



RECREATIONAL AVIATION FOUNDATION NEWS • ACTION

Preserving, maintaining and creating airstrips for recreational access

Oregon's "Breadbasket"— New recreational destination opens

The Mountain Views Airfield, on a working dry wheat farm about eight miles northwest of Condon, Oregon is now open to the public thanks to assistance from the RAF.

Owners Randy and Barbara Anderson operate [Mountain Views airbnb](#) adjacent to the airfield, and advertise views of Mounts Hood, Adams and Rainier. The upgraded four-bedroom home can accommodate up to 12 guests. A courtesy car is available for guests to explore the nearby Cottonwood Canyon State Park with 8,000 acres of rugged terrain — vertical cliffs carved by the Wild and Scenic John Day River, deep canyons and rocky grasslands. The river is a 284 mile long tributary of the Columbia River, and is the longest free-flowing river west of

the Continental Divide. Steelhead fishing on the river can be outstanding. Other activities include biking, hiking and wildlife viewing.

Guests can visit the quaint town of Condon, or just enjoy the solitude and completely dark night skies. The 1,650 ft x 40 ft runway is turf. Pilots need to be aware of density altitude and other risks. Wind turbines adjacent to the airfield attest to the prevailing winds.

RAF Oregon Liaison Richard Mayes worked with the owners to create this recreational opportunity. Mayes provided a copy of the RAF's [Guide for the Private Airstrip Owner](#).

Earthwork and drainage were planned and constructed by local pilot volunteers,
Continued, page 3

New Mexico – Call To Action response stops aviation ban

RAF New Mexico Liaison Ron Keller learned of a proposed rule change by the NM Game Commission that would have limited aircraft use. Keller and other New Mexico pilots feared that pilots unfamiliar with hunting seasons and game unit boundaries could have been questioned and potentially cited for flights over hunting areas.

Keller issued a Call To Action, and RAF membership, New Mexico Pilots Assoc., and AOPA became engaged.

The Commission received over 800 letters, and Keller estimates at least 500 opposed the aviation ban. After hearing testimony, the vote was unanimous to keep the existing rules, thus removing the threat to recreational aviation.

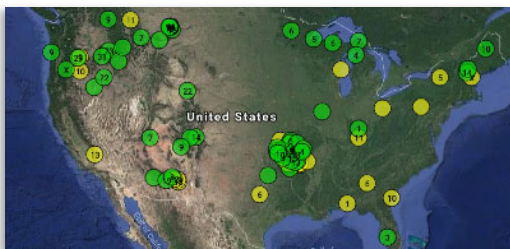


Airfield Guide adds destinations

There are more diverse destinations across the country on the interactive online Airfield Guide thanks to the dedication of RAF Arkansas Liaison Dave Powell, and other RAF state liaisons. "Working with Montana Liaison Scott Newpower, we added eight Montana airstrips this week," Powell said in January. The Airfield Guide provides information like lat/long, elevation, ownership, usage, and CTAF. Proximity to recreation like swimming, hiking, mountain biking, camping, lodging, horseback riding, restaurants and WiFi availability is included, and some listings have videos of approaches and departures.

Using Galen Hanselman's relative hazard index (RHI), each runway and approach is rated. See [flyidaho.com](#) for Galen's printed pilot guides.

See [Airfield.guide](#) to register free of charge, and begin planning your next adventure — brought to you by your friends at the RAF in association with Tailwind Aviation Foundation.



Live backcountry seminars begin – RAF teams up with AOPA/Air Safety Institute

The Recreational Aviation Foundation is pleased to be teaming up with AOPA's Air Safety Institute on their live, in-person seminar series, "**From Peaks to Pavement: Applying Lessons from the Backcountry**".

Experienced backcountry pilots selected by ASI are presenting 87 **free** seminars through the end of April. All pilots are invited to attend.

Whether you're a seasoned backcountry flyer or flatlander, you'll enjoy this new seminar on conditions, challenges, and accidents unique to backcountry flying.

"The AOPA Air Safety Institute is proud to team with the RAF to reach pilots with an engaging and entertaining seminar series sure to impact the decisions pilots make and how they fly their airplanes," ASI Executive Director Richard McSpadden

said.

In past years, as many as 20,000 pilots have attended ASI seminars, so the RAF appreciates the opportunity to team up with them on this special series. Go to [aopa.org](#) and search on "Peaks to Pavement" for details and the ASI schedule and locations.

RAF State Liaisons, Ambassadors and other key RAF volunteers – wearing the signature RAF orange shirt – will coordinate set-up and accompany ASI presenters, and will be available for Q&A discussions that follow the program.

"This is a great way to kick off 2019, with

a great partner and a highly relevant seminar program that also furthers pilot awareness of the RAF and its mission," RAF Vice President Jack Tyler said. Tyler also chairs the RAF Safety and Education Committee.



RECREATIONAL AVIATION FOUNDATION

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The RAF also enlists Ambassadors to represent the RAF at events.
The current list can be found on page 6.

The Recreational Aviation Foundation is a non-profit 501(c) (3) public charity, Federal EIN 42-1613294; Montana State ID D-128852.
Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers and gifts are deductible for federal estate and gift tax purposes. Please provide your current email address to contact@theraf.org to receive the newsletter digitally.

Newsletter flag photo: PA-12 at Deland, FL, photo by Bobby Capozzi; Back page: Bradley airfield, NH, photo by Chad Mulverhill. (2018 RAF photo contest entry)

Chairman's Message –

Fear or Tension?

– John McKenna



So which one should it be? I think most of us in aviation have experienced some fear and tension along the way in our flying experiences. So how does this apply to the work of the RAF?

