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Black Pilots of America, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 7463  
 Pine Bluff, AR 71611  
[www.BPAPilots.org](http://www.BPAPilots.org)

## BPA GRADUATES THIRTEEN

## Summer Flight Academy 2010

Black Pilots of America, Inc., Les Morris Summer Flight Academy (SFA) SFA #14 began on July 10, 2010. Thirteen eager students sponsored by BPA Chapters across the nation converged in Houston, TX and Texas Southern University. The two week academy gave students 15-19 the opportunity to experience college life and receive training required to be a pilot. Along with this, many lifelong relationships between these students with common aviation goals were kindled. Les Morris, Director of the SFA program has conducted this type of youth training for the past 39 years. He quickly expresses to parents that the two week program builds character and improves their study skills. Cadets usually agree with him by the time they reach the end of week two. Students gain an extreme appreciation for what Black Pilots of America has done for their personal development and understanding of the importance positive interests in aviation. With those principles in place along with emphasis from the volunteer instructor staff, the reality of focusing on principles of flying and civilian/military education and career opportunities begin to set in.



The Summer Flight Academy has been located in Houston, TX supported by Texas Southern University for the last seven years. Texas Southern has partnered with BPA and provides housing as well as the Airway Aviation Center, one of the most modern aviation classroom environments for flight simulation and training innovation.

Demand has grown to the point of having a waiting list of students. Our class of thirteen offered challenges for the staff but we are preparing for eighteen in 2011. Thank you is again in order to Texas Southern University.

One of the highlights of the Academy is the Jesse Hayes Fly-in sponsored by the Bronze Eagles Flying Club of Texas. It is held during the middle weekend each SFA session at Ellington Field. The event was held on Saturday, July 17th. SFA cadets were presented to public and news media. In spite of the severe heat, more than 300 from the local public arrived and 152 kids were given airplane rides by members and local volunteers. In addition, the youth got an opportunity to get hands on experience in military aircraft and talk one on one with pilots and crew.

We are extremely grateful to the US Navy for providing a F-18 Super Hornet flown by Lt Cmdr Alex Hampton out of Virginia who performed a flyover. Lt Cmdr Hampton gave an extensively detailed, emotional account of his Navy life to the cadets during the Friday evening class prior the Fly-In. His presentation sparked enthusiasm and excitement from the entire class. They followed him to his car with a barrage of questions. This continued the next morning at the Fly-In.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

# Summer Flight Academy 2010 (Continued from Page 1)

Recognition and appreciation is also in order for the long time support from the Air Force Reserves 53rd Airlift Squadron from Little Rock, AR which provided a C-130 Hercules. Cadets and community guest gained personal exposure with the crews. Over the last three years, youth have been shown the benefits of educational opportunities and military careers by the increased participation by the military. They gain knowledge about how to pursue scholarships opportunities. Navy and Air Force representatives were present to answer questions about education opportunities.

The ultimate objective of the SFA program is to give the students 10 hours of flight with a licensed instructor and receive over 80 hours of ground instruction. By the end of the first week, students were expressing a passion for aviation and wanted to be a part of aviation community in one form or another. Les Morris says, "exposing them to as many aviation professionals as possible will give them pride to pursue their goal".

A special thanks goes out the Bronze Eagles, local participating businesses and local community. We owe a special thanks to the SFA Staff. Nothing could happen however without support from these dedicated volunteers. Thank you Les Morris (Director), Fred Lewis (Operations Coordinator), John Hicks, Hubert Looney, Bob Griffin (Ground Instructor), Theresa White, Delores Simon, Marvin Smith (Flight Instructor), Juan Haygood, Myra Walker (Ground Instructor), Earl McGuire (Flight Instructor), BG John Bailey, Vernon Baker, Anthony Hall (Bronze Eagles President), Danny Perkins, Derek Donovan (Flight Instructor), Juan Haygood, James Miller (Fly-In Coordinator) and Tommy Newman.

Another important dimension of success is when former cadets come back to join the staff. Special recognition goes to former SFA Cadets Christopher Farrell (Flight Instructor) and Deion Lemelle (Staff Assistant). Chris, Deion and others like them are our future. BPA is proud of both of them and encourage other former Cadets to continue their education proactively in aviation. When you see them, you see Black Pilots of America's and America's future.

*Submitted By Fred Lewis and Palmer Sullins*



# Presidents' Corner



*Greetings BPA members!* Time certainly flies. It seems like I took office just a few months ago and now the reality that nearly six years have passed is hard to grasp. My tenure as you President is coming to an end. What a joy it has been to serve and it is my sincere hope that the issues and directions for the organization which were the focus of my campaign have become a part of BPA operations. I

want to that everyone who volunteered their time and efforts to assist in making our great organization better. Thanks to those who joined BPA under my watch and offered support to local Chapters and made them stronger. My special phrase has always been that BPA is only as strong as its Chapters. In my opinion, that alone will always be true.

