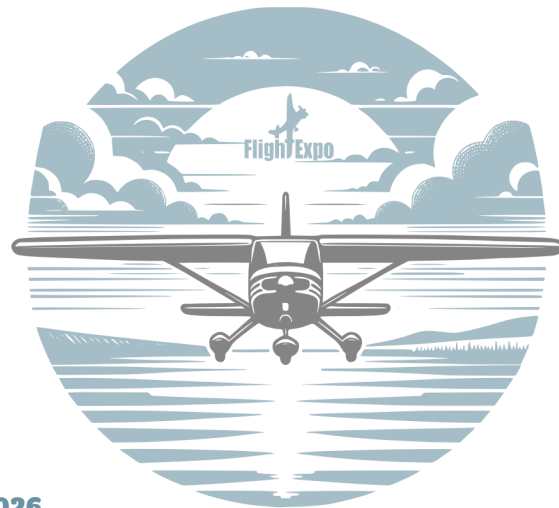




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**January 2026**



## Happy New Year!

As we begin 2026, we are grateful for the growth, milestones, and momentum that 2025 brought to Flight Expo. Made possible by our students, instructors, volunteers, and supporters.

### 2025 Highlights at a Glance

- **Flight School Growth**  
8 active flight students and 10 Flying Club members
- **Build A Plane: Learning by Doing**  
20 students trained on aviation tools through welding, cutting sheet metal, drilling, sand blasting, measuring and fabricating
- **NextGen Aviation Mechanics Program Launched**  
4 students enrolled and earning high school credit
- **Tsunami Restoration & Development** Significant progress was made on Tsunami in 2025, including major work on the scoop and airframe. The scope of restoration this year was extensive, showcasing advanced craftsmanship, problem-solving, and preservation of a historic racing aircraft
- **Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame Honor** Flight Expo proudly celebrated the induction of **John R. Sandberg** into the **Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame**, recognizing his lasting impact on aviation, innovation, and education
- **EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2025** Reached over 1,000 children and parents in the KidsVenture area. Team Flight Expo, had the Tsunami aircraft proudly displayed utilizing the semi trailer graciously donated by Robin Crandall.
- **Student & Instructor Milestones** 2 new private pilots, 1 new flight instructor, 3 students preparing for their practical exam for private pilot.
- **Hangar Expansion Progress** City permit approved in October, lot has been leveled, building materials to be ordered within the next two weeks.
- **Back in the Air** Our club President Sharon Sandberg has proudly returned to the air. She has completed refresher training and enthusiastically continues to sharpen her skills set.

### In This Issue

Flight School Growth

Build A Plane Highlights

NextGen Aviation  
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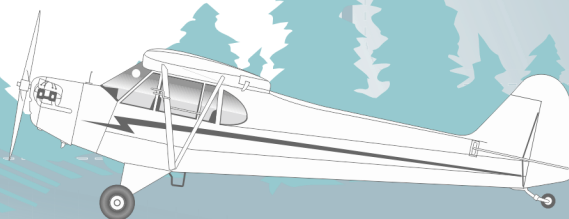
John R Sandberg

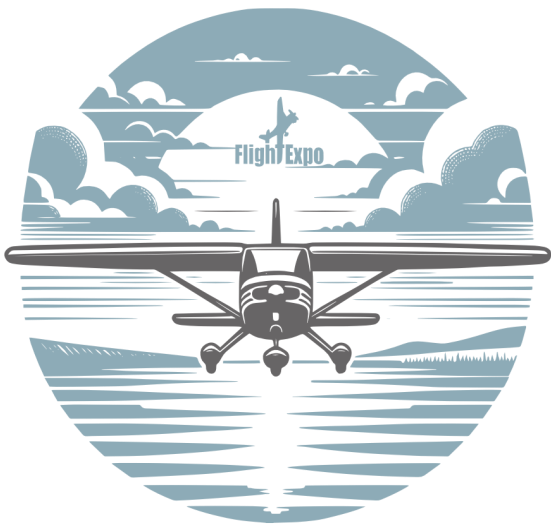
AirVenture Recap

Flight School Recap

Hangar Expansion

**One Wall,  
One Wing,  
One Dream**





## The Training Continues.....

Flight training remained a major focus in 2025, with students progressing steadily through written exams, solo flights, cross-country requirements, and check-ride preparation.

