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QUARTERLY

VOL. 36 • ISSUE 3

SUMMER 2024

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North Dakota Aviation Association
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August 7-8, 2024 • Devils Lake, ND

Registration ends soon!
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FLY-ND QUARTERLY
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The official publication of the North Dakota Aviation Association

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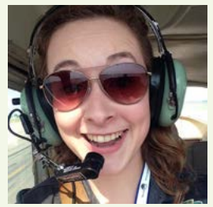
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From the Editor

Growing up, summer was the perfect time of year for fly-ins, airshows, and eating ice cream while plane watching at the airport. My husband and I recently took our children to a local airshow, where we all had a wonderful time. Every day since then, my two-year-old son runs up to me and says, "Mom, I have a question." I encourage him to ask his question, and he enthusiastically shouts, "Airplanes and helicopters!" While he might not understand the definition of a question, the joy that discussing airplanes and helicopters brings him is contagious. Whether you're heading to your local airport fly-in or a nationwide one, I hope you have an opportunity to experience the magic of aviation in the summer! I highly encourage you to attend the annual Fly-ND Summerfest held August 7-8, 2024, at the Woodland Resort in Devils Lake, ND. You can find registration info and more at www.fly-nd.com/events/summerfest. Also, there are some important updates about the Fly-ND Quarterly, which you can find in the Chairman's Comments on page three. We are so grateful for our readers and encourage you to stay tuned for more info; we are proud to continue sharing North Dakota aviation stories, history, and news with you!

Wishing you clear skies and unlimited visibility, Nicolette

Statements of fact and opinion are the responsibility of authors alone and do not imply an opinion on the part of officers and members of NDAA or Fly-ND Quarterly staff.
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Tanner Overland, Chairman
North Dakota Aviation Association
chairman@fly-nd.com

CHAIRMAN'S **COMMENTS**

Important NDAA Updates

Hello all - another beautiful North Dakota summer is upon us. I'm Tanner Overland, and I am absolutely thrilled to assume the role of Chairman of the North Dakota Aviation Association as of July 1, 2024! July marks a period of transition for our association, bidding farewell to familiar faces as we warmly welcome new individuals to our board.

We are delighted to introduce Shae Helling and Ryan O'Rear as our newest board members. We extend heartfelt appreciation to Jeremy Sobolik, Darren Hall, and Ray Brooks for their dedication to supporting the NDAA these past years. We thank Justin Weninger for his past leadership role as NDAA Chairman and welcome him to his new role as Past Chairman. We also eagerly welcome Renée Murrish as our new NDAA Association Manager and Amy Ott as our Bookkeeper.

Summertime is for fun and flying, and this summer looks to be chock-full of both, with a fly-in scheduled for nearly every weekend around our state and two airshows: the Fargo AirSho on July 27th and the Williston Airshow on August 3rd. Be sure to visit https://aero.nd.gov/events/ for a list of all the summer aviation activities in our area!

Speaking of summertime activities, please join us to celebrate summer and aviation in Devils Lake, ND, at Fly-ND Summerfest at the Woodland Resort on August 7th and 8th. The NDAA and Airport Association of North Dakota (AAND) have teamed up for this year's Fly-ND Summerfest, with two days full of fishing, golfing, networking, and summer meetings – all while fundraising for aviation scholarships for our state's future aviation professionals!

Thanks to our members and sponsors' continued support and participation in NDAA events like Fly-ND Summerfest, the NDAA has awarded nearly $60,000 in aviation scholarships to our state's future aviation professionals in the last five years! We are truly grateful for your involvement and could not have achieved this without you. For more information, to register, or to become an event sponsor for Fly-ND Summerfest, please visit www.fly-nd.com/Fly-ND-Summerfest or email manager@fly-nd.com

Two important topics that will be discussed at our

Continued on page four



CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS *Continued*

upcoming NDAA Meeting during Fly-ND Summerfest are updates to our NDAA Bylaws and changes to this publication, the Fly-ND Quarterly, coming January 2025.

The Fly-ND Quarterly is one of our organization's best tools to connect with our state's aviation stakeholders and enthusiasts. It's also recognized as one of the foremost state aviation publications nationwide, with nearly 5,000 copies distributed across the country each quarter.

Originating in 1946 as The Dakota Flyer, the Fly-ND Quarterly has provided a means for our region's aviation stakeholders to stay informed, connected, and in touch with the pulse of our state's rich aviation history.

Historically, the revenue generated by selling ad space in the publication essentially helped offset the associated production costs. As one would imagine, the costs associated with this publication's production, printing, and postage have dramatically increased over the last 78 years, with an exponential cost increase in most recent years - to nearly $50,000 annually.

With annual ad revenue of less than $20,000, a significant portion of our organization's annual budget is earmarked toward subsidizing this $30,000+ shortfall. Simply put, changes must be made to ensure both the longevity and continued success of this publication and our organization.

As stated, this publication is one of the most important outreach tools our organization has to connect with aviation stakeholders all over the country. Over the years, the quality of the publication has improved, the content has been fine-tuned and amplified, and the overall reader experience has been continuously enhanced, and this will continue into the future.

We're excited to continue improving our readers' overall experience by expanding our digital offerings, such as hyperlinking photos and ads to our advertisers' respective websites and increasing our readers' opportunities to explore their social media pages easily. Or initiating thought-provoking safety topics and podcasts and creating the opportunity for follow-up discussions on our social media pages.

Effective January 1, 2025, the printed version of the Fly-ND Quarterly will transition to a "Member-Only Benefit."

Members of the NDAA will continue to receive the printed Fly-ND Quarterly, while non-members will only receive digital versions via email. Please note both NDAA members and non-members will have access to current and previous issues of the publication, as they do right now at https://aero.nd.gov/education-programs/aviationpublications/

Receiving the printed Fly-ND Quarterly does not indicate current NDAA membership. It means you are currently one of the 5,000 aviation enthusiasts on our publication mailing list – and that you could potentially stop receiving this publication in 2025, unless you confirm your NDAA membership status.

If you're uncertain about your NDAA membership status and want to ensure uninterrupted receipt of the printed Fly-ND Quarterly, please visit https://www.fly-nd.com/ to log in to your account or contact us at manager@fly-nd.com. We'll be happy to assist you with any questions regarding your membership status and the benefits associated with being part of the North Dakota Aviation Association.

