

Championing  
environmental  
protection  
through the unique  
perspective  
of flight.



FALL 04 / WINTER 05

Focus: 25th Anniversary Fly-in

LightHawk works primarily in western  
and northeastern North America  
and Mesoamerica

## VOLUNTEER PILOT SPOTLIGHT

**Dan Meyer**  
*Alexandria, Virginia*



Dan has worked on behalf of the environment for several decades. He opened 80 Job Corps Conservation Centers through-

out the U.S. under the Office of Economic Opportunity, served as director of the North Carolina Outward Bound Wilderness School, and led National Park Service efforts to conserve the nation's remaining free flowing rivers as its state rivers program director. Dan became a volunteer pilot for LightHawk in 2000, but previously flew his Cessna 172 on environmental missions for other organizations. He currently serves on the Board of Air Care Alliance, a national association of volunteer pilot organizations.

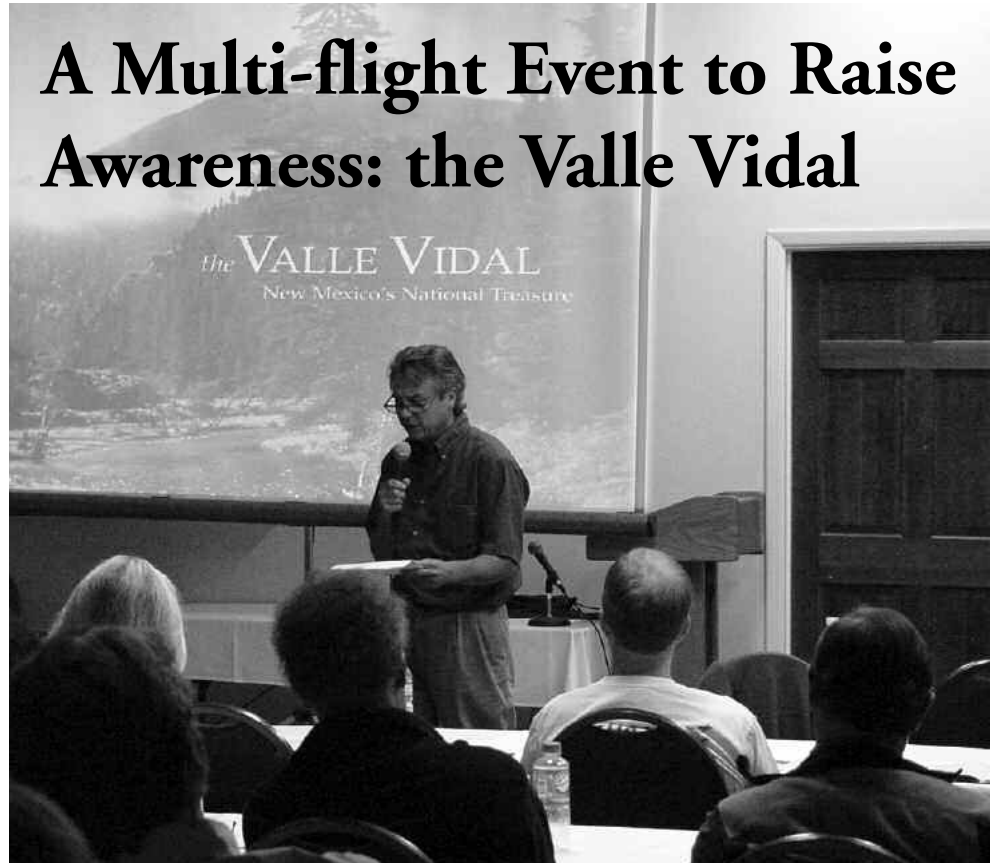
**Wendy Ross Beye**  
*Hamilton,  
Montana*



Wendy began flying for LightHawk 14 years ago. Her 1946 Aeronca Sedan can fly so low

and slow that a former LightHawk employee once said, "Wow, in this airplane we can look a wolf right in the eye!" Wendy's first mission observed the first wolf pack to move into Glacier Park since they had been eradicated. Today, she juggles her time working as the administrative coordinator for the Bitter Root Land Trust with flight instructing, flying for the state during wild-fire season, flying for LightHawk, and helping with game animal trend counts — all while keeping a writing career going on the side. You can read Wendy's articles at: <http://www.suite101.com/welcome.cfm/14937>.

