

# 2026 Great Alaska Aviation Gathering Seminar Schedule

## SATURDAY, MAY 2ND

TIMES	PRESENTATION TITLE & SPEAKER	LOCATED IN HOSKINS HALL
10:00-10:50	<p><b>NEW PRODUCT UPDATES - MINI PRESENTATIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Benefits of SureFly Electronic Ignition, Jason Hutchison, SureFly Partners, Ltd.</li> <li>Updates to Alaska Aviation Weather Unit (AAWU) Charts, David Kochevar NWS</li> <li>Hangar, Hangar Homes, and Runway Access with Alaska Aviation Real Estate Expert Stewart Smith, Stewart Smith, SSS Commercial Real Estate</li> </ul>	
11:00-11:50	<p><b>LYCOMING ENGINES EIS TECHNICAL OVERVIEW</b>  <i>Judson Rupert, Fellow Engineer, Lycoming Engines</i>                      The Lycoming Electronic Ignition System (EIS) is a drop in magneto replacement for certified and non-certified Lycoming engines. This presentation covers the technical specification and shows a pilot or mechanic how to install and operate the EIS on a Lycoming Engine.</p>	
12:00-12:50	<p><b>THE DON YOUNG ALASKA AVIATION SAFETY INITIATIVE</b>  <i>Erik Amend, Acting FAA Alaska Regional Administrator</i>                      The Don Young Alaska Aviation Safety Initiative aims to reduce accidents and improve aviation safety in Alaska. Over the next few years, upgrades and expansion of aviation infrastructure is planned across Alaska. The FAA is working with Alaska industry partners to evaluate needs and propose solutions. This presentation will provide an introduction to the initiative, and an overview of the improvements planned to start as early as this summer.</p>	
13:00-13:50	<p><b>AOPA UPDATE- FIGHT FOR YOUR FREEDOM TO FLY!</b>  <i>Mike Ginter, Senior Vice President AOPA Air Safety Institute</i>                      AOPA is on the front lines of protecting your freedom to fly from the Capitol in Washington, DC and across all 50 states. Attend this update on the state of General Aviation in America, provided by Mike Ginter, Senior Vice President of the AOPA Air Safety Institute.</p>	
14:00 - 14:50	<p><b>TOP ADVOCACY ISSUES FACING ALASKA</b>  <i>Adam White, Government Affairs Advocate, Alaska Airmen's Association</i>  <i>Jim McClay, Director, Airspace, Air Traffic, and Security, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association</i>                      Adam and Jim will provide an update on the Anchorage Terminal Area Airspace and Procedures proposal which will result in major changes to the Anchorage Class C airspace. They will also cover the plan to expand Military Operations Areas over large sections of the State, in addition to touching on the move to replace 100LL with an unleaded fuel, and other hot topics that could impact General Aviation in Alaska.</p>	
15:00 - 15:50	<p><b>THE FUTURE OF UNLEADED AVGAS</b>  <i>Tim Roehl, President, GAMI/Tornado Alley Turbo/G100UL</i>                      GAMI's G100UL has been certified by the FAA through an STC for all piston engines and the majority of all airframes. Tim and George Braly (GAMI) have been studying, formulating, and testing unleaded fuels for over 15 years, culminating with an STC in September 2022. Over 1 million gallons have been blended and are available for sale in California, Mississippi, and soon in Oklahoma. Tim will share his vast knowledge on how engines and varying fuels perform and where we go from here into the future of an unleaded aviation transition.</p>	

