



# SDPA News

Newsletter of the South Dakota Pilots Association (www.sdpilots.org)

Volume 27, Number 2

March-April 2020

## President's Column

*Greetings everyone,*

Well, we got a weather break for our first meeting of the year at Al's Oasis in Oacoma, SD, on Feb 8! We had a weather window that even allowed a few folks to fly in. We had a great turn out for our presentation and meeting. I must say that **John Mollison** did a great job on his presentation. For those who don't know John, he's an aviation historian primarily focused on interviewing folks who've answered the call to help protect the rights and freedom of us all, fighting from the air during the various U.S. military campaigns, primarily from the beginning of WWII up through the Vietnam war. He is also an aviation artist and, as I understand it, will soon have some of his works displayed at the air terminal in Pierre, SD. So, if any of you folks have a chance or opportunity to be in the Pierre area, try to pencil in time to view his works at the airport terminal. You won't be disappointed.

Over the years we've had losses within our pilot community or maybe I should say family as, let's face it, we are just that, a family. I don't usually pontificate (forgive the fancy word) much on these losses as again, let's face it, we are a very private family. But, when one of our family members has been very influential and a significant force within our family it is only fitting that I mention it. I think most of us by now have heard of the passing of **Bernie Christenson**. Hardly a day goes by recently without someone relating a little story, aviation or otherwise, about him, which, in my mind is the ultimate compliment of one's travels through this life!

I would like to thank Steve Hamilton and Dwayne LaFave for working on putting together and emailing legislative alerts to all of our members to keep us all informed about aviation legislation in the State. As well as

**Representative David Johnson** and his colleagues for their efforts in staying on top of things concerning aviation bills that affect us all.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next **meeting on Saturday, April 11, 2020, at Hot Springs, SD**. Our meeting will take place in the Hot Springs Airport terminal and as I recall, there is plenty of ramp space near the terminal building for those who are planning on flying in. We will have a presentation by **Petra Wilson** from the Black Hills Balloon Club about the Hot Air Balloon sport. Should be very interesting!

Take care and fly safe.

*John Barney*, SDPA President  
"Promoting General Aviation in South Dakota - Serving all pilots, mechanics, and aviation enthusiasts" SDPA

## SDPA Meeting - April 11

SDPA will hold a meeting on Saturday, **April 11, at Hot Springs Airport (HSR)** in the airport terminal. **11:00 AM: Petra Wilson** of Hot Springs will be our speaker. Petra is a commercial rated lighter-than-air pilot and will talk about ballooning in the Black Hills. She earned her lighter-than-air pilot certificate in March of 2014 and commercial rating in September of 2017. Petra organized the Fall River Balloon Festival in Hot Springs, which started in the summer of 2016. While enlisted in the U.S. Navy, she was a plane captain (crew chief) of F/A-18 Hornets at NAS Lemoore, California, and also served on the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk. Petra is the owner and pilot of Western Horizons Hot Air Balloons, where she flies 69,000 and 90,000 cubic foot balloons. Petra introduced ballooning to the Hot Springs community when she and her family moved there in 2015. Now there are at least 6 hot air balloons that fly in Hot Springs, 3 pilots, and 3

new student pilots. Petra is in the process of training her 4th student to fly hot air balloons in Hot Springs.

**Noon:** Pizza & pop (\$5.00 per person).

**1:00 PM:** SDPA meeting with cookies. Contact Steve Hamilton 605-665-8448 or skyhawk43v@gmail.com

Future meetings:

June 13 in Wagner at Boom's

September 12 in Wall Airport

November 14 in Redfield Airport SDPA

## New\*, Rejoined, & Renewed Members

Greg Alvine, Sioux Falls

Dave Amundson, Canton

Leo Becht, Coeur d'Alene, ID

Bruce Beecroft, Sioux Falls

**Tyler Bitz, Sioux Falls\***

Carey Buhler, Mitchell

**Robert Burke, Pierre\* LIFE**

Aaron Christensen, Rapid City

**Gary Coe, Lead**

Gary Cozzetti, Rapid City

Rodney Deweese, Spearfish

Dennis Dykstra, Marion

Gary Dykstra, Marion

Alan Fenner, Menno

Donald Gellhaus, Groton

Peter Hegg, Sioux Falls

Russell Hollingsworth, Pierre

David Holman, Philip

Ronnie Hornstra, Avon

Bob Huggins, Sioux Falls (2 years)

Don Hutchison, Wounded Knee

Mark Isackson, Sioux Falls

Jeff Jackson, Mobridge

Terry Jaspers, Sisseton

Tim Jones, Jefferson

Charles Keppen, Madison

**Tyler Kludt, Vermillion\***

Edward Kniffen, Tyndall

Josh Kraayenbrink, Sheldon, IA

Jason Kusler, Rapid City

Eric Lindeman, Yankton

Dan Lutgen, White

**John Maness, Watertown\***

Acie Matthews, Sioux Falls



Jerome Mitchell, Rapid City  
Charles Moe, Sr., Rosebud **LIFE**  
**John Mollison, Sioux Falls\***  
**Mark O'Leary, Sioux Falls**  
Robert Perry, Emery  
Doug Quiett, Gettysburg  
Jerrod Rolston, Wagner **LIFE**  
Todd Schindler, Chamberlain  
Neil Schmid, Sioux Falls  
John Seten, Sioux Falls  
William Seykora, Sioux Falls  
Doug Sly, Platte

Dar Steenholdt, Sioux Falls  
Delvin Sudlow, Phoenix, AZ  
Albert Trumble, Rapid City  
Chris Urquieta, Amour  
Jack Winter, Huron  
D'orsay Winthers, Mitchell  
Daniel Zandstra, Rapid City **LIFE**

**We have 392 members including 95 LifeTime members.** 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, Gettysburg, SD 57442-1145, along with mailing address and contact info.

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*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

**Dave Amundson** (Canton) wrote on his membership renewal: *"Thanks for all that you do to strengthen the South Dakota general aviation community."*

**Leo Becht** (Coeur d Alene, ID) wrote on his membership renewal: *"...Happy New Year & thanks Mary."*

**Tyler Bitz** (Sioux Falls) emailed on February 5, *"Hi Steve, Yes, this email is correct. Thank you for the packet and newsletter, and I am looking forward to being a member. :)"*

**Rodney DeWeese** (Spearfish) wrote on his membership renewal, *"I always look forward to the newsletter. SD Aviation is a better place to be because of your tireless efforts."*

**Gary Dykstra** (Marion) wrote on his membership renewal, *"Really enjoy the newsletter! Keep up the good work."*

**Lonald Gellhaus** (Groton) wrote on his membership renewal, *"You do such good work!"*

**Mark Isackson** (Sioux Falls) wrote on his membership renewal, *"Thanks for being such a great support for GA!"*

**Charles Moe, SR** (Rosebud) wrote on his membership renewal, *"I sure wish I could make more meetings- meanwhile I am just proud to be a member of a great organization."*

**Jerrod Rolston** (Wagner) wrote on his membership renewal, *"I have enclosed a check for \$300 for a lifetime membership. This is a great organization and I am proud to be a member."*

**Neil Schmid** (Sioux Falls) wrote on his membership renewal, *"Thanks for all the work you and the board accomplishes. Hello to everyone from Mockingbird Flying Club!"*

**Teresa Seykora** (Sioux Falls) emailed on February 9, *"Good Afternoon, We hope everything is going well for you. William wanted to give you an update. He received his private pilot license during his Christmas break from Iowa State University. After all the hard work he has completed the first step. Now he is on to the next step of Instrument rating. William's plan is to keep working toward adding ratings to his private pilot license. He also has completed everything necessary for Part 107. William is also going to continue to work on completing his Aerospace Engineering Degree. All of us would like to say thank you again for making William a past Becker-Hansen Memorial Scholarship winner. It is credited with helping William*

*complete this first step of his goal. Also we need to check on William's membership. Please can you have someone let us know if William is up to date [with his membership]. We don't remember sending in the renewal. Thank you for your time."* **REPLY:** Thank you for the email. Congratulations to William on passing his checkride. His membership is paid through June 1, 2020. Now that he has passed his checkride and is a new private pilot, he is eligible for a free one-year membership in the SDPA. Have him complete the attached application and mail it in and we will add a year to his membership renewal date.

**Doug Sly** (Platte) wrote on his membership renewal, *"Our Grandson attended ACE Camp and is now working on a pilot license at Brookings. He enjoyed ACE Camp very much."*

**Dar Steenholdt** (Sioux Falls) wrote on her membership renewal, *"Thank you!"*

**REPLY to all:** Thanks 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.

**Dave Amundson** (Canton) donated \$500 to the Becker-Hansen Memorial Scholarship Fund and SDPA Aviation Maintenance Technology Scholarship at LATI, Watertown. This donation was Dave's eighth contribution. *Thank you Dave!*

**Robert Burke** (Pierre) donated \$100 (\$75 to the Becker-Hansen Memorial Scholarship Fund and \$25 to the Art Contest Fund). *Thank you Robert!*

**Rodney Deweese** (Spearfish) donated \$40 to the SDPA Scholarships Fund. This donation was Rodney's fifth contribution. *Thank you Rodney!*

**Gary Dykstra** (Marion) donated \$20 to the SDPA Aviation Maintenance Technology Scholarship at LATI, Watertown. This donation was Gary's second contribution. *Thank you Gary!*

**Alan Fenner** (Menno) donated \$50 to the SDPA Aviation Maintenance Technology Scholarship at LATI, Watertown.



This donation was Alan's tenth contribution. SDPA mailed Alan a framed Certificate of Appreciation for Scholarship Support in recognition of his generous contributions. *Thank you Alan!*

**Lonald Gellhaus** (Groton) donated \$25 to the SDPA Scholarships Fund. This donation was Lonald's fifth contribution. *Thank you Lonald!*

**Mark Isackson** (Sioux Falls) donated \$20 to the Becker-Hansen Memorial Scholarship Fund. This donation was Mark's second contribution. *Thank you Mark!*

**Terry Jaspers** (Sisseton) donated \$30 to the Becker-Hansen Memorial Scholarship Fund. This donation was Terry's ninth contribution. *Thank you Terry!*

**Eric Lindeman** (Yankton) donated \$80 to the SDPA Scholarships Fund. This donation was Eric's second contribution. *Thank you Eric!*

**Mark O'Leary** (Sioux Falls) donated \$25 to the SDPA Scholarships Fund. *Thank you Mark!*

**Doug Sly** (Platte) donated \$100 to the ACE Camp Scholarships Fund. This donation was Doug's fourth contribution. SDPA mailed Doug an engraved paperweight in appreciation for his Scholarship Support to recognize his generous contributions. *Thank you Doug!*

**Dar Steenholdt** (Sioux Falls) donated \$25 to the SDPA Scholarships Fund. *Thank you Dar!*

**Randy Yost, LIFE Member** (Hayes) donated \$300 (\$100 to the Becker-Hansen Memorial Scholarship Fund, \$100 to the SDPA Aviation Maintenance Technology Scholarship at LATI, Watertown, \$50 to the ACE Camp Scholarships Fund, and \$50 to the SD Aviation Art Contest Prize Fund).