By the time you get this ATIS, a new Executive Officer slate will have been elected. I want to be the first to say congratulations and the best of luck to them. I pledge my complete support and will continue to be an active member of Black Pilots of America. With that said, they will need your continued support to keep BPA moving in a positive direction. I am certain that you will continue to support them as completely as you supported me for six years. Thanks for your vote of confidence in my leadership. Thanks to Executive Committee members who served with me. Thanks to you Theresa White, Juan Haygood, Ron Lisberg, Aaron "Al" Daniels and Eugene Stanley for actively giving your time and expertise to make sound decisions for BPA.

Also, thank you BPA Board of Directors for supporting me and my decisions about the direction this organization needed to go to be successful. Without your understanding of what it takes to "move to the next level", the journey would have been impossible. We must continue to remain involved and participate with other organizations which have similar common interests and goals as BPA. Working together, we all get stronger and the spirit of cooperation makes us better. International Black Aerospace Council (IBAC) member organizations of which BPA is an active participant, offers a collective approach to funding support through contacts with major corporate business entities. We must support and participate with these projects and make the BPA voice heard loud and clear. I thank Theresa White for taking on the role of IBAC Representative as well as Gene Stanley who represented us in the past.

Since the last ATIS, another successful Operation Skyhook took place. This was number fourteen. What a turn out! Competition was keen and a wonderful time was had by everyone there. This event could not happen without your participation. Thanks to everyone who attended. I counted forty-five airplanes there. Safety was the theme and safe it was. Congratulations to all winners of competition. Thanks to the Activity and Competition Committees for working so diligently behind the scenes. Months of planning and preparation went into making Skyhook successful. Theresa White

and Al Daniels and their volunteers deserve a standing ovation for a job well done so join me in the applause. It is also my distinct honor to confirm that BPA did go to Hollywood. Director and screen producer "Lady June Bird" Marsh came through again with an outstanding production. I cannot overlook the tremendous support we continue to get from the US Navy. For the second year, Commander Stan "Spider" Jones arrived in his F-18 Hornet and stole the show. Once again, we and the Pine Bluff community were in awe. It is obvious that the Navy cares about BPA.

Our Skyhook guest speaker was Barrington Irving, the first Black pilot to fly around the world solo. He gave a presentation that kept everyone on the edge of their seat. He described details along with a video account of the ordeal he experienced during his dangerous mission. What was even more astonishing to everyone was how he convinced sponsors to back such a risky ordeal. If you were not there to meet Barrington, then how he did it will remain a mystery to you. All in attendance that met and spent time with him in the hospitality room after he banquet totally understand why so many were attracted to him and his plan. He was a joy to listen to and expressed to me how much he admired what BPA is focused on and that he was disappointed that he was not able to spend the entire weekend with us after meeting some many exciting BPA members. I thank Barrington Irving for taking a moment from his busy schedule to spend with BPA. His last comment to me was that he wished that he could have spent the entire weekend with us after meeting some many exciting BPA members.

Skyhook has been in Pine Bluff for fourteen years. The support from the City of Pine Bluff, Pine Bluff Airport Commission, Pine Bluff Tourist Commission, Grider Field staff, Holiday Inn Express at the Mall and Mayor Carl Redus has been superb. It has been a joy and honor to work with them over the years. They have worked closely with our activity planning committee and local Chapter representatives and never said no to support required.

The Les Morris Summer Flight Academy was conducted in July. Thirteen wonderful students completed training. I am truly grateful to the volunteer staff of BPA members and local Houston businesses that helps make this undertaking successful each year. Texas Southern University continued to provide BPA with housing and classroom environments which helped our Cadets enjoy a pre-college atmosphere. This college feature adds to prepare them for what is ahead in their educational lives. Thank you to Chapters and individuals that sponsored cadets.

*Col. Palmer Sullins, Jr.*  
President

# Training Next Generation of Black Pilots

## BPA MEMBER & DELTA CAPTAIN MIKE GAILLARD EXTENDS HIS AVIATION EXPERTISE



A dozen mostly black high school students interested in careers in aviation and aeronautics got an outstanding head start with the Aviation Career Education (ACE). The one-week camp was hosted by the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP) and sponsored by Delta Air Lines and held at Delta's world headquarters in Atlanta. Friday, July 23, hundreds of family and friends of the campers came out in force to celebrate their graduation from the intense classes. "We take youngsters from around the country 14 – 18 years old and we give them a healthy dose of aviation experience and exposure," said Delta pilot Michael Gaillard, the general manager of OBAP's ACE program. "[What] we wanted to do is ... let [those] who have a general interest in aviation come to the camp and let them see more [of] what they [can] expect. From that, we hope to generate an interest in aerospace. Most of them leave here very anxious, very eager to learn more about aviation. "The ACE camps have been put on by OBAP since 1989 and have grown to 26 such programs in cities across the country.

The ACE camps have been put on by OBAP since 1989 and have grown to 26 such programs in cities across the country. One of the highlights of the program is the "Delta Dream Flight" for which Delta charts a Boeing 757 and takes the campers to an aviation museum in another city. In the past they've flown to Washington, D.C., Houston, Dayton, Ohio, and Pensacola, Fla. This year, the students flew to and took a tour of the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The ultimate purpose of the program is to expose young people to exciting, high-paying careers in occupations that they may have previously felt was out of their realm of possibility. "I think that sometimes the kids think it's unattainable," Gaillard says. "And if we're able to let them see our background, where we came from, and see how we got started and give them compelling stories and let them realize they are not as far behind as they think they are. And they are really on track to doing something successful [in] careers in aviation and aerospace."

