

CPA FLIGHT LINES

September 2026



Picture Courtesy of Bradly Anderson @Flywithbradly



President's Corner

By Andy Holmes



A Win Worth Noticing

Hello fellow aviators, advocates, and aviation enthusiasts.

In late July, the Boulder City Council voted 8–1 to continue operating Boulder Municipal Airport and to pursue additional state and federal funding for the airport. After years of uncertainty surrounding the airport's future, that is welcome news for Colorado's aviation community.

Boulder is more than a runway and a collection of hangars. It is a home for pilots, flight schools, businesses, emergency services, and a connection point for people who depend on general aviation. Keeping airports like Boulder open and viable benefits far more than just those of us who fly airplanes.

This win is a good reminder of why the Colorado Pilots Association continues to pay attention to what happens at airports across our state. Airport access can't be taken for granted. The work of supporting our airports often happens quietly, long before an issue makes the headlines.

So, this month, I'll simply say: **this is a win worth noticing.**

Thank you to the **CPA Pilots and Members, airport users, *Save Boulder Airport*, other local advocates, and the public officials** who helped make sure Boulder Municipal Airport remains part of Colorado's aviation future.

Andy Holmes

President, Colorado Pilots Association



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NOTICE:

Submission deadline for the October 2026 issue is
September 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

Northern Colorado Regional (KFNL) Construction Reminder

We want to remind the pilot community that Northern Colorado Regional Airport (KFNL) is undergoing a major runway construction project to widen Runway 15/33 from 100' to 150'. At the beginning of the project there were reports of pilots landing on the runway during the runway closure. During Phases 1 and 2 (June 1–November 9), the runway will be shortened to 3,750 feet with periodic closures during transitions. **CHECK AIRPORT NOTAMS.** Airport hours will also be limited (currently 0600–2000 local, with occasional extended hours), and pilots should expect changing taxi routes, construction activity, and delays. Careful preflight planning, including thorough NOTAM review and performance calculations, are essential.

!!! CPA Membership Directory Opt-In Visibility !!!

The Colorado Pilots Association values the protection of your personal information. At the January 2025 board meeting, the board decided to change to an **opt-in** membership directory. This means that if you would like any of your information shared and accessible to other members of the Colorado Pilots Association via a membership directory, **you MUST opt-in to participate and have your information made available to other members.**

If you want to OPT-IN, it is a simple process that takes about 2 minutes of your time. You can choose which items of personal information you'd like accessible in the membership directory. **You must be logged in and follow the instructions [here](#).**



Colorado Mountain Flying Passes

It's the time of year where more pilots will find their way to Colorado to enjoy mountain flying. As a reminder Colorado Mountain Passes have been charted, now 20 in total, and a 'Special Notice' is now published in the Chart Supplement. For more information about flying in Colorado mountains and landing at high altitude airports, check out 'Mountain Flying' on CPA's website and get your free [2026 Colorado Chart and Airport Directory](#) from CDOT – Division of Aeronautics.



CPA 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 now for the last remaining course of 2026.

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





City of Boulder Transportation & Mobility

Hello BDU Tenants and Users,

Good Afternoon,

This notification serves as advanced notice of Runway 8/26 and Taxiway A crack fill and seal coat project which will require pavement closures. This project has been phased to minimize runway closure and the final phasing is a direct result of tenant consultation in May and August. American Road Maintenance intends to begin construction on 9/22/2026 and have Runway 8/26 closed for a period of 9 days. Runway 8G/26G will remain open for the duration with access points to be controlled at A1 or A4 depending on the phase of the construction that we will be in. NOTAM's will be issued up to 72 hours in advance detailing which pavement sections will be closed and for what specific duration each will be needed to be closed for. The pavement will need to cure for a period of 30 days after the initial runway closure. American Road Maintenance will return to install permanent airfield markings which will necessitate a 1.5 day closure which will also be NOTAM'd and communicated to tenants once dates are finalized.

If you have any questions, please email Jacques at legrandj@bouldercolorado.gov

Boulder Municipal Airport
Department of Transportation and Mobility
[3327 Airport Road | Boulder CO 80301](https://www.boulderco.gov/3327/Airport-Road)
[Bouldercolorado.gov](https://www.bouldercolorado.gov) | bma@bouldercolorado.gov



RMM Traffic Pattern Altitude Increases to 6,700 MSL

Effective September 3, 2026, the traffic pattern altitude at Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport increases from 6,500 feet MSL to 6,700 feet MSL, moving the pattern from approximately 830 AGL to approximately 1,030 AGL and aligning KBJC with the standard 1,000 AGL pattern. The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners and the Jefferson County Airport Advisory Board endorsed the airport's request to the FAA, which characterized the legacy 800-foot pattern as an artifact of the Denver terminal airspace configuration in place when Stapleton was operating. RMM cited additional altitude for decision-making and corrective action, increased glide distance in an emergency, reduced pilot workload, and improved situational awareness for transient pilots.

