



Flight Experience For YOUTH

helpyouthsoar.org

2022 Year In Review

The youth programs that Flight Experience for Youth (FEFY) supports continue to be very popular. Thanks to your generous support, we were able to fund over \$50,000 in youth programming in 2022. This included several scholarships that helped us further our goal of increasing the diversity and inclusiveness of the sport of soaring and to make these unique experiences available to groups who are traditionally underrepresented in aviation. The young people we work with continue to inspire and impress us and bring great energy and vibrancy to the airport. FEFY also has two new BOD members who have already made big contributions to our organization. One of them, Eve Silverman, organized our first "Glider Fest" event.

The FEFY BOD is extremely grateful for your continued support and looks forward to another great year in 2023.

With sincere thanks,

The FEFY BOD - Jen Stamp (President), Eve Silverman (Treasurer), Danny Burns (Secretary), Brian Wagner & Emilio Arce & FEFY's Youth Advisers - Tim Wilson and Braden Martens.

In 2022, FEFY Funded

- Over 175 flights for 11 line crew members
- Annual dues for 28 youth members
- Training and FAA exam costs for a new Commercial Glider pilot
- \$11,200 in scholarships for 5 recipients
- 20 flights for youth camp counselors
- Over \$3,000 in flight lessons for underrepresented youth

Youth Pilot Accomplishments at OB7

- 1 Commercial Pilot certificate
- 2 first solos in the SGS 2-33
- 2 first solos in the SGS 1-26

Other Highlights

- Our newly restored Schweizer 2-33 made 232 flights (88 hours)
- New outdoor tent

We depend on your contributions. Donate at helpyouthsoar.org/donate



Youth Pilot Accomplishments

Danny Burns – Commercial Glider

Danny passed his Commercial Glider checkride on August 13. He didn't waste any time and started giving glider rides that afternoon! He is an integral part of our team at OB7, starting as a Line Crew member in 2017 and working his way up to Line Crew chief in 2021 and Airport Operations Assistant in 2022. . He helps with everything – communications, scheduling and training of the Line Crew -- and created a website for the Line Crew with training materials, the contact list, and schedule. He operates the tractor and brushhog and helps with routine maintenance on everything (aircraft, trailers, tractor), including welding. He is easy to underestimate because he is a quiet, unassuming young man who doesn't like to bring attention to himself. His piloting skills have come a long way, but just as, or perhaps even more satisfying, has been his growth as a person and leader.

"I look forward to using the skills I have learned at the airport to give back to the community in any way possible, but especially by eventually becoming a flight instructor. By doing this I can help pass the sport of soaring and the associated life lessons back to the new generation of line crew and other youth at the airport, and I can hopefully help FEFY's support make such a large difference in someone else's life trajectory as it did to mine." - Danny Burns

Danny took his first glider flight on June 26, 2015. Danny intends to get his Flight Instructor - Glider certificate in 2023. He is a sophomore at Olin College of Engineering in Needham, MA and also serves as Secretary on the FEFY BOD.





Tim

Tim Wilson soloed for the first time in a SGS 2-33 on July 14 during camp #1, followed by his

first solo in the SGS 1-26 on August 28. Tim is the Chief of the Line Crew, a position that carries with it a lot of responsibility including scheduling, training and coordinating the Line Crew. He helps out with every aspect of maintaining the airport and is always willing to chip into any task with enthusiasm. Tim joined the Line Crew after a flight in a glider on Youth Airport Day when he was 12. He attended camp this year as a recipient of the Luke Hammer scholarship. Tim intends to get his private pilot glider certificate next season.



Braden

Braden Martens first soloed in a SGS 2-33 at the end of the 2021 season when he was 14 years old. This season, he soloed for

the first time in the SGS 1-26 on July 4. He took many solo flights in the SGS 1-26, including one that was almost 3 hours long. This season Braden also gained experience flying from both the front and back seats of the high performance gliders (PW-6 and ASK 21). Braden has been a member of the Line Crew since age 12. He helps run and maintain the airport, is the senior trainer for Line Crew (having proven himself to be a very good teacher) and is incredibly helpful and supportive of his fellow students. Braden's goal for next season is to get his private pilot glider certificate.



Ben

Ben Zipkin soloed for the first time in a SGS 2-33 on July 15 during camp #1. Ben has been attending Youth

Soaring Camps at OB7 since 2019. He is quiet and thoughtful, yet motivated and can perform Line Crew duties at a high level. This past season we saw him becoming a true pilot in command (PIC), taking charge and being the captain of the aircraft. He is very helpful when he is at the airfield and always chips in with a smile on his face.