*Reprinted from www.rollingout.com, Submitted By Terry Shropshire*

## BPA Is On Line

### FLOYD MILES, JR. • BPA'S INTERNET AVIATOR



Floyd Miles, Jr., Chapter President of the New Orleans Golden Eagles is also the webmaster for BPA.

Do you need help with your website or have comments, suggestions, or questions about our website?

Contact Floyd:

webmaster@bpapilots.org  
or call (504) 312-9986.

Be sure to visit our website, [www.bpapilots.org](http://www.bpapilots.org) for up to date information.

# BPA Selects Robert Bruce Griffin

## FOR INDUCTION INTO THE BLACK AVIATION HALL OF FAME

Black Pilots of America, Inc. recently selected Bob Griffin as the 2010 nominee for induction into the Black Aviation Hall of Fame in Memphis, TN. The 2010 event occurred August 5th. BPA member, Cecil Hoyer who resides in Memphis introduced Bob for the award on behalf of BPA President Col. Palmer Sullins who was unable to attend.

Dedicated founding BPA member, Bob Griffin, first Black Flight Engineer in the United States Air Force was born February 10, 1930 in Trenton NJ, and raised in Rocky Hill, NJ. He is the son of Robert H. Griffin and Wilhelmina Griffin. His father worked as a domestic at Princeton University cleaning dormitories rooms and his mother cooked and cleaned homes in the Princeton area. He attended public schools in that area, and because his home was near the Princeton Airport, he developed an interest in aviation at a very early age.

Unfortunately, during the 1930's and 40's there was little or no effort by the school guidance counselors to advise African American youth about how to pursue an education. He built model gliders and airplanes as a teenager and finally got part time work at the airport pumping gas and washing airplanes. He was paid with some flight instruction by a man who was not deterred by the segregated country.

He completed requirements at the Rocky Hill Elementary School and later Princeton High School. He was seventeen years old, and after reading in the Black press about the exploits of the Tuskegee Experiment as well as other reasons, he saw this as a way to be a part of his country. He enlisted in the US Army Air Corps with only a high school education and a few college prep courses he found himself a long way from pilot training. He scored very high on the Army Qualification test in the field of aviation and was selected for Aircraft Mechanics School at Kessler Army Air Field at Biloxi, MS. He started work on his requirements for his Bachelor of Science Degree with specialization in Aviation Technology.

Upon Completion of Aircraft Mechanics school he was reassigned to a segregated unit at Kelly Army Air Field, TX and was allowed to work at an overhaul depot with white civilian workers. They soon realized that this young Black was extremely familiar with aircraft and had limited flight experience. He was helpful in testing engines and related systems although the general policy was that African American mechanics were not allowed to work on the airfield flight line.

In 1948 he was assigned to the 332nd Fighter Wing, now called the Tuskegee Airmen, in the maintenance and supply squadron as a hangar mechanic, working on P-47s, P-51s and other base assigned aircraft. On July 26, 1948, President Harry S. Truman announced Executive Order 9981, ending segregation in the armed forces. This resulted in reassignment to the 61st Troop Carrier Group in Rhein-Main, Germany for duty with the Berlin Airlift. After his duty hours, he would volunteer to fly as a flight mechanic.

His exceptional performance was noticed by many and resulted in Robert's selection for Flight Engineer's School in September 1949. He

completed the course with flying colors and thus became the very first African American Flight Engineer in the US Air Force. He remained at the school as an instructor.

Robert served as a flight engineer on the B-29s at Randolph AFB in 1950 and KC-97 in-flight refueling tankers for thirteen years with the Strategic Air Command, and C-135 Jet transport with the Military Airlift Command. His Service included participation in the Berlin Airlift, Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War. He retired from the Air Force in 1967.

In the latter part of his twenty year military career, he pursued pilot training. After leaving the military he worked as an Instructor Pilot, Collage Instructor, Air Taxi pilot, and an Aircraft Dispatcher. He went on to fly with Eastern Airlines, and worked in their training department as a Simulator instructor. He flew Boeing 727s until 1991. He went on to Ground and Simulator instructor for Alteon a Boeing company until his retirement in 2005.

Robert met his wife of fifty-seven years, former Joyce West in 1950. They were introduced by each other's fathers and were married in 1952. They were blessed with five wonderful children, Sheila, Brenda, Robert II, Michael and Sandra.

Robert is a Founding member of Black Pilots of America, Inc. and active member of South Florida Chapter BPA, Tuskegee Airmen International, and Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James Chapter, 1288 of Experimental Aircraft Association and former member of Negro Airmen International.

