

# Flight Experience for Youth (FEFY)

## 2019 Winter Newsletter

PO Box 411, Warren, VT 05674

[fefy@sugarbushsoaring.com](mailto:fefy@sugarbushsoaring.com)

Flight Experience for Youth (FEFY) is a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization that partners with Sugarbush Soaring to give young people with an interest in aviation the opportunity to learn about and experience the world of flight. With programming that is hands-on, experiential, and immersive, students achieve surprising levels of confidence and maturity—quickly. It is a thrill to see them take on ever greater responsibilities with their flying, and then to see that newfound self-assurance impact other areas of their lives. The ripple effect of young people learning to fly is simply astounding. Not only do they learn about flight fundamentals, aircraft mechanics and other subjects integral to a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) curriculum, but in truth the lessons go well beyond that.

The youth programs that FEFY supports continue to thrive and grow. In 2019, the number of Youth Members at Sugarbush Soaring reached an all-time high (27). Four of them passed Private Pilot Glider checkrides, five soloed for the first time, one Line Crew alumni passed his Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) checkride and three Youth Members did internships and helped with all facets of the flight operation.

In this newsletter you'll see what a big impact the unique programs that FEFY supports are having on young people's lives. It includes sections on Youth Member accomplishments, Youth Airport Day, scholarships, the Line Crew program, alumni spotlights and donor testimonials. It concludes with a message from Tom Anderson, the Director of Operations at Sugarbush Soaring who oversees the youth programs.

FEFY relies entirely on generous donations to fund these programs, which now have an annual operating cost of approximately \$50,000 per year. We'd like to extend a big thank-you to those who have donated to FEFY in 2019. If you haven't, we hope you'll consider doing so. Your generosity makes all the difference to the kids we serve. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated and can come in many different forms (people typically mail a check or donate online, but we also receive other types of donations (e.g., Sugarbush Soaring shares, hangars, AmazonSmile). For information on ways to donate, please contact us at [fefy@sugarbushsoaring.com](mailto:fefy@sugarbushsoaring.com).

We greatly appreciate your support. Thank you and Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

[Click here](#) to donate online!

The FEFY Board of Directors

Jen Stamp, Catherine Benham, Ginny Hanson, Bill Newell, Brian Wagner & Danny Burns

If you mail a check, please make it out to 'Flight Experience for Youth' (or FEFY) and mail it to: Flight Experience For Youth, PO Box 411, Warren, VT 05674

# Flight Experience for Youth (FEFY)

## 2019 Youth Member Accomplishments

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In an effort to help make flying more accessible to youth, Flight Experience for Youth (FEFY) took on a new responsibility in 2019. It worked in partnership with Sugarbush Soaring to cover annual dues for all Youth Members (age 21 and younger). The dues allow Youth Members to qualify for reduced rates on aircraft rental and instruction, and provide them with insurance coverage when they solo. On the flight operations side, annual dues are very important because they help pay for full-time, professional staff to run the flightline and office 7 days/week, aircraft maintenance (including the two tow planes), rental of the Tower building, hangars and airport property and insurance.

Our vibrant Youth Programs continue to grow. Here we highlight the many successes and contributions from our Youth Members from this past season:

- We ended the season with 27 active Youth Members, which is an all-time high
- Four Youth Members passed Private Pilot Glider checkrides
- Five Youth Members soloed for the first time
- Three Youth Interns helped with all aspects of the flight operation, ranging from mowing grass to running the flight line to working in the office.