The airport expects the new altitude to be published in the FAA digital Chart Supplement, and the KBJC Voluntary Noise Abatement Plan, published under the airport's Fly Quiet Program, will be updated to reflect the new altitude.



Colorado Aviation Events – September 2026

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

Warbird Weekend @ Wings Over the Rockies – Exploration of Flight, KAPA

Saturday & Sunday, September 5 & 6, 2026, from 1000 to 1700

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

Information and Tickets [here](#).

Breakfast Fly-In + Central CO Corvette Club @ WOTR – Exploration of Flight, KAPA

Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 0930 to 1230

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

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

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

Monday, September 14, 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.

CPA – Mountain Flying and High-Altitude Airport Operations Course

Saturday, September 19, 2026, from 0830 to 1700

The Hangar, 7565 South Peoria, Englewood, CO 80112

Information and Registration [here](#).

Fremont County Fly-In/Drive-In + Aviation Swap Meet + Pancake Breakfast @ 1V6

Saturday, September 26, 2026, from 0730 to 1100

60298 US Highway 50, Penrose, CO 81240

Information and Tickets [here](#).

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

Monday, October 5, 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 Rustic Nomads for Social Hour from 5pm to 6pm, located at 11405 E Briarwood Ave, Englewood, CO 80112.



Aviation Summer Camps sponsored by Arapahoe Flight Club @ KCOS

Multiple dates throughout Summer 2026. Ages 10-15. Mon-Fri 0900 to 1500.

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

Registration is required. Details, available dates, and cost [here](#).

Support our Corporate Members



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

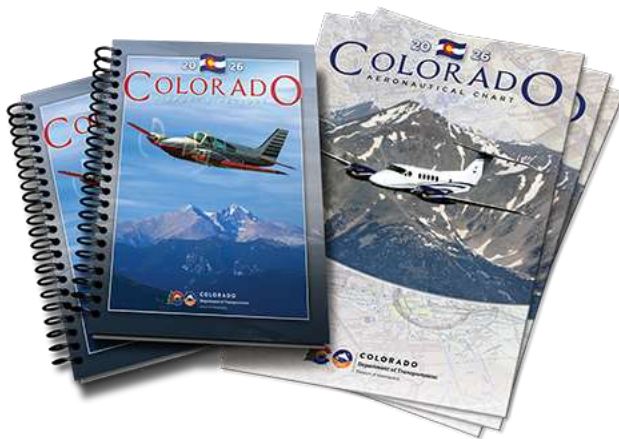




The Division of Aeronautics is happy to announce the release of the 2026 Colorado aviation publications, including the Colorado Airport Directory, Colorado Aeronautical Chart, and the 2025 Division of Aeronautics Annual Report.

2026 Colorado Airport Directory & Aeronautical Chart

Hard copies of the Colorado Airport Directory and Aeronautical Chart will be available at airports around the state very soon.



Here are some other ways to get your hands on a copy:

- Order your copy on the [Division's website](#).
- Free copies are available at our office located at the [Colorado Air & Space Port](#).
- Request an electronic copy of the 2026 Colorado Airport



Directory by emailing Shahn.Sederberg@state.co.us. Please include "**REQUEST: PDF Version of 2026 CO Airport Directory**" in the subject line

The 2026 Colorado Aeronautical Chart introduces the second phase of ten Colorado Mountain Pass VFR GPS waypoints. The Colorado Airport Directory now features 25 updated aerial images, along with revised noise abatement procedures and expanded information on alternative aviation fuel availability—updates that are also reflected in the Aeronautical Chart.

2025 Annual Report

The 2025 Division of Aeronautics Annual Report highlights a year of strong aviation activity across Colorado and the resulting investments in airport infrastructure, safety, education, and emerging technologies. Covering January 1 through December 31, 2025, the report details funding distributions,

statewide aviation initiatives, and major programs, including the Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant Program, Airport Capital Improvement Program, and



efforts to transition to unleaded aviation fuels. It also explores advancements in sustainability, workforce development, and next-generation aircraft technologies, showcasing the Division's continued commitment to a safe, efficient, and innovative statewide aviation system.

