



SDPA News

Newsletter of the South Dakota Pilots Association (<https://sdpilots.com>)

Volume 30, Number 1

January-February 2023

President's Corner

Greetings Everyone,

I hope everyone is surviving the "deep freeze here in the Midwest". We have not had very many good days to fly with the extreme weather. But somehow I've managed to get out a few times. Winter is always an exciting and interesting time to fly. I am always extra cautious in winter as the weather systems can move fast and have hidden dangers. Freezing temperatures can also cause its own set of problems as well. But with proper precautions, winter flying is a lot of fun.

This column is my first for the SDPA newsletter as your President. I hope to bring excitement and enthusiasm to this position while I am at the head of this great organization. I feel privileged to be your leader. Over the next few months, I will be reaching out to the membership and asking for feedback about what they would like to see in this organization moving forward. My hope is that you all will provide that feedback. I am a very active pilot and would love to see this organization have more activities (flyouts, safety seminars, quarterly meetings, flash flyins..etc..). I always enjoy meeting new people around the Midwest and especially South Dakota. There are some amazing aviators in our area both young and old. It would be great to have activities that would bring these two groups together to share their knowledge and experiences. Who knows? It might make someone a safer pilot or maybe we meet someone new with whom we can just share our love of flying!

I want to inform people about our wonderful scholarship opportunities we have with the South Dakota Pilots Association. It is a great way for our aviation community to assist someone in joining our brotherhood. These scholarships are often overlooked. If you know of someone that would

benefit from one of these scholarships, please let them know or write a recommendation for them.

I also want to acknowledge this group's past leadership. I want to thank **Bobbie Potts** for all the years of service he has given to this organization. He was one of the founding members and has been a great guide all these years. **Mary Carol Potts** is also one of the founding members and has dedicated her time and talents to the treasury job for many years. This kind of dedication is a rarity in our fast paced world, and we all appreciate your service. They have assured me that they would be available in an advisory roll if needed.

A special thank you to all of you that have volunteered, donated money, and gave advice. I look forward to the future and all it has to offer.

Fly Safe!

SDPA President, *Dale G. Knuth*

"Promoting General Aviation in South Dakota - Serving all pilots, mechanics, and aviation enthusiasts"

SDPA

SDPA Meeting – February 11

February 11: Oacoma at Al's Oasis.
11:00AM: presentation by Bryan Brost of Canastota, SD, a retired Southwest Airlines Captain.
Noon: order off menu.
1:00PM SDPA meeting with cookies.
Contact Steve Hamilton at 605-665-8448 or skyhawk43v@gmail.com

SDPA

New*, Rejoined, & Renewed Members

Kelsey Beving, Garden City
Carey Buhler, Mitchell
John Carruth, Danvers, MN
James Christophersen, Brookings*
Tim Clarke, Howard

Marcus Edgington, Sioux Falls
Richard Grorud, Milbank **LIFE**
Arnie Hauge, Sioux Falls
Bryan Hauschild, Artesia, NM
Terry Hinn, Hot Springs **LIFE**
Hot Springs Airport
Jams Huls, Madison
Roger Huntley, Yankton
Roger Hutchison, Sioux Falls
Austen Iverson, Mitchell*
Richard Johnson, Sturgis (3 years)
Jet Jones, Midland
Phoebe Kellar, Rapid City
Greg Klein, Watertown
Patrick Konechne, Chamberlain*
Josh Kraayenbrink, Sheldon, IA
Dan Lutgen, White
Ryder Lutgen, White*
David Nauman, Pierre
Wayne Resman, Brookings*
Jim Schick, Miller
Brad Schmidt, Brookings
Mark Schmidt, Lennox
Harold Schramm, Utica
John Seten, Sioux Falls
Wes Wilkens, Watertown

**** Members who have paid for multiple years: 2023 and beyond:**

Jack Butler, Bennington, OK (2024)
Huron Airport (2024)
Mike Ginther, Lemmon (2025)
John Glasford, Rapid City (2024)
Allan "Tex" Goerger, Barney, ND (2027)
Dave Holman, Philip (2025)
Weylin Huber, Aberdeen (2024)
Mark Hunhoff, Volin (2024)
Don Irish, Springfield (2026)
Darrel Jensen, Redfield (2024)
Wayne Jensen, Rapid City (2024)
James Jepson, Flandreau (2027)
Richard Johnson, Sturgis 2026)
David Larson, Alcester (2024)
Julius Larson, Yankton (2024)
Dennis Martens, Vermillion (2024)
Jerry Miller, Garrison, ND (2026)
Gary Myers, Onida (2025)
Dwight Pladsen, Rapid City (2027)
Kathleen Schlacter, Gettysburg (2024)
Scott Schramm, Sioux Falls (2024)
Albert Trumble, Pierre (2024)



LIFE MEMBERS:

Greg Alvine, Sioux Falls LIFE
Jacob Anderson, Hartford LIFE
Dan Appel, Redfield LIFE
Jacob Appel, Redfield LIFE
Joshua Appel, Redfield LIFE
Blair Arne, Carpenter LIFE
Sioux Falls Ballooning Assoc LIFE
ATY Aviation, Inc, Watertown LIFE
Wade Bail, Buffalo LIFE
John Bailey, Sioux Falls LIFE
John Baumiller, Chancellor LIFE
Michael Beason, Rapid City LIFE
Rick Belsaas, Rapid City LIFE
Barry Bibler, Spearfish LIFE
Don Bice, Winner LIFE
George Bittner, Mitchell LIFE
Bob Booth, Ridgeview LIFE
Patrick Bootz, Lemmon LIFE
John Bormes, Aberdeen LIFE
Westin Brown, Arlington LIFE
Robert Burke, Pierre LIFE
Lonnie Burnham, Rapid City LIFE
Blake Burwell, Renner LIFE
Joel Calhoun, Whitney, NE LIFE
Scott Campbell, Watertown LIFE
Thomas Chaplin, Sioux Falls LIFE
Cody Christensen, Brookings LIFE
Ryan Cordell, Camp Crook LIFE
Jay Crossland, Rapid City LIFE
Dakota Flight Center, Mitchell LIFE
Rick Daugherty, Yankton LIFE
Kelly DeBerg, Sioux Falls LIFE
James Deranleau, Newell LIFE
Gary Dettman, Spearfish LIFE
Shannon Doe, Henderson, NV LIFE
Jeff Doom, Wagner LIFE
Scott Dorwart, Kimball LIFE
Linda Ehrenfelt, Pierre LIFE
Mark Eitreim, Lennox LIFE
Jason Erickson, Brandon LIFE
Elliott Filler, Volga LIFE
Rick Foss, Lemmon LIFE
Clyde Fredrickson, Britton LIFE
Dave Gilbert, Madison LIFE
Craig Goodrich, Rapid City LIFE
Richard Gorud, Milbank LIFE
James Gulson, Sioux Falls LIFE
Matthew Guthmiller, Aberdeen LIFE
Steve Hamilton, Yankton LIFE
Ty Hanson, Aberdeen LIFE

Dave Hentges, Canby, MN LIFE
Richard Hermann, St. Onge LIFE
Darrell Hillestad, Aberdeen LIFE
Frank Hines, Huron LIFE
Terry Hinn, Hot Springs LIFE
Jacob Hoffner, Yankton LIFE
Paul Houck, Gettysburg LIFE
Tessa Howard, Winner LIFE
Kristi Ivey, Livingston, MT LIFE
Ray Jilek, Spearfish LIFE
Kurt Johnson, Sioux Falls LIFE
Rolf Johnson, Mina LIFE
Tom Johnson, Spearfish LIFE
Todd Kinser, Custer LIFE
Dean Kirkeby, Clark LIFE
Michael Klarenbeek, Harrisburg LIFE
Dean Knie, Aberdeen LIFE
Jon Kolba, Crooks LIFE
Dennis Knuckles, Custer LIFE
Dale Knuth, Hartford LIFE
Jake Kraft, Timber Lake LIFE
Christopher Lang, Rapid City LIFE
Bryant Larson, Brandon LIFE
James Lindquist, Hettinger, ND LIFE
Dave Luers, Pierre LIFE
Trent Lutter, Hoven LIFE
Allan Martens, Hartford LIFE
Donald McDaniel, Lantry LIFE
Kim McLaury, Elk Piont LIFE
Ryan Maher, Isabel LIFE
Dean Mehlhaff, Mina LIFE
Ronald Mielke, Sioux Falls LIFE
Charles Moe, Sr., Rosebud LIFE
Marc Molskness, Wentworth LIFE
Keith Morford, Valley Springs LIFE
Mark Mount, Platte LIFE
Jeff Muhlenkort, Beresford LIFE
John Murphy, Rapid City LIFE
Dennis Nash, Prairie City LIFE
John O'Connell, Custer LIFE
Eric Odenbach, Eureka LIFE
William Osman, Sioux Falls LIFE
Dale Patterson, Wall LIFE
Jim Peitz, Pierre LIFE
Ron Peterson, Mitchell LIFE
Bobbie Potts, Gettysburg LIFE
Mary Carol Potts, Gettysburg LIFE
Scott Ramsdell, Flandreau LIFE
Lynn Reimer, Sioux Falls LIFE
Dave Richardson, Brandon LIFE
Gerald Rieber, Watertown LIFE
Lynn Riedesel, Brookings LIFE

Brian Rippe, Yankton LIFE
Brian Robbennolt, Gettysburg LIFE
Jerrod Rolston, Wagner LIFE
Chris Rounds, Pierre LIFE
Donald Schaffer, Buena Park, CA
LIFE
Verlyn Scheibe, Custer LIFE
Todd Schindler, Chamberlain LIFE
Todd Shannon, Mitchell LIFE
Lyn Smeenk, Belle Fourche LIFE
Harvey Spieker, Clark LIFE
James Spies, Watertown LIFE
Murray Thompson, Pierre LIFE
John Umiker, Rapid City LIFE
Mark Van Den Hoek, Mitchell LIFE
Brian VanLiere, Brookings LIFE
Jeff Veire, Sioux Falls LIFE
Willem Visser, Harold LIFE
City of Wall LIFE
Larry Weelborg, Custer LIFE
Aaron Weeldreyer, Bridgewater LIFE
Westjet Air Center, Rapid City LIFE
Jack Winter, Custer LIFE
Brad Woerner, Yankton LIFE
Wade Wulf, Wright, WY LIFE
Mark Yonke, Yankton LIFE
Randy Yost, Hayes LIFE
Daniel Zandstra, Rapid City LIFE

We have 392 members including 129 LifeTime members. Sorry to report that we had to drop 1 unpaid members from this mailing of the **January-February** newsletter who had been sent three membership dues reminders. The more members, the stronger voice we carry on aviation issues in South Dakota, the Midwest, and the Nation.