Black Pilots of America Inc. has conducted its annual Les Morris Summer Flight Academy for fourteen years. Now conducted at Texas Southern University, TX, Bob has been an integral part since inception. He has participated in youth summer flight programs for over twenty eight years, volunteering two weeks each summer to instruct youth both ground and actual flight instruction.

Robert Bruce Griffin's accomplishments include Airline Transport Pilot, B-727 type rating, Flight Instructor Single Multi and Instrument, Ground Instructor Advanced Instruments, Aircraft Dispatcher, Flight Engineer Turbojet & Reciprocating Power, Mechanic A&P as well as 10,000 hours flight time and the Tuskegee Airmen Congressional Gold Medal.

Bob was accompanied by his wife Joyce who is also a founding member of BPA along with son, Robert Bruce Griffin, Jr. The photo was taken by Palmer Sullins on the upper floor of the Library of Congress after Bob received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007. Congratulations to Bob Griffin for his induction and thanks for his contributions to Aviation and this great nation. Thank you also to Cecil Hoyer for representing Black Pilots of America, Inc. Clovis Jones, Black Aviation Hall of Fame Founder and Chairman indicated that this will be an annual event.

*Submitted by Palmer Sullins*



# Skyhook 2010

## Becomes a Part of BPA History

Memorial Day weekend 2010 began with plenty of excitement as airplanes from across the country arrive one by one. There were thirty-five on the tarmac by Thursday and another fifteen arriving Friday. Everyone was eager to get the show on the road and we did just that.

Juan Haygood set up registration at Grider Field in the new BPA office. The Grider Terminal Building had been renovated which meant that BPA had to relocate. The new office is smaller than what we had before but its location made things quite convenient. Volunteer Office Manager Pat Hopkins expressed satisfaction with the change as adjustments were made. Once all was in order, registration began.

Al Daniels, the appointed Operations Officer arrived Thursday and wasted no time getting everything in place. Equipment was relocated to the unoccupied FBO building. It was easy to move things to the proper point on the airport. This was his first time to head the Competition Committee but he jumped into the swing of things as if he was an old pro. Al kept things moving the entire weekend and competition was conducted with few hang ups. He did an outstanding job and we thank him for taking the lead. Al is running unopposed for the position of Operations Office and will become the official Ops Officer in January.

BPA President Sullins was invited by Rotary Club President Dean Sikes to be the guest speaker at the West Pine Bluff Rotary Club at noon Thursday. He talked about the mission of Black Pilots of America and its successful history over the past fourteen years. A PowerPoint presentation was made along with photos taken at various events. Most Rotary members were unaware of how we operate and were eager to know more about BPA. A significant number did come to Grider Field after hearing information from Palmer.



President Palmer Sullins with 2010 Skyhook guest speaker, Barrington Irving

In previous years, the FAA conducted a Safety Seminar on Thursday evening and this year was no different. It was held in the restaurant in previous years but we assembled in the new terminal briefing room which was a better atmosphere. Steve Buckner and Jered McFarlain represented the FAA. The seminar is open to all pilots in the area and was well attended. Pilots were updated on

changes in FAR's as well as discussions about causes of accidents over the past year.

The official Skyhook took place with the "Red Coats" for the Pine Bluff Chamber of Commerce welcoming BPA back home Friday morning. They have greeted us each year as one of the highlights of returning to Pine Bluff that we look forward to. They were introduced to the crowd and the Chamber member Kelly Bryant welcomed BPA on behalf of the Chamber.

President Palmer Sullins made special tributes and presented an in case Certificate of Appreciation to Pine Bluff Convention Center Bureau

Chief, Greg Gustek for outstanding support to Operation Skyhook and BPA. He also presented a trophy to Mayor Carl Redus and the City Council for fourteen years of dedicated support. Mayor Redus was unable to attend so Assistant Ted Davis accepted on his behalf.



Mayor Redus of Pine Bluff greets Navy Commander Stan "Spider" Jones

Governor Mike Beebe was unable to attend personally. On his behalf, presentations were made to BPA President Palmer Sullins, BPA Chairman of the Board Fred Lewis and Arkansas Thunderbirds Chapter accepted by Chapter President Ken Johnson. We thank Governor Beebe for these awards.

Former Tuskegee Airmen instructor Milton Crenshaw paid a surprise visit. He addressed the audience and was recognized as a premier aviation pioneer. The crowd responded by showing appreciation for his contributions to the Black aviation heritage. Crenshaw was inducted into the Arkansas Aviation hall of Fame last year and received the Tuskegee Airmen Congressional Gold Medal in 2007.



Arkansas Thunderbirds Chapter President Ken Johnson along with former Arkansas Aviation Hall of Fame member, Milton Crenshaw, and Ken's daughter, Jordan.

*(Continued on Page 7)*

It was then time for Flour Bomb Drop event. The alert was announced over the public address. Al Daniels assembled the group in the terminal briefing room and gave the pilot event briefing. Flour bombs drop for the rest of the day until the last plane made its run. It was a hot day but the event concluded without problems. Thirty pilots entered this event.

There was a feeling of excitement in the air all day due to the anticipated arrival of the US Navy F-18 Hornet. After the Flour Bomb Drop ended, kids were given airplane rides. It is a part of daily activities schedule to give rides when events for the day conclude. About thirty kids took to the cockpits. Then it happened.