### Private Pilot Achievements

In 2025, **Cody** (Cessna 150) and **Ben** (Cessna 172) earned their **Private Pilot certifications**. Cody is now training at ATP at Anoka County Airport, currently working toward his **Commercial rating**. Ben is flying with In-Flight at Flying Cloud Airport and continuing to work toward additional certifications.

### Instructor Terra's Students

Our new instructor Terra, is currently working with two (2) students both have finished with their written exams and preparing to solo and cross country solo for their next phase of training.

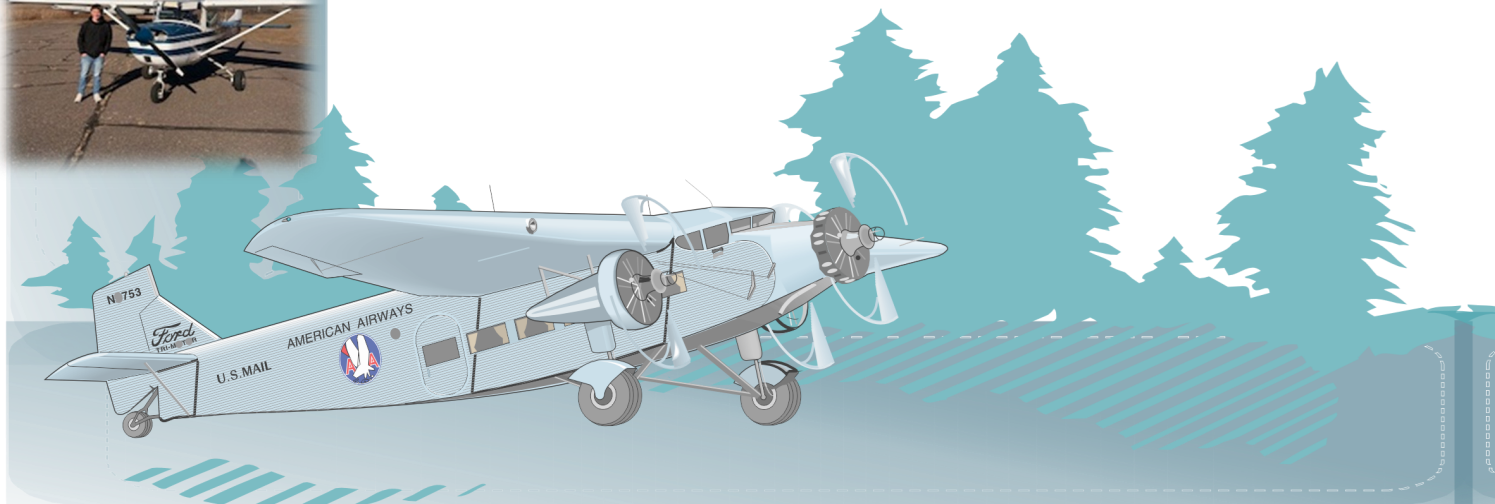
### Instructor Jared's Students

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

**Davin**, a Flight Expo **John and Patricia Sandberg Scholarship recipient**, has soloed and is currently working toward passing his written exam. At just 16 years old, Davin is also working hard to help pay for his own flight training—an impressive commitment and goal for someone so young. Keep at it kiddo!

### Instructor Justine's Students

Justine is instructing three (3) 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.

