PHASTAR manufactures PPE in response to COVID-19 related shortages

With expertise in both Public Health and Advanced Manufacturing, PHASTAR did not hesitate to respond to the PPE shortage that hit Northeast Ohio this spring with the rise of COVID-19. The Fabrication Lab at Davis Aerospace and Maritime High School, which is normally used for engineering and thematic training programs, was quickly relocated to PHASTAR’s facility at 1776 Columbus Road during the school closure to produce Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). PHASTAR began fabricating reusable splash face shields for healthcare workers and first responders who were facing a shortage of PPE in the critical first weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic. Production of these reusable shields, which consist of a laser cut visor and a 3-D printed plastic frame with an adjustable elastic strap, began in late March.

In less than a month, PHASTAR produced 450 reusable splash shields for health care providers, which were donated to several locations including the Cuyahoga County PPE distribution center, Southwest General Hospital, and Western Reserve Hospital. By the middle of March, some materials needed for the fabrication of the splash shields became scarce as larger companies ramped up production. The Fabrication Lab is equipped for quick, small batch runs of a product, so rather than competing with scale production, we pivoted.

Hearing many reports of ear pain many people were experiencing caused by the elastic loops on facemasks, PHASTAR partnered with local entrepreneurs Corey Snipes and Keith Blake to

(PPE, Cont’d on pg. 3)
PHASTAR provides a cautious approach to lifeguard training

Due to COVID-19 and the restrictions and challenges that it poses, many lifeguard instructors have cancelled all scheduled lifeguarding classes for the duration of the summer. This presents another challenge for aquatic facilities and pools who have been authorized to re-open under strict guidelines, but who now face a shortage of certified lifeguards. PHASTAR recently helped the Cleveland Yachting Club get a number of its lifeguards recertified, taking a cautious approach to the standard course of training.

In early June, Julie McCormick, our Creative Director and one of our American Red Cross certified instructors, conducted a lifeguarding renewal course for five CYC lifeguards. A second training session may be held in the near future for additional lifeguards who need to get recertified.

The American Red Cross has published guidelines for conducting Lifeguarding classes during the COVID-19 pandemic, which allow for the resumption of classes when permissable by local governments. They have also offered some modifications to the training to reduce the amount close contact between participants.

PHASTAR is hopeful that some of our students at Davis Aerospace and Maritime High School will be able to participate in a Lifeguarding class this summer. Such training provides students with valuable knowledge and skills, and prepares them for the possibility of employment as a lifeguard. Once certified, they also have the opportunity to work as a student lifeguard/rescue swimmer on PHASTAR 2543.

All participants in the lifeguarding course had their temperatures and oxygenation levels checked prior to the start of the class. When not in the water, participants donned face masks and gloves. PHASTAR’s water rescue manikin, Dory-Oscar, was also used for some rescue scenarios where normally another participant would pretend to be a drowning victim. This helped to minimize close contact between participants.

The American Red Cross Lifeguarding course is just one of many different ARC courses that PHASTAR can provide. If you or your organization is interested in training and certification opportunities for First Aid, CPR/AED, and more, please contact Julie at jmccormick@phastar.org or by calling our office at 216.860.4883.
PPE, Cont’d from pg. 1

produce “Ear Savers”. Hooking the elastic loops of a face mask onto the Ear Savers takes the tension off the back of the wearer’s ears. One user told us the Ear Savers “have made mask wearing a little more bearable in the medical setting and out in the public.” To date, PHASTAR has produced 625 of these Ear Savers. They have been distributed to health care workers, delivery drivers, grocery store workers, and more. A health care worker who received a set of Ear Savers told us “I had a doctor tear up as I gave her one today to use and one for her daughter.”

Save the Date!

We are tentatively planning our next PHASTAR Task Force Meeting to be held on:

September 11, 2020

Location and Time: To Be Announced

We will comply with all state and local health guidelines, and will only hold the meeting if it is safe to do so and allowable by current recommendations.

Photos: Samples of some of the various components of the splash face shields produced by PHASTAR.
Discover Aviation Center Flying Club Updates & News

In April we social distanced, grounded the planes and began to react to the pandemic. As time passed we gathered more data, looked at CDC guidance and opened the flying club to solo flight and family members. The pilots are asked to disinfect the aircraft before and after flying and to self-assess their health and wellbeing before coming to our facilities.

We recently began allowing flight training again with the same conditions. We are slowly getting back to a new normal. Hopefully we will have our monthly meetings in person once again and everyone loves the Friday night cookouts!

(DACFC, Cont’d on next page)
Spring cleaning has begun. We are making space for a Redbird simulator like the one we have at our Burke office. We have donated a mock P-40 Warhawk that we will work on at 1776 to use in parades and other functions to promote the PHASTAR Davis A&M High School.

Last year we made 4 new private pilots: Tommy and Joey Victor, Max Schwartz and Matt Evenhouse. We really hope that this year we can see the first Davis A&M student earn their private pilot certificate. Let’s work together to make that a reality!

Flight Training Resumes for Davis Students

The Davis Alpha Flight Group; which consists of Demeiko, Sydney, and Damone; has resumed its flight training after COVID-19 related shut downs.

All three Davis students finished the school year in good academic standing. The students are flying with instructor Michael Hill as members of the Discover Aviation Center.

Our future pilots hope to achieve their private pilot certificates by the end of 2020.

To assist with their training, several flight simulators have been set up in the classroom space located at 1776 Columbus Rd.

The Davis Bravo Flight Group formed earlier this year, and it is our hope that they can begin their training soon.