Send \$20 to SDPA, 307 West Blaine Avenue, Gettysburg, SD 57442-1145, along with mailing address and contact information.

South Dakota Pilots Association is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. SDPA is a nonprofit charity; our federal tax identification number is 80-0615983. SDPA

Member & Guest Comments

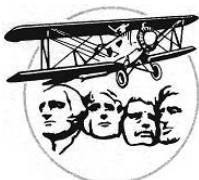
James Christophersen (Brookings) wrote on his membership application, "I would like to be on your mailing list for SDPA Newsletter. Looking forward to the [news] letter."

NJ Correnti (Founder/CEO, NICHOLAS AIR) emailed Bobbie Potts on December 12, "Governor Noem's office provided me with your contact information. We have a pilot (Jess Bauer) that works for us and I would like to help get him inducted into the SD Pilot Hall of fame. He is a very accomplished aviator and just received the Wright Brother

Master Pilot Award. Less than 1% of the nation's pilots receive this award. Below is a video link we did when he received his award. Please let me know if you have any questions. Jess lives in SD. Thanks, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZPZn3LB1ug> “

[REPLY by Steve Hamilton on December 15: NJ, Thank you for your interest in nominating Jess Bauer for the SD Aviation Hall of Fame (SDAHF). The 4-minute video about Jess Bauer was excellent. Jess Bauer earned the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award in September 2021, and his bio and photo are on the South Dakota Pilots Association website on the Masters page (<https://sdpilots.com/masters.php>).

Unfortunately, the SDAHF is currently in limbo because its president, Ted Miller of Spearfish, passed away on September 11, 2022. No one has stepped forward to lead the organization, and no organization has offered to take over the SDAHF. I can let you know in the future if the SDAHF is again actively seeking nominations. I write a 16-18 page newsletter for the SDPA and will alert our members when the SDAHF is active again.



South Dakota
AVIATION HALL OF FAME

John Halsted (Yankton) emailed on November 7, “Steve, Can [my son] Jack apply for the Becker-Hansen Scholarship? Has the 2022 application window passed? If it has passed, he would like to apply for the 2023 scholarship. Thank you.” [REPLY by Steve Hamilton on November 8: Hi John, The 2022 scholarship award has been given out (\$2,500). The open period for applications next year is July 1st with the closing date of August 15. Jack would need to be nominated by a member of the SDPA.]

Darrell Hillestad (Aberdeen) called Steve Hamilton on November 28 to say that a well-known aviator had passed away and thought the SDPA membership should be aware of it. **James Frederick Forrette**, age 92, Sisseton, SD, passed away on November 26. Jim was born at home, on February 24, 1930 in Adrian, MN. He earned his Ag Flight Training Certification from South Dakota State University. Jim was a carpenter and aerial sprayer. He sprayed for 34 years in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and the Sisseton area.

Terry Hinn (Hot Springs) emailed on December 28, “Hi Steve, Yes Steve, I got the [test] email and have been a regular member since I moved to Hot Springs from western Nebraska, decided I might as well become a lifetime member. I'd be interested in being on any boards if ya need the help. Happy New Year.”

Roger Hutchison (Sioux Falls) wrote on his membership renewal, “Thank you so much Steve and Mary for all your efforts and dedication in the preparation and printing of our South Dakota Pilots Association newsletter.”

Greg Klein (Watertown) wrote on his membership renewal, “Thank you to all the SDPA officers for the great work that you do. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated.”

Josh Kraayenbrink (Sheldon, Iowa) wrote on his membership renewal, “Keep up the good work!”

Dan O'Day (ND) messaged the SDPA Facebook page on November 3, “I would like to request a FLY South Dakota

Airports! passport. Can I get a passport book for my dad?” [REPLY by Steve Hamilton on November 5: Please email me your mailing address at skyhawk43v@gmail.com. Is your dad a pilot?]

Brad Schmidt (Brookings) wrote on his membership renewal, “Still working on my Fly SD airport passport! I have been to 52 so far and hope to complete the list in 2023. I have been flight training with the SDSU program, finished an instrument rating in Sept. and just about complete with my commercial rating.”

REPLY to all: Thank you for the comments – we'll try to do our best to keep the SDPA membership informed of aviation news at the state, regional, and national levels. SDPA

Thank You for Donations

We appreciate our members continuing to send in donations for various scholarships with their membership dues or separately. Scholarships are just one way the SDPA promotes General Aviation in South Dakota. For those donations marked “all,” we will spread the donation across all the scholarships.



Tim Clarke (Howard) donated \$30 to the Becker-Hansen Memorial Scholarship. This donation was Tim's 8th contribution. *Thank you Tim!*

James Huls (Madison) donated \$10 to the SDPA Scholarship Funds. This donation was James' 5th contribution. *Thank you Jim!*

Roger Hutchison (Sioux Falls) donated \$50 to the SDPA Aviation Maintenance Technology Scholarship at LATC, Watertown. This donation was Roger's 13th contribution. *Thank you Roger!*

Greg Klein (Watertown) donated \$20 to the SDPA Aviation Maintenance Technology Scholarship at LATC, Watertown. This donation was Greg's 9th contribution. *Thank you Greg!*

Patrick Konechne (Chamberlain) donated \$20 to the SDPA Scholarship Funds. This donation was Patrick's 1st contribution. *Thank you Patrick!*

Allan Martens (Hartford, LIFE) donated \$100 to the Becker-Hansen Memorial Scholarship. This donation was Allan's 2nd contribution. *Thank you Allan!*

Dwight Pladsen (Rapid City) donated \$40 to the SDPA Scholarship Funds. This donation was Dwight's 6th contribution. *Thank you Dwight!*

Jim Schick (Miller) donated \$20 to the SDPA Scholarship Funds. This donation was Jim's 10th contribution. *Thank you Jim!*

The SDPA provides ACE Camp scholarships (\$1,500), Becker-Hansen Memorial Scholarship (\$2,500), SDPA Aviation Maintenance Technology Scholarship at LATC (\$2,500), and sponsors prizes for the SD Aviation Art Contest (\$600) – total of \$7,100 in scholarships / prizes each year. For those members donating a total of \$200 or more, the SDPA sends a framed Certificate of Appreciation, and for over \$400 the SDPA sends an SDPA paperweight. SDPA

The SDPA continues to actively track aviation issues at the state, regional, and national levels and promotes General Aviation. Here is a summary of the various activities.

Dec 21: SDPA sent a news story about Gene Ebnetter of Yankton and Harold Schramm of Utica receiving the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award from the FAA to the Yankton Press & Dakotan newspaper, and about James Christophersen and Harrison Thompson, both of Brookings, receiving the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award from the FAA to the Brookings Register.

Dec 21: SDPA listened to a recording of the 41-minute conference call for the SD Aeronautics Commission meeting to write a newsletter story.

Dec 29: SDPA sent a news story about Gerald Kasuske of Brookings receiving the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award and the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award from the FAA to the Brookings Register newspaper, and about John Bucher of Castlewood receiving the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award from the FAA to the Watertown Public Opinion newspaper. *SDPA*

SDPA Meeting – November 12

(based on the meeting minutes provided by Secretary Dale Knuth)

On November 12 **Scott Foth** gave a presentation on his Robinson R44 helicopter at 11:00AM at his helicopter hangar near Onida, SD. Scott discussed his training and flying of his R44. He showed several videos with different training scenarios for the R44. A lot of detail was presented on how to fly an R44, and some of the hazards in different situations. His helicopter was present for guests to view. Unfortunately, Chuck Trumble was not able to participate in the presentation due to a family conflict.

After lunch, a SDPA meeting was held at Scott Foth's helicopter hangar near Onida.

Present at the meeting were **Bobbie & Mary Carol Potts** (Gettysburg), **Scott Foth** (Onida), **Ron Hauck** (Pierre), **Dwayne LaFave** (De Smet), **Jerry Konechne** (Kimball), **Roger Lee** (De Smet), **Joe Warner** (Onida), **Marsha Sumpter** (Kadoka), **Lee Vaughan** (Philip), **George Bittner** (Mitchell), **Charlie Moe** (Rosebud), **Kelly DeBerg** (Sioux Falls), **Dale Knuth** (Hartford), **Neil Spieker** (Clark), **Harvey Spieker** (Clark), and by conference call **Sunny Stephens** (Rapid City), **Jerry Densmore** (Rapid City), **Steve Hamilton** (Yankton), and **Ryan Limesand** (Sioux Falls).

President Bobby Potts called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM with a quorum present. Minutes from the previous meeting at Custer County Airport on September 10 was read by Secretary Dale Knuth. Motion to approve the meeting minutes by Dwayne LaFave, seconded by Roger Lee, motion passed.