Sonia

Sonia Talarek passed her private pilot glider checkride on October 23 in Williams, CA. Sonia attended three soaring camps at OB7, two as a camper and one as a



counselor (2021). Sonia is a junior at Cornell Engineering-Cornell University, interested in aerospace and sustainability (specifically renewable energy). On campus, she is a member of the airframe sub team on CUAir and helps mentor underclassmen through CUEMPower.



Ben Proudly displays the back of his shirt after the traditional shirt cutting



Alex

This season, Alex Scaperotta, who first came to Sugarbush Soaring as a 13-year-old Line Crew member,

bought a share in a high-performance glider (an LS4 based at OB7, fondly known as Roast Beef (RB)). In addition to gaining experience in the LS4, Alex instructs at Sugarbush Soaring on the weekends and has obtained multiple pilot certificates in powered aircraft. Alex works at Beta Technologies in Burlington, VT, helping to develop their electric vertical takeoff aircraft.

Liam

Liam Welge attended the youth soaring camp for the second year. After he returned to his home airport in Pittsburgh PA, he soloed their Grob 103 on October 29. This came after they lost their Blanik earlier this year in a windstorm. Congratulations Liam! And hats off to your club for persevering.



Did you know?

You can support FEFY at no extra cost when you shop at smile.amazon.com.

AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to FEFY. Just register "Flight Experience for Youth, Inc." as your selected charity.

Mike

Mike Vinton is another past soaring camp attendee who recently obtained a pilot certificate (Private Pilot - Single Engine Land). Mike was unsure of his career path but says that his involvement with the camps has focused him on flying for a living (and fun). Even though his dad is an ex-Air Force pilot and a professional airline pilot, Mike was not sure that he had what it takes to be a pilot. The camps and his flying experiences at Sugarbush Soaring changed that. Mike is enrolled at the Vermont Technical College in the Aviation Degree program. He is continuing his flight training at BTU.



Braden enjoyed the 126 with a flight of almost 3 hours!

Scholarships

FEFY offered three full and two partial overnight camp scholarships in 2022. Two scholarships (African American and Female, Transgender and Non-Binary Youth) were created to help realize FEFY's goal of increasing the diversity and inclusiveness of the sport of soaring and to make these experiences available to groups who are traditionally underrepresented in aviation. In addition, thanks to a generous benefactor, FEFY was able to provide scholarships to two local youth to fund flight lessons outside of camp.

U.S. Pilot Demographics (2019)

American Indian and Alaskan Native	0.3 %
Black or African American	1.7 %
Asian	2.2 %
Unknown	2.5 %
Hispanic or Latino	7.1 %
White	86.2 %
Women	29 %
Men	71 %

<https://www.zippia.com/pilot-jobs/demographics/>

Florent Wilondja



Florent has a deep interest in aviation and through a scholarship awarded to him by a generous benefactor began flight training with us this past season. He is a very engaging young man, showing us that he has a strong spirit and willingness to apply himself to learn how to fly. A testament to his drive and engagement is that 4 years ago Florent did not speak English – now he communicates clearly and openly. He is a flight instructor's joy: he is always prepared for his lessons, does his homework and likes being challenged.

Raphaela Sulley

Raphaela was the recipient of the 2022 Female, Transgender and Non-Binary Youth overnight camp scholarship. A highly engaged, motivated, driven, and fun person, she lit up the camp with her smile. Raphaella bonded easily with the campers and staff, learning everything she could about glider operations, from flying to helping with the launch and recovery operations. She is from Burlington VT and wants to fly in the military. Wherever she heads we know she will be at the front.



"This summer I was honored with the FEFY scholarship, this makes it so people who are underrepresented in aviation get an opportunity to be represented. My experience at soaring camp was like nothing I have ever partaken in. It was a great environment to learn and grow in. This camp was the first time I have ever flown in a glider, and I am definitely going to do it again. I'm used to using a power plane, so being in a glider was definitely a different experience than flying in cessna. Once I got used to using a stick and rudder I was a pro! The staff at Sugarbush Soaring are such positive people who all have the love for aviation. I had such a good time at camp and can't wait for what the future holds for me in aviation!" - Raphaella





Tim Wilson was the recipient of the 2022 Luke Hammer overnight camp scholarship. He is from Fayston VT and soloed for the first time during camp.

