

2025 Session III

October/November Build a Plane

The 2025 Session III (October–November) Build-A-Plane program gave students an unforgettable, hands-on introduction to real aircraft maintenance. Over these six weeks, our students worked side-by-side with experienced A&P mechanics and mentors, each sharing their expertise and passion for aviation.

This session focused heavily on learning how to take apart a full-scale aircraft the *right* way.

All of our instructors — **John, Duane, and Eric** — worked with students on proper rivet removal techniques. They practiced drilling out rivets without damaging the surrounding structure, a skill essential to any restoration or repair project. Students also removed numerous components from a Cessna 210, learning how to identify parts, use air drills correctly, and understand why each step matters.



From there, each instructor brought his specialty to the students:

•**Duane** provided one-on-one instruction in welding and taught students how to safely operate the sandblaster. His guidance helped them understand how damaged or

corroded components can be cleaned and restored.

•**Eric** worked with students on proper safety-wire techniques using our safety-wire tool, ensuring students learned one of the most fundamental skills of aircraft maintenance.

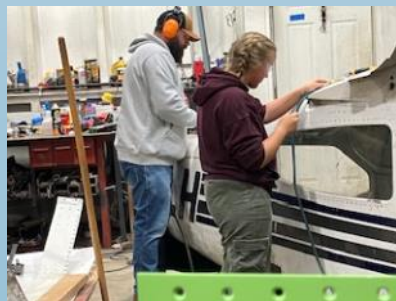


•**John** taught students how to remove old fabric from aircraft parts, sand and prep surfaces, and apply new fabric covering—giving them a rare opportunity to learn both restoration and finishing techniques.



Through this process, students also discovered the *why* behind all their efforts: by carefully drilling out rivets, removing parts properly, and cleaning components, many of these parts can be **salvaged and reused** to help bring another aircraft back to life. They learned firsthand that nothing in aviation goes to waste when handled with care and skill.

By the end of the session, students gained experience in disassembly, welding, sandblasting, safety wiring, fabric work, surface preparation, and component salvage—true A&P-level skills that many adults never get to try.



*Making
Dreams
Become
A Reality!*

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What Flight Expo Inc. Meant for Our Family

As powerful as the Build a Plane experience is to watch from the outside, nothing captures its true impact better than hearing directly from the families who've lived it.

This month, we're excited to share a story from one of our Build a Plane parents. It's a firsthand look at how the program helped their child grow in confidence, skill, and direction.

Their experience is a reminder of why hands-on learning matters, and why opportunities like this can shape a young person's future in ways that last far beyond the classroom.



Before our child joined Build a Plane, they were...

He'd always dreamed of flying, but none of us knew that right here in Princeton he'd discover just how much aviation was meant for him. The moment he took his first flight in a small plane, he was hooked. That curious kid has grown into a driven and focused young man.

One moment in the program that really stands out to us was...

His first solo flight is a moment we'll never forget. Seeing him take off on his own, with Pilot CFI John there supporting him, capturing the moment, and talking him through it on the radio, meant everything. John will always hold a special place in our hearts.

We saw their confidence grow when...

His confidence grew with every step of training. Build-A-Plane gave him invaluable hands-on knowledge that deepened his understanding of flight. And when he earned his PPL, his confidence soared as he proved to himself that he can do hard things.

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Build a Plane/Flying Club helped our child learn...

Flying has given JJ so much more than a license, it's shaped the young man he's becoming. Aviation has strengthened his discipline, confidence, and consistency, and it's taught him the importance of safety in every decision he makes. His situational awareness has grown enormously, both in the cockpit and in life. Earning his PPL at 17 didn't just prove his skill; it proved his determination and it's paved the way for the focused, hardworking commercial pilot he's training to become.

Now that they're in college, we still see the impact of the program in...

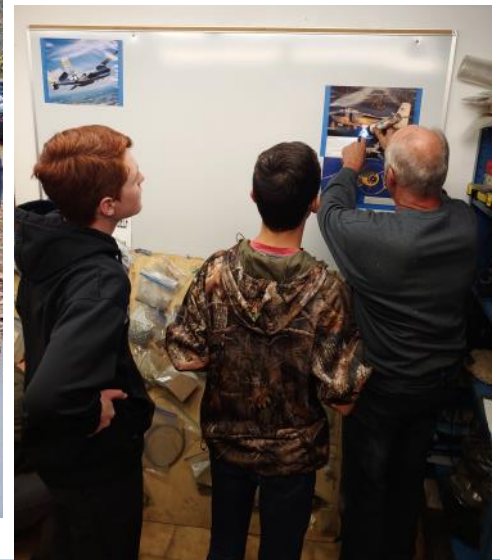
Now that he is in college, we still see the impact of the program in the way they approach challenges with focus, confidence, and real purpose. For JJ, that early start in Princeton launched a dream. He's on track to become a CFI very soon, and his drive to become a commercial pilot only grows stronger. The program set the foundation for who he is now.



For other families considering this program, we would say...



Allow your kids to join Flight Club and Build-A-Plane because these programs ignite curiosity and turn it into real-world skill. They offer hands-on experience, confidence-building challenges, and the chance to understand how an airplane works from the inside out. It's a unique space where kids learn discipline, responsibility, teamwork, and safety all while discovering the



Flight Expo is thrilled to announce that we raised \$4,470 on Give to the Max Day!



Thanks to your generosity, these funds will directly support two of our key youth aviation programs:

- **Build a Plane** – where students gain hands-on experience by restoring and building real aircraft. This program helps young people develop essential mechanical abilities, teamwork, and problem-solving skills that can't be learned from a textbook.
- **NextGen Aviation Mechanics** – an introductory program that exposes students to aircraft systems and maintenance, giving them an early start toward FAA certification and future careers in aviation.