At the RAF we have not found value in promoting false fear in order to generate dollars and we hope you noticed. Mostly because we simply aren't like other organizations. You've seen messaging that opposes our mission cry wolf hoping the good guys will come to the rescue. They use the megaphone of fear to broadcast anecdotal information, bad science and scare tactics to motivate their base to send in money, and send out postcards fighting some ginned-up threat.

Instead, we at the RAF feel that the folks who currently support us – and those we would like to – are smarter than that. We could talk about airstrip closures as if they were happening daily; or how, without your immediate action (code word for money) all is sure to be lost. Besides, we really believe in the work we are doing, as opposed to simply raiding your pocket to sustain our organization.

We believe in telling you the truth about how we see the landscape of public airstrip advocacy. Hopefully you will help us to continue to tell our story. Tell it by showing up when we need you, just as you did in New Mexico where we all pushed back on proposed regulations that would have put a real kink in recreational flying in that state. Tell us you will help by continuing to support the efforts you believe in and tell us that you will help by paying it forward which is what we are all doing with our volunteer efforts across the country.

That help does however require you to have a little tension about the recreational airstrips we are trying to hang onto. We want you to be a bit on edge which keeps us all vigilant. Tension allows us to be proactive, whereas fear makes us reactive.

Tension allows us to be proactive, whereas fear makes us reactive.

Just like flying into the backcountry, we approach each challenge not with fear, but a bit of tension. Fear cripples and generally doesn't offer good sustainable outcomes. Fear is that sensation when you turn final and realize you're high and fast with bad options. You're now dependent on luck, rather than proper preparation. Tension suggests that before

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Public Lands Planning – Mission success depends on citizen participation

– Richard Mayes, RAF Oregon Liaison



The Government shutdown has without a doubt put Federal lands planning behind schedule, meaning anticipated meetings may be delayed until later in the year. This could possibly cause interference with more fun seasonal activities, such as fly-ins and work parties, but attending these delayed meetings will be just as important as in the past.

For the first time ever, the pilot community participated in the planning objection process for the Blue Mountains Forests in December. Bill Ables (Idaho Aviation Assoc., Oregon Pilots Assoc., RAF member) presented the objections the pilot community found wrong with the draft plan. Here is an excerpt from his article in the Idaho Aviation Assoc. (IAA) newsletter, *The Fly Line*. He refers to the final stage of the forest planning revision process for the Wallowa, Whitman, Umatilla and Malheur Forests in northeast Oregon and southeast Washington states.

“Aviation groups objected to the lack of recognition of recreational aviation and the importance of the airstrip infrastructure in these three national forests. The three-person team that traveled from Washington, DC to hear from each objector, did so at five locations in northeast Oregon. I attended three of the well-conducted meetings and spoke on behalf of aviation, as a member of the IAA, OPA, and RAF. From here, our spoken comments, as well as our previously submitted written

comments, will be taken into consideration for possible changes to each of the three plans.”

Mr. Ables goes on to emphasize the importance of our involvement in meetings conducted by public land managers, adding, in essence, “Your involvement at public meetings is just as important as helping out at our work parties.”

Public land planning is complicated, and he has made himself available to answer questions on what individuals can do to participate successfully. Pilots can also contact their RAF state liaison. Mr. Ables concludes by emphasizing that “Doing nothing is not an option!”

On the Flathead National Forest in northwest Montana the Forest Plan has been signed off as complete and contains language protecting existing airstrips, and language in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) provides criteria for establishing new airstrips.

On south central Montana’s Custer/Gallatin National Forest (CGNF), the pilot community was expecting public meetings on the Draft Plan and EIS to convene this winter, but the government shutdown will delay these

meetings into the spring. The CGNF includes no airstrips, so our challenge is to have language added in the plan that allows for the consideration of airstrips in the future.

Please give these meetings a high priority, even though they may not fall into the “recreational” category that we enjoy.

The success of the RAF mission depends on our continued citizen participation.

Your involvement at public meetings concerning aviation access is just as important as helping out at our work parties.

– Bill Ables, Idaho Aviation Assoc.,

The Fly Line

New Oregon airstrip from front page

and Mayes completed the FAA 5010 documents for charting, and prepared the [pilot's safety briefing](#).

“The Andersons are excited about the opportunity to create an airfield on their property for use by the pilot community. Without their cooperation and the efforts of so many volunteers, this project would not have happened,” Mayes said.

Below: Setting for Mountain Views airstrip, with Mount Jefferson on the far left and Mount Hood at right.



Chairman's Message, from page 2

you dive in, you get prepared, learn more about what you are doing and where you are going. Tension creates excitement that gives you the drive to seek new information and listen to experts. A little tension puts you on that edge and makes you better.

We are counting on you to make us better.

– John

Amazon Smile benefits RAF

The Recreational Aviation Foundation is pleased to be one of the select charities that benefit when you shop Amazon Smile. Amazon will donate 0.5% of everything you purchase to our mission. It's easy! Just follow these instructions to start “sharing smiles” with the RAF:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in and select “Recreational Aviation Foundation” as your charity.

The RAF certainly believes in shopping locally, but if you are going to buy online, Amazon Smile is a no-cost way to support the RAF mission.





ASI Mountain/Backcountry Flight Review now available online



Get FAA WINGS Credit!

You asked for it, and it's now available FREE online. Your RAF Safety and Education Committee is thrilled to announce that AOPA Air Safety Institute's new Mountain/Backcountry Flight Review is now available free online. It includes videos and pre-flight resources. The RAF collaborated extensively with the ASI to build this profile as a result of your comments in the RAF Safety Survey, where many of you replied that you want to strengthen your mountain and backcountry flying skills.