Luke Hammer Scholarship

Established in 2015, the Luke Hammer Scholarship has been a critical scholarship that gives dedicated line crew members a chance to attend the camps. By attending camp they can be totally immersed in flying and experience the camaraderie the camps offer. These experiences are instrumental in their progression as they allow them to have consistent flights, often leading to huge gains in their confidence, proficiency, and progression during the week. Having line crew attend the camps is also very helpful to camp staff as they train the new campers in handling gliders and flightline operations, and they model the culture of safety, learning and excellence for the other campers.

"I had an amazing time at the camp. The experience of being immersed in aviation with all the amazing people around is an unforgettable experience. The scholarship was also able to help me towards my goal of soloing this year. During the camp I was able to do 3 solo flights all of which were incredible learning experiences." – Tim Wilson

Chris Gibson

From Brooklyn NY, Chris was the recipient of the 2022 African American overnight camp scholarship. Chris is in love with all things aviation and has taken every opportunity to learn – plane spotting at airports around the New York City area and attending industry conferences for aspiring airmen. He was very grateful to have a chance to attend the camp to learn more about being a pilot. He loved the Mad River Valley and the views from the gliders and enjoyed the challenges of learning the "ropes". He was a great camper to have around!

"Chris is back in NYC safe and sound. Filled with so many stories of his past week, from his first time trying tacos (he's a very picky eater), how delicious the chocolate chip pancakes were for breakfast, his experience flying a glider the first time, swimming, driving golf carts, etc. He had a great time and the time flew by. Thank you for keeping him safe, and providing memories that will last a lifetime!" - Chris's mother Marlena





Line Crew

We had 11 members in our Line Crew program in 2022. They are an integral part of our operation.



As a Line Crew member, youth ages 13-18 work on the field under the supervision of a FAA certified flight instructor and earn credits toward instructional or solo glider flights at the rate of one flight per day worked (an average instructional flight costs \$150). FEFY also covers the cost of their FAA pilot certification tests, which includes a written exam (\$170) and a practical test with a Designated Flight Examiner (\$500 examiner fee plus the cost of the flights).

Being part of the Line Crew is a challenging job with considerable responsibility. Attention to safety, clear communications, strict procedures, and excellent situational awareness are critical to the role. Line Crew duties include:

- greeting students and commercial ride passengers and safely shepherding them to and from the gliders
- positioning gliders on the flight line
- fetching and attaching tow lines to the gliders and the towplane
- signaling to the towplane before launching the gliders
- recording flight data on the "day sheet"
- retrieving landed gliders
- acting as ambassadors for the sport of soaring



Getting ready for the next flight.



Silas Gulley, a 13-yr old from Waitsfield, joined the Line Crew this year.

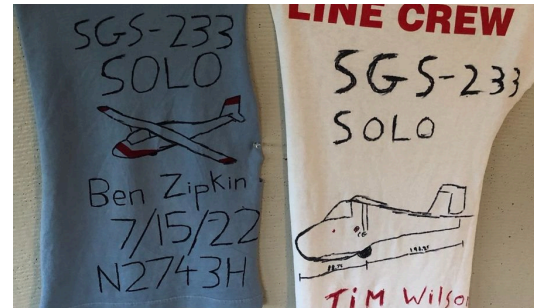


The line crew puts the airport to bed, ready for the next season!



Youth Soaring Camps

The two sessions of the 2022 Youth Soaring Camps were without a doubt fun and gratifying as we watched campers, returning and new, bond together. This season's campers had a broad mix of pilot experience, with brand new students experiencing their first flights to experienced campers honing their high-level skills. The weather offered some really unusual soaring conditions, and the lessons were focused on adaptation and versatility. The campers learned how to set up the operation in the mornings, getting the gliders to the flight line. They reviewed the schedule for the day's set up, ran the ropes, launched and recovered gliders, updated the day sheet, and overall kept the operation a well-oiled machine. Evening involved a lot of frisbee (including Ultimate), football, eating amazing amounts of food and of course games of manhunt. Due to the very generous donation of a large tent to FEFY we were able to congregate despite ongoing COVID concerns for meals, games, and ground school. We want to say a special thank you to all the staff, volunteers, and the team that makes the camps such a great experience. We especially want to thank David Tanzer for bringing his balloon and Juli Whitney for taking such great photos.



