  
*Soloed!*

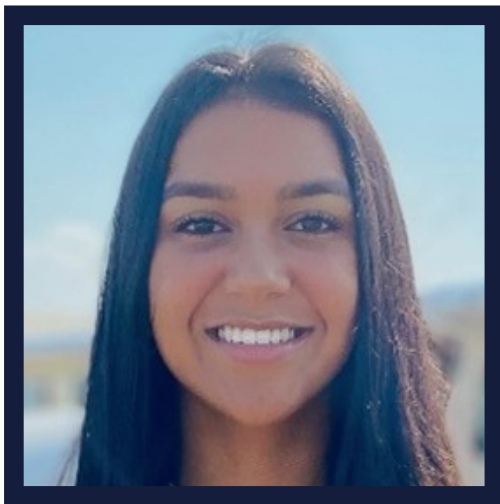




Chris Foster

**Christopher Foster** is a rising senior from Langley Air Force Base, Virginia currently enrolled in Summit Christian Academy. Chris is active in the Civil Air Patrol where he was honored with the Wright Brothers Award in April 2020. He was elected Junior Class President and is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and is a member of the High School cross country team. His dream career is to be a fighter pilot in the United States Air Force.

*Soloed: 6/24!*



Mikayla Gangadeen

**Mikayla Gangadeen** is a rising senior from Yorktown, Virginia currently enrolled in Tabb High School. Mikayla is active in Tabb Track and Field, and Civil Air Patrol. She has taken flight lessons and flown as part of CAP. Her parents are both stationed at Langley Air Force Base. Her goal is to attend college at either the Air Force Academy or the Naval Academy pursuing a degree in engineering and a career as a pilot.



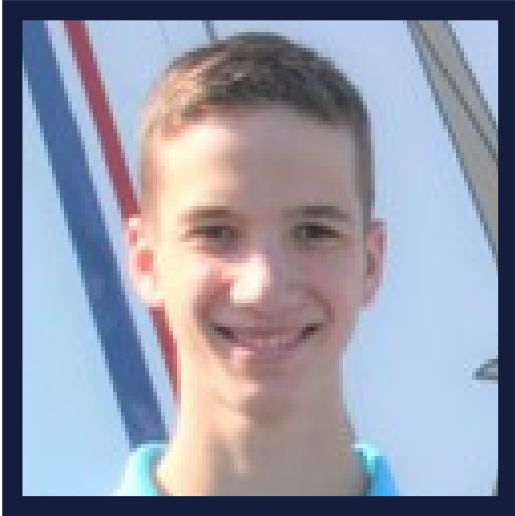
Will Gryzen

**Will Gryzen** is a rising senior from Yorktown Virginia enrolled in Grafton High School. Will is active in Civil Air Patrol, is a member of his school's marching band and captain of the wrestling team. Will's flying experience includes completion of glider academy where he was able to solo an L-23 Super Blanik sail plane. Will plans to attend college and pursue a career as a fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force.  
*Soloed: 8/14!*



Braden Hudgins

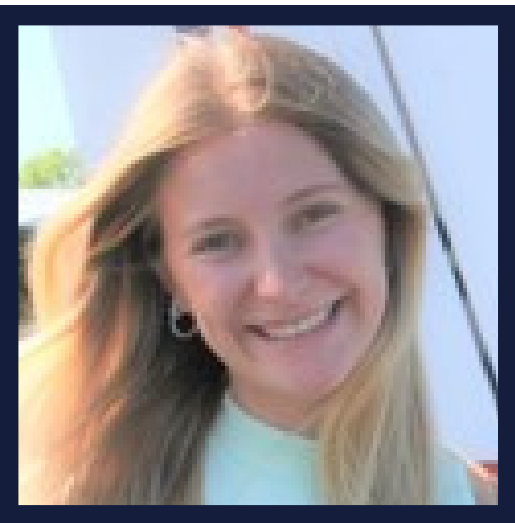
**Braden Hudgins** is a rising senior from Gloucester, Virginia currently enrolled in Gloucester High School and the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School. Braden is involved in sports and is a member of the National Honor Society and Beta Club. Braden's flight experience has included multiple lessons at the Williamsburg Flight Center and he has received a scholarship with Pathways for additional flight experience. Braden desires to attend college and pursue an aviation career as a commercial pilot.  
*Soloed: 8/2!*



Jaxson Kirsch

**Jaxson Kirsch** is a rising senior from Newport News, Virginia enrolled in Menchville High School. Jaxson is involved in Air Force Junior ROTC where he was awarded the prestigious Military Order of the Purple Heart award for leadership. He is also captain of the MHS Cross Country team and a member of the National Honor Society and Kitty Hawk Air Society. Jaxson plans to apply for and attend the U.S. Air Force Academy and pursue a career as an Air Force pilot.