### **PRIVATE PILOT GLIDER & YOUTH INTERN**

#### **Will Drody**

*Will Drody led things off, passing his Private Pilot Glider checkride on July 18. Here he is shown shaking hands with Daryl Smith, the FAA-Designated Flight Examiner. Will started flying at Sugarbush three years ago and has attended three overnight Youth Soaring Camps. He was also a Youth Intern this past summer. Will is currently a senior in high school.*

## **PRIVATE PILOT GLIDER - 2019**



### **Danny Burns**

*Danny was the next one to pass his Private Pilot Glider checkride. He has been a member of the Sugarbush Soaring Line Crew since 2017 and has attended two overnight Youth Soaring Camps. Danny is currently a junior in high school.*



### **Ryan Dessureau**

*Ryan was the third Youth Member to pass his Private Pilot Glider checkride. He has been a member of the Sugarbush Soaring Line Crew since 2016 and was a junior counselor at one of this year's overnight youth soaring camps. Ryan graduated from high school this past June. The week after he passed his checkride, Ryan started his freshman year at the University of Vermont.*



### **Nick Colwell**

*Nick was the fourth Youth Member to pass his Private Pilot Glider checkride. He has been a member of the Sugarbush Soaring Line Crew since 2014 and was a junior counselor at one of this year's overnight youth soaring camps. Nick graduated from high school this past June. In September, after taking his father for a flight, he started his freshman year at UC-Santa Barbara in California.*



## FIRST SOLOS - 2019



**YOUTH INTERNS - 2019**  
**LUCAS ALLRAUM**



*Lucas Allraum was a tremendous help, helping to run the flight line and logging a lot of tractor (mowing) time. Lucas made great strides with his flying over the summer. After passing his Private Pilot Glider checkride last season, this season he took his family members up for rides in the SGS 2-33 and PW-6 and had numerous, lengthy solo flights in the PW-6. He is currently a senior in high school.*

**YOUTH INTERN**  
**SONIA TALAREK**



*Sonia Talarek was also an enormous help this season. She did it all – from helping to run the flight line to mowing to working in the office. She soloed at Sugarbush this past summer and has taken solo flights in Germany as well. She had some great flights this past summer, including a long flight in the mountain wave and the flight shown above in which she was flying amongst two rainbows. Sonia is currently a senior in high school.*



# Flight Experience for Youth (FEFY)

## 2019 Airport Day

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On June 23, 2019, Flight Experience for Youth (FEFY) partnered with Sugarbush Soaring and the Mad River Valley Rotary to hold the third annual Youth Airport Day. Twenty youth, ages 10 to 16, received free glider lessons from FAA-certified flight instructors, as well as ground school and lunch. They also watched a demonstration on how to assemble a glider. Youth Airport Day aims to use students' enthusiasm for aviation as a means to make STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) studies interesting and relevant.

Here are some of the messages we received following the event –

*“Thank you so much to everyone who put together such an amazing experience today. While being in the air is hard to beat, being around so many people who share a passion for aeronautics was the most powerful part of all. I appreciate the donation of everyone's time, energy, fuel, equipment, etc -- I hope that all involved felt the deep appreciation from the kids and were aware how they were truly making life-impacting experiences for many of them!” – Parent of participant*

*“I applaud you and the entire team for creating this opportunity, one that will perhaps inspire some of the young participants to explore aviation further while encouraging enthusiasm for disciplines like math and science necessary to master the craft. In my opinion, developing a passion is the key. All else follows.” - FEFY donor*

Below are some photos from the event. For more information about Youth Airport Day, please contact us at [fefy-events@sugarbushsoaring.com](mailto:fefy-events@sugarbushsoaring.com).



*Twenty youth participated in the 2019 Youth Airport Day. Pictured here are the participants along with Sugarbush Soaring staff and Line Crew members.*

[Click here](#)  
to help  
support  
next year's  
event!



