

P.O. Box 155 Zimmerman, MN 55398

"Rising Above for Education" "Making Dreams Become A Reality"

September/October 2024



2nd Annual Halloween at the Princeton Municipal Airport

Flight Expo's 2nd Annual Halloween event at the Princeton Municipal Airport was a spooktacular success! Families and children enjoyed a day filled with festive activities, including face painting, exploring airplanes up close, candy, delicious food, bouncy house, and pumpkin decorating. The excitement in the air was contagious as attendees dressed in creative costumes wandered around the Arrival & Departure (AD) Building. We want to extend a huge thank you to the amazing volunteers, sponsors, and families who made this event possible. We can't wait to see you again next year!





Making Dreams Become A Reality!

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Special points of interest

- Kruse Aviation, Inc.
- Flight Expo Merchandise
- 50/50 Raffle Tickets Available NOW!

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Chili Jet Cookoff Competition



Join us for a afternoon of fun and chili. We will have sampling for everyone, face painting, games, pedal planes, 50/50 raffle and door prize. All proceeds benefit Flight Expo's Aviation Education Programs.



Saturday, November 23, 2024 11:00 - 1:30 pm



Princeton Primary School 1206 7th Ave N, Princeton, MN 55371

Entry is \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids (6-18) and 5 and under free.

Entry includes samples of all competing chilies, voting ballot and a door prize ticket.

Interested in competing in the CHILI JET COOKOFF, please contact Sharon at 763-568-3360 or Flightexpoinc@aol.com. You can also sign up at: www.flightexpo.org



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763-568-3360



Registration **Entry Form**

Name of Chili:_			
Sponsored By:			
Team Captain:			
E	Email: Hm Phone #		
Team Mates:			
-			
Please e-mail form to: flightexpoinc@aol.com or mail to: Flight Expo; PO Box 155, Zimmerman, MN 55398 Any Questions please contact Sharon @ 763-568-3360			
Ticket Cost:			
# of Tickets	Each entry is allowed to have a maximum of 4 people per application	\$	
	@ \$10 Single Adult Tickets (18 & Older)	\$	
	@ \$5 Single Children Ages (4 - 17)	\$	
	*Ages 3 and under are Free		
	Tickets Available @ www.Flightexpo.org		
	TOTAL	\$	

Or you can purchase tickets at: Flight Expo, Inc.

Jet Chili Cookoff Competition

PO Box 155

Zimmerman, MN 55398

Register TODAY!

Flight Expo

Cessna 172 Donation

Curt Stolz generously donated a Cessna 172 to Flight Expo in support of local aviation education and training programs, a gift that will have a lasting impact on aspiring pilots. The donation of this versatile and reliable aircraft opens new opportunities, allowing students to gain hands-on experience in one of the most popular training aircraft in the world. Over 44,000 Cessna 172's have been built since 1956. Remarkably, the first one ever built is still in existence. Cessna 172 is known for being reliable, easy to fly, and safe. Powered by a single piston engine, the Cessna 172 has a high-wing design that provides excellent visibility and stability. The cost of a modern day Cessna 172 Skyhawk is around \$75,000-\$300,000. Its normal operating speed is 61-145 miles per hour, with a caution range of 145-182 miles per hour. The never exceeds speed is 182 miles per hour. We are thrilled to have the aircraft fuselage, prop, engine, and wings. Curt's commitment to fostering the next generation of aviators demonstrates his passion for aviation and his dedication to giving back to the community. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Curt for this incredible contribution!

The Story of the S2F Tracker (STOOF)



I am the S2F Tracker, though most of the crew that used to fly me called me the "Stoof." Built in the early 1950's, *I was designed to patrol the seas, hunting for submarines that posed a threat to the fleet.* My sleek wings, rugged built, and dual prop engines made me perfectly suited for long missions. I was no fighter jet, but I played a vital role, quietly protecting my fellow ships and sailors. My radar and sonar systems—cutting edge at the time— allowed me to seek out submarines lurking beneath the waves, making sure they stayed far from the carrier groups.

