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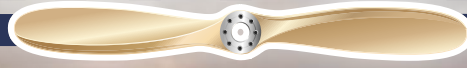
FLY-ND

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# QUARTERLY

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FALL 2021



This  
publication  
isn't free.

See page 13 for details!

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The official publication of the North Dakota Aviation Association

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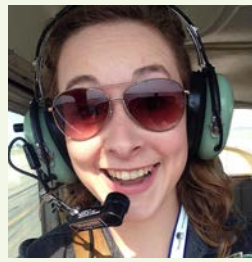
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## From the Editor

I never cease to be amazed by the vast array of career opportunities in the aviation industry, and this fall issue of the Fly-ND Quarterly highlights the variety locally available. As you read through this issue, you will enjoy the recent adventures local pilots have undertaken, be inspired by the excitement of students at the fall Fly-ND Career Expo, and explore how a recent fundraiser supported the unsung heroes of the aviation industry - Aircraft Technicians. You will also learn about flight instruction and Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) world records that have been made here in North Dakota, as well as lasting legacies. With Veterans Day fast approaching, we honor all of those who serve and have served in the United States military and are proud to highlight a few of their stories. The North Dakota aviation industry has so much to offer, so whether you are new to this field or a seasoned member, I hope you continue to be inspired and share that inspiration with others!

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. If you've received more than one copy of this newsletter, please share it with a friend.*



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**Justin Weninger, Chairman**  
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# CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

We have had a busy last few months in the North Dakota Aviation Association (NDAA). In August, we held the first annual Fly-ND Summerfest in Washburn, ND. We enjoyed a fun golf tournament at the Painted Woods Golf Course, followed by a wonderful supper and the induction of Bill Beeks (see photo) into the Hall of Fame. Watch for more information on the 2022 Summerfest event to be announced soon!



In October, the NDAA held its second annual Fly-ND Aviation Career Expo in Minot with over 150 students in attendance and 11 scholarships were given out!

At Summerfest, the membership committee announced the first of some new member benefits rolling out. As a member, you will have access to an online membership card on the Wild Plum app. When you show that membership card at participating FBOs, you will be eligible for a fuel discount. We of course couldn't do this without the help of our awesome participating FBOs! I'm proud to announce the FBOs that have graciously jumped at the opportunity to launch this program. They are Fargo Jet Center, Executive Air Taxi Corporation, Bismarck Aero Center, Minot AvFlight, Overland Aviation, Grand Forks AvFlight, and Western Edge Aviation. Thank you once again to these businesses! Stay tuned for more membership benefits to roll out.

If you are not currently a member of the NDAA, please log on to [www.Fly-ND.com](http://www.Fly-ND.com) and join today! Membership is open to any individual and to businesses as well.

Lastly, mark your calendars for the upcoming **2022 NDAA Fly-ND Conference in Fargo, ND this March.**

*Take care, Justin*



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# DIRECTOR'S Chair



## Aeronautics Commission Financial Update

The North Dakota Aeronautics Commission (NDAC) is a state agency that runs on a biennial budget that is approved by the state's elected leaders each legislative session. We recently closed the books on the previous biennium which ran from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021; I am excited to provide you with a breakdown of our revenue and expenditures over that time period. My goal is that this showcases transparency and our commitment to providing the public with an efficient operation that delivers a large amount of agency revenue directly back to support and improve our state's aviation community.

### A breakdown of the NDAC's Biennial Revenue:

|                          |                     |             |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Aircraft Registrations   | \$337,470           | 3%          |
| Aircraft Excise Tax      | \$6,484,942         | 58%         |
| Federal Funds            | \$134,262           | 1%          |
| Aviation Fuel Tax        | \$3,062,385         | 27%         |
| General Funds            | \$500,000           | 5%          |
| Carry-Over Special Funds | \$537,398           | 5%          |
| Other Revenue Sources    | \$155,060           | 1%          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>\$11,211,517</b> | <b>100%</b> |

This past biennium we received an unexpected increase in aircraft excise tax revenue, as more individuals and companies purchased aircraft than originally forecasted. Aviation fuel tax revenue, however, was below forecast due to less fuel being purchased, particularly by the airlines during the beginning months of the COVID-19 pandemic. The good news is that the overall revenue received by the agency resulted in a 39% increase over what was forecasted

to be received at the start of the biennium. All additional funds that are received above and beyond the forecast results in a healthy special fund balance and the ability for the agency to provide additional airport infrastructure grant allocations in future years.

### A breakdown of the NDAC's Biennial Expenditures:

|                             |                     |             |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Airport Grants              | \$8,748,816         | 81%         |
| Aviation Education Grants   | \$192,964           | 2%          |
| Salaries & Benefits         | \$1,278,911         | 11%         |
| Operating Expenses          | \$548,946           | 5%          |
| Statewide Planning Projects | 67,601              | 1%          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>\$10,837,238</b> | <b>100%</b> |

As you can see from the biennial expenditure breakdown, 81% of our agency's expenditures went back to our local communities in the form of airport infrastructure grants. These funds are provided each year to assist our 89 public-use airports with an assortment of high priority rehabilitation or expansion projects. Over this time period, these funds also complimented and leveraged Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Funds (AIP) for North Dakota airport projects in approximately \$150 million dollars.

Our agency's operating expenses were also significantly lower than expected, due to cost-saving measures and reductions in spending that took place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The operating expenditures also include the costs for all of the agency's programs that are offered to airports and the public, such as our Automated Weather Observing System(AWOS) maintenance program, windsock program, passport program, and many others which you can discover on our website.

I am also pleased to announce that a recent audit of the previous biennium concluded with no informal or informal findings or recommendations. Your Aeronautics Commissioners and staff continually work hard on a daily basis to ensure that any funds that the agency receives are being put to its best use, as we continue our mission of maintaining and growing North Dakota's airport infrastructure and aviation industry.

*Wishing you smooth flying, Kyle*

North Dakota Aviation Association

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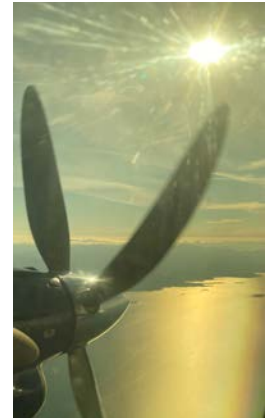
*“There’s something about the window seats. A place where you get lost in the realms of thoughts.”*  
-Rawat.sn

I love my Canadian friends, and I have missed the opportunity to visit them and their beautiful country over the last 18 months! August 9, 2021 was the day the Canadian border opened to air travel. So as soon as possible, I booked my flight for August 24. The trip came with a few extra hurdles, including COVID-19 testing in the US prior to my flight and again in Canada upon my reentry into the states. There was also an expensive and non-refundable ticket, as well as many moving and uncertain pieces. Nevertheless, I was anticipating an off-the-grid kayaking retreat with great friends in the Northwest Islands off the coast of Vancouver,



British Columbia. I packed my passport, vaccination card, and my COVID-19 negative test results, and away I went – carrying all my gear on my back! I have never, ever done anything like this.