Treasurer's report was present by Mary Carol Potts – one correction was made by Mary Carol on the line item for caps. The written report stated Caps ----- \$25.00, which was corrected to \$12.00. Motion by George Bittner to approve the amended report, seconded by Dwayne LaFave.

President Report: Bobbie Potts wanted to say a special

thanks to Dwayne LaFave and Scott Foth for providing the facility and for hosting the meeting.

District 1 – No report presented.

District 2 Report by Harvey Spieker: Aberdeen Airport– check for snow removal before traveling to airport. Watertown Airport has a new terminal that is open for operations. Normal operations in all other airports in district.

District 3 Report by Dwayne LaFave: DeSmet Airport has a city-owned hangar with 5 planes occupying space. Brookings Airport has a lot of training with the SDSU Aviation program, and Madison is very busy with Riggins Aviation Services training a lot of students as well. If you are in the area of Brookings or Madison make sure and listen/watch for traffic these airports are very busy.

District 4 Report by George Bittner: Small airports in this district and other districts are not maintained very well. George had stopped at a small airport in his district and went into the building and found magazines dated 2013 and 2015. George stated that a lot of these airports are managed by the municipalities and that the person responsible for the airport may or may not have aviation experience. He wondered if maybe a Boy Scout Group or Church Group would be willing to maintain the facilities. If nothing else to get a little more current reading material present.

District 5 Report by Marsha Sumpter: There has been pavement maintenance at some of the airports. Philip Airport hangars are full, and there is a waiting list.

District 6 Report by Sunny Stephens: Not a lot new is going on at the airports in her district. A small plane (ultralight) had gone down in the Badlands. Search and Rescue had to be call for this event.

District 7 Report by Jerry Densmore: Jerry reported that as winter approaches not a lot of activity is going on. The fly-in at Cordell Ranch (SD33, Sky Ranch for Boys) was a success again this year. Jerry talked about holding a safety seminar in his district coming up this winter -- dates/times to be determined.

Motion by Dwayne LaFave to approve all the reports, seconded by George Bittner, motion passed.

Old Business:

Dale presented the slate of candidates for election of officers:

President: Dale Knuth
 Vice President: Dwayne LaFave
 Secretary: Ryan Limesand
 Treasurer: Kelly DeBerg
 District 1: Bob Burke
 District 3: Roger Lee
 District 5: Marsha Sumpter
 District 7: Jerry Densmore

Bobbie asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. Seeing none, he asked for a motion to elect the slate of candidates to their offices. Motion by George Bittner to elect the slate of candidates, seconded by Marsha Sumpter, motion passed.

New Business:

Bobbie talked about an Honorary Life Membership be awarded to Donald Schaffer of Buena Park, CA in

recognition of his substantial contributions to the SDPA scholarship funds. He has made eight donations starting in 2015 that now total \$4,400. Motion by Dale Knuth to grant an Honorary LifeTime Membership to Donald Schaffer, seconded by Dwayne LaFave, motion passed.

Dale Knuth talked about more work to be done to improve the phone-in option. Call-in guests had a difficult time hearing this meeting.

Dwayne LaFave talked about future SDPA meetings, and asked that a “check list” or procedure be developed to assist with setting up and hosting meetings. It was mentioned that Steve Hamilton has been following up on making sure everything has been ready at past meetings. It was agreed by consensus that we develop a “check list” for assistance in getting ready to host future meetings. District directors are to be the first contact for meeting in their district. They can delegate duties to others as they see fit. Dale Knuth and Steve Hamilton will develop a “check list” for district officers to use in assisting a successful meeting. Other SDPA officers/Directors will get involved if required for a successful meeting.

Future meetings:

- Feb 11, 2023: central SD – Al’s Oasis at Oacoma (Dale Knuth to find a speaker)
- Apr 8, 2023: eastern SD – Revv Aviation (new FBO) at Huron (HON) – being organized by Jack Winter
- Jun 10, 2023: western SD – Bison (Jerry Densmore)
- Sep 9, 2023: eastern SD - ??
- Nov 11, 2023: central SD - ??

Outgoing President Bobbie Potts wanted to thank everyone in the SDPA for all the years of success. As he was one of the founding members and would have never guessed it would have continued on with this number of members for so many years.

THANK YOU BOBBIE & MARY CAROL for your many years of service to SDPA!

The meeting adjourned at 2:57PM. SDPA

New Secretary: Ryan Limesand (Sioux Falls)

Ryan grew up near the airport in Luverne, MN, and was interested in aviation at an early age. He did not pursue it until his wife bought him a Discovery Flight after they were married. He began flight training in the fall of 2000, but pushed the pause button because raising a family took priority. Even though he was not a pilot yet, Ryan joined the local EAA Chapter 289 and attended as many of the aviation events as he could, including AirVenture multiple times. Ryan obtained his private pilot certificate in 2019 and bought a 1946 Ercoupe, which he enjoyed flying and giving Young Eagle rides. He has since sold the Ercoupe, obtained his instrument rating in 2022, and joined the Mockingbird Flying Club in Sioux Falls. Ryan joined the SDPA in July 2018.

New District 3 Director: Roger Lee (De Smet)

Roger took his first introductory ride in a Cherokee PA-28-140 in 1973 at the Huron Airport and has been a flying enthusiast ever since. Carl Fischer from Watertown was whom Roger finished his instruction. His private pilot certificate was signed off by Bernard Christenson in 1978. In 1991 Dave Gilbert from Madison taught Roger how to fly a taildragger. It was a Aeronca 7-AC. Roger graduated to a American Champion Scout in 1992. He owned American Aerial Advertising for a while and towed banners all over the state back in the 1990s. Roger now owns a Bellanca Citabria. He keeps the plane on the farm where he and his wife Mary have a grass strip (SD83; 3.400' x 60') located about 10 NM south-southwest of DeSmet. His son Robert is taking lessons from Riggins flight school in Madison and has soloed. Roger looks forward to being District 3 Director. Roger Lee joined SDPA in October 1993 through 1996 and rejoined in April 2021.

 Photos, contact information, and bios of all the officers are on our website at <https://sdpilots.com> SDPA

New SDPA Officers

Please welcome three new SDPA officers who start their positions in January 2023.

New Treasurer: Kelly DeBerg (Sioux Falls)

Kelly is in aviation for both a professional career and for personal enjoyment. His pilot certifications are Private Pilot ASEL, and Commercial Pilot Rotorcraft-Helicopter with Instrument Rating, and Helicopter CFI. Kelly currently serves as the Flight Safety and Communications Manager at Avera Careflight. Prior to this role, he was a line helicopter pilot for Careflight, and other air medical programs before that. Kelly has also served as an aerial application helicopter pilot, flown helicopter tours and flight instruction. Aviation is his second career. He previously served as a police officer in Fargo, ND. Kelly has one son, Benjamin, who is a sophomore in high school who hopes to be an aerospace engineer. Kelly has been a LifeTime Member of SDPA since September 2022.



District 4 Report by George Bittner

The “\$100 Hamburger” is a term most of you are familiar with, and I learned about not long into my flight instruction. I figured out it meant by the time you fuel your aircraft, fly to an airport restaurant, purchase a hamburger and return, you could have a \$100.00 invested. There are



numerous websites available like **Fly2lunch** and **Best Fly-In Restaurants** suggesting good fly-in eateries nationwide.

Recently, **Umami Café and Catering** opened at **Signature Flight Support** on the **Sioux Falls Regional Airport**. They are open 8:00AM until 2:00PM, Monday thru Friday. The full menu is online. Yes, there is a landing fee or minimum fuel, but about a 10-15 gallon fuel purchase will get you in. They have a full breakfast and lunch menu, which includes a hamburger sandwich, prepared on site with options of sautéed mushrooms, avocado, fried egg or bacon as add-ons.

Maverick Air on the other side of the airport has a large selection of packaged meals you can warm up with their microwave and are open every day. There is not a landing fee and it's my experience, being just a little airplane guy, you are welcome without buying fuel, but it's appreciated if you want to add a few gallons.

I think if you are not flying from too far, you can get the burger and back for less than a hundred bucks with maybe enough for a piece of pie. It appears to me; we do not have a lot of on airport restaurants in South Dakota, but let me know of any others that I might not be familiar with. Also, there are a lot of cool eateries and other attractions near the other 70 some SD airports. Most of the Vermillion and Mitchell-type airports generally try to provide courtesy cars (might be the old city police car), for your convenience. It may not be a requirement, but it is a nice touch to put some gas in the car, the airplane or both.

Sorry, I do not have much to report on airports. They are mostly cold with snow and not much construction. I hope you all have a Happy Holiday season and happy and safe flying in 2023.

SDPA

SD Aviation Art Contest

The SD Aviation Art Contest is sponsored by the South Dakota Office of Air, Rail & Transit and the South Dakota Pilots Association each year. The contest theme for 2023 is "**Air Sports & The Environment**." Entries will be accepted through **January 10, 2023**.

The contest offers children ages 6-17 who live or attend school in South Dakota the chance to explore different aspects of aviation. Winners from the South Dakota competition progress to the national competition, hosted by the National Association of State Aviation Officials. Winners of the national competition are submitted to the international competition.



Theme: "Air Sports & The Environment" -- The sense of liberty that pilots and skydivers feel when flying through the skies often comes hand-in-hand with a deep appreciation of the blue and green planet below. The beauty and fragility of our earth is simply more evident when viewed from above.

Aviation has always been at the forefront of technology and over the generations, those involved in aeronautics have felt an ever-increasing pressure to protect our planet. Aviators, now and in the future, have a responsibility to push forward the limits of human innovation and imagination to harness cleaner energy and minimize the impact of air sports on the earth and its atmosphere.