*The day began with ground school.*



*Then came the flying. Shown here is Tim Wilson, a 13-year old from Fayston, who got his first hands-on flying experience in a glider.*



*Flight Instructor Graham Ramsden happened to get paired with another Graham (10-year old Graham Turner from Montpelier, VT).*



*Flight Instructor Tim Larsen captured participants' attention with his glider assembly demonstration.*



*Students waiting for their flights toured the static display, which included a Cessna 170 and Boeing Stearman Biplane.*





# Flight Experience for Youth (FEFY)

## 2019 Scholarships

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During the 2019 season, Flight Experience for Youth (FEFY) awarded three scholarships to Sugarbush Soaring's overnight youth soaring camps (valued at \$2600 each). Dane Liebermann, a Line Crew member, received the Luke Hammer Memorial Scholarship. Grace Kane received a scholarship that was designated for young females who are passionate about aviation. Andrew Sechen received the third scholarship. Below you'll find messages from each of them about their experiences at camp.

For more information about FEFY's scholarships, please contact us at [fefy-scholarships@sugarbushsoaring.com](mailto:fefy-scholarships@sugarbushsoaring.com)

*"For me, the camp was a huge success, as I came out of it with my first solo flight under my belt. The experience of living at the airport and flying consistently really helped me to focus on the task at hand and allowed me to progress much faster. I really loved the way it was all set up - the perfect amount of freedom and structure and I was able to build strong ties with both the instructors and my fellow campers. I want to thank all of you for making this experience possible. I hope that these programs can continue into the future!" - Dane Liebermann*



*Dane Liebermann, who is part of Sugarbush Soaring's Line Crew program, soloed for the first time while he was at camp.*

[Click here](#) to help  
provide  
scholarships for  
next year's  
camps!



*“I find myself looking back on my week there frequently. I am so appreciative of that opportunity. It gave me a completely new outlook on my future and provided me immense growth both as an individual and a pilot. I can't thank you enough – it had a very big impact on me!” – Grace Kane*



*Grace Kane, pictured here with Flight Instructor Tom Anderson, is almost done with her first semester at St. Louis University, where she is enrolled in their flight training program.*

*“I really enjoyed my time at camp and got so much out of it. I really appreciate you enabling me to have such an unforgettable experience” - Andrew Sechen*



*Andrew Sechen loved the flying but also had fun driving the golf carts!*

# Flight Experience for Youth (FEFY)

## 2019 Line Crew

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Sugarbush Soaring's Line Crew program continues to be strong and vibrant. Ten to fifteen youth aged 13-18 work on the field under the supervision of FAA certified flight instructors and earn credits toward instructional or solo glider flights at the rate of one flight per day worked. Being part of the Line Crew is a real job, with considerable responsibility. Attention to safety, clear communications, strict procedures and excellent situational awareness are critical to the role.

Flight Experience for Youth (FEFY) covers the cost of Line Crew flights (which totaled around 150 in 2019; an average instructional flight costs \$150) as well as the cost of the Line Crew's FAA pilot certification tests, which include a written exam (\$150) and practical test with a Designated Flight Examiner (\$500 examiner fee plus the cost of the flights). FEFY also covers the cost of ground school to prepare Line Crew for their pre-solo written exams and flight tests.

Three of our Line Crew (Danny Burns, Ryan Dessureau and Nick Colwell) achieved their FAA Private Pilot Certificates for Gliders this past summer, which takes a great deal of dedication and discipline. Two other Line Crew (Silas Scheckel and Dane Liebermann) soloed for the first time. In late August/September, Nick and Ryan, two of our long-time Line Crew, headed off to college but several younger ones (who had been trained by the departing seniors) stepped in and took on more of a leadership role. One of them, Danny Burns, recently joined the FEFY Board of Directors.

For more information on Sugarbush Soaring's Line Crew program, please contact us at [linecrewprogram@sugarbushsoaring.com](mailto:linecrewprogram@sugarbushsoaring.com).



[Click here](#) to help support next year's Line Crew program!