This donation was Randy's fourth contribution. *Thank you Randy!*

The SDPA provides ACE Camp scholarships (\$1,000), Becker-Hansen Memorial Scholarship (\$2,000), SDPA Aviation Maintenance Technology Scholarship at LATI (\$2,000), and sponsors prizes for the SD Aviation Art Contest (\$250) – total of \$5,250 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

members (398) and non-members (232) concerning seven "aviation" related bills.

**Feb 18:** SDPA emailed a B-21 Informational Meetings Advisory to SDPA members (398) and non-members (232) issued by Ellsworth AFB Public Affairs Office.

**Feb 21:** SDPA joined numerous other aviation organizations and industry groups in signing a letter supporting the National Center for the Advancement of Aviation Act of 2020 sponsored by Senators James Inhofe and Tammy Duckworth. SDPA

## New Pilots in SD

**John Maness** (Watertown) passed his checkride on December 10, 2019, in LATI's Cessna 172 with DPE **Anthony Hentges** at Canby, MN. *Congratulations John on earning your private pilot certificate!* John first became interested in aviation when he worked at age 16 one summer at an FBO at Lancaster Regional Airport (KLNC), TX (John grew-up in Texas). Fast forward to August 2018 when John flew in the motorglider with Greg Klein at Watertown on an introductory flight for the Ag Aviation Program at LATI. John did a second flight, then decided to wait for the Professional Pilot Program to start in August 2019 at LATI. John, plus three other students, became the first class in the new program. John trained with flight instructor **Aaron Weeldreyer** (LifeTime member of SDPA) and soloed on November 14, did his long cross country for Watertown to Huron, then Madison and home, and December 3, and checkride on December 10. Yes, , , , it was intensity flight training. John is currently working on an instrument rating, which will be followed by a commercial rating, multi-engine rating, CFI, and CFII (after ~250 hours of flight training). The flight training plus some academic coursework will result in graduating with an Associate of Applied Science Degree. John's ultimate goal is to get a job flying in corporate aviation. *Best of luck to you John and achieving your aviation goals.*



## SDPA Letters / Comments / Displays

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

**Feb 8:** SDPA & Value of General Aviation tabletop display was shown at the SDPA meeting at Al's Oasis, Oacoma, attended by 25 people.

**Feb 9:** SDPA & Value of General Aviation tabletop display was shown at a safety seminar (Ground School Refresher) held at the Chan Gurney Airport, Yankton, attended by 41 people.

**Feb 9:** SDPA co-sponsored a 3-hour Ground School Refresher Course held at the Chan Gurney Airport, Yankton, and covered half the cost of refreshments and cookies. (other co-sponsor was the Yankton Regional Aviation Association).

**Feb 11:** SDPA SD Legislative Alert #1 emailed to SDPA

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**William Seykora** (Sioux Falls) passed his checkride on January 9, 2020, in a Warrior at Lincoln County Airport with DPE **Jordan Hall**. *Congratulations William on earning your private pilot certificate!* William was awarded the Becker-Hansen Memorial Scholarship in 2017 and used the funds for flight training at Legacy Aviation. William is currently a Junior at Iowa State University, Ames, IA, working on a degree in Aerospace Engineering with a minor in Aviation. While going to school in Ames, William continued his flight training at Legacy in between semester breaks, primarily with CFI **Brandon West**. William completed his on-line training for a Part 107 remote pilot certificate and will be submitting his application through IACRA (Integrated Airman Certification and Rating Application). William is currently taking an instrument ground school course at the university as part of his Aviation minor, and will start instrument flight training this spring at Ames Airport with the CFII who is teaching the ground school course. His ultimate goal after more flight training and graduating from the university is to

work as an engineer in the aviation industry. *Best of luck to you William on your future endeavors.*

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**ATTENTION SDPA MEMEBERS:** The SDPA is promoting general aviation and camaraderie among pilots, mechanics, and aviation enthusiasts in South Dakota by giving a one-year FREE membership to **NEW PILOTS** who have passed their checkride and are residents in SD (started in 2008). SDPA is giving a one-year FREE membership to **NEW MECHANICS** who have passed their practical test for the A&P (airframe & powerplant) test (started in 2016). All the new pilot or new mechanic has to do is complete a membership application and mail it to SDPA, 307 West Blaine Avenue, Gettysburg, SD 57442-1145. **If you know of a new pilot or new mechanic who is a resident of SD** (regardless of where they took their checkride or practical test), **please let us know, and we will mail them an application** (contact Steve Hamilton at 605-665-8448 or email at skyhawk43v@gmail.com). SDPA

## SDPA Meeting – February 8

SDPA held a meeting on Saturday, **February 8**, in **Oacoma** at **Al's Oasis**. The program started at about 11:00 AM with **John Mollison** of Sioux Falls as our speaker. He is an aviation writer, historian, and filmmaker. John's presentation was an interesting blend of history, personal leadership, and of course, aircraft. He was eager to address a friendly, South Dakota crowd of like-minded souls. But first, he had to get a HDMI cable to connect his new laptop computer with the projector, , , , , so off to the Variety Store in Chamberlain for a HDMI cable.

John said that he had no military time, but had been around veterans for 25 years. He was not a pilot, but had flown in a variety of planes and planned to earn a Sport Pilot certificate with a tail wheel endorsement.

His interest in drawing started at age 3 when his stay-at-home mom gave him a box of Krayons and his dad's model airplanes and told him to draw what the planes would do next. Now, his paintings hang in 14 countries around the world.

At age four he learned to read by reading stories in his dad's WWII flying books.

About 17 years ago, John started writing a blog about talking with veterans and telling their stories. He started with one reader, then two (his wife who corrected his writing). Now, his blog is read by ~12,000 people.

Two veterans John had interviewed in the past were in attendance: **Richard Hall** who flew A-1 Skyraiders out of Laos, and **Jim Eisenmenger** who flew F-102s out of Thailand – both during the Vietnam War. Notable veterans he has known include Bud Anderson (triple ACE in WWII), Joe Foss, and George McGovern. John mentioned that he has written a book about life lessons learned from talking with "old guys and their airplanes" (to be published in about 18 months).

John told a long story about Gerald Brown who flew P-38s in WWII and F-51s (redesignated P-51s) in the Korean War. Gerald flew missions in Korea, was shot down, taken prisoner of war, endured 9 months in a hole in the ground in

solitary confinement while maintaining his sanity "by visualizing" making strawberry shortcake, and survived the war.

John mentioned the Distinguished Flying Cross Society (dfcsociety.org) who he is working with to develop and distribute free educational kits to middle school history teachers. He has done three kits so far.

John also talked about Cyril Huss of Faulkton whose P-51 "Dot T" was painted by Mollison and presented in August 2019 to Cyril's wife Dorothy. The painting hangs in the Dot T Steakhouse in Faulkton. Bobbie Potts commented that he knew the Huss family and recently ate in the steakhouse.

In mid-April 2020, four of John's paintings will be unveiled in the Pierre airport terminal, including "Dakota Warrior," a P-51 flown by John Waldron.

Excellent presentation by John. John's two websites are: JohnMollison.com and OldGuysAndTheirAirplanes.com Check them out for information about South Dakota flyers.

Participating in the presentation and meeting were **David Amundson** (Canton), **John Barney** (Brookings), **Myra Christenson** (Pierre), **Jim Eisenmenger** (Yankton), **Mark Eitreim** (Lennox), **Richard Hall** (Scotland), **Steve Hamilton** (Yankton), **Richard Helton** (Chamberlain), **Brian & Frank Hines** (Huron), **Representative David Johnson** (Rapid City), **Rolf Johnson** (Mina), **Dean Kirkeby** (Clark), **Dale Knuth** (Hartford), **Dwayne LaFave** (DeSmet), **Larry Menning** (Chamberlain), **Bobbie & Mary Carol Potts** (Gettysburg), **Harvey Spieker** (Clark), **Sunny Stephens** (Rapid City), **Marsha Sumpter** (Kadoka), **Lee Vaughan** (Philip), **Jack Winter** (Huron), and a couple more people who did not sign in. Rolf Johnson, Dean Kirkeby, and Harvey Spieker flew into the Chamberlain Airport for the meeting.

After lunch, President John Barney called the meeting to order at 1:06pm – with coffee and four dozen cookies available. Barney passed around a sympathy card for the Bernie Christenson's passing. He had everyone introduce themselves. John thanked John Mollison for his outstanding presentation. Mollison had to leave after lunch for a meeting in Pierre.

The minutes of the SDPA meeting on November 16 in Huron as reported in the January-February 2020 newsletter were approved as published.