By letting your imagination fly, we want you, as a young artist, to explore the ways that air sports can interact harmoniously with our environment. Ask yourself, how can air sports help inspire others to protect our earth? Can you envisage how innovation and technology can use greener fuels to power aircraft? Can the natural wonders of the earth inspire the aviation of the future? How could aviation be involved in reducing, reusing and recycling?

Artists often take the lead in imagining a brighter future. It's time to take your favorite art materials and try to conjure up a vision of how air sports of the future can help to keep our planet safe for the generations to come.

Contest Information

This Year's Deadline: Entries must be postmarked by **January 10, 2023**, and must be sent to the SD Office of Air, Rail & Transit, 700 East Broadway Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501-2586.

This Year's Theme: This year's theme is "**Air Sports & The Environment**." Artwork is judged, at least in part, for its creative use of this year's theme in relation to the aviation world.

Eligibility: All children in the age groups shown below are encouraged to participate in the contest, even if they are related to officials or employees of the FAI or any of its member organizations including the SD Office of Air, Rail & Transit. Participation in the SD Aviation Art Contest is limited to residents of South Dakota.

Age Groups: Entries will be judged in three classes:

Group I – Junior Category: Born between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2016.

Group II – Intermediate Category: Born between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2012.

Group III – Senior Category: Born between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2008.

Details about State Awards, National Awards, International Awards, Artwork Dimensions, Medium, Markings, and Reproduction Rights can be found in the contest brochure.

Copies of the Aviation Art Contest brochure and cover letter from the SD Office of Air, Rail & Transit were mailed on October 19, 2022, to 1,086 schools throughout SD. For more information and a copy of the official brochure containing the Certificate of Authenticity, contact **Nancy Hiller** at the SD Office of Air, Rail & Transit, Pierre, SD (605-773-4430 or Nancy.Hiller@state.sd.us).

SDPA

FLY SD Airports Passport Program

Congratulations to **Greg Malkowsky** of Oshkosh, WI, on earning the Gold Level Award in the FLY South Dakota Airports! Passport program. Greg submitted his passport on November 12. Greg flew SD airports in his Cherokee 140. He earned the Bronze and Silver Level Awards in September 2021.

Greg made a trip to SD on May 14-16 to participate in the FLY SD Airports Passport program and landed at Aberdeen, Bowdle, Britton, Clark, Eagle Butte, Eureka, Faulkton, Gettysburg, Harrold, Herreid, Highmore, Hoven, Huron, Isabel, Milbank, Miller, Mobridge, Onida, Pierre, Redfield, Timber Lake, Watertown, Webster, and Groton. He had previously landed at 43 other SD airports.



Greg visited three museum / aviation displays previously and added the SD National Guard Museum (Pierre) as his fourth museum.

Greg previously completed four safety seminars / courses.

The SDPA mailed Michael a letter of congratulations and "74 Airports" chevrons [based on the number of SD airports at the start of the Passport program on June 1, 2010]. The SDPA mailed Greg a check for \$100 as his prize for earning the Gold Award. *Congratulations Greg !!* SDPA

Master Mechanic & Pilot Awards

The FAA presented two Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Awards and five Wright Brothers Master Pilot Awards to six individuals on December 1 in Watertown. The awards were presented as part of the 12th Annual Corporate Aviation Day Event at the new Watertown Regional Airport terminal. **Wayne Jensen**, manager of the Rapid City Flight Standards District Office, and **Steve Hoogerhyde**, Aviation Safety Inspector – Operations and FAA Safety Team (FAASTeam) Program Manager, presented the awards and read the following bio for each of the awardees.

John E. Bucher (Castlewood)

Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award (December 2022)

It was back in June of 1966 when John Edward Bucher joined the U.S. Navy Reserve. During his time with the U.S. Navy, Mr. Bucher became involved with aircraft line maintenance for the A4B Skyhawk. Then in 1967 he went on active-duty for basic aircraft maintenance training school and jet engine basic training. He was assigned to the USS Kearsarge, a large Essex-class aircraft carrier. While on duty, John worked out of the jet-engine shop known as the aircraft intermediate maintenance department. There he did inspections, and engine build-up on the GE T-58-8B jet engine, which was used on the SH-3A helicopters.



In 1968, John was sent to Imperial Beach, California, to attend GE T-58-8B test cell operation school. After training, he worked as part of the engine test-cell crew, installing engines, running the engines, and setting up engine performance parameters. John received an honorable

discharge from the U.S. Navy in 1969.

John developed a strong commitment of integrity for aircraft maintenance, aircraft maintenance management, and flight operations management, while adhering to aircraft maintenance safety guidelines.

Mr. Bucher is also a proud graduate from the Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where in 1972 he received his diploma in Aviation Maintenance. His training prepared him for becoming the holder of an FAA aircraft & powerplant airman certificate.

In January 1973, John was employed with Honeywell Inc. There he started as an aircraft & powerplant maintenance technician doing work on company owned aircraft and was involved with project development. During his time with Honeywell, he worked with various aircraft, including the Lockheed Jet Star, Cessna 310, Huey, and Cobra helicopters.

In 1979, John was promoted to Manager of Aircraft Maintenance and remained in that position until retirement in 2002. John has held an Inspection Authorization for over 30 years working with different FAA offices. He was involved with experimental certification for flight testing, which lead to certification of new Honeywell systems and products. During his employment, he worked on various flight control systems, modifications to the Honeywell flight control boxes, laser IRUs, FMS, space shuttle radar altimeter, GPS development, GPS approach development, SAS, helmet fire control systems, and many other development projects. John also managed up to 13 aircraft maintenance technicians and support personnel at two different bases.

Mr. Bucher was also hired as a liaison to industry and from March 2002 to June 2022 he worked with the Minneapolis Technical College's aircraft & powerplant program. He worked with the school and the Minneapolis FSDO as an approved FAA Designated Maintenance Examiner.

In July 2018, John started work with Bank of America doing corporate aircraft finance and leasing. He was employed for just over four years.

John continues to work with projects involving aircraft maintenance, lease returns, aircraft selection, and pre-purchase maintenance functions for clients.

Mr. Bucher is currently an active volunteer at Lake Area Technical College in Watertown, South Dakota. John's leadership and involvement is what made this Corporate Aviation Day such a successful annual event.

John's volunteer work has also benefitted many students by providing a successful intern program at Lake Area Technical College. This intern program includes Duncan Aviation, Textron, West Star, Fargo Jet, and Bismarck Aero.

John's passion for aviation has been an ongoing inspiration for many younger generations of aviation mechanics and pilots.

His expertise on many advisory boards, council memberships, and maintenance committees has contributed to John being the recipient of numerous awards. Not surprisingly, John received numerous letters of nomination for this well-deserved award.

Additionally, Mr. Bucher is a founding member of the National Business Aircraft Association Maintenance Committee.

Over the past 50 years, Mr. Bucher has achieved a high level of excellence within the community and built an outstanding reputation for his contributions.

John continues to mentor many students and shares his stories which are all backed by a passion for aviation safety. He is an outstanding airman who is worthy of recognition for The FAA Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award.

We are all here in celebration of his achievements and contributions which have helped to build a positive safety culture.

What a great journey it has been for John.

On behalf of the FAA Administrator, and with the gracious outstanding support from the South Dakota Pilots Association [for funding the award plaque], it is my honor to present this very distinguished FAA Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award to Mr. John Edward Bucher.

Congratulations, John, on receiving this prestigious award!

Letters of nomination were written by **Gregory L. Klein**, Watertown, SD; **Stephen C. Lill**, Wichita, KS; **Sean Swanson**, Savannah, GA; **Stephen A. Mann**, Clarksville, MD; **John D. Crumrine**, Baltimore, MA; **Eric T. Olson**, Hudson, WI; **Michael E. Murphy**, Cannon Falls, MN; **David D. Abbondanza**, Pinckney, MI; and **Lance A. Matteson**, Inver Grove, MN.

James C. Christophersen (Brookings)
Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award (December 2022)

The very first flight lesson for Mr. James Carlyle Christophersen was in a Piper PA-11 with a 65 horse-powered engine on April 27, 1958. While working on the farm, he began flying and logged 3.5 hours before his father found out.



Then in 1961, James was making enough of his own money and began flying lessons in a Piper PA-18; this time his father knew about it. No punishment was needed this time around!

With only 7.5 hours logged of dual flight time, James first soloed in that Piper PA-18 during a warm summer day on July 16, 1961.

After years of holding a Student Pilot Certificate, James passed his Private Pilot Practical Exam and received his Private Pilot Certificate on May 3, 1968.

James got a bit more serious about flying and received his Commercial Pilot Certificate on May 31, 1968. He then furthered his training and obtained his Certified Flight Instructor Certificate in 1969.

Because he was an active dairy farmer at that time, his flying was done part-time.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, James was instructing for Nelson Flying Service and Battig Aviation in Brookings, SD.

It was during this time that he received an Aerial Applicators License and did some spraying for Nelson Flying

Service. James purchased a Piper PA-18 and had it set up for spraying pasture cattle. He would spray about 6000 head of cattle in many different pastures around the Clear Lake and Watertown, South Dakota, areas.

In addition, James did a good amount of aerial hunting before it became illegal. He remembers those time chasing coyotes and fox from the air all across South Dakota. No wanted posters were ever posted!

On March 14, 1985, James received his instrument rating.

Then on September 25, 1985, James received his multi-engine rating for VFR flight. A month later on October 24, 1985, James had the VFR restriction removed, and he was certified as an instrument rated pilot with no restrictions.

James spent time re-building a Piper PA-18 and also bought into partial ownership of a Piper J-3.

Looking back, James can honestly say that the best times of flying were aerial hunting.

What a great lifetime of memories for James and his family.

