

CPA FLIGHT LINES

February 2026



Centennial Airport runways 35L & 35R after light snowfall in January 2026



Centennial Airport Runway 10 after light snowfall in January 2026.

Airport photos credit: M. Phillipi



Snowless Flatirons January 2026

President's Corner

by Andy Holmes



Dear Members of the Colorado Pilots Association,

As we proceed into 2026, the Colorado Pilots Association is focused on safety, growth, advocacy, and strengthening our statewide aviation community.

Over the past several weeks, I've met individually with several of the CPA's 18 Committee Chairs and Officers. I will continue meeting with each chair to develop a cohesive plan for 2026 and beyond, with clear focus on safety, advocacy, membership growth, membership engagement, and community outreach — while providing steadfast support for our exceptional Education + Scholarship, Fly-In, and Mountain Flying programs.

Advocacy remains central to our mission. We will continue building relationships within the Colorado Legislature and stand ready to engage on issues affecting general aviation. The Colorado legislative session has begun, and CPA has a seat at the table to discuss matters of importance to aviation in Colorado. As matters arise, our Legislative Committee is prepared to inform the membership and take thoughtful, coordinated action to protect and promote aviation across our state.

Membership growth is a priority. A strong and engaged membership strengthens our influence through the power of collective voice. My goal for 2026 includes reaching 800 active members, adding 12 new corporate members, increasing student pilot memberships by 40 new members, and converting 50% of expiring student memberships into general memberships. I believe success in this endeavor requires demonstrating value to members by improving communication and engaging members through relevant aviation-related activities.

In 2026, CPA will host 10 fly-in events and at least 10 additional activities and gatherings, including the Annual Hangar BBQ, Holiday Dinner, Tower Tours, Avionics Shop Talk, TRACON and Denver Center Tours, and more. We will maintain active social media engagement, identify methods to increase engagement with our friends and members on the Western Slope, and continue to boost our newsletter podcast audience, all to help ensure members stay informed on airport, airspace, and safety matters. New for 2026, student pilot outreach and engagement – stay tuned as this program earns it wings.



Advocacy Highlights

CPA is actively tracking and engaging on several important issues across the Front Range, including incompatible land use development near airports, airport rate and access concerns impacting based tenants, and obstruction and airspace conflicts affecting safe operations. These issues underscore the importance of early engagement, strong legislative relationships, and coordinated advocacy at local and federal levels.

At the national level, AOPA has launched a call-to-action urging pilots to support the Pilot and Aircraft Privacy Act (PAPA), introduced as H.R. 4146 and S. 2175. The legislation would prohibit the misuse of ADS-B data for fee collection and clarify that ADS-B is intended for safety and airspace efficiency. While ADS-B has been a major contributor to aviation safety, its use to monetize airport operations risks undermining trust and discouraging equipage and use. We encourage members to stay informed and engage with their elected representatives on this important issue.

Additionally, the draft FAA's Transition Plan to Unleaded Aviation Gasoline has been published, with a public comment period open through March 13, 2026. This transition represents one of the most significant changes to piston aviation in decades. We encourage members to stay informed, review the proposal, and participate in the public comment process. Comment [here](#).

The year ahead presents real challenges and real opportunities. With continued collaboration and member involvement, CPA will remain a steady and effective voice for general aviation across Colorado.

Fly Safe,

Andy Holmes

President

Colorado Pilots Association



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NOTICE:

Submission deadline for the March 2026 issue is February 20.
Format all articles with 0.5" margins

Email your article to newsletter@coloradopilots.org.

HAVE AVIATION RELATED INFORMATION FOR GA PILOTS?

Contact the CPA Newsletter Editor at newsletter@coloradopilots.org to have the information featured in the monthly Flight Lines CPA NOTAMs.



CPA NOTAMs

CPA Scholarship Applications Due February 15, 2026

The Colorado Pilots Association **2026 Pilot Training Scholarship Program application window is now open!** This year, we are awarding **two (2) scholarships** to deserving Coloradans with a passion for aviation.

Private Pilot Certificate: The **Walt and Terry Barbo PPL Scholarship** is open to Colorado students aged 16-22.

Advance your Skills: The **Emily Howell Warner Scholarship** supports female pilots with Private Pilot certificates or higher pursuing Instrument Rating, Commercial Certificate, or Multi-Engine Ratings.

[APPLY NOW!](#)

CPA Seeks Airport Support Network Volunteers

Do you know who your AOPA ASN (airport support network) representative is? If not, check the AOPA [website](#). Introduce yourself and see if they need any help on projects. If you don't see an ASN for your airport, consider becoming a volunteer. CPA's connection to AOPA to get you started is Keith Serkes, our Backcountry Committee Chair. CPA works together with AOPA to develop an ASN at every airport in Colorado. If you're interested in becoming an ASN, contact Keith at Cessna185@att.net.