Mary Carol Potts gave the **treasurer's report**: Balance & reserve on hand January 1, 2019: \$38,976.51; total expenses \$13,114.02 as of February 2, 2020; total income \$21,198.93 as of February 2, 2020; reserve for LifeTime Membership \$20,220.00 as of February 2, 2020; reserve for donations for scholarships \$6,787.34 as of February 2, 2020, balance on hand as of February 2 (minus reserves for Lifetime Membership and donations for scholarships) \$20,054.08; balance & reserves \$47,061.42. Moved by Rolf Johnson, seconded by Jack Winter to accept the report. Vote: all aye, none nay.

Rolf Johnson asked what had been learned about establishing a Money Market Account with a portion of the treasury to gain interest. After discussion, Barney said the issue would be an agenda item for the next SDPA meeting on April 11 in Hot Springs.

**District 1: Director Rolf Johnson** reported that not

much was going on in his district. Bobbie Potts commented that the taxiway project at **Gettysburg Airport** was on hold due to bad weather conditions.

**District 2: Director Harvey Spieker** reported that the runway project at **Clark Airport** had been approved. Survey markers were in the ground for the **Watertown Airport** project and construction would start in the spring. Rolf Johnson reported that the public meetings were being held on the Master Plan for **Aberdeen Airport**.

**District 3: Director Dwayne LaFave** reported that an airport advisory board had been established for the **DeSmet Airport**. John Barney said that the “proposed” runway realignment project at **Flandreau Airport** was being redone because the authorities scrapped the approval of the current project to actually go ahead and proceed with the project.

**District 4: Director George Bittner** was absent due to him attendance at Bernie Christenson’s funeral in Pierre.

**District 5: Director Marsha Sumpter** reported that the old school house at **Kadoka Airport** had been resided, roof replaced, and two new windows installed. Lee Vaughan reported that **Phillip Airport** had a new four-stall T-hangar built and all the spaces were rented. The wildlife fence has been put back up. The fuel system is not working.

**District 6: Director Sunny Stephens** reported sadly that Ed Jensen at **Hot Springs Airport** was retiring in November 2020. A cultural artifact survey is being conducted at **Rapid City Airport**. The terminal is being remodeled and the Master Plan is being updated due to rapid growth in passenger boardings at the airport. Concerns were raised about the loss of rental hangars and fee increases at the airport.

**District 7: Director Chuck Trumble**, no report.

Under old business, Rolf Johnson reported that he had further investigated the **AOPA High School Initiative** to promote aviation in South Dakota. Rolf said that an AOPA map showed one location in eastern SD associated with the High School Initiative [likely Madison High School – see story in the January-February 2020 newsletter, page 10]. He said that the curriculum was based on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) for 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. The expense for schools was supplies, and AOPA encouraged schools to use a drone in the course work. Rolf asked AOPA if they had a short video to show prospective schools to promote the program, but AOPA did not have a video (they may create one in the future).

Sunny Stephens said students would need to get “credit” toward graduation. Dave Amundson said that Canton had an aviation program that was popular. Dale Knuth commented that Sioux Falls had a Career and Technical Education Academy that had an aviation course at one time, but the instructor left the program (members of EAA Chapter 289 had helped with the course). Marsha



Sumpter mentioned that the Discovery Center in Pierre worked with the SD Civil Air Patrol to promote aviation among 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in SD. Rolf said that the SD Aeronautics Commission had supported a travelling flight simulator operated by the SDSU Aviation Program that was used to promote aviation among high school students. However, the flight simulator is now idle. The issue of promoting aviation among high school students will be further discussed at a future SDPA meeting.

Under new business, an election for the **SDPA secretary position** was held. **Dale Knuth** of Hartford had volunteered to fill the position. Moved by Dwayne LaFave, seconded by Dean Kirkeby, to elect Dale Knuth as secretary. Vote: all aye, none nay.

*Congratulations Dale!* (see separate story)

Moved by Rolf Johnson, seconded by Harvey Spieker, to fund **Master Pilot and Master Mechanic plaques** approved by the FAA for residents of SD in 2020. Steve Hamilton said that plaques presented last year cost \$57 each. Vote: all aye, none nay.

Moved by Jack Winter, seconded by Rolf Johnson, to have the accounting firm of Kohlman, Bierschbach & Anderson, LLP, of Mobridge **prepare and submit the tax return** for the SDPA. Vote: all aye, none nay. Steve Hamilton mentioned that Christine Olsen of the firm said that the firm typically charges \$50 for filing a Form 990-N tax notice with the IRS. Steve had filed the form last year via the Internet – with some difficulty.

David Johnson said that there may be other forms that may need to be filed for being a nonprofit organization. Kohlman, Bierschbach & Anderson LLP did the paperwork to gain status for SDPA as a nonprofit under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Vote: all aye, none nay.

Bobbie Potts said that a **big air show** was being planned for **July 4-5 in Pierre**. (see story in this newsletter, page 17). Jim Peitz is organizing the air show and will be flying his aerobatic Bonanza. The Canadian Snowbirds will be performing.

Representative David Johnson talked briefly about the various bills in the SD Legislature, one of which sets a minimal amount of insurance for pesticide applicators. HB1102 requests the return of the \$3M swept by the Legislature in 2010. He mentioned that the SD Aeronautics Commission had lowered the state share for AIP projects from 5% to 3.5% starting in 2021 (changes local share from 5% to 6.5%). HB1066 revises drone surveillance protections and will have



another amendment offered on Feb 10.

The meeting adjourned at about 2:23 PM.

Thank you note from **John Mollison** received February 24: "SDPA, Thank you for the invite to speak to the SDPA! Though I'm not part of your "pilot fraternity," your group made me feel welcome and part of the family, nonetheless. My honorary membership [in the SDPA] is a point of pride – you made my year! Blue Skies, John Mollison"

**Future meetings:**

April 11: Hot Springs Airport

June 13: Wagner at Boom's Restaurant

September 12: Wall Airport

November 14: Redfield Airport

SDPA

**District 4 Report by George Bittner**

For many of the 1700 pilots who took their check rides from FAA Designated Examiner **Bernie Christenson**, they knew him mostly as the aviation guy you had to go through to advance your aviation dreams. His aviation resume was very impressive and well documented. It includes flying or giving flight instruction to every South Dakota Governor since Governor Frank Farrar in 1969, who was an honorary pallbearer at his Memorial Service.

Bernie also spent twenty years with the SD Department of Criminal Investigation which included a harrowing physical confrontation at the Custer County Court House riot in 1973, where he subdued a big individual trying to beat him with an ax handle and stopping another from burning the Custer County Courthouse. He was also involved in the pursuit and gunfire near Oglala of suspects in the killing of two FBI agents in 1975. In 1980 he flew off a wheat-stubble field near Akaska in Walworth County, SD, in the four engine DC-7 that had been seized with 26,000 pounds of baled marijuana on board. The plane had come from Columbia, South America, on Super Bowl Sunday. Apparently, the drug smugglers thought no one would notice the landing and transfer of drugs.

Governor Mickelson asked Bernie to head the newly established South Dakota Community Foundation in 1987, and during his tenure he was instrumental in rising over \$40 million in endowed assets. He was a Vice President at Bank West in Pierre, co-owner for 16 years of a flying service based at Pierre, served on the Pierre City Commission and in the South Dakota Legislature. He was a member of the South Dakota Aviation Hall of Fame and inducted into the State Of South Dakota Hall of Fame.

His Memorial Service on February 8<sup>th</sup> completely filled the First United Methodist Church in Pierre. It was shared at the service how much he gave back to his community and the state of South Dakota, and how he wanted to make a difference in people's lives. Remember how he touched your life because he remembered how you touched his. It was also said his life was like a movie and he played the leading role. There were several tables of pictures, scrapbooks, plaques and appreciation letters and pictures from Airline Pilots to Governors. But more than anything were pictures of

his family and friends which out of all the parts of his life was probably the most important.

His graveside service included military honors for serving his country in the U.S. Army and of course the fly over with two King Air aircraft in formation with one banking off to the West and climbing high.

SDPA

**2020 SD Aviation Art Contest**

The theme of the 2020 Aviation Art Contest was "Flying Yesterday and Tomorrow." There were 72 submissions for the Contest from nine schools. There were 34 submissions in the 6-9 year old group, 32 submissions in the 10-13 year old group, and 6 submissions in the 14-17 year old group – for a total of 72 submissions.

The SDPA provided \$250 to help the SD DOT Office of Air, Rail & Transit purchase prizes for the first three winners in each age group. **Jennifer Boehm**, Aeronautics Program Assistant, and **Rayleen Rathbun**, Secretary, SD DOT Office of Air, Rail & Transit, will select and distribute the prizes. SD DOT advertised the Contest by sending out 550 letters to schools in SD. The SDPA advertised the art contest in the Nov-Dec 2019 and Jan-Feb 2020 newsletters and in the January newsletter of the Yankton Regional Aviation Association. A news release on the contest was also emailed to 47 SD media outlets.



Thank you Jennifer Boehm and Rayleen Rathbun for coordinating and judging the SD Aviation Art Contest!

The SDPA thanks the following teachers and schools for having their students participate in the SD Aviation Art Contest:

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Madison     | Sarah Conrad, Madison Middle School        |
| Madison     | Cheryl Bollinger, Rustic Acres School      |
| Miller      | Alanna Poling, Sunshine Bible Academy      |
| Oelrichs    | Buff Tewahade, Oelrichs School             |
| Sioux Falls | Kristi Koatz, Discovery Elementary         |
| Tyndall     | Ruthie Moore, Bon Homme School District    |
| White River | Jennifer Schoon, STAR Academy              |
| Yankton     | Stephanie Hunhoff, Sacred Heart Elementary |
| Yankton     | Sandy Vavra, Sacred Heart Elementary       |
| Yankton     | Angela Kronaizl, Sacred Heart School       |

SDPA

[See Winners.pdf on the Art Contest page](#)

[See Winners.pdf on the Art Contest page](#)



## SDPA Secretary

**Dale G. Knuth** of Hartford, SD, was elected secretary of the SDPA at the SDPA meeting held on February 8 at Oacoma.

Please welcome Dale as a new officer. Here is his bio:

Dale grew up in the Sandhills of Nebraska and graduated from Valentine Rural High School, Valentine, NE. Dale was introduced to aviation at a young age as his father, Dan, was a pilot and used his "Champ" to check cows and windmills on the ranch. Dale took every opportunity to go along and learn to fly. Dale's grandfather, uncle, and cousin also were pilots.