## A Multi-flight Event to Raise Awareness: the Valle Vidal



Margaret Puckette

*Before the flight coalition representatives gave an informative PowerPoint presentation to passengers educating them about the issues and areas they were about to see, similar to this slide show presented to the volunteer pilots on the previous day.*

The Valle Vidal (Valley of Life) is a lush mountain basin located in Carson National Forest in the heart of New Mexico's Sangre de Cristo Mountains. A region cherished for its wildlife, water resources, grazing land, and outstanding scenic and recreational opportunities, the U.S. Forest Service traditionally discouraged development in the area. Recently, however, the White House Task Force on Energy Project Streamlining intervened, encouraging the Forest Service to approve one energy company's proposal to drill 40,000 acres of alpine meadows for coalbed methane, or natural gas. LightHawk approached groups working on the issue to develop a one-day, multi-flight event to be held in conjunction with our 2004 Fly-in to highlight the threat.

Coalbed methane (CBM) development has a record of contaminating air, soil and water resources with toxic and hazardous materials in New Mexico's San Juan Basin. The extraction process involves

pumping thousands of gallons of water from each well every day in order to access methane gas trapped in coal seams beneath the ground. Each well also brings with it a maze of roads, pipeline corridors, and associated facilities like compressor stations. As a source of water, firewood, grazing, and wildlife — including the *continued on page 2*

**"The only way to see the scale of impact of coalbed methane development is from the air. LightHawk provides a valuable service to help people see these areas and help them see impacts, to motivate them to save the areas left. Thanks again!"** — Alan Lackey, concerned citizen, outfitter, member of the Coalition for the Valle Vidal

# Journal Santa Fe

MONDAY  
SEPTEMBER 27,  
2004  
50 CENTS  
EDITION

A ZONED PUBLICATION OF

## Fight for the Valle Vidal

Opposition rises against gas drilling plan that could put hundreds of miles of roads in area

BY ADAM BANGS  
Special Staff Writer

**F**rom 1,000 feet on 40,000 acres down to 100 feet, the state's largest and most diverse oil and gas reserves are located in the Valle Vidal. The state's largest and most diverse oil and gas reserves are located in the Valle Vidal. The state's largest and most diverse oil and gas reserves are located in the Valle Vidal.



...the first round of drilling could bring almost 200 wells — one every 140 acres — and hundreds of miles of access roads to the area. Last year, state revenues from oil and gas topped \$1.2 billion and is expected to be even higher this year. LightHawk made a series of flights over the Valle Vidal, north to the community of Taos and south to the town of Espanola. The flights covered the state's largest oil and gas reserves — the Valle Vidal.

Continued from page 1...

Rio Grande cutthroat trout, wild turkey, bison, and the largest elk herd in New Mexico — the Valle Vidal is an important resource for the agrarian communities that surround it. In the Valle Vidal, CBM development could contaminate surface and groundwater sources, drain underground aquifers, and threaten wildlife through habitat fragmentation and displacement.

On Sunday, September 26, LightHawk and the Coalition for the Valle Vidal — a broad-based alliance of ranchers, hunters, anglers, local businesses, concerned citizens and conservation groups — arranged a multi-flight “barnstorm” event. Dozens of passengers, including reporters, state and federal government officials, and representatives of local businesses and the Coalition were selected to fly with LightHawk over the heart of the Valle Vidal for an eyewitness experience of the valley and areas of the surrounding Ratón Basin currently under CBM development.

The flights were a tremendous success, by any measure. Coalition representatives furnished an informative PowerPoint presenta-

tion and large-scale map of the region, and an extensive question and answer session was scheduled for passengers to educate them about the issues and areas they were about to see. LightHawk staff additionally ensured each plane flown by its volunteers had a local, knowledgeable guide on board to identify points of interest and answer questions en route. Briefing materials, including maps of the area prepared by LightHawk volunteer pilot Merry Schroeder, also were provided to all passengers.