Speaking of the benefits of being a part of the North Dakota Aviation Association, did you know that being a member of the NDAA comes with other valuable benefits? In addition to being a part of a collective effort to promote all aspects of aviation in our state, you can save up to $75 on registration for our annual Fly-ND Conference by becoming an NDAA Member! Your $40 Individual Membership contribution not only provides this substantial discount on conference registration but also ensures you continue receiving the printed version of the Fly-ND Quarterly, our region's premier aviation publication. Please visit https://www.fly-nd.com/Member-benefits for a full list of membership opportunities and the benefits they provide.

The North Dakota Aviation Association is the state's leading aviation organization for all aspects of aviation. From pilots and mechanics to students and airport managers, from fixed-base operators to aerial applicators and airport engineers, the NDAA seeks to promote our industry by bringing together organizations, professions, and people who support and serve it—and we need your help to continue doing so.

As we embrace the excitement of another North Dakota summer and celebrate new beginnings within the NDAA, it's crucial to underscore the significance of supporting our organization. From fostering community through events like Fly-ND Summerfest to ensuring the sustainability of our vital publications like the Fly-ND Quarterly, your involvement directly contributes to the growth and continuity of aviation excellence in our state. By becoming a member or continuing your support, you not only gain access to exclusive benefits but also play a pivotal role in shaping the future of aviation, education, and outreach in our great state and beyond. Together, let's uphold the legacy and advance the mission of the North Dakota Aviation Association.

Summer skies and happy flying! Tanner



Kyle Wanner, Director
North Dakota Aeronautics Commission
701-328-9650 | kcwanner@nd.gov

DIRECTOR'S Chair

Passage of Long-term FAA Reauthorization Bill

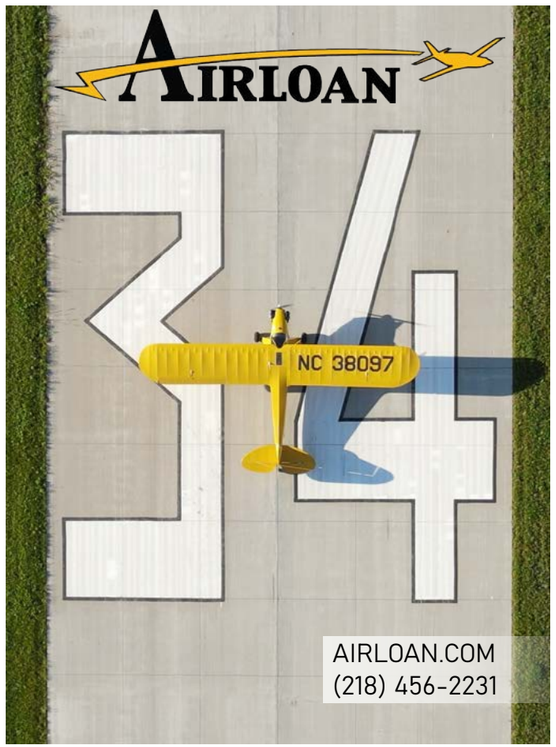
After a prolonged battle marked by multiple continuing resolutions since the expiration of the previous Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization last October, a legislative compromise has finally been reached. This past May, a new five-year bill authorizing the FAA was signed into law. The timing of this legislation is crucial, as it enables our airport projects planned for the 2024 construction cycle to move forward. Additionally, the aviation industry can now anticipate stability and a higher level of certainty for the next four and a half years.

The final bill is 1,083 pages long and I encourage you to conduct your own research on how the bill may impact your sector of the aviation industry. Some of the key highlights of the bill include:

- Airport Improvement Program Funding: Authorizes $4 billion annually for the FAA's airport projects program, an increase from the current $3.35 billion annual spending level, through fiscal year 2028. The bill also temporarily raises the federal share of project eligibility to 95% for non-hub and non-primary airports in fiscal years 2025 and 2026.
- Air Service Development: Authorizes the Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP) and the Essential Air Service (EAS) program.
- Expansion of BasicMed: Increases the maximum certified takeoff weight of covered aircraft to 12,500 pounds (up from 6,000 pounds), the number of allowable passengers to six (up from five), and the number of seats to seven (up from six).
- 100LL Availability: Requires airports that offered 100LL aviation gasoline for sale in 2022 to continue offering it until 2030 or until the FAA certifies an unleaded aviation gasoline alternative for purchase or use by General Aviation (GA) aircraft operators.
- Improving Aviation Workforce Development Programs: Authorizes $20 million nationally for aviation workforce development program grants with a focus on aircraft pilots, aviation maintenance, and aviation manufacturing.
- Unmanned Aircraft and Advanced Air Mobility: Mandates the FAA to continue its Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Test Site program for testing and evaluating drone activities with the goal of safely integrating uncrewed aerial systems into the national airspace. It also directs the FAA to issue a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) within four months to establish a performance-based regulatory pathway for UAS operations beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS).

Our office will continue collaborating with FAA officials to more fully understand the new expectations and changes to their federal programs. The certainty now provided within this legislation will aid the NDAC and our local airports as we work to develop plans over the next five years. Additionally, our upcoming pavement condition index study and statewide aviation system plan update will also benefit from the new insights on how the national system is expected to operate.

Overall, we are glad to see the passage of a new long-term reauthorization bill. We are also looking forward to working with all aviation stakeholders as we develop a clear roadmap that focuses on growing and developing both existing and emerging aeronautical activities within the state of North Dakota.





Renée Murrish, Manager
North Dakota Aviation Association
701-226-1640 / manager@fly-nd.com

FROM THE *Manager*

An Introduction

Greetings from Mandan, ND! I hope your summer has been a relaxing time where you can enjoy the people you love, the passions you love, and are closer to reaching your goals. I am excited to join the North Dakota Aviation Association (NDAA) as of May 1, 2024, and am soaking up all subjects of aviation. I am boldly bringing to the NDAA business experience, event experience, and excitement to work alongside a great team, watching this great organization accomplish its goals and creating future goals. We have some great events coming up this year and I hope to meet you there. First up, mark your calendars for August 7-8, 2024, at the Woodland Resort in Devils Lake, ND. The NDAA and Aviation Association of North Dakota (AAND) are combining forces and putting together a great Summerfest 2024 you will NOT want to miss. Everyone will enjoy relaxing at the beautiful resort, with opportunities for some fishing, golfing, celebrating aviation, and discussions on some important business topics within our own associations. Most importantly, we will be raising funds for scholarships for future aviation enthusiasts who will attend our annual Career Expo, held in October. If you are not a member of the NDAA, we would love to have you join us. Make sure you take advantage of the QR codes below to become a member of an association doing great things, as well as register for Summerfest 2024. If you have questions about the NDAA, want to sponsor one of our events, or donate to one of our incredible scholarships, connect with me through email at manager@fly-nd.com or by phone: (701) 226-1640 and I will be happy to assist you. I leave you with this inspirational quote to ponder,

"Aviation is proof that given the will, we have the capacity to achieve the impossible." - Edward Vernon Richenbacher.

