



February 2026



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February at Flight Expo

Building the Next Five Years

January/February brought snowstorms and freezing temperatures. While much of Minnesota slowed down, Flight Expo leaned in.

Instead of hibernating, our board and leadership team gathered in Princeton for a full day of strategic planning focused on the next five years of growth and impact.

A special thank you to Adrian from FlintEdge Strategies for facilitating a focused and productive session, and to Holly and the team at Crystal Cabinet Works for generously providing the space for our meeting.

We began the day with insight from several respected leaders:

- Patrick Kincade – Endowment Development
- Sarah Jackson – Board Responsibilities and Long Term Sustainability
- Tom Lynburn – Collaborating with Museums and Nonprofits
- Brandon Montanye – Board Development and Sustaining the Mission
- Terra McGilvery – Flight Expo's FAA Part 141 Status Update

After lunch, we officially signed the loan documents with Propel, a major step forward in strengthening our foundation for the future.

The afternoon was spent mapping out what the next five years will look like for Flight Expo: growth in student programs, facility expansion, financial sustainability, and deeper community impact.

We left the day energized, aligned, and committed to building something that will last for generations.

**Flight Expo is not just growing
we are building to be here 50 years from now.**



PIPER J-3 CUB





Hangar Update

Hangar Expansion Update

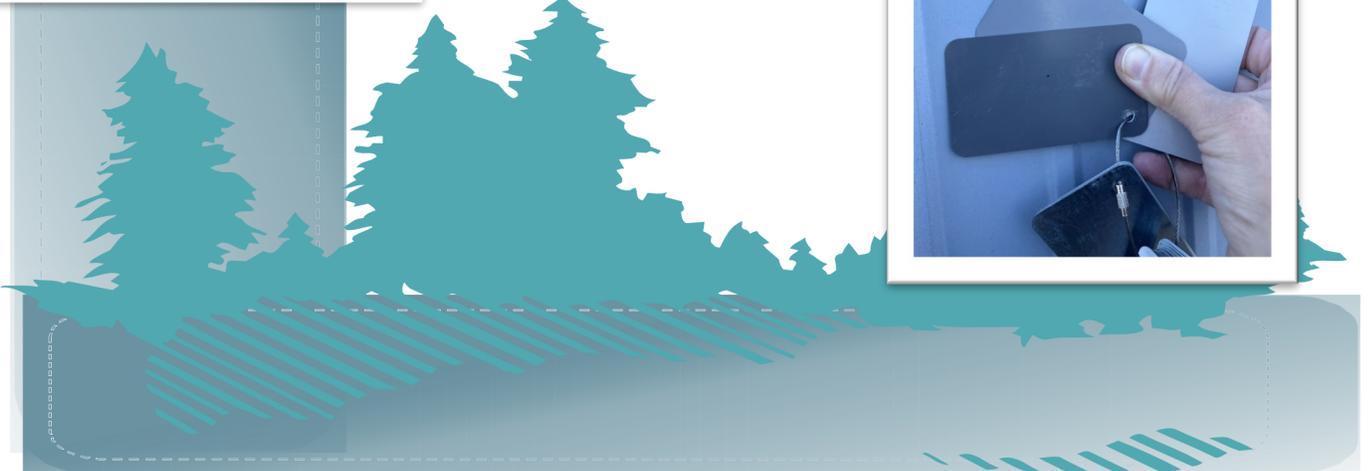
The loan with Propel was signed on January 10, 2026. We will be requesting our first disbursement this week to order materials for both hangars and move construction forward.

As part of the permit requirements, we were required to add two layers of 5/8 inch sheetrock to the existing hangar. While this increases the project cost, it is significantly more manageable than the alternative requirement of installing a fire suppression system in the new hangar, which would have started at approximately \$110,000.

After reviewing both options, the Board determined that the additional wall layers were the most responsible and financially sound decision. This approach allows us to meet code requirements while maintaining long term sustainability.

The expansion is necessary because our space is already fully committed. Flight Expo currently operates two flying Cessna aircraft and has five additional aircraft projects that will be housed in the new building as they move through various phases of restoration and build. The additional hangar space ensures these aircraft are properly stored, maintained, and protected.

The exterior color of the new building will match the existing hangar as closely as possible. Due to 25 years of sun exposure on the current building, there may be



NextGen Aviation Mechanics Program

Our NextGen Mechanics have just completed Maintenance and Inspection Regulations. A little bit dryer of a section but fundamentally important. Our students achieved an average score of 80% for this section of training.

“Congratulations and keep up the good work.” -Terra

We are now progressing into Physics for Aviation. In this next section our students will be put to the test as they cover stress, heat, gas laws, buoyancy and much much more.



