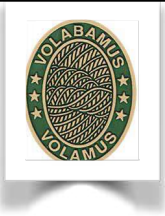


Willie Flight 822



Willie was initially named **Mesa Military Airport**. the name was changed October 1941 to **Higley Field**, the base being in the proximity of the town of Higley, Arizona. In February 1942, the growing military airfield's name was changed to **Williams Field** in honor of Arizona native 1st Lt Charles Linton Williams (1898–1927). Lieutenant Williams died on 6 July 1927 when his Boeing PW-9A pursuit aircraft crashed near Fort DeRussy, Hawaii. Williams Field was re-designated **Williams Air Force Base** on 13 January 1948. The Base was closed in 1993 and officially reopened as Williams Gateway Airport in March 1994. In 2007, the name of the Airport was changed to Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport.



WILLIE FLIGHT 82
Order of Daedalians
 P.O. Box 11261, Chandler, AZ 85248
<http://www.willieflight.net>



April 2023



FLIGHT CAPTAIN'S CORNER

See you at the luncheon meeting on 13 May!

NEXT MEETING:

It will be on Saturday, 13 May at The Doubletree by Hilton Phoenix Mesa. The address is 1011 West Holmes Ave. Mesa, AZ 85210.

Speaker Topic: "World's Largest Airplane"

Time: 1100 Social Hour, 1200 Lunch

Meeting Dress: Dressy Casual

Price: \$35 per person.

Note: Scholarship Raffle tickets are 6 for \$5.

Reservations: To make a reservation, please contact your Element Leader (page 6), by Friday, 5 May. For questions, please call Tom Waldron (480-883-0853 or 602-743-3661).

Cancellations: If you have made reservations and you cannot attend, please contact Gary Schooler (480-208-6615) as soon as possible, so he can notify the restaurant. Cancellations made after the Sunday before the meeting will incur a \$35 charge.

Need a ride? Art Stark for help; 480-277-4700.

2023/4 Meeting Calendar	
13 May	General Meeting
9 Sep	General Meeting
14 Oct	General Meeting
11 Nov	General Meeting
9 Dec	General Meeting
13 Jan	General Meeting

Officers & Staff:

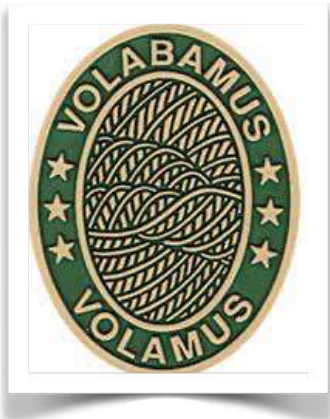
Elected Officers:

- Flight Captain: Sig Nelson, 602-793-4367
- Vice Flight Captain: TBD **HELP!**
- Treasurer: Gary Schooler, 480-208-6615
- Scholarships Chairman: Jay Norton, 480-897-0379
- Provost Marshal: Rick Drown, 480-857-1757

Appointed Staff:

- Flight Adjutant: TBD **HELP!**
- Elements Co./Chaplain: Tom Waldron, 602-743-3661
- A-V Support: Art Stark, 480-288-9301
- Webmaster: Kurt Gearhart, 480-329-1936
- Biographies: Gary Klein, 480-650-5522
- Asst Scholar./Awards: Gary Zettl, 480-415-6854
- Newsletter Editor: Bill Follette, 602-619-5445

