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Flying With Santa

by DIANA LAMBDIN MEYER



Who among us, certainly at the earliest days of our lives, has not dreamt of flying with Santa Claus on his annual journey around the world?

That childhood fantasy is now a reality of sorts in the southwest Missouri town of Miller, about an hour north of Springfield. It's here, in the middle of cattle country—just off old Route 66—that Kiman Kingsley makes those dreams come true.

Kingsley is first a farmer, working with his brothers Kaland and Kaleb on their 4,000-acre cattle operation. But he is also a pilot with a pretty good size crop dusting business that operates from small airfields across the country, as well as Kingsley Field just south of Miller. Kingsley's Plane Cents Aviation purchased a 2011 Turbine Thrush from Mid-Continent in 2022. At



last count, he had 21 planes and dozens of pilots working for him. Pilots come and go from around the world. He also instructs crop dusting pilots.

So, in 2012, the Kingsleys built a little restaurant called The Hangar Kafe and decorated it with all sorts of model airplanes hanging from the ceiling. Kingsley is also a hot air balloon pilot, so they have lots of that stuff hanging around, too. The hostess stand is a basket from a hot air balloon.

This is one of the best restaurants anywhere for roast beef or chicken fried steak with homemade mashed potatoes, rolls, pies and ice cream. People started coming from all over.

When the Ozark Sky Diving Club began using the airfield on weekends from April through November, restaurant patrons began pulling their chairs outside to watch people jump from airplanes.

The Kingsleys then built a patio with picnic tables and occasionally invited bands to play on the weekends. And even more people started coming.

The Kingsleys love antique cars, particularly old Studebakers. In fact, they are descendants of Peter Studebaker, one of five sons of German immigrants who founded the Studebaker Brothers Manufacturing Company in South Bend, Indiana. The Kingsleys have three Studebakers, including their dad's 1963 model, so they built a little building to show off those vintage cars. You'll often see those cars in parades around southwest Missouri.

The airfield is also home to a steam engine show in July that celebrates antique farm equipment that used steam. Kingsley can talk at length about the Moline Walking Plow and the Moline Thrashing Machine his grandfather used.

Octoberfest is kind of crazy with homemade apple butter, crafters and live bands. The point is, there's always something going on at the Kingsley airfield and Hangar Kafe. Seriously, there's no other place like this in the Midwest.



Despite all that, things are slow on the farm and in the crop dusting/sky diving business in December so Kingsley decided to dress up like Santa Claus and offer plane rides to families. His wife Judy joins the festivities as Mrs. Claus on these December weekends. Reservations are highly recommended.

It's just as festive as the North Pole this time of year with kids jumping up and down as Santa loads them in his sleigh and takes off. The rides last about 15 minutes and just circle around by the wind turbines and along old Route 66.

Santa poses for photos with his sleigh following the flights. Passengers slowly head home with visions of sugar plums dancing in their heads as dreams of the real Santa making his dashing visit seem all the more possible.

(This article originally ran in the Winter 2022 issue of Show-Me Missouri magazine.)

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Summary:

*Job Description: Aircraft Painter (Primary) / Mechanic

*Type of aircraft: Agricultural & General Aviation

*Longevity: Depends on work quality and productivity - Indefinite

*Type of work environment: Paint Shop / Hanger

*Safely perform aircraft preparation, painting, and detailing of aircraft under minimal supervision. Coordinate with supervision and Inspection to ensure compliance with internal and FAA paperwork, sign-offs and quality specifications.

*Follow standard operating procedures when using tools and equipment such as dual action sanders, stand/lift platforms and paint sprayers. Properly care for and maintain shop equipment and tools.

*Follow standard operating procedures when using sealants, paint strippers and corrosion-preventive chemicals and use protective equipment as required.

*Comply with safety rules and procedures and be alert for unsafe conditions. Address unsafe conditions before putting people or property at risk.

*Maintains a clean work environment tooling and equipment. Stripe, registration and logo layout and application from drawings and prints.

*Stores, handles, uses, and disposes of hazardous chemicals in accordance with Federal, State, and Local Environmental Protection Laws.

*Read, write and understand English (US) and Math.