A call from the F-18 on unicom frequency was heard and everyone prepared for his arrival. Two Hornets participated last year but only one made this year due to mechanical problems. As the distant roar of the engines got louder overhead, the F-18 appeared and



Spider Jones with future BPA pilots

entered the traffic pattern. What a sight to behold. As he made his initial approach, the crowd began to applaud. The first pass was a low pass followed by a touch and go, then landing to full stop on the tarmac. The canopy opened to expose Commander Stan "Spider" Jones who had piloted one of the Hornets last year. It was great to see him again at Skyhook. Of course it was difficult to keep the anxious crowd away from the aircraft so shortly after securing things, they were allowed to come out to greet Spider and see his F-18. Spider remained the duration of Skyhook and departed Monday morning. We are most grateful to the US Navy for the continuous support of this event. Kids from the local and surrounding communities have an opportunity to witness first hand something that many can only dream about.

The annual Fish Fry was held at Harbor Oaks Lake Center. There was plenty of food for all. We had a great time rekindling old friendships and enjoying the program. After eating, we returned to the hotel hospitality room. Spider joined us and gave a brief talk about his new position in the Navy and his future plans. He got lots of questions from our youth aviators present. Mike Gaillard showed a video of his ride in the back seat of a Blue Angels F-18.

Competition continued Saturday after the morning briefing. The Pylon Race went well and was completed on schedule. Twenty-five airplanes took part. While airplanes buzzed over head in completion, Spider opened the F-18 for the crowd to view. Hundreds of spectators came out to see his aircraft and watch BPA activities.

Later in the morning, twenty-four students from Dollarway and Southeast Middle Schools arrived to complete their aviation planning competition. These students had been taking special instructions from BPA Youth Activity Director, Charles Kelly. Charles lives in California but has a home near Pine Bluff. Each year, he comes to Pine Bluff two weeks in advance of Skyhook and conducts aviation training to students who have an interest in aviation. This training culminates on Saturday at Skyhook where they are given a flight planning problem. They must plan an entire flight from start to finish. When they have calculated fuel requirements and charted the course, Charles takes them on an actual flight to determine if their calculations are correct. This year, Dollarway was the victor. Congratulations to Dollarway and thanks to Southeast for participating.



At the conclusion of competition, airplane rides for the kids resumed. We were only able to give twenty before weather became too bad to fly. Kids were asked to return Sunday and rides would be given. For the past four years, rides have been given in conjunction with the local EAA Chapter. We thank EAA for assisting and look forward to joining forces again in 2011.

After the rides concluded, we headed to Kelly's Ranch. Charles and Julie Kelley have invited BPA to their home for the past three years. What great food. Charles and his neighbors prepare the food. We normally eat outside under the trees but this year, rain forced us inside but the Kelly's had plenty of room for the group. Thank you once again Charles and Julie for your wonderful hospitality.

*(Continued on Page 11)*

# Summer Flight Academy 2010



**DALVIN BARRY**  
COOPER CITY, FL  
COLLEGE (DUKE UNIVERSITY)  
NBA PLAYER, PSYCHOLOGIST



**VICTORIA BOGAN**  
HOUSTON, TX  
ENGINEERING, AVIATION,  
REAL ESTATE



**NYIJA BUTLER**  
INVINGTON, NJ  
COLLEGE (AVIATION PROGRAM)  
AIRLINE PILOT, PSYCHOLOGIST,  
AIRCRAFT OWNER



**JABARI CAIRE**  
BOWIE, MD  
COLLEGE (MIT OR UNIVERSITY OF MD)  
AEROSPACE ENGINEERING,  
MILITARY AVIATOR



**CALE CARTER II**  
HOUSTON, TX  
AVIATION HISTORIAN,  
PRIVATE PILOT

# BPA Graduates Thirteen

**JUSTIN FARFAN**  
SAN PEDRO, CA  
MILITARY CAREER AS A PILOT  
AND FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR



**VANESSA GALVAN**  
INGLEWOOD, CA  
CAREER AS AIR TAXI  
OR AIRLINE PILOT



**MARKUS HUNTER**  
ROUND ROCK, TX  
COLLEGE (MILITARY ACADEMY)  
MILITARY CAREER



**TRISHA NUGENT**  
LITHONIA, GA  
MILITARY CAREER



**ZYRIS SHAKIR**  
HOUSTON, TX  
COLLEGE (POSSIBLY UT)  
MASTER'S DEGREE IN ELECTRICAL  
ENGINEERING, PRIVATE PILOT



# Summer Flight Academy 2010 BPA Graduates Thirteen



**NAJI SIMMONS-JARDINE**  
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL  
CAREER IN ROBOTICS,  
ENGINEERING WITH AN EYE  
TOWARDS AVIATION



**JU'RON WHITESIDE**  
CLEVELAND, OH  
DEGREE IN CRIMINAL LAW,  
POSSIBLY SOMETHING IN AVIATION



**ANTHONY WILLIAMS, JR**  
HOUSTON, TX  
COLLEGE (AVIATION BASED)  
CAREER IN AVIATION

## Glide Path to Success

### BPA/LES MORRIS SUMMER FLIGHT ACADEMY • CLASS OF 2010

Opportunities in life are like encountering turbulence when flying,  
you must know how to manage them.