April Meeting

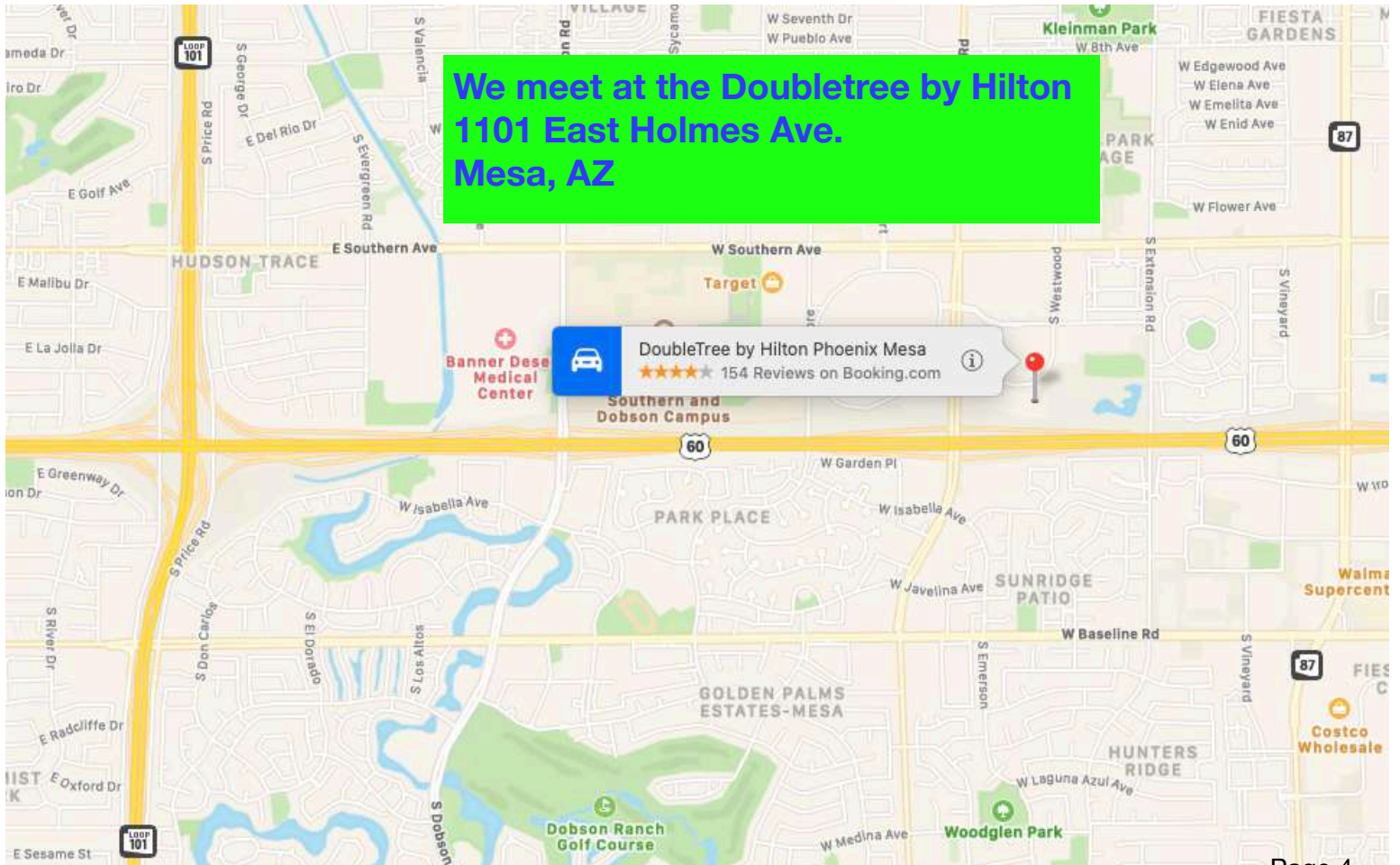


Attention All : Your element Leader may have changed; be sure to check it out!!!!

Flight 82 Dinner Reservation Procedures:

When you get this newsletter, please contact your Element Leader (shown below) to make a reservation by the Saturday prior to the meeting. If that does not work, please contact Gary Schooler (480-208-6615).

MEMBERS	ELEMENT LEADER	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
ALLEN TO BURKE	SIG NELSON	sig.nelson@cox.net	602-793-4367
BUSHKO TO FOLLETTE	ART STARK	artstark6160@gmail.com	480-277-4700
FRANKLIN TO JOHNSON	GARY ZETTL	gzettl@msn.com	623-680-2603
JONAS TO OLDROYD	BILL FOLLETTE	bill@strategicquality.com	602-619-5445
OLNEY TO ZETTL	RON PERKINS	rbperkins@cox.net	602-295-3880



Our May Speaker

Flight Testing the World's Largest Airplane



Mark Giddings
Senior Test Pilot, Stratolaunch



STRATOLAUNCH

[World's largest plane takes flight with a hypersonic vehicle in tow](#)

Airplane N351SL, nicknamed “Roc”, is the world’s largest airplane. Paul Allen originally conceived of the *Roc* concept and started the build on a large airplane to drop very heavy payloads, such as large satellites. When Paul Allen passed away the company changed hands and is now focused on launching a Hypersonic Missile Testbed. This briefing will discuss the flight test process over the last three years and where we stand now in bringing the *Roc* up to essentially an operational capability to conduct routine drops of a variety of payloads, initially focused on hypersonic vehicles.