Let's kick the tires and light the fires! Renée

SUMMERFEST

NDAA MEMBERSHIP



New to the NDAA



Renée Murrish
Owner, Signature Events
NDAA Manager

Renée brings to the North Dakota Aviation Association business experience, event experience, and excitement to work alongside a team and see this great organization reach new levels. Renée, a North Dakota native with a degree in business, has more than 25 years of experience with business and event planning in corporate positions. Since opening her company Signature Events in May of 2014, she has been a part of more than 1,500 events and also has her own unique venue, located in downtown Mandan, ND, at the 1929 Mandan Train Depot. Renée also is the founder of Mandan Cares, a non-profit organization benefiting Mandan first responders and city team members, which launches in August of 2024. She is chair of the Mandan Parking Authority and an Advisory Committee member for the Bismarck/Mandan Community Foundation. "Being able to help clients create their signature event and be a part of organizations that enhance this world and make it a better place is extremely rewarding." says Renée. "I could not ask for a better job!"



Devin Cole
Owner, Cole Aviation
NDAA Vice-Chairman

Devin lives just outside of Minot with his family. He is a graduate of the University of North Dakota and holds an Airline Transport Pilot certificate and an FAA Gold Seal flight instructor certificate. His professional background includes flying for a hospital and creating and operating Cole Aviation. He enjoys the connections he makes with the people he flies and instructs.



Shae Helling
Director of FBO Operations & Marketing, Bismarck Aero Center
NDAA Board Member

Shae graduated from the University of Mary with a bachelor's in Business Administration and Marketing and a Master's in Project Management. Shae started in the aviation industry right after college in 2012 and hasn't looked back. He is the current coordinator for the Annual Aviation Career Day in Bismarck, an event which has brought out 800-1000 5th graders to the Bismarck Airport each year.



Ryan O'Rear
Assistant Airport Director, Williston Basin International Airport (XWA)
NDAA Board Member

Ryan is the Assistant Airport Director of Williston Basin International Airport, where he leads the operations and maintenance teams. Additionally, he is responsible for overall FAA and TSA compliance for the airport and a lead planner for the annual Williston Basin Airshow. Ryan graduated from Metropolitan State University of Denver in 2013 with a B.S. in Aviation Technology, while also interning at Denver International Airport that year. From there he spent two years in Williston as an Airport Operations Officer/Supervisor, two years in Brookings, SD, as the Airport Manager, and one year in Houston, TX, as an Airport Operations Coordinator. In 2018, Ryan moved back to Williston, ND, as the Assistant Airport Director and was part of the airport relocation team in 2019.

Returning NDAA Leadership



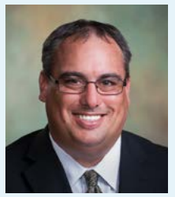
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Kyle Wanner
NDAC Director
Non-Board Leadership



Mike McHugh
NDAC Education Coordinator
Non-Board Leadership



Mike McHugh, Aviation Education Coordinator
North Dakota Aeronautics Commission
701-328-9650 | mmchugh@nd.gov

Passport Program Updates

One of the most fun parts of my job is receiving passport books in the mail, from pilots who have flown to all 89 airports in North Dakota. The pilots completing the program are full of pride and have a great sense of accomplishment. While some take years to complete the program, others have completed the task in as little as one week and all seem excited to receive their leather jacket. I typically ask these pilots if they have any fun stories to share and most of the time, there were some memorable moments along the way. Some have completed the program with a friend or relative, others alone, but we hear tales of the people they flew with or people they met along the way. It is wonderful to hear these stories.

If you have started the program or plan to start filling in your book soon, I would like to provide a few updates. First, the AOPA digital passport has unfortunately gone away. The AOPA has made the decision to discontinue the use of their mobile app. The pilot passport is one of the few features which is unavailable via their website or any other means.

While we search for another partner to work with on the digital passport, unfortunately the paper book will be the only means of collecting stamps for the foreseeable future.

If you have check-ins on the app, you should have received an email; we do have a record of your check-ins. We can add these stickers to your book at any time, including when you turn in your book after completion.

Next, a reminder to check NOTAMS prior to flight. Airports may be temporarily closed or unusable for a variety of reasons. Always check NOTAMS and verify airport conditions during your flight planning. When checking conditions, you may use our directory to find the contact information for the airport manager. These individuals can help confirm if grass has been mowed or if there are any special considerations prior to becoming surprised upon arrival. If you are unable to or do not feel comfortable landing at an airport due to conditions, overfly the field and if possible, have a passenger take a picture that you can send to us to confirm you were there. Foreflight track logs or other considerations may be used as well. If you cannot safely land due to airport conditions, weather, etc. please contact our office for a stamp.

Finally, while not new this year, this is a reminder that nine airports have become optional. If you have any questions about these airports, please reach out to our office. It is not required to land at these optional airports.

Whether you are completing the passport program or not, I hope you are able to get out to one of our many fly-ins this summer and enjoy the beauty of North Dakota from the air. Bring a young person along with you for some extra feel-good points.

Stay safe and happy flying! Mike



The Fly North Dakota Airports Passport Program is a fun reason for pilots to get out and fly, while supporting aviation in North Dakota at the same time.

Visit www.nd.gov/ndaero
or call 701-328-9650 for more information!



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A Generation Z Perspective on Aviation Evolution

By Grant Erwin, Airport Planner, North Dakota Aeronautics Commission

Back in August of 2015, I was getting ready to leave home and move up to the University of North Dakota (UND) to learn how to fly. My brain was an empty tank when it came to aviation. I had distant relatives that were pilots; other than a few airline flights and a scenic flight at age 14, I knew nothing about the world I was getting myself into. Now, almost 10 years into my journey, I wanted to share my experience so far, as a new generation of aviators take to the skies.

