

1916 at the Mille Lacs County Fair



The real thrill of the 1916 Mille Lacs County Fair was the flight of the first airplane to arrive in Princeton, MN. There was no airport in Princeton, and the plane landed at the fairgrounds. It was described as follows:

"The people that did attend the fair were astonished by the two flights that were made. Immediately after the mechanic gave the large propeller a turn and started the powerful and noisy six-cylinder engine, all waited in suspense until the 10 men holding the machine let go.

The plane suddenly bounded forward and after running along the ground about 75 yards, ascended into the air. The plane soared to a height of 5,200 feet (just 80 feet short of a mile) as each spectator gave a gasp when the pilot guided the plane into a cloud, disappearing completely.

He did not remain hidden for very long, much to the relief of several spectators, as the moisture was beginning to affect the carburetor of the engine.

The pilot landed the plane to a large ovation from the crowd.

A second flight, of the same magnitude, brought yet another round of applause for the thrilling spectacle.

It was said that people in Long Siding could hear the plane as it whirled over the fairground. For many, the event was long remembered.

Your Airport..... Over a hundred (100+) years ago airports did not exist. Our road system as we know today were non-existence. So, what would happen if we took all of this infrastructure away? How would this effect you and your family? Can you vision accidents, traffic jams, ruts in the road. Not being able to travel to Florida in a few hours, not being able to reach destinations you only read about. How about training for both airways and the free ways for future users that supply commodities that we use on a daily basis.

Cities, Townships, States and the US Government invest billions of dollars to insure our road ways are hazard free, easy access and available to all. So, why is there so much confusion on the Airway system?

I have watched, listen and participated in public groups that go up against the well known misconception of the Airport. It does not matter if it a small

Making Dreams Become A Reality!

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Special points of interest

- Discovery Flights
- Kruse Aviation, In.

Airports



On January 1, 1935 the Bureau of Air Commerce listed 2,297 airports in the United States. These included municipal, commercial, intermediate, auxiliary, Army, Navy, and about 100 miscellaneous unclassified airports. Of the total, 664 were either fully or partially lighted for night flying.

There are approximately **14,400 private-use (closed to the public) and 5,000 public-use (open to the public)** airports, heliports, and seaplane bases. Approximately 3,300 of these public-use facilities are included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems .

Minnesota has 136 publicly owned and publicly funded airports and 15 Public Seaplane Bases located across the state. There are 9 Public Airports that have airline services. Additionally, there are **38 Private Airports**, 38 Private Seaplane Bases, and 91 Private Heliports (mostly associated with hospitals).

I googled the top 10 airports in MN and found the city of Princeton had a lot in common with all of these airports. Smaller communities, city owned airports, no control tower. One of the things I did notice is that the City did invest into the length of the runway, jet fuel and the promotion of the airport by coordinating with the other main attractions in the area.

Evan before (we) ... had reached 300 feet, I recognized that the sky would be my home. I tumbled out of the airplane with stars in my eyes. Geraldyn Cobb (1931-2019) 1st woman to be recommended as an astronaut, regarding her first flight at age 12.

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neighborhood airport or a large International Airport. The general public, the people who make laws in these communities, states and federal government seem to view airports as it benefits “Only The Rich” or a select few.

But is this really true? There are the large airports, medium size airports, small airports, private airports, grass strip airports, business airports, sea ports, heliports. Every one of these airports have a purpose in the larger scheme of things.

For instance; commercial flights usually land at larger, sophisticated airports. If a small Cessna 150 or 172 utilized the same airport for training it would be dangerous for both the commercial flight and the student pilot.



Many of the outlay or rural airports cater to smaller airports, but also may have emergency crews stationed at the

airport. Such as Princeton, MN we have North Memorial Medi Vac. Two very close people that I know would not be alive today without this service.

At the same airport here in Princeton we have the DNR come in every Spring with a helicopter and two to three Air Boss Air Tractor Aircraft that fight fires in a 100+ mile radius from our airport. Princeton is far enough out of the metro area, but close enough to respond to emergency.

These services fit perfectly at these airports.

Princeton Airport is rich in aviation. Starting with the photo (courtesy of the Princeton Depot) on the front of the cover of this newsletter of the first aircraft that landed next to the Mille Lacs County Fair Grounds.

To being one of the first communities to have a crop duster for the local potato farmer in 1919. Pictured below is a Curtis Jenny that is loading the hopper for spraying crops.



Flight Expo, Inc. started a program nine (9) years ago to reach youth and the community about the various facets of aviation. Today, we have served over 100+ youth in our program from learning techniques of how to weld, use a drill, drill press; what is corrosion "vs" rust etc.