You'll find the Mountain/Backcountry Flight Review here: <https://www.aopa.org/training-and-safety/air-safety-institute/flight-review/mountain-and-backcountry-flying>

Here's what users are saying about it (*in italic type*):

"This specialized review gave me two things: It helped me build skills that gave me more safe options. But it also made clearer what my 'No Go' options are that I should avoid."

Our flying is unique, at times requiring low and slow flight, sometimes in less than ideal conditions that raise our risk level. We think you, too, will find the Mountain/Backcountry Flight Review helpful in managing those increased risks.

Our flying can challenge us in ways we might not expect. A flight review around the patch at our home field won't prepare us for those occasions.

"For me especially, having never flown in any mountainous terrain, some of the air work in this flight review was a real eye-opener!"

Utilizing the "air work" section of this review with an experienced instructor may introduce you to new maneuvers before they are needed.

"I will not plan to attempt an emergency box canyon turn without more instruction!"

You don't have to wait for your flight review to benefit from this.

You can use any part of this customized review on your own, perhaps with a safety pilot, to refresh your knowledge about a skill unique to our kind of flying.

"My flying rarely takes me down 'low and slow' with maneuvering turns, so I had lost the 'feel' for my plane in that part of the envelope. The review's air work portion helped me regain my confidence there."

If you or your CFI would like to discuss using this flight review format further, call ASI at 301-695-2034 or RAF Safety & Education Chair Jack Tyler, 406-582-1723.

You don't have to wait for your flight review to benefit from this. You can use any part of this customized review on your own, perhaps with a safety pilot, to refresh your knowledge.

BACKCOUNTRY BOUTIQUE



Thanks to your overwhelming response, we will continue our Backcountry Boutique in 2019!

On the 5th of each month, we advertise a new RAF logo item on the [RAF website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). We sell small quantities and when they're gone, they're gone!

Watch the 5th of the month for our next big reveal! And hurry — Items have been selling out fast!



Purchases benefit the RAF mission to preserve, maintain and create airstrips for recreational access.



See the RAF Home Page – click [the map icon](#) to view all the places the RAF has had an impact!

Each month the RAF website features a special airstrip. One may inspire you to plan a flight and discover a new recreational destination!

Watch the number of pins GROW!

RAF Board explores possibilities, sets goals

– RAF President Bill McGlynn



The RAF Board of Directors met in person in Bozeman in January. Discussions were creative and progressive coming off a successful 2018 and there was enthusiasm for possibilities the new year presents.

Our emphasis will always be to preserve and protect existing airfields in the U.S., but we also endeavor to make a difference in other ways.

We will continue to work with owners of private airfields to allow public access. One way to do this is for the RAF to accept the donation of the airfield. We take over responsibility for maintenance, taxes and insurance and the owner takes a nice tax deduction for the appraised value. One such donation will potentially become available to the public in 2019. Watch our website for news!

We anticipate that more pilots will choose to participate in backcountry aviation after increasing their skills and comfort level with our type of flying. We have been working with AOPA's Air Safety Institute to support dozens of live "Peaks to Pavement" seminars around the country. These seminars are getting rave reviews and are very well attended. Find one near you on the ASI website at AOPA.org. We have also teamed with ASI to produce the new Mountain/Backcountry Flight Review. See page 4.

We are also planning our very first "Backcountry Rendezvous" featuring two days of seminars based in Bentonville, Arkansas. You will be invited to join us for backcountry flying to many of the airfields in the beautiful Ozark Mountains nearby. Check theRAF.org for upcoming details.

Finally, all these airstrips are exciting but not feasible to fly into without good information. We have endeavored to establish a database of backcountry airfields in conjunction with Tailwind Aviation Foundation. You can view the free interactive website at

www.Airfield.Guide. RAF state liaisons are busy loading useful information on interesting airfields in their states. This is a time consuming task and we want to thank all our volunteers who have given many hours of their personal time to push this project forward. A special call out goes to RAF member Chip Gibbons for his tireless work on the website, and RAF Arkansas Liaison Dave Powell, who loads the data. They have been a remarkable team and we very much admire and appreciate their dedication in this work. This is a multi-year effort, as you might well imagine, so check back frequently to watch our progress, and the growing number of recreational destinations.

The board reluctantly accepted Alan Metzler's request to step away as Director to devote more time to his growing family and business in Pennsylvania. He joined the RAF board in 2013, "and gave a packed full five years as director, including one as president, and did a heck of a job," Administrative Director Tricia McKenna said. He and his family co-hosted the successful RAF Mini Education Conference in 2017 and the "Keystone Connection" RAF bi-annual conference in 2018.

"We have enjoyed the activities and met so many new friends through RAF we will cherish forever," Metzler said. "We plan to stay involved at a lesser pace and spend more time with grandchildren and mentoring our sons in the family business," he added.

"The RAF is a better organization because of Alan and Jill's contributions. We will continue to benefit from their interest in the RAF and their passion for what we do," Chairman McKenna said.



Alan and Jill Metzler on their property in Montana.

Colorado recreational hub – RAF grant to upgrade Del Norte

Thanks to the generosity of RAF donors, RAF Grants are available for projects that further the RAF mission. Your continued donations enable the RAF to create, preserve, and maintain airstrips for recreational access.

How it works: The RAF depends on its state liaisons to identify and outline a need, and apply for a grant amount.

Our most recent grant project is Astronaut Kent Rominger Airport (KRCV) near Del Norte, Colorado.

RAF Colorado Liaison Tom Haefli prepared a proposal and plans for a heated 20x30 building with kitchen, restrooms and shower. The covered porch area will have a table, chairs and barbecue grill. RAF members have already stepped up to volunteer labor, equipment time and building materials. Groundbreaking is expected in May.