Download: [2025 Aeronautics Division Annual Report](#)



2026 Colorado Legislative Districts & Airport Maps

Explore another valuable information source from the Colorado Division of Aeronautics. Get the most recent list of Colorado Legislators and the Colorado airports situated within their respective districts.

Download: [2026 Colorado Legislative Districts & Airport Maps](#)



FROM THE LINE



CPA MEMBER ARTICLES

Colorado Air and Spaceport Updates

To Go or Not to Go? by Bill Marvel

Planning a CPA Fly-in... Is it Your Turn? By Bill Marvel



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Colorado Air and Space Port

Newsletter

August 2026



New Hangar Developments Continue Growth at Colorado Air and Space Port

Colorado Air and Space Port (CASP) continues to experience exciting growth as construction progresses on two new hangar facilities that will further strengthen the airport's aviation community and infrastructure.

Located at 5135 Front Range Parkway, Brez Aerospace is constructing a new state-of-the-art hangar that will provide additional space to support its aviation operations. The facility represents another significant investment in the future of CASP and reflects the continued demand for high-quality aviation facilities at the airport.

Construction is also underway on a new hangar at 37901 East 51st Avenue, owned by Mile High Hangars. Once completed, the new facility will expand hangar capacity at CASP and provide additional opportunities for aircraft storage and aviation-related businesses.

As demand for hangar space continues to increase, new facilities like these help position Colorado Air and Space Port for continued growth and success. CASP is excited to welcome these additions to the airport and looks forward to seeing both projects completed in the coming months. Together, they represent another step forward in the airport's mission to provide modern facilities that support tenants, businesses, and the future of aviation in Colorado.

ATC Tower Staffing Update

New air traffic controllers are joining the team, increasing tower staffing to a total of four controllers.

With these additions, CASP is pleased to announce the new operating hours of the Control Tower. Beginning Saturday, August 15th, the CFO Tower will be open every day, including Saturdays and Sundays, until 7:00 PM.

This is a positive change as CASP works through the recent air traffic controller staffing challenges. We sincerely appreciate everyone's patience, understanding, and cooperation during this time. We will continue to keep you informed of any changes to the tower's operating hours and will provide updates as they become available.

Stormwater Erosion Repairs Along R3

Colorado Air and Space Port (CASP) is repairing erosion in the stormwater ditch along the R3 taxi lane. A contractor is currently repairing erosion in the stormwater drainage ditch along the R3 taxi lane by installing rip rap to stabilize the area and prevent future erosion. These improvements will help protect the stormwater system, improve drainage performance, and preserve the integrity of the surrounding infrastructure.



Page 2

**Gate Access Reminder: Working Together to Keep CASP Safe and Secure**

Maintaining a safe and secure environment at Colorado Air and Space Port (CASP) is a shared responsibility. Over the past several weeks, Airport Operations has responded to several incidents involving improper gate access, including unauthorized tailgating through security gates, entering before gates have fully closed, misuse of gate access credentials, verbal confrontations, and failure to follow posted access instructions.

While these incidents were resolved without major issues, they serve as an important reminder that every tenant, employee, contractor, and visitor plays a critical role in protecting the airport and those who operate here. Proper gate access procedures help safeguard airport property, aircraft, and personnel while ensuring compliance with airport security requirements.

When entering or exiting the airport, please remember to:

- Use only your assigned gate access credential.
- Never allow another vehicle to tailgate through a security gate.
- Wait for the gate to fully close before another vehicle enters.
- Follow all posted signs and directions from Airport personnel.
- Report any suspicious activity or gate malfunctions to Airport Operations as soon as possible.

These expectations are outlined in the Colorado Air and Space Port Rules and Regulations. Section 200.1 requires all individuals to conduct themselves in accordance with airport policies, while Section 300.5 requires vehicle operators to obey all posted signs and directions issued by Airport personnel.

CASP appreciates the cooperation and professionalism of our airport community. By following proper gate access procedures and remaining vigilant, we can continue to provide a safe, secure, and efficient environment for all tenants, businesses, pilots, and visitors. Thank you for doing your part to help protect Colorado Air and Space Port.

**August Business Spotlight:
Vantor**

Colorado Air and Space Port (CASP) is proud to spotlight Vantor, an innovative company at the forefront of spatial intelligence, Earth observation, and geospatial analytics. By transforming complex geospatial data into actionable insights, Vantor helps organizations make smarter, data-driven decisions across a wide range of industries.