In the early days, I was stationed on a massive aircraft carrier, my wings folding neatly to fit among the other planes in the hangar. I could hear the roar of jets launching, but my job was more patient, more methodical. Once I was airborne, I would glide over the ocean, *scanning for any signs of a submarine below*. When I found one, my crew would load my bomb bay with depth charges, ready to neutralize the threat.



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Promoting Aviation through EDUCATION & PRESERVATION

The Story of the S2F Tracker (STOOF) cont.

I was there through decades of Cold War tension, my crew always on high alert. I flew from the Pacific to the Atlantic, and from warm tropical waters to the cold Artic seas. I was stationed on many aircraft carrier ships including the USS Valley Forge, USS Leyte, USS Randolph, USS Tarawa, USS Essex, USS Ranger, and the USS Enterprise.

I remember June 9, 1960, vividly. I was assigned to the USS Essex, a grand aircraft carrier that cut through the waters with purpose. We were part of three intense anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercises, including NATO's "Operation Swordfish" in the Norwegian Sea and Bay of Biscay. I soared over cold, choppy waters, scanning for unseen threats below the surface, my crew relying on me to keep them safe.



Fast forward to 1961, and over 70,000 people came to see me and the Essex in Hamburg, Germany. I stood on the deck, wings folded, a symbol of power and security during a time of rising tension. Just 178 miles away, the Berlin Wall was going up—an unsettling reminder that the world was changing rapidly. But even as the crisis in Berlin loomed, I remained steadfast, ready to defend the seas, a sentinel in the sky watching over the uncertain world below.

Over time, technology advanced, and *newer aircraft began to take on the duties I had once per- formed.* Yet I wasn't ready to retire just yet. Some of my sister aircraft became part of training fleets, teaching new generations of pilots about the Navy's history.

Now I sit outside, weathered and exposed to the elements, while on display at Princeton, MN in the Flight Expo collection. I no longer soar through the skies but stand proud, showing all that venture near the proud markings of an old Navy plane. My once-proud frame, built to withstand the harshness of the ocean and sky, is now vulnerable to time's wear. I have stories to tell, even though my engines are silent. I may no longer hunt submarines or patrol the seas, but my legacy lives on in the hearts of those who flew with me, the sailors I protected and the wide-eyed children that visit me today.



I need a shelter—a building to preserve what remains of my legacy. In this safe place, I can continue to tell my story of duty and service, a tribute to the men and women who flew me and the history I helped shape. Visit Flightexpo.org or mail a check to PO Box 155, Zimmerman MN 55398. Please consider a generous donation today.

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Flight Expo recently kicked off its first Choose Aerospace session,
welcoming **two enthusiastic students**eager to begin their **journey into the world of aviation maintenance.**

This marks an exciting milestone for both Flight Expo and the Choose Aerospace initiative, as these students will gain *hands-on experience* and foundational knowledge in various aspects of the industry.

Through a tailored curriculum and expert mentorship, the program is designed to ignite their passion for aviation and equip them with the *skills needed for future careers*.

Students use a **one-of-a-kind online curriculum** with hands-on learning experiences.

Participation in the program could reduce the length of college by 6 months, saving students and parents significant amounts on college tuition.

The first session represents a strong commitment by Flight Expo to *address the industry's workforce*needs while "Making Dreams Become a Reality" for the next generation of aviation professionals.

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Check out Flight Expo's Ebay site For a selection of aircraft parts

Flight Expo Merchandise available at flightexpo.org





Flight Expo 50/50 Raffle 2024

Drawing Live on Facebook
Saturday, November 23, 2024 @ 12:45 PM
Proceeds to be used for our Future Wings Programs

1st Prize: \$3000 (or 49%)

2nd Prize: \$1000 (or 17%)

3rd Prize: \$500 x 2 (or 8% each) 5th Prize: \$250 x 2 (or 4% each)

7th Prize: \$100 x 5 (or 2% each)

Maximum of 1200 Tickets will be Sold @ \$10 each. Winner does not need to be present. Prizes are 50% of total sales.

To purchase tickets, contact Flight Expo at flightexpoinc@aol.com or 763.568.3360

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