At the 2010 BPA/Les Morris Summer Flight Academy, our eyes were opened wide enough  
to make an 180 degree turn in our thinking and see the horizon differently.

We found knowledge, strength and skills never to be forgotten.

During the two weeks we were at the academy, our path was not always smooth.

In fact, there were some bumps that placed us into a stall where the only way to recover  
was to overcome fears and stretch our wings. We realized there was no looking back.

We had to continue even though problems came along the glide path. But through the turbulence  
and turns, we could look in the right seat and the BPA directing our hands.

Their encouragement to keep moving forward is why we are able to find success today,  
and have personal strength for success tomorrow.

We are more that honored to have taken this flight with them.

*Thank you to all who made this possible.*



June Marsh as Bessie Coleman with Hubert Looney as MC;



Left to Right: Derek Grier, Rick Astillero, Douglas Tolbert from the Draper Chapter of Pennsylvania)

Who says that BPA can't go to Hollywood? June Marsh said we could and we did. Many chapters answered the call and the night was full of talent. It was a sight to see. June participated as Bessie Coleman and gave an account of her life at various points throughout the show. We were also entertained by her friend Melissa (Willa Brown and Donna Summers) who resides in Pine Bluff and acts by Al & Diane Daniels (square dance), Wanda Kimbrough (Chaka Khan), Fred Lewis (Lionel Richie), Earlene Parker (Etta James), Vera Williams (Tina Turner with Theresa White and Delores Simon), Last Poets (Doug Tolbert, Derek Grier and Rick Astillero), Floyd Miles and Palmer Sullins (Straighten Up and Fly Right), Louis and Lynch Chapter. And the Oscar goes to... Lionel Richie (1st), Last Poets (2nd) and Chaka Khan (3rd). Thanks to June for her hard work and thanks to everyone who participated. June says that next year will be even better.

During the show an award of appreciation was given to John Engstrom who is a US Navy Aviation Diversity Practitioner. John has coordinated support to BPA from the Navy since 2007 and we appreciate all that he and his superiors have done as active partners with BPA. We look to many more years of working together with the Navy.

Sunday morning always brings the reality of ending competition. Excitement overtakes this with thoughts that in a few short hours, the Awards Banquet would occur. After the pilot briefing, Balloon Bursting and Spot Landing began. Forty airplanes participated making a long event. All went well with one plane bursting nine balloons. This was followed by Formation Flying. Four teams participated. As in previous days, when the event concluded, airplane rides resumed. An additional seventy kids got airplane rides.

During the day, guest speaker Barrington Irving arrived at the airport. It was a pleasure to meet him. Barrington is the first Black person to fly solo around the world. He accomplished this in an airplane which he built. During the banquet, his story and video presentation captivated the audience to the point that questions had to be cut off due to time constraints. He got a standing ovation when he finished. His remarkable undertaking was incredible. Many thanks to Barrington for taking time out of his busy schedule to join us. He was presented a gift of appreciation by Palmer Sullins. We look forward to working with him in his other projects. His entire presentation and competition awards are captured and available on DVD.



Globe Trotter Barrington Irving shares his adventures)

The moment of truth finally arrived when winners were announced at the banquet. Congratulations to all winners. The banquet was at the Harbor Oaks Golf Clubhouse. One hundred thirty hungry guests waited for dinner to be served and to find out who would take the trophies home. The President's Award was given to Michael Jackson as well as Special Service Awards to Wanda V. Neal and Floyd Miles, Jr.



20 years old Mary Smith is the first female pilot to win multiple Skyhook trophies

Mary Smith took home 3rd place in Pylon Cat 1 and 3rd place in formation flying as a member of the Atlanta flight team. She is the first female pilot to win Skyhook trophies. The twenty year old Ohio University student will earn a degree in Aviation this year and plans to attend Embry Riddle University for a Masters Degree in Business Aviation. She flew to Pine Bluff solo in a Cessna 172. We wish her the best of luck.

Our BPA youth are our future and we thank all who were able to attend Skyhook 2010. Many participated assisting with judging and competition duties. Others actually joined in the competition. We encourage youngsters to stay in school and strive for a career in aviation. Along with that goes remaining an active member of BPA. Special thanks to Connor Owens and Rayjhan Bethune from Atlanta ACE Program, Deion Lemelle, Alani Hodge, Alicia Hodge, Arina Daniels and others.

*(Continued on Page 12)*

A complete video set is available by contacting James A. Perry (504) 340-5471 or email at [jperry2576@yahoo.com](mailto:jperry2576@yahoo.com). The banquet featuring Barrington Irving, BPA Goes to Hollywood and Fly-In are captured and professionally illustrated on three DVDs for a bargain price \$38.

BPA gets revenue from DVD sales. These videos can be of value for Chapter presentations to new members.

