

CAP Sugar Valley Composite Squadron presents

The Perlan Project

Michael Batalia, Ph.D.

June 6, 2017 6:30 at Sugar Valley Airport



Imagine an engineless aircraft reaching the edge of space...

The Perlan Project: Our goal is to reach the edge of space and study how giant stratospheric mountain waves impact our planet's weather. Mission 1 proved that the highest mountain waves could open the door to the edge of space for gliders. Mission 2 will use a pressurized glider to reach 90,000 feet. Mission 3 will add transonic capabilities and reach 100,000 feet.

Michael joined the Perlan Project in the fall of 2009 after reading an article in Soaring magazine calling for volunteers to participate. His contributions to the project have



included assisting in the design and selection of the camera systems, the scientific payload bay, telemetry, fundraising and grant writing. Michael is an active member of the Piedmont Soaring Society, and he has served as the Vice President and President of the club. In addition to flying gliders, Michael enjoys skydiving and leading the Boy Scouts of Troop 736 in Clemmons.

Michael's day job is co-founder of Wide Eyed Technologies, a corporation which assists customers and partners to leverage 3D printing for manufacturing. Prior to starting Wide Eyed Technologies, Michael was executive director of commercialization and licensing for Wake Forest Innovations, the innovation enterprise of Wake Forest University. Michael joined Wake Forest in 2003 and served as the director of commercialization activities for over 12 years.

In addition Michael, is a research assistant professor of Chemistry at Wake Forest University. He has served on the board of the North Carolina Biotechnology Center and was the founding chairman of the board of the Center of Innovation for Nanobiotechnology. Prior to his career in commercialization and licensing, Michael was a postdoctoral fellow at the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where his research focused on molecular immunology and structural biology. Michael has a B.A. in Chemistry from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Texas at Austin.