# 2026 Great Alaska Aviation Gathering Seminar Schedule

## SUNDAY, MAY 3RD

TIMES	PRESENTATION TITLE & SPEAKER	LOCATED IN HOSKINS HALL
11:00-11:50	<p><b>NEW PRODUCT UPDATES-MINI PRESENTATIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Star-Batt Mini-solution for your Starlink® Mini</b>, Chris Carlberg, Star-Batt &amp; Batteries Plus Alaska</li> <li>• <b>LIDAR and Radar Altimeters</b>, Sean Sherman, Owner, Skeeter Enterprises LLC</li> <li>• <b>Converting the Cessna 206 to Turbine Power: TCL's Akadi C206 for Alaskan Missions</b>, Ann Hatfield-Grahek, Turbine Conversions, Ltd.</li> <li>• <b>Dynon Avionics for Experimental and Certified Aircraft</b>, Kyle George, Sales and Production Manager, Dynon Avionics</li> </ul>	
12:00-12:50	<p><b>YOUR'RE NOT AS GOOD AS YOU THINK: A CASE FOR DELIBERATE AIRMANSHIP</b>  <i>Steve Johnson, Supercub.org</i>                      Most pilots don't crash because of bad luck. This presentation challenges the idea that experience alone equals proficiency and examines how complacency, normalized risk, and undeliberate flying quietly erode safety. Drawing from personal experience, accident trends, and thousands of hours of instruction, this talk makes a practical case for deliberate airmanship.</p>	
13:00-13:50	<p><b>UPDATES TO ALASKA AVIATION WEATHER UNIT (AAWU) CHARTS</b>  <i>Prince Dalal, Meteorologist, National Weather Service Alaska Aviation Weather Unit and Anchorage Volcanic Ash Advisory Center</i>                      The AAWU has made updates recently to their website, including an overhaul of their Surface Weather Charts this Spring, in this talk Prince will describe the updates, the motivation for them, and how to access the latest charts.</p>	
14:00 - 14:50	<p><b>GENERAL AVIATION SAFETY IN ALASKA AND NATIONWIDE</b>  <i>Mike Ginter, Senior Vice President, AOPA Air Safety Foundation</i>                      General Aviation safety has drastically improved over the last 35 years. The last five years have set new records as we suffer fewer accidents while flying more than ever. Join this update with Mike Ginter, Senior Vice President of the AOPA Air Safety Institute, to get the latest on safety stats in Alaska and nationwide. The Air Safety Institute has been driving the GA accident rate down for over 75 years, but we have more work to do.</p>	
15:00 - 15:50	<p><b>DECISION BEFORE SKILL: STEWARDSHIP, SAFETY, AND ETIQUETTE IN ALASKA'S BACKCOUNTRY</b>  <i>Stef Goza, Alaska State Liaison, Recreational Aviation Foundation</i>                      Flying in Alaska offers a level of freedom and access that is rare anywhere else. From remote strips to off-airport landings, much of what we do depends not only on skill, but on sound judgment, respect for the land, and a strong culture within the aviation community. Presented on behalf of the Recreational Aviation Foundation, this session explores how pilot decision-making, mentorship, and backcountry etiquette help support safe operations and maintain the trust that allows continued access to remote airstrips and landing areas in the backcountry. Topics will include common human-factor traps, risk patterns seen in Alaska flying, and the role individual pilots play in representing aviation when operating on shared public lands.                      This is not an instructional session, but a discussion about judgment, responsibility, and the pilot culture that helps keep Alaska flying safe, respectful, and sustainable for future generations.</p>	

# 2025 GREAT ALASKA AVIATION GATHERING SEMINAR PROGRAM SCHEDULE

LOCATED IN HOSKINS HALL

## SATURDAY, MAY 3RD

TIMES	PRESENTATION TITLE & SPEAKER
10:00-10:50	<p><b>LEARN TO FLY ~ WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET STARTED</b>  <i>Wella Jay, Land and Sea Aviation Aras Sirvelis, Alaska Airmen's Association Marcel Dionne, MD, FAA Alaska Regional Flight Surgeon</i></p> <p>This panel of aviation experts will present federal regulatory and medical requirements for those interested in learning to fly, provide information on scholarship options to help students get started flying for fun or career, and offer advice based on their observations and personal experiences.</p>
11:00-11:50	<p><b>THE ALASKAN AVIATION INSURANCE MARKET</b>  <i>Jennifer Moninski, Alaska Program Manager, BWI Aviation Insurance</i></p> <p>BWI is a local Alaska aviation insurance agency located at the Lake Hood Airport in Anchorage, and partners with the Alaska Airmen's Association. Ms. Moninski's presentation will focus on the Alaska aviation insurance market and the new coverage options available for pilots and CFIs. The presentation will also provide an opportunity for feedback from insured pilots and an opportunity for a Q&amp;A.</p>
12:00-12:50	<p><b>TOP ADVOCACY ISSUES FACING ALASKA</b>  <i>Adam White, Government Affairs Advocate, Alaska Airmen's Association</i>  <i>Jim McClay, Director, Airspace, Air Traffic, and Security, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association</i></p> <p>Adam and Jim will brief on the Anchorage Terminal Area Airspace and Procedures Study and the major changes planned for the Anchorage Class C airspace, progress on the replacement of 100LL, and other hot topics that affect General Aviation in Alaska.</p>
13:00-13:50	<p><b>AOPA PILOT TOWN HALL</b>  <i>Darren Pleasance, President, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association</i></p> <p>AOPA will provide an update on current trends and issues facing general aviation in Alaska and across the country, including AOPA's ongoing search for an unleaded fuel for all, affordable insurance, and support for aviation infrastructure in Alaska.</p>
14:00 - 14:20	<p><b>NWS ALASKA AVIATION WEATHER WEBSITES FOR PILOTS AND NON-PILOTS</b>  <i>David Kochevar, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service Alaska Aviation Weather Unit and Anchorage Volcanic Ash Advisory Center</i>  <i>Prince Dalal, Meteorologist, National Weather Service Alaska Aviation Weather Unit and Anchorage Volcanic Ash Advisory Center</i></p> <p>Over the last few years, the National Weather Service has created a number of new or upgraded aviation weather websites which are approved for use in Alaska. This briefing will include a summary of these new tools you might not yet be aware of, and instruction on their use from Alaska Aviation Weather Unit Meteorologists.</p>
14:30 - 15:50	<p><b>SURVIVING THE UNEXPECTED ~ THE HUMAN FACTORS OF A MIDAIR COLLISION</b>  <i>Amy L. Hoover, PhD, CFII, AGI, Professor, Central Washington University</i></p> <p>Amy Hoover shares her personal story of surviving a mid-air collision over a remote mountainous area. She discusses how attitude, training, and practice helped her make critical decisions, manage risk, land successfully, and facilitate her own rescue. Hoover relates the events to her own research and experience as well as practices taken from civilian and military training programs. She shares strategies to help pilots and other survivors navigate the aftermath of traumatic events, including personal practices related to physical and mental well-being, self-care, and more.</p>