Senior Test Pilot, Mark Giddings, is an ROTC graduate from the University of Florida with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He attended pilot training at Williams Air Force Base (91-02). He was a First Assignment Instructor Pilot (FAIP) initially, then flew B-1Bs at Ellsworth AFB, followed by becoming a Test Pilot for the remainder of his career. After retiring from the USAF, he along with former USAF Chief Scientist Dr Werner Dahm were the founders of SDSI and ASURE for Arizona State University. Mark then became the Chief Test Pilot for Honeywell in Phoenix for the next six years. And, finally transitioned to Stratolaunch to fly the Roc.

Mark Giddings Bio

- 22 Years in US Air Force (12 years as a Test Pilot, B-1 IP/EP, FAIP)
- Graduate of USAF Test Pilot School (TPS) and 8 years as TPS Instructor/Evaluator
- Chief Test Pilot for Honeywell Flight Test Operations for six years
- B-1B Command Chief Test Pilot (Lead Pilot Certified for all High Risk / Low-Level Missions)
- Deputy Commandant, USAF Test Pilot School
- Deputy Commander AF Research Lab/Warfighter Readiness Div. (world's most adv simulator complex)
- 6,000+ total flight hours in over 50+ different airplanes; 2000+ instructor hours
- Type Rated in 5 different airframes — Gulfstream G-500/600 (GVII); Boeing B-737; Embraer E-170/190; Falcon F-900 and CE-550
- Experience in Gulfstream G550, Boeing 737, Falcon 900, Embraer E-170, Cessna Citation X, Pilatus PC-12, B-1B, B-2, B-52, F-16, F-15E, F-18, T-38, C-12, T-43, U-2, KC-135, JAS-39 (Gripen), Saab-105, Alphajet, PC-7, SA-342 (Helo-Gazelle), TH-6B (helo), HH-60 (helo), NF-16 (Vista), TG-14 (motor glider), T-33, T-34, Extra-300, and more.

Education:

B.S.E.	Electrical Engineering (Honors)	University of Florida	1988
M.A.S	Aeronautical Science & Technology	USAF Air University	2003
M.A.S	Aviation Science	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	1995

Awards and Patents:

- Honors Grad in Electrical Engineering from University of Florida
- Graduated top 10% USAF Light Aircraft Training
- Distinguished Graduate Pilot Instructor Training
- Distinguished Graduate Squadron Officer School
- Twice voted Top Test Pilot School Flight Instructor

Six Patents

1. Systems and methods for generating avionics displays including overpressure event symbology.
Patent Number: 11024181 (1 June 2021)
2. Systems and methods for generating avionics displays for supersonic flight.
Patent Number: 10720064 (21 July 2020)
3. Systems and methods for flight planning abstract routing and sonic boom aware flight planning.
Patent Number: 10699584 (30 June 2020)
4. Systems and methods for displaying runway overrun information.
Patent Number: 10214300 (26 Feb 2019)
5. Systems and methods for providing aircraft lateral navigation and route capture capability.
Patent Number: 10053224 (21 August 2018)

If you have not yet paid your Flight 82 dues (\$25), please do so soon, at the luncheon meeting or use the form below and mail it in.

NOTE: National dues are collected separately -- if you are not a life member, Daedalians' HQ will bill you directly.)