If the last 18 months have taught me anything, it is to live your life now, try something new, take risks, and enjoy the ride! After travelling via commercial air travel to Vancouver, the real adventure began. I found my way to the local airport, home of a seaplane runway and the small aircraft that would take me to my next, remote destination. I had a few hours to spare, so I found a local eatery called “The Flying Beaver,” sat outside, and simply watched the seaplanes come and go every few



minutes. I was in awe and felt like I had been transported to another world. At that moment, I could have turned around, come home, and called the trip a success!



For the next leg of my adventure, I found myself in a small prop plane. As we ascended above the water, over majestic islands, with picturesque mountains surrounding us as the sun was beginning

to set, I couldn't help but get a little choked up at the beauty around me. I was so grateful to be able to discover this part of the world from this little airplane. I felt so close to nature and all its beauty. I was exhilarated for the adventures I'd already encountered and excited for what lay ahead. That breathtaking view and feeling in that moment washed away any trepidation. The next leg of the trip was on a water taxi to the remote location where I spent a week with friends exploring waters, wildlife, and nature from a kayak.

Cheers to all of you adventure seekers out there. I hope the past 18 months have sparked a sense of exploration in you like it did in me and when you get the chance, say yes - hop aboard and explore!

*Wishing you clear skies ahead.*

Stacy & Mike Krumwiede





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



## Aviation Education Opportunities

It is exciting to see the aviation education opportunities available to our youth today. I believe that North Dakota does a very good job of exposing our youth to aviation careers and educational opportunities. I would like to share with you a brief update on the programs that are available in our state.

Let's start with the opportunities for our younger students: the largest formal programs for our young students exist at our two air museums. Both the Fargo Air Museum and the Dakota Territory Air Museum offer youth educational camps, which range in length from a few hours to a few days and expose students to a variety of aviation concepts. Together, these camps provided nearly 1,500 students the opportunity to learn about the industry, including career opportunities for the future. In addition to these camps, a Drone Camp for Kids is offered annually in Tioga. This two-day camp shows students career opportunities in Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), provides education about flying drones, and every student goes home with a free drone!

The University of North Dakota will be hosting another community day on February 12, 2022, highlighting all that the university has to offer and providing a high energy event with lots of smiles. In addition to the formal camps that are offered around the state, students also have access to lots of less formal opportunities to become excited about aviation. Some of these events include air shows such as the Fargo AirSho, which included a STEM center and the XWA Fly-In and Airshow in Williston, as well as local fly-ins. I hope that you had a chance to bring a young person you know to one of these events or the many other events providing inspiration to our youth. Thank you to everyone who contributed your time and energy to these events, especially the pilots donating time and aircraft to flights through the Experimental Aviation Association (EAA) Young Eagles or on your own.

Students in high school throughout our state have opportunities to enroll in career and technical aviation classes in many of our communities. Currently, face-to-face high school aviation education programs exist in Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot, Williston, Kenmare (drone), and our newest program in Jamestown. Distance education is also available statewide through the Central Region Area Career and Tech Center, as well as the Center for Distance Ed. Through these programs, nearly every high school student has access to some form of aviation education. Along with the high school programs, the annual Fly-ND Career Expo is working to provide education, inspiration, and scholarship dollars to students in North Dakota. With more than 300 students enrolled in these programs, we have also seen an increase in the number of North Dakota students pursuing post-secondary aviation education at the University of North Dakota and other schools in our region.

I am often asked, "How do we get a high school aviation program in our community?" Typically, the first step is to have an informal conversation with your local school. If there is interest, please reach out to me and we can discuss the next steps. AOPA now has an excellent FREE curriculum for high schools and recently the EAA launched "Aeroeducate", a curriculum for elementary teachers.

I hope that you will continue to expose youth in our state to the opportunities that are available. Together we can share the excitement of our industry and help students see the career and recreational opportunities available in aviation.

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Proceeds from this contest will provide financial assistance to High School Juniors, Seniors or recent GED recipients who plan to pursue advanced education in the field of aviation. Students planning to attend post-secondary education in the areas of Professional Pilot, Aviation Maintenance, Aviation Engineering, Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Airport/Aviation Management, Atmospheric Sciences, Air Traffic Control, or other aviation related fields. **Thank you for your support!**

# Students gain aviation insights at Fly-ND Career Expo

Students gain new insights into aviation

By Jill Schramm, Senior Staff Writer, Minot Daily News



Jill Schramm/MDN Donna Daniels, left, with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University shares information about the school with students Terrence Andre San Gabriel, center, and Noah Rose, right, both of Bismarck, at the Fly-ND Career Expo in Minot Wednesday.

Young people eyeing aviation careers received both information and inspiration at a Fly-ND Career Expo hosted by the North Dakota Aviation Association at Dakota Territory Air Museum Wednesday.

Jalynn Kendall, a senior at Minot High School who works at the museum and plans to pursue a career as a pilot, said she gleaned valuation information from the expo.

*“What I found valuable is actually getting to see the different opportunities and different paths you can take,”* she said. *“You can definitely see what’s best for you.”*

The expo was the second held in North Dakota. The first had been held in Fargo. Mike McHugh, aviation education

coordinator with the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission said the intent is to rotate an annual event between Fargo and Minot going forward.

*“We are trying to expose them to all the areas of aviation,”* McHugh said. *“We are just trying to show them all the different opportunities.”*



Jill Schramm/MDN Participants attending the Fly-ND Career Expo at Dakota Territory Air Museum listen to a speaker during the event Wednesday.

Wednesday’s event drew about 175 students from nearly a dozen schools across western North Dakota, including large numbers from aviation programs in the Minot, Bismarck and Williston school systems.

The program included speakers who work in different areas of aviation and exhibitors ranging from colleges to aviation employers. There were 10 \$1,000 scholarships given away.



## Thank You to the NDAA Allied Members

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Kendall said her interest in aviation stems from attending an Air Force air show, which led her to Minot High's aviation program. After taking the two years offered in the program, she sought a way to stay involved and was invited to become an instructor's assistant in the program. The program gave her a leg up toward earning her pilot's license, too.

*"I'm actually almost done with my private pilot (license) so I just need to do one more solo cross-country and then do my written,"* she said.

Burke Rutten, a senior in the aviation program at Minot High, earned his private pilot's license last Saturday. He follows in the steps of his grandfather and father, who are both private pilots. He said he didn't come to the expo looking at aviation as a career but he was inspired in hearing about the level of opportunities in the field, even for young people.



Jill Schramm/MDN Students Logan Morrison, left, and Savanna Baranko, center, of Dickinson, stop by the Bismarck Aero Center booth staffed by Eden West, right, at the Fly-ND Career Expo in Minot Wednesday.

Because young people are allowed under federal rules to solo once they reach age 16 and become private pilots at age 17, they can jumpstart their training and find good positions in the industry early in their careers, said Hudson Coleman, a flight instructor at Minot Aero Center.

One of his students, Titus Lee, last week became the first from Williston High School to fly solo while still enrolled in the school's aviation program.

Lee, a senior, said he's been hooked on aviation since his first year in the program. When his instructor took him on a flight, that sealed the deal.

*"It was just about the coolest thing I think I've ever done,"* he said. *"After that I was a lot more dedicated and serious in the class. At the end of the year, my instructor started discussing with my parents actually pursuing flight lessons."*

Lee said he wants to become a corporate pilot, flying for companies or charters. He found inspiration toward that career at the expo.