Key to this \$30,000 grant award is that Del Norte is an ideal hub from which to enjoy several unique flying experiences in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico. Morning Shadows Ranch, La Garita Creek Ranch, Sand Dunes Swimming Pool airstrip, Quarter Circle Ranch, Creede, Pagosa Springs, Castle Lakes; Grant Besley, Taos, and Murrew Field in New Mexico are all about an hour's flying time from

Del Norte. The incredible backcountry playground of western Colorado/southeastern Utah is just a short one to two hours west. All of these airports offer hiking, biking and camping opportunities.



Del Norte offers amazing close-in accessible recreational opportunities that quite often appear in both national print and digital media. Surrounding the settlement are vast arrays of hiking and biking trails. Watch the RAF website for progress and completion of this exciting addition to the list of airports where the RAF has had an impact!

If you know of an airfield with recreational appeal that is in need of consideration, contact your RAF state liaison.

RAF Guide for the Private Airfield Owner



The RAF's *Guide for the Private Airfield Owner* is now available. It discusses considerations when allowing others to use one's private airfield.

John Nadeau, former RAF Massachusetts liaison and owner of Old Acton Airfield in Maine (02ME), led efforts to create the document, which has gained the endorsement of AOPA.

"Preserving private use airfields is a primary mission for us here in the East," he said.

The Guide is available online from the RAF website or hard copies may be obtained from the RAF via contact@TheRAF.org

What does an RAF Ambassador do?

RAF Ambassadors attend fly-ins, dishing up ice cream, barbecue, or baked potatoes. They may camp under the wing with other weekenders, or put on work gloves and help fill gopher holes on a sunny Saturday. No matter what, they have fun representing the RAF.

In November, RAF Florida Ambassadors Amrat Chugani and Joe DeLeon, assisted by Wayne Whitley, helped Florida Liaison Bobby Capozzi participate at the DeLand Sport Aviation Showcase. The RAF volunteers enjoyed the vendor displays and airshow, and the camaraderie of the campers sheltered under the half dozen aircraft in the “underwing” campground.



“The hosts’ hospitality was amazing. I can’t wait to go back,” said Florida Ambassador Amrat Chugani of the post-Thanksgiving fly-in at the beautiful Lazy S Farm airport. Joining Amrat (pictured at left) were Florida Ambassadors Lynn Gardner and Joe DeLeon, and Florida Liaison Bobby Capozzi. Lynn displayed her emergency vest and survival crash bag.



Lee Bottom Fly-in is “Sinful Sunday”
Here’s Kentucky Liaison Jeff Smith (center) with chief bratwurst griller Mike Greco and Kentucky Ambassador Bill McCormick after serving sundaes at the Sinful Sunday fly-in at Indiana’s Lee Bottom in August.

RAF Ambassador Team grows

You’ll see our enthusiastic RAF Ambassadors in the backcountry, at a work party or aviation event. If you’d like to share the RAF message, yet your work, family or travel responsibilities don’t permit a lot of time, consider the role of RAF Ambassador.

Our current RAF Ambassadors:

Arkansas.....Donna Perkins	KansasBruce Latvala
Arkansas.....Presley Melton	KentuckyBill McCormick
Arizona.....Jeffrey Iorio	MaineJeremy Harmon
California.....Katerina Barilov	MI and UtahJohn Riordan
ColoradoMichael Langersmith	MissouriJim Dickerson
ColoradoAlex Ruehle	MissouriSarah Dickerson
ColoradoSam Chambers	NevadaFred Williams
CO and AK.....Bill Murrish	New MexicoLarry Filener
Connecticut.....Greg Delp	New York.....Bob Anderson
Florida.....Debra “Smoky” Folsom	North Carolina..Tim Farris
Florida.....Amrat Chugani	North Dakota....Jeff Faught
Florida.....Wes Whitley	ND and MNRick Mercil
Florida.....John Hall	OhioKathleen Labrie
Florida.....Joe DeLeon	TennesseeCal Scholten
FloridaLynn Gardner	TexasMike Hergenrath
Georgia.....Eric Davis	TX and MTSteve Maus
Georgia.....Brian Unrein	WashingtonAlan Cossitt
Idaho.....Andrew Simmons	WisconsinCharlie Miller
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Contact Erin White, RAF Volunteer Coordinator
970-209-5980. ewhite@theraf.org. www.TheRAF.org

Call for Volunteers

– Erin White, RAF Volunteer Coordinator

Are you eager to spearhead an airfield project in your state? Do you have ideas for preserving, maintaining or creating recreational airstrips in your region? Then let’s talk!

Volunteer State Liaisons are vital to the success of our organization, and our goal is to have one or more Liaisons in every state to further the RAF mission. At this time we are most urgently looking for volunteers in the following locations:

Alabama	Indiana	Missouri	Rhode Island
Delaware	Iowa	Nevada	Texas
Dist.of Columbia	Kansas	New Jersey	Virginia
Hawaii	Louisiana	North Carolina	West Virginia

If you don’t see your state on this list, I would still love to hear from you! Give me a call or send me an email if you would like to chat about the State Liaison position and/or other volunteer opportunities available in 2019.

Happy flying!

Erin White, RAF Volunteer Coordinator
970-209-5980. ewhite@theraf.org. www.TheRAF.org



Team building — RAF adds State Liaisons

Complete roster of RAF State Liaisons is on the RAF website

Drew Lyons, Connecticut

Drew was born and raised near Boston, and always dreamed of being an airline pilot. After serving in the US Army 82nd Airborne Division and finishing college, Drew finally achieved his dream of becoming a pilot, earning his PPL-ASEL in 1996 and flying when possible for the next couple of years.