On behalf of the FAA Administrator, and with the gracious outstanding support from the South Dakota Pilots Association [for funding the plaque], it is my honor to present this very distinguished FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award to Mr. James Carlyle Christophersen.

Congratulations, James, on receiving this prestigious award!

Letters of nomination were written by **Christopher H. Funk**, Volga, SD; **Warren G. Hovland**, Brookings, SD; and **Duane G. Knutson**, Brookings, SD.

Gene L. Ebnetter (Yankton)
Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award (December 2022)

It was back on a warm summer day in July 1972 when Mr. Gene Leroy Ebnetter began experiencing the joy of flying. His first solo was on August 2, 1972, in a Grumman at Sioux City, Iowa. Shortly after his solo flight, Gene passed the Private Pilot Practical Exam and received his Private Pilot Certificate.



It did not take very long, and he was happy to purchase a Cessna Cardinal on September 30, 1972. He immediately began flight training toward his Commercial Pilot Certificate on September 14, 1972. He then pushed on through the winter months and was issued his certificate on September 14, 1973.

On October 18, 1973, Gene obtained his multi-engine rating. Knowing the value of having an instrument rating, he pursued additional training and received his instrument rating on a cold day in December 1974.

In April 1977, Gene was promoted to the IBM Regional Office in Minneapolis, Minnesota. While in that position, he covered eight states with twenty-six remote branch offices. At the time, IBM allowed the personal use of aircraft for

these trips. By the spring of 1987, he had accumulated over 2,500 hours of total flight time.

Gene demonstrated outstanding leadership, motivation, and determination with IBM. So when the company won a software contract to take over management of the air traffic control software at all 20 U.S. Air Traffic Control Centers, Gene was called upon. He was promoted to the IBM Manager for the Minneapolis Air Traffic Center in Farmington, Minnesota.

His time with IBM was beneficial to the company, and he managed ten software engineers to maintain the air traffic control software. In addition, he coordinated the maintenance of the IBM hardware at the Center with their local IBM hardware maintenance office.

It was in 1988 when IBM won a bid to build a new air traffic control system for the United States for all 20 centers. Gene also worked with our FAA Test Center in Atlantic City, New Jersey. His enthusiastic spirit gained him another promotion to Rockerville, Maryland. There he set up a maintenance and logistic support team and managed all the testing related to maintenance. His team consisted of over 70 engineers and technicians.

Since Gene now needed to manage all the maintenance testing at the Atlantic City test center, which was 180 miles away, he took the opportunity to fly his Bonanza. He found it much more beneficial and less time consuming to fly from his home in Frederick, Maryland, to Atlantic City, New Jersey. After many years with IBM, Gene decided to retire in 1991.

He then discovered the enjoyment of teaching others how to fly and started flight instructing part-time at the Frederick Airport. In addition, Gene started flying full-time in an Aztec and Turbo Lance for an aerial surveying company doing surveillance work on the East Coast from Maine to Florida.

After three years, in 1994 he moved to Yankton, South Dakota, where he began working for Falcon Aviation flying twin-engine aircraft under Part 135. While working at Falcon Aviation, he was introduced to flying the Cessna T-303 and Twin Comanche until January 1997.

From 1997 through 2006, he provided flight instruction and piloting services for a home building company out of Hartington, Nebraska.

In 2006, Gene moved to Yankton, South Dakota where he taught flight students until 2015. After 1,800 hours of flight instruction time at the age of 77, he felt it was time to close a chapter in his life.

Now at age 84, Gene is still flying his A-35 Bonanza that he purchased in 1976. He still enjoys flying between 75 to 100 hours per year.

Gene continues to embrace aviation safety and be an inspiration to many aviators. What a great journey it has been for Gene and his family.

On behalf of the FAA Administrator, and with the gracious outstanding support from the South Dakota Pilots Association [for funding the award plaque], it is my honor to present this very distinguished FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award to Mr. Gene Leroy Ebnetter.

Congratulations, Gene, on receiving this prestigious award!

Letters of nomination were written by **Harold G.**

Schramm, Utica, SD; **John C. Lillevoid**, Yankton, SD; and **Melvyn J. Price**, Lancaster, SC.

Gerald A. Kasuske (Watertown)

Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award & Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award (December 2022)

It was back in September of 1966 when Mr. Gerald Arlo Kasuske began his career in aviation. After training with Lake Area Vocational Technical School in Watertown, SD, Gerald began applying his experience as an FAA certified airframe & powerplant mechanic.

Over the past 50 years, Mr. Kasuske has achieved a high level of excellence within the community and built an outstanding reputation for his quality of work.

Gerald has worked with hundreds of students who continue looking to him for knowledge and guidance. He is well known for his wisdom and words of encouragement which helps foster a climate of continuous improvement.

In addition to getting his FAA certified airframe & powerplant mechanic, Gerald moved ahead with obtaining his Private Pilot Certificate. He initially soloed at the Milbank airport in South Dakota on January 30, 1966, in a Piper 22. After getting his Private Pilot Certificate, he pursued training toward the Commercial Pilot Certificate. After achieving that goal, he continued to train and received both the single and multi-engine ratings. Gerald's achievements now include holding a single-engine seaplane rating, rotorcraft helicopter ratings, and private privileges as a glider pilot. With well over 11,000 hours of total flight time, he is still inspiring the next generation of pilots and aircraft mechanics.

In 1985, Gerald and his family moved to Watertown, SD, where he started Jerry's Aviation. For 26 years, Jerry's Aviation has provided support and service to many customers.

Gerald has flown over many fields spraying seeds and pesticides. He has worked with Jerry's Aviation, Reisig Brothers Aerial Spraying, and Northern Aviation.

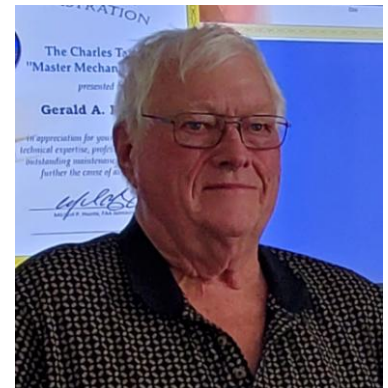
Gerald continues to mentor many students and shares his stories which are all backed by a passion for aviation safety.

Gerald is an outstanding airman who is worthy of recognition for two very prestigious awards – the FAA Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award and the FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. His family and friends are here today to celebrate his achievements and the contributions he has made toward building a positive safety culture.

What a great journey it has been for the Gerald and his family.

On behalf of the FAA Administrator, and with the gracious outstanding support from the South Dakota Pilots Association [for funding the plaques], it is my honor to present these two awards to Mr. Gerald Arlo Kasuske.

Congratulations, Gerald, on receiving these very



distinguished awards!

Letters of nomination for the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award were written by **Greg L. Klein**, Watertown, SD; **Tom M. Arbach**, Watertown, SD; **John B. Yost**, Watertown, SD; and **Leslie B. Ellingson**, Harwood, ND.

Letters of nomination the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award were written by **Tom M. Arbach**, Watertown, SD; **Gerald M. Rieber**, Watertown, SD; and **James M. Reisig**, Gering, NE.

Harold G. Schramm (Utica)

Wright Brothers Master Pilot Awards (December 2022)

It was back on a cold winter day in February 1971 when Mr. Harold Gerhardt Schramm became “addicted to FAS”

(Flying Aircraft Syndrome). **Dean Iverson**

immediately noticed his developing symptoms. Dean was the airport manager and owner of Aviation Services in Yankton, South Dakota. Nine days later, **Thomas Law**, who was a Certified Flight Instructor, began “treating” Harold’s addiction and started to provide flight instruction.



On March 16, 1971, at age 16, Harold made his first solo in a Cessna 172 at the Yankton, South Dakota, airport. At that time Harold purchased a Private Pilot Home Study Course in preparation for taking the private Pilot written exam.

That summer, he passed the written exam. Then on September 10, 1971, Harold passed his Private Pilot Practical Exam and was issued a Temporary Airman Certificate.

The lingering effects of FAS (Flying Aircraft Syndrome) continued, and Harold decided to get additional “treatment” from **Delbert Keith**, a Certified Flight Instructor with Del-Ray Flying in Yankton, South Dakota. Delbert administered a strong dose of introducing Harold to spins and snap rolls in a Cessna 150 aerobat. Harold later purchased that 150 aerobat and continued “self-treatment”!

Throughout the years, Harold owned various aircraft, such as the Piper PA-18 Super Cub, Piper PA-20 Pacer, Cessna 150 Aerobat, Cessna 172, Stinson Voyager, Taylor-Young, Grumman Cheetah, and Grumman Tiger.

Some of Harold’s most memorable times were working at Aviation Services during his senior year in high school. While working at the airport, he had the unexpected pleasure of meeting former South Dakota Senator John “Chan” Gurney, which the Yankton Airport is now named after.

Harold has enjoyed flying to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, for the world’s greatest aviation event and airshow (EAA AirVenture). While there he remembers camping out under the wing and meeting other fellow aviators.

Another great memory was being able to log some dual flight instruction in a Ford Tri-Motor.

Over the years, Harold enjoyed sharing his love for flying

with his four children. Being able to monitor his crop production and condition from the air was a big help too.

Harold is a founding member of the Yankton Regional Aviation Association, the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association, and the South Dakota Pilots Association. He is also involved in the EAA (Yankton Chapter 1029) helping to provide Young Eagles airplane rides.

Harold continues to attend pilot proficiency program, ground school refresher course, and FAA Safety Team seminars. Harold embraces aviation safety and continues to be an inspiration to many aviators. What a great journey it has been for Harold and his entire family; especially his grandson, **Spencer**.

On behalf of the FAA Administrator, and with the gracious outstanding support from the South Dakota Pilots Association [for funding the award plaque], it is my honor to present this very distinguished FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award to Mr. Harold Gerhardt Schramm.