*Submitted By Palmer Sullins*

# Skyhook 2010 Competition Results

## Flour Bomb Drop

- 1st Bobby Robinson (Detroit)
- 2nd Archie Amos (Bronze Eagles)
- 3rd Fred Lewis (Bronze Eagles)

## Pylon Cat 1

- 1st Rick Astillero (Draper)
- 2nd Andrew Flowers (Atlanta)
- 3rd Mary Smith (New Orleans)

## Pylon Cat 2

- 1st Durrelle Robinson (Louis Lynch)
- 2nd Marvin Smith (Bronze Eagles)
- 3rd Michael Gaillard (Atlanta)

## Pylon Cat 3

- 1st Bobby Robinson (Detroit)
- 2nd Marvin Smith (Bronze Eagles)
- 3rd Ed Kimbrough (Bronze Eagles)

## Spot Landing

- 1st Michael Youngblood (Atlanta)
- 2nd John Hicks (Tuskegee)
- 3rd Darryl Smith (Bronze Eagles)

## Formation Flying

- 1st Louis Lynch Chapter (St. Louis)
- 2nd Bronze Eagles (Texas)
- 3rd Atlanta Mentors

## Team Trophy

- 1st Bronze Eagles
- 2nd Atlanta Raptors
- 3rd Louis Lynch (St. Louis)

## Top Gun

- Fred Lewis (Bronze Eagles of Texas)

## Youngest Pilot

- Deion Lemelle (New Orleans)

## Newest Pilot

- Deion Lemelle (New Orleans)



Spider with BPA's Newest & Youngest Pilot Deion Lemelle

# Greene Chapter

## FRIENDS AND FAMILY PICNIC



As many of you know, the John W. Greene, Jr. Chapter, BPA, Annually hosts its Friends & Family Picnic Day every third Saturday, in July. The event includes catered victuals such as the ubiquitous chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, several kinds of drink, including water, of course. Garden salad, potato salad but no beer!!! Camaraderie abounds and hangar flying was offered, of course.

The weather was warm enough, but most of the mature folks remained under the tents and drank a lot of water except the kids who seem to prefer soda.

Weather permitting, plane rides are offered to all those who wish to participate.

This year, however, looking south west it appeared that an (inclement) weather system might be brewing, so we elected to re-schedule flights for August 7.

This year we had at least 55 people on July 21 and another 30 or so on 8/7 when the flights took place of which included those as young as 3 or so up to the high 70's, excluding me!

The event is usually attended by folks from New Jersey and Pennsylvania as well as some from the DC and Baltimore areas. Doug Horton and Chris Leach attended and are from New Jersey.

There were several new faces as well as a few who had been in the woodwork too long, and we hope we can get them involved in chapter activities. Among new faces were Wayne Tonkins, Esq. and Jr. father and son. The senior is an official with the FAA and the son is a pilot and A&P mechanic. Mr. Tillman Figgs appeared and I had not seen him in many years.

We take this opportunity to thank Messrs. Chris Humphries, Rufus Decker and our own Terry Russell (of One World Aero) for their generous time and money in flying our guests.

The teenagers were accompanied by Mr. Maurice Marshall and Ms. Gwen Cook from Alternative Solutions for Youth, an organization located in Washington, DC.

By day's end most of those who wished to fly, did so. A few more can expect to get their rides when the pilots have a bit more time.

*Submitted By DMS (Dan Spicer)*



## Young Eagles...

### It's a Story of Pilot John Hicks

**The Pilot Who Gave Savannah and Hundreds of Young Eagles Their First Taste of Flight**

Florida. I also do some Angel Flights. My latest Angel Flight was in March and was for a two year old boy who I flew from Panama City, FL to Smyrna, TN. Another pilot then transported him on to My first Young Eagles flight took place in April 1995 in a C-172 I bought from the Maxwell Aero Club. Over the years I have flown Young Eagles in Alabama, Texas, Missouri,

Arkansas & Cincinnati Children's

Hospital. I own a V-Tail Bonanza and a C-150. I use the 150 primarily for working with my grandchildren and other youngsters. My daughter started flying with me at the age of four and I soon started teaching her to fly. She soloed on her 16th birthday and got her private pilot license shortly afterward. She is now an M.D. I believe that the seeds we plant today, if watered and nurtured by God, are guaranteed to bless future generations.

LIVE, LAUGH, LOVE and FLY.

John

*Reprinted from EAA, Chapter 822, Wetumpka, AL 08A*



# DR. ALBERT E. FORSYTHE CHAPTER

## FISH FRY FUNRAISER



The Fish Fry was the Chapter's first effort at having a fish fry as a fundraiser. It was the suggestion of Chapter member, Richard Taylor. Richard had gotten the idea of a fish fry fundraiser from a BPA membership meeting held in Tucson,

Arizona. Our menu consisted of a choice of catfish, whiting, or chicken, baked beans, cole slaw, sweet potato french fries, a cornbread muffin, and a beverage. The food was catered by Jameson's Southern Home Cooking of Neptune, New Jersey. Bob Jameson is a member of the Chapter. It was held at the hangar of Marlboro Aviation Services that is owned by Bill Bienes, a Chapter member. Airplane rides were provided to a host of youth and adults. Participating pilots were Chapter members, Daniel Johnson, Yvonne McManus, Allen Schott, and Chapter-at-Large member, Paul Niles. The attendance was overwhelming and a great time was had by all. The Chapter's other means of fundraising are Pancake Breakfasts.