Here is a list of Colorado airports where we need your help:

Airport	ID	Airport	ID
Fremont County Airport	1V6	Craig-Moffat Airport	CAG
Wray Municipal Airport	2V5	Lake Meredith Seaplane Base	CO1
Brush Municipal Airport	7V5	Westwinds Airport	D17
Julesburg Municipal Airport	7V8	Meeker Coulter Field	EEO
Dove Creek Airport	8V6	Holyoke Airport	HEQ
Springfield Municipal Airport	8V7	Kit Carson County Airport	ITR
Eads Municipal Airport	9V7	Holly Airport	K08
Cuchara Valley At La Veta Airport	07V	Southeast Colorado Regional Airport	LAA
Kenney Reservoir Seaplane Base	13R	Lake County Airport	LXV
Haxtun Municipal Airport	17V	Monte Vista Municipal Airport	MVI
Walden-Jackson County Airport	33V	San Luis Valley Regional/Bergman Field	ALS
Blake Field	AJZ		
Colorado Plains Regional Airport	AKO		



COLORADO PRACTICE AREAS OVERLAY UPDATE

In the interest of safety and as a service to our membership, the Colorado Pilots Association publishes a ForeFlight overlay map highlighting specific areas of concentrated flight training activity, which includes practice box names. The parameters for this overlay are developed collaboratively by regional flight schools. CPA compiles information provided by the flight schools, develops and distributes the .kml file through our website to ensure broad access and enhance situational awareness and contribute to safer skies. Get the most recent overlap [map](#).

WELCOME TO NEW CPA BOARD MEMBERS

Please join the CPA Board of Directors in welcoming two new Directors. **Max Cleveland**, will be serving as **Recorder**, and **Anthony Sypula**, will be serving as **Newsletter Editor**. We are grateful for their willingness to serve the CPA in these important roles, and we look forward to their contributions and leadership as we continue to support and advance the mission of the Colorado Pilots Association.

ADVOCACY ALERTS

Longmont, Boulder, Centennial, Meadowlake

The Colorado Front Range Airports have no shortage of activity that demand the time and effort of our dedicated volunteers who monitor, report, and collaborate with our partners in advocacy. The Colorado Pilots Association has been involved in active advocacy at several front range airports, including partnership building with AOPA, boots on the ground at council meetings, communicating with our elected officials, and more. It may seem a bit cliché, but there is strength in numbers, and CPA needs our members to engage with issues affecting their home base airport and surrounding airspace, but also across the state. An issue affecting an airport a few hundred miles or even 20 miles away will someday likely have an impact to your home base airport. Check out [CPA Aviation Advocacy](#) for details.



ANNOUNCING 2026

Mountain Flying & High-Elevation Airport Operations Course

Originally developed by the Colorado Pilots Association in 1986, this course taught by Colorado pilots who live and fly the mountains for business and recreation, has evolved into one of the premier safety training courses of its kind. Accident statistics demonstrate that pilots without the knowledge and skills needed for safe flight over mountainous terrain find themselves in situations beyond their capability. This course is designed to improve your knowledge, skills, and capability.

Register for the June 27, 2026, Mountain Flying course [here](#).

Register for the August 15, 2026, Mountain Flying course [here](#).

Register for the September 19, 2026, Mountain Flying course [here](#).

Support our Corporate Members



Become a Corporate Member for \$100, [click here!](#)



Colorado Aviation Events – February 2026

For some of the links to function, you must be signed into your Colorado Pilots Association account

CPA – Monthly Board of Directors Meeting-ALL MEMBERS WELCOME TO ATTEND

Monday, February 2, 2026, from 1830 to 2030

The Hangar, 7565 South Peoria, Englewood, CO 80112

In Person, or CPA website link or at <https://bit.ly/CPABoardMeeting>

Join us before the meeting at Alpha Charlie's for Social Hour from 5pm to 6pm, located at 6631 S Peoria St, Centennial, CO 80111

Centennial Airport Community Noise Roundtable

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, from 1830 to 2000

7565 South Peoria, Englewood, CO 80112 or GoToWebinar

Jefferson County Airport Advisory Board ([link to Agenda and Minutes](#))

Wednesday, February 11, 2026, from 1700 to 1800

RMMA Terminal, Second Floor, 11755 Airport Way, Broomfield, CO 80021

Registration not required. Virtual Meeting link [here](#).

Arapahoe County Public Airport Authority ([link to Agenda and Minutes](#))

Thursday, February 12, 2026, from 1500 to 1700

7565 South Peoria, Englewood, CO 80112

Registration not required. Virtual Meeting link [here](#)

Breakfast Fly-In @ Wings Over the Rockies – Exploration of Flight, KAPA

Saturday, February 14, 2026, from 0930 to 1230

Wings Over the Rockies Exploration of Flight, 13005 Wings Way, Englewood, CO 80112

Information and Tickets [here](#). Fly in or stop by. Enjoy a local food truck – *Cruz In & Eat*.

KCOS Helicopter Days

Saturday, February 14, 2026, from 0800 to 1800

Arapahoe Flight Club, 1430 Aviation Way, Colorado Springs, CO 80916

Information and Book a Tour [here](#).

How to Use Engine Information Systems Data (Wings Credit eligible)

Wednesday, February 11, 2026, from 1830 to 2000

Journeys Aviation, 3335 Airport Road, Ste A, Boulder, CO 80301

Information and Registration [here](#).

Astronomy Night Showcase @ Wings Over the Rockies – Exploration of Flight, KAPA

Saturday, February 26, 2026, from 1730 to 2030

Wings Over the Rockies Exploration of Flight, 13005 Wings Way, Englewood, CO 80112

Information and Tickets [here](#). Enjoy a local food truck – *Wafflerita*

CPA – Monthly Board of Directors Meeting-ALL MEMBERS WELCOME TO ATTEND

Monday, March 2, 2026, from 1830 to 2030

SheltAir, 9107 Rocky Road, Broomfield, CO 80021

In Person, or CPA website link or at <https://bit.ly/CPABoardMeeting>

Join us before the meeting at Cherry Cricket - Broomfield for Social Hour from 5pm to 6pm, located at 1280 E 1st Ave, Broomfield, CO 80020.



