



**PO Box 155, Zimmerman, MN 55398**  
**1101 19th Avenue South, Princeton, MN 55371**  
**[www.flightexpo.org](http://www.flightexpo.org); [flightexpoinc@aol.com](mailto:flightexpoinc@aol.com)**  
**763-568-3360**

**A**s we close out another successful spring season at Flight Expo, I want to take a moment to thank everyone who continues to make our mission possible. Whether you volunteered your time, shared your expertise, donated resources, supported a student, or attended one of our events, you played an important role in helping us promote aviation through education and preservation.

This spring marked another successful season for our Build A Plane program, where students gained hands-on experience learning aviation maintenance skills, aircraft systems, tool usage, and teamwork. To celebrate the completion of the season, every student received a 40-minute introductory flight lesson in either our Cessna 150 or Cessna 172. For many, it was their first opportunity to take the controls of an aircraft and experience firsthand the excitement and responsibility of flight.

We also celebrated the completion of another year of our NextGen Aviation Maintenance Program. Four students successfully completed the program this year, with three now eligible to move forward with their FAA testing requirements. Students enrolled through Princeton Public Schools earned six academic credits for successfully completing the course, providing a direct pathway toward aviation maintenance careers and post-secondary education opportunities.

As we look ahead to a busy summer filled with community events, aviation outreach, aircraft projects, and continued progress on our new hangar, we remain grateful for the support of our volunteers, community partners, schools, families, and supporters. Together, we are building opportunities for the next generation while preserving aviation history for years to come.

On behalf of our board of directors, volunteers, instructors, and students, thank you for believing in our mission and helping us make a difference throughout Central Minnesota and beyond. We look forward to sharing many more accomplishments with you in the months ahead.

Sharon Sandberg

President & Executive Director



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

# BUILD A PLANE

On May 2nd we had our last Build-A-Plane session until the fall. In this season we focused more on building practical skills rather than completing an airplane. This included welding, metalworking, and learning about engine components and how they work; in addition to more basic skills like using hand tools and power tools. All of which are very valuable skills to have and will be helpful throughout your whole life. We also did a lot of



work on Tsunami using some of the skills learned throughout this season of Build-A-Plane.



# Building Update

During the month of May we started construction on our new hangar, progress is going great and we are expecting to have it done by September. One of our board members Owen Nitz has generously agreed to be our general contractor pro bono, and all of our materials and subcontractors are through Pro Shield Exteriors.



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# New Pilots

During the month of May we had two students get their private pilots licenses. Congratulations to Kevin Thomas and Anthony Grant for this achievement. We would also like to thank their flight instructors Terra McGillivray and Jared West for helping them on this challenging journey. In addition to this, we had multiple students complete their solo cross-country flights.



# New 172 Update

Our second Cessna-172 received a new paint job with the addition of a blue and gold stripe along the sides of the fuselage. We are expecting to have it flying by the end of the year