Job Requirements:

*Shift Requirements: 1st Shift

*Tools required: Yes

*License requirements: N/A

*Specific experience required: Not a must but experience in restoration and finishing work a plus

*Must be willing to work Overtime

*MUST BE A U.S PERSON (Citizen or Perm. Resident)

*Conformance with the appearance standards and dress code: as required

*Relocation: N/A

*Travel: As Required

Company Information

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1771.59 A/F TT, 1,350 HP,
Falcon GPS/Flow Control, Reabe



2011 THRUSH S2R-T34 N7005B

6707.04 A/F TT, 750 HP, MVP-
50T, Cascade Inlet, Aero LED



1998 AIR TRACTOR AT- 602 N5185E

11,998 TT Engine, 1050 HP,

Hopper Quantity Spray Boom Pressure, Aire Repair Fast Start, Transland 7.5 Reabe Electric Gate, Kawak Throttle Quadrant, New Battery Plate Assembly, Load Hawg, Garmin G5 Flight Instrument, Garmin GTR-225 Comm, Garmin GTX345 TXP

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2023 THRUSH 510P2 N702MC

120 A/F TT, Smoker, Leading Edge Lights, Micro VGs, Falcon GPS, Intelliflow, Side Load Fuel, Garmin GTX 327, Garmin GMA340, Garmin GTR 225

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Lights, Compro-Smoker, Vortex Generators, Single Point Fuel, Hemisphere GPS Bantam, Load Hawk, Intelliflow, Custom CK-AG-51 Battery Kit

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1976 PIPER PAWNEE N312MM

6,067 A/F TT, Lycoming O-540-132C5, 9,335.48 TTE, 540.0 TSMOS, Salto Lite Star 3 Boom, CP-3 Nozzle

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Single Point Fuel, Shadin Fuel Flow Meter, ADSB-In & Out, Stratus 31 Transponder, Starter Generator & Engine drive Boost Pump replaced at HSI, Fresh Bleed Air Diaphragm, New Fuel Nozzles, 350.0 Hrs HSI All New CT Blades, Iran FCU, Engine Drive High Pressure Replaced 3-24, Engine Driven Oil Heater Replaced 8-23.

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2022 THRUSH S2R-T660 N710NW

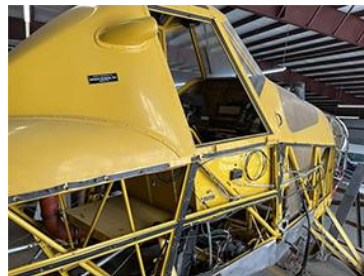
Dual Cockpit/Single Control, Single Point Fuel, MVP-50T, A/C & Heat, Garmin G5, 3-inch Side Load System, 2-inch Spray System, Streamlined Aluminum Booms, Hopper Rinse System, HSBO Half Boom Shut Off/RBSO, GTX-327 w/ GDL82 (ADS-B Out), GTR 225, Large Lane Brake, 6 Blade Fans, CP-11 TT Nozzles, K10-65P1 AFS Check Valves, CP-06 Swivel Night Working Lights & Taxi, Leading Edge Lights, Smoker, Reabe Hopper Gauge, Aglaser Altimeter, Transland Spreader, LAD Valve Dry Brake, SS Steps, Fast Start, Tinted Windows, USB Charge Point, Move Hopper Rinse Fill, Cascade Pressure Cowl

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2021 THRUSH S2R-T660 N701NW

1,439 A/F TT, AG Pilot X GPS, AG Laser Altimeter, CP11 Nozzles, Lane Brake and Fan, Stainless Steps, AFS CCheck Valves, Fast Start, Garmin Comm Radio, AFS Booms, Reabe Hopper Gauge, Garmin Transponder, ADS-B Out,



1992 AYRES S2R-G6 N3105U

Airframe no prop, no engine, MVP-50, Glass Panel, Vortex Generators, 24 Volt, Freon A/C, Aileron Servo, Reabe Hopper Level Indicator, Fabric Tail

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1953 BEECHCRAFT T34 MENTOR N234TU

7890 A/F TT, 996 TSMOH, King KMA 24 Audio Panel w/ Markers, Garmin GNC 250XL GPS/COM, King 155 Nav Com, Glid Slope, Garmin G-5, Garmin GTX335 Transponder, Garmin GTX335 ADSB-Out, Garmin 660 Panel

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