



Aircraft Sales • Insurance • Parts • Maintenance & Satloc

On January 11 the Federal Aviation Administration honored a group of pilots at the 2024 Missouri Aerial Applicators Association Convention, including our own Stanley Hunter, with The Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. The award recognizes pilots who have demonstrated professionalism, skill, and aviation expertise by maintaining safe operations for 50 or more years.

In light of Stan's achievement, we would like to once again share the feature piece on him from December 2021 which describes many of the reasons he is worthy of this prestigious award.



Stan The Man

by JOSH RITTENBERRY



When this writer began traveling the convention circuit fifteen years ago, there was no one better to introduce me to the world of networking with vendors and customers than Stan Hunter. “Stan’s the man,” everyone would say. “Stan is always good to travel with.”

After that first convention and the many more that have come after it, Stan and I got to know each other better, making small talk on the airport tarmac and during breaks at conventions. It was at those moments I began to piece together Stan’s experiences and all that he had accomplished. While interviewing him for this article, I learned a few more things I didn’t know during our small talks. And now it’s time you hear about them, too.



Stanley Hunter was born one of eight children to a family of farmers in Van Wert County in northwest Ohio. Farming was hard, gritty work. On a piece of land used to raise cows, sheep and hogs, Stan was introduced to aviation at an early age when his uncle landed his Cessna 140 and Cessna 170 on the farm strip.

As the years went by, Stan traded farm life for work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service. Through the conservation service, he was offered the chance

to further his education at Tri-State College, where he entered the engineering program. Throughout the seven years he attended college, Stan had an opportunity to take flying lessons, notably in a J3 Cub, which was used to obtain his commercial license years later.

Like many who had come of age or were starting to make their path in life at that time in the late 1960s, Stan was drafted during the Vietnam War in his final year of college at the age of 27. Trained as a swimmer for the army, Stan took part in Underwater Demolition Team training. These “frogmen” were amphibious units established during WWII. In Vietnam, the units carried out surveys of South Vietnam’s coastal waters and reconnaissance missions often while under fire. Stan was fortunate not to be led into harm’s way, benefiting from the U.S. Department of Defense’s Sole Survivor Policy. Because he already had two brothers who were in combat zones at the time, Stan

was instead based at the deep water harbor of Charlotte Amelie in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

After his time abroad, Stan returned stateside when he was transferred to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Louisville, Kentucky. During his time of military service, he had earned his commercial pilot license and his CFI rating. Post-service, he became part owner of an FBO in Fort Wayne, Indiana. While in Fort Wayne, he gave flying lessons, chartered cargo and acquired his A&P mechanic license. Soon, he was able to buy out his partner and became full owner of the FBO.



Stan eventually said goodbye to the FBO after securing a job as a pilot with Eastern Airlines, running up and down the U.S. eastern seaboard and South America, based out of Miami for 14 years. While on leave from the airline, he took ag training in Beloit, Kansas where he not only trained but also taught other pilots and did maintenance on the school's trainers.

After Eastern Airlines was sold, Stan had completed ag training, started his own spray business in Litchfield, Kentucky. He then went to work for Britt Airways. He certainly had a friend in airline owner Bill Britt, who, himself, had been a scrappy crop duster from Mississippi in his early years.

As if he didn't have enough responsibilities, Stan decided to buy another FBO in Mayfield, Kentucky, which he ran with the help of his wife Jean for the better part of 15 years.

Stan's next endeavor brought him out of the skies and down to earth. With his brother unable to continue his trucking business, Stan began running the business and running big rigs all over the map, hauling aluminum and then entire households under a contract with Mayflower Movers.



Once the contracts had been exhausted, Stan had every intention to slow down and retire, but fate had other plans. It was while running the Mayfield FBO that Stan first met Dick Reade. Dick would often deliver Ag Cats across the mid-south region and stop at Stan's airport for just enough fuel to make it back to Hayti, Missouri. Before he knew it, Stan had bought six Ag Cats from Dick. Years later, while trying to get a regional association started to benefit Kentucky operators, Stan had ongoing conversations with Dick, who managed to convince him to come to work for Mid-

Continent.

"Dick knew I was a mechanic, instructor and was in the ag business," Stan says. "It was a new opportunity and an intriguing one, so I took it."

In April 1997 Stan began his career here at Mid-Continent, with a great deal of emphasis on Cessnas as Mid-Continent had recently become a Cessna dealer. Borrowing from his ag career, ag airplanes were also an area of strength for Stan.

"I remember when Ag airplanes cost \$15,000, and now new models are easily over \$1 million."