With programs such as Flight Expo, Inc.'s Build A Plane program we are introducing youth, young adults and many others into the joys, wonders and opportunities of aviation. These youth are going onto careers with the airlines, maintenance technicians with aircraft manufactures and making a difference in our society.

Without the Princeton Airport our youth would not have these experiences.

Our students learn skills that they can take to any career in the world.

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Albert Lea Municipal Airport (AEL)

Location: Albert Lea, MN | South

[Airport Information](#)

This city-owned, public-use airport is located just three miles away from Albert Lea's business district. Although there is no control tower, AEL has four nicely kept asphalt runways serving a variety of aircraft from single-engines to jets to helicopters and more. After you land, stick around to see the many historic sites the city has to offer, from the Freeborn County Museum to the natural wilderness of Myre-Big Island State Park to the aquatic activities at the three nearby: Fountain Lake, Albert Lea Lake, and Pickerel Lake.

Alexandria Municipal Airport (AXN)

Location: Alexandria, MN | Northwest

[Airport Information](#)

Alexandria Municipal Airport, also known as Chandler Field, provides an up-scale airport experience, and is known for its friendly hospitality among general aviation enthusiasts. With two long asphalt runways, at 5,099 by 100 feet and 4,098 by 75 feet, AXN makes landing a breeze. In terms of things to do in Alexandria, you can grab a glass of wine at the local Carlos Creek Winery, marvel at the imposing Big Viking Statue or take a stroll through Alexandria City Park and Lakefront.

Brainerd Lakes Regional Airport (BRD)

Location: Brainerd, MN | Central

[Airport Information](#)

Although this airport serves international and regional airlines, they also provide general aviation services. On-site fixed-base operators (FBOs) offer a number of amenities, from de-icing, fuel, hangar rental, catering and car rentals, among other things. And, for those looking for the ultimate lake-side destination, Brainerd is one of the best. There are 460 lakes within a 25 mile radius of downtown – so you can land, rent a car from the FBO and be on one of the several lakes in no time!

Detroit Lakes Airport (DTL)

Location: Detroit Lakes, MN | Northwest

[Airport Information](#)

Although DTL is about to undergo some major construction to make their runways even better. The airport recently announced that they're extending their current runway from 4,500 feet to over 5,000 feet with dual taxiways down both runway ends. With a great location central to the Detroit Lakes area, pilots have access to aquatic activities, golf, hiking, skiing on Detroit Mountain and more.

Duluth Sky Harbor Airport & Seaplane Base (DYT)

Location: Duluth, MN | Northeast

[Airport Information](#)

Both traditional pilot license holders and those with a seaplane rating will enjoy flying in and out of Sky Harbor Airport & Seaplane Base. For those craving a stunning view, the approach here is set against the backdrop of beautiful Duluth, imposing Lake Superior, and pristine North Shore. DYT is also a certified inbound destination for U.S. Customs, meaning you can enter the country through a much less-hectic airport. Get more information about international flying by reading our post: [The Top International Destinations for Flyers without Limits](#).

Ely Municipal Airport (ELO)

Location: Ely, MN | North

[Airport Information](#)

As one of the most popular entry points to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA), Ely is a top destination for outdoor enthusiasts of all types. Plus, traffic is light at this airport thanks to an average of only 21 flights per day, making take-off and landing easy. There's a single 5,600-foot paved runway and taxiway as well as rentable hangars, aircraft tie-downs and a full pilot's lounge area.

Mankato Regional Airport (MKT)

Location: Mankato, MN | Southwest

[Airport Information](#)

Since 1970, MKT has served the popular Mankato/St. Peter area, well known for its expansive state parks, multitude of lakes and small-town charm. With its two runways at 6,600 feet and 4,000 feet long, the airport is capable of accommodating aircraft as big as a 757. However, if you're flying something smaller, you'll still enjoy the nice condition of the runways and facilities. Additionally, the airport recently received a \$12 million grant for improvements, which will make the entire experience that much better.

Red Wing Municipal Airport (RGK)

Location: Red Wing, MN | Central

[Airport Information](#)

Although technically in Wisconsin, RGK is located just six miles from downtown Red Wing, Minnesota. With one asphalt runway measuring 5,010 by 100 feet, plenty of full FBO aircraft services and courtesy cars available on a first-come/first-served basis, pilots can feel comfortable with their visit to this airport. If you're looking for a gorgeous landing, Red Wing is a great option thanks to its location along the scenic Mississippi River Valley.





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