As a member of Generation Z, my journey in the world of aviation has been filled with fascination and excitement. We are in an era of rapid technological advances and global connections. My experience so far has been one of incredible innovation, but also shaped by sustainability concerns. My dreams of aviation began as a child: movies, video games, toys, all of my favorites had something to do with airplanes. Now that I've dived into the world, seeing the changes to come is almost just as exciting. Advanced Air Mobility, when first explained, sounds like a futuristic dream. The thought of an aviation-style drone taxi, taking me quickly from my home in Mandan straight to the Bismarck Airport seems both a distant fantasy and just a short step away.

However, I along with many fellow Gen Z's, are too aware of the environmental impact of aviation. We have grown up since elementary school hearing the dangers of climate change and air pollution. This, to us, is one of the largest concerns when looking into the future of the aeronautical world. We are truly excited for advances in electric aircraft, cleaner biofuels, alternative fuels, and other solutions to make air-travel much more eco-friendly.

The digital age has also revolutionized our view of the world of aviation. Quickly passing are the days of navigating by tracking Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range Station (VOR) radials. Non-directional beacons (NDB) and Automatic Direction Findings (ADF) are mere rumors, stories of lost forms of navigation from a not-so-distant past. We learned to fly with paper charts, pilotage, and dead reckoning of course, but GPS was our other main tool, especially for instrument training, giving us the nickname "Children of the Magenta Line." This, paired with online booking platforms, real-time flight tracking, virtual reality flight training, and social media to share our travels and experiences, connects us globally to fellow aviators and enthusiasts.

Being a part of Generation Z in aviation means embracing discovery and innovation, while simultaneously advocating for cleaner, more sustainable travel options. It also means realizing how very little I know about aviation. It has been nearly 10 years since I took my first flight lesson, and I still feel so new in my experiences. Leaning on the experience of those around us is an absolute necessity in gaining the experience we need to push this industry forward. Meeting people from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), airlines, airports, mechanic shops, and Fixed-base operators (FBO) around North Dakota has shown me just how many incredibly smart people are just an email or a phone call away. As Generation Z enters the expansive world of aviation, we are eager to soar, but we need to rely on those around us to provide an extra lift (pun absolutely intended.)

Blue skies and smooth landings,
Grant Erwin

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EXPERIENCE EXCEPTIONAL



Jay M. Flowers
Professional CFI, Aviation Safety Advocate
701-226-6283 | jay.m.flowers@faa.gov

Summer Fun on the Water!

I love the water, and for many who venture out to the river or a nearby lake for the day, finding a quiet place to enjoy the day without all the noise can be quite challenging. Whether you are an avid boater, fisherman, or watercraft version of Evil Kinevil, you are not the only water user out there.

Boats and personal watercraft are not the only vehicles on the water these days. Seaplanes are becoming more and more popular and the chance of one stopping by for fuel or just to see a local friend is ever more popular.

Pop Quiz: Is an aircraft considered a motor vehicle? Is a seaplane considered a vessel? (See the answer below)

So how does an aircraft fit into the mix of traffic on the water? According to Federal Law and the United States Coast Guard:

Except as provided in 33 U.S.C. 1604 of this title and subject to the provisions of 33 U.S.C. 1605 of this title, the International Regulations, as proclaimed under 33 U.S.C. 1602 of this title, shall be applicable to, and shall be complied with by—

(1) all vessels, public and private, subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, while upon the high seas or in waters connected therewith navigable by seagoing vessels, and

(2) all other vessels when on waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

So...what is a vessel? “Vessel” means every description of watercraft, including non displacement craft and seaplanes, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

So...what is a vessel? “Vessel” means every description of watercraft, including non displacement craft and seaplanes, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

These Rules shall apply to all vessels upon the high seas and in all waters connected therewith navigable by seagoing vessels inland waters of the United States, and to vessels of the United States on the Canadian waters of the Great Lakes to the extent that there is no conflict with Canadian law. These Rules have preemptive effect over State or local regulation within the same field.

Keep the following in mind:

- Each person operating an aircraft on the water shall, insofar as possible, keep clear of all vessels and avoid impeding their navigation and shall give way to any vessel or other aircraft that is given the right-of-way by any rule of 14 CFR Part 91.115.
- When aircraft, or aircraft and vessel, approach so as to involve risk of collision, each shall proceed with careful regard to existing circumstances including limitations of the respective craft. Basically, which craft is more maneuverable on the water.

Additional thoughts for your next outing on the water, many states have local laws on seaplane activity and lake usage. There are states that forbid any floatplane activity on all lakes within its borders. However, that does not include federal water systems, such as the Missouri or Mississippi River systems.

If you have not reviewed the rules of the water lately, please review your state’s laws on water vessels and right-of-way rules. Teach your children how to responsibly operate watercraft, pay attention, give way when necessary to avoid a collision, and obey the rules of the water. As for Law Enforcement, operators on the water, boats and seaplanes included can find themselves under enforcement as they are considered one in the same under most local, state, and federal laws.

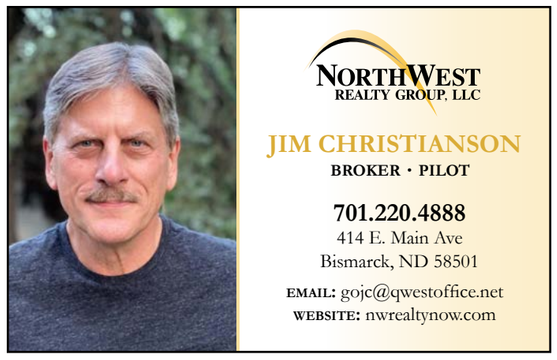
The answers to today’s quiz: Yes! And... Yes!

Boat Safe, Fly Safe!
Jay M. Flowers











by Adam Kurtz
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UND Vets2Wings students honored as program set to expand nationwide

Designed to ease America's pilot shortage, Vets2Wings program helps UND veteran aviation students take flight

Editor's note: In the UND LEADS Strategic Plan, the Affinity core value calls on the University to both "enhance UND's military-friendly environment" and to "increase educational pathways and programs in support of our military-affiliated students, employees, and community members." As the story below shows, UND's Vets2Wings effort is a national model: a program that not only helps veterans but also addresses one of America's most significant workforce shortages.



Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., and UND President Andy Armacost stand at the center of members of UND's Vets2Wings program, at their celebratory lunch. Photo By Adam Kurtz/UND Today.

The Vets2Wings (V2W) program first piloted by UND Aerospaceis poised to become a national program, one that's meant to address the shortage of commercial airline pilots.

That news was one of the takeaways UND students in the V2W program heard at a recent luncheon event that celebrated their accomplishments over the academic year.

Vets2Wings is a cooperative agreement between UND and the Federal Aviation Administration to help U.S. military veterans pay for flight training costs that are not included in programs such as the GI Bill. The program aims to help veterans successfully transition to the airline workforce, and was started at UND in October 2022 after Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., secured the necessary funding.

Held in the Memorial Union on May 8, the event was attended by Hoeven; UND President Andy Armacost;Elizabeth Bjerke, associate dean of the Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences; and more than 40 members of the V2W program.

At that event, Hoeven thanked Bjerke for her assistance in helping outline how a veteran's program should function. He also expressed his gratitude to the V2W students for their service to the nation, and for preparing to serve again as pilots, a role that will address a critical workforce need for the nation.

"Thank you to all of you for being veterans and serving our country," Hoeven said. "It's so cool that, again, you're going to serve our country as pilots, which we very much need."

The American Aviator Act, which Hoeven introduced with Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., and is included in the FAA's reauthorization legislation, is set to make V2W permanent through 2028, after which it can be renewed. That means aerospace schools across the U.S. can begin to offer this program to their veteran students, and that they have a working, UND-created blueprint that they can follow.

"In the case of Vets2Wings, we've got great veterans, all of you and others around the country, who are going to be able to go get that pilot's license," Hoeven said. "That's a win. That's a win for our great veterans for the service you provide in this country. It's also a win for the country; we need great pilots."

Celebrating Vets2Wings at UND

President Armacost, speaking before Hoeven, thanked him for his efforts to help make V2W a reality, and for his great friendship to UND. Armacost also congratulated the students who are in the program and those set to graduate from it.

"The end of the semester always marks amazing opportunities for recognition and celebration, and today is the day where we honor our participants in the Vets2wings program that was prototyped here at UND," Armacost said. "You're the first group in the nation to go through this program."

Armacost continued: "Congratulations to all of you. We're so proud of you and what you've accomplished, and to celebrate in your honor is just a real privilege."

And V2W students have quite a bit to celebrate.

Since November 2022, 77 students have been involved in the program (five women and 72 men). In 2024, 10 students are set to graduate. Other metrics illustrate students' dedication to the program:

- Fall average GPA for V2W members stands at 3.54, with 10 students making the Dean's List.
- Students achieved a 96% average on FAA written exams.
- From May 2023 to April 2024, students logged more than 4,700 total flight-training hours.
- Slightly more than 80 students achieved required certifications and ratings, including instrument ratings, commercial pilot certifications and flight instructor certifications. Some students achieved multiple ratings.

One of those students being honored Wednesday was senior Isaac Goedtke, a member of the 119thWing Air National Guard in Fargo. Goedtke said being in the program relieves a lot of stress by helping him manage how he pays for his flight training. He also said it creates an atmosphere conducive to studying.

"This program is a blessing, and I am so fortunate to be a part of it," he said. "I think everybody here will tell you the same thing."

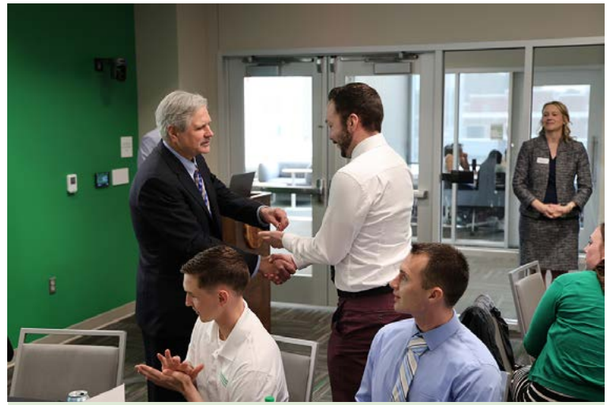
Anna Heath, also from the 119thWing in Fargo, agreed, and said the program takes the stress of financing her education off her plate. She also mentioned that going through the V2W program introduced her to career options she wasn't aware of by setting up meetings with industry insiders.

"UND and Vets2Wings have opened up a lot more doors than I thought there were," Heath said.

And opening those doors, it turns out, is all done by design. Jason Evans, assistant professor of aviation and one of the V2W program administrators,speaking at the event, said UND Aerospace leaders wanted to create a supportive environment for veteran students. That meant making use of a mentorship-style atmosphere, and setting up industry roundtables, bringing in military speakers. It also means they sometimes get together just to have fun and hang out.



President Armacost speaks at the Vets2Wings end-of-semester-luncheon. Photo by Adam Kurtz/ UND Today.



Wesley Mattson, who was among dozens of students recognized at the celebratory event, receives a challenge coin from Sen. Hoeven. Looking on at the right is Elizabeth Bjerke, associate dean of Aerospace. Photo by Adam Kurtz/UND Today.

"In the military, you're used to that mentorship model, you want to take care of each other," Evans said. "We've really seen that take place in this program. We see the older students and the students who are further along in the program mentor the more junior students."

Dozens of students were then recognized for their accomplishments, such as achieving certain ratings or becoming Certified Flight Instructors. One by one, they were called to the front of the group to shake hands with Hoeven and receive a celebratory coin or pin.

Bjerke, associate dean of Aerospace, said soon-to-be graduates are always welcome to return to UND to attend events and speak with incoming V2W members. Apropos of the inclusive style of V2W at UND, she also asked students to feel free to submit any ideas they might have for the future of the program.

"Make sure, if you have ideas for going into next year, reach out and let us know," she said.

Bjerke also made sure to thank all the member of the V2W administrative team, including Evans (Co-PI of the cooperative agreement with the FAA); Andrew Frelich, assistant director of Veteran and Military Services; Alexa Vilven, aerospace accountant; Paula Bruse, chief flight instructor; and Kirsten Pratt, aerospace success center adviser.

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The fourth annual NDAA Fly-ND Summerfest will take place in conjunction with the Airports Association of North Dakota (AAND) Summer Meeting at the Woodland Resort in Devils Lake, ND, on August 7-8, 2024. Celebrate summer and celebrate aviation, while fundraising for aviation scholarships! This year's activites include golfing, fishing, meetings, networking, and more. Scan the QR code or visit the website above for registration, schedule, and lodging information. We hope to see you there!

