



August 2017

# Capital Crosswinds

*A publication of the Springfield Chapter of the Illinois Pilots' Association*

President/Newsletter Kimberly Bush 217.740.7017 [kimberly.bush@hotmail.com](mailto:kimberly.bush@hotmail.com)  
Secretary Carol Borecky 217.787.4815 [borecky@earthlink.net](mailto:borecky@earthlink.net)

## LOCAL NEWS

Our next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at Stellar Aviation's AHEC room. Meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. with a potluck. All are welcome to join us and bring a dish to share. This month's meeting will be our annual election and seating of officers. We hope to see you there.

## STATE NEWS

Next meeting of the IPA State Board of Directors will be held Saturday, September 16, 2017 at Bult Field. Meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. The Civil Air Patrol has an event there that day which includes food available for purchase. We hope to see you there.

## USPA NEWS



<http://www.uspilots.org>

USPA is continuing their special membership fee of \$20 per year. If you are not already a member of this organization, we encourage you to join. They will keep you well-updated on issues regarding aviation. Coming up in June 2018, USPA will be holding their Annual Meeting and Fly-in at St. Louis. These events offer tourism opportunities, aviation related activities, and always at least one WINGs seminar. Mark your calendar now.

## The Star Spangled 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fly-in

“The Illinois Ultralight Advisory Council; Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics; Federal Aviation Administration, Springfield FSDO, 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Ultralight/Light Plane Safety Seminar; Springfield, IL; March 26, 2016” was where I first encountered Mike Mixer of Fowler and his partner in flying Jeff Steinkamp of Quincy. I took a photo of the contact information at the end of their Power Point presentation.

I knew where Fowler is located, just outside Quincy. I had heard Jeff’s last name before, who knows where. I am interested in all things aviation, so someday I thought I might make the trip up to see their operation and take some pics. June of this year, I made that call. “We are having a gathering of fliers on 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend,” Jeff told me. “Come on out.”

After a bit of back and forth with Google maps and Garmin GPS, I discovered the location of Discover Powered Paragliding. The grounds were filled with campers that day. Although I thought I had headed out early in the morning, the fliers had already been out to breakfast at the Paloma Diner. “We will be flying again near sundown. Why don’t you come back and join us for potluck supper? Afterwards, we are also planning on fireworks.”

Here is what I found between the cornfield and the bean field.



Haley & Madilyn



Texas, Colton, True,  
Haley & Madilyn of  
Snowcone Enterprises



Texas, age 9, of  
MO, who declared  
this “The funnest  
weekend all  
year!”



Mike & Stacey Mixer

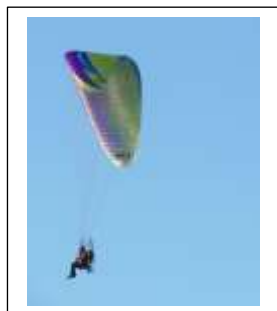
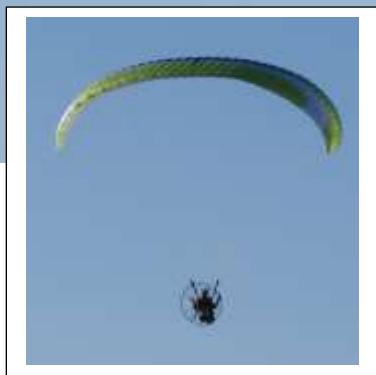
After eating supper and photographing some of the fliers, I sat down to chat with Mike. Powered paragliders come under Part 103 of the FAR’s, so there is no medical or certification requirement. Mike became interested in powered paragliding in 2008 by flying with his brother. He wanted more people to fly with, so he sought and achieved instructor certification later that same year. He instructed part-time until 2011 when he quit his

construction job to instruct powered paragliding full time. The thirty to forty students per year has grown to more than 100.

At this event, over 25 fliers were in attendance from all over the Midwest, even from as far as 6-8 hours away. As a United States Paragliding Association certified instructor, Mike has taught students from Canada and Australia, the US East Coast, Alaska, and Denver, CO. He holds an exemption to tandem fly for instruction purposes. He explained to me that many former GA pilots who can no longer pass their 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Medical, yet haven't lost their love of aviation, turn to PPG. Discover trains year round, with March to the end of November being busiest.

Flight range for the crafts are up to 3 hours of flight time which is approximately 70-80 miles on 3 gallons of unleaded fuel. Complete training takes 5-7 days and costs \$1600 with an equipment rental cost of \$400. Cost for the crafts themselves range from \$10,500-\$15,000.

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, I attended the fireworks at the Quincy Veteran's Home where Mike, Jeff, and friends flew over to entertain the crowd. As they made their turn to the open field, a piece of rainbow appeared behind their chutes. Another annual gathering is scheduled to be held at the end of October. For more information, contact Mike at [dicoverppg@yahoo.com](mailto:dicoverppg@yahoo.com) or 217.779.6647.



**PURPOSES:** The purposes of the Corporation as stated in its Certificate of Incorporation are: for the educational and scientific purposes of encouraging the development of aviation in the State of Illinois through the promotion of educational scientific, civic, recreational, social and patriotic activities for its members and others by:

1. Cooperating with federal, state and municipal officers and agencies in encouraging the development of aviation in Illinois.
2. Promoting a fraternal feeling and fellowship among the pilots of the State of Illinois: and cooperation among them in a continuing effort to promote the purposes of the Illinois Pilots Association.
3. Protecting the rights and privileges of Pilots in the State of Illinois.
4. Encouraging the use of airplanes for business and pleasure among the people of the State of Illinois.
5. Promoting suitable programs in Illinois for the development of adequate landing facilities for aircraft.
6. Encouraging safety in aviation in the State of Illinois by education and training of pilots and others connected with aviation.
7. Making available to the people of Illinois the services of this Association and its members in time of emergency; and
8. Maintaining a continuous program in aviation by means of scientific research in the realm of flight



*IPA Springfield Chapter  
Kimberly A Bush, Editor  
PO Box 276  
Liberty, IL 62347*