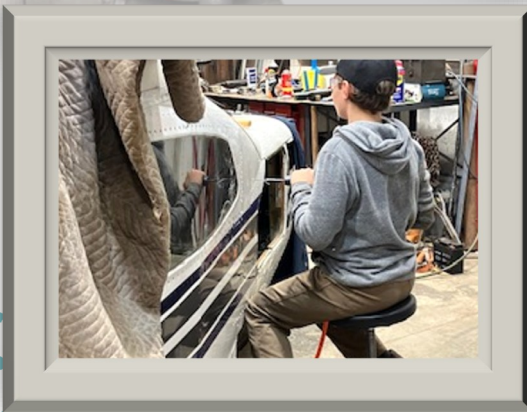
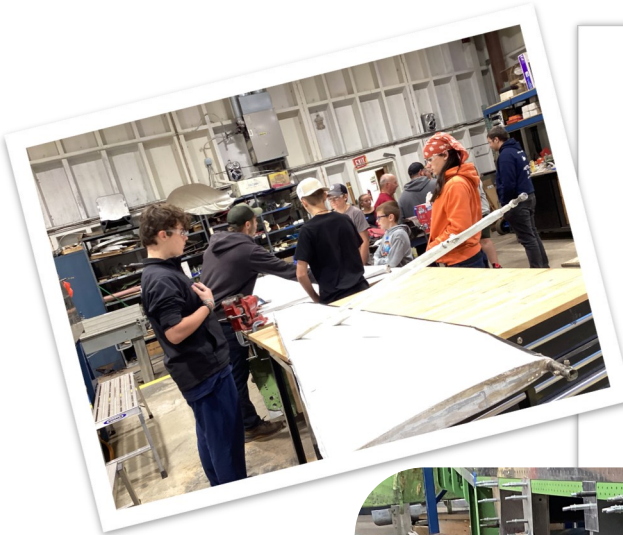




# Build A Plane

**2025 Build A Plane students worked on both sides of aircraft restoration. (logistics & maintenance)**

Build A Plane students this year were provided instruction on the proper way to remove and catalog aircraft parts for resale, understanding traceability, care, and documentation. At the same time, other students fabricated control surfaces and small components for the Tsunami project. Every task reinforced that aviation demands precision, patience, and accountability.



# NextGen Aviation Mechanics Program

**Congratulations Next Gen Mechanics for completing the mathematics section of your training. With over a 90% over all grade for this section of training, we applaud you, and enthusiastically move into maintenance & Inspection Regulations.**



## Laying the Foundation for What's Next

With the building permit approved on October 10, 2025, we officially broke ground on our hangar addition this fall and held our groundbreaking ceremony to mark this important milestone.

Following careful planning, we began the initial groundwork and made the intentional decision to pause major construction during the winter months. Building through winter conditions would have added significant and unnecessary costs. By timing construction appropriately, we are being good stewards of donor dollars and avoiding extended loan expenses.

While visible construction is paused, progress has not stopped. We are actively moving forward with purchasing materials, completing required appraisals, securing insurance, and handling other behind-the-scenes work that ensures the project is fully prepared to advance efficiently once weather conditions improve.





# Tsunami

## Tsunami Progress Update

This past weekend marked an exciting milestone in Tsunami's restoration. The volunteer team began permanently riveting the rebuilt scoop into place—bringing one of Tsunami's most recognizable features one step closer to completion.