## SUNDAY, MAY 4TH

TIMES	PRESENTATION TITLE & SPEAKER
08:00-10:50	<p><b>AOPA RUSTY PILOTS SEMINAR</b>  <i>Yasmina Platt, AOPA Rusty Pilot</i></p> <p>Program Note: This special three-hour seminar requires advance registration. To register go to: <a href="https://webforms.aopa.org/rustypilots050425">https://webforms.aopa.org/rustypilots050425</a></p> <p>If you're like more than 500,000 other pilots (that's right, half a million), you've taken a little break from flying. Maybe more than a little. Perhaps life threw you a curve. Maybe the pitter-patter of little feet, a growing business, or a medical setback had something to do with it. Whatever the case, things are different now. You're back in the game and would like to start flying again. You've come to the right place. The AOPA Rusty Pilots program has helped over 13,000 inactive pilots return to flying. If 13,000+ other people with similar stories can do this, you can too! Yes, it will take some time, work, and money but if you take one step at a time, you too can return to flying. You may have forgotten that pilot certificates never expire. Once a pilot, always a pilot. You never have to take another test or worry about another checkride. All you need is a Flight Review (formerly known as a Biennial Flight Review). That's it. A little brush-up with your local CFI, enough flights to demonstrate competence again (minimum one hour), and – presto! – you're back in the air. Seriously, that's all it takes.</p>
11:00-11:50	<p><b>FOREFLIGHT WORKSHOP ° PRO TIPS FOR FLIGHT PLANNING</b>  <i>Captain Brian Schi, The Proficient Pilot</i></p> <p>Learn to master ForeFlight in this interactive workshop on the utilization of ForeFlight, the aviation industry's most renowned and widely used electronic flight bag (EFB) and flight planning application, presented by Brian Schi. It will offer comprehensive hands-on training using ForeFlight for flight planning, weather, and in-flight navigation. The pace will ensure that you thoroughly understand ForeFlight's functionality without feeling overwhelmed. Pose questions and contribute your own tips and tricks. The workshop will enrich your understanding of ForeFlight and how to make it work best for you.</p>
12:00-12:50	<p><b>BUILDING YOUR OWN AIRPLANE ~ FROM BLUEPRINT TO FLIGHT</b>  <i>Bernie Willis, John Davis, and Rick Henry, Experimental Aircraft Association</i></p> <p>If you have considered building an airplane, this session is a must! These engaging aircraft builders will share the pros and cons of building an aircraft, basic regulations covering experimental and homebuilt aircraft, safety considerations, and how to get started. Whether you're an enthusiast or a professional, thinking about building, or already on the journey, join the conversation to explore the art and science behind building an airplane.</p>
13:00-13:50	<p><b>FLOAT PLANE SAFETY PANEL</b>  <i>National Transportation Safety Board, Millicent Hill</i>  <i>Steve McCaughey, Seaplane Pilots Association</i>  <i>David Swartz, PhD, Retired Federal Aviation Administration</i>  <i>Steven Williams, Acme Cub Training and Maintenance</i></p> <p>Join us for a panel presentation about seaplane safety with a discussion of recent accident and inspection findings, trends and concerns with aging aircraft and components, and suggested best practices for maintaining floats.</p>
14:00 - 14:50	<p><b>PEOPLE AND PASSION ~ THE RAF WAY</b>  <i>Kari DeFreest, Recreational Aviation Foundation</i></p> <p>Familiar with the trademark orange shirts of The RAF but wonder what all the excitement is about? Looking for opportunities to give back in aviation? Either way, this presentation is for you! Join Kari to learn about the people and passions driving the RAF into 2025 and beyond.</p>
15:00 - 15:50	<p><b>THE ROUND THE WORLD FLIGHT TO END POLIO</b>  <i>John Ockenfels and Peter Teahen, Rotary Club</i></p> <p>Two pilots, both Rotary Club members, took three months to circumnavigate the globe in a Cessna 210 airplane. They raised over one million dollars to help eradicate polio, and participated in another 24 fundraisers during their trip. Hear them tell their stories about planning, flying, and surviving this amazing adventure.</p>

SEMINARS HOSTED BY THE ALASKAN AVIATION SAFETY FOUNDATION