Dale earned his private pilot license June, 1993. Family life took priority for a few years so not a lot of flying was done until 2015 when he purchased a 1952 Cessna 170B. He continues to fly as much as possible and has over 500 hours in it since the purchase. Dale has also owned a Rans S6-S, which was purchased for the purpose of getting more hours for his son, Dean, who is the 4<sup>th</sup> generation pilot of the Knuth family. Dean is pursuing a professional career as a pilot (a story about Dean becoming a new private pilot was published in the SDPA News in May-June 2019.)

Dale is a member of EAA Young Eagles Program and has given over 100 kids a ride in his Cessna. He also is a member of AOPA. He loves flying and jumps at the chance to get behind the controls of any airplane he can.

Dale and his wife, Glenda, have three children and one grandchild. Dale has served in the Army, Nebraska National Guard, and South Dakota National Guard from 1985-1992. Dale has been a member of the SDPA since October 2015 and became a LifeTime in October 2019. SDPA

## Liberty Balloon Ground School

Hot Springs, South Dakota, will be hosting a Liberty Balloon Ground School in 2020!

**Rick Jones** will be the instructor for this 2-day ground school on April 4th and 5th. Registration is \$365 per person if you register at least 30 days in advance or \$50 for alumni (or repeating students). If you register less than 30 days from the date of the course, the price goes up to \$395. For more information and to pay directly online for this course go to [www.libertyballoonschool.com](http://www.libertyballoonschool.com)

If you have any questions about lodging or things to do in the Hot Springs area, please don't hesitate to contact **Petra Wilson** at 605-413-7106 or [petra.wilson@live.com](mailto:petra.wilson@live.com). SDPA

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## Airports of Rapid City

The Turtle Soup program for Friday, April 3, will be given by **Norma Kraemer**, author of South Dakota's First Century of Flight. The soup is not from turtles, it varies. Turtle Soup is a Friday history presentation at the Journey Museum at 222 New York Street in Rapid City, SD. It starts at noon and lasts an hour.

Norma's presentation is titled "**Airports of Rapid City.**"

South Dakota's first "airport" was in Rapid City in 1911. Since then, the city has had a variety of airports that have served the area. The city's inviting the Army Air Corps to its Municipal Airport in WWII perhaps had the greatest impact of all for the city's economic development. The program will cover the development of aviation in the Rapid City area from 1911 to the present day.

The catered SOUP is included with admission and half-off for members. RESERVE YOUR SEAT NOW! Call 605-394-6923. Adults \$12, Seniors \$10.

Currently there is a museum temporary display called Planes, Trains, and Motorcycles that will be on display from now through April. For further information see <https://www.journeymuseum.org/visit/2020-exhibits/planes-trains-motorcycles> SDPA

## Lessons Learned by Buck DeWeese

*Fellow aviators.* 2019 was a huge year in my aviation career. In January I retired from Delta Air Lines after almost 32 years of accident free flying, 22,000 hours plus another 12 years in the Air Force.

Then on a clear blue day at 9500 feet over KPHP [Philip], I had a near miss less than 100 feet from another Cessna. I had ADS-B on, Flight Following from ATC, and another observer in the right seat. It happened so fast I didn't even have a chance to take evasive action. The other pilot did, as he pushed down and away and passed just beneath and behind me. I filed the necessary reports with ATC and the FAA. Just goes to show, Big Sky Theory is not perfect. Neither are all the safety precautions we carry. When the other aircraft is not participating, "See and Avoid" are the first three words in your Aviation Bible.

The second event took place on November 11 at the Spearfish (KSPF) Airport. It was 9 PM (2100 hours) local as I was descending into the airport for landing. At 2 miles East above I-90, I was blinded by a bright green light which intermittently illuminated the cockpit. I was flying directly to it, planning to overfly to enter right downwind to RWY 13, but that would have extended my exposure time to the light that was coming from near Bomgaars Parking lot South of I-90. I instead made a hard tight turn to go belly up to the source. I also closed one eye just in case he got a direct hit in my face. I could see the light flashing at me off and on for the next 2 minutes. Once I got below 100 feet it disappeared. After landing I immediately notified the FAA, Ellsworth Approach, and the Spearfish Police. Next day I reported to Ray Jilek, Airport Manager. I was fortunate I did not get a direct hit in my eyes at close

range. I did not lose total night vision, and was able to make a safe landing. I have since heard of similar Green Laser sightings in Rapid City.

Lessons learned: #1. It doesn't matter if you have 42 years or 42 hours of flying time....you are equally exposed to Aviation Hazards. #2. Don't let your guard down, don't rest on your laurels, and be ready for anything at anytime. *Safe Flying Everyone!* SDPA

National Center for the Advancement of Aviation

The SDPA has joined numerous other aviation organizations and industry groups in support of the **National Center for the Advancement of Aviation Act of 2020** sponsored by Senators James Inhofe and Tammy Duckworth.

The National Center for the Advancement of Aviation would focus on four key areas:

**Aviation and Aerospace STEM Curriculum:** A national center would support aviation and aerospace education efforts and provide resources to aviation curriculum developers so educators at all levels have the tools and training to ensure their success in the classroom. A national center would ensure that our next generation of pilots, aviation maintenance technicians, and other aviation professionals are educated by highly qualified, passionate professionals and prepared with the knowledge and tools to pursue life fulfilling careers in aviation and aerospace.

**Workforce Development:** A nation center would serve as a collaborative forum to leverage expertise from all sectors of the aviation and aerospace industry to develop and deploy a workforce of pilots, aerospace engineers, unmanned aircraft system operators, aviation maintenance technicians, or other aviation maintenance professionals needed in the coming decades. A national center would empower the spread of existing youth-oriented aviation and aerospace programs and proven training models to stakeholders across the nation to create the next generation of aviation professionals.

**Economic and Safety Data and Research Sharing:** A national aviation center would serve as a central repository of economic data, safety data, and research efforts related to the aviation and aerospace sectors, allowing a comprehensive perspective of public aviation and aerospace information that would improve safety for all stakeholders. Existing data and research efforts can be fragmented, isolated, and face unnecessary hurdles or artificial constraints due to a lack of awareness. A national center would amplify across the aviation and aerospace community and other interested stakeholders existing research conducted and inform the direction of future research.

**Forum for Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration:** A national center would be a forum for symposiums and conferences to facilitate cross-disciplinary collaboration across the aviation and aerospace community and other interested stakeholders to consider the near-term and long-term future of aviation and aerospace generally, whether that be new aviation and aerospace materials, products, procedures, and/or practices. A national center would empower the engagement between and among all engaged stakeholders to pioneer future advancements for the aviation and aerospace community.

This legislation would create a federally chartered Center to promote aviation and aerospace as a whole, serving as a stakeholder-led, gathering place for all aviation and aviation-related stakeholders to address pressing issues. This Center would focus its efforts on aviation workforce development. Without a qualified workforce, we will not have a safe and vibrant national aviation system. Funding for the Center would come from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund. SDPA

B-21 Informational Meetings

(Due to the short time frame of this email -- received Feb 18 -- the email was distributed to SDPA and non-SDPA members via a blast email on February 18)

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, SD – The U.S. Air Force is holding

informational meetings in your area to share information about the basing of the



new bomber aircraft, the B-21 "Raider." Meetings are being held to provide information and solicit input on any concerns that may be associated with the B-21 proposal.

The Air Force will consider beddown of the B-21 at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, or Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota. The informational meetings will be held at the following dates and locations:

- Feb. 25, 6–8 p.m., Big Horn County Fairgrounds Grandstand Building, 157 Sawyer Loop, Hardin, Montana.
- Feb. 26, 6–8 p.m., Miles Community College, 2715 Dickinson Street, Miles City, Montana.
- Feb. 27, 6–8 p.m., Astoria Hotel & Event Center, 363 15th St. W., Dickinson, North Dakota.

Meetings will also be held in Texas the week of March 2.

Please check the project website, [www.B21EIS.com](http://www.B21EIS.com), in advance of the meetings for updates. In the event of inclement winter weather conditions, the Air Force will send a notice of changes or cancellation in advance of the meetings via the website.

For more information, visit [www.B21EIS.com](http://www.B21EIS.com) or call the 28th Bomb Wing Public Affairs office at (605) 385-5056.

SDPA comment: *Why no informational meetings in SD?*

SDPA

## SD Legislative Summary

The SDPA has been tracking several “aviation-related” bills in the SD Legislature. Here’s there status as of February 25:

### **HB1059: An Act to revise certain provisions regarding hunting with drones.**

Amends § 41-8-39. Use of aircraft in hunting prohibited--Exception--Violation as misdemeanor and § 50-15-2. Operation of drone--Compliance with federal law—Exemption as follows: The operation of the drone is in full compliance with all applicable Federal Aviation Administration regulations

Status:

01/21/2020: Referred to House Agriculture and Natural Resources.

02/06/2020: Agriculture and Natural Resources Do Pass, Passed, YEAS 11, NAYS 0.

02/06/2020: Certified uncontested, placed on consent.

02/07/2020: House of Representatives Do Pass, Passed, YEAS 65, NAYS 0.

02/10/2020: First read in Senate and referred to Senate Transportation.

