



**PO Box 155, Zimmerman, MN 55398**  
**1101 19th Avenue South, Princeton, MN 55371**  
**www.flightexpo.org; flightexpoinc@aol.com**  
**763-568-3360**

## Hands On Learning Took Flight This Spring

Just eight weeks ago, we welcomed a new group of students into our **Build A Plane** program with excitement and high hopes. Since then, time has flown by, and these students have been hard at work gaining real world aviation skills that many people never experience in a lifetime.

This spring session gave students the opportunity to explore multiple areas of aircraft building, maintenance, and restoration. From engines to sheet metal, welding to hands on fabrication, each week brought new challenges and new confidence.



### Engine Work That Opened Eyes

Two students took an in depth look at aircraft engines while also learning valuable fabrication and shop skills. They inspected spark plugs, cleaned mating surfaces, and removed cylinders from a run out engine to better understand how internal engine systems function.

They also modified an engine stand by grinding metal, using a torch to remove old components, and adding

new pieces to improve its function. This gave students a firsthand look at

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**Inspiring the Next Generation of Aviators and Aviation Mechanics**

# BUILD A PLANE



how mechanics often adapt tools and equipment to meet the needs of the job.

This kind of hands on experience gives students a true appreciation for the precision, problem solving, and craftsmanship behind aviation maintenance.



## Building Parts for Tsunami

Three students worked directly on our historic **Tsunami Aircraft** project. They created form blocks from scratch and then hand formed aluminum around those blocks to make rudder ribs.

This process was detailed and time consuming, but it showed students how aircraft parts can be built from raw materials using skill, patience, and craftsmanship.



# BUILD A PLANE Cont.



## Welding Skills for the Whole Class

Every student also had the opportunity to spend 30 to 45 minutes learning welding basics. For many, this was their first time holding a torch and seeing how metal can be shaped and joined through heat and technique.



## The Bigger Picture

What makes **Build A Plane** special is simple: **students are not just watching—They Are Doing.**

They are learning how things work, how to solve problems, how to use tools correctly, and how aviation careers are built one skill at a time.



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**Flight Expo, Inc.**



# Adding Aircraft to Our Fleet

## Help Keep Student Loans Low and Opportunity High

Why is it so important for **Flight Expo, Inc.** to add more aircraft to our fleet?

Because we already have something many communities do not have — an airport right in our own backyard.

For students living within a **30+ mile radius**, Princeton offers a rare opportunity to access aviation training close to home. Instead of driving long distances to larger metro airports, students can begin their training locally, saving time, money, and opening doors that might otherwise feel out of reach.

We are currently adding a **Cessna 172** and a **Piper Cherokee 140** to help meet growing demand.

Last summer we had six students and two instructors. Today we have **fourteen students and three instructors**. That growth is exciting, but it also means scheduling challenges with only two active aircraft.



### Turning a Local Asset into Real Opportunity

An airport is more than a runway. It is a gateway to careers, education, technical skills, and economic growth.

With additional aircraft, more students from surrounding rural communities can train here, earn certificates here, and continue advanced ratings here.



### Keeping Students Local and Costs Down

After students earn their private pilot certificate, many want to continue to their Instrument Rating. Unfortunately, without an instrument-equipped aircraft in our fleet, **we have already lost three students who had to move their training to other facilities.**

When students must train elsewhere, they often face added fuel costs, longer drives, extra travel time, and scheduling challenges. Those added expenses can place unnecessary financial pressure on students and families.

By offering advanced training locally, we can help students stay close to home, continue their momentum, and keep aviation dreams within reach while reducing the need for added debt.

# New Hangar Progress Update

Exciting progress continues on our new hangar addition.

The firewall materials for the new hangar arrived last Monday, marking another important step forward in this project. Work is currently expected to begin on **May 11** as we move into the next construction phase.

Preparations are already underway inside our existing building, with office areas being reorganized and moved to allow for the connecting firewall installation.

Each step brings us closer to expanded space for aviation education, student training, and future growth.

**Thank you to everyone helping make this vision a reality.**



# Adding Aircraft to Our Fleet Cont.

## Help Us Put Our Airport to Work for the Next Generation

Your donation helps us expand aircraft access, serve more students, and turn a local airport into a life changing opportunity for young people across central Minnesota.

## Help Aviation Dreams Come True. Donate TODAY.



Current Flyer

Two Years Ago

January 2026

- May 15 & 16 GMAG, the 11th annual Great Minnesota Aviation Gathering, Buffalo Municipal Airport (KCFE), for more info contact [info@mnpilots.org](mailto:info@mnpilots.org)
- The Princeton Lions Pancake Breakfast, a beloved community tradition, will take place on June 7, 2026, at the Princeton Municipal Airport.

WHERE COMMUNITY, AVIATION, AND SERVICE COME TOGETHER  
Closing out Rum River Festival at the Princeton Airport



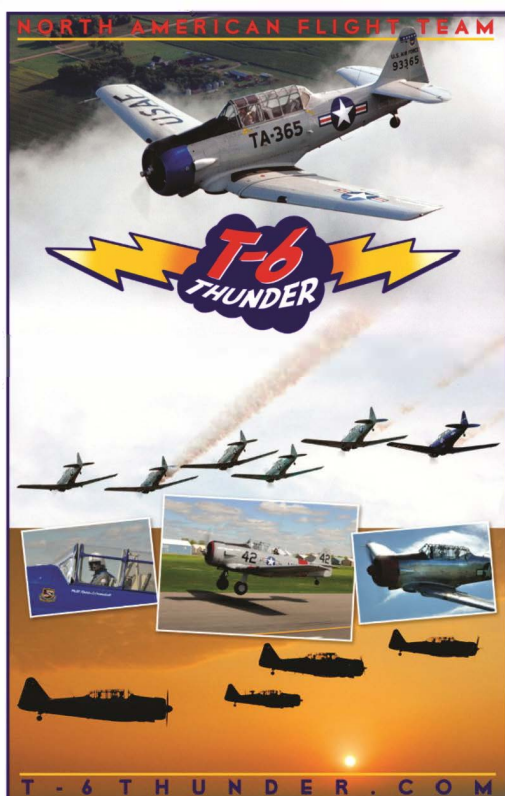
WE SERVE

# Princeton Lions Club AIRPORT BRUNCH

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026  
7:30 AM - 12:00 NOON

AT THE PRINCETON AIRPORT

Experience the sights and sounds of history in motion.



The T-6 Thunder Group will perform a three aircraft formation flyover with smoke, followed by a ramp display where attendees can meet the pilots and view these historic aircraft up close. Their planned arrival is 9 am - 10:45 am. (weather permitting)



ALL YOU CAN EAT BRUNCH: EGGS, HASH BROWNS, PANCAKES  
KIELBASA, ORANGE JUICE, MILK AND COFFEE

ADULTS \$15 KIDS \$8 (KIDS AGE 12 & UNDER)

PROCEEDS GO TO LIONS CHARITIES IN THE PRINCETON COMMUNITY