Fundraising

Ginny, Rick and volunteers put on a great meal for the August 13 dinner-auction! As usual, the live auction was very fun and entertaining. Our donors were very generous; FEFY raised about \$5K from the event. Auction items included an airplane ride and lunch at Basin Harbor with Fabio in his taildragger, art work, a glider cake from Maia's mom, and more. Thanks to our new BOD member Eve Silverman, we ran a new fundraiser and Open House for the airport to increase community awareness of the youth programs at the airport. We had a beautiful day for the "Glider Fest" event, which included static displays, talks, a silent auction, and live music throughout the day. The day concluded with a flour drop fundraiser: a single drop where a team consisting of Jen and Tim Wilson dropped a small paper bag filled with 1.5 cups of flour from FEFY's glider (SGS 2-33) with the goal of hitting the wind sock. The drop was exciting, coming within 100-feet of the windsock! Throughout the summer, Tim, Silas and Eve stood at a table downtown and sold passersby squares on a grid that ranged between \$5 to \$20 depending on proximity to the windsock (grids closer to the windsock were priced higher). The Glider Fest was a fun time and brought in about \$8K for FEFY (between the gate donations, food, silent auction, and flour drop event)! Most importantly, it spread the word about FEFY and the youth programs at the airport.



Thanks to the very generous donation of this large tent, we were able to safely congregate for meals, games, and ground school during the camps despite ongoing COVID concerns

Thanks to generous donors, in 2021, FEFY purchased and restored a beloved SGS 2-33 that had been totaled in a windstorm in 2017. Having two SGS 2-33s is critical for our ever-growing youth programs.



Dane Liebermann – Camp Counselor

FEFY funded a number of flights for Dane in return for being our outstanding camp counselor.

For the last two years Dane has been a counselor at the Youth Soaring Camps, and was absolutely integral to their success. Dane also has helped with airport operations, removing a number of trees that were growing up into the approaches to the runways (he is a skilled logger).

After his first year as a line crew member in 2015, he went to live and attend school in India. Upon his return, he has been a stalwart member of the team at the airport. Dane is also an adventurer: he built his own teardrop camper and drove it cross-country during the pandemic, living in austere places out west. He is a junior at Middlebury College in VT. He will be doing an internship at Beta Technologies, an electric aviation startup in Burlington, next year. A highlight for Dane this season was taking Linda Mullestein for a flight. Linda introduced Dane to the airport years ago.



RC Planes at OB7

A long time ago a club member donated a large-scale, remote-controlled glider to the third floor of the tower building. It sat there for as long as most can remember, until it was rescued by Tim. In his home workshop/laboratory, Tim worked hard to repair and modernize it with the goal of making it airworthy – and he succeeded. His restoration included a servo tow release in the nose of the glider and a lot of 3D printing. With Braden flying an electric powered RC plane (as the tow plane) and Tim flying the glider they had a number of incredible flights this season. Many of us watching thought it was harder than flying the real towplanes on tow with real gliders!



Thank You



I want to acknowledge and thank the many people who make our youth programs possible. The staff, boards of FEFY and Sugarbush Soaring, volunteers, members and donors have all made incredibly generous contributions of time, funds, passion, and enthusiasm. It is only because of these contributions that Sugarbush Soaring can offer such a wide range of programming and valuable experiences for young people. By providing them a chance to participate in something real, they learn not only flying but life skills, building self-confidence, resilience, and teamwork. Not only are they learning, but they also mentor and train upcoming line crew and new campers, helping to prepare them to be leaders and flight instructors. It is incredibly satisfying for me, as I can witness firsthand how young people embrace the opportunities offered, learn about themselves, integrate into the team, and achieve much more than they thought was possible. As these young people give so much of themselves -- supporting each other, helping to maintain the airport, being incredible ambassadors of our organization, displaying incredible energy and passion, and showing a deep level of ownership -- they make all our efforts truly worthwhile!

Help FEFY help our youth!

FEFY is a 501(c)(3) organization and is completely dependent on contributions from generous donors. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated.

Make your check out to Flight Experience For Youth (or just FEFY) and mail donations to

Flight Experience For Youth
PO Box 411
Warren, VT 05674

You may also donate at
helpyouthsoar.org/donate

Tom Anderson,
Director of Operations at Sugarbush Soaring



FEFY wants to thank everybody helping to bring along the next generation of pilots

We are grateful for the support given by all, including Brothers Building, Tradewind Aviation, the de Ramel Foundation, the Robbins Beaumont Foundation and the Larsen Fund.



TRADEWIND

FEFY is a 501(c)(3) organization that funds flight training, ground school, and aviation experiences for young people aged 21 and younger eager to learn to fly. The programs that FEFY funds are run by Sugarbush Soaring at the Warren Sugarbush Airport. For more information, email fefy@sugarbushsoaring.com