Congratulations, Harold, on receiving this prestigious award!

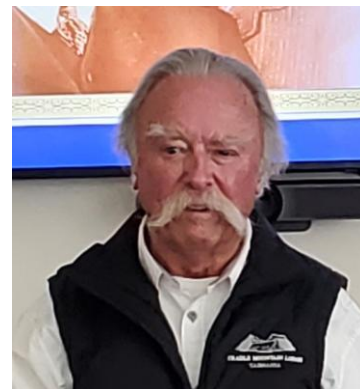
Letters of nomination were written by **John C. Lillevold**, Yankton, SD; **David A. Tunge**, Yankton, SD; and **Gene L. Ebnetter**, Yankton, SD.

Harrison C. Thompson (Brookings)

Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award (December 2022)

At the young age of just eight years old, Harrison Castlen

Thompson was first intrigued with flying during his first airplane ride on a Braniff Airline DC-3. During that return flight from attending his father’s funeral, the captain invited him to come up front into the cockpit and sit on his lap. There he could view the spectacular sight in front of the aircraft. Harrison was so excited to see a huge city up ahead and asked, “What is that?” The captain said, “That is Kansas City, and it is 40 miles ahead.” Seeing a city that size from the air really changed Harrison’s perspective of life.



During the next 13 years, Harrison shared that feeling of excitement with family and friends. Then, at age 21, Harrison flew in a Cessna with the right door removed and experienced his first parachute jump.

Guess what . . . ? You got it; he became a parachute addict. While doing his 354th jump, he asked the pilot if he was a Flight Instructor. He said he was. Harrison then informed the pilot that he would be in town for a week and would like to start becoming a pilot. The pilot chuckled and said, “It will take longer than one week to get your Pilot Certificate.”

On September 12, 1967, Harrison soloed in a Cessna 150 at LaGrande, Oregon.

On January 2, 1969, he took his Private Pilot Practical Exam in a Piper Colt and received his Certificate.

In 1971, Harrison graduated from the University of North Dakota with a Commercial Pilot Certificate.

In 1973, Harrison purchased a 1955 Cessna 180, which he is still flying today. He also received his FAA Senior Parachute Riggers Certificate.

In 1974, he purchased a hot air balloon and received a lighter-than-air rating.

In 1980, Harrison received his instrument rating.

Then in 1981, he began building a Dormoy Bathtub out of Sitka spruce and steel tubing. This aircraft is rare and was a simple low-cost ultra-light aircraft. This aircraft took two years to build and had a steel tube fuselage, with exposed tail section. The parasol wings used wood spars with fabric covering supported by steel lift struts. The ailerons used steel control cables that were exposed in front of the wing's leading edge, and the engine was a modified Henderson motorcycle engine.

In 1990, Harrison received his single-engine seaplane rating in a PA-11.

Then in 1995, he flew to McAllen, Texas, in his Cessna 180 and received his multi-engine rating and additional DC-3 type rating.

In June 1997, Harrison bought a 1941 North American AT-6A, which he still flies.

In April 1988, **Bob Odegaard** and Harrison bought a DC-3, N1XP. Together they flew it to Florida, California, Texas, Arizona, and Canada.

In 2000, Harrison flew for Baudette Flying Service on the Canadian border. During the winter, he would fly fishermen to the ice shacks on the Lake-Of-The-Woods under Part 135 operations using de Havilland Beavers and a Cessna 185, all on skis. During the summer months, the skis were removed and replaced with floats. Looking back now, Harrison says flying on skis and floats into many of the lakes in Southern Ontario was one of most memorable times of his life – and he got paid to do it.

Harrison has certainly made history with many great memories. He is still keeping active towing gliders and flying the T-6. He has made a total of 1,725 parachute jumps and accumulated more than 7000 hours of flight time. It certainly has been an adventure of a lifetime for Harrison and his family.

On behalf of the FAA Administrator, and with the gracious outstanding support from the South Dakota Pilots Association [for funding the plaque], it is my honor to present this very distinguished FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award to Mr. Harrison Castlen Thompson.

Congratulations, Harrison, on receiving this prestigious award!

Three letters of nomination were written by **Lynn R. Riedesel**, Brookings, SD; **Brian E. VanLiere**, Brookings, SD; and **Wayne M. Ulvestad**, Volga, SD. SDPA

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SD Aeronautics Commission – December 21

The SD Aeronautics Commission held a meeting / conference call on December 21 at 2:00PM with staff in the Becker-Hansen Transportation Building in Pierre.

Participating were Commissioners **Chris Funk** (Volga), **Bob Huggins** (Sioux Falls, Vice Chair), **Rolf Johnson** (Mina), **Dave Luers** (Pierre), **Kassidy Nelson** (Elkton), **Eric Odenbach** (Eureka, Chair), [absent Jerry Rieber (Watertown)], **Joel Jundt** (Secretary of SDDOT), **Jack Dokken**, **Jon Becker**, **Tom Koch**, **Brad Remmich** (all DOT Office of Air, Rail & Transit), **Kari Kroll** (Executive Assistant, SDDOT Office of Secretary), **Kellie Beck** (SDDOT Division of Management & Finance), **Dustin DeBoer** (SDDOT Office of Legal Counsel, Sioux Falls), **Katlyn Wieme** (Office of Legal Counsel, Contract Administrator), **Mike Ginther** (airport manager of Lemmon Airport).



Chairman Odenbach called the meeting to order and determined that a quorum was present via roll call. He opened the floor to Commission members to disclose potential conflicts of interest and to present requests for waivers pursuant to South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL) chapter 3-23. No conflicts of interest were disclosed and no waivers were requested.

The minutes of the October 20 meeting of the Commission were approved, as amended for a date change for a previous meeting, by roll call vote: all aye.

Time for election of officers. Eric Odenbach and Bob Huggins were nominated to continue in their current positions, Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. Roll call vote was all aye.

Odenbach opened the floor for **public input**. No members of the public addressed the Commission or offered input.

Joel Jundt gave the Secretary's report. On the federal side of things, the first Congressional continuing resolution expired on December 16 and was followed by passage of a second continuing resolution good through September 23, 2023. Joel said that the Senate was about ready to sign a bill fully funding the government, which would then go to the House for a vote.

Joel asked Commission consideration of **proposed 2023 meeting dates** as follows: January 19, February 16, March 16, March 29-30 SD Airports Conference in Deadwood, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, December 14 (avoid Christmas).

SD Aeronautics Commission – November 17

Kari Kroll, Executive Assistant, Office of the Secretary, SD Department of Transportation, emailed on November 3: Due to a light agenda, the November [17] Aeronautics Commission meeting has been cancelled. They will meet again on December 15 at 2 p.m. CT/ 1 p.m. MT. SDPA

Kellie Beck reminded the Commission that they needed to vote on the dates, which they did by roll call vote: all aye.

Jack Dokken asked the Commission for approval of **2022 Aeronautics Commission Report for the Governor**. Highlights of the report follow:

| State FY | Gallons of Fuel Sold | |
|----------|----------------------|------------|
| | AV Gas | Jet Fuel |
| FY2018 | 1,777,171 | 16,884,474 |
| FY2019 | 942,364 | 16,302,367 |
| FY2020 | 911,259 | 17,753,755 |
| FY2021 | 907,517 | 15,978,973 |
| FY2022 | 942,032 | 21,595,431 |

| State FY | Taxes Collected | | |
|----------|------------------|--------------|-------------|
| | Fuel Collections | Aircraft Tax | Total |
| FY2018 | \$777,680 | \$1,527,365 | \$2,305,045 |
| FY2019 | \$697,145 | \$1,736,956 | \$2,434,101 |
| FY2020 | \$786,810 | \$ 472,805 | \$1,259,615 |
| FY2021 | \$693,610 | \$ 898,262 | \$1,591,872 |
| FY2022 | \$919,261 | \$2,163,953 | \$3,083,214 |

Federal grants received per the federal fiscal year (October 1st – September 30th) for the past five years are listed below:

- FY2018 - \$24,143,552
- FY2019 - \$35,369,027
- FY2020 - \$73,522,621 (Includes CARES Act funds)
- FY2021 - \$61,684,945 (Includes Covid related grants)
- FY2022 - \$56,397,913 (Includes Covid related grants and IIJA)

Sources of funding:

- Airport Improvement Program (AIP)
- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES)
- Coronavirus Response and Relief Act (CRRSAA)
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (also known as Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)

Aircraft registered over the last five years and registration fees collected.

| Fee Type | FY2018 | FY2019 |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Registration Fee | \$54,106 | \$51,684 |
| Tax Payment | \$1,171,422 | \$2,088,134 |
| Total Collected | | |
| Per Year | \$1,225,528 | \$2,139,818 |
| Number of Aircraft Registrations | 1211 | 1247 |

| Fee Type | FY2020 | FY2021 | FY2022 | Total Collected Per Fee Type |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Registration Fee | \$53,052 | \$55,211 | \$57,424 | \$271,477 |
| Tax Payment | \$471,005 | \$1,220,105 | \$1,888,426 | \$6,839,092 |
| Total Collected | | | | |
| Per Year | \$524,057 | \$1,275,316 | \$1,945,850 | \$7,110,569 |
| Number of Aircraft Registrations | 1259 | 1387 | 1338 | |

A graph of Aeronautics Fund projections, excluding City

Allocation, showed a steady balance of about \$8 million for FY22-FY25 followed by a decline to \$7.2 million in FY26, and \$6.1 million in FY27 -- assuming a match rate of 5% for airport projects.

Bob Huggins noted some editorial changes and the amended report was approved by roll call vote: all aye.