Following the flight, participants were asked to provide formal feedback, as is customary with all LightHawk flights. Without exception, the comments confirmed the day's events provided an invaluable tool in educating passengers about the Valle Vidal and alerting them to the threat that CBM development poses. The flights also provided stakeholders the opportunity to discuss potential solutions and next steps.

Eight LightHawk volunteer pilots — Chuck Schroll, Polly Ross, Steve Parker, Mike Sutton, John Feagin, David Kunkel, Richard Barr, and Merry Schroeder — flew 29 pas-

Board member Valerie Langer wrote, “The flights over Valle Vidal were exemplary in their organization, relevance of the guests to the issue and media outcomes. Congratulations to the staff and pilots for pulling it off.

On Monday I asked directions of an older woman in Santa Fe and she in turn asked me what brought me to the city. When I told her LightHawk, she was very complimentary, having read the front page article about Valle Vidal, and thanked us for our good work. So I pass it on to all of you.”

sengers for the Valle Vidal flight event, including New Mexico's secretary of Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources, Congresswoman Heather Wilson's chief of staff, staffers from Congressman Tom Udall's office, and local elected officials from Taos, Eagle Nest, and Bernalillo. Journalists from *The Albuquerque Journal*, *Taos News*, *Sangre de Christo Chronicle*, *Santa Fean* magazine, Reuters, and NPR (Alamosa/Taos) participated as well.

The flights resulted in immediate news coverage by nearly all of the media outlets that flew with LightHawk that day, but reports of the day's events reverberated in New Mexico and around the nation. In the weeks following LightHawk's flight event, the Valle Vidal issue was featured in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and on KOB TV (Channel 4), KRQE TV (Channel 13) in New Mexico, and MSNBC.

*The Forest Service will hold public meetings to gather input from citizens on this issue starting this spring. For more information visit the Coalition's website at: [www.vallevidal.org](http://www.vallevidal.org).*

**“Wonderful opportunity to compare and contrast the coalbed methane development on Vermejo Park and north of the Colorado line with the as yet undeveloped Valle Vidal. Thanks so much for the opportunity!”**

— Joanna Prukop, Secretary, State of New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Nuestra herencia. Nuestra vida.  
Our heritage. Our life.

George Bush's policies could turn this New Mexico landscape into an oil and gas field.  
Tell George Bush we need to protect special places like Valle Vidal.

For more information, visit [EnvironmentalAccountability.org](http://EnvironmentalAccountability.org)

As part of the campaign, this billboard was placed at sixteen locations in the Albuquerque area during October 2004, immediately after the flights.

# WHAT'S NEW AT LIGHTHAWK?

**New Program Director.** We are delighted to announce that Northeast Program Manager Laurie Martin was appointed acting director of programs & operations at LightHawk, effective November 1. In this capacity, Laurie supervises all program staff and program operations, with the support of Senior Program Manager Michele Gangaware. Laurie joined LightHawk 18 months ago with an impressive track record in environmental issues and nonprofit organizations and has done a great job starting up the Northeast program and pinch-hitting on many special assignments. For now, Laurie will continue to serve as the Northeast program manager on a part-time basis. When funding permits, we expect to return to a full-time program manager for our eastern operations and a full time program director.

**THANK YOU** We wish to thank the many donors who contributed to LightHawk between August 23 and December 8, 2004, including:

**Foundations** Oak Foundation, Wiancko Family Donor Advised Fund of the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole, Phoebe W. Haas Charitable Trust B, William H. and Mattie Wattis Harris Foundation.

**Major Donors** (\$1,000 and over) Karen Adams Trust, ChevronTexaco Conservation Awards Program, Steve and Evelyn Knaebel, Thomas Stroock, Bill and Jean Lane, Gurnee Munn III, Craig and Maja Ramsey, Mary Ellen Bates.