*Soloed: 8/10!*



Erica Larochelle

**Erica Larochelle** is a rising senior from Providence Forge, Virginia. As part of the Early College Academy, she is dual enrolled at New Kent High School and Rappahannock Community College. Erica is involved in All District and All Virginia Choir, Spirit Club, the High School Cheerleading team and has an internship at the New Kent-Charles City Chronicle. Erica intends to apply to the Naval Academy & ROTC for college and become a Naval Aviator.

*Soloed: 8/19!*





Lena Lewis

**Lena Lewis** is a rising senior from Williamsburg, Virginia enrolled at Warhill High School. She is a member of the high school tennis team, and National Honor Society. She is already preparing for the Air Force Academy admission by practicing for the fitness test. She intends to pursue entrance into the academy and become an Air Force Pilot.



Gavin Monteith

**Gavin Monteith** is a rising senior from Newport News, Virginia enrolled in Menchville High School. He participates in AFJROTC, Model Rocketry Club, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Kitty Hawk Air Society and the Track & Field and Cross-Country Teams as well as coaching the Colony "Cudas" Swim and Warwick Little League Baseball teams. Gavin plans to apply to the Air Force and Coast Guard Academies for college and pursue a career as a military and commercial airline pilot. *Soloed: 8/18!*



Ethan Smallridge

**Ethan Smallridge** is a rising senior from Newport News, Virginia enrolled in Denbigh High School. Ethan is a Civil Air Patrol Cadet and is part of the Denbigh Aviation Academy. He is on 4 varsity teams, is a member of the National Honor Society Vice President of Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society), participates in the Academic Bowl team and is the director and anchor for the daily live newscast for Denbigh HS, and is Secretary & Treasurer of his Class. He designed a storage locker that was incorporated on the International Space Station! Ethan desires to pursue admission to the U.S. Air Force Academy and become an Air Force Pilot. *Soloed: 8/17 (on his 17th birthday!)*



Aubrey Walton

**Aubrey Walton** is a rising senior at Poquoson High School and lives in Poquoson, Virginia. Aubrey is involved in the Aviation Academy at Denbigh HS, and Aviation STEM Program, and is a member of the varsity Sailing and Travel Volleyball Teams. Aubrey plans to attend college, and wants to serve her country by seeking a commission in the U.S. Navy and becoming a Naval Aviator. *Soloed: 8/15!*



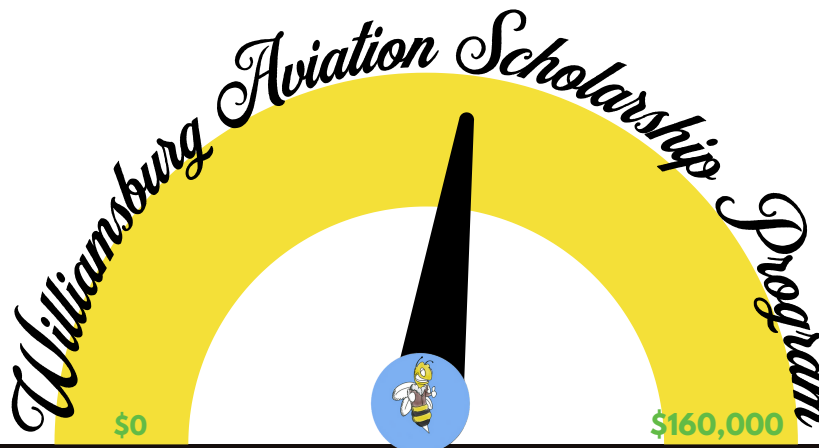
WASP ONLY EXISTS BECAUSE OF DONORS' GENEROSITY.

THE WILLIAMSBURG AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM RELIES ON THE DONATIONS OF CITIZENS, BOTH LOCAL AND NATIONWIDE, TO FUND THE ACADEMIC AND FLYING INSTRUCTION NECESSARY FOR EACH STUDENT TO RECEIVE A PILOT'S LICENSE. **EACH SCHOLARSHIP IS VALUED AT OVER \$11,000.** WITHOUT ALTRUISTIC CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PEOPLE LIKE YOU, THIS PROGRAM WOULD CEASE TO EXIST. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR OPENING YOUR HEART TO ENABLE OUR LOCAL YOUTH TO PURSUE THE CAREER OF THEIR DREAMS.

**WE'RE HALF WAY THERE!**

It is our goal this year to raise **\$160,000** in support of next year's Class of 2024. Any amount, large or small helps. You can donate on our webpage, or mail a check / money order to:

WASP  
102 Marclay Rd.  
Williamsburg, VA 23185



**WILLIAMSBURG AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

102 MARCLAY RD., Williamsburg, VA, 23185

[www.waspscholarship.org](http://www.waspscholarship.org)



# SAVE THE DATE: 7 OCT 22

Please join us for our fanciest Gala yet! Mingle with WASP students, parents, Board members, and fellow supporters, and meet our keynote speaker:  
**Mary Ann Schaffer – Managing Director & System Chief Pilot at United Airlines**



WASP'S  
3RD ANNUAL GALA AT  
KINGSMILL



KJGG

# Gala 2022!

YOUR BOARDING PASS



KJGG

Thank you for your support!

