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# BUCKS COUNTY HERALD LIVING ENTERTAINMENT - ART

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SECTION C

July 18, 2024

## TAKING WING OVER TINICUM



Michael McDonald prepares to soar in the sky for 30 minutes.



Freedom's Wings International hosted an event Sunday, July 14 at Van Sant Airport in Tinticum, helping about a dozen individuals with disabilities sit in the cockpit of a glider and soar in the sky.

A nonprofit organization run by and for people with physical disabilities, Freedom's Wings International brings the joy of soaring to individuals with physical challenges by providing opportunities for them to fly in specially adapted sailplanes, either as passengers or as members of the flight training program.

Photographs by Marion Callahan

Michael McDonald watches the gliders soar in the sky after his flight experience. He is among members of Individuals in Motion, a volunteer-centered organization serving Northeastern Pennsylvania.

On a hot, steamy Sunday afternoon, President of Freedom's Wings International Gil Frost helps move a sailplane into position for takeoff at Van Sant Airport in Tinticum.



Maura Serio prepares to land the glider after a 20-minute flight.



Maura Serio learns more about the glider's controls before soaring into the sky.



Daniel Fitting prepares for his 20-minute soaring experience on a glider at Van Sant Airport.



Daniel Fitting captures photos of his wife preparing to launch into the sky.



Michael McDonald is all smiles as Gil Frost prepares him for his flight.



Gil Frost, president of Freedom's Wings International, helps Daniel Dubinski get settled into a sailplane.

Gil Frost is president of Freedom's Wings International, which provides people with disabilities the opportunity to fly specially adapted sailplanes.



A Freedom's Wings glider finishes its flight over Van Sant Airport.



Michael McDonald makes his way from his wheelchair into the cockpit of a glider.



Grateful for a day of soaring above the clouds, participants from the Freedom's Wings International event gather for a group photograph.