*"I really look up to and I'm impressed by the young pilots, and then simultaneously those older gentlemen like Warren Pietsch who pushed the envelope in every aspect — the people that really aren't afraid to get their hands dirty and put in the work nobody else will,"* he said. *"It's nice seeing that people that put in the work are able to actually make it as far as they have. That's really motivational for me."*

Terrence Andre San Gabriel, a junior at Century High in Bismarck, said he was drawn to the different college and business booths at the expo and was encouraged to learn there are businesses with entry-level jobs open to students like himself who are looking for aviation experiences.

San Gabriel is working toward a pilot's license, which is separate from his longer term goal to pursue an engineering degree. However, he came away from the expo with the novel idea of possibly becoming a test pilot — an option merging both his interests.

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](mailto:editor@fly-nd.com)



# FLY-ND

CAREER EXPO

## DARE TO DREAM

Watch for more Fly-ND Career Expos coming soon!

Dakota Territory  
Air Museum, Minot

### Photo Gallery





The following scholarships were awarded on October 6, 2021 during the Fly-ND Career Expo!

*Congratulations!*

Hunter Anderson, Central High Grand Forks  
Sponsored by: **UND**

Neil Baccay, Williston High  
Sponsored by: **Overland Aviation**

Zoe Bundy, Fargo Davies  
Sponsored by: **DTAM/Fargo Jet**

Jace Leshuk, Hillsboro High  
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Ali Moses, Thompson High  
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# North Dakota National Guard Army Aviators Return from D.C. Mission

Around 70 Soldiers of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 285th Aviation Regiment, departed Bismarck, N.D., en route to their nine-month mission in the National Capital Region (NCR) on Nov. 12, 2020. Some Soldiers drove their private vehicles while others traveled by UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from N.D. National Guard's Army Aviation

Support Facility in Bismarck, N.D. (National Guard photos and story by Sgt. 1st Class Charles Highland, N.D. National Guard Public Affairs Office)



This past summer, four UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters performed a flyover of Nationals Park stadium at the conclusion of the national anthem before the game between the Washington Nationals and the Pittsburgh Pirates. The trail aircraft is assigned to the N.D. National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 285th Aviation Regiment.

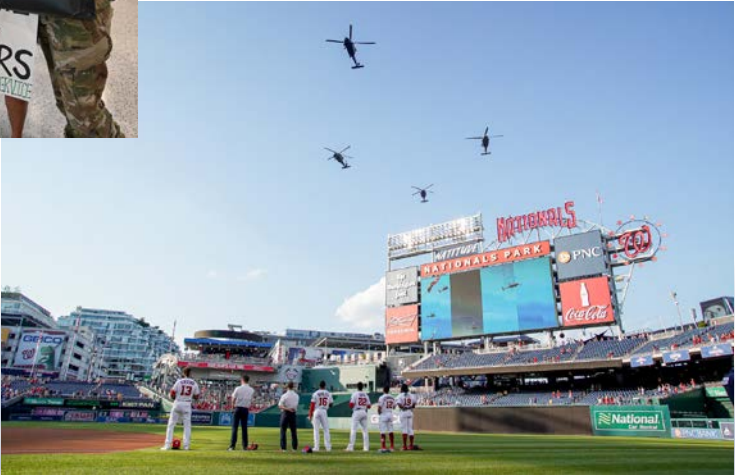
The N.D. National Guard crew operated the trail aircraft in the formation and consisted of pilots Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Kilber and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Dana Clifford; and crewchiefs Sgt. Zach Vollan and SGT Logan Maier. The trail position gave the N.D. Guard aviators the best vantage point of the formation allowing them to provide timely inflight correction instructions to adjust the other three aircraft's spacing, speed, etc. during the flyover mission.

(National Guard story by Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Kilber, 2nd Battalion, 285th Aviation Regiment)

About 17 N.D. National Guard Soldiers from the 2nd



Battalion, 285th Aviation Regiment returned home to North Dakota, Aug. 7, 2021. These Army aviators returned to airports in Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks and Minot. The remainder of the company returned within a few weeks via privately owned vehicles and in Black Hawk helicopters. (National Guard story by Sgt. 1st Class Charles Highland, N.D. National Guard Public Affairs)





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# Props & Hops: Honoring the Unsung Heroes of Aviation

The fifth annual Props & Hops fundraiser event was held at the Mandan Regional Airport - Lawler Field on October 7, 2021. The event took place on a beautifully warm and sunny evening in the Mandan Aero Center hangars and was open to the public. There were about 225 attendees, ranging from airport regulars to event sponsors to the local community, who enjoyed locally brewed beer, delicious home-cooked ribs, and live music from local artists Ben Suchy and Chuck Suchy. There was also an aircraft static display and silent auction.

This year, all Props & Hops proceeds were dispersed amongst local Aircraft Technicians, actively working in the General Aviation industry and who live within 65 miles of the Bismarck/Mandan area. The selection committee chose to recognize Aircraft Technicians this year to appreciate them for the hard work they put in keeping aviation safe.

*Props & Hops is a state and federally registered 501c3 nonprofit organization that was founded in 2017. The organization's mission is to bring positive attention to the aviation community by showcasing the benefits that the airport brings to local communities and raise funds for aviation related causes that are tied to Bismarck/Mandan and surrounding area. The organization designates a selection committee made up of five local aviators to determine an annual beneficiary within the surrounding aviation community. Props & Hops has been able to donate over \$50,000 to selected causes over the years.*



Aircraft Technicians being defined as individuals that actively work in positions as A&P Mechanics, Avionics Techs, Repairman, Restoration Specialist or Apprentice Technicians. 20 technicians were honored at the event and received a portable toolbox. The financial gift can be put towards tools or continuing education.

“Aircraft Mechanics go through a rigorous training program and work in the tough North Dakota weather to make sure all airplanes are safe; privately owned and commercial flights alike,” says Props & Hops committee member Dr. Danny Van Buskirk. “Their work often goes unnoticed because we don’t see just how hard they work. We just know that our airplanes make it safely to our destination. As a committee, we really wanted to bring to light how much these individuals contribute. Aircraft Mechanics are the unsung heroes of the aviation industry.”