PASSENGER NAME  
YOUR NAME COULD BE HERE

DATE  
**7 OCT 22**

TIME  
6:00

DESTINATION  
WILLIAMSBURG USA

AIRFARE: \$150

MESSAGE

TICKET'S AVAILABLE 1 SEPTEMBER THROUGH OUR WEBSITE!



WILLIAMSBURG AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

102 MARCLAY RD., Williamsburg, VA, 23185

[www.waspscholarship.org](http://www.waspscholarship.org)

# ALUMNI UPDATES

---



**Josh Cardoza** has earned his Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) certificate and completed his commercial multi-engine check ride. He has roughly 270 hours and plans to work for Liberty University as a CFI over the summer.

JOSHUA CARDOZA

---

Class of 2020

2nd LT **Sam Frye** is going to USAF Remotely Piloted Aircraft training.

SAM FRYE

---

Class of 2017



WILLIAMSBURG AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

102 MARCLAY RD., Williamsburg, VA, 23185

[www.waspscholarship.org](http://www.waspscholarship.org)

## ALUMNI UPDATES



Congratulations to **McKenna**! She was accepted into the Naval Academy's Summer Session. She is also exploring an appointment to the United States Naval Academy. McKenna expects to complete her PPL before her HS senior year begins! (You can follow her aviation journey on [instagram @flyingwithkenna](#))

**MCKENNA STAPLETON**

---

Class of 2022

**Zac** keeps busy as a member of the Air Force ROTC at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. He was also awarded a full ride scholarship through AFROTC this semester. Congrats to Zac on earning this scholarship! Academically, he's studying Engineering Physics and carries a 4.0 GPA. He is also the Vice President of a gymnastics club.

**ZACHARY IDEMA**

---

Class of 2020





## ALUMNI UPDATES



**Bryce** Has been blazing a trail since earning his private pilot certificate in December 2021. Early this summer he passed his Instrument Rating checkride and in August 2022 he began working at Rick Aviation at Newport News Airport as a aircraft refueling lineman.

BRYCE SPAIN

---

Class of 2022

After getting accepted to 89 colleges & universities, **Abdalla** has begun his freshman year at the USAF Academy.

ABDALLA ELRAHHAL

---

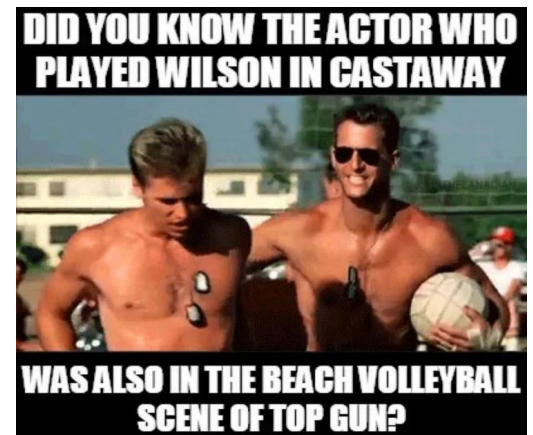
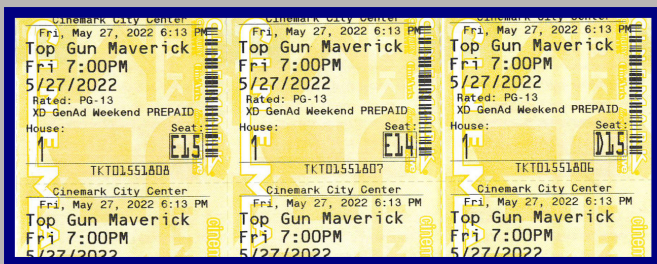
Class of 2020



# MOVIE NIGHT



Some WASP family & friends  
got together to view the new  
"Top Gun: Maverick" on  
opening night.  
WE GAVE IT 5 STARS!





**Fly-in, fill-up, and talk shop with the crew.**



# leave breakfast up to us.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST SEASON IS HERE! JOIN US THE 2ND SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH (APR-NOV) FOR BREAKFAST, FUN AND FRIENDS AT WILLIAMSBURG JAMESTOWN AIRPORT.

**WILLIAMSBURG AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

102 MARCLAY RD., Williamsburg, VA, 23185

[www.waspscholarship.org](http://www.waspscholarship.org)





THANK YOU.





PSST...HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE WILLIAMSBURG  
AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM?

---

It's never too early to inspire the nation's next  
generation of aviation professionals. For more  
information about our organization, please visit  
[www.waspscholarship.com](http://www.waspscholarship.com)



**WILLIAMSBURG AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

102 MARCLAY RD., Williamsburg, VA, 23185

[www.waspscholarship.org](http://www.waspscholarship.org)