Tiny Tot Airport Tour

Scranton, ND preschool kids on field trip to the Bowman Regional Airport to see the airport terminal, fixed base operator (FBO), aircraft, and more. Their tour was followed by putting together airplane and gyro chopper kits to fly on the ramp. Then cookies and juice were enjoyed by all. Are they all excited to see airplanes or the last day of daycare? On to kindergarten!





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NDAA Membership Benefits

All Member Types of the organization will have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the following items:

- *Fly-ND Quarterly* magazine subscription
- Network with other aviation enthusiasts and industry partners
- Help support the future of Aviation in ND
- Opportunity for committee involvement – Conference, Advocacy, Strategic Planning, etc.
- Advocacy and lobbying efforts which benefit the aviation industry
- "Regional Voice" through representation on other boards and other advocacy
- Collaborate with other member groups
- Help student members to fuel aviation for tomorrow
- Protect aviation in North Dakota
- Communicate concerns or issues to the board and organization
- Information focus on website, jobs, blogs, advertising, etc.
- Stay informed on aviation – related issues through regular communication
- Participate in NDAA events and functions



SIGN UP TODAY! www.fly-nd.com/Membership

Individual Member ($40) is for those with personal or employment interest in the aviation profession or industry and who support the purpose of NDAA.

- Member discounts from participating business partners
- Member discounts from participating North Dakota aviation museums
- IA renewals through ND PAMA at the Fly-ND Annual Conference
- Ability to vote at the NDAA annual meeting to elect officers, update bylaws, and vote on large issues and run for office and/or board position

Organizational Member ($250) is for agencies and non-profit groups whose mission serves the aviation professions, industries, and supports the purpose of NDAA.

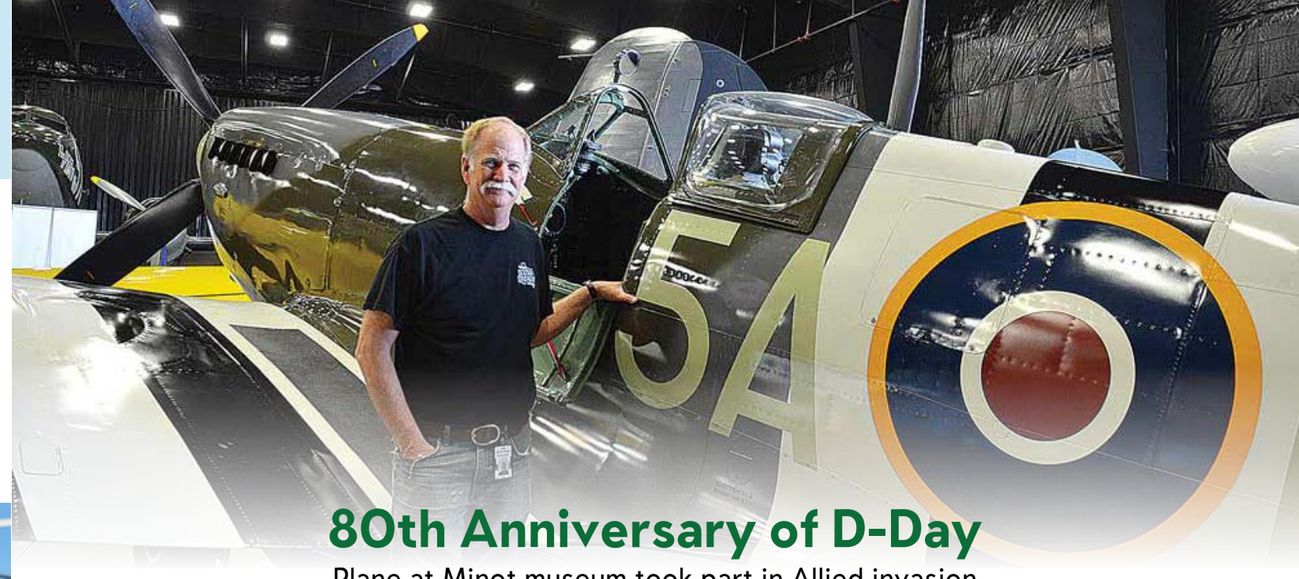
- Special Priority at the Fly-ND Annual Conference (Including hosting training opportunities, discounted booths, meeting rooms, and award recognition)
- Representation and link on the NDAA Fly-ND website
- Assistance with distribution of your organization's information and dues processing
- Organization member websites and logos are advertised on NDAA website and at the Fly-ND Conference
- Ability to submit articles for the Fly-ND Quarterly regarding organizational updates

Allied Member ($250/500) is for firms, companies, and consultants who are actively engaged in providing products and/or services to aviation professions, and companies who support the purpose of NDAA. Allied members do not have voting rights.

- Listed in *Fly-ND Quarterly* and website as an Allied Member
- Certificate of Membership
- Opportunity for collaborative involvement in aerospace advocacy
- Network with the aviation community as well as participate in the Career Expo & other NDAA functions
- Advertise open job opportunities

Student Member (free) is for individuals enrolled in an institution of higher learning who have a keen interest in aviation and support the purpose of NDAA. Student Members are not entitled to vote or hold a board position.

- Explore all facets of aviation
- Eligible for scholarships
- Professional development credits
- Member discounts from participating North Dakota aviation museums
- Complimentary attendance at the annual conference
- Networking opportunities
- Mentorship & training
- Career advancement through job boards



80th Anniversary of D-Day

Plane at Minot museum took part in Allied invasion

Eighty years ago, a Spitfire Mk IX fighter plane, now part of the collection of warbirds at the Dakota Territory Air Museum in Minot, flew over the beaches of Normandy, France, during the days of the Allied invasion, beginning the liberation of Western Europe and defeat of Germany during World War II.

The plane is one of the few Spitfires of that model flying in the world.

"The Spitfire flew 74 missions in World War II. It was flown by the Polish Volunteers in the RAF, and then transferred to the Free French and flew over Normandy Beach during the days of the invasion. It's an extremely historic airplane," said Warren Pietsch, chief pilot of the warbird fleet and air museum board member.

Many people will be gathering in Normandy, France, today to observe the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

D-Day on June 6, 1944, was the largest invasion ever

The Minot museum has the largest collection of World War II planes located at one site in central United States.