02/19/2020: Transportation Do Pass, Passed, YEAS 7, NAYS 0.

02/19/2020: Certified uncontested, placed on consent.

02/20/2020: Senate Do Pass, Passed, YEAS 35, NAYS 0.

02/21/2020: Signed by the Speaker of the House.

02/24/2020: Signed by the President of the Senate.

### **HB 1060: An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the use of the aeronautics fund.**

Amends § 50-4-14. State aeronautics fund--Uses. The state aeronautics fund and the accumulations to the fund—~~as appropriated by the Legislature may~~ shall be used only for: (1) The planning, construction, development, and maintenance of aviation facilities and public airports; [*changes “may” to “shall” and adds the word “planning” in two places*]

Status:

01/21/2020: Referred to House Taxation.

01/30/2020: Taxation Do Pass, Passed, YEAS 9, NAYS 3. Hearing on the HR1060 lasted 33 minutes. Representative David Johnson was the only proponent and there were no opponents. Johnson gave opening remarks (3 minutes) and answered at least five questions from Taxation Committee members (12 minutes). Comments from Committee members lasted about 15 minutes prior to the vote.

02/04/2020: House of Representatives Do Pass, Passed, YEAS 53, NAYS 13. The House floor session lasted 23 minutes. Representative David Johnson spoke for 5 minutes in support of the bill. Representatives Taffy Howard, Tim Reed, Kirk Chafee, Kevin Jenson, and Chris Johnson spoke in support of the bill, and Jean Hunhoff and John Mills spoke against the bill. David Johnson spoke in rebuttal and mentioned that three airports had state funding denied in 2019 [revenue-generating hangars at Hot Springs and Parkston and a revenue-generating fuel farm at Hoven].

02/05/2020: First read in Senate and referred to Senate Taxation.

02/19/2020: Taxation Do Pass, Passed, YEAS 6, NAYS 0. The hearing was 32 minutes long. Representative David Johnson spoke in support of the bill, and Derrick Johnson (Bureau of Finance & Management) spoke against the bill saying the bill would not stop future legislatures from repurposing (aka sweeping) the funds using the phrase “not withstanding § 50-4-14.” The Committee members had several questions and comments prior to voting.

02/20/2020: Deferred with pending amendment (Rule 5-17), Passed. 18-minute hearing. A couple of senators spoke against the bill and several spoke in support. Senator Maher offered the following verbal amendment: remove overstrike from “as appropriated by the legislature may,” and overstrike “shall.” Senator Greenfield called for rule 5-17 to delay the vote on the amendment until legislators had time to study the verbal amendment.

02/24/2020: Senate Tabled, Passed, YEAS 24, NAYS 11. Two-minute hearing.

### **HB1065: An Act to revise drone surveillance protections.**

Amends § 22-21-1. Eavesdropping--Privacy--Violation as misdemeanor—Exemptions to protect privacy.

Status:

01/21/2020: First read in House and referred to House Judiciary.

02/05/2020: Judiciary Motion to amend, Passed Amendment 1065E

02/05/2020: Judiciary Do Pass Amended, Passed, YEAS 8, NAYS 4. During the 36-minute hearing, Representative David Johnson introduced the bill. Eight registered lobbyists testified in support of Amendment 1065E, which incorporated the phrase “bona fide business purpose” concerning the use of drones. Discussion included concerns about people having a “reasonable expectation of privacy.”

02/11/2020: House of Representatives Motion to amend, Passed Amendment 1065F

02/11/2020: House of Representatives Do Pass Amended, Passed, YEAS 60, NAYS 6. 10-minute discussion on the House floor with testimony in support of the amended bill by Representative David Johnson.

02/12/2020: First read in Senate and referred to Senate Judiciary.

02/27/2020: scheduled for hearing.

### **HB1066: An Act to revise and repeal provisions regarding aviation.** (Title 50 Aviation cleanup)

Numerous New Sections, Amended Sections, and Repealed Sections regarding aviation: New Section § 9-24-7. Maximum liability--Municipal airport--Accidents or occurrences. Amends § 50-1-1 Definitions. Amends § 50-2-12. Expenditures and disbursements--Approval--Purposes. New Section § 50-2-32. Commission action--Appeal. Amends § 50-4-12. Sale of aircraft fuel--Report--Violation as misdemeanor. Amends § 50-4-13. Aircraft fuel tax revenues--Appropriation and use. Amends § 50-7-2. County

commissioners and municipalities--Airports--Powers and jurisdiction--Airport boards. Amends § 50-7-7. Statement of intention to establish airport--Protest by voters--Submission to vote. Amends § 50-7-10. Airport sponsors--Powers--Federal grants--Agreements. Amends § 50-7-15. Cooperative agreements--Airport improvements--Reimbursement. Amends § 50-7-17. Airport system expansion and improvement--Project applications--Prior approval--Federal funds--Requirements. Amends § 50-7-18. Indemnification agreements--Lands subject to mineral rights or oil and gas leases. Amends § 50-7-19. Indemnification agreements--Limitations. New Section § 50-9-14. Airport hazard--Public nuisance--Prevention. New Section § 50-9-15. Removal of airport hazards--Public purpose--Public funds. Amends § 50-10-6. Airport layout--Zones--Permitted land uses--Runway protection zone--Exclusions. Amended § 50-10-9. Regulations--Limitations. Amends § 50-11-21. Promulgation of rules--Additional registration tax--Aeronautics fund. Amends § 50-11-33. Certificate of registration--Permits--Alteration or forgery--Violation as felony. Amends § 50-12-2. Aircraft dealer's license--Application--Contents. Amends § 50-12-14. Dealer's license--Renewal--Requirements--Appeal--Fees. Amends § 50-13-16. Reckless operation of aircraft--Violation as misdemeanor--Considerations. Amends § 50-13-18. Tampering with aircraft--Violation as misdemeanor. Amends § 50-15-2. Compliance with federal regulations--Exemption from chapter. Repeals § 50-2-5. Duties of commission. Repeals § 50-4-1. Duties of department. Repeals § 50-7-14.1. Maximum liability of municipality for accidents or occurrences. Repeals § 50-9-4. Appeal of commission action--Procedure. Repeals § 50-10-2. Airport hazard as public nuisance--Prevention. Repeals § 50-10-2.1. Removal of airport hazards as public purpose--Use of public funds.

Status:  
01/21/2020: First read in House and referred to House Transportation.  
01/24/2020: Referred to House Transportation.  
01/30/2020: Transportation Motion to amend, Passed Amendment 1066A.  
01/30/2020: Transportation Motion to amend, Passed Amendment 1066B.  
01/30/2020: Transportation Do Pass Amended, Passed, YEAS 13, NAYS 0. Hearing was 16 minutes long and introduced by Representative David Johnson who said this was phase III of the cleanup of Title 50 Aviation. Dustin DeBoer (SD DOT) spoke in favor of the bill and summarized the major changes in cleaning up Title 50. Two minor amendments were approved, as was the bill.  
02/05/2020: House of Representatives Do Pass Amended, Passed, YEAS 66, NAYS 0. Representative David Johnson gave ~4 minutes of opening remarks, followed by House vote.  
02/06/2020: First read in Senate and referred to Senate Transportation.  
02/12/2020: Transportation Do Pass, Passed, YEAS 6, NAYS 0.  
02/12/2020: Certified uncontested, placed on consent.  
02/13/2020: Senate Do Pass Amended, Passed, YEAS 31, NAYS 0.

02/18/2020: Signed by the Speaker of the House.  
02/19/2020: Signed by the President of the Senate.  
02/20/2020: Delivered to the Governor.

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**HB1075: An Act to repeal certain outdated provisions regarding annexation near airports.**

Repeals § 9-4-13. Annexation of territory near municipal airport between March 15, 2003 and July 1, 2003 voidable.  
Status:

01/24/2020: Referred to House Transportation.  
01/30/2020: Transportation Do Pass, Passed, YEAS 12, NAYS 0. Hearing was about 2 minutes with no proponents or opponents.  
01/30/2020: Certified uncontested, placed on consent.  
02/04/2020: House of Representatives Do Pass, Passed, YEAS 66, NAYS 0.  
02/05/2020: First read in Senate and referred to Senate Transportation.  
02/12/2020: Transportation Do Pass, Passed, YEAS 6, NAYS 0.  
02/12/2020: Certified uncontested, placed on consent.  
02/13/2020: Senate Do Pass, Passed, YEAS 31, NAYS 0.  
02/18/2020: Signed by the Speaker of the House.  
02/19/2020: Signed by the President of the Senate.  
02/20/2020: Delivered to the Governor.

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**HB1102: An Act to make an appropriation to reimburse the aeronautics fund.** Appropriates from the general fund the sum of three million thirty-three thousand five hundred eighty-one dollars (\$3,033,581), or so much thereof as may be necessary, to the aeronautics commission for the purpose of airport and aviation facility improvements. (returns funds swept from the Aeronautics Fund in 2010)

Status:  
01/28/2020: Introduced in House and referred to Joint Committee on Appropriations. Representative David Johnson said during the SD Aeronautics Commission meeting on January 28 that he needed support from the Governor's Office or he would withdraw the bill.  
02/13/2020: Joint Committee on Appropriations Tabled, Passed, YEAS 14, NAYS 3. 23-minute hearing with Representative David Johnson and a registered lobbyist for engineering firms speaking in support of bill, and Laura Williams, Bureau of Finance & Management, speaking in opposition.  
02/25/2020: no further action.

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**House Commemoration 8005:** A Commemoration Honoring and commending Police Officers Teil Glaus and Garrett Harmon, Highway Patrol Trooper Josh De Wild and Chief Deputy Sheriff Tory Engel on their heroic response and life-saving actions at the scene of an airplane crash in Chamberlain.

Status:  
01/23/2020: Introduced.  
01/24/2020: Enrolled.