Soar to New Heights with the 2026 CPA Pilot Training Scholarship Program!

The Colorado Pilots Association (CPA) is proud to announce our **2026 Pilot Training Scholarship Program**. This year, we are awarding **two (2) scholarships** to deserving Coloradans with a passion for aviation.

The application window will open on January 1, 2026, closing on February 15th, 2026.

Who Should Apply?

Earn your Private Pilot's License: The **Walt and Terry Barbo PPL Scholarship** is open to Colorado students aged 16-22.



Walt Barbo is a distinguished figure in American aviation, known for his service as a **World War II fighter pilot** and his extensive career in **airport engineering and development**. He has held several leadership roles, including President of the **Rocky Mountain Aviation & Aerospace Association** and President of the **Colorado Pilots Association**, and has served as a board member for the **Wings Over the Rockies Museum**.

In June 2019, he received the **Colorado Aeronautical Board Lifetime Achievement Award**. He has continued to be an active pilot, flying his personal aircraft, a **Cessna 210** (which he has owned since the 1970s) based at the Colorado Air & Space Port, even at the age of **101** (as of Spring 2025). He and his wife, **Terry**, are devoted to Colorado General Aviation organizations.

Advance your Skills: The **Emily Howell Warner Scholarship** supports female pilots with Private Pilot certificates or higher pursuing Instrument Rating, Commercial Certificate, or Multi-Engine Ratings.

Emily Howell Warner (1939–2020) was a pioneering American pilot, nationally recognized for breaking gender barriers in commercial aviation, with deep roots in Colorado where her career began and flourished.



She started flying lessons in 1958 at **Clinton Aviation** at **Stapleton Airport in Denver**, where she also worked as a receptionist to pay for her instruction. In January 1973, after years of persistent applications, **Denver-based Frontier Airlines** hired her, making her the **first female pilot** for a scheduled U.S. commercial airline since 1934.

Warner received multiple national and local honors for her achievements. In her honor, the **Granby/Grand County Airport** in Colorado was renamed **Emily Warner Field** in 2015. Her pilot uniform is on display at the **Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum**. She is remembered as a trailblazer whose skill and perseverance opened the doors for thousands of women in the commercial aviation industry.

How to Apply:

The application window is open from January 1 – February 15, 2026.

Each applicant will need to submit a Personal Essay outlining their aviation related goals along with a Letter of Recommendation from their Certified Flight Instructor (CFI).

Learn More & Apply:

- **CPA Scholarship Application:** [CPA Scholarships](#)
- **Applicant Expectations:** [Applicant Expectations](#)
- **Scholarships by Makala Galler:** [CPA Presents](#)

Questions may be directed to scholarships@coloradopilots.org.



FROM THE LINE



CPA MEMBER ARTICLES

La Junta exemplifies the best in GA, by Brett Pomainville

Colorado Tax Credits for Unleaded Aviation Fuel, by Brian Garrett

The 2026 CPA Fly-In Committee, by Bill Marvel



Engage with CPA

CPA is a volunteer-driven organization, and our effectiveness depends on members who are willing to get involved. There are several meaningful ways you can help strengthen aviation advocacy in Colorado:

- Join a CPA Committee: Our committees focus on airport issues, airspace and ATC, backcountry access and mountain flying, safety and education, scholarships, member outreach, fly-ins, and activities and community events. Whether you have experience or simply a willingness to help, your perspective matters.
- Support CPA Financially: Donations directly support advocacy efforts, educational events, scholarships, and outreach that protects and promotes pilots and general aviation across the state. Every contribution helps amplify our voice.
- Attend Monthly Board Meetings: CPA Board meetings are open to members and provide an opportunity to stay informed, ask questions, and engage directly with leadership on current issues.

Your time, expertise, and support make a real difference. Contact us [here](#) or send an email to an Officer or Chair.





La Junta exemplifies the best in GA

by Brett Pomainville

In preparation for CPA's Tarantula Wildlife Safari in September, I took a day trip this week to KLHX in my club C-172. After a day of meeting with the airport manager and town officials and arranging hotel, meal, and ground transportation options, I was excited about their rolling out the welcome mat for CPA and ready for the flight back to KBJC ahead of the weekend storm. As I was preflighting for my return trip, I locked my keys in the plane (as well as my iPhone, iPad, regular prescription glasses, and wallet!). You can imagine how stupid I felt as the anxiety rose about "what the hell am I going to do now?" Fortunately, that's when my experience as a consul helping Americans in distress overseas kicked in and I realized I just had to calmly figure it out and leverage whatever local resources I had available. It's also when I really found out just how wonderful a GA airport and small town can be.