.....
FLIGHT 82 DUES FOR 2023: If you need to pay your local dues, please pay it at the next meeting or print out and complete the form below, clip at dotted line, and send to:

*Willie Flight 82
P.O. Box 11261
Chandler, Arizona 85248*

Enclose a check for Flight dues (\$25) and add any scholarship donations you would like to make. Please make your check out to "Willie Flight 82"

NAME: _____

(First) (Last)

RANK: _____ SERVICE: _____ ACTIVE _____ RETIRED _____ or OTHER _____

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-Mail: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: Annual Flight Dues (\$25): _____

Scholarship Donation: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Reminder:

Local Flight 82 dues are now \$25/yr

Luncheon Meetings are now \$35



DID YOU KNOW.....



**BEER AND WINE IS AVAILABLE
AT THE HOTEL FRONT DESK
DURING OUR LUNCHEONS**

When is a raffle really not a raffle??

**Reminder: Our raffle is really a method to
collect donations for our annual ROTC
scholarship fund.**

“Normal Donations” are always welcome too!!

Cash, Check, Memorials, etc.

**No size restrictions! A few years ago a member
gave us a \$10,000 donation!!**



!!SPEAKERS!!

“CALLING ALL SPEAKERS”

Do you have a presentation pent up inside you??

Do you have an interesting “I was There” tale of your aviation experiences?

Do you know of someone that does and might want to share it with our Flight?

Have your heard an interesting military aviation presentation at another organization you belong to?

We need YOUR help in generating speakers/ presentations for our future meetings?

Don't forget to check out our Flight website. We can always use some more photos of YOU and YOUR AIRCRAFT looking your warrior finest!

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Daedalians website. At the top left is the Daedalians logo and a 'Home Page' button. A navigation bar contains links for Home, Signup & Login, About, Leadership, Scholarships, Contact, and a prominent 'Donate' button. The main content area features a large image of a pilot in a cockpit with the text 'Willie Flight 82 Daedalians'. Below this are three colored buttons: 'Our Mission' (green), 'Our Events' (brown), and 'Our Leadership' (teal). At the bottom, there is a 'MONTHLY MEETING' section with a 'Date:' label and a map showing a location marked 'Doubletree by Hilton'.

VA Hotlinks



View and Download Your VA Decision Letters Online

If you've filed a VA disability claim and are waiting for a decision letter, you can access it online once it's ready. Veterans with a [VA.gov sign-in](#) can use the online option to access their disability decisions whenever they need them.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Finding Caregiver Support While Trying to Build a Life We Don't Want to Escape From

Over the years, life has thrown my family a few sets of brick walls that we had to navigate around, one being medical retirement. When my husband went through medical retirement, I had no idea that there was a name for the new role I was already taking on.

[READ MORE](#)



Expanded Disability Benefits for Vietnam Veterans

Vietnam Veterans may be eligible for expanded VA disability compensation under the [PACT Act](#), a law passed in 2022 which increases access to VA benefits and health care for Veterans exposed to toxic substances during their military service.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Enroll in the New VALife Program Now

VA's newest life insurance program, [Veterans Affairs Life Insurance \(VALife\)](#), increases access to life insurance for more service-connected Veterans than ever before. Enrollment for VALife opened on Jan. 1, 2023, for Veterans age 80 or under with any level of service-connected disability (0-100%). Veterans age 81 or over may also qualify if they meet certain conditions.

In most cases, [VALife premium rates](#) are competitive with, or better than, similar private sector guaranteed acceptance programs. VALife rates will not increase for the life of the policy and are not based on medical conditions. Instead, rates are based on a Veteran's age upon enrollment and the coverage amount selected. Learn more about VALife coverage and how to apply today!

Aviation News



Modern 'shock and awe' would be defined by aging jets, new tactics

By: Rachel S. Cohen, Air Force Times

The next “shock and awe” campaign may never drop a single bomb. It’s been 20 years since black-and-green footage of Baghdad under attack flashed across television screens worldwide, broadcasting the explosive U.S.-led push to unseat Saddam Hussein and dismantle the Iraqi civil and military service. The overwhelming show of strength represented the largest international military effort since World War II and the biggest U.S. operation since the Vietnam War. The air campaign relied on 1,800 aircraft — half of which belonged to the U.S. Air Force — and fired more than 500 cruise missiles in its first day. Airmen gained control of Iraqi airspace less than three weeks later, with limited American losses.