**Patrons** (\$500-\$999) Stillwater Preservation LLC, William and Virginia Cowles, Steve and Lisa Robertson, Richard Durden, Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch, Catherine Anderson.

**Contributors** (\$250-\$499) William L. Towler, Western Environmental Law Center, Terri Watson, Tony Andersen, Robert and Gladys Adams, Gloria Colombero Speigel, Morgan Schmauder Mermagen.

**Volunteer Pilots** Our heartfelt thanks to the many volunteer pilots who donated their time and the use of their aircraft to fly for LightHawk during this time.

**We received gifts in honor of:**

Harriet Gladys Adams  
Nathan Firestone  
Stephen and Sabrina Hofkin  
Patricia Kay  
Tony W. Oster

**Geri Oster, program and operations assistant at LightHawk** since 2001 manages volunteer pilot records and insurance issues, coordinates the application process for new pilots, and maintains our pilot database. Born in Ethan, South Dakota, Geri originally came to Lander to work for United Parcel Service for a month. Her car broke down and she



had no way of getting home for the holidays, so she decided to stay in Lander a few more months. That was 20 years ago.

Gerri reports that in 2004 we added 18 new pilots, expanding our volunteer pilot corps to a total of 134. The new pilots are: Jeremiah Burns, Eric Fogelin, Lee Wilkerson, Dean Cully, Richard Barr, Ruthmary Lovitt, Chester Peterson, Jr., John Feagin, Jim Carlson, Will Worthington, Bruce Huester, Fred Reimers, John Wilson, Greg Burnett, Jim Leachman, Daniel Evans, Doug Monger, and David Murphy. We were privileged to meet some of them at the Fly-in, and most have already flown their first LightHawk missions.

Gerri reports that in 2004 we added 18 new pilots, expanding our volunteer pilot corps to a total of 134. The new pilots are: Jeremiah Burns, Eric Fogelin, Lee Wilkerson, Dean Cully, Richard Barr, Ruthmary Lovitt, Chester Peterson, Jr., John Feagin, Jim Carlson, Will Worthington, Bruce Huester, Fred Reimers, John Wilson, Greg Burnett, Jim Leachman, Daniel Evans, Doug Monger, and David Murphy. We were privileged to meet some of them at the Fly-in, and most have already flown their first LightHawk missions.

**By region, our volunteer pilot corps breaks down as follows:**

Rockies – 54 Pacific – 47 Northeast – 16  
South – 10 Midwest – 7

California is the state with the most volunteer pilots (26).

## GET INVOLVED!

**PILOTS:** Join our volunteer pilot team; the minimum requirement is 1000+ hours as pilot-in-command.

**DONORS:** A gift of \$35 or more makes you a member of LightHawk!

**ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS:** Become a LightHawk partner.

**IN-KIND DONORS:** We are in need of certain airplane and office supplies.

**FRIENDS:** Please share this newsletter with your family and friends.

**MATCHING GIFT PROGRAMS:** Double your gift; does your employer offer a matching gift program?

**HONOR SOMEONE:** Consider giving a gift to LightHawk in honor of an avid pilot and or environmentalist among your friends or family.

# We Personalize the Experience

By Rick Durden, LightHawk board president

As this year's Fly-in wrapped up and I watched my friends depart from Santa Fe, the overwhelming feeling I had was how fortunate I was to be involved with this dynamic group of people who share a deep-seated dedication toward protecting our world by using their unique skills in the sky. I could not help but have a sense of wonder, that I would wind up involved with an organization of fascinating people while doing something I love. And by doing so, I am making a difference for my children and grandchildren.

For 25 years the people of LightHawk have been making a difference—one flight at a time—with small groups of people who go out and tell many more people what they learned from the perspective of the all-seeing hawk. Our strength is in personalizing the experience, in showing our partners and friends what that patch of the planet looks like from a thousand feet, at a speed that allows them to see what is happening there and understand why it is important. The general aviation airplane is one of the most efficient tools for showing the big picture about the inter-related nature of the environment and the effect of humans' actions on it. I suspect that will be just as true 25 years from now. I hope I'm around to find out.

