



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

March at Flight Expo

Welcoming new faces!

March was an exciting month at Flight Expo Inc.! We've had new faces, growing programs, first time solo flights and incredible opportunities for our students to connect with the wider aviation community.



We are thrilled to welcome Brook Williams to the Flight Expo team as our Fundraising and Grants Specialist! Brook is passionate about supporting kids and lifting them to new heights and inspiring them to become the next generation of aviators and aviation mechanics.

Our Build a Plane program kicked off on March 10th with an almost full class, an encouraging sign of the program's growing popularity. Students are diving into hands-on learning, developing real-world skills, and gaining confidence as future aviation mechanics.



This month, our Build a Plane students and instructors also had the incredible opportunity to attend the 2026 Minnesota I.A. Conference. They heard from speakers across the aviation industry and learned from experts in their specialties, further fueling their passion and understanding of aviation careers.

In this issue:

Build a plane P. 2

The Training
Continues.. P. 2

Final Boarding Call
P.3

Flight Aircraft Update
P.4

Aviation Related Local
Events P.4

Inspiring the Next Generation of Aviators and Aviation Mechanics

BUILD A PLANE

The Spring 2026 Build-A-Plane students are fully immersed in the hands-on learning experience, they gathered around an aircraft system as they explore the fundamentals of powered electrical circuits. With focused attention and curiosity, they traced wiring paths, examined components, and discussed how electrical energy flows to operate essential aircraft system. Guided by experienced mentors, the students are not just learning theory; they are actively connecting concepts to real-world applications. This moment captures the spirit of the program: teamwork, discovery, and the excitement of building both knowledge and confidence in aviation technology.



The Training Continues...

Private Pilot Achievements

Ashely has just Completed her first solo flight to pursue her Private Pilot Certification. **Congratulations Ashley!**



Instructor Terra's Students

Our instructor Terra, is currently working with three (3) students . One completed her first solo and the other are 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.



Final Boarding Call!

Scholarships

John & Patricia Sandberg Scholarships

Due to the overwhelming popularity and strong interest in this year's program, the application deadline for the *John & Patricia Sandberg Flight Training Scholarship* and the *Aircraft & Powerplant Scholarship* has been moved forward to [April 3rd](#).

These scholarships provide an outstanding opportunity for young individuals who are passionate about pursuing a career in aviation—whether in the cockpit as a pilot or behind the scenes as a skilled aviation mechanic. They are supporting the next generation of aviation professionals, these programs help open doors to training, education, and lifelong careers in a dynamic and rewarding industry.



Hall of Fame Banquet

Honoring Minnesota Aviation Leaders

John R. Sandberg and fellow distinguished aviators will be honored on **April 11th** at the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame Banquet. This special evening celebrates individuals who have made lasting contributions to aviation in Minnesota and beyond.



Guests will enjoy a memorable program recognizing the achievements and legacy of this year's inductees, while connecting with others who share a passion for aviation.

In addition to John R. Sandberg, we are proud to recognize the full Class of 2026 at the upcoming Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame Banquet. This year's distinguished inductees include Eugene "Gene" DePalma, Robert J. Pond, Cora May Fuller, Conrad "Butch" Maxwell, James A. Olsen, and Charles "Chuck" Doyle Jr..

Together, these individuals represent decades of dedication, innovation, and passion that have helped shape Minnesota's aviation legacy. Join us as we honor their achievements and celebrate their lasting impact on the aviation community.

[Final day to purchase tickets:](#) Friday, March 27th

Flight Aircraft Update...



We're only quarter of the way through the year, and our aircraft are already putting in impressive time in the air!

Last year, the Cessna 172 logged **231.4 hours**, while the Cessna 150 reached **144.8 hours** total.

So far this year, we've already flown **97.6 hours** in the Cessna 172 and **41.2 hours** in the Cessna 150 putting us on a strong pace to meet or even exceed last year's totals.

What does that mean? Demand for flight time is growing and quickly. To keep up, it's becoming increasingly important to complete and bring our unassembled Cessna 172 online.

The skies are busy, and our program is only gaining altitude

Aviation Related Local Events

- Flight Expo's John and Patricia Sandberg Scholarship window opens
Friday February 27th and closes April 3rd 2026.
- 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 through out the region. This year the T-6 Thunder Group will be conducting a flyover and be in attendance for the breakfast.