Stan has a great appreciation for the opportunity to work for Mid-Continent, a one stop shop for all aviation. His time here has not been limited to only domestic customers; Stan has built strong relationships with airplane buyers in South America, Canada, Israel and Africa.

"Aviation is a good vocation for young people because the industry is always growing and evolving" Stan says. "The pilot shortage is worrisome, so I encourage people to jump at the

chance to take lessons and learn to fly. But the future of aviation is growing by leaps and bounds, and I am optimistic.”

When he is not busy selling airplanes, Stan—who is type rated in four different airplanes—still instructs and gives flight reviews. With all that he has accomplished, all that continues to keep him busy, and after having just turned 80 years old this past September, this writer can say with sure certainty that Stan is still “the man.”

We look forward to seeing you at

SOUTHEAST AEROCULTURAL FAIR



FEB 5-7, 2024



MIDCONTINENT 
Aircraft Corporation

**AVAILABLE
MARCH 2024**



2024 510 P2

800-325-0885 | www.midcont.com

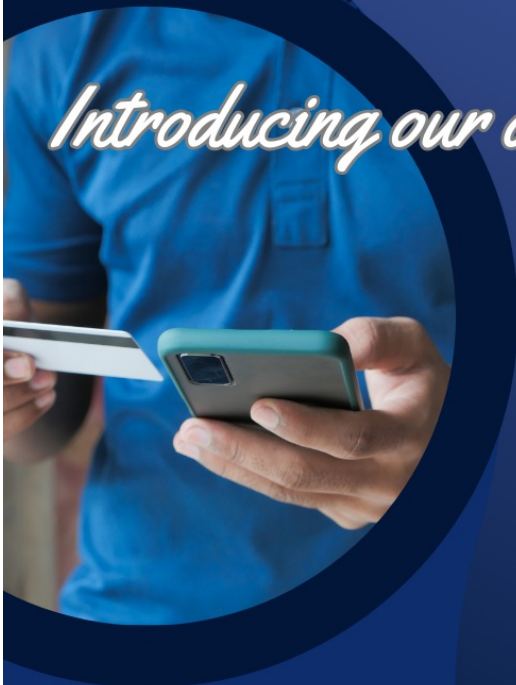
MIDCONTINENT 
Aircraft Corporation



Congratulations

Congratulations to Joel Bradley Taylor for celebrating 10 years of loyal and dedicated service to Mid-Continent and Stokes Flying Service.

Introducing our online payment portal



- \$5 ACH fee
- 3.19% credit card fee
- Insurance clients only

Follow this link to pay online

anytime.anddone.com/#/midcontinentaircraft

MIDCONTINENT 
Aircraft Corporation

We are excited to offer a faster and more convenient way to pay. With our new online payment portal, insurance clients can pay their policy premiums via ACH (\$5 fee) or credit card (3.19% fee) instantly from the comfort of their computer, cell phone, or tablet. This payment option is limited to insurance premiums only. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our insurance team for assistance.

We look forward to seeing you at
**TRI-STATE AERIAL APPLICATORS
CONVENTION**



FEB 6-7, 2024



MIDCONTINENT 
Aircraft Corporation

**AVAILABLE
JANUARY 2024**



2024 710P DUAL COCKPIT

800-325-0885 | www.midcont.com

MID-CONTINENT 
Aircraft Corporation



Are you looking for an insurance agency that is **LARGE ENOUGH** to deliver sophisticated and quality service, yet still **DEDICATED** to providing a caring and personalized connection with your best interest at heart?

Contact us at **800-325-0885** for any and all of your aviation insurance needs.

[Learn More](#)

**Mid-Continent Insurance Division
Now Licensed To Provide Pilot Life & Health Insurance**



WE ARE

HIRING



JOIN OUR TEAM NOW!



We Are Looking For

**AIRCRAFT
MECHANIC**

Requirements

- ✓ A&P Certified
- ✓ 5+ years experience in Ag Aviation
- ✓ Able to stand 8 hours, lift up to 65lbs
- ✓ Self-motivated, team player

Benefits

- Competitive pay
- 100% employer-paid health insurance
- 401k
- Paid holidays, vacation, sick time

Interested parties should provide completed application and current resume.

For more information contact
Joe Risner - Director of Maintenance
1-800-325-0885 | joe@midcont.com



MIDCONTINENT 
Aircraft Corporation



LOAD HAWG™

- Now STC'd for THRUSH & AIR TRACTOR
- Our Load Hawg is a safer, more efficient option for loading dry materials into an aircraft hopper
- Hydraulically-operated hopper door and product leveler both controlled by the pilot eliminates the need for an on-wing loader
- Stainless Steel Auger with sealed bearings
- Proven after more than 15 years and hundreds of installations
- Contact us today and schedule your Load Hawg installation
- These will be shared with animal rescue groups in neighboring cities.