Drew settled in Connecticut in 2000 and works in construction consulting, flying as often as he can.

During the summer of 2018, he made his first fly-in camping trip to Parlin Field (2B3) in New Hampshire. Drew says, "It cemented the realization that recreational aircraft use is amazing," leading him to discover the RAF and immediately volunteer to fill this important role.

Augmenting the current RAF team in the Northeast, Drew has rolled up his sleeves to work with the RAF's other state liaisons in New England to "grow our presence and help fulfill our mission of preserving, and ultimately increasing, recreational aviation access throughout the region," he said.

Kevin Barry, Mississippi

"My father was a fighter pilot turned test pilot, and my favorite birthday present every year was to sit in the cockpit of the aircraft Dad was flying at the time," Kevin says.



He attended the Military Academy at West Point and served

as a Cavalry Officer, but kept his passion for flying. During the Gulf War he worked closely with military aviation assets. After active duty, he obtained an MS in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech, a PhD from the Univ. of Florida, and quickly got back into flying. "I was fortunate enough to find a job that incorporated my love of flying."

Since 2004 he has served as an Army Research Scientist and Technical Director, and flies his Cessna 172 to military bases across the country; adding Canada and the Bahamas Out Islands; and has built a Carbon Cub FX-2 with his father. Kevin is an avid outdoorsman and is a member of EAA and AOPA. He sees his responsibilities as State Liaison as the perfect opportunity to combine his passion for the outdoors with his passion for flying.

RAF to host three 2019 Regional Mini Educational Conferences

This series of three regional RAF Mini Education Conferences is the opportunity for RAF key volunteers to gather to hear specialists on varying topics relevant to recreational aviation access.

Geared to support the role of State Liaisons, each "RMEC" features guest speakers, panel and roundtable discussions, and breakout sessions. An informal meet-and-greet kicks off the gathering Friday evening, followed by Saturday's high-energy conference.



RAF Midwest Regional Conference

May 17-19, 2019 • Bentonville, Arkansas

RAF Western Regional Conference

August 9-11, 2019 • Boise, Idaho

RAF Eastern Regional Conference

Dates TBA • Piqua, Ohio

Although the scheduled day is jam-packed with activity, it allows for participants to take time to enjoy socializing.

First up is the Midwest conference in Bentonville, Arkansas, May 17-19; then to Boise August 9-11, and the series ends in Piqua, Ohio, (dates to be announced).

Call or email RAF Volunteer Coordinator Erin White at 970-209-5980; ewhite@theraf.org for more information, and to reserve your space.

Hotel details are on the RAF website.



Over thirty RAF volunteers participated in the March, 2017 RAF Mini Educational Conference at Hicks Airfield (T67) in Fort Worth, TX. Launched in 2017, the RAF series of Regional Conferences alternate years with the bi-annual RAF national conference.



RAF and EAA Chapter 42 volunteers pause at Peavine, within Wrangell-St. Elias Nat'l Park.

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park— Volunteers take on another Alaska airstrip

The RAF again teamed up with EAA Chapter 42 for a maintenance day within Alaska's Wrangell-St. Elias National Park in mid-July, under a cooperative agreement with the NPS.

RAF Alaska Liaison Al Clayton provided cooking and picnic facilities at his meadow next to Fireweed Airstrip (OAK8), eight miles southwest of Kennicott, where the group gathered and camped.

A dozen airplanes participated. Exotics like a Stinson, Helio-Courier and a Glastar joined the Cessnas, Pipers, and others. Another 15 vehicles made the long trip overland including 60 miles of gravel along the historic Copper River and Northwestern Railway right of way. From 1910 to 1938, this route was used to haul ore from Kennicott, the world's richest deposit of copper ore, to Cordova.

Kennicott's remaining buildings are a few intact examples of mining company towns that once were commonplace in

the Western U.S..

Pancake breakfasts began each day, and potluck meals featured fresh halibut, smoked octopus, and other Alaska treats.

"Over the weekend a total of 58 guests came and went and took part in the adventure," Clayton reported.

On Saturday, 16 volunteers flew 20 miles southeast to remote and rugged Peavine, what Clayton calls "a beautiful airstrip at the base of snow-capped mile-high cliffs on National Park Service land." With chainsaws, weed whackers, and loppers, volunteers cleared encroaching brush and trees on both sides and ends of the landing surface, improving safety and accessibility. Meanwhile, a separate community service work crew cleaned up the historic McCarthy Cemetery.

"Plan to join us next year when we will improve another local public airstrip," Clayton said.

Kentucky-Virginia— Group explores RAF partnership for recreational access

RAF Kentucky Liaison Jeff Smith met with photographer Ted Wathen and Kentucky Natural Lands Trust (KNLT) Executive Director Greg Abernathy to explore the possibilities of a partnership regarding access to the natural areas bordering Kentucky and Virginia.

Pine Mountain, a 125 mile ridge, is the focus of a new Ridgeline hiking trail from Breaks Interstate Park to Cumberland Gap Nat'l Historic Park. KNLT has been identifying and acquiring property for 25 years, and with others has protected about 75,000 acres for the Pine Mountain Wildlands Corridor.

"The area reminds me of the Ozarks and the recreational opportunities that have been accessed by airfields near Bentonville, Arkansas," Smith said. "It is my hope that in cooperation with the Land Trust, we can establish recreational airfields nearby on mountain tops that were leveled by coal mining," he added.

As the level of coal mining in the area has diminished, recreation is a logical and desirable way to re-energize the area's economy.