Higher cancer rates found in military pilots, ground crews

By Tara Copp, AP - Military Times

A Pentagon study has found high rates of cancer among military pilots and for the first time has shown that ground crews who fuel, maintain and launch those aircraft are also getting sick.

The data had long been sought by retired military aviators who have raised alarms for years about the number of air and ground crew members they knew who had cancer. They were told that earlier military studies had found they were not at greater risk than the general U.S. population.



It Sure Seems Like Darkstar, Lockheed's Secret High-Speed Jet, Is Real

By Sascha Brodsky, Popular
Mechanics

Darkstar, the secretive, ultrafast jet supposedly being developed for the U.S. military, may have gotten another shred of confirmation that it actually exists.

Aircraft manufacturer Lockheed Martin recently tweeted about the famed SR-71 Blackbird “being the fastest *acknowledged* crewed air-breathing jet aircraft.” (Italic emphasis our own.) As first noted by The War Zone, the tweet could be a subtle reference to the SR-72, the long-rumored hypersonic successor to the Blackbird.



Female Navy pilot makes historic debut with the Blue Angels

By Alan de Herrera - Special to the
Times, Military Times

EL CENTRO, California — Warm desert winds blew calmly out of the west as Lt. Amanda Lee climbed into the cockpit of her blue and gold F/A-18E/F Super Hornet for her historic first public flight as a member of the Navy's Blue Angels. It was a perfect day to fly.

Lee and Lt. Cmdr. Thomas Zimmerman were selected for the renowned flight demonstration team in September 2022, making her the first woman to earn a coveted spot on the team. Both pilots completed an intensive five-month training program under the command of Blue's new flight leader Cmdr. Alexander Armatas, who joined the team in August 2022.



US Navy pitches short, readiness-focused budget wish list to Congress



By Megan Eckstein, Military Times
WASHINGTON — The U.S. Navy released a short wish list to Congress that would mostly accelerate efforts to make the fleet more ready and more lethal for high-end combat in a contested environment. The 11 items total \$2 billion, while past years' lists included dozens of items and expensive procurement requests. A second research and development effort, for \$49 million, would modernize the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye aircraft, which serves as the command-and-control “quarterback” in naval aviation operations. This effort to update “legacy cockpit, mission computers, displays, and multiple cyber issues” would allow the aircraft, which operate at sea as part of the carrier air wing, to improve their targeting and enable long-range maritime strike missions.

C-17s and F-35As show lethality in Monster Jam Exercise

From Alert 5

The U.S. Air Force recently held an exercise called Monster Jam, where two C-17 airlifters from Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington and four F-35 fighters from Hill Air Force Base in Utah participated.

The purpose of the exercise was to test the planes' ability to work together in intense environments that mimic a real-life battle situation. During the exercise, the planes practiced refueling, re-arming, and simulated airdrops to prepare for future conflicts. The exercise was considered a success and demonstrated that the planes can respond quickly and work efficiently, which will help improve their ability to fight in the future.



This video was produced by “**Historic Wings**” and, while but **9 minutes long**, is a true story few know, let alone its bizarre content, especially should the Cold War have ever turned HOT. It was found by FASF Aviation News Scout and former USMC Fighter Pilot, **Jerry Dixon**.

As observed by **Historic Wings**, “*Victory in the air was the key to winning the Cold War. Despite billions of dollars spent by the USAF and NATO on the best planes, the most advanced radar systems and missiles, and the finest pilot training, the outcome may have been decided by a little boot company in West Germany.*” Stick this one out to the end . . . for the shocking surprise.



Member Memory Pictures

Steve Mefford

A shot from back
in 1969-1970



**What Did You Fly?
Got any Pictures? Hero
Pictures?**

Kurt Gearhart, fellow Willie Flight member and Master Webmaster, has been diligently working to vastly improve our web site. He has asked for photos of our members with the airplanes they flew. We would like you to send photos to both him at kurtgearhart@mac.com and Bill Follette, Newsletter Editor, at bill@strategicquality.com

Art Stark

F-4 Phantom II,
Killer Fighter Jet

Bill Follette

Special Ops
CH-3E

