



Grass Roots Flyer December 2021



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



The Christmas tree at Stanton (flag pole) is brightly lit for the holiday season. These lights are new to Stanton this year thanks to Tim Bjork, Curt Johnson and Jerry Rosendahl. In the upper right of the photo you can see the US flag in lights in the Stanton tower. The flag was put up one year ago. Have a healthy and safe holiday season from all of us at Historic Stanton Airfield.

Last Glider Flight of the Season:



November 15th turned out to be the last glider flight of this season. Evonne Broten started her glider instruction on that day with Stanton CFIG Steve Fischer. Evonne plans to continue her instruction in the spring (hopefully when it's a little warmer).

Meet New Board Member Curt Johnson:

Curt Johnson has been no stranger to Stanton Airfield for the past several years, first becoming a renter and then joining the VOO (Voluntary Operations Officer) crew this summer. He has also recently accepted a position on the Board of Directors of Stanton Sport Aviation, where we think his passion for aviation and Stanton will benefit the community.

To help you get to know Curt a little better, we sat down with him to ask the following questions:

When and how did you come to be involved with Stanton Airfield?

I moved to Northfield in September of 2016 but didn't "discover" Stanton Airfield until fall of 2017, eventually getting checked out in the 172 in June of 2018. Over the last 3 years, I've been a very active renter, flying all of the aircraft in the fleet. My favorite is the Piper PA-11, especially on a warm summer day when you can fly with the window and door wide open!



It didn't take me long to realize what a special community Stanton is, and over the last year I've spent additional time at the airport trying to learn various aspects of airport operations. Being a VOO has been a great experience thus far.

Married? Children? Other hobbies?



I am "partnered" with my soulmate, Lori, who has lived in Northfield since 2011. Lori is the reason I came to Northfield. And among the myriad of things we love to do in Northfield, I am super happy that she understands and shares my passion for flying. Though not a pilot, she has learned quite a bit about aviating and can handle many in-cockpit tasks including flying the plane! She still lets me do the landings, though.

I have two adult children from my prior marriage. Rachael (27) is a NICU nurse in Chicago, and she and her husband recently gave birth to "Teddy", making us grandparents for the first time. Rebecca (23) lives in Boston and is working toward a career in writing.

As for other hobbies, I have been a musician nearly my whole life. I play piano, guitar, and banjo, though piano/keyboard is far and away my primary instrument. One of the greatest things about Northfield is its arts community, and I feel really lucky to have connected with a lot of musicians who give me great opportunities to play in various settings.

What is your aviation background? How many years have you been flying?

In 1988, I was in college at a music school in Boston. My piano teacher had a photo of his airplane hanging on the wall in his office, and when I asked about it one day he told me how he uses his airplane to get from Boston to New York for meetings and recording sessions. He invited me to come to the airport (KOWD) one Saturday and go for a ride. Once we took off and started sight-seeing around Boston, my reaction was one of, "Wait a minute! You mean you can just hop in a small plane and go fly wherever you want? Really?" I was hooked.

After graduation, I started flight training in Chicago (KDPA), getting my PPL in January, 1991. I've been flying on and off ever since, with the usual "breaks" from flying to accommodate family and kids-growing-up obligations.

Over the last 3 years, I have done more flying than anytime previously. Part of that has come from joining the Stanton Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, which gives me opportunities to introduce young people to aviation as well as occasionally fly maintenance-related flights of CAP aircraft.

What do you enjoy most about being around Stanton?

I'm grateful for the many friendships we now share with our Stanton family. It's well known that aviation communities tend to be a close-knit bunch, but Stanton seems to have an extra special quality. Maybe it's the grass runways. Or the vintage aircraft. Or maybe it's the amazing people who are dedicated to the preservation and vitality of this place. I'm proud to call John, Jay, Toby, and Mindi . . . as well as all the great people who volunteer at the airport . . . my friends, and I could not be more grateful for this community.

Meet New Board Member George Underhill:

When did you first become involved at Stanton Airfield?

I first became involved at Stanton Airfield when I joined the Minnesota Soaring Club in 2001. I moved to Eagan in 1999 and hadn't really thought about soaring or flying GA until I drove by Stanton one time and saw the gliders hanging in the main hangar. I joined the club shortly thereafter.

What is your aviation background and interests?

I've had a consuming (addictive?) interest in aviation since I started flying model airplanes with my dad at a young age. I still continue to build and fly models of all sorts. I had rides in GA aircraft and gliders as a teen in New York, where I grew up. I earned my private pilot's license in 1985 and graduated with a degree in Aerospace Science (not engineering) from Dowling College in 1987. I served for almost ten years as a pilot in the USAF flying G and H model B-52's and instructed in the T-37. When I was stationed in Michigan I earned my glider add-on at Benz Aviation at the Ionia County airport. I've been a commercial airline pilot since 1999.



What do you enjoy most about being around Stanton?

Stanton is the quintessential small, grass airport. The fact that it isn't surrounded on all sides by a chain-link fence and security gate is a rarity in today's world. Like many small operations the people are the difference and what makes Stanton a fun place to be. Being with like-minded aviation people flying or just shooting the breeze is what I enjoy most about Stanton.

Airport Manager Report:

It's appropriate that I write to you today having spent the morning snow blowing runway 18/36. Yes, that white stuff is here and now we can deal with it for a few months. So to recap what you may or may not recall, 18/36 is our primary winter



runway in use. As time permits, we'll try to keep 09/27 open. Please be aware when snow blowing OPS are in effect. We only keep 1/2 the width clean for normal traffic and the unblown half is for ski traffic. Always check for "NOTAMS" as they will be often-issued and updated as necessary. Other than to and from the fuel pump/main ramp, there are NO taxiways, so announce taxi-backs and be courteous to your fellow aviators.

If you book a flight with the FBO or want to fly your personal aircraft, please call ahead to check the airport status. This is especially true - post any snow event or higher wind conditions.

Snow removal is necessary and takes a great deal of time by our staff to keep you flying. I ask for and appreciate your patience. A non-flyable runway equals no winter revenue which could lead to no airport to enjoy long-term!

Here's wishing you a very blessed Christmas/Holiday season and SAFE WINTER FLYING!!

John Quilling, Airport Manager

www.stantonairfield.com



[Stanton Airfield](https://www.facebook.com/stantonairfield)



[stantonairfield](https://www.instagram.com/stantonairfield)

507-645-4030

synairportmanager@gmail.com

FUEL: 100 LOW LEAD - \$4.85 SWIFT UL94 - \$4.54