In the near future LightHawk will be returning to Canada and, if all goes well, expanding its operations in the eastern United States. We are in the last year of a five year strategic plan, and in 2005 the board of directors and staff will be working on the next one, to set policy and goals and doing our best to foresee the future. This is particularly important given that politicians in Washington served notice that they intend to more aggressively pursue their policy of dismantling protections for our land, the water we drink and the air we breathe.

It is my hope that in another 25 years LightHawk will be so pervasive that anyone working for the environment, in any part of North or Central America, will know that when they need an aerial perspective on an issue, all it will take is a call to LightHawk and a volunteer pilot will be there to make the flight.



LightHawk

**PLEASE DIRECT ALL INQUIRIES** to LightHawk • P.O. Box 653 • Lander, WY 82520  
Phone (307) 332-3242 • Fax (307) 332-1641 • [www.lighthawk.org](http://www.lighthawk.org) • [info@lighthawk.org](mailto:info@lighthawk.org).

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Richard J. Durden, President • Michael Sutton, Vice President • Valerie Langer, Secretary • Tuck Colby • Rudy Engholm • Steve Knaebel • Adine Mees • Ben Pierce • Maureen A. Smith • Terri Watson • Darryl Young.



Our thanks to Continental Airlines for providing free travel vouchers for our Mesoamerica program.

## FROM THE FLIGHT LOG: LightHawk Aids Defense of the Roadless Rule

While thorough, advance planning is the hallmark of a successful LightHawk mission, program managers and volunteer pilots do handle flight requests that come together quickly in response to legislative or regulatory proposals. From Las Vegas, Nevada to Portland, Maine, environmental groups recently reached out to LightHawk — in need of quick action — to aid them in their work defending the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. See some examples below.

**The Roadless Rule protects nearly 60 million acres of national forest from new road construction in blocks of at least 5,000 acres.** The Rule received more public support — 2.2 million comments — than the agency has received on any other public policy. The Bush administration, however, has proposed a permanent rollback of the Rule and offered in exchange a policy that would allow governors to petition for protection of roadless areas. This could open up more

than 30 percent of America's national forests to the extractive industry, fragment the stewardship of our public lands, and burden governors with procedural hurdles without guarantee their requests would be fulfilled.

**In Nevada**, 3.2 million acres are protected under the Rule; that is 50 percent of the state's public wild lands. To aid the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG) and Heritage Forests Campaign in drawing media attention to the issue, volunteer pilot Chuck Schroll flew journalists from the *Las Vegas Mercury* to give them an aerial view of roadless areas. A reporter from the *Las Vegas Review Journal*, who was not able to join the flight, was briefed by passengers afterwards. Detailed reports of the issue, both in support of the Roadless Rule, ran in both papers.

According to Brad Johnson, of U.S. PIRG, public comments will have a significant impact on the outcome of the current debate and their

flights with LightHawk "were a huge success and contributed greatly both to our efforts to document roadless areas in national forests and to generate media coverage of this important issue."

**In Maine**, 6,000 acres currently are protected under the Roadless Rule. Volunteer pilot Rudy Engholm flew staff from the New England Cable News (NECN) Network, New England's equivalent of CNN, in conjunction with an Environment Maine press conference. The group flew over the White Mountain National Forest to provide reporters the opportunity to see first-hand what is at stake. Compelled by the view and the story, NECN ran the story six minutes into every half-hour that day.

The comment period deadline these flights were intended to highlight closed on November 15. Although it is still unclear what the final policy outcome will be, LightHawk will continue to work with groups like U.S. PIRG, Heritage Forests Campaign, and Environment Maine in an effort to ensure our national forests' roadless areas are adequately protected.