Here are a few of the local Aircraft Technicians, titled the unsung heroes of local aviation, who were honored at the 2021 Props & Hops event:

## **Kent Picard, Chief of Maintenance, Basin Electric Power Cooperative**

### **Q: Where are you from?**

*Redding, CA, a city at the North end of the Sacramento Valley, about 120 miles from Oregon.*

### **Q: How long have you been an Aircraft Technician?**

*Since December of 1999*

### **Q: What made you want to be an Aircraft Technician?**

*I always enjoyed working on mechanical equipment, aircraft were not on my radar but when the opportunity for school came up I was excited to head that direction and have enjoyed it.*

### **Q: Where did you receive your training?**

*Spartan School of Aeronautics, Tulsa, OK*

### **Q: What do you find most rewarding about being an Aircraft Mechanic?**

*The people: aviation is a fairly small community and the people I have met and work with are very enjoyable.*

### **Q: What is your favorite Aircraft?**

*Cessna Caravan, it is the ¾ ton truck of the sky. It is reliable, comfortable, with plenty of room for maintenance. It is a simple aircraft to work on and can carry quite a bit.*





## **Erik Peterson, Lead A&P Technician, Bismarck Aero Center**

**Q: Where are you from?**

*Bismarck, ND*

**Q: How long have you been an Aircraft Technician?**

*A little over 15 years*

**Q: What made you want to be an Aircraft Technician?**

*I have always liked aviation and I am very mechanically minded, so I combined both and became an aircraft mechanic.*

**Q: Where did you receive your training?**

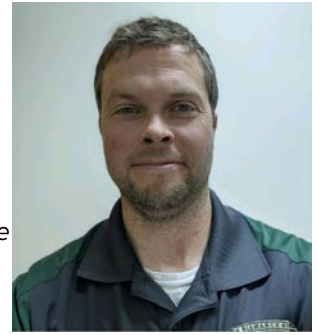
*I got my A&P certification at Westwood College of Aviation Technology in Broomfield, CO and received my B.S. in Aviation Management at UND.*

**Q: What do you find most rewarding about being an Aircraft Mechanic?**

*I like solving a problem that is very hard to figure out, usually one that other people have tried to figure out but could not. Also, getting called out to an airline where everyone is waiting to go and taking care of the issue and seeing everyone happy and relieved that they still get to leave on time.*

**Q: What is your favorite Aircraft?**

*Probably the Boeing 727. I used to work on them and I have always thought they were cool. Currently, my favorite aircraft to work on has become both the Cirrus SR20 and SR22.*



---

## **John Martin, Senior Avionics Technician, Bismarck Aero Center**

**Q: Where are you from?**

*Bismarck, ND*

**Q: How long have you been an Aircraft Technician?**

*40 Years*

**Q: What made you want to be an Aircraft Technician?**

*Because I was a pilot, I wanted to own my own aircraft and I could afford it if I was able to do the maintenance myself.*

**Q: Where did you receive your training?**

*I got my training by working under an A&P mechanic in an aero club and in the U.S. Air Force.*

**Q: What do you find most rewarding about being an Aircraft Mechanic?**

*The love the challenges and making customers happy for the pride I take in my work.*

**Q: What is your favorite Aircraft?**

*My favorite aircraft is a F4U Corsair and the F14 Tom Cat.*



---

## **Loran Urlacher, Director of Maintenance, Missouri Valley Aviation Management, LLC**

**Q: Where are you from?**

*New England, ND*

**Q: How long have you been an Aircraft Technician?**

*I started my career in January 1992. I have worked at BF Goodrich Aerospace, Northwest Airlines, Delta Airlines, Bismarck Aero Center, and MVAM.*

**Q: What made you want to be an Aircraft Technician?**

*I grew up on a farm, where working on and fixing equipment was not an option but a requirement. As a senior in high school, I was on a commercial flight and during that flight I was inspired to work on aircraft.*

**Q: Where did you receive your training?**

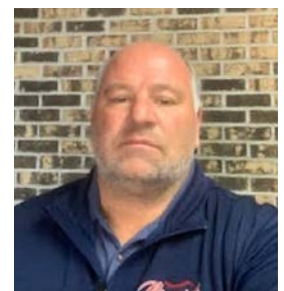
*Dakota Aero Tech in Fargo, ND*

**Q: What do you find most rewarding about being an Aircraft Mechanic?**

*My favorite part is the feeling you get when you stand outside and watch the aircraft take off. The most rewarding aspect for me is that the ownership group allows and trusts me to maintain their aircraft which family/friends and coworkers fly on.*

**Q: What is your favorite Aircraft?**

*My favorite aircraft is one that isn't broke! I really enjoy working on aircraft that require you to be a computer programmer and a technician. It is a whole different way of maintaining an aircraft, when you need to hook up your laptop to the aircraft and start troubleshooting.*



# AOPA Praises House Amendment To Reverse FAA Flight Training Policy

An amendment included in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that would reverse the FAA's sudden change in flight training policy for certain types of aircraft garnered approval from the House of Representatives on September 23.

The bipartisan amendment put forward by Reps. Sam Graves (R-Mo.) and Kai Kahele (D-Hawaii) clarifies that a flight instructor providing student instruction, flight instruction, or flight training shall not be deemed to be operating an aircraft carrying persons or property for compensation or hire.

"This is an important first step toward a solution to the FAA's misguided interpretation on flight training. The FAA did not heed the Committee's bipartisan call to work toward a consensus solution in July, and now Congress is taking action," said Graves. "I look forward to working with Rep. Kahele and our allies in both parties and both chambers to ensure that a legislative solution to the FAA's new flight training guidance makes it into the final NDAA package."

Kahele said, "I am pleased to cosponsor this bipartisan amendment with my colleague, Rep. Sam Graves. This important amendment will clear up the confusion associated with flight instruction for general aviation pilots and I look forward to working with the Senate to ensure it is signed into law."

Although the amendment would restore what has been precedent for 60 years, the FAA's ill-advised July 12 flight training directive currently requires operators of certain categories of aircraft to obtain a letter of deviation authority (LODA) in order to conduct flight training. According to the FAA, LODAs "prevent operators from broadly offering their aircraft for joyrides and other similar experiences under the guise of 'flight training.'"

But the agency's new policy has triggered an onslaught of backlash from AOPA and its members, as well as various stakeholders who believed it to be nothing more than red tape and paperwork exercises that do nothing to enhance safety—quite the opposite.

Even FAA Administrator Steve Dickson called the LODA a "four-letter word" and "document drill" at an EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2021 forum, telling aviators, "I'm not any happier about this situation than you are."

Thousands of general aviation pilots were put in regulatory noncompliance practically overnight—causing much confusion among the flying community. This uncertainty led AOPA to reach out to allies in Congress to fight for commonsense legislation.

On July 22, Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) and Graves introduced the Certainty for General Aviation Pilots Act of 2021 in both chambers to address the issue. Subsequently,

AOPA President Mark Baker launched a call to action to members urging them to reach out to their elected officials in Congress to support the legislation. This action, used sparingly but effectively by AOPA, resulted in a swift and strong response, with nearly 100,000 letters sent to members of Congress in a matter of weeks.

"We certainly appreciate the bipartisan effort on this and can't thank Representative Sam Graves and Representative Kai Kahele enough for their work to quickly address this important safety issue. We will continue to work with them as well as Senator Jim Inhofe and others to help move this to the president's desk for signature," said Baker.

The legislation is supported by AOPA, the Commemorative Air Force, the Experimental Aircraft Association, the Flight School Association of North America, the General Aviation Manufacturers Association, Helicopter Association International, the International Council of Air Shows, the National Air Transportation Association, the North American Trainer Association, the National Business Aviation Association, and the Society of Aviation and Flight Educators.



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## Fargo Air Museum Updates, New Projects, and Exhibits for 2022!

As we approach the end of the year and take a look at the year of 2021, the Fargo Air Museum has many things to be grateful for. We added two different youth camps this year, STEAM and Introduction to Aviation, as well as an adult education series, History Nights. Look for even more education expansion in 2022!

We have new exhibits featuring the Blue Angels and our Military Spotlight exhibit to help celebrate each and every military branch. The museum has two new interactive exhibits! We received a North Dakota Main Street grant and a very generous donation from the Warren B. and Irene O. Diederich Fund to be able to finish and open our virtual reality flight simulator lab in June. I-Sight Drones also donated a new drone cage and mini drones to fly. As members, you can get free time in the flight simulator lab and in the drone cage! Make sure to check them both out.

