



## On-Board UPDATE for AFC Volunteer Pilots

### AFC Pilots & ATC Working Together - - Facts and Fun for AFC Pilots

Quad cities tower (KMLI) & approach/departure control recently opened their workplace for AFC pilots. Experiencing a couple of hours in the life of an air traffic controller helped to understand what controllers do & think while providing invaluable services to the Pilot community. Observing ATC in action while they communicated with airplane and helicopter pilots; we had healthy discussions with ATC about topics many pilots always wanted to ask. Here are some highlights and messages for pilots from ATC:

- ATC wants you, the pilot, to ***always be on the same page*** as ATC; no matter what phase of flight. From initial taxi instructions or departure procedure, to an approach or landing; this is crucial. They stress to never be afraid to ***clarify or confirm*** even in a busy environment. If the airwaves are crowded, they suggest a short interjection, for example, "quad city approach, N123 request." Also, crucial, don't hesitate to declare an emergency. ATC wants to be viewed as a partner, not the police in the sky.
- ATC ***"tips" for arrival*** into a busy airport environment: Start listening to ATIS as far out as possible to get an idea of what is actually happening at the airport. What is the primary runway for landing? What approaches are being used? They suggest knowing the initial fix for the instrument approach in use. Most arrivals will be directed to that fix in preparation for the landing phase.
- Have you ever been flying along and suddenly realize you haven't heard any chatter on the radio for a while? ***What's the best way to make sure your radio is working?*** Are you on the correct frequency? ATC suggests that pilot's state over the radio, "local altimeter setting, please." This is better than asking for a radio check and less likely to create more than one reply.
- ATC is willing to help, given their time availability; including things that are not commonplace. Controllers at KMLI rarely get to use their light gun signals & encourage pilots to occasionally ask for this type of service or other non-routine services; if not too busy. **ATC & pilots are always looking to stay at the top of their game.** Common sense will determine if the environment is right for this kind of request. If in doubt, ASK.
- **AFC call signs** are now unique to AFC and to the individual pilot; giving ATC the opportunity to provide ***priority service for "angel flights"*** if conditions permit. **SAFETY** is always the primary concern of ATC & pilots and being on the same page helps promote safe travels.

Have fun, help others in their times of need and fly safely!

Tom Zumm, AFC Volunteer Pilot & Illinois Volunteer State Chairman

***Flight Coordination "TIP": Going away on Business or Vacation?***

**Change your "Availability" in AFIDS under "Account Settings."  
Change back when you return.**

## **Tim Buckley NEW AFC Safety Chairman - 2016**

AFC Volunteer Pilot (since 2007) & Attorney from Zionsville, IN is the new Safety Committee Chairman for Angel Flight Central. Tim flies a Beech Bonanza V35 out of KTYQ - Indianapolis Executive. Tim has served on the AFC Safety Committee for several years contributing his legal expertise to discussions on AFC pilot requirements, incident review and safety initiatives to support AFC pilots. We thank Chris Hope for his leadership and creation of the Safety-grams as Safety Committee Chair since 2013. Previous chairs include: Andrew Peters (Wichita), Judy Benjamin (Kansas City), and Steve Pearson (Chicago).

Reach Tim at: [tbuckley@timbuckleyattorney.com](mailto:tbuckley@timbuckleyattorney.com)



*AFC Pilot Kelly Hafeman with the  
"Brainerd Bunch" to Camp Heartland*

## **Service Spotlight CAMP FLIGHTS**

What a great summer for **74 AFC Pilots** who flew **97 Special Needs Campers** on **334 Mission Legs** for Camp Heartland (MN), Burn Camp (MO), Camp Kindle (NE) and Camp Odayin (MN). Thank you for your service and for lessening the impact of HIV/AIDS, Burns & Heart related conditions for these young people. 12 flights made possible by the **AFC Camp Flight Fund**.

**WINE FLIGHT 2015: Join fellow AFC Pilots celebrating 20 years of flying people in need in support of Angel Flight Central. Seats are going fast.**

**REGISTER TODAY**

*Deadline: November 13.*

**REGISTER for WINE FLIGHT!**

Angel Flight Central | TF: 866-569-9464 | KC: 816-421-2300 |  
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