There being no gentle way to break into the plane and no way to safely drive home after sunset (I only had dark prescription sunglasses on), the airport manager helped me secure the plane, spotted me money from his pocket for gas, and let me drive the airport courtesy car home to Longmont the next day (which itself was entertaining because other drivers kept braking and avoiding me as they thought I was an undercover police officer in my white Impala with government plates, dark shades, and blue CPA hat). I somehow talked my way into a La Junta hotel without any ID, credit card or money (glad it was a small town and they had my card on file with my hotel loyalty account). And I didn't realize how dependent we all are on our phones until I tried to login to my gmail and contacts from a computer and the 2FA ID security would not let me into my accounts without confirming it on my phone (which was locked in the airplane), so I couldn't email, text, or call anybody except the few numbers for family members I have memorized. What made it so much easier was that everyone in town was so helpful and understanding in a way that you don't often find in bigger cities. After the weekend storm passes, I'll be driving back to La Junta with a spare key and a whole lot of thanks to all the people at the airport and in town who helped me feel welcome and sort out a problem most of them couldn't even imagine. They were truly an example of the best people we have the privilege of meeting in GA!

And, of course, for Flight Lines readers there's a flying "lesson learned" that I hope you don't have to experience yourself. Perhaps you too were taught to "always put the keys visibly on the dash for preflight" so you can verify they're not in the ignition before you walk anywhere near the propeller? That's where mine are as I write. My first flight instructor would be so proud. But, from now on, I'll keep them "in my pocket" (and my phone and wallet too!) until I'm securely inside the plane!



Colorado Tax Credit Supports Transition to Unleaded Aviation Fuel

by Brian Garrett

Colorado aircraft owners have a new, officially recognized state income tax credit to help offset the cost of transitioning aircraft to **unleaded aviation fuel**. The **Aircraft Modification for Unleaded Fuel Credit** is listed by the **Colorado Department of Revenue (DOR)** alongside other established state tax credits and applies to FAA-approved Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) modifications.

What the credit provides?

The credit allows aircraft owners to claim **50% of the cost of an FAA-approved STC** required to certify an aircraft for the use of unleaded aviation gasoline.

- **Credit amount:** 50% of qualifying STC expenses
- **Maximum credit:** \$500 per aircraft
- **Tax years:** Expenses incurred from 2025 through 2029
- **Refundable:** If the credit exceeds Colorado income tax owed, the remaining amount may be refunded

Official recognition by Colorado DOR

The credit appears on the **Colorado Department of Revenue's list of available tax credits**, alongside programs such as employer assistance credits, apprenticeship credits, and home purchase incentives. Its inclusion confirms this is a **fully implemented, claimable state tax credit**, not a pilot program or proposal.

Members can view the credit listing here:

 **Colorado Department of Revenue – Aircraft Modification for Unleaded Fuel Credit**

<https://tax.colorado.gov/income-tax-credits> (Select "Aircraft Modification for Unleaded Fuel Credit" from the list.)

Eligibility requirements

To qualify:

- The aircraft must be **registered in Colorado with the FAA**
- The aircraft must be registered in Colorado **during the same tax year** the STC expenses are incurred
- The STC must be **FAA-approved** and explicitly authorize the aircraft to operate on unleaded fuel

Why this matters to general aviation?

While the credit is modest, it reflects Colorado's recognition that the transition away from 100LL requires **practical, owner-driven solutions—not mandates**. For aircraft owners already planning maintenance, engine work, or fuel-system changes, this credit can help reduce out-of-pocket certification costs. It also demonstrates that general aviation is being addressed within broader state policy discussions, rather than being singled out or penalized.

What aircraft owners should do?

- Retain receipts and documentation related to STC costs
- Confirm Colorado registration status for the applicable tax year
- Consult a tax professional when filing to ensure proper credit application

This credit was created by **Colorado House Bill 24-1235** and applies to income tax years beginning January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2029.



The 2026 CPA Fly-in Committee

by Bill Marvel, Chairman

One of the questions I asked several years ago when I started out in my current CPA position was simple -- who else was on the “committee” besides me? As sometimes happens in organizations, especially during transitions from one manager to another, it turns out this concept had been very loosely defined. After thinking about it for a while, I realized there was a better way to identify the committee and its membership.

As you know, each year a group of CPA members voluntarily steps up to run our annual Fly-ins. Some are “repeat offenders” doing this year to year and others are new. These great folks do the deep dive into planning the events we all enjoy and, in my view, constitute the Fly-in Committee. After all, we’re working together as a group under a single chairman and with individual responsibilities and specific goals.

Collectively, we create the slate of events for any given year, present them to membership and then, one by one, make them happen. In the process, there is a great deal of back and forth involving problem solving, schedule conflicts, procedural questions, advertising/publishing and the like. So that’s the long answer to the question of who constitutes the committee – it’s me as chairman and the various Fly-in hosts as participants for a given year.

I’d like to introduce this year’s hosts and publicly thank them for stepping forward as committee members doing the work needed for the rest of us. They are Bob Kinney, Jan McKenzie, Aimee Tooker, Vince and Kay Otto, Bret Heidcamp, Loree Schwartz, Frank Niehus and Brett Pomainville. If you happen to see any of these folks, give them a pat on the back and say thanks. They’re the ones who **MAKE THINGS HAPPEN!**

**Is your membership expiring soon?
Support General Aviation in Colorado!**

**Renew Your
Colorado
Pilots
Association
Membership
Online**

<https://coloradopilots.org>

**Questions or Having Trouble, please contact
membership@coloradopilots.org**



ON THE HORIZON



CPA FLY-IN NEWS & LISTINGS

2026 Fly-In Preview, by Bill Marvel

REGISTER NOW:

Phoenix Arizona – April 10-12, 2026

- Hosts, Vince & Kay Otto
- Registration form on page 24

Redline Propeller Tour – April 25, 2026 – Akron, Colorado

- Host, Frank Niehus
- Registration form on page 25

Spirit Engineering – Not yet scheduled – Grand Junction, Colorado

- Host, Bill Marvel

Upcoming! Abilene and Memphis

This is a reminder that in the next issue you'll see registration data and full descriptions of our two May events for this year. One is to **Abilene, Kansas** early in the month and the other to **Memphis, Tennessee** later on. There's plenty of time in between, so you can take care of business at home in the interim and go to both!

