



President	Marc Popejoy
Vice Pres.	Bill Cheek
Treasurer	Pete Mosca
Secretary	Jim Shawley

**Missouri Pilots Association  
Bolivar Liberator Chapter**  
Web page link at [www.mopilots.org](http://www.mopilots.org)

The June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting of the Bolivar Liberator Chapter of the Missouri Pilots Association met at 6:00pm at the McClelland Dining Facility on the Campus of Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar Missouri.

Thus begins these minutes, typical of all our meetings. But this meeting was different. Ostensibly, we met here because of the heat; in reality, it was more than that—we met here to surprise our friend, mentor, and pilot's pilot, Jack Reynolds, who retired from his career as a corporate pilot on the first of this month. More on this later.

Present were Jack Reynolds, of course, and his guest Connie Hestand, and Jim and Mary Shawley, Frankie and Gwen Stretesky, Jonathan Rimmington, Duane and Kay Smith, Gene Engledow, Sam and Bev Swihart, Rex and Linda Smith, Jim and Jean Raney, Kelly Grant, Marc Ferguson, Roni burns, Wally and Nita Edwards and their guest Ron Hawking, Rex Warren, Rob Parsons, Nick and Jobeth Maas, Don and Pat Baker, Steve Marshall, John and Nancy Savage, Marc and Shari Popejoy, and Kerrick Tweedy.

We were also blessed with some special guests, including the honorable John Best, new mayor of Bolivar, Dan Manna, retired president and CEO of Paul Mueller Company, and Brent Cline, Air Traffic Manager at SGF and his wife Sherry.

The University's food service provider, "Fresh Ideas," catered a fantastically delicious meal of lasagna, cheese tortellini with chicken strips, grilled green beans, Caesar salad, and cake, which we all indulged in after Frankie Stretesky led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Don Baker in grace for the food.

After eating, we (sort of) opened our business meeting, with the announcement that the Bolivar Relay for Life on June 17, as well as the July 4<sup>th</sup> Bolivar Independence Day celebration, have asked the Bolivar Chapter to perform flyovers; further, Springfield Downtown, 3DW, is hosting an aircraft expo June 16, and Turkey Mountain, MO00, is hosting a Comanche fly-in.

After the fly-over/fly-in information, we invited Mayor Best to share a few thoughts on the future of M17, which he was gracious enough to do.

John Savage, chairman of the nominating committee presented the slate of officers for the next year; Marc Popejoy consented to serve another term as president, as did Pete Mosca and Jim Shawley for the positions of treasurer and secretary, respectively.



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Kelly Grant was willing to serve as vice-president. When presented to the members, they all were voted in unanimously.

The business meeting was then suspended for a time of celebration and a little “roasting” of Jack Reynolds.

First to share was John Savage, who related searching high and low to find one of Jack’s more notorious former students, one Barney Fife, who related to John many of Jack’s earlier escapades. We then heard from one of our special guests, Brent Cline. Brent has known Jack for some twenty-four years, having been interviewed for an air traffic controller career by Jack. He related that one of Jack’s trademark replies to any request, no matter how difficult, was “not a problem.”

Gene Engledow, our senior pilot of the Bolivar Chapter, shared how, after the passing of his wife, he was enroute to Texas in his recreational vehicle for the winter, when the alternator failed. Not finding one in the Texas town where he was stranded, he fielded a phone call from Jack, who was just checking on him; upon hearing of Gene’s plight, Jack volunteered to find an alternator and fly it from southwest Missouri down to Texas, just because that is what Jack does. Gene and the local parts store eventually found one nearby; but that Jack was prepared to hunt one down and personally deliver it to Gene speaks volumes about this person known as Jack Reynolds.

Finally, we were made privy to the *how* behind Jack’s retirement from his stint as a corporate pilot: Dan Manna shared how he introduced his company’s chairman of the board to the economic benefits of general aviation; so impressed was he that he directed Dan to acquire a company plane—with *two* engines, and *real pilot!* Thus it happened that,





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having gotten to know Jack through his instrument proficiency check ride experiences with him, Dan approached Jack with the idea of flying for that manufacturing firm. The rest is history, including another of Jack's famous replies to requests, "Piece of cake," and ending with N110PM (formerly registered as N1101U) being ferried to Mauretania, as we learned in the April, 2011 meeting.

After these folks had shared some of their lives had intersected with Jack's, Marc Popejoy reconvened the business meeting—for a very special purpose: Two months ago, after that same Bolivar Chapter meeting where we all listened to Jack's ferry flight adventures, an anonymous person approached Marc with a proposition concerning a donation to a charity in Jack's honor. Marc did some gum-shoe work and, knowing Jack's passion for flying and teaching young people to fly, Marc proposed to that anonymous donor an aviation scholarship fund, set up through an organization established in Springfield which specializes in educational scholarship fund management. As a result, Marc entertained the following motion from Don Baker, who went to the podium and read,

"I make a motion to establish the 'Jack Reynolds Learn to Fly Scholarship,' according to the 501c.3 oversight of the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, with the initial board members to be the Vice President and Treasurer of the Bolivar Chapter of the MPA, Jack Reynolds, Mel Volmert, and Marc Popejoy to oversee the scholarship, ad establish by-laws and operating procedures according to the requirements of the Community Foundation of the Ozarks."

After Don read his motion, which Jim Shawley seconded, there was a brief period of discussion, with good questions asked, including whether the Bolivar Chapter would be the sole overseer of the Scholarship fund, and how the monies would be disbursed, and how would the decision be made regarding potential recipients. In the end, the motion carried unanimously.

Before the meeting adjourned, Marc fixed his eyes on Jack and said, "Jack Reynolds, I hope the LORD bless and keep thee, the LORD make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious to thee, and the LORD lift up His countenance and give you peace" (Numbers 6: 24-26).

After a standing ovation in appreciation for all he has done for the aviation community in general and the pilots of Bolivar in particular, we didn't let Jack go, however, without insisting he share his thoughts. He shared a little about his introduction



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to this wonderful addiction called flying which happened to him at the age of 14 at 3DW, under the tutelage of Steve Palenik. Among other things he learned from Mr. Palenik was the following excerpt from the book *As a Man Thinketh* by James Allen:

*Mind is the Master power that moulds and makes,  
And Man is Mind, and evermore he takes  
The tool of Thought, and, shaping what he wills,  
Creates a thousand joys, a thousand ills: —  
He thinks in secret, and it comes to pass:  
Environment is but his looking-glass.*

He also noted that when asked if he ever gets tired of flying, he sometimes responds, “Yeah, I’m tired right now; but tomorrow morning I’ll be ready to go.”

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Shawley  
Secretary, Bolivar Chapter, MPA