And probably the most exciting news of all is the continued restoration of the BT-13 and a new restoration project, the Stinson Reliant. The remaining pieces of the Stinson Reliant

have arrived at the museum after spending many years at the Casselton Regional Airport. We are eagerly looking forward to starting the restoration process on this incredible vintage aircraft. The Stinson Reliant V-77 Gullwing is a gorgeous single-engine, five-seat, high-wing monoplane, powered by a radial engine. It was developed as a civilian sports and executive aircraft in the mid-1930's and was popular in the private and commercial market in the U.S. and overseas. The United States Air Forces in WWII used it as a utility aircraft, designated UC-81 and as a trainer designated AT-19. After the war, they were sold on the civilian market as the Vultee V-77. The V-77 was a spartan version of the SR-10 with the 300 horsepower Lycoming R680-E3B engine, a single door on the left side, and the traditional "bump" cowl was replaced with a simpler smooth cowl. It is an amazing, historic aircraft that we plan to restore to an airworthy condition. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with its restoration!

We are very thankful for all our sponsors, donors, friends, staff, our Board of Directors, and the community for all your support! We could not have a special place like the Fargo Air Museum without your support. So on behalf of all of us at the Fargo Air Museum, we would like to say thank you for all your help and support!

---

*Ryan Thayer is the Executive Director/CEO of the Fargo Air Museum. He has been involved with aviation since birth, received his solo license at 16, and his private pilot's license at 18 from the University of North Dakota, as well as an Entrepreneurship Degree. He has always been passionate about aviation and business and is thrilled to be able to pursue both of his passions at the Fargo Air Museum.*

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WEBSITE: [nwrealtynow.com](http://nwrealtynow.com)

# Destination: Tioga Municipal Airport (D60)

## Exploring North Dakota Airports

Looking for a fun place to visit this fall? Check out Tioga, ND, the Oil Capital of North Dakota!

Here are a few local attractions to explore:

### Drone Camp for Kids

- Tioga is home to a free drone camp for kids each August. It is a two day program that teaches aerodynamics, principles of flight, and aviation career opportunities. Visit their website to learn more.

Hours: August 2022 dates TBA

Website: [www.tiogand.org/drone-camp](http://www.tiogand.org/drone-camp)

### Norseman Museum

- The Norseman Museum is proud to be the curator and historian of Tioga. With over 400,000 artifacts, exhibits cover the history of local churches, farming and ranching, schools, military, Native Americans, oil and gas, and the railroad.

Hours: Sat and Sun, 2pm to 5pm

Address: 108 Welo St N, Tioga, ND 58852

Website: [www.facebook.com/norsemanmuseum](http://www.facebook.com/norsemanmuseum)

If you work up an appetite while exploring Tioga, here are a few dining recommendations:

### AJ Cafe

- Italian American dining for every occasion. Menu includes chicken, pasta, wine, burgers, and beers.

Hours: Sat 11am-10pm, Sun 11am-8pm, Mon-Fri 10am-10pm

Address: 121 Gilbertson St N, Tioga, ND 58852

Website: [www.ajcafend.com](http://www.ajcafend.com)

### Red Moose Coffee Hus

- A unique, downtown coffee shop offering a variety of coffee beverages, along with fruit smoothies, teas, chai and Redbull infused beverages coined "Northern Lights."

Hours: Sat & Sun 9:30am-5:30pm, Mon-Fri 7am-7pm

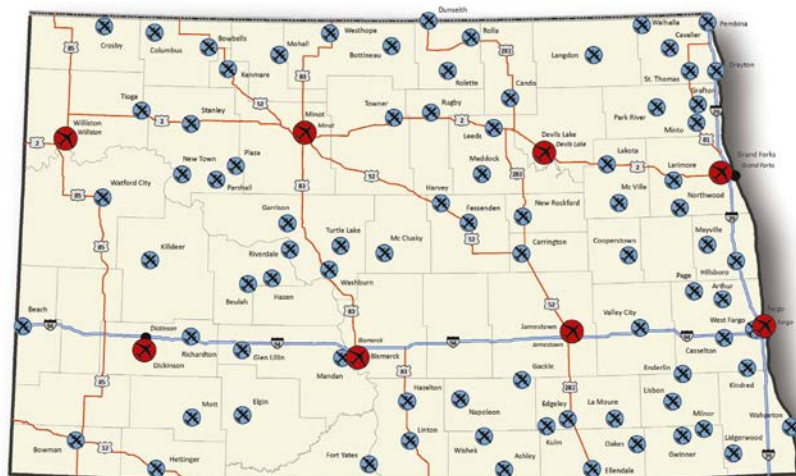
Address: 102 Main St N, Tioga, ND 58852

Website: [www.facebook.com/captainscabin701](http://www.facebook.com/captainscabin701)

Please visit these locations' websites to confirm hours and availability.

Do you have a favorite attraction to explore or a dining recommendation at your North Dakota airport to share with our readers? Submit your discoveries to [editor@fly-nd.com](mailto:editor@fly-nd.com).

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# Bowman Fly-In & Poker Run

The Bowman Regional Airport (BWW) recently hosted a Fly-In and Poker Run, which included supper and bombing competition on June 26, 2021. Thirteen airports across North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana were involved. New Town Airport and Bison Airport hosted breakfasts, and Bowman Regional Airport hosted supper. Cash prizes were awarded to five-card and seven-card poker run winners, as well as bomb competition winners. Door prizes and kid prizes were also awarded. A basic medical/ FAA Physicals presentation was given by a Bismarck doctor.

Despite rain showers in the areas, some 38 aircraft landed at BWW. Another highlight was the arrival of a United States Air Force Huey helicopter, coming from Colorado Springs and heading to Minot Air Force Base. Everyone enjoyed the crew tours, night goggles, equipment, and interior. Due to weather, the crew spent the night and headed out the next morning.

The BWW Airport Manager, Brent Kline, commented that "After the lockdowns of 2020, aviators were eager to hit the airways again. We look forward to the 2022 Fly-In and Poker Run!"



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# Snapshots from the 2021 Fargo AirSho



(Above) Brian Kesselring, a Fargo native, is Commander of the U.S. Navy Blue Angels and the F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet he flies at the Fargo AirSho in July, 2021.



(Left) Spectators watch a simulated bomb drop from a B25 bomber during the Fargo AirSho in July, 2021.

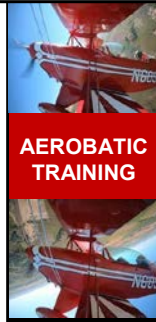
Fargo AirSho Photo Credit: ©Photo by Dave Wallis, Fargo, ND



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## AIRCRAFT RENTALS





# Beach or *BUST*

The idea started as “we should take our wives to the musical in Medora,” then turned into “we should invite some friends.” After that, it’s not clear where the idea went. There was flying, golf for some, card playing, singing, dancing, and a cold beverage.

The event “Fly to Beach” was largely organized by Larry Mueller from Hillsboro, ND. He brought along Ron Lundquist of Kindred, ND, so in case it was a total bust, he could blame someone else other than himself.