Heather Dowey, TWS/ LightHawk

*White Mountain National Forest, New Hampshire*

*"The aerial perspective provides a view that is incomparable and so mind-opening that the protections we're working for take on a whole new level of significance. All in all, amazing. The event achieved its goal of bringing media attention to the issue and garnering some great footage and photos to use for our website and other materials and continued work on this campaign."*

**— Heidi Overbeck of Environment Maine**



P.O. Box 653  
Lander, WY 82520

*Newsletter comments?*

*Contact Jan Segna, Editor, at [info@lighthawk.org](mailto:info@lighthawk.org)*

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
LANDER, WY  
PERMIT NO. 197

**Special  
Supplement**



*LightHawk 25th Anniversary Fly-in  
Santa Fe, New Mexico*

**HIGHLIGHTS & AWARDS**

**In late September, LightHawk staff, board, volunteer pilots, partners, supporters and friends met in Santa Fe — where LightHawk was founded — to celebrate our successes, exchange ideas, and get to know each other just a little better. The result? What has been called the best fly-in ever!**

### **The Welcome Reception – Celebrating 25 years of service to the environment.**

On Friday evening, we welcomed our friends with good food, great music, and a sneak preview of a documentary featuring LightHawk.



**Jim Almand in Concert.** Now based in Santa Fe, Jim was born in Memphis, Tennessee and studied guitar

under Hector Garcia, one of the top classical guitar teachers in the world.



**At the reception,** from left to right are Barbara Young, Volunteer Pilot David Kunkel and his wife Gale Kunkel (Meeker, CO), Volunteer Pilot Polly Ross (Aspen, CO) and Volunteer Pilot Dick Arnold (Telluride, CO).



**In the ornate theater** of the Scottish Rite Temple, built in 1911, the Hunter Neil Company and the Montana State University film program

previewed a documentary about LightHawk's work in Mesoamerica.

## **The Annual Meeting: A day of learning and sharing**

**E**xecutive Director Maureen Smith and Board President Rick Durden reported a positive outlook for the future of LightHawk, noting that the content, impact and professionalism of this year's flight projects were exceptional, a testament to a powerful and effective collaboration between our volunteer pilots, partners and program managers. Each of our program managers also gave a brief overview of activities and key missions in their region.

Attendees additionally had the opportunity to hear from a blend of speakers, each of whom came from a background in aviation, the environment, or a combination of the two:

Doug Crawford, director of photography for Delighted Eye Video, has logged hundreds of hours of aerial photography for clients all over the world. He shared video footage and some of the tricks of the trade, focusing on how pilots and photographers can work most effectively together.

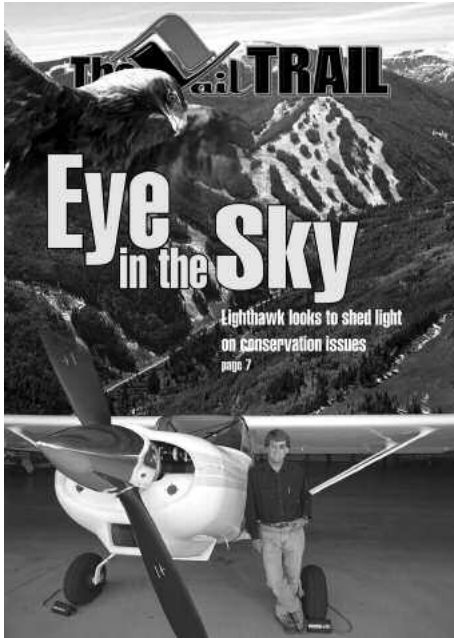
LightHawk volunteer pilot Mike Sharp, who serves as a special agent and pilot for the National Park Service in Alaska discussed aspects of natural resource aviation learned from his many years of flying at Glacier Bay National Park.

A panel of LightHawk partner organizations discussed their work with LightHawk in the Southwest on issues including oil and gas prospecting just north of Santa Fe, mining, and conservation of the Rio Grande. Speakers included Brian Shields of Amigos Bravos and Gina Dello Russo of Save Our Bosque Task Force.

Rounding out the day's agenda, the popular volunteer pilot roundtable gave participants the opportunity to discuss openly topics of interest to them, from aviation concerns to LightHawk operations. Each pilot also was given the chance to capture his or her favorite LightHawk moment on tape. We hope to post the transcript on our website soon.