MIDCONTINENT 
Aircraft Corporation



WWW.MIDCONT.COM

800-325-0885 | 573-359-0500
P.O. BOX 540
HAYTI, MISSOURI 63851



**Order your new 2024
510P, 510P2, 510P2+ or 710P Turbine Thrush!
AVAILABLE NOW!**



1994 Freightliner

3,800 Gallon Stainless Steel Water Tank and 1000-1250 Fuel Tank. Runs and Shifts Great.

AIRCRAFT INVENTORY



1938 BOEING STEARMAN A75 N1 N54284

6,080.7 A/F TT, 520.4 TSMOH, 450 HP, Garmin SL-40 Com, PS Engineering PM-1200, Oilomatic Preoiler, Airwold Remote Oil Filter Smoker, Speed Ring, 46 Gal Fuel, Redline Brakes, Garmin GDL 82 ADSB-Out

[More Info](#)



1981 CESSNA A185F N61955

7,300 A/F TT, 770 SFRM, Continental IO520, 285 HP, Audio Panel w/ 3 Light Markers, Garmin 430 WAAS, Garmin 255 Com, Garmin GTX 345 w/ ADSM In and Out, Glide Slope, Stormscope, S-TEC-50 Auto Pilot with Altitude Hold, Rosen Sun Visors, VG Kit, Horton STOL Kit, Float Kit, Cessna Turbo Vents for Cabin Cooling, Backup Altimeter, Backup Artificial Horizon

[More Info](#)



2010 Dream Tundra, N523MM

90.0 A/F TT, Aerosport IO375 210 HP, PMA-8000B Switching Panel with 4 Place Intercom and Three Light Markers, Garmin SL-40 Com, Garmin 430 GPS, Garmin GTX-330 Transponder, Garmin 496 GPS (Panel Mounted), Digiflight II Autopilot w/ Altitude Hold, PFD/MFD

[More Info](#)



Follow us on
Instagram

Mid-Continent Aircraft Corp

FULL SERVICE MAINTENANCE CENTER

- Airframe
- Turbine Engine
- Modifications
- Line Services
- Paint

- Extensive Variety of Aircraft Parts

[Learn More](#)



GE Aviation

Service Center



Thrush Dealer
United States, Canada, Mexico

TURBINE AIRCRAFT
Taking orders for 710 Thrush
w/ -65 or -67

Rugged Construction
Proven Productivity



DISTRIBUTOR
Cascade Pressure Cowl
Air Tractor • Thrush
Saves Fuel, Runs Cooler
Call for Quote

Call 573-359-0500 • 800-325-0885



SATLOC Level III
Service Center

SATLOC SYSTEMS

NEW OR USED

Full in house repairs & updates

Solid Green Lightbar Upgrade now available.

Transland's #1 Dealer



STC'd for Thrush & Air Tractor

Efficient & Safe, mechanical loading of solids.
Makes solid work easier!

NOW APPROVED FOR



CONTACT US

573-359-0500 • 800-325-0885

SALES

PARTS



INSURANCE

MAINTENANCE

CHRIS COBB, Co-Owner

DENNIE STOKES, Co-Owner

STAN HUNTER, Aircraft Sales

DANNY HELMS, Aircraft Sales

CHRIS PATTERSON, GPS Sales/Service

JOE RISNER, Dir. of Maintenance

FOUNDED BY RICHARD "DICK" READE

OUR MISSION: TO KEEP YOU FLYING

Since 1949, Mid-Continent Aircraft has been the leader in Agricultural Aviation by providing a variety of services that exceed our customers' expectations. We are committed to the advancement of general and agricultural aviation technology.

As we move into each day, we will continue to grow with your business and provide the tools you need to be a success.

Mid-Continent Aircraft Corp. is located in Hayti, Missouri, 80 miles north of Memphis, Tennessee. Although Hayti is not the geographical center of our nation, Mid-Continent is the center for all ag aviation needs. With excellent daily truck freight lines, air freight, Federal Express, and UPS delivery capability, MID-CONTINENT has and will continue to cover the world.

Mid-Continent Aircraft | 1601 East Highway 84, Hayti, MO 63851

[Unsubscribe news@midcont.com](mailto:news@midcont.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by news@midcont.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!