SDPA

## SD Airports Conference

The SD Airports Conference will be held on March 11-12 at the Holiday Inn Rapid City-Rushmore Plaza, Rapid City, SD. Sponsor meetings will be held on March 10 (Tuesday).

### March 11 (Wednesday)

- 8:00 AM Aeronautics Commission Meeting
- 8:30 AM Registration Table Opens
- 9:30 AM FAA Regional Update, Rebecca MacPherson, FAA Great Lakes Region
- 10:00 AM Airport Cooperative Research Program: A Public Service to the Airport Industry, Diane Hofer, ACRP Ambassador
- 10:30 AM Rapid City Flight Standards District Office Overview, UAS Overview and FAASTeam Update, Wayne Jensen, Ron Matusiak & Steven Hoogerhyde, Rapid City FSDO
- 11:30 AM Black Hills National Forest Overview - Forest Fires, Kevin Merrill, U.S. Forest Service
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 1:00 PM The New Williston Basin International Airport, Charlie Baker and Mason Short, KLJ, Inc.
- 2:00 PM UAS Search & Rescue, Craig Goodrich, Civil Air Patrol
- 2:30 PM Title 50 and Legislative Updates, Rep. David Johnson, SD Legislature
- 3:00 PM Break
- 3:30 PM Aeronautics Commission Update, Eric Odenbach, Aeronautics Commission
- 4:00 PM Departure Surface Update, Sandy DePottey, FAA Dakota-Minnesota ADO
- 4:30 PM Pavement Maintenance, Byron Barlow, Ameriseal of Ohio, Inc.; Brooke Edgar, Helms & Associates & Brad Remmich, SDDOT
- 5:00 PM Chamberlain Master Plan, Kaci Nowicki, SEH
- 5:30 PM Social at the Journey Museum until 7:30 PM

### March 12 (Thursday)

- 6:30 AM Breakfast Buffet
- 8:00 AM State Aviation System Plan, Regan Schnug, Kimley-Horn
- 8:30 AM Airports Economic Impact on the State of South Dakota, Steven Martin, InterVISTAS Consulting, Inc.
- 9:00 AM Advanced Tech for Surface Transportation, Justin Robbins, HDR
- 10:00 AM Break
- 10:30 AM Building an Effective Capital Improvement Plan, Rod Senn and Tom Schauer, KLJ Inc.
- 11:00 AM Lake Area Technical Institute's New Flying Program, Greg Klein, LATI
- 11:30 AM Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office Update, Dave Anderson, Brian Schuck, Jeremy McLeod, Sheri Lares, and Sue Mowery-Schalk, FAA

\*\* For those interested in attending, there will be a SD Airport Managers Association meeting in the hotel Boardroom at 1:15 PM on March 12.

SDPA

## SD Aeronautics Commission – Jan 28

The SD Aeronautics Commission held a conference call on January 28 at 1:00 PM with DOT staff in the Becker-Hansen Transportation Building in Pierre.

Participating were Commissioners **Bob Huggins** (Sioux Falls, Vice Chair), **Rolf Johnson** (Mina), **Dave Luers** (Pierre), **Kassidy Nelson** (Elkton), **Eric Odenbach** (Eureka, Chair), **Jerry Rieber** (Watertown), [absent Chris Funk (Volga)], **Joel Jundt** (Deputy Secretary of SD DOT), **Jack Dokken**, **Jon Becker**, **Tom Koch**, **Jennifer Boehm** (all DOT Office of Air, Rail & Transit), **Kari Kroll** (Executive Assistant, Office of Secretary, SD DOT), **Dustin DeBoer** (SD DOT Office of Legal, Sioux Falls), **Bonnie Olson** (SD DOT Office of Legal Counsel, Contract Administrator, Pierre), **Representative David Johnson** (Rapid City), **Mike Schmit** (Helms & Associates), **Steve Hamilton** (SDPA, Yankton).

Chairman Odenbach determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order. 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. New Commissioner **Jerry Rieber** said that he was a member of the Lake Area Technical Institute's Advisory Board and a member of the Watertown Airport Advisory Board. He will fill out the appropriate waivers and the Commission will consider them at the next Commission meeting.

Eric introduced new Commissioner **Jerry Rieber** of Watertown. **Jerry** is an orthopedic surgeon, owns a Cessna 150 and a Cessna 210, and has an instrument rating. A story about Jerry being a new pilot was published in the SDPA News in the July-August 2018 issue.

The minutes of the November 21, 2019, meeting of the Commission were approved.

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**. He noted that on December 20, President Trump signed into law a federal appropriations bill [HR1865] funding the government, including the Department of Transportation and the FAA, through September 30, 2020. The funding included \$400 million for AIP funding (\$100 million less than in FY 2019). The Federal Appropriations Bill also appropriated \$13.7 billion in 2020 for discretionary funding for operations and facilities which was up from the \$13.4 billion appropriated in 2019.

There are three bills in the SD Legislature sponsored by Representative David Johnson: HB1065 (An Act to revise drone surveillance protections), HB1066 (An Act to revise and repeal provisions regarding aviation – mostly in Title 50 Aviation), and HB1102 (An Act to make an appropriation to reimburse the aeronautics fund).

Regarding **HB1102**, Representative Johnson said that he needed SD DOT and SD Aeronautics Commission support. Jundt said that DOT would follow the guidance from the Governor's Office, whereas Commissioner Luers felt that the Commission supported the bill. Representative Johnson said that he would need support from the Governor's office to

pursue the bill, or, lacking support, would pull the bill.

Regarding **HB1060** (An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the use of the aeronautics fund), Representative Johnson said that the bill was an effort to prevent Aeronautics Funds from being swept in the future. However, Jundt said that to prevent funds from being swept in the future there would have to be an amendment to the state constitution.

Regarding **HB1066**, Jundt and Dustin DeBoer said they would be testifying in support of the bill. Dustin said the hearing was set for January 30.

Jundt opened the discussion of the **State Match on Airport Improvement Projects**. Jon Becker reviewed the six projects involving revenue-generating hangars (Hot Springs, Murdo, Parkston, Platte and Webster) and one revenue-generating fuel system (Hoven). The consensus of the Commission was to not fund revenue-generating projects that had not expended funds for a design project. If an airport had expended funds for a design project and the project was not constructed, the FAA would expect the federal funding to be returned to the FAA by the sponsor – and the Commission did not want airport sponsors to have to pay back already expended funds.

Jundt reminded the Commission that they had previously voted to make the state share 5% for 2020 projects and 3.5% for 2021 projects. The Commission approved a motion to provide state funding (5%) for revenue-generating projects in 2020 that had design projects completed and funds expended in 2019 (Platte, Murdo, Sturgis, Webster), but no state share for projects that had not completed and funded a design project in 2019 (Parkston, Hot Springs, Hoven). All aye. It was noted that the projects at Parkston, Hot Springs, and Hoven could proceed if the airport sponsor paid their 5% share and also the state's 5% share (total 10%).

Jack Dokken provided an informational item: **Annual Report from Lake Area Technical Institute**. Greg Klein, Department Supervisor, Lake Area Technical Institute provided the following information:

#### Timeline

8-28-2019: Aircraft relocated (Martin, SD) to KATY on a ferry permit. Thanks to donor, Donna Nelsen, Martin, SD.

9-26-2019: Lake Area Tech takes ownership upon signature and submission of FAA AC Form 8050-2 Bill of Sale FAA Registration Form AC 8050-1 signed and submitted.

10-1-2019: Annual Inspection completed by Lake Area Tech.

10-2-2019: \$30,000 Grant check received from SD Aeronautics Commission.

10-28-2019: 1.0 Hour local private pilot training flight. Old, outdated com radio failed during the flight and the decision was made to ground the aircraft to allow dismantling of the cockpit to prepare for the major avionics and electrical system upgrades.

11-1-2019: Donated leather received from Bank of America Leasing Corporate Aviation Dept for recovering of seats thanks to Eric Olson, Director of Maintenance. He is a key player in our annual Corporate Aviation Day event, promoter of maintenance scholarships, and avid supporter of our program.



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12-19-2019: 50% down payment made on avionics. Avionics equipment ordered by Legacy Aviation Garmin G5 EADI, Garmin G5 EHSI, Garmin GTR 225 Com Radio, Garmin GTX 345 Transponder.

1-15-2020: Freshly recovered leather seats received from upholstery shop -- ready for installation.

**Benefits:** The aircraft was used for one training flight before it was gutted for the avionics upgrade. The maintenance is being performed exclusively by the A&P students and is proving to be a valuable real-world restoration experience. Thanks to the generous funding from the SD Aeronautics Commission, the students will witness the transformation of this old aircraft with its outdated equipment into a valuable flight trainer in two semesters.

**Worthy of Noting:** The avionics upgrade contract was awarded to Legacy Aviation, a South Dakota shop located at the Tea airport (Lincoln County Airport). Nathan Effling is the technician we are working with. He grew up in Sioux Falls and graduated from Lake Area Technical Institute's A&P program in 2011.

The instrument panel is being designed and constructed by a 1st year A&P student. He is a process, design, and prototyping technician for Dakota Bodies, a manufacturing firm in Watertown. His design work has employed AUTOCAD, laser cutting, and the latest in metal bending technology. He has experimented with three prototypes and is ready to produce the final configuration.

#### Expenditures to Date:

Vendor: Description; Cost

Knots-to-You: Composite nose cowl: \$1,532

Airtex: Seat recovery foam padding: \$197

Legacy Aviation: Avionics down payment (50%): \$7,944

Aircraft Spruce: JPI Engine analyzer/switches/circuit breakers/wire: \$4,037

Doug's Upholstery: Seat recover labor: \$1,725

Total: \$15,435

**Status:** On time and on budget for May 2020 completion and employment as a flight trainer.

Jon Becker requested Commission consideration of a funding request for support of the **AirVenture Cup Race / Launch at Mitchell Airport**. Every other year, the AirVenture Cup Race is launched from Mitchell Airport. 2020 marks the 7th such event, and the Mitchell Airport was requesting funding to reimburse expenses for advertising, incidentals, and lunch for pilots, staff and volunteers. The

request is for \$3,000.00. Planning was underway regarding various details of the event. The event will be held July 18-19 with the launch scheduled for Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup>. The Commission voted to table the funding request pending additional information about the request. All aye. Hopefully someone from the airport will attend the next Commission meeting to answer Commission questions.