*Fly-in photos by Margaret Puckette*

**The Annual Banquet: Saturday evening,** LightHawk held its annual banquet and awards ceremony honoring our volunteer pilots who have made outstanding contributions of time, skill, and attitude.



Daniel Davis

**DAVID KUNKEL, 2004 VOLUNTEER PILOT OF THE YEAR,** flew more than 100 hours on LightHawk missions in North and Central America during the award period. He has helped provide an aerial perspective on some of the most pressing land-use issues in the Rockies, including oil and gas development, helped conduct the annual flamingo survey in Mexico, and flew several missions to support conservation planning along the coast of Veracruz including photo-documentation of important wetlands, beaches, and sand dune systems. David is known for being personable and outgoing, having a keen interest in the issues he flies for, being willing to fly wherever he is needed, and greeting every opportunity with commitment and passion. David and his wife Gale live in Meeker, Colorado. Pictured, David and his Maule were featured on the cover of, "the Vail Trail" following a flight for the Wildlands Project.

## Celebrating Some of LightHawk's Finest



**MERRY SCHROEDER, 2004 ROCKWELL AWARD,** is known first and foremost for her positive attitude, sense of humor, and her attentiveness and skill as a pilot. Organized, professional, generous, and helpful are the words often used to describe her. But Merry also is highly regarded for her knowledge of local issues

and the people who work on them, as was witnessed during Sunday's program flight event. Also honored as one of our "platinum flyers" this year, Merry has flown for LightHawk since 1987. Merry lives with her husband John Schroeder, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

### **RUDY ENGHOLM, 2004 ROOKIE OF THE YEAR.**

Not really a rookie at all ... in 2003 Rudy handed over his New England-based environmental aviation organization, Northern Wings, to LightHawk, and joined both our board of directors and our volunteer pilot corps. Starting off with a bang, Rudy flew more than 85 hours in the Northeast and Mesoamerica. Extolled by passengers and partners for his safety-consciousness, professional manner and knowledge of

the Northeast and its issues, Rudy is all-around asset to LightHawk. Rudy and his wife Grace and their son William reside in Portland, Maine.



### **Platinum Flyer Awards:** Honoring 15 or more years of service to LightHawk



*Merry Schroeder  
Santa Fe, New Mexico*



*Steve Parker  
Fallbrook, California*



*Steve Gorman  
Lincoln, California*



*Jerry Hoogerwerf  
Socorro, New Mexico*

**Special awards:** LightHawk's volunteer pilots do so much for the organization throughout the year that this year we decided to honor them in a new way for the remarkable and sometimes unusual contributions they make.



**VP Gene Steffen**, of Prescott, Arizona, received the "Glutton for Punishment" whip for generously

accepting every flight request that is offered, including one offered to him the same day he returned from a 12-day Mesoamerican tour.

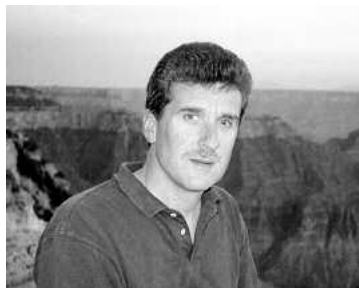


**VP Saul Chaikin**, of Cupertino, California (pictured), and VP Ev Cassagneres of Cheshire, Connecticut, both earned the

title, "Mr. Nice Guy" and a smiley face mug this year for receiving the most glowing and effusive praise from partners for their service on flight missions.

**VP and Board Member Mike Sutton** of

Monterey, California was honored with the "Went the Extra Mile" pedometer for going above and beyond to fulfill a mission. Mike stepped in at the last minute to fly for the Consultative Group on Biological Diversity annual meeting in Minnesota. To do so, he rearranged existing travel plans, rented a plane in Wisconsin, and ping-ponged himself back and forth around the upper Midwest by car and by plane, while continuing to spread the good word about LightHawk.



**The irrepressible VP Jane Nicolai**, of Vancouver,

Washington, won our "Miss Congeniality" tiara to show everyone how her winning ways bring happiness to our partners.