KNLT is a nationally accredited land trust with the mission to protect, connect and restore wildlands and complies with requirements of the Land Trust Accreditation Commission to assure proper stewardship of conservation preserves.

"Fostering a partnership with the RAF could be mutually beneficial," Abernathy said. "As a small nonprofit we value the power of partnership and would welcome the opportunity to work with the RAF as it attempts to add to and enhance the transitional economy of Eastern Kentucky," he said.

Winners of Recreational Aviation Foundation/ Sporty's Photo Contest

Sporty's Pilot Shop teamed with the RAF on a photo contest last Fall, and Sporty's selected the most remarkable photos from all those submitted. Three were displayed on the cover of the Fall 2018 Sporty's Pilot Shop catalog.

Taking first place was Charles Christenson's photo of his 1967 Cessna 182 on Alder Lake with Mount Rainier in the background.

Jim and Janette Riley placed second with the image of their Husky on short final into Wilson Bar in the Idaho Nez Perce Nat'l Forest. Taking third-place was Cory Kittle's stunning photo of a Super Cub over Colony Glacier near Lake George, Alaska.

"The backcountry flying that the RAF works to protect is the kind of flying many pilots dream of when they earn their license," said Sporty's Vice President John Zimmerman. "We're pleased to partner with the RAF to showcase this beautiful part of general aviation."

First place earned Mr. Christenson a \$500 Sporty's Gift Card and second and third place winners received \$100 in Sporty's credit. All had the satisfaction that [Sporty's](#) catalogs are viewed by over 250,000 readers.



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State reports are submitted by Liaisons and are often edited for space.

Arizona – Mark Spencer

The historic Double Circle Ranch, (AZ66) was the site of seasonal fly-in-campouts through November. Visitors spend evenings relaxing around the campfire and sharing stories. November's weather was clear and calm with daytime temperatures around 70, and overnight temperatures of 45.

Folks from Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico, RAF member and Southwest region CubCrafter dealer Rick Bosshardt have stayed the night enjoying the solitude of this incredible and historic place.

Located within the Apache Sitgreaves Nat'l Forest, 30 miles northwest of Clifton, the airstrip has been preserved through cooperative efforts of the RAF and Arizona Pilots Association. The old lodge is open to all, and quite comfortable if you have a cot and sleeping bag. Twice each year the APA and RAF hold a fly-in camp out; and organize maintenance days along with locals who have joined the aviation community to preserve this special destination.

Arkansas – Dave Powell

Locally in Arkansas we had a Fly-in last year in November at Trigger Gap and had 24 airplanes and 29 people participate. Three planes and four pilots came from Illinois to brave the cold, as camping was in the 20s! We all flew to Bentonville (VBT) to see the new Fieldhouse and enjoy lunch there before participating in two planned fly-



outs to see other grass strips in northwest Arkansas. After a warm-up Sunday breakfast at Harper Goodwin's house participants departed.

Other Arkansas activities included working to prepare the new grass strip at Bentonville to open in the spring and we have a new strip by the Buffalo River to be called Richland Creek with grass planted for a possible opening in the Spring.

RAF Chairman John McKenna visited us in Arkansas and we enjoyed the time-honored RAF fellowship.

California – Rick Lach

Over the years, the RAF has provided volunteer labor for spring maintenance on Chicken Strip in Death Valley National Park to return the strip to a safe condition after seasonal washouts.

Last summer, the strip was threatened with permanent closure. The NPS had developed five draft Alternatives for the Saline Valley, one of which proposed that the area be returned to original conditions, meaning the airstrip would be closed

forever. Closure would eliminate the opportunity to fly in to access the palm-ringed Saline hot springs. The only other access requires hours of travel on rocky primitive roads.

Closure would run counter to the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the RAF and Death Valley National Park, that formalizes the ongoing maintenance partnership between the two parties.

RAF Montana Liaison Ron Normandeau studied all five Alternatives, and recommended that pilots support "Alternative 5" and add a comment allowing aircraft to continue to land at Chicken Strip. A total of 461 comments were submitted with nine comments opposing the regulation.

I spoke with Park Ranger Abby Wines who anticipates the Chicken Strip decision will come in May. It is hoped that Chicken Strip will be added formally to the list of sanctioned Death Valley airports along with Furnace Creek and Stovepipe Wells.

So far things are looking positive again. I hope to schedule our customary Spring work party at the strip.

Florida – Bobby Capozzi

I would like to thank all 990 Florida RAF members for their support during the recent membership drive. It is because of each and every one of you that the RAF has been successful executing its mission. A BIG thank you must go out to our Florida Ambassadors Amrat Chugani, Wes Whitley, Joe DeLeon, John Hall and Lynn Gardner. This group has done a superb job advancing our mission.

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Georgia – Island airstrip a truly unique destination!

Creighton Island near Crescent, Georgia is privately owned, with limited access only by aircraft or boat. RAF Ambassador Eric Davis initiated dialog leading to a collaborative agreement with the owner to provide airstrip maintenance and upkeep in exchange for provisional use of the airstrip and its recreational amenities. Davis organized multiple work parties there, and in July, his father Gary, RAF Ambassador Joe DeLeon, and RAF Florida Liaison Bobby Capozzi accomplished more upgrades and maintenance goals.

Capozzi flew in 300 lbs of new grills and concrete, and the fellows installed them and repaired the pavilion lighting and installed wooden privacy shutters on the showers and bunkhouses. They mounted first aid kits in the buildings, and fixed the plank bridge that connects the island.

The site has three cabins, each with four bunks, a shower house, toilets, sinks, hot and potable water, covered pavilion

with tables, stainless steel sink, and propane dual burner stove. There is a fire pit, tent camping, cell phone service and portable generator for limited electric usage.