Luers mentioned that there were several aviation events in SD planned for this year. One is a big airshow at Pierre on July 4-5 being planned by Jim Peitz. Luers thought the Commission might consider assisting with funding, along with other sponsors, so that the airshow could be "free" to the public.

Jundt mentioned that the agenda for the February 25 meeting was "full" and that the Commission might consider an "in-person" meeting. Commissioner Rieber asked if the meeting could start at 2 or 2:30 PM because Tuesdays were his surgical day. Jundt thought the agenda might take 3 hours, and wondered about the meeting possibly going past 5:00 PM if the meeting started later than 1:00 PM. The possibility of combining the February Commission meeting with the meeting on March 11 during the SD Airports Conference was discussed, but the time slot during the Conference was limited and would not accommodate a 3-hour Commission meeting. Odenbach said the Commission would meet on February 25 starting at 2:00 PM.

The conference call adjourned at 1:51 PM. The next Commission meeting is set for February 25 at 2:00 PM. SDPA



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**Ray A. Jilek, President**

interest and to present requests for waivers pursuant to South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL) chapter 3-23. Kara Engle reviewed four conflict of interest forms for Reiber: (1) he leases a Cessna 150 to the Lake Area Technical Institute for flight training and is paid for its use, (2) he serves on the Watertown Airport Advisory Board, (3) his wife Tammy is on the Watertown School Board which oversees LATI, (4) he serves on the Aviation Advisory Committee for LATI. The Commission voted that conflicts of interest were fair, reasonable, and not contrary to the public interest. All aye.

The minutes of the January 28 meeting of the Commission were approved.

Joel Jundt gave the Secretary's report. He reviewed the status of three bills in the SD Legislature. HB1060 (An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the use of the aeronautics fund) was tabled in the Senate. HB1066 (An Act to revise and repeal provisions regarding aviation – mostly in

Title 50 Aviation) has been signed by the Governor. HB1102 (An Act to make an appropriation to reimburse the aeronautics fund) was tabled in the Joint Committee on Appropriations,

Jundt opened the discussion of the Aeronautics Fund projection. The projection assumed an annual FAA fund for projects of about \$35.5M including a supplemental funding of about \$12M and a state share of about \$2.5M (5% in FY2020 and 3.5% starting in FY2021). The projected Aeronautics Fund balance in FY2021 is about \$1.7M and in FY2022 is about \$700,000 based on the graph. It was noted that the Aeronautics Fund should have an average balance of about \$2.5M.

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

Jon Becker requested Commission consideration of a funding request for support of the **AirVenture Cup Race / Launch at Mitchell Airport**. Every other year, the AirVenture Cup Race is launched from Mitchell Airport. 2020 marks the 7th such event, and the Mitchell Airport was requesting funding to reimburse expenses for advertising, incidentals, and lunch for pilots, staff and volunteers. The request was for \$3,000.00. Planning was underway regarding various details of the event. The event will be held July 18-19 with the launch scheduled for Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Commission was given a list of past obligated funding given to support the AirVenture Cup Race at Mitchell Airport and the actual expenses for the years 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2018. Mike Scherschligt answered questions from the Commissioners. After discussion, the Commission approved \$1,500 to help support the AirVenture Cup Race. Five aye, one nay.

Jon Becker requested Commission consideration of **Rapid City Regional Airport Funding**. The Rapid City Regional Airport has been awarded a supplemental grant for \$2,000,000 for the replacement of passenger boarding

## SD Aeronautics Commission -- Feb 25

The SD Aeronautics Commission held a meeting on February 25 at 2:00 PM in the Becker-Hansen Transportation Building in Pierre.

Participating were Commissioners **Chris Funk** (Volga), **Bob Huggins** (Sioux Falls, Vice Chair), **Rolf Johnson** (Mina), **Kassidy Nelson** (Elkton), **Eric Odenbach** (Eureka, Chair), **Jerry Rieber** (Watertown), [absent Dave Luers (Pierre)], **Joel Jundt** (Deputy Secretary of SD DOT), **Jack Dokken**, **Jon Becker**, **Tom Koch**, **Brad Remmich**, **Jennifer Boehm** (all DOT Office of Air, Rail & Transit), **Kari Kroll** (Executive Assistant, Office of Secretary, SD DOT), **Karla Engle** (SD DOT Office of Legal, Chief Legal Counsel), **Dustin DeBoer** (SD DOT Office of Legal, Sioux Falls), **Bonnie Olson** (SD DOT Office of Legal Counsel, Contract Administrator), **Toni Broom** (Deputy Director, Rapid City Regional Airport), **Mike Scherschligt** (Airport Manager, Mitchell), **John Cossetti** (Spearfish Aviation, Inc), and **Steve Hamilton** (SDPA, Yankton).

Chairman Odenbach determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order. He opened the floor to Commission members to disclose potential conflicts of

bridges. They request state participation of 5% of the project cost of \$2,222,222.22, or \$111,111.11. The local share would be \$111,111.11.

Toni Broom said the airport had seven boarding bridges: four were updated in 2012-2013, and three were old (one built in 1999, one in 2001 and one in 2003) and needed to be replaced. A new bridge costs about \$1M, and supplemental funding would cover replacing two bridges. Engineering costs were \$30,000. The Commission tabled the funding request until the March 11 Commission meeting -- pending the receipt of additional information.

Jon Becker requested Commission consideration of **2020 AIP Projects**. The Commission was provided a list of AIP projects for 2020. The grant application deadline is June 15, 2020. The list is tentative, as all project application requirements must be met by the deadline.

<b>Airport</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
Belle Fourche	Master plan/ALP update
Britton	AWOS AV; land reimbursement for RPZ
Brookings	Design construction hangar taxilane; reimburse access road
Canton	Construct hangar taxilane extension
Chamberlain	EA for runway realignment; GIS aerial survey
Clark County	Reconstruct runway and connector
DeSmet	Const turnarounds; pavement maintenance
Faith	Design partial taxiway; grade TSA and RSA; relocate threshold lights
Flandreau	Pavement maintenance - all surfaces; misc planning study
Gettysburg	AWOS AV
Gregory	Design runway reconstruction with turnarounds and lighting; wetland; geotech
Highmore	Taxilane expansion, apron extension
Hot Springs	Design 10-unit T-hangar and taxilanes
Hoven	Fuel system for 100lowlead; dispenser, pump, containment pad.
Madison	EA and Design apron expansion including geotech
Martin	Land acquisition for RPZ, GPS and compatible land use
McLaughlin	Land acquisition for RPZ; ALP update/approach survey
Milbank	Design, CATEX for fuel system upgrades (Jet A); land for 13 and 31 RPZ
Mitchell	Master Plan/ALP update; cultural survey; GIS survey; PM
Mobridge	Geotech/environ/design apron mill & overlay hangar taxilane reconstruction
Murdo	Land acquisition for runway extension & approach protection; construct hangar
Onida	Design runway reconstruction with turnarounds; wetland delineation & geotech
Parkston	PM and Design/construct 4-unit T-hangar
<b>Pierre Supp</b>	-- Construct/realign Taxiway B from A1 to RWY 7; reconstruct taxiway A to SRE building
Pierre	Design runway 7-25 rehab, replace lighting & signing, PAPIs
Platte	Construct revenue-generating hangar/GA terminal 60'x 80'

<b>Rapid City Supp</b>	-- Replace passenger boarding bridges
Rapid City	Rehab runway hold line markings; GA area; GA access road; SRE equip
Redfield	Construct wildlife fence
Rosebud	Master Plan and ALP update with aeronautical obstruction survey
<b>Sioux Falls Supp</b>	-- Design runway 3-21 reconstruction 1280' 3 end; 1277' 21 end; const 2500'/shoulder: MALSR threshold bar; 3-21 lights CCR.
Spearfish	EA for runway 5-23; design and construct wildlife fence
Springfield	Replace PAPIs & beacon
Sturgis	Radius fillets for taxiway; 6-unit hangar/taxilane; access road; relocate OFA obstructions
Tea	EA for land
Vermillion	Reconstruct hangar taxilanes
<b>Watertown Supp</b>	-- Terminal project
Webster	Construct revenue-generating 6-unit T-hangar
Winner	Construct lower apron expansion 100'X200'
<b>Yankton Supp</b>	-- Reconstruct 1-19, replace markings, install MIRL system
Yankton	Construct turnaround at runway19 end (construction alternate to 2019 supplemental grant)
SDDOT	Pavement Maintenance
Totals	\$ 49,075,127 Federal Funds (90%) \$ 2,435,017 State Funds (5%) \$ 2,977,708 Local Funds (5%)

Jennifer Boehm requested Commission consideration of an **Aircraft Dealer License Appeal**. John Cossette of Spearfish Aviation Inc. was asking the Aeronautics Commission to waive the requirement of selling and/or brokering 6 aircraft in the past 24-month period so he may renew his dealer license for another 2 years. Mr. Cossette has been a dealer since 2011 and has successfully reached the 6 aircraft sales requirement every time except these past 2 years. He asks that the Aeronautics Commission allow him to be a plane dealer for another 2 years. Per his letter, he has been unable to meet his sales requirement due to a variety of reasons.