Brief previews of these events, including host contact information, appear in this issue of Flight Lines and also on the website.

If you can, please take another member with you. We have members who do not yet own airplanes and would love to travel and experience that magic carpet that so many of us take for granted.



2026 Fly-in Preview

by Bill Marvel, Fly-in committee chairman

Finally, here they are! Welcome, members to the 2026 slate of CPA Fly-in events, which were developed at the January 10 planning meeting at Rocky Mountain Metro airport.

This is a preliminary look at the Fly-ins for this year. Details are being worked out by the various hosts now. Finalized information for each, along with registration forms, will be forthcoming in future Flight Lines issues. Look for them there! Every event will appear twice – once as a brief reminder in the issue sent three months prior to the event date and then again two months prior containing details and registration information. Look at the selection below, choose the ones you might wish to attend and mark those dates on your calendar now!

IMPORTANT: If you find one of interest, be certain to contact the event host right away to be placed on the “planning and priority” list. Many trips are well attended, and some have attendance limits. Don’t put this off or you may wait too long! When the registration forms appear in Flight Lines, members will register to attend, and hosts will try to accommodate everyone. But if there are more registrations than can be accommodated, hosts will use that priority list to determine who goes.

The Nucla trip is uncommon in that it is being sponsored by a local Nucla resident who is not a CPA member and not a pilot but loves the beauty and camaraderie of her small town where people don’t have to lock doors and the surrounding terrain is red rock canyons and mountains. Her B&B is wonderful. She has hosted great events for us the past two years and is doing another this year with a different program.

NOTE: Every registration form contains space for members without airplanes to request a seat and those with airplanes to list any seats they have available. Hosts will then put the two in touch with each other to work out whatever arrangement they choose.

April 10-12 Phoenix, AZ (KFFZ). How about sunny skies with the temps in the high 70s to low 80s! We will visit the Musical Instrument Museum, Desert Botanical Garden and the Western Spirit: Scottsdale’s Museum of the West. We’ll spend time exploring Old Scottsdale; dinner at a great Mexican restaurant (El Encanto de La Fuente) and of course the wildly popular CPA cocktail party/dinner hosted by Dr. Jane and Jason Barlow LT Col USAF (Ret.) at their beautiful home in Desert Highlands. Hosts Vince & Kay Otto (317) 997 2772, ottovj@gmail.com.

April 25 Akron, CO (KAKO). If you ever wondered how propeller blades are repaired or how constant speed propellers and governors work, including their internal mechanisms, join us for this out and back trip to tour Redline Propeller at the Akron, CO airport. Parking is near the shop and they’re providing lunch for all of us. This will be an up-close and personal event so don’t wear your best clothes! If possible, take someone with you -- the runway is 7000 feet long and the elevation is only 4700 feet. Host Frank Niehus (303) 434 5267, FLNIEHUS@aol.com.

May 2-3 Abilene, KS (K78). If CPA has ever been to Abilene, we don’t know about it. If you’re looking for a simple, and short duration, Fly-in to attend this is it. Arrive on Saturday, May 2 and following lunch, visit the very nice Eisenhower Presidential Library. Abilene is the childhood



home of President Dwight Eisenhower. His family's home is located on the same grounds as the library. Holiday Inn Express will be our home during this visit. Happy hour and dinner will fill out the day. We're going to attempt a visit to the regional Russell Stover Candy Company & store if we can find the time in this short schedule.

Host Bob Kinney (303) 887 3328, twinlake1@aol.com.

May 20-23 Memphis, TN (M01). Welcome to the town known for Elvis and BBQ! Upon arrival, we'll enjoy some Gus's World-Famous Fried Chicken and do a quick check-in at our hotel just a couple of blocks from well-known Beale Street. We'll head to the Peabody Hotel to see its world-famous resident mallard ducks march through the lobby. The next day we will visit the National Civil Rights Museum located at the Lorraine Motel, the site where Martin Luther King Jr was assassinated. The afternoon you are on your own so you can visit other museums such as the Blues Hall of Fame or Sun Studios. And finally, our last day in Memphis we'll head out to Graceland where we will do a self-guided tour and see at least two of Elvis' private jets. Of course, we will be eating in lots of BBQ restaurants so we can compare, wet vs dry, spicy or not and of course we hope to catch some blues at BB Kings place! Hosts Bret Heidcamp and Loree Schwartz (305) 586 8160, LoreeSchwartz@gmail.com.