Davis has boated around the island, where he saw a flock of [Roseate Spoonbills](#), which were once a threatened species. You can find the Creighton Island Safety Briefing on the RAF website.

As a safety requirement, anyone desiring to fly in during non-scheduled events MUST obtain permission from Frank Williams, the owner. You MUST contact the owner 24 hours prior to arrival to obtain a runway report. For your own safety, no landings are authorized unless you have spoken with the owner.

Scheduled events will be posted on the [Airfield Guide](#). Check for cancellations due to weather or adverse field conditions 24 hours prior to any event.





November was a busy month. As we wound down 2018, the RAF was well represented at the Deland Showcase, annual Blackwater gathering and Lynn Gardner's post-Thanksgiving event. Lynn did a presentation on backcountry survival preparations and the use of helmets.

During the Blackwater event it was determined the airfield was due for a refresh. Please check the RAF calendar for the upcoming RAF work party the weekend of March 22-24, with Saturday being the main work day. Plans include installing two park style barbecue grills, a new sign, repairing picnic tables and replacing and painting runway tires. Please sign up early for planning purposes.

In December, Ambassadors Joe DeLeon, Wes Whitley and I identified a central Florida location with a lot to offer. Wes will attempt to get an agreement with the land owner leading to access for all to enjoy.

If anyone has knowledge of a recreational opportunity please contact me, Bobby Capozzi at 352-475-1492.

As the RAF sets sights on 2019 we have teamed up with AOPA and will have a presence at four AOPA's Air Safety Institute live Spring Seminars, set for Jacksonville, Melbourne, Daytona Beach and Ocala. Date and times can be found on the RAF website.

Illinois – Mike Purpura

The small, country airport of Havana, IL ([910](#)) came alive September 15 when over 150 people came together to gaze at the wonders of the universe under clear skies with an early setting moon. Fifteen airplanes flew in for the second annual Astronomy Night. Sixty members of the University of



Illinois Astronomy Club brought telescopes and cameras. Over 100 townspeople from ages 8 to 80 came out and enjoyed the guided tour of the cosmos.

The sky darkened, eyes adjusted and small groups clustered around the scopes. Those of us on breakfast detail turned in at midnight, while many visitors stayed up until 4 am.

The Havana Airport Authority, the RAF and the EAA came together to organize this event, cook food, and roll out the welcome mat to everyone.

Montana – Scott Newpower

Winter has settled into the mountains here in Montana. This is the time of year to make plans for next season, catch up with thank you notes and maintain the aircraft.

This past summer I had three sign in boxes made by a local friend. One is here in Seeley Lake and the other two will be installed at Schafer Meadows next spring.

As well as the normal work parties we



have each year, we will also be doing a project at the West Yellowstone airport, (KWYS). The airport is open typically April 15 through November 15 and there is a campground adjacent to the ramp. We will be erecting a gazebo at the campground as well as installing five fire rings, similar to the one we put in at Schafer Meadows last summer.

With help from RAF Arizona Liaison Dave Powell, we have added eight more Montana airstrips in the Airfield Guide. Now included are Black Butte North (BB0), Bullwhacker (BW8), Cow Creek (CW0), Left Coulee (LC0), Russian Flat (M42), Knox Ridge (MT3), Lincoln (S69), and Woodhawk (WH0). I have a few more coming.

New Mexico – Ron Keller

A crisp morning greeted me January 23 as I arrived at the State Capitol in Santa Fe for Aviation Day 2019. RAF Director Emeritus Rol Murrow joined me to staff the RAF display.

The annual event is hosted by the [Aerospace States Association](#) in conjunction with the New Mexico Airport Managers Association to showcase aerospace and aviation technology and these industries' contributions to the state's economy. A row of tables are set up for aviation-related displays along the hallways leading to the Capitol Rotunda.

We spoke to pilots, prospective pilots, legislators, and staffers about the RAF mission and handed out newsletters and brochures while a catchy RAF video played.

One new legislator is an aerospace attorney and pilot. She spoke at length to us about recreational aviation and the potential

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Montana – RAF and MPA give veterans access to Wilderness

RAF Montana Liaison Scott Newpower was instrumental in organizing volunteer pilots to fly a group of veterans into Meadow Creek (0S1) in August.

The Montana Vet Program, a Great Falls-based group, provides veteran-led adventures to promote healing through camaraderie and physical activity. Military vets of all ages experience the backcountry, or what they say, "getting on by getting out." The program director had approached Montana Pilots Association to ask for the lift. Under the sponsorship of [Eagle Mount](#), the group's tradition is to carry the "pig egg", a



75-pound satchel weighed down by the 6,839 dogtags of service members killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Members of the MPA agreed to fly a group from Seeley Lake. Newpower who is MPA Immediate Past President, found willing pilots with aircraft. RAF/MPA members joining Newpower to provide the lift were Mike Lindemer, Wade Cebulski – MT Aeronautics Airport/Airways Bureau Chief, Jeremy Gouley from MT Aeronautics, Dallas Deardorff and Carmine Mowbray.

The veterans hiked and explored the South Fork's Wild and Scenic environment. They did quite a bit of maintenance, as well. They mowed, painted the circle marker, the windsock posts, and stacked firewood.

"This would have been a helluva hike getting in and out for a 'blind' guy like me," one of the veterans said.

Photo at lower left courtesy of Eagle Mount.



that New Mexico has to expand its aviation opportunities. She also assured us that our new Governor supports aviation.

Once again, Aviation Day was a rewarding and fun way to represent the RAF.