All of the 15 warbirds are flyable with the exception of one being restored. Bruce Eames of Houston, Texas, owns the majority of the planes.

assembled, landing thousands of Allied troops by sea and air on five beachheads at Normandy, and the start of Allied operations to liberate Western Europe. North Dakotans were among the troops involved in the invasion. Many who were involved in the operation are no longer living.

Besides the Spitfire, the Minot museum has other planes that represent aircraft involved in the invasion.

"Little Horse, "Dakota Kid II" and "Miss Kitty," all P-51D fighter planes, represent P-52Ds that flew in the D-Day operation.

The "Duchess of Dakota," a C-53 Skytrooper, represents the plane the late North Dakotan Murray Lawler flew on D-Day. A native of Emmons County, Lawler was a transport carrier pilot during World War II, flying C-47s. (The C-47 was a militarized version of the civilian Douglas DC-3.) Lawler named the plane "Duchess of Dakota" in honor of his future bride, Margaret. Margaret Lawler was the first war bride to arrive in North Dakota when she arrived in the state in 1946.

By Eloise Ogden
Reprinted with permission from The Minot Daily News

Do you have an interesting aviation story, event, or photos to share?



Whether you've hosted a recent airport event, heard an inspiring aviation story, or have an exciting flying adventure to share...

We would like to hear them!

Submit your ideas or stories for consideration to: editor@fly-nd.com

North Dakota Aeronautics Commission Awards $16 Million for Airport Infrastructure Grants

The North Dakota Aeronautics Commission (NDAC) recently finalized and approved $16 million in state infrastructure grant allocations to 190 individual projects and 65 different public-use airports throughout the state.

$10 million of the total state grant allocation was provided through funding that was made available through the Airport Infrastructure Fund. This fund was established as a part of the "Operation Prairie Dog" bill that was passed during the 2019 legislative session, in order to assist with the maintenance and development of the 89 public-use airports throughout North Dakota. The other $6 million allocation was made possible from the Aeronautics Commission's Special Fund, where the primary revenue source is derived from state tax collections on aviation fuel and aircraft sales. These state airport grants are critical in maintaining the needed infrastructure to support the aviation industry, which is a major contributor to the state's overall economy and standard of living.

These state grant allocations also match and leverage federal grant dollars through the Airport Infrastructure Program (AIP), Bipartisan Infrastructure Act (BIL), and Airport Terminal Program (ATP). It is estimated that throughout the 2024 construction cycle, North Dakota airport projects will receive approximately $70 million dollars through different federal funding sources, which all require matching participation.

Provided below is a listing of each of the public airports that received a state grant allocation, along with a description of one of their funded projects. A full listing of all of the airport grants and dollar amounts can also be found in the news section on the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission website. Congratulations to eachcommunity on their grant awards!

Commercial Airport Grant Awards:

- Bismarck - Hangar 5 Demo & GA Apron Expansion
- Devils Lake - Purchase Snow Removal Equipment
- Dickinson - Design New Commercial Terminal
- Fargo - Commercial Terminal Expansion
- Grand Forks - Reconstruct Runway 9L/27R and Taxiway B
- Jamestown - Airfield Concrete Pavement Rehabilitation
- Minot - Rehabilitate Taxiway C & C3
- Williston - De-Icing Containment Improvements

General Aviation Airport Grant Awards:

- Ashley - Construct New Apron and General Aviation Terminal
- Beach - Design Airfield Lighting Rehabilitation
- Beulah - Pavement Maintenance
- Bottineau - Replace Airport Beacon Foundation
- Bowman - Install FAA Weather Camera System
- Cando - Airfield Lighting Rehabilitation
- Casselton - Pavement Maintenance
- Carrington - Pavement Maintenance
- Cavalier - Design Runway 16/34 Rehabilitation
- Cooperstown - Design Runway 13/31 Rehabilitation
- Crosby - Design Snow Removal Equipment Building
- Drayton - Airfield sealcoat & re-marking
- Ellendale - Purchase Mowers
- Enderlin - Pavement Maintenance
- Fessenden - Replace Water Shut-off Valve & Meter
- Fort Yates - Construct General Aviation Terminal
- Garrison - Install FAA Weather Camera System
- Glen Ullin - Purchase Snow Removal Equipment
- Grafton - Apron & Taxilane Rehabilitation
- Gwinner - Airfield Lighting Improvements
- Harvey - Pavement Maintenance
- Hazen - Rehabilitate Access Road & Parking Lot
- Hettinger - Install FAA Weather Camera System
- Hillsboro - Replace Lighted Wind cone
- Kenmare - Construct Partial Parallel Taxiway
- Killdeer - Airfield sealcoat & re-marking
- Kindred - Construct Runway Turnaround and Taxilane
- Kulm - Purchase Grass Seed
- Lakota - Runway 15/33 Pavement Rehabilitation
- Langdon - Pavement Maintenance
- Lidgerwood - Conduct Airfield Improvement Study
- Linton - Apron Rehabilitation
- Mandan - Airport Drainage Improvements
- Mayville - Airfield sealcoat & re-marking
- Mohall - Replace Windcone Tower
- Mott - Pavement Maintenance
- Napoleon - Construct General Aviation Terminal
- New Rockford - Runway, Taxiway, Apron Rehabilitation
- New Town - Runway 12 Extension (300 feet)
- Northwood - Repaint Taxilane Markings
- Oakes - Install FAA Weather Camera System
- Park River - Pavement Maintenance
- Parshall - Environmental Assessment for Runway Extension
- Pembina - Design Airfield Lighting Rehabilitation
- Richardton - Purchase Runway Marking Cones
- Rolla - Pavement Maintenance
- Rugby - Pavement Maintenance
- Stanley - Purchase Land for Crosswind Runway
- St. Thomas - Airfield sealcoat & re-marking
- Tioga - Construct Taxiway Lighting
- Valley City - Design Electrical Vault
- Wahpeton - Taxiway A Rehabilitation
- Walhalla - Pavement Maintenance
- Watford City - Install Electrical Vault Regulator
- Washburn - Construct New Taxiway
- West Fargo - Culvert Repair
- Wishek - Pavement Maintenance

Inspiration for a Future North Dakota Aviator







Dusty Metz, a recent high school graduate from Hazen High School, had the great opportunity to job shadow with Basin Electric Power Cooperative in May. They flew from Bismarck, ND, to Gillette, WY, and then to Casper, WY, and then returned to Bismarck, all the while dropping off and picking up business associates of Basin Electric. The pilot was Steven Schaffner, who was the captain on this flight.