Please donate to the PHASTAR Future Pilot Fund. Visit phastar.org or Venmo: Phastar-Corporation
PHASTAR welcomes UH medics on board marine safety boat this summer

University Hospitals’ Event Medicine program was forced to nearly shut down completely this summer due to the cancellation of numerous events that their medics would normally cover. PHASTAR, however, was able to help create an opportunity to simultaneously strengthen its partnership with UH, create an opportunity for UH event medics to continue working, and enhance marine safety services.

Beginning in May, UH medics began staffing PHASTAR 2543 alongside a Captain and a PHASTAR medic or rescue swimmer.

Twelve UH medics have staffed “Liddle Blue” through May and June. All those who have worked on 2543 have reported that they enjoyed the experience, and were pleased to learn about the services that the boat and PHASTAR provide on the water.
In early May, PHASTAR 2543 kicked off its third season of providing marine safety services on the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie in the Downtown Cleveland area. The 2020 boating season in Northeast Ohio is already shaping up to be a busy one, with 40 deep draft escorts, 15 Mayday/Pan-Pan responses, and 3 person in the water (PIW) responses through June 12th alone.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, additional health and safety protocols have been enacted this season on PHASTAR 2543. The boat has been staffed at minimum safe levels, which includes a Captain, UH Medic, and PHASTAR Medic or Rescue Swimmer. The resumption of student service on the rescue boat began in mid-June, with just one student allowed on the boat at a time. All staff are checked for temperature and O2 levels, crew are required to wear face masks when inside the cabin or if in close contact with others, hand sanitizer is used frequently, and all high-touch surfaces are sanitized each shift.

This year, PHASTAR 2543, as a State of Ohio Cerfitied EMS/Rescue Agency, is also a recognized asset in the U.S. Coast Guard’s “Rolodex”. Captains carry a duty phone that provides 24/7/365 response to USCG requests for assistance. The level of response and medical care that PHASTAR can provide is greater than what is currently available and enhances safety in the regional waters.

Further enhancing the services that can be provided, drones will be added/included on PHASTAR 2543 to assist with on-water searches.

Liddle Blue is also preparing to get some upgrades this year. Captains Walker and Ferguson have shared plans to add SideScan sonar to PHASTAR 2543.

PHASTAR has hired Nate Gardner as a new medic this season. Gregory Geracioti, who has worked on PHASTAR 2543 as a medic for the last two years, obtained his Captain’s license in the off-season, and now also serves as one of the rescue boat’s Captains.

PHASTAR extends a warm welcome to LCDR Jeremy Maginot as the new Commanding Officer of Marine Safety Unit/Cleveland!
PHASTAR provides support to Davis students during COVID-19 closures

When Ohio Governor Mike Dewine first announced that schools would be closing for three weeks to slow the spread of COVID-19, students at Davis Aerospace and Maritime High School did not immediately feel the effect. March 16, the first date of the school closure, was also the first day of Davis A&M’s spring break. What nobody knew at the time, of course, was that students would not return for in-person classes for the rest of the 2019-20 school year. Like the rest of the world, Davis students and teachers, and the PHASTAR team that supports them, would have to learn to adapt to a new normal.

PHASTAR and Davis staff members helped insure students had the necessary equipment for remote learning by delivering over 45 laptops, hot spots, and work packets to our students. Food and cleaning products were also provided to a couple families. In addition to their classwork, students were able to participate in special online thematic courses put on by PHASTAR. In the Mobile App Development Course, students learned to write code and create an app for their phones. Students also participated in a Remote Pilot License course, preparing them to take the FAA’s Part 107 test. A remote pilot license will allow students to operate drones and other remote aircraft for commercial purposes. Finally, each week Maritime students were able to join “Captains Hangout” to ask questions as they worked towards earning their Ohio Safe Boater Certificate.

While details for the start of school this fall are still to be determined, the staff of PHASTAR and Davis A&M remain committed to supporting our students and continuing to provide engaging connections to our Aerospace and Maritime theme.
In late May, the van that PHASTAR used to transport students to and from activities, to deliver supplies, etc. was vandalized and determined to be a total loss by the insurance company.

We are looking for a van that can serve many purposes: Mobile Simulation Lab, Mobile Fabrication Lab, Supply Delivery and Student Transportation (during and after COVID-19). As all of our PHASTAR team wear many hats, so must our vehicles.

Any help or leads are appreciated.
Giving to PHASTAR

As a 501c3 nonprofit organization, PHASTAR relies heavily on the generosity of others to offer high-quality programs and initiatives for the area’s youth and most vulnerable residents.

Donations can be sent to:
PHASTAR
1776 Columbus Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Your contribution will make a difference in the lives of Greater Cleveland youth, and will have a direct impact on their lives.

You can also make a donation on our website at www.phastar.org. Contact us at 216.860.4883 for other arrangements, or to set up a recurring donation. Other ways to give include volunteering your time, talents and/or services, or the donation of tangible goods. We are happy to discuss your possible donation.

HOW YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IMPACT LOCAL YOUTH:

$50 = 1 hour of boat time on the water for up to 4 students at a time
$100 = 1 hour of flight time for a student interested in flying
$250 = 1 day of access to Fabrication Lab outside of school (weekends & holidays) OR 1 hour of safety vessel operation with full crew
$500 = 1 day field trip for up to 60 students
$1,000 = 1 month of utilities at PHASTAR facility providing educational opportunities
$5,000 = 1 year of support for Davis A&M’s Drone Racing Team
$10,000 = 1 private pilot license for a Davis A&M student
$25,000 = 1 CNC machine enabling high level design and manufacturing
$50,000 = 1 FAA Certified Flight Simulator allowing students to log flight time and advanced instrument training
$100,000 = 1 Mobile Mariner Ship Simulator providing qualification, certification, and credentialing to students, government, and industry partners