June 17-19 Grand Canyon, AZ (KGCN). First CPA trip to the Grand Canyon. The Grand Canyon is one of the most spectacular examples of erosion anywhere in the world, a mile deep canyon unmatched in the incomparable vistas. Fly into KGCN, 409 nm southwest of KAPA, elevation 6609 with a 9000-foot-long runway. We will visit and see the best of Grand Canyon National Park including the Historic District and the Desert View Drive. Stay at the Red Feather Lodge for \$185/night. Flying over the canyon to and from the airport will be a not to be missed opportunity. Host Jan McKenzie (970) 568 6411, jan.mckenzie99@gmail.com.

July 9-12 Lincoln, NE (KLNK). First CPA trip to Lincoln! Three-night adventure includes tours of Duncan Aviation, the world's largest private business jet service provider, the Strategic Air Command (SAC) museum and the Museum of American Speed. We'll stop by Nebraska's largest candy store where you browse while drinking many flavors of free Kool-Aid. Group dinner at Show Stoppers, where the servers break away occasionally because they are also entertainers. Duncan's corporate rates apply for both hotel and rental cars. The SAC Museum is huge and includes a B-36 ten-engine bomber, one of only four still in existence. The Museum of Speed has been named by USA Today as the Best Attraction for Car Lovers displaying over 600 engines and 300 vehicles ranging from toy cars to go-karts to Indy racers, concept cars, jet cars and even motorcycles. Host Bill Marvel (310) 293 2013, rv8tor@msn.com.



August 21-23 Sedona, AZ (KSEZ). America's Most Scenic Airport, perched on Tabletop Mesa 500 feet above the City of Sedona. Landing there is surely on every pilot's bucket list. Come with us as we explore all the beauty that Sedona, the city of stunning Red Rocks, has to offer. We will begin our trip with a private trolley tour through the Red Rock canyons and to the top of Chapel of The Holy Cross, passing breathtaking vista views. On Saturday we'll hop on the Verde Canyon Railroad for a 4-hour tour in our own private rail car, enjoying a charcuterie board and sipping champagne while we travel through time as we follow the Verde River. Enroute we'll see ancient Sinagua dwellings, Indian ruins and historic mining sites. After exploring some of the downtown area, we'll finish off the final night with a group dinner at the Airport Mesa Grill. Hosts Bret Heidcamp and Loree Schwartz, (305) 586 8160, loreeschwartz@gmail.com.

September 25-26 La Junta, CO (KLHX). CPA's first **Wildlife Safari** and visit to La Junta's **Tarantula Fest!** Featured in *National Geographic* and on *national TV*, the annual migration of thousands of Brown Tarantulas across Colorado's southeastern grasslands inspired this weekend festival of everything arachnid. Tour tarantula migration sites by safari bus (with stops to get out and see them up close!); meet expert biologists to learn why these male spiders are on the prowl; view the town's Tarantula Parade and spider-themed Classic Car Show; see the movie *Arachnophobia* in a historic theater; shop for unique tarantula-themed gifts at the Arts Fair and vendor booths; compete in the Hairy Leg Contest and Eight Legged Races (optional); expand your web of flying enthusiasts at the CPA group dinner and ice cream. We have a special CPA rate of \$129 + tax per night with free breakfast at the Hampton Inn (option to extend a second night on your own, if desired), but La Junta hotels fill months in advance of this world-renowned event, so email the host now to snare this chance to view Colorado's most exotic wildlife and enjoy plenty of small-town fun with CPA at La Junta's Tarantula Fest! Host Brett Pomainville (720) 378-3304, brett.pomainville@gmail.com.

October 2-4 Nucla, CO (KAIB). Come visit us to enjoy the charm of small-town Colorado and our scenic canyon and mountain surroundings. Enjoy a flight over nearby Telluride and stay in a beautiful B&B where we'll have a group dinner on the outdoor patio. Land at our mesa-top airport which has 360-degree views and one of the nicest terminals of any small airport. We'll re-live the 1776 Domínguez–Escalante Expedition, which was led by two Franciscan priests. It started in Santa Fe, New Mexico and traveled through Colorado, Utah and Arizona, trying to reach a mission in Monterey, CA. One stop was in today's Nucla. It covered nearly 2000 miles in about 5 months but never reached the destination. Two Franciscan priests from Santa Fe led the group, which consisted of them and 10 others. Aided by three Ute Indians, two of whom were 12 years old, they encountered incredible hardships along the way and had to return to Santa Fe. But the route they forged later became the Old Spanish Trail, which connected Santa Fe to the west coast. Host Aimee Tooker (970) 428 7750, vestalhousenucla@gmail.com.

NOT YET SCHEDULED: Grand Junction, CO (KGJT). Tour the Spirit Engineering factory that makes the SE-1 single seat S-LSA aircraft that stunned Oshkosh last year. A totally clean sheet design, including the engine and folding wings, this all-aluminum aircraft cruises at 100 mph at two gallons an hour with a service ceiling of 17,500 feet on only 42 horsepower. Factory owner Steve Wood will take us on a tour of the entire facility including automated operations and their engine test cell. This is a fly-away aircraft at \$69,500 and has received ASTM certification. More later. Bill Marvel (310) 293 2013, rv8tor@msn.com.