Jon Becker requested Commission consideration of request for **Proposal for Airport Zoning Project**. The SDDOT is soliciting proposals from consulting firms for the **South Dakota Public Use Airport Zoning Study**. This project is funded by the State Aeronautics Fund and is limited to \$60,000 of incurred costs.

Problem Description: Public use airports across SD need local zoning ordinances in place to protect airspace for pilots seeking to utilize SD airports. These ordinances are not only vital for the safety of the aircraft utilizing the airport; but are also a requirement for NPIAS airports to receive federal funding administered by the FAA. Currently, the SDDOT Office of Aeronautics does not have accurate documentation of which airports have the proper zoning ordinances in place.

Proposals should be directed Jon Becker, Air, Rail and Transit, SDDOT; and must be received no later than January 15, 2023.

Jon Becker said that the selected consultant would meet with airport staff and local zoning officials to determine the presence of zoning ordinances for noise, land use, and height restriction -- all associated with the local airport. Eric Odenbach asked about developing language for needed ordinances, and Jon replied that the FAA has model language for zoning ordinances to protect airports. Chris Funk asked if AIP funding could be used for zoning work, and Jon Becker replied that the FAA does not

reimburse expenses associated with zoning around airports.

The vote for funding the Airport Zoning Project was approved by roll call vote: all aye.

Tom Koch requested Commission consideration of **2023 Airport License Renewals**. SDDOT recommends the Aeronautics Commission's approval of the 2023 public use license of the following airports with the restrictions as noted for airports and subject to the receipt of their application.

| AIRPORT | RESTRICTION |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 Aberdeen Regional Airport | None |
| 2 Arlington Municipal Airport | None |
| 3 Belle Fourche Municipal Airport | None |
| 4 Bison Municipal Airport | None |
| 5 Britton Municipal Airport | None |



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 Comm., CFI, A&P, IA.

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| 6 Brookings Municipal Airport | None |
| 7 Buffalo - Harding County Airport | None |
| 8 Canton Municipal Airport | None |
| 9 Chamberlain Municipal Airport | None |
| 10 Clark County Airport | None |
| 11 Corsica Municipal Airport | None |
| 12 Custer County Airport | None |
| 13 Custer State Park - Fairburn | None |
| 14 DeSmet - Wilder Field | None |
| 15 Cheyenne Eagle Butte Airport | None |
| 16 Edgemont Municipal Airport | None |
| 17 Eureka Municipal Airport | None |
| 18 Faith Municipal Airport | None |
| 19 Faulkton Municipal Airport | None |
| 20 Flandreau Municipal Airport | None |
| 21 Gettysburg Municipal Airport | None |
| 22 Gregory Municipal Airport (Flynn Field) | None |
| 23 Groton Municipal Airport | Daylight Use Only |
| 24 Herreid Municipal Airport | Daylight Use Only |
| 25 Highmore Municipal Airport | None |
| 26 Hot Springs Municipal Airport | None |
| 27 Hoven Municipal Airport | None |
| 28 Howard Municipal Airport | None |
| 29 Huron Regional Airport | None |
| 30 Isabel Municipal Airport | Daylight Use Only |
| 31 Kadoka Municipal Airport | None |
| 32 Kimball Municipal Airport | Daylight Use Only |
| 33 Lake Andes Municipal Airport | Daylight Use Only |
| 34 Lake Cochrane Seaplane Port | Daylight Use Only |
| 35 Lemmon Municipal Airport | None |
| 36 Madison Municipal Airport | None |
| 37 Martin Municipal Airport | None |
| 38 McLaughlin Municipal Airport | None |
| 39 Milbank Municipal Airport | None |
| 40 Miller Municipal Airport | None |
| 41 Mitchell Municipal Airport | None |
| 42 Mobridge Municipal Airport | None |
| 43 Murdo Municipal Airport | None |
| 44 Onida Municipal Airport | None |
| 45 North Sioux City – Graham Field | Daylight Use Only |
| 46 Parkston Municipal Airport | None |
| 47 Philip Municipal Airport | None |
| 48 Pierre Regional Airport | None |
| 49 Pine Ridge - Oglala Sioux Airport | None |
| 50 Platte Municipal Airport | None |
| 51 Presho Municipal Airport | None |
| 52 Rapid City Regional Airport | None |
| 53 Redfield Municipal Airport | None |
| 54 Rosebud Sioux Tribal Airport | None |
| 55 Sioux Falls - Joe Foss Field | None |
| 56 Sisseton Municipal Airport | None |
| 57 Spearfish - Black Hills/Clyde Ice Field | None |
| 58 Springfield Municipal Airport | None |
| 59 Sturgis Municipal Airport | None |
| 60 Tea - Marv Skie/Great Planes Airport | None |
| 61 Timber Lake Municipal Airport | Daylight Use Only |
| 62 Vermillion - Harold Davidson Field | None |
| 63 Wagner Municipal Airport | None |
| 64 Wall Municipal Airport | None |
| 65 Watertown Municipal Airport | None |

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| 66 Webster - Sigurd Anderson Airport | None |
| 67 Wessington Springs Municipal Airport | None |
| 68 White River Municipal Airport | Daylight Use Only |
| 69 Winner - Bob Wiley Field | None |
| 70 Yankton - Chan Gurney Municipal Airport | None |

The Commission approved the licensing of 66 airports (except Aberdeen, Brookings, Eureka, and Watertown) by roll call vote: all aye. The Commission approved the licensing of the Aberdeen Airport by roll call vote: all aye, Rolf Johnson abstaining due to a conflict of interest. The Commission approved the licensing of the Brookings Airport by roll call vote: all aye, Chris Funk abstaining due to a conflict of interest. The Commission approved the licensing of the Eureka Airport by roll call vote: all aye, Eric Odenbach abstaining due to a conflict of interest. The Commission approved the licensing of the Watertown Airport by roll call vote: all aye. Eric noted that Jerry Rieber would have had to abstain due to a conflict of interest if he had participated in the meeting.

Tom Koch requested Commission consideration of request for **Fuel Tax Funds from the City of Lemmon**. The City of Lemmon requested the use of airport fuel tax funds in the amount of \$552.96 to pay for airport signs. The new signs are needed due to a change in the runway designation. Mike Ginther noted that the magnetic orientation of the runways had changed and signs needed to updated for the turf runway. The Commission approved the request for funding roll call vote: all aye.

Eric Odenbach asked that an agenda item be added for the next Commission meeting concerning **funding maintenance costs for AWOS III** units at smaller GA airports in SD. He noted the North Dakota does it in their state. Jon Becker commented that one problem is that contracts for maintenance of current AWOS units in SD have different renewal dates. Jon said modifying contracts with a common renewal date would solve that problem.

Bob Huggins mentioned that the FAA was asking for suggestions for locations in the lower 48 states for **weather cameras at airports**. Both Bob Huggins and Jerry Rieber had called Jon Becker about the need for cameras in SD, and Jon had talked with the FAA about the cameras. Jon submitted Black Hills airports for suggested camera locations (Spearfish, Sturgis, Rapid City, Custer County, and Hot Springs).

It was noted that Colorado has several weather cameras operated by a third party. Also, there are about 200 cameras in



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operation, with cameras in Alaska, Montana, Colorado, Michigan, Utah, Mississippi, and Maine.

Mike Ginther commented that when he flew Part 135 in Alaska, he relied on weather cameras at various airports.

Mike's second comment was that maintenance costs for an AWOS unit has kept Lemmon Airport from asking for an AWOS unit.

The Commission meeting adjourned at about 2:41PM. The next Commission meeting is set for January 19. SDPA

Overheard – Instrument Training

I was that stage of my instrument training where I was struggling to keep the shiny side up while monitoring radios, tuning nav aids, and looking at approach charts. My instructor and I were shooting a Localizer approach to 17R at David Wayne Hooks Airport in Houston. It was during the winter and already dark. Thankfully, there wasn't much happening on the control tower frequency.

Me: Hooks tower, Cessna 31C is 10 miles north for a practice Localizer 17R approach.

Tower: Roger 31C, report passing Flika *I was overloaded; trimming for the descent, trying to keep the little line centered, watching my altitude, and everything else that was new to me and I blew right through the intersection. Hooks has radar so the tower controller knew where I was.*

Tower: 31C, have you passed Flika?

Me: Sorry, yes. Now 4 DME.

Tower: 31C, in that case, disregard passing Flika. Cleared to land 17R or for the option.

To his credit, there wasn't a hint of frustration or sarcasm in his voice. I called him later to thank him for his graciousness to a fledgling IFR student.

From Kelly Dickens

SDPA

FAA Extends Aircraft Re-Registration Period

By Russ Niles (November 21)

The FAA will issue a Direct Final Rule extending the registration interval for general aviation aircraft and the new seven-year duration applies to all GA aircraft. Until 2010, aircraft registrations lasted for the life of the aircraft but that resulted in a lot of inaccurate and ghost registrations on the books. In 2010, the agency made all operators re-register their planes and set a three-year limit for re-registration. The alphabets argued that was too onerous for private operators and got the ear of Congress. The 2018 FAA reauthorization mandated the agency extend the limit to seven years for non-commercial aircraft.



That caused an issue for the FAA because "use" and not aircraft type defines the distinction between commercial and private operation. "Consequently, it is impracticable to have different durations for commercial and noncommercial general aviation aircraft registrations," the final rule says. "Therefore, the FAA is extending the registration duration for all aircraft to seven years." As before, re-registration has to take place by the end of the month of the anniversary of the existing registration. SDPA

NEW Aviation Weather Handbook

(Aero-News Network, December 29)

A new textbook from the 8083 series of FAA publications dropped earlier this month, the **Aviation Weather Handbook**.