**VP Dan Meyer** of Alexandria, Virginia, received the "Well-Grounded" award — a pound of shade-grown coffee — for supporting LightHawk and, more broadly, public benefit flying by serving on the board of the Air Care Alliance and aiding LightHawk with legislative and lobbying work.

### Also honored, but unable to join us:

**VP Eric Fogelin** (Langley, Washington) has a long history of involvement in forestry issues, enabling him to sight hard-to-find details such as snowmobile tracks under a forest canopy. He recently enhanced missions for two partners by providing a precise map of the aircraft's ground track, documenting and mapping illegal activity, which provided valuable evidence used in court. For his contribution, Eric earned the sought after "Green Bean" award.

The "Speed Demon" award (a model F-15) was given to VP **Greg Burnett** (Dodge Center, Minnesota). Greg went from acceptance in the pilot corps to first LightHawk assignment in less than 24 hours, on a mission for the Consultative Group on Biological Diversity over the Boundary Waters Wilderness Area. We wish we could have gold-plated this one — Greg's wife gave birth to their first child just one week before he helped out with this flight.

For stepping in after two pilots cancelled on a mission scheduled with the Wyoming Conservation Congress, **Larry Swanson**, of Salt Lake City, Utah, earned the "Relief Pitcher" baseball, autographed by ED Maureen Smith. Larry flew nine one-hour plus flights with 26 passengers over three days, flying exhausting back-to-back tours of the oil and gas fields near Pinedale. Without his assistance, more than half the planned flights for Congressional attendees would have been cancelled.



**T**his year we also had to bid a fond farewell, to long-time Board Member Joan Bavaria.

Board President Rick Durden presented Joan with a framed aerial photograph as a token of our appreciation for her more than 15 years of service to LightHawk. Joan is co-founder, President, Director and a senior portfolio manager of Trillium Asset Management, an employee-owned investment advisor that serves clients concerned with the social and environmental impacts of their investments.

## Keynote Speaker Randy Hayes



# Looking Back 25 Years & Forward 500: A Plan to Save it All



Each year LightHawk's fly-in features a keynote speaker who offers insight and perspective on our environmental mission. This year we were fortunate indeed to hear an address by Randy Hayes, founder and former executive director of Rainforest Action Network. The following is a brief excerpt from his inspiring speech:

How do you see your life's work? What can you do to shoulder your responsibilities? Remembering that it is not enough to care, it is really about what you do! Remembering as well, it is also about spreading love — love for the planet and love for her glorious oceans, forests, and creatures.

We have to put a stake in the ground. Some would have us think they have the power and that we are helpless. Reject this! Reject the idea of helplessness.

I see how the earth could be in 20, 100

or 500 years and it is beautiful. As Poet Gary Snyder says, we will live with clear language and good dreams.

There is real joy in pursuing what is just and right for nature and our future. We can dream together a dream of a better world, an ever-renewing, organic-based earth-community. I believe we can achieve a large part of it in our lifetimes.

As LightHawk pilots and friends, you know that a spiritual feeling comes over you when you are acting on behalf of something greater than yourself. A sense of the sacred comes when you feel your relationship with the whole. When we perceive that wholeness, our light shines.

Randy discussed a 12 point, 500 year plan to save it all! See the full transcript of his speech on our website: [www.lighthawk.org](http://www.lighthawk.org).



## Hiking the Sangre de Cristo Mountains

Each year, we end the fly-in with an outdoor activity that allows folks to relax and enjoy the region we are visiting. This year, on Sunday afternoon, local VP Frank Davis led a hike to view the aspen colors in the

Sangre de Cristo Mountains out of Santa Fe and later hosted, with his wife Lisabeth an incredibly fun Sunday night barbeque for LightHawk at their beautiful adobe home.



Frank Davis



A group of LightHawk friends, staff and volunteer pilots hiked even as it drizzled rain. Left to right: Nolan & Steve Babits, Fran Cole, Art Thompson, Bob Keller, Carol Keller, and Valerie Langer.