Phoenix, Arizona

April 10-12

Phoenix in April.... Sunny Skies with Temps in the high 70s to low 80s

Fly into Falcon Field KFFZ Friday morning April 10 and plan to arrive by noon. Gather for lunch before a trip to the Musical Instrument Museum. Finish the day with the popular CPA cocktail party and dinner hosted by Dr. Jane & Jason Barlow LT Col USAF (Ret). Jason is a former U2 pilot and Jane is a former U2 squadron Flight Surgeon. Jason has hinted that some other local flight dignitaries might be joining. We have a block of rooms reserved at the Courtyard Marriott Scottsdale Salt River for Friday and Saturday evening.



The Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) opened in April 2010. <https://mim.org>

Saturday April 11 will start our day with a private tour of the Desert Botanical Garden followed by lunch and tour of Old Scottsdale on your own. At midafternoon, we will gather for a private tour of the Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West. Closing the day will be dinner at El Encanto de La Fuente...my favorite restaurant in the Phoenix area.



Desert Botanical Garden is a 140-acre botanical garden. <https://dbg.org>





Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West is situated in Old Town Scottsdale.
<https://westernspirit.org>

Depart KFFZ Sunday morning for a return flight back home.

This trip will be limited to the first 30 people who express interest. Reach out to Vince Otto ottovj@gmail.com to reserve your spot today. The cost for the trip will be \$150 per person and will cover all transportation, museum entry fees, and a little something extra for our CPA cocktail party.

Complete the following registration form and return it by March 10 to Vince along with your check. A block of rooms has been reserved with a rate of \$149 per night. Make your hotel reservation by using the following link:

[Book your group rate for Colorado Pilots Association Room Block](#)

Or call the Marriott reservation line at (800) 321-2211 and refer to the Colorado Pilots Association trip to receive the special group rate. **Last day to book your room reservation is Friday, March 10, 2026.**

Vince and Kay Otto, hosts
(317) 997-2772
ottovj@gmail.com



Redline Propeller Tour – Akron, CO

by Frank Niehus

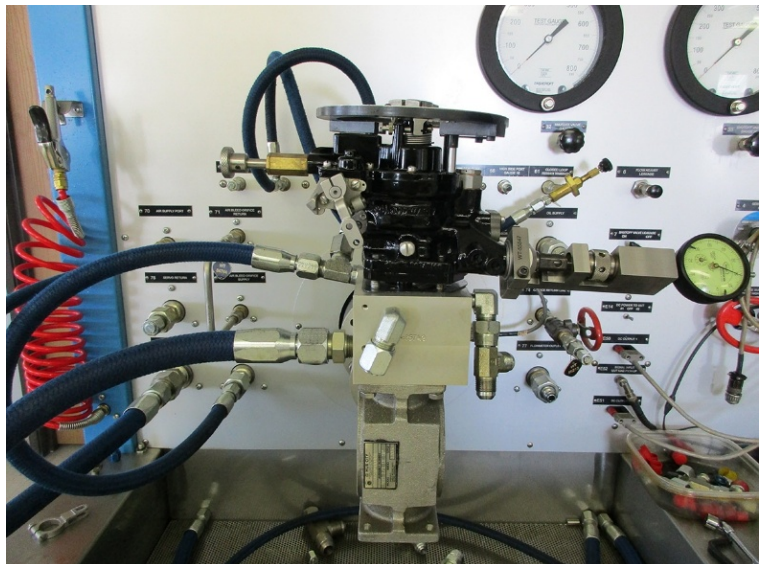


Please excuse the late announcement, but this came up too late to publish in an earlier issue! On April 25, 2026, I'm hosting a one-day (no overnight) Fly-in to tour Redline Propeller at the Akron, CO airport (KAKO). Lunch is being provided by the company, so the only cost is the flight (or drive) there and back.

This is a rare opportunity to tour a full-service shop that repairs and overhauls propellers, both fixed pitch and constant speed, and the governors that control the

latter. We'll see how damaged blades are repaired, why component overhauls are needed on occasion and the most common failures they encounter. We'll also learn how governors boost engine oil pressure and how this is carried into the prop hub to change RPM in response to pilot movement of the prop control. This will be an up-close and personal tour (don't wear your best clothes!) that few have an opportunity to experience.

Bring all the questions you wish along with an appetite for lunch but most important, bring yourself. And because of the long runway and 4700-foot altitude (low for Colorado), see if you can include a member who does not own an airplane. The registration form for this event includes a place where pilots can show seats available and members without a seat can request one. I'll put the two in touch with each other so you can work out whatever arrangements you wish.



Contact me at 303-434-5267 or FLNIEHUS@aol.com.



Upcoming but Not Yet Scheduled!

A special CPA tour of Grand Junction's Spirit Engineering Factory

by Bill Marvel, Fly-in Committee Chairman

At Oshkosh 2025, attendees were stunned to see an entirely new aircraft – a factory-built S-LSA from Grand Junction, Colorado. This single seat, all aluminum design with folding wings for “take home” storage arrived unannounced at Oshkosh with four examples flown all the way across the Rockies from Colorado using 88 gallons of fuel – for all four combined. It was less than the amount used for their Cessna 180 chase plane. These remarkable airplanes travel about 100 miles an hour at a fuel burn of 2 GPH mogas or 100LL and have a service ceiling of 17,500 feet. And they look like the classic designs of the 1930s. These are real airplanes and yes, a full up and running factory out here is manufacturing them and selling each one long before it comes off the assembly line.