Aviation Related Local Events

- March 7th EAA Chapter 965, Ski Plane and Wheels Fly-In, Aitkin Airport (KAIT) Aitkin, MN 11am-3pm. Chili and Hot Dogs
- April 11th Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame banquet. Mystic Lake Center, Prior Lake.
- April 25th EAA Chapter 25 new hanger grand opening Open House. Airlake (KLVN) For more information (eaa25.org).
- May 15 & 16 GMAG, the 11th annual Great Minnesota Aviation Gathering, Buffalo Municipal Airport (KCFE), for more info contact info@mnpilots.org
- The Princeton Lions Pancake Breakfast, a beloved community tradition, will take place on June 7, 2026, at the municipal airport. Held annually on the Sunday of Rum River Festival, this event has been a staple for over 30 years. Each year, over 1,000 attendees gather to enjoy a delicious meal or to simply take in the sights and sounds, with families and visitors from throughout the region. This year the T-6 Thunder Group will be conducting a flyover and be in attendance for the breakfast.
- Flight Expo's John and Patricia Sandberg Scholarship window opens Friday February 27th and closes April 26th 2026.
- March 10th Flight Expo's Build a Plane Program launches. (Currently 4 remaining spots are open)





S2F (STOOF) Program



S2F Tracker Propellers Returned

More than 15 years ago, the propellers from the S2F Tracker were removed and sent to Maxwell Aircraft at Crystal Airport for overhaul. These large Hamilton Standard constant speed propellers require overhaul every 60 to 72 months or approximately 2,000 to 2,400 flight hours, whichever comes first. For most aircraft, calendar time becomes the limiting factor due to corrosion and seal degradation.

On a recent warmer Minnesota day, Duane Kruse of Kruse Aviation and John Bjornstad traveled to Maxwell Aircraft to retrieve the propellers and transport them back to our facility.



Because the S2F is awaiting a full restoration, the propellers will not be installed at this time. They are now properly preserved and stored until sufficient funding is secured to begin a complete restoration of the aircraft.

The return of these components marks continued progress in preserving this significant aircraft and preparing for its future restoration.



141 Flight School Update:



Traditionally, Flight Expo has been operating and conducted business through its flight club as a Part 61 training program. We are pleased to announce that we are pursuing qualification and acceptance as an approved 141 flight school.

What this means for us:

We will be affiliated with a college for flight training. Having this affiliation allows our students to apply for federal financial aid, student loans, and allows us to work towards supporting our service members utilizing their GI Bill.

Where are we in the Process?

Currently, our staff is finishing up writing the TCO (Training Course Outline) and SPM (Safety Procedures Manual). The expected completion is mid March, with our Board



The Training Continues.....

Private Pilot Achievements

Preston has just won the EAA 237 Rays Foundation Scholarship and continues to pursue his Private Pilot Certification. **Congratulations Preston!**

Instructor Terra's Students

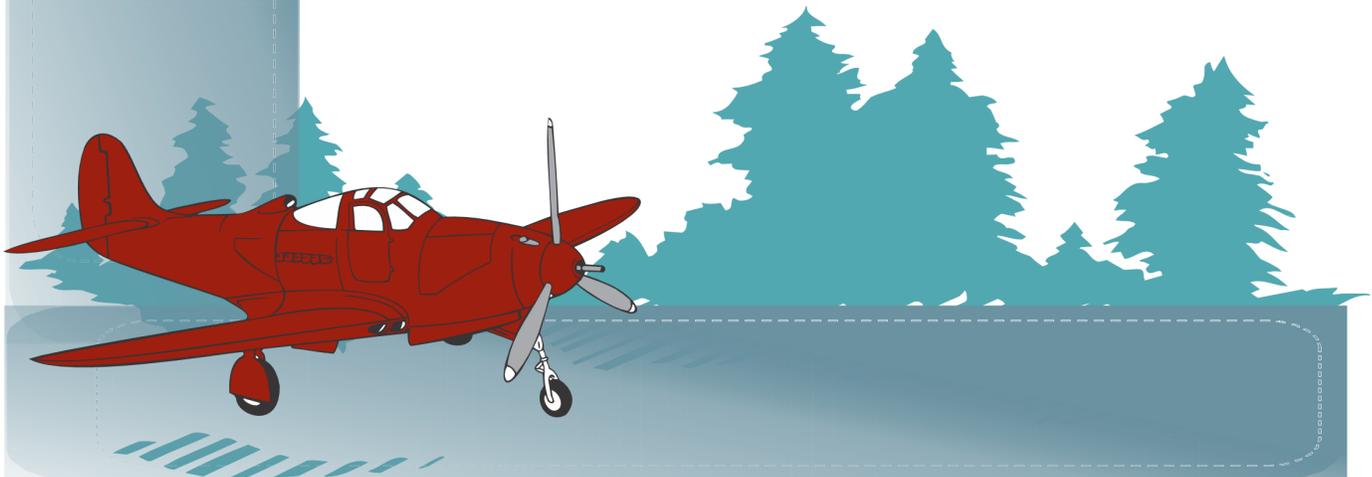
Our new instructor Terra, is currently working with two (2) students both have finished with their written exams. One is preparing to solo and the other is finishing up their solo flight training requirements prior to scheduling a check ride.

Instructor Jared's Students

Two of Jared's students have passed their written exams, soloed, completed cross-country solo flights, and are still preparing for their check rides.

Instructor Justine's Students

Justine is instructing four (4) students in their infancy of flight training. They continue to learn basic flight techniques, work through ground school and are preparing for their written exams.





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