FAA-H-8083-28 combines a number of Advisory Circulars frequently cited by CFI's and PPL's alike in their checkride prep, conveniently bound into one single volume for easy reference and a more cohesive narrative. The Handbook includes:

- AC 00-6, Aviation Weather
- AC 00-24, Thunderstorms
- AC 00-30, Clear Air Turbulence Avoidance
- AC 00-45, Aviation Weather Services
- AC 00-54, Pilot Windshear Guide
- AC 00-57, Hazardous Mountain Winds

In one simple publication, free when downloaded from the FAA's website, pilots can obtain a high-quality teaching and learning resource regarding weather formation and its attendant risks. The book joins a fairly comprehensive library of other essential aviation publications, both as an electronic PDF and a printed piece from all the usual sellers. Covering everything from the fundamentals of atmospheric development, winds, visibility, icing, arctic, and even space weather, pilots will have an easier go of weather studies than ever before.



The Advisory Circulars above will remain in effect for a time, but will eventually be canceled, likely once the Handbook reaches some as-yet undetermined marketplace saturation. SDPA

Commercial Balloon Pilots Now Need Medicals

(AVwebFlash, November 17)

The FAA has adopted a final rule requiring commercial balloon pilots to have a current second class medical to fly passengers. The rule was adopted November 16 but has been in the works for four years after Congress passed a bill mandating it. "Passengers can now rest assured that commercial balloon pilots must meet the same strict medical requirements as other commercial pilots," said Acting FAA Administrator Billy Nolen in a statement issued November 16 by the FAA.



The congressional action came after a 2016 balloon crash in Texas killed all 16 aboard. The investigation concluded that the pilot was likely impaired by drugs and had mental health issues. The NTSB also recommended that the FAA adopt a medical requirement for commercial balloons following the tragedy. Before November 16, commercial balloon operators were asked to follow a voluntary set of standards established by the Balloon Federation of America. SDPA

Controllers at New York TRACON are known for being all business and taking no prisoners. Likewise, "unable, remain on the airway," is the typical reply to a request for a shortcut.

I was about 80 miles from my destination, on the preferred routing, which involves a couple of victor routes and passage through two more approach facilities (Bradley and Providence) before I would arrive at my destination.

Me: "Good morning New York, Angel Flight 1818."

New York Departure: "Angel Flight 1818. White Plains Altimeter 3003. Where you goin' today?"

Me: "New Bedford. How 'bout you?"

New York Departure: "I'm hoping to go home. Cleared Direct New Bedford."

Saved me about 20 miles. I guess it pays to be polite on the radio.

From Richard Jacobs, Dartmouth, MA SDPA



For a comprehensive aviation event listing, go to <https://sdpilots.com>. CHECK WITH EVENT ORGANIZERS TO SEE IF THE EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELED OR POSTPONED.

Jan: Madison Aviation Enthusiasts meet at **Madison (MDS), SD**, on Thursdays at 6:00PM for food, fun & flying. Contact Morris Riggan at 605-256-9774 or Charlie Keppen at 605-480-1312.

Jan: Coffee, treats & conversation at **Hot Springs (HSR), SD**, every Friday 9:30-11:30AM. Come join us for some hangar flying. Contact Rick Breitenbach at 605-515-9013.

Jan: **SD Civil Air Patrol** meetings. Seniors and cadets meet monthly at Brookings Airport, Custer County Airport, Ellsworth AFB, Lincoln County Airport, Miller Airport, Pierre Airport, Sioux Falls Airport, and Spearfish Airport. For meeting times, specific locations, and contact information, go to <https://sdwg.cap.gov/command/squadrons>

Jan 9: Sioux Falls Ballooning Club meeting in **Sioux Falls, SD**, at 7:00PM at TBD. <http://www.sfballooning.org>

Jan 14: Monthly meeting of the Joe Foss Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force at **Joe Foss Field – Sioux Falls (FSD), SD**, at 10:00AM in Maverick Air Center. Contact Chris Geringer at cafjoefoss@gmail.com <https://www.cafjoefoss.org>

Jan 15: YRAA potluck "Men Cooking" meeting at **Chan Gurney Airport (YKN), Yankton, SD**, at 6:00PM in the terminal. Bring some food & "hangar talk" to share. Contact Steve Hamilton at 605-665-8448 or skyhawk43v@gmail.com

Jan 19: SD Aeronautics Commission meeting at 2:00PM. Maybe be in-person in Becker-Hansen Building in Pierre or a conference call. Contact Kari Kroll for details: 605.773.5105 or Kari.Kroll@state.sd.us

Jan 21: ~~CANCELLED UNTIL SPRING -- Airport breakfast in the EAA Chapter 289 Building at Tea (Y14), Lincoln~~

~~County), SD. Contact Bruce Beecroft at 605-376-7120.~~
Jan 25-26: Annual Nebraska Aviation Council Symposium & Maintenance/ Inspector Authorization (IA) Renewal Seminar in **Kearney, NE**, at the Crowne Plaza and Younes Conference Center North. The Statewide conference is intended for airport managers, pilots, consultants, and state and federal officials. January 25-26: Aviation Symposium; January 27-28: IA Renewal. <http://www.nebraskaaviationcouncil.org>

Jan 26 (since 1953): EAA Founders' Day: On January 26, 1953, **EAA Founder Paul Poberezny** held the first official meeting of the Experimental Aircraft Association at Curtiss-Wright Field (now Timmerman) in Milwaukee, WI. The group originally gathered together to share ideas and encouragement as amateur aircraft builders.

Feb: Madison Aviation Enthusiasts meet at **Madison (MDS), SD**, on Thursdays at 6:00PM for food, fun & flying. Contact Morris Riggan at 605-256-9774 or Charlie Keppen at 605-480-1312.

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Feb 11: FAA safety seminar at Chan Gurney Municipal Airport (YKN), **Yankton, SD**, from 9:00-11:00AM in the terminal. Contact Steve Hoogerhyde at 605-737-3024 or steven.hoogerhyde@faa.gov

Feb 11: Monthly meeting of the Joe Foss Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force at **Joe Foss Field – Sioux Falls (FSD), SD**, at 10:00AM in Maverick Air Center. Contact Chris Geringer at cafjoefoss@gmail.com <https://www.cafjoefoss.org>

Feb 11: SDPA meeting in **Oacoma, SD**, in Al's Oasis. 11:00AM: presentation by Bryan Brost from Canastota, SD. He is a retired Southwest Airlines Captain. Noon: order off menu. 1:00PM: SDPA meeting with cookies. Contact Steve Hamilton 605-665-8448 or skyhawk43v@gmail.com

Feb 13: Sioux Falls Ballooning Club meeting in **Sioux Falls, SD**, at 7:00PM at TBD. <http://www.sfballooning.org>

Feb 14-15: 2023 Tri-State [MN-ND-SD] Aerial Applicators Convention & Expo at the Lodge, **Deadwood, SD**. This annual tri-state event has become well known for Agricultural Aerial Applicators in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Exhibits, Entertainment, PAAST, Recertification, and Networking. <https://www.tristateaerialconvention.com>

Feb 16: SD Aeronautics Commission meeting at 2:00PM. Maybe be in-person in Becker-Hansen Building in Pierre or a conference call. Contact Kari Kroll for details: 605.773.5105 or Kari.Kroll@state.sd.us

Feb 18: ~~CANCELED UNTIL SPRING -- Airport breakfast in the EAA Chapter 289 Building at Lincoln County (Y14), Tea, SD. Contact Bruce Beecroft at 605-376-7120.~~

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<https://sdpilots.com>

Feb 19: YRAA potluck “Valentine’s” meeting at **Chan Gurney Airport (YKN), Yankton, SD**, at 6:00PM in the terminal. Bring some food and “plane” talk to share. Contact Steve Hamilton at 605-665-8448 or skyhawk43v@gmail.com

Feb 26: 19th Annual Ground School Refresher at **Chan Gurney Airport (YKN), Yankton, SD**, at 1:30PM in the terminal. FREE. Taught by Denny Martens who is revising his three-hour ground school refresher. Sponsored by FAASTeam, YRAA, and SDPA. Refreshments and cookies provided by YRAA and SDPA. Contact Denny Martens at 605-677-8159 or dmartens@vyn.midco.net

Mar: Madison Aviation Enthusiasts meet at **Madison (MDS), SD**, on Thursdays at 6:00PM for food, fun & flying. Contact Morris Riggan at 605-256-9774 or Charlie Keppen at 605-480-1312.

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Mar 5-7: FLY-ND Conference [formerly Upper Midwest Aviation Symposium, UMAS] in the Bismarck Hotel (formerly Ramkota) & Conference Center, **Bismarck, ND**. Two days of speakers and sessions coverings current aviation topics for mechanics, pilots, and airport managers. Contact North Dakota Aviation Association at <https://www.fly-nd.com/> More information at <https://www.fly-nd.com/events/Conference>

Mar 29-30, 2023: SD Airports Conference will be held in the Deadwood Lodge in Deadwood. Some of the following topics will be discussed at the conference: DBE [disadvantaged business enterprise] Requirements and Reporting; Rapid City Terminal Project; P-308-H (Heavy) Emulsified Asphalt Surface Treatments; AOPA; Regional Air Mobility; Attracting an FBO; Virtower; Flight Training update; Airport security; FAA – various topics. \$100 per person registration fee includes: Breakfast, breaks, lunch and social on Wednesday; Breakfast and breaks on Thursday. Conference dues payable by check only. Please make checks payable to “SD Airports Conference.” Please call the hotel directly to reserve your rooms at a discounted group rate of \$75 plus tax per night at 1-877-393-5634 and tell them you will be attending the SD Airports Conference to get the group rate. Rooms will be available at this price until Friday, Feb 24, 2023. Contact Nancy Hiller at 605-773-4430 or email Nancy.Hiller@state.sd.us SDPA