Here the cockpit entry hatch and plexiglass windscreen are shown in the closed position



Engine with cowling removed for FAA inspection prior to customer delivery

Now that our 2026 Fly-in season is established, I plan to slot in a one-day CPA trip to Grand Junction so interested members can attend an in-person tour of the factory by Steve Wood, President and CEO of Spirit Engineering. I have known Steve for nearly 20 years and was aware of his aeronautical engineering background with Cessna and later with a below-the-radar defense contractor here in town which made things that went boom and bang and components for other things that made louder booms and bangs. That business was sold and gave Steve the opportunity to move into what he loved – airplanes. He wanted to create a truly affordable aircraft and had the skills and experience to not only

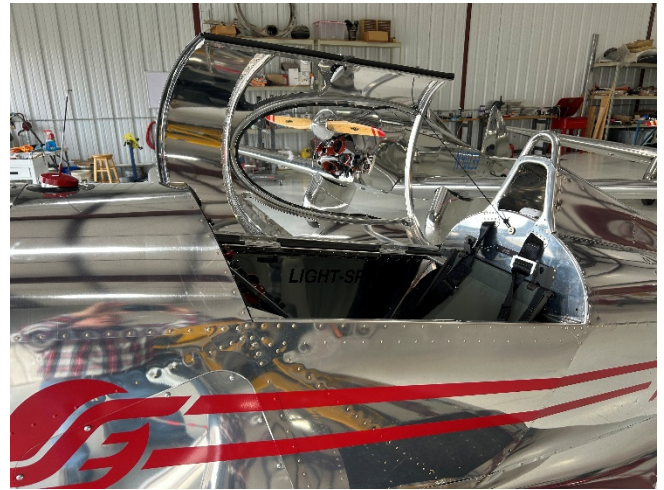
design one but also to create the factory and tooling needed to manufacture it. The fact that this airplane tips the cost scale at \$69,500 fly away has caught plenty of attention. Every airplane they have made, every airplane on the assembly line now and every airplane in the production pipeline has been sold. They are gradually ramping up manufacturing from one a week to one a day. That push is why I have intentionally not yet set a date for our tour. I want to make sure that any selected date fits within our CPA Fly-in schedule and is also compatible with the company's evolving production expansion operations.



Minimizing parts count reduces cost. Both elevators are identical and interchangeable.



Cost containment is in large part the result of extensive vertical integration – they make everything including the 42 HP engine that was specifically designed for this aircraft and has been extensively tested in their engine test cell to show compliance with ASTM standards. Their unique folding wing design is like that used on the WWII TBM Avenger torpedo bomber, a flying version of which operates here with the Commemorative Air Force. Wing folding is a single person operation that easily secures both wings in two minutes. Spirit is now designing an enclosed trailer for the aircraft so it can be safely stored out of the weather wherever an owner wishes – not just in a costly and often unavailable airport hangar. They are also working on a fully enclosed canopy as an option to the open cockpit design debuted at Oshkosh. This is a forward-thinking company.



Cockpit entry open



On the way to Oshkosh

Expect more information about the trip as details are worked out. This is a great opportunity for CPA members to see a Colorado general aviation manufacturing business from the ground floor up, presented by the one person who is behind all of it. See the link below. I guarantee you will be fascinated!

[Introducing the new Spirit SE-1 light-sport aircraft](#)





Fly-in Registration Form

WANT TO GO BUT NO AIRPLANE AND JUST NEED A RIDE?

Complete only this yellow section and mail the form to the Fly-in host address below

Name: Phone: () Email: # Seats

PILOTS FLYING OR DRIVING TO THIS EVENT, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SECTION

Which event are you registering for?		Phoenix Fly-In April 10-12, 2026	
First Name		Last Name	
Are you a CPA Member?		Yes	No
Address:			
Cell Phone:			
Email:			
Emergency contact name and phone of someone not traveling with you:			
Aircraft type:		N number:	
Is anyone traveling with you?		Yes	No
If so, their first and last names			
Do you have an available seat? If so, how many?			
Cost per person: \$150 times total number in party _____ = \$ _____			
Anyone on a first CPA Fly-in?		Yes	No

Please send a check for the above amount **made out to the Colorado Pilots Association** to the Fly-in host:

Vince Otto (317) 997-2772 ottovj@gmail.com
340 Moffat Road
Cotopaxi, CO 81223





Fly-in Registration Form

WANT TO GO BUT NO AIRPLANE AND JUST NEED A RIDE?

Complete only this yellow section and mail the form to the Fly-in host address below

Name: Phone: () Email: # Seats

PILOTS FLYING OR DRIVING TO THIS EVENT, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SECTION

Which event are you registering for?		Akron, CO April 25	
First Name		Last Name	
Are you a CPA Member?		Yes	No
Address:			
Cell Phone:			
Email:			
Emergency contact name and phone of someone not traveling with you:			
Aircraft type:		N number:	
Is anyone traveling with you?		Yes	No
If so, their first and last names			
Do you have an available seat? If so, how many?			
Cost per person: \$ _Zero_ times total number in party _____ = \$ _____			
Anyone on a first CPA Fly-in?		Yes	No

Please send a check for the above amount, if any, **made out to the Colorado Pilots Association**, to the Fly-in host:

Frank Niehus (303) 434 5267 flniehus@aol.com
24751 Kolstad Loop
Elbert, CO 80106-9512





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<https://bit.ly/COAEvents>



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LinkedIn

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