As it turned out, the trip turned out to be a great time and a resounding success! To give you an idea how many airplanes flew in, all the tie downs at the Beach Airport were taken, the transient hangars were gone, and Karl Davis, the friendly airport manager, was kept busy shuttling loads of people back and forth to the Beautiful Buckboard Inn in Beach! The musical was fantastic, the pitchfork fondue was tasty, and the group was even recognized at the show.

The weather was the real hero for the trip, as the whole country had been experiencing smoke filled skies, but ended up clearing for the whole weekend.



*Stay tuned for adventures next summer that these two aviators cook up!*

## Hillsboro Regional Airport 3H4



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[www.flyhillsboro.org](http://www.flyhillsboro.org)



# The Dakota Territory Air Museum's Warbirds at EAA Airventure 2021

*Dakota Territory Air Museum Commemorates the Beginning and End of World War II in the Pacific with Special Event*



The Dakota Territory Air Museum (DTAM) had a large presence at the 2021 EAA Airventure in Oshkosh, WI, with a total of six of the museum's warbird fleet flying out to the week-long event. The Hawker Hurricane Mk. XII, Supermarine Spitfire Mk. IXc "Half Stork", FM-2P Wildcat, P-51C Mustang "Lopes Hope 3rd", P-51D Mustang "Miss Kitty III", and B-25J Mitchell "Betty's Dream" all made an appearance. The Hurricane, Spitfire, P-51C, and P-51D were all featured on 'Warbirds in Review,' which gives a detailed history on each aircraft through interviews with current pilots, historians, mechanics, owners, and, in the case of "Miss Kitty III", Lavinia "Kitty" Rosenbaum, the surviving wife of John Rosenbaum who flew the original "Miss Kitty III". You can watch those interviews either on the DTAM Facebook page or on the EAA Warbirds of America Facebook page.

On August 14, 2021, the DTAM marked the 80th anniversary of the beginning of World War II in the Pacific and the 76th anniversary of the end of World War II in the Pacific with a celebration and commemoration event at the museum. Despite the heat that day, approximately 300

people came out to the event. The Minot Air Force Base provided the museum with a Huey Helicopter for static display, the DTAM flew its FM-2P Wildcat and its C-53 Skytrooper during the event, Lyle Torno of the North Dakota Military Vehicle Collectors Association provided three jeeps for static display, one from World War II, one from Korea, and one from Vietnam, and couple of food trucks were set up. The DTAM welcomed World War II veterans Col. Joe McPhail, Lynn Aas, John Sinn, and Ed Zilly as guests of honor. The evening prior to the event, the DTAM hosted a private dinner and Q&A session with these extraordinary individuals where they spoke on their World War II experiences. Joe McPhail spoke at the event the next day during a public Q&A session. The DTAM also drew the grand prize winner for its 25th annual sweepstakes during the event. The grand prize was either a J-3 Piper Cub or \$20,000 cash, winner's choice. The lucky winner for 2021 is Ralph Serdahl of Minot, ND. To finish the event, one of the museum's P-51 Mustangs, "Little Horse", was outfitted with custom under-wing barrels and cold drinks were served from those barrels, in partnership with Atypical Brewing here in Minot.





# Messiah Lutheran Church Raises \$6,100 for Honor Flight

By George Gonzales

A local church is helping honor military veterans in our community.


After a successful Fourth of July event held at Messiah Lutheran Church that helped raise funds in support of veterans, they are now providing even more support for the Veterans Honor Flight of North Dakota and Minnesota.

A check presentation of around \$6,100 is benefiting the honor flight. It will support up to six veterans.

"While we're not flying due to covid our veterans are dying. So, once we get going again we are going to try and take as many flights as we can and without the generous contributions of the messiah Lutheran church in the community we can't fly and without the generous contributions of the messiah church and the community we can't fly without that," Honor Flight Secretary Board of Directors Diane Moderow said.

The next honor flight is being planned for the spring.





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# Daughters Outrank Dad, Make North Dakota Military Family Proud

By Erika Craven, KFYP

Michelle Mulberry's brigadier general promotion is more than a one-star ceremony, it's the culmination of many years of military service. The story begins with patriarch Richard Balliet's time in Vietnam.

"When I first got there, I figured I had so long to serve that I didn't think I would get out of there anyway. But as the time went on and things got better the closer that I got to the end of my tour, the end of that year, I started to slow down a bit, get a little bit worried, that I might make it out of there anyway," said Full Col. Richard Balliet, North

Dakota Army National Guard.

Balliet also served with Co A, 101st Aviation Battalion as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam and served over 36 years. He wrote a book about his experiences.

Balliet's daughters learned more about their father's story as they forged their own paths in the military.

"That's where my dad was, and he worked full time, and both sisters had gone that route. And, I kind of figured if I didn't like it, I only had to do it one weekend a month and two weeks a year. And, I wasn't stuck on active duty for four years," said Sgt. First Class Laura Balliet with the North Dakota Army National Guard and assistant attorney general.

Col. Richard Balliet(Balliet Family)



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Now, the Balliet family celebrates middle daughter Michelle's promotion to brigadier general for the Wyoming Air National Guard. She's the second in her family to achieve the one-star honor after Nicole, who received the title in the Army National Guard while in California.

"[At the promotion ceremony] we usually have at least those four positions, and we made it happen with just our family which is really unusual," said Brig. Gen. Michelle Mulberry for the Wyoming Air National Guard.

These military women not only achieved high honors but also keep a strong sense of humor.

"You know, we always give our dad a lot of crap, because now he has two daughters that outrank him, so we celebrate that and high-five when he tries to tell us something," added BG Mulberry.

Youngest daughter Laura isn't left out of the joke.

"For 11 years, I have been assistant attorney general for the State of North Dakota, so I had the title general first," added SFC Laura Balliet.

The family has been around the world and back with nine deployments between father and daughters. And while they're scattered across the country now, the military's brought them together again and again.

"I was in Iraq when my sister was deployed to Qatar, and I got to see her on the ramp of a C-130 aircraft. She flew into Iraq to pick up the wounded I got to see her for about 20

minutes," said Brig. Gen. Nicole Balliet, National Guard Bureau.

BG Mulberry added that the meet-up was a surprise.

The family has served the United States in many capacities from flying helicopters in Vietnam, to working earthquake recovery efforts in Haiti, to extensive work in the Middle East.

"Now the girls, they all did this on their own. I didn't encourage them to join, that was all their own decisions. We actually never really talked about it much until they came to me and said this is what they want to do. I am very proud of them for that," added Col. Richard Balliet.

They say the military has brought the family together.

"I think being in the military and getting older, of course, has brought us closer as sisters. It's nice to have shared experiences. We all know what it's like to deploy. We know what it's like to miss family," added BC Nicole Balliet.

The Balliets say they've been lucky to have support from friends and family, including the girls' mother Betty Jo, throughout their military careers.

Including Michelle Mulberry and Nicole Balliet, there are five female general officers who hail from North Dakota. The others from North Dakota include Brig. Gen. Jackie Huber with the North Dakota Army National Guard, Brig. Gen. Stefanie Horvath with the Minnesota Army National Guard, and Maj. Gen. Giselle Wilz with the National Guard Bureau in Washington DC.