Ohio – Christine Mortine

The state of Ohio has had a good year of activity and new developments! RAF Liaison Freeman Swank hosted another wonderful Swank Field Fly-In July 13-15th for which over 60 airplanes registered. Several RAF members from out of state attended, including Andy Turner and his two sons from Pennsylvania, Bill McCormick from Kentucky, and Bobby and Kim Capozzi from Florida.



Parking and camping at the farm; Freeman Swank does routine mowing; Christine Mortine (OH), Bill McCormick (KY), Bobbie Capozzi (FL), and hosts Freeman and Mary Jane Swank with a local enthusiast holding the sign.

Our development goals this year include partnership with Ohio State Parks to upgrade the facilities at Wolf Run Campground, a fly in campground at Noble Co. Airport (110). Ambassador Kathleen Labrie has done a reconnaissance flight and I am working with Ohio State Parks.

Greg Willard reached out to me and would like to host fly in activity at his private airfield, (62OH); and for his airfield to become a part of RAF. I visited the airfield, walked it with Greg, and he looks forward to continuing plans for an event with the RAF's assistance.

Freeman, Andy Turner and I are most interested in developing camping/flying opportunities on both Middle and North Bass Islands in Lake Erie. This is in the works!

Following successful RAF participation at Sporty's Fly-In, they launched the

cooperative RAF/Sporty's photo contest and published the winners on the front cover of their Fall Catalog. *Story on page 8.*

Oregon – Richard Mayes

The Hells Canyon, North America's deepest river gorge, encompasses a vast and remote region with dramatic changes in elevation, terrain, climate and vegetation. Carved by the Wild and Scenic Snake River, Hells Canyon plunges more than a mile below Oregon's west rim, and 8,000 feet below snowcapped He Devil Peak of Idaho's Seven Devils Mountains. The Hells Canyon National Recreation Area (NRA), managed by the US Forest Service (USFS), encompasses 652,488 acres of rugged backcountry hugging the borders of northeastern Oregon and western Idaho. There are no roads across Hells Canyon's 10-mile wide expanse, and only three roads lead to the Snake River between Hells Canyon Dam and the Oregon-Washington boundary. However, there are seven backcountry airstrips deep in the canyon along the Snake River. Six of these airstrips are open for public use under direction from the 2003 [Hells Canyon National Recreation Area Comprehensive Management Plan](#).

I was invited to join the Hells Canyon Recreation Collaborative (HCRC) whose mission is to: "Work collaboratively to maintain and improve recreation access into the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area by boat, raft, foot, vehicle, horseback, aircraft and associated historical infrastructure by making recommendations to the US Forest Service; promoting a sustainable recreation experience through the involvement of a broad group".



Doug Bar airstrip in Hells Canyon.

I attended the December monthly HCRC meeting in Riggins, ID. The more than 35 participants included representatives of the USFS and State agencies, various commercial and recreational users, and representatives of Idaho's congressional delegation. Discussions included progress of ongoing infrastructure improvements at Pittsburg Landing and the need to protect the historic Kirkwood Ranch complex,

downstream of the Big Bar airstrip.

RAF member Bill Ables and I are working with the HCRC to protect and improve access to the six public use airstrips. In collaboration with the Idaho Aviation Association, efforts are ongoing with the USFS to find an acceptable approach to reopen the seventh airstrip - Sluice Creek, which is currently off-limits.

Vermont— Bob Burley

Task: Morrisville-Stowe State Airport, after over 20 years of neglect, continues its 5-8 year phased project to improve both paved surface GA operations and restore its historic role as a hub for un-paved back country operations. I provided recommendations and guidance for both. 2019 focus will be to: 1) Reduce runway congestion with turn outs at ends and better taxiways; and 2) Review and implement options to restore safe grass operations by eliminating the 4'x4' ditches adjacent and within the pavement Runway Safety Area which make grass operations parallel to the pavement a bit dicey.

Pure recreational aviation, Vermont-style – Dinner Run: Trout stream flare skirting the pasture fence line adjacent to favorite trout stream. SCORE: Brookies pitched a shut-out; 3 Rainbows came home for supper.



Wyoming – Lori Olson

Miracle Mile airstrip in Wyoming was recently added to the [RAF Airports Map](#).

Located on the Miracle Mile section of the Platte River, it offers access to a renowned fly fishing area. Engstrom USFS Campground is a half mile SW of the runway, with an outhouse. The strip was built by the Western Power Authority to check power lines after the Little Kortes Dam was built on the Platte. They abandoned the strip as soon as they began utilizing helicopters. The RAF negotiated with the BLM to open the airfield for recreational use and then coordinated efforts with Wyoming EAA chapters to improve the runway, add tie downs, and place an RAF windsock.





RECREATIONAL AVIATION FOUNDATION

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The Recreational Aviation Foundation preserves, maintains and creates airstrips for recreational access.

Thanks to our generous donors we can continue to make these special places accessible for public enjoyment. Many words of appreciation and encouragement come from supporters who respond to our request for donations . . .



The RAF is a true national treasure. Happy to support any way I can. - Washington
Thanks for the important work you do for general aviation! - Montana
I want the young to enjoy all the remote and lovely airstrips that I have visited over my flying career (1945 to present). Good luck & "Keep on cranking." - California
Thank you for being a good advocate for backcountry aviation. - Colorado
You guys are great and open up a new part of the aviation world to lots of people - New Jersey
Great spirit, great outfit. Proud to help - Maine

The Recreational Aviation Foundation was formed in 2003 by a group of pilots in response to diminishing backcountry aviation destinations. Supporters from all 50 states and the GA and commercial aviation industry have joined in. To become a supporter of this important effort, use the secure "Donate now" button at www.TheRAF.org or use the form below.

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