*Submitted by William A. Scott*



GUESTS CHOWING DOWN



BOB JAMESON AT WORK

## Redtail Fun Day

The Redtails get together at their home field (DLO) a central California to fellowship. Since this is only about an hour's flight for most of us, Delano serves as our Redtail base. Activities usually include sharpen our skills at discussing the fine points of hangar flying, some enjoy the fine points of cigars, and some even enjoy participating in the flying events. We always have food catered in from a local BBQ restaurant to complete our Redtail Fun Day.

Some of the Redtails who have never been to Skyhook get to see some of the flavor of what we do at Skyhook. Some are reluctant to do the Balloon Bursting or Pylon racing until they are talked or shamed into it but once they try it they are hooked. Most of the new Pylon racers miss the second pylon and head for Fresno until the Air Boss calls them in from their cross country



flying! Most of the rookies think they are racing to see who is the fastest until we explain it's not that kind of race! The balloon busters are allowed to fly until they burst one and keep going until they get exhausted!

In April we had 27 airplanes participate, making their patented Redtail arrival either solo or formation is always one of the hits for the spectators. Enroute, we talk to each other on our Redtail frequency which makes the whole trip coming and going a total experience.

Of course we could not do this without the cooperation and help of The City of Delano and the airport staff who helps us put on our events in so many ways by putting tables and chairs out for us and configures our meeting and dining rooms for us ahead of time, we are proud to be affiliated with them for these and many other reasons.

*Submitted by Ron Lisberg*

# Let the Sunshine In!

## BPA, INC. SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

**Chairman: June Marsh** • “Sunshine” Fly Girl “Lady” June Bird, BPA-Bronze Eagles, Houston, TX • jemarsh@sbcglobal.net

**Chaplain: John Hicks** • BPA-Tuskegee, AL • Dhawkjwh@aol.com

**Member: Armentha Russell** • BPA-Lewis Lynch Chapter-St. Louis, MO • a63147@aol.com

**Member: Earline Parker** • CA Redtail • earlinepw@sbcglobal.net

## THANKS FOR LETTING THE “SUNSHINE” IN!

Thanks to our BPA, Inc. Sunshine Committee, BPA Chapter Officials, our BPA National Sunshine Reps and Members for their outstanding acts of care and kindness of keeping the BPA, Inc. Sunshine Committee informed of our Members and their immediate families notable happenings. May our BPA Sunshine “Light” continue to give love, joy, peace and comfort!

## BPA, INC. SUNSHINE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS REPORTED: JANUARY 2010 THRU AUGUST 2010

## Get Well Wishes

**MAY GOD’S SUN, SHINE ON YOU FOR HIS SPECIAL HEALINGS. YOU ARE ALL IN OUR PRAYERS FOR COMPLETE RECOVERIES!**

Jan 2010: Andrew J. Carr-Arkansas Thunderbirds-III; Jan 2010: Joyce Griffin-So. Florida Chapter- III;

## Congratulations! Best Wishes!

**“GREAT THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE!” BE SAFE AND BE BLESSED! THINKING OF YOU!**

Praise Be To God! Jan 2010: James A. Perry, NOLA Golden Eagles

## Thinking of You ~ Condolences

**“WITH SINCERE SYMPATHY” GOD BLESS AND MAY ALL OF YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS FIND PEACE AND COMFORT.**

Jan 2010: Vincent Simmons-NOLA Golden Eagles-Loss of Grandmother; Jan 2010: Everett R. Arinwine, CA Redtail-deceased;

## RESPONSES ARE SENT VIA BPA, INC. SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

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The Black Pilots of America, Inc. Organization would like to continue sending cheers, cares, concerns and prayers to our Members and their immediate families. So please continue to submit your “Sunshine” News to the BPA Sunshine Committee with complete details of event, name, address, phone, email, etc... Thank you.

**BE BLESSED AND CONTINUE TO BE A BLESSING, JUNE MARSH, BPA, INC. SUNSHINE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

**Black Pilots of America, Inc.**  
*Founded 1997*

**The Black Pilots of America is a non-profit membership organization committed to introducing under represented youth to the field of aviation.**

**President:**

Palmer Sullins, Jr  
president@bpapilots.org

**Vice President.:**

Eugene Stanley  
vicepresident@bpapilots.org

**Operation Officer:**

Aaron "Al" Daniels  
operations@bpapilots.org

**Secretary:**

Theresa White  
secretary@bpapilots.org

**Treasurer:**

Juan Haygood  
treasurer@bpapilots.org

**Chairman of the Board:**

Fred Lewis  
chairman@bpapilots.org

**BPA Communications:**

Michael Jackson  
bpamedia@gmail.com

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