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## In FY21, UND Aerospace Breaks Longstanding Record for Hours Flown

*With 126,000 hours of flight across all training programs, UND sets new record in year of changes and challenges*

From July 1 of last year to June 30, the University of North Dakota's flight training programs kept an unprecedented pace, smashing a 2013 record for hours flown by students at the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences.

The 126,000 hours flown between 2020 and 2021 went well beyond the FY13's 110,000 hours across plane, helicopter and unmanned aerial systems flight training. Airplane training alone comprised 121,000 hours of the FY21 total.

The milestone was reached amid circumstances never before experienced. After the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered UND Flight Operations from March through May in 2020, training resumed in earnest as students were determined to keep their college careers on track.

"This flying hour milestone is a culmination of the hard work of all of our students, instructors, maintainers, line staff, and others," said Robert Kraus, dean of the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences. "Even more so, they have done it professionally and safely, even under pandemic restrictions."

### **From shutdown to blazing pace**

Despite new safety protocols and sometimes daily changes to operations, UND achieved a number that hadn't previously been thought to be possible, according to Chief Flight Instructor Jeremy Roesler. Previous estimates, considering the size of UND's fleet of nearly 100 aircraft and an average of 160 flight instructors on staff, put the cap at 120,000 hours for UND at its busiest.

"As we shut down from the middle of March until May 2020, all of that cumulative flight training still had to happen," Roesler said. "And because of the airline industry slowdown,



*After a shutdown during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, UND Aerospace and its airport operations resumed in earnest that summer. Over the next year, UND's flight training programs went on to accrue more flight hours than ever – smashing a 2013 record. UND archival image.*

our flight instructors weren't leaving for new employment. We then hired more instructors, which meant we were far more staffed than years previous."

By the time UND Flight Operations resumed activities at the airport, under new health and safety precautions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, 245 flight instructors

were on staff to help as many as 1,400 students get up to speed on flight lessons.

Also, as noted by Kraus, "The great weather we've had over the winter and spring contributed to Grand Forks International Airport achieving the top rank as the busiest airport in the country on several occasions."

But it wasn't solely a staffing boost or sunny days that set a blazing pace for UND Aerospace.

"It's hard to single out any one department, because our organization is so intertwined," said Dick Schultz, director of UND Flight Operations, when asked about the milestone. "From our records department, to dispatch, to the maintenance bay, if one thing is out of place, it messes up the whole system.

"Our collective experience, working seven days a week, morning to night, has taught us what we need to do to get the job done. We have a great staff out here, and everybody stood up to do their part."

Brian Willis, director of aviation safety, said that from a safety culture standpoint, everyone in the UND Aerospace ecosystem was prepared for what came with resuming flight training last summer. Masks were required across the board and cockpits were sanitized between uses, among other measures to promote physical distancing when possible.

"As pilots, our students and instructors have learned to be very flexible," Willis said. "They're also very rule-oriented as



a matter of course. So, between the checklists, manuals and flight procedures, COVID procedures fit right in. That allowed for the organization to come back and really get rolling.

“From our administration’s offices to students and instructors on the runway, safety is always the priority in how we make decisions.”

### On the rebound

While conditions aligned perfectly for an unprecedentedly productive year at UND, the rest of the aviation world is now on the rebound, said Roesler. As pandemic recovery unfolds, airlines and other aviation fixtures are steadily reaching pre-COVID hiring rates.



*In order to get flight training back on schedule, UND Aerospace implemented new procedures to limit the spread of COVID-19, including mask requirements and increased sanitization for cockpits and other training areas. UND archival image.*

“We’ve already had quite a number of instructors move on this year, and our graduates are going to remain in high demand as the industry addresses its pilot shortage,” Roesler said.

Kraus said that in recent meetings with airlines, many of which have established career pathway programs in partnership with UND Aerospace,

nearly all are expecting significant hiring opportunities for “several years.”

“We continue to see rising interest in aviation as a career, and our increase in flight hours supports the increasing demand of pilots from all levels of the industry,” he added.

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# Grand Forks Aviation Firsts

By Penny Rafferty Hamilton, Ph.D.

In 1910, Archie Hoxsey, who flew for the Wright Brothers, performed at the Grand Forks Fairgrounds. The special air performance was highly advertised. *The Grand Forks Daily Herald* proclaimed, "Don't miss the Aeroplane. The most thrilling and sensational marvel of the age...flights diving from dizzy heights to depths below, mounting majestically to the clouds, death defying but delightful. First and only opportunity to see this greatest of all thrillers in the Northwest."

Wow, pretty compelling copy. North Dakota residents showed up. Over 17,000 attended the performance.

But wait! There is even more. A "lucky" Grand Forks citizen won a free demonstration flight in the aeroplane with sky star Hoxsey. The Grand Forks postmaster, Frank V. Kent, was the winner. Grand Forks earned more firsts because the night flight was the first in the nation with a passenger. This flight was the first under a searchlight. Shrieks and gasps were heard from the crowd. Passenger Kent reported it as the thrill of a lifetime. He was now ready to buy his own airplane!

Fast forward over 104 years, Grand Forks was still making aviation history. In celebration of Women's History Month, an entire crew of Air Force women, dubbed "Lady Hawk," set a world-aviation record. This all-female Air Force crew flew the Northrop Grumman Global Hawk-RQ-4 a record-setting 34.3 hours, nonstop back and forth across North Dakota. The Global Hawk is a high-altitude, remotely-piloted surveillance aircraft. Global Hawks are newer than the Lockheed U-2 with a similar mission. The Global Hawk has a wingspan of 130 feet, equivalent to the size of a Boeing 707 airliner.

This stellar team was led by Lt. Col. Amanda Brandt, along with Lt. Col. Catherine Todd, Maj. Mary Marshall, Capt.

Natalie Winkels, 1st Lt. Joli Chaisson, and 2nd Lt. Kourtney Kugler piloted the RQ-4. In addition to the six women pilots managing the remote flight, more than 50 support staff and ground crew were also women. According to Lt. Col. Brandt, what differentiates this particular record from others like it is that all of the women pilots included in the mission came from the same squadron.

Historically, groups have had to reach out to other

squadrons or units to get enough women together to achieve a record. And while Lt. Col. Brandt is proud of the Lady Hawk record-breaking flight, she also hopes that one day all-female feats will no longer be historic, but a regular occurrence.

Amen, sister!!!

The newer technology in the Global Hawk uses

high-resolution synthetic aperture radar (SAR), combined with long-range electro-optical/infrared (EO/IR) sensors. It's like Star Wars over North Dakota. The Global Hawk crew from Grand Forks surveys as much as 40,000 square miles of ground terrain in a single day. That would be about the size of the nation of South Korea. The obvious intelligence collection capability to support military forces worldwide from the Grand Forks Air Force Base is key in our national defense.

In 2015, Grand Forks' mayor declared a "Grand Forks Celebrates Lady Hawk Day." In 1955, the Grand Forks Air Force Base was established. By January 1957, it was opened and named after the city of Grand Forks. North Dakota has always been a leader in aviation and innovation.