*Braden Martens, a 13-year old from Waterbury, joined the Line Crew in 2019.*



## Line Crew Flight Accomplishments - 2019



**Nick Colwell –**

**Private Pilot Glider & recent Line Crew graduate**

*“I’ve wanted to get my pilot certificate since I caught the flying bug watching a Spitfire and Hurricane fly by at eight years old. I’ve been incredibly lucky to have a place so close to me that’s filled with people ready and willing to share aviation with others, and I’m glad that I can start to pay that forward by sharing the joy of flying with the important people in my life. As I’ve often heard Rick Hanson say, flying is fun, and we’re all here because of that. Thank you for making it possible for me to take part in that fun in so many different ways.” – Nick Colwell, who was on the Line Crew from 2014-2019. He is now a freshman at UC Santa Barbara.*

**Ryan Dessureau –**

**Private Pilot Glider & Line Crew graduate**



*Ryan was on the Line Crew from 2016-2019. He is currently a freshman at the University of Vermont.*

**Danny Burns –**

**Private Pilot Glider**



*Danny joined the Line Crew in 2017. He is a junior at Montpelier High School.*

**Silas Scheckel – First Solo**



*Silas joined the Line Crew in 2017. He is a junior at U32 High School.*

**Dane Liebermann – First Solo**



*Dane joined the Line Crew in 2016. He is a senior at U32 High School. Dane spent last year abroad in India.*

# Flight Experience for Youth (FEFY)

## 2019 Youth Program Alumni Spotlights

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We continue to maintain strong connections with alumni from our Youth Programs, which means a great deal to us. We were fortunate to have two Line Crew alums – Alex Scaperotta and Jackson Markow - be active participants at the airport this past summer.

### Alex Scaperotta

Alex Scaperotta is a former Line Crew member who is now a senior at Tufts University, where he is studying engineering. This past summer, he served as assistant airport manager, did commercial scenic rides and achieved his Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) certificate in Gliders, which is a very big accomplishment. He helped with all facets of the flight operation and we cannot thank him enough. He was truly a force multiplier, doing over 40 commercial rides in August alone. Here is what Alex had to say about his experience at the airport –

*“Every day that I’ve spent at the airport I’ve learned something. Listening to and participating in the discussions about all aspects of aviation, technology, politics, and much more has shaped me as a pilot and a person. Looking back to that first day, I was a scared 13-year-old kid taking an intro flight in a Blanik with Rick (on a rather gusty and exciting ridge day too!) That kid would never have guessed what this adventure would become. I would be an entirely different person if I had never shown up to the airport that day. Spending these last eight years with all of you has been among the best and most formative experiences of my life. Now that I have my CFI, I have the ability to pass along the favor, to “infect” more people with a passion for soaring and help others experience the great joy of our sport. From the bottom of my heart, thank you”*



Alex passed his CFI checkride at the end of the season (on the left, he is shown shaking hands with Daryl Smith, the FAA Designated Examiner). He got some great flying in this summer, including a 4+ hour long flight in the SGS 1-26.



## **Jackson Markow**

Jackson is a former Line Crew member who is now a sophomore at USC in California, where he is studying aeronautical engineering. Jackson spent the past summer in Vermont, where he did an internship at Beta Technologies, a start-up company based in Burlington that is developing electric vertical-lift (e-VTOL) aircraft. In his free time, Jackson was engaged at Sugarbush on several fronts, helping at Youth Airport Day, flying, and mentoring Line Crew. He also took flight lessons in power planes in Burlington.



*Jackson helped out at the airport on numerous occasions this past summer, including guiding Youth Airport Day participants through the static display.*

# Flight Experience for Youth (FEFY)

## 2019 Donor Testimonials

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Flight Experience for Youth (FEFY) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit run by a volunteer Board of Directors (BOD). Its support of Sugarbush Soaring's Youth Programs is completely dependent on contributions from generous donors. In 2019, its operating budget was around \$50,000. Here we provide testimonials from two donors – Guy Pfeffermann and Bill Newell – explaining why they decided to donate to FEFY. Donations can take many forms (cash, checks, online, Sugarbush Soaring shares, auction items, hangars, AmazonSmile and more). For information on ways to donate, please contact us at [fefy@sugarbushsoaring.com](mailto:fefy@sugarbushsoaring.com).