Your support ensures that students continue to build confidence, technical knowledge, and real-world experience that will serve them for years to come. Thank you for helping the next generation of aviation professionals take flight!

NextGen Aviation Mechanic

Happy Holidays from the NextGen Aviation Mechanic Program!

Flight Expo has launched an exciting new program: the **NextGen Aviation Mechanic** initiative. We currently have four students enrolled through an Unpaid CTE Internship with their high schools, allowing them to earn academic credit while completing the course.

Using the Choose Aerospace curriculum, the program is designed to prepare students with the knowledge needed to pass the FAA General portion of the Airframe & Powerplant (A&P) certification. Completing this portion of the license before college can reduce their formal schooling by up to six months. Students complete online lessons, quizzes and tests each day, building a strong foundation in aviation maintenance concepts. About once a month, they come to the hanger for hands-on training.

In the month of October our students conducted Foreign Object Debris (FOD) checks, learned to tie bow-line knots for aircraft mooring, identified the different types of aviation fuel and their purposes, and learned emergency actions for aircraft fires during engine start up. Following our hands-on lab, each student walked out to the Princeton Municipal Ramp and was able to start Flight Expo's Cessna 150 while following the appropriate checklists and then safely shut down the aircraft.

In the month of November our students visited an aviation mechanic shop to learn about hand tools. Students were able to identify different types of tools and then were given a practical exercise: safety wiring bolts and turn buckles together. Following our hands-on lab students were given a demonstration on how to preflight an airplane, and given basic classes on aircraft instruments, aerodynamics and systems.



So far, our students have completed their on-line modules in Ground Servicing, Safety and Operations, Hand Tools, and are just about to finish Weight and Balance and begin Aviation Mathematics over holiday break. Please give our students a round of applause, as their progress has been outstanding.

We look forward to guiding them through the next steps of their aviation journey.

Terra McGilvery Instructor



TSUNAMI UPDATE

Tsunami on the Road Again

This year, **Tsunami** returned to the road for a special trip to Oshkosh, giving aviation enthusiasts a chance to see just how far she has come since many last saw her at the Reno 2023 Air Races.

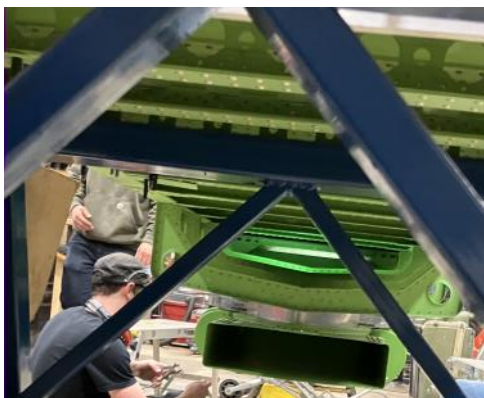
Since that time, significant progress has been made. Hundreds of additional rivets have been carefully installed on her empennage, each one a step closer to flight-ready strength and precision.

One of the most challenging milestones this year was the complete rebuild of Tsunami's iconic scoop. With no original plans to follow, John and the team relied on historical photos, hands-on experience, and engineering intuition to re-form and re-engineer the structure from scratch. This past Saturday marked an exciting moment as the team began fitting the newly rebuilt scoop—bringing Tsunami's unmistakable profile back to life.

None of this work happens without support. Every rivet set, every hour of skilled labor, and every milestone reached is made possible by donors who believe in preserving aviation history and using it to educate the next generation. Your generosity allows students, volunteers, and experienced mentors to work side-by-side—learning not just how an aircraft is rebuilt, but why this history matters.

Because of you, Tsunami is more than a restoration project. She is a living classroom, a tribute to innovation, and a powerful reminder that when a community invests in education and preservation, remarkable things take flight.

If Tsunami's journey inspires you, we invite you to be part of what comes next. Your continued support helps keep this historic aircraft moving forward—one rivet, one lesson, and one dream at a time. Together, we can ensure Tsunami's legacy continues to inspire students and aviation enthusiasts for generations to come.



Flight Expo Aircraft for Sale



P.O. Box 155
Zimmerman, MN 55398

RALLY RX7 Hot Air Balloon manufactured by RAVEN INDUSTRIES INC. with custom trailer.
Serial Number: RX7-352 N Number: N4246S Manufactured Year: 1984

The envelope has not been annual. This is as is where is pricing. Trailer was rebuilt in 2017.
For more details call Sharon at: 763-568-3360 or flightexpoinc@aol.com
Proceeds from the sale help Flight Expo's Aviation Programs

\$9500

FOR SALE



Piper PA-22-108 Piper Colt with the tail dragger STC Conversion project
Serial Number: 22-9054 N Number: N108CS

This aircraft has been part of Flight Expo's Build A Plane program—completely restored from the ground up. Engine will need to be gone through. Fabric work is the Stewart System. Aircraft is ready for paint and final assembly.

For more details call Sharon at: 763-568-3360 or flightexpoinc@aol.com
Proceeds from the sale help Flight Expo's Aviation Programs

\$24,500

Flight Expo's Discovery Flights



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This Christmas, give more than a gift—give a **once-in-a-lifetime experience** with a **Discovery Flight at Flight Expo!**

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How to Schedule a Discovery Flight with Flight Expo

Step 1: Purchase your Discovery Flight at www.flightexpo.org

Step 2: Schedule your flight with your assigned instructor

Step 3: On the day of your flight, double-check with your instructor to confirm weather and flight conditions. Rescheduling is common due to safety and weather factors.

Flight Expo

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helps inspire the next generation of aviators.



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