



Guest Column: *Who Is "LifeLink 2"?* by Ben Summer, Flight Paramedic/Base Lead

Life Link III is a critical care air ambulance service offering rotor and fixed wing transport throughout Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Life Link III has a fleet of 9 Agusta AW 119Kx Helicopters and 1 Pilatus PC-12 NG fixed wing. We operate 6 full time helicopter bases 24 hours a day in Alexandria, Blaine, Brainerd, Hibbing, and Willmar, Minnesota, and Rice Lake, Wisconsin, along with a 12 hour day base in Duluth/Cloquet. Our fixed wing aircraft is staffed 24 hours a day, primarily out of the Blaine / Anoka County Airport base. Life Link III is a consortium based program with 9 member/owner hospitals, those being Allina Health, Children's Hospitals of Minnesota, Fairview, Hennepin County Medical Center, Regions Hospital, CentraCare Health, St. Luke's Duluth, Essentia Health, and Sacred Heart Hospital Eau Claire, Wisconsin. We have been providing air transport for patients since 1985.

The flight team on board each Life Link III mission is comprised of a Pilot, Flight Paramedic, and Flight Nurse. Our pilots have a minimum requirement of 2000 hours prior to employment. The flight paramedic on board has years of prehospital critical care experience and all are required within 18 months of employment to obtain the FP-C (Flight Paramedic Certification.) The flight nurse brings an extensive in hospital intensive care background to the team, they also must obtain the CFRN (Certified Flight Registered Nurse) within 18 months of hire. Each base also has 2 A and P mechanics on call 24 hours a day, who keep our aircraft in tip top shape, ready to go at any time.

The Alexandria Life Link III base (Life Link 2) began in 2007. The full time staff at this base includes 5 nurses, 5 paramedics, 4 pilots, 2 mechanics, and 1 regional manager. We all rotate working days and nights, weekends and holidays, and are staffed 24 hours a day, working 12 hour shifts, 7-7. From the time a call comes into our dispatch center in Minneapolis, until the time we are off the ground in flight is between 7-10 minutes consistently. We fly all types of patients, from cardiac, trauma, stroke, OB, medical, adult, pediatric, and neonatal from hospitals, as well as landing directly on the scene to transport a critical patient to definitive care. We are extremely proud to be a part of the community in Alexandria. Please stop by the hangar (H2) anytime and check out the helicopter and talk with the crew. This is a great airport to fly out of and we are looking forward to warmer temperatures, and clear blue skies. Fly Safe!

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Featured Pilot



James Reisinger is a helicopter pilot currently flying for LifeLink III out of Alexandria. James began flying in 2002 while attending college at St. Cloud State University. Through school James acquired up through his Commercial Single Engine Fixed Wing rating. Simultaneously, James completed all his rotary ratings in Oklahoma in a MASH-style Bell 47. James has flown a variety of helicopters, including air tour, heavy lifting, offshore oil, and currently EMS. A career highlight is flying a Sikorsky S-61 that at one point starred in the film Resident Evil. Outside of aviation, James enjoys biking, volleyball, snowmobiling, and riding his motorcycle.

Featured Student



Isaac Anderson is a 28 year old farmer from Belgrade, MN. Isaac began flying in March after purchasing a Piper PA-28-180 Cherokee with a family friend to begin training. After flying with his brother and uncle – both of whom are pilots and aircraft owners, Isaac decided it was his turn. He plans on utilizing his license and airplane to take vacations with his family and to simply have fun locally. Isaac says he enjoys the non-stop learning in the training environment, but gets frustrated trying to find a time to fly between his work and family commitments. Outside of flying, Isaac enjoys snowmobiling, fishing, and biking. The flying bug has bitten him hard, as he keeps talking about what his next plane will be!



Since the last update we have had 4 promotions, and we have been busy with emergency services training at a SAREX at the Anoka Squadron, and ELT Searching at the St. Cloud Squadron. We have 2 new members and will be having a recruiting event on June 3rd at Apols Harley Davidson where the Patriot Flag will be brought.

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EAA Chapter 702 hosted a successful Young Eagles rally for the 5th graders of Morris, MN on April 28th. 70+ kids were flown within about 3 hours thanks to the 6 pilots who volunteered and a multitude of ground workers who helped keep the event running smooth and orderly. As summer approaches the EAA chapter is preparing for trip to Montana for some backcountry flying. A few members are planning on extending their trip past Montana and ending up in Ketchikan, Alaska.

Chandler Field Times

May/June 2017

UNICOM: 123.0
 AWOS: 118.375
 Center: 126.1
 FSS: 122.6

Airport News:

The busiest time of the year at the airport is upon us. Hangars are starting to open, snowbirds are moving back north, and Kenny is prepping the John Deere tractor for mowing.

Training activity at Alexandria Aviation has been steadily increasing over the spring and is looking to continue to increase as we progress into the summer months. Kreg has even done a few ferry flights for customers buying airplanes in the past couple of months. Alex Aviation's Cessna 172 has also had a G650 installed in it recently as well, making it IFR certified.

Have you heard of "LifeLink 2" making radio calls on UNICOM? In this edition of KAXN's bimonthly newsletter we hear from Ben Summer of LifeLink 2 about their day to day operations. LifeLink is happy to be back in the air after performing some heavy maintenance on their helicopter recently.

Congratulations to Pat Lovrien – a junior at Alexandria High School – for passing his Private Pilot checkride on April 23rd!

Events Calendar

- 5/4 – CAP Meeting, 7pm, SRE
- 5/5- EAA Young Eagles Rain Date
- 5/11 – Airport Comm Mtg, 12pm, FBO Conf. Room
- 5/11 – CAP Meeting, 7pm, SRE
- 5/16 – EAA Meeting, 6:30pm, SRE
- 5/18 - EAA Young Eagles Rain Date
- 5/18 – CAP Meeting, 7pm, SRE
- 5/25 – CAP Meeting, 7pm, SRE
- 5/27 – EAA Activity, TBD, KAXN
- 6/1 – CAP Meeting, 7pm, SRE
- 6/8 – Airport Comm Mtg, 12pm, FBO Conf. Room
- 6/8 – CAP Meeting, 7pm, SRE
- 6/15 – CAP Meeting, 7pm, SRE
- 6/20 – EAA Meeting, 6:30pm, SRE
- 6/22 – CAP Meeting, 7pm, SRE
- 6/29 – CAP Meeting, 7pm, SRE

Trivia

Since last edition's trivia question was put up for debate by one certain coffee group, this edition's question will be dedicated to them. Many locals are familiar with Chandler Field's maintenance shop ran by the Sather clan – Weber's Aero Repair. The question is, who is Weber...the namesake of this shop?

The previous question of "What is the largest plane to land at AXN?" was answered correctly by Tyler Goeke. While Boeing 727 is the original answer, it was noted that the B-29 has a longer wingspan, so that was also accepted.

Airport Happenings



LifeLink's Agusta 119 on the helipad at St. Cloud Hospital



Pat Lovrien

Support your local businesses!

- Alexandria Aviation – 320.762.2111 | www.alexandriaaviation.com
- Weber's Aero Repair – 320.763.4066
- Alexandria Aircraft – 320.763.4088 | www.bellanca-aircraft.com
- CVI Unmanned – 320.808.8505 | www.cvi-unmanned.com
- LifeLink III – 612.638.4900 | www.lifelinkiii.com