"My overall experience was fun!" says Dusty. "I learned what Basin Electric's corporation is about and how they plan their scheduled flights. I learned that their Cessna Citation has six sumps instead of two. I also learned that on their trips the captain and co-captain alternate flying, so that they keep one another safe. My future plans are to become a commercial aviation student and fly the world. My goal is to get my private license before college and after college go fly with Basin. The job shadow experience was valuable for a high school student because then you find out what Basin is all about and you learn plenty. The best part of the ride was seeing what the different altitudes were like and seeing Devils Hill and Terry Peak from the plane."

Dusty plans on attending the aviation program at the University of North Dakota in the fall. Congratulations, Dusty, on your high school graduation and a successful job shadow experience!



Airports hope to land state funding for major projects

Fargo breaks ground; Dickinson, Grand Forks upgrades in the works

Three North Dakota airports have plans for major upgrades and will be asking the state Legislature to approve a combined $120 million for the projects.

Fargo's Hector International Airport had its official groundbreaking Monday for a terminal expansion and parking garage. The airports in Grand Forks and Dickinson also have what airport officials call "generational projects," that might come along every 30 to 40 years.



Fargo is seeking $60 million for its project and Grand Forks and Dickinson each are requesting $30 million.

At Monday's event in Fargo, Kyle Wanner, director of the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission, called airports "economic engines" for the state.

"They sometimes need a major overhaul or an upgrade," Wanner said. Kelly Braun, manager of the Dickinson Theodore Roosevelt Regional Airport, said there is not another viable source of funding for its plans to build a new terminal next to the existing runways.

He said the plans for a new terminal are in the design stage for the $48 million project. He said there is local and federal funding for the project.

It is upgrading a secondary runway in preparation for that project.

Ryan Riesinger, executive director of the Grand Forks International Airport, said it plans to reconstruct its main runway – an approximately $75 million project.

That means ripping up asphalt that is about 1 foot deep and the original concrete that is 1 foot deep.

Riesinger said the concrete was poured on top of a clay soil base. The modern runway will be dug down about 4 feet and be better engineered to handle the weight of large planes as well as better drainage.

"So it's much like reconstructing the interstate, only deeper, thicker," Riesinger said.

The Grand Forks airport is currently upgrading its secondary runway to keep the airport humming while the main runway is redone over several construction seasons.

Wanner said while there are smaller airport projects all over the state, these three high-priced upgrades have been identified as needing extra state funding.

"There's just no other path forward," Wanner said in an interview.

North Dakota House Majority Mike Lefor, R-Dickinson, said he has been briefed on the projects and is supportive, as long as the revenue is available when lawmakers convene in January. He said a proposed property tax reform measure on the November ballot could change the budget picture dramatically.

"I'm generally supportive of this proposal, because I see the need," Lefor said.

North Dakota's commercial airports in 2023 had 1.1 million boardings, an 11% overall increase from calendar year 2022, according to the Aeronautics Commission. Fargo and Devils Lake recorded their best year on record.

North Dakota airports also had their busiest May on record, according to the Aeronautics Commission. Airline passenger boarding numbers reached 103,068 passengers for the month, breaking a May record set in 2014 during the oil boom.

Braun said the Dickinson airport was designed for about 9,000 passengers annually but last year had about 25,000, with projections of more than 30,000 in the next couple of years.

He said officials hope to have the new terminal open in late 2027.

The $200 million Hector project that is underway is for a four-story parking structure with about 1,000 spaces and a skyway to the terminal.

The terminal will add four more gates and there will be upgrades to the terminal interior. The project is expected to be completed in 2026.



At Monday's groundbreaking, U.S. Sen. John Hoeven touted recent airport upgrades in Minot and Williston and called Fargo's airport "the flagship" for the state.

"This is a quality of life issue," Hoeven said of air travel. "So we're going to have the best airport to go with the greatest people and the best state in the country."

By Jeff Beach, northdakotamonitor.com
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CALENDAR of EVENTS

Check out the online calendar for details on these events: aero.nd.gov/events

August 2024

4th Annual Williston Basin Airshow
Aug 03 | 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM | Williston (ISN)
Join us for the 4th Annual Williston Basin Airshow for an immersive and unforgettable experience! Through captivating aerobatic displays, awe-inspiring aerial performances, and interactive exhibits, we aim to honor our past and inspire the future of aviation.

Kindred Fly-In Breakfast
Aug 10 | 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM | Kindred (K74)
In conjunction with Kindred Community Days

Pilot First Aid & Survival Course
Aug 11 | 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM | Kulm (D03)
All pilots interested in learning how to plan for, mitigate, and address life threatening injuries in austere environments and unplanned landings; learning and applying a stepwise approach to aviation medical emergencies that could save the life of you and your passengers. Lunch and Survival Kit included. www.jonsolbergmd.com/wilderness-first-aid-1

Fly-In Celebration & Golf Ball Drop
Aug 11 | 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM | Maddock (6D3)
Pilots flying in are welcome anytime in the morning. Homemade caramel rolls and refreshments will be served for pilots. This will be a fun fly-in for the whole family or group of pilots.

Kulm Airport Fly-In
Aug 24 | 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM | Kulm (D03)

North Dakota Aviation Association
FLY-ND SUMMERFEST
August 7-8, 2024 • Devils Lake, ND

This years' NDAA Fly-ND Summerfest will take place in conjunction with the Airports Association of North Dakota (AAND) Summer Meeting at the Woodland Resort in Devils Lake, ND, on August 7-8, 2024.
See page 16 for more details.

September 2024

Annual Bismarck Fly-In Pancake Breakfast
Sep 08 | 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM | Bismarck Aero Center (KBIS)
Come have some *Plane Fun*!

Hettinger Fly-In Breakfast
Sep 14 | 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM | Hettinger (HEI)

3rd Annual Harvey Fly-In
Sep 14 | 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM | Harvey (5H4)

Enderlin Sun-Fest Weekend Fly-In
Sep 22 | 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM | Enderlin (5N4)
Enjoy pancakes (best served), scrambled eggs and ham

October 2024

8th Annual Props & Hops
Oct 03 | 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM | Mandan Aero Center (Y19)