### Guy Pfeffermann

*"Besides the sheer joy of flying, one of the reasons I love soaring is that there are rather few opportunities to test one's skills where one has sole responsibility for one's success or failure. Soloing in a glider offers such an opportunity, as one depends entirely on one's skills and nobody is there who could help you if you don't do well. I found this a unique and deeply satisfying confidence-building experience. I am, needless to say, in love with Sugarbush, its wonderful team of instructors and its incredibly beautiful setting.*

*Over the years I have come to admire the Flight Experience for Youth program. Soaring is a rather expensive proposition, out of reach of many young girls and boys who would fly. FEFY is one of the very rare programs that make for a more inclusive community of pilots. It offers what may be a life-altering opportunity to young people, and also helps bring young talent to an otherwise ageing soaring community. For all these reasons I decided to make a donation to FEFY in the form of a Sugarbush hangar which I am no longer using. The donation makes me feel really good."*



[Click here](#) to join  
Guy and Bill in  
supporting FEFY



## **Bill Newell**

*“My 35-year career as a financial advisor has taught me that although charitable giving can be motivated by tax and estate planning incentives it is primarily a values-driven altruistic gesture. People give out of kindness, consideration for the needs of others, and the desire to leave a legacy of good will in something that is bigger than themselves.*

*My intention in establishing the FEFY “Paying it Forward” program is to encourage a greater level of financial support for what is by any measure an enormously successful youth program. In my view, FEFY needs a strong financial foundation which is both measurable and predictable in order to thrive and grow.*

*I have seen first-hand how the youth programs that FEFY supports are life changing for its young participants. The core of these programs center around the challenge and discovery of aviation. I believe the personal development that takes place is transformative and will influence these young aviators throughout their lifetime, whether they stay in aviation or not. Responsibility, Problem Solving, Self-Reliance, Humility, Integrity and Compassion for others are elements of character development which transcends learning how to fly a glider.*

*To help launch the “Pay It Forward” campaign I have made the first pledge of \$500 per year for 5 years. I hope you will join me in supporting the future of FEFY and its “Paying It Forward” pledge program.”*

William C. Newell, CFP, President  
Atlantic Capital Management, Inc.



*Bill serves on the FEFY BOD and is an active member of Sugarbush Soaring. He enjoys flying both gliders and power planes.*

Message from Tom Anderson,  
the Director of Operations at Sugarbush Soaring  
who oversees the youth programs -

One of the best things I do at Sugarbush Soaring is to watch young people work hard to become the best young adults they can be. A young man who graduated from our program recently told me that he had “figured out that we were not just teaching him how to fly, but also teaching him about life through flying.” He is so right. Our young people are not just learning the skills of a pilot.



So many young people today yearn for something “real” as they grow up and work their way through adolescence. The youth programs at Sugarbush Soaring are one outlet that provides them with opportunities to achieve fulfilling life-changing accomplishments. Learning to fly teaches so many positive skills and lessons, including discipline, responsibility, dealing with adversity, critical thinking, problem solving, communication, teamwork, attention to detail and so many other attributes. Moreover, doing it through gliding means that they need to learn to be a team player and help with all aspects of airport operations. All our students learn about aircraft handling, equipment operation/maintenance, safety, customer service and communications. All these experiences can be extrapolated in so many ways for their whole life.

I cannot express my gratitude to the staff and members/volunteers who provide mentoring, guidance and resources for our young people. No matter how small the connection might be, every interaction helps these young people immeasurably. Our instructors provide great depth in their mentorship, role modeling and encouragement for all the young people at the airport. The FEFY Board of Directors works closely with Sugarbush Soaring and gives so much of their time and effort to make this all work.

And, of course, the donors. All of you who are so generous with your donations are making this all possible. From the bottom of my heart, thank you so much for your gifts, both financial and for your overall dedication to the cause of making these opportunities possible for these young people.