SDCL 50-12-14. Renewal of dealer's license--Verification of aircraft sold--Fees. Each licensed dealer on or before February first of the second year shall make application for the renewal of the dealer's license. The dealer shall verify having sold or brokered at least six aircraft within the past twenty-four calendar months. However, any dealer not meeting the requirements of this section may appeal to the commission for renewal of a dealer's license if the dealer can demonstrate reasonable cause for not meeting those requirements. The fee for the renewal of license is the same as that required for an original license. Upon failure to make application for the renewal of the license, and to pay the renewal fee on or before the first day of February of the second year, an additional fee of ten dollars per month, or any fraction thereof, is required before the license shall be issued."

John Cossette said he currently had four aircraft for sale: one in SD, two in Minnesota, and one in Michigan. His

business had been registered in SD for over 20 years, and this was his first request for a waiver. Jenny said there were 12 aircraft dealers in SD and that the Commission had approved one waiver in 2018 and two waivers in 2019. The Commission approved the waiver: four aye, two nay.

Huggins raised the issue of the Aeronautics Fund balance declining in the future and the effect of expensive supplemental funding projects on the state share. The issue will be discussed at a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 PM. The next Commission meeting is set for Wednesday, March 11, at 8:00 AM in Rapid City – prior to the start of the SD Airports Conference. SDPA

## Let Freedom Fly International Air Show

(KCCR, December 19, 2019) — The centerpiece of an Independence Day weekend air show in **Pierre** has been locked up with a northern flare. The “Let Freedom Fly” International Air Show will indeed be International... “That’s the Snowbirds, the Royal Canadian Air Force Snowbirds. Nine ship, jet airplanes that will be flying in Pierre for the Let Freedom Fly International Air Show. Look how precise; how close they are...” “Wow that’s great!” “That’s about as cool as it gets, so we’re excited to say that we were chosen; we’re one of three locations in the United States for 2020 that was chosen for the Snowbirds to perform.”

Jim Peitz with Mustang Aviation in Pierre locked up the Canadian Forces Snowbirds after meeting with airshow industry officials at an air show convention in Las Vegas recently. The Snowbirds are the Air Demonstration Squadron of the Canadian Armed Forces. They fly the CT-114 Tutor jets at speeds of up to 370 miles an hour as close as four inches apart.

Peitz says they are trying line up all varieties of military aircraft both historic and modern... “We’ve got four P-51s Mustangs, a P-40 Warhawk, a British Spitfire, a Wildcat; Grumman Wildcat. We’ve got...so we’ve got a lot of World War stuff. B-25 which will get us back to our roots as a B-25/B-17 air base. Commemorative Air Forces out of St. Paul is bringing that for us. We have four letters into the Pentagon right now for some fast movers. We’re looking real good for an A-10 Warthog for a full tac demo as well as F-18 Hornets from the Navy.”

Seven civilian performers, all with major awards to their credit are also scheduled to perform. Peitz say lining up the planes was the easy part, but there is still a lot of work to do... “Anything that you can imagine that deals, you know vendors, hospitality, security, crash/fire all those; some of them we’ve got populated, some of them we don’t and we’ll be doing a community outreach to find some talent to help us with those different skill sets. One other side, I spent some time on the phone today with the chairman of the Ramkota; Dave Sweet and they’re offering up 30 rooms for us which is probably a little less than a third of what we need, but it’s a good start.”

The Snowbirds are celebrating 50 years of performing as a demonstration squad in 2020. The Let Freedom Fly International Airshow is July 4th and 5th at Pierre Regional Airport. SDPA



For a comprehensive aviation event listing, go to <http://www.sdpilots.org>.

**Mar:** Madison Aviation Enthusiasts meet at **Madison (MDS), SD**, on Thursdays at 6:00 PM for food, fun & flying.

**Mar:** Coffee, treats & conversation at **Hot Springs (HSR), SD**, every Friday 9:30-11:30 AM. Come join us for some hangar flying. Ed Jensen at 605-745-3555.

**Mar:** SD Civil Air Patrol meetings. Seniors and cadets meet monthly at Brookings Airport, Custer County Airport, Ellsworth AFB, Lincoln County Airport, Miller Airport, Mitchell Airport, Pierre Airport, Sioux Falls Airport, and Spearfish Airport. For meeting times, specific locations, and contact information, go to <http://sdcap.us/squadron-locations/>

**Mar 11-12: SD Airports Conference** on Wednesday & Thursday at the Holiday Inn Rapid City-Rushmore Plaza, Rapid City, SD. **Sponsor meetings on Tuesday, March 10. SD Aeronautics Commission meeting on March 11 at 8:00 AM.** Registration fee \$100 includes breaks, lunch and the social on Wednesday and breakfast and break on Thursday. A block of rooms for conference attendees and exhibitors has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Rapid City-Rushmore Plaza under the name 2020 SD Airports Conference or user name "AIR" (\$79/night plus tax). For more information, contact Jennifer Boehm at 605-773-4430 or email [jennifer.boehm@state.sd.us](mailto:jennifer.boehm@state.sd.us) Registration information will be mailed out in early January. **NOTE:** The social on Wednesday night, March 11, will be held at the Journey Museum in Rapid City and include drinks and appetizers.

**Mar 14:** Monthly meeting of the Joe Foss Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force at **Joe Foss Field – Sioux Falls (FSD), SD**, at 10:00 AM in Maverick Air Center. Contact Rick Tupper at [rick@cajfofoss.com](mailto:rick@cajfofoss.com)

**Mar 15:** YRAA potluck “Chili Feed” meeting at 6:00 PM in the terminal at **Chan Gurney (YKN), Yankton, SD**. Bring your favorite chili or a dish (something “Green” to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day) to go with chili and hangar stories to share. Contact Steve Hamilton at 605-665-8448.

**Mar 21:** Airport breakfast in the EAA Chapter 289 Building at **Lincoln County (Y14), Tea, SD**, 8:00-10:30 AM featuring pancakes with eggs & sausage, coffee and juice for a suggested donation of \$7.00; fly-in PIC free. Contact Gary Pelach at 605-310-9984.

**Apr:** Madison Aviation Enthusiasts meet at **Madison (MDS), SD**, on Thursdays at 6:00 PM for food, fun & flying.

**Apr:** Coffee, treats & conversation at **Hot Springs (HSR), SD**, every Friday 9:30-11:30 AM. Come join us for some hangar flying. Ed Jensen at 605-745-3555.

**Apr:** SD Civil Air Patrol meetings. Seniors and cadets meet monthly at Brookings Airport, Custer County Airport, Ellsworth AFB, Lincoln County Airport, Miller Airport, Mitchell Airport, Pierre Airport, Sioux Falls Airport, and Spearfish Airport. For meeting times, specific locations, and contact information, go to <http://sdcap.us/squadron-locations/>

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[www.sdpilots.org](http://www.sdpilots.org)

**Apr 3:** "Airports of Rapid City" program presented by Norma Kraemer at the Journey Museum, 222 New York Street in **Rapid City, SD**. Catered soup and program starts at noon. Reserve your seat now! Call 605-394-6923. Adults \$12, Seniors \$10 (half off for members of the Journey Museum).

**Apr 4-5:** Hot air balloon ground school taught by Rick Jones of Liberty Balloon Company will be presented in **Hot Springs, SD**. Registration is \$365 per person if you register at least 30 days in advance or \$50 for alumni (or repeating students). If you register less than 30 days from the date of the course, the price goes up to \$395. For more information go to [www.libertyballoonschool.com](http://www.libertyballoonschool.com) Contact Petra Wilson at 605-413-7106 or by email at [petra.wilson@live.com](mailto:petra.wilson@live.com) for more information.

**Apr 11:** SDPA meeting at **Hot Springs (HSR), SD**, in the airport terminal. 11:00 AM: Program: Petra Wilson (lighter-than-air pilot with commercial rating) will talk about hot air ballooning in the Black Hills. Noon: lunch with pizza & pop (\$5.00 per person). 1:00 PM SDPA meeting with cookies. Contact Steve Hamilton for more information at 605-665-8448 or [skyhawk43v@gmail.com](mailto:skyhawk43v@gmail.com).

**Apr 11:** Monthly meeting of the Joe Foss Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force at **Joe Foss Field – Sioux Falls (FSD), SD**, at 10:00 AM in Maverick Air Center. Contact Rick Tupper at [rick@cafjoefoss.com](mailto:rick@cafjoefoss.com)

**Apr 16 (ever year): Wilbur Wright's birthday.** *Happy Birthday Wilbur!!* (born April 16, 1867, died May 30, 1912, at age 45 years old). *Go out and commit "aviation."*

**Apr 18:** Airport breakfast in the EAA Chapter 289 Building at **Lincoln County (Y14), Tea, SD**, 8:00-10:30 AM featuring pancakes with eggs & sausage, coffee and juice for a suggested donation of \$7.00; fly-in PIC free. Contact Gary Pelach at 605-310-9984.

**Apr 19:** YRAA potluck "Spring Fling" meeting at 6:00 PM in the terminal at **Chan Gurney (YKN), Yankton, SD**. Bring a dish or two to share with the group, plus hangar stories.

**May:** Madison Aviation Enthusiasts meet at **Madison (MDS), SD**, on Thursdays at 6:00 PM for food, fun & flying.

**May:** Coffee, treats & conversation at **Hot Springs (HSR), SD**, every Friday 9:30-11:30am. Come join us for some hangar flying. Ed Jensen at 605-745-3555.

**May:** SD Civil Air Patrol meetings. Seniors and cadets meet monthly at Brookings Airport, Custer County Airport, Ellsworth AFB, Lincoln County Airport, Miller Airport, Mitchell Airport, Pierre Airport, Sioux Falls Airport, and Spearfish Airport. For meeting times, specific locations, and contact information, go to <http://sdcap.us/squadron-locations/>

**May 9:** Monthly meeting of the Joe Foss Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force at **Joe Foss Field – Sioux Falls (FSD), SD**, at 10:00 AM in Maverick Air Center. Contact Rick Tupper at [rick@cafjoefoss.com](mailto:rick@cafjoefoss.com) SDPA