*Dr. Hamilton is a Laureate of the Colorado Aviation, and Colorado Authors', and Colorado Women's Halls of Fame. Read about her aviation history books at [www.PennyHamilton.com](http://www.PennyHamilton.com)*



*Air Force members of the 348th Reconnaissance Squadron and 319th Air Base Wing in Grand Forks, North Dakota, set a new record for the longest flight by a military aircraft without air refueling. On March 29, 2014, they broke the old record with their RQ-4 Global Hawk remaining aloft for 34.3 hours. The entire flight and ground crews were female. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. David Dobrydney)*



# FAA Awards \$2.8 Million in Drone Research Grants to Five Universities



The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) today announced \$2.8 million in drone research, education and training grants to five universities.

Research will focus on three areas: Advanced material, right-of-way rules, and flight data recorder requirements.

The universities receiving grants are Mississippi State University, Wichita State University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, the University of Kansas and the University of North Dakota.

"This funding and our ongoing partnerships with these universities will allow the FAA to safely integrate the airspace that has a growing number of diverse aircraft users," said FAA Administrator Steve Dickson.

## The grant awardees are summarized as follows:

### Conduct Advanced Materials Investigation - Composite Material Analysis for Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)

This research aims to identify, assess, and understand the types of composites and other advanced materials used in drones and Advanced Air Mobility. These activities will be critical for developing standards and regulations to use these advanced materials in aircraft.

- Mississippi State University: \$157,000
- Wichita State University: \$161,958

### Propose Right-of-Way Rules for UAS Operations and Safety Recommendations

Right-of-way rules keep aircraft safely separated. This research will explore right-of-way rules for a wide variety of drone operations. It will provide safety-based recommendations for the FAA and drone industry standards organizations to consider in establishing drone detect-and-avoid requirements.

- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University: \$330,000
- University of Kansas: \$494,525
- University of North Dakota: \$569,242

### Identify Flight Recorder Requirements for UAS Integration into the NAS

Flight recorders can provide valuable data when drone incidents occur. This research will explore flight-recorder requirements for drones, including remotely piloted advanced air mobility aircraft. The universities will share the findings with the European Organization for Civil Aviation Equipment.

- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University: \$298,145
- Wichita State University: \$400,000
- University of North Dakota: \$390,945

Today's announcement is the third round of Alliance for System Safety of UAS through Research Excellence (ASSURE) grants, which brings the total of 57 grants valued at \$19.1 million for Fiscal Year 2021. The ASSURE Center of Excellence is one of six that the agency has established to help advance technology and educate the next generation of aviation professionals. Research conducted through ASSURE is focused on helping the drone market safely grow and integrate into the nation's airspace.

More than 800,000 recreational and commercial drones are in the active drone fleet, and that number is expected to grow.

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A white biplane with red and blue stripes on the fuselage, parked on a tarmac. The plane is a high-wing aircraft with a single propeller. The background shows a clear sky and some greenery.

# Eternal FLIGHT



**Michel Lee Gunia**, 63, passed away unexpectedly Aug. 10, 2021 doing what he loved.

Michel was born to Leon and JoAnn (Huber) Gunia in 1957 in Bismarck, the third of six siblings. Mike found his love of aviation as a child watching the local North

Dakota sprayers in the summers. In typical Mike fashion, he got his pilot's license before he had a driver's license and began flying as a junior in high school.

After high school, he received his airframe and powerplant degree at the MSP airport, and worked at the Crystal Airport. Mike was always up for an adventure, traveling around the world, spending five months working in Antarctica as a heavy equipment operator and spending a month in Australia.

Mike moved to North Dakota in 1987 after spending time with his uncle and working at Temvik Oil. The family farm near Temvik became their home where they raised their four children, Adrien, Joseph, Kimberly and Laura.

After the death of his uncle, Mike took odd jobs including Docketer's Blacksmith as well as his own trucking company

**Robert "Bob" Reikow**, 62, of Bismarck, passed away October 7, 2021, at CHI St. Alexius Hospital, Bismarck.

Bob was born in Shakopee, MN. He graduated from Hennepin Technical College in 1979 with a certificate in Auto Mechanics and Parts Management. In 1981, Bob graduated from Dakota Aero Tech receiving his A&P and started his 40-year career in aviation services. Bob built a great reputation and excelled at Duncan Aviation in Lincoln, NB. There, Bob married Karla (Bohlman) Reikow. To be closer to their family they moved to Silver Lake, MN. Bob worked at Signature Flight Support, Minneapolis and later at Executive Aviation in Eden Prairie.

Bob celebrated his catch of a lifetime by marrying Deanna on his 40 birthday, July 31, 1999. Bob became a great fisherman, he knew the best spots and shared tips easily and it wasn't long until Bob upgraded his boat. Deanna adopted Blake as her own son and then gave birth to their other son, Marshall Kurtis Reikow on July 10, 2001. The family loved snowmobiling, camping, fishing, water skiing and tubing and trips to ND. Over the years, they took trips to Florida, South Dakota and Arizona.

Christmas of 2004, the family moved to Bismarck, ND. Bob worked for Bismarck Aero Center and Rocket Man Jet

"Pride of the Prairie." He was finally settled when he became the Linton Airport manager and their in-house mechanic. Crop spraying came soon after and Mike worked tirelessly to build North Central Aviation, while also continuing to advocate for growth at the Linton Airport.

After all the years of working on planes as a profession, Mike found great joy in his restored A-T6 Texan which quickly became his favorite hobby. On any given day, you could hear the deep rumble of his plane around Linton, as he often flew to fly-ins, airshows, as well as doing flyovers or just a late flight on a calm evening.

Mike had a sense of humor that was unmatched. He had an ability to strike up a conversation with anyone and found many matching passions which turned into lifelong friends. Many a farmer would tell stories of heart attacks as Mike would buzz their truck or tractor, which he would find hilarious when you yelled at him later.

Mike is survived by his children, Joseph (Marlina), Kimberly and Laura (Nick) Beastro; stepdaughter, Adrien (Chris) Roehrich; 11 grandchildren; his parents, Leon and JoAnn Gunia; siblings Marc, Monte (Kendra), Myles (Val) and Shelly (Steve) Schoen; brother-in-law, Tom Ochsenbauer; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by Marcy (Gunia) Ochsenbauer.

Services. At the end of his career Bob started his own company, Rolling Thunder Aviation and entered part-time retirement so he could enjoy life more. A special thanks to Travis Adams and Try-fly in the cities for spurring him on to this decision. This last summer was the best for him fishing with family & friends.

Survived by his wife, Deanna Reikow; two sons, Blake Reikow (Abby Wald), Marshall Reikow; one granddaughter, Addison Dirk; mother, Mavis Reikow; his beloved dog and best companion, Annie, and Walter, the little dog he tolerated and then learned to love; sister, Karen (Arlyn) Fredrick and family; mother-in-law, Sandra Peterson; brother-in-law, David Peterson; sister-in-law, Carolyn (Kevin) Munn and family.

Preceded in death by his former wife, Karla Reikow; his father, Carl Reikow; his father-in-law, Lynn LeRoy Peterson.







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# CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

*Check out the online calendar for  
details on these events:  
[aero.nd.gov/events](http://aero.nd.gov/events)*

## **February 2022**

2022 Tri-State Aerial Applicators Convention  
Feb 21 to Feb 23 Alerus Center, Grand Forks, ND