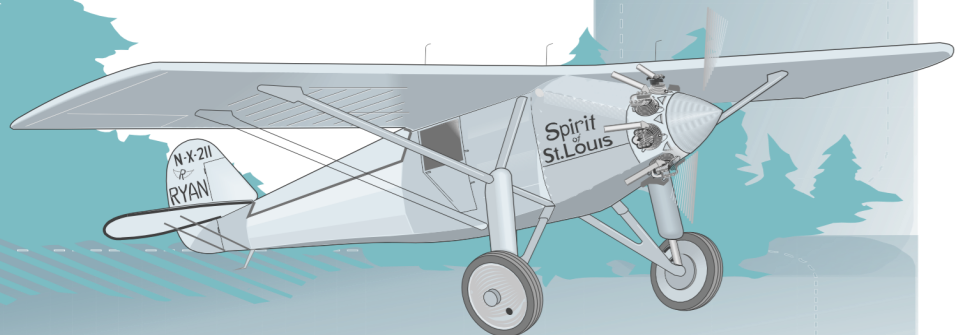
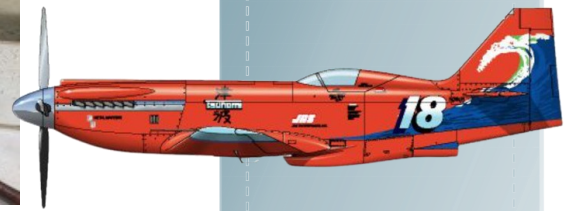
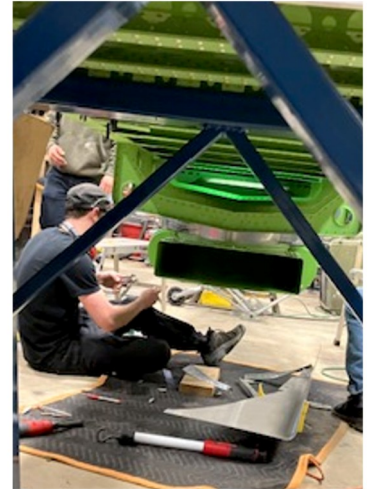
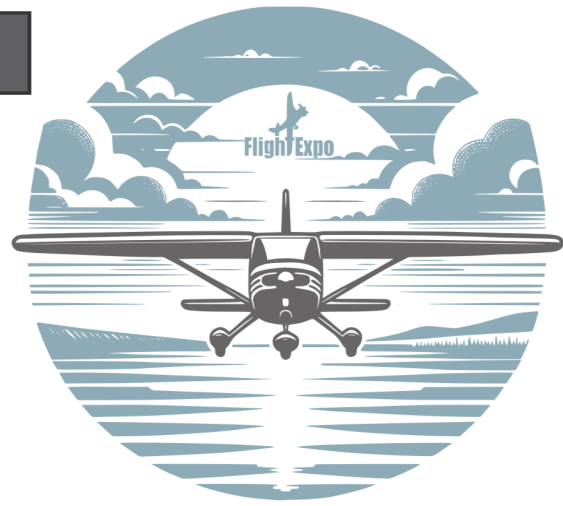
With no original plans to follow, the scoop was re-engineered from historical photos, experience, and careful craftsmanship. What began as a complex rebuild is now becoming a permanent part of the aircraft once again. At the same time, steady progress continues across the airframe, with additional rivets being set throughout the empennage as Tsunami moves forward piece by piece.

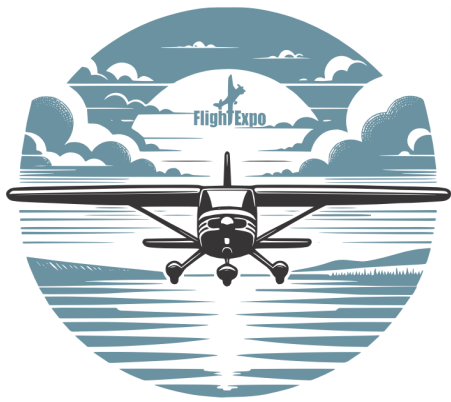


Work like this is only possible because of the dedication of skilled volunteers and the generosity of our supporters. Every hour in the shop and every component installed reflects a shared commitment to preserving aviation history while giving students and volunteers the opportunity to learn through hands-on experience.

As you'll see in the photos, Tsunami is no longer just a project in progress **she** is taking shape again.

Thank you for helping move this restoration forward and for being part of the legacy that continues to inspire the next generation of aviators and mechanics.





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