Using advanced Earth observation technologies, satellite imagery, and geospatial analytics, Vantor delivers solutions that support infrastructure planning, environmental monitoring, emergency management, and other critical applications. Their work provides customers with valuable information that improves situational awareness and enhances operational efficiency.

Vantor's presence at CASP reflects the airport's growing role as a hub for aerospace innovation and emerging technologies. As the aerospace industry continues to evolve, companies like Vantor are helping shape the future by leveraging cutting-edge data and technology to solve real-world challenges.

Colorado Air and Space Port is proud to have Vantor as part of its aviation and aerospace community and looks forward to supporting the company's continued growth and innovation.

For more information you can visit Vantor's website [Vantor: Forging the new frontier of spatial intelligence](https://www.vantor.com). You can also contact Michelle Kuester directly at (303) 684-4803



To Go or Not to Go?

Should *always* be a question

Bill Marvel, Fly-in committee chairman

As you read in a prior Flight Lines issue, we had a great time during CPA's first trip to Memphis, TN in May. While the weather in Memphis was quite nice with only one morning of brief rain showers, that wasn't the case elsewhere. On the way there and back it was mostly IFR everywhere east of Wichita, Kansas including at our destination on arrival. For that reason, our attendance was reduced to five airplanes and ten members. As it was, ten of us turned out to be a very good number for our hosts to manage due to all we did and saw.

For those who elected not to attend because of the weather forecast, good for you. Regardless of whether you are instrument rated or not, it's always your call in determining if the conditions suit your comfort level. Although it has not happened while I've been a member, in the past CPA has lost aircraft and people to fatal accidents while flying to or from one of our Fly-in destinations. We don't need to increase that number...

For those who wondered -- yes, there were several conversations immediately prior to the Memphis trip about possible weather cancelation. Ultimately, this is the host's call but generally only after talking it over with other members who signed up. At no point is any pressure exerted to convince a hesitant member to fly. But at the same time, because of the work involved in planning a CPA event, consideration is given to those who still wish to participate and can fly safely. In this case that number was adequate and a "go" decision was made.

To those of us who attended, we individually assessed the forecasts and our respective experience and concluded the conditions were such that a safe trip could be made. I am aware that some who are instrument rated did not attend due to weather even though they probably could have made the trip. But "probably" isn't a very high bar. "Absolutely, positively" is not realistic either, since even a last-minute flat tire or dead battery can unexpectedly jinx a trip. "Very likely" is a better standard and should include options for stopping short somewhere for the night or even leaving a day early.

That said, CPA event hosts do a lot of work setting these Fly-ins up and build their budget and activities based in part around those who register to attend and then follow up by sending payment. If you registered, I ask that you do everything you can to safely make the trip, even if it means driving. Last-minute cancellations are problematic since money has been spent or committed, reservations have been made, cars secured etc. And CPA's reputation stands in the foreground. For example, when a host makes dinner reservations for the group and at the last minute some decide to go elsewhere or do something different, it reflects poorly on the Association.



In summary, there's always another Fly-in, and they're all fun and well worth attending. If the weather gives rise to your cancellation, do it, don't apologize and don't look back. We'd much rather miss you at one Fly-in and see you later at a future one than talk about how great a person you were when you were still around.

But if it's something else, please think twice about canceling or changing plans, especially right before or during the event. You'll prevent a lot of angst and last-minute scrambling by simply following through and attending the event as planned.

Planning a CPA Fly-in ... is it Your Turn?

Bill Marvel, Fly-in Committee Chairman

Every year, many members attend our flying events, both locally and far and wide. In 2025, for instance, we flew to seven different states during ten trips. This year it's ten more events in six states, with four still yet to go. These Fly-ins do not exist in nature but are created by your fellow members who design, build and host them for your enjoyment. That's the obvious part. But what goes on behind the scenes? Who does this and how?

Early in CPA's history, planning these events was an annual task where a few members got together in someone's living room, sketched out a few dates and destinations and got the word out to others. What to do and how to do it were verbally conveyed from host to host, with each host having to fill in whatever blanks remained. Not much was memorialized in writing, but it worked fine. Such isn't at all unusual in small, developing organizations, as almost everything starts this way.

Today, however, we've grown well beyond the early days of trial-and-error planning with each host having to figure out many details alone. Over time, different hosts and program leaders, most notably Bob Kinney, have added substantially to the planning process, bringing it to the level it is today. Without hesitation, I can honestly say that right now, a brand-new member who has never attended a Fly-in can host one with the same successful outcome as a member who has planned several of them.

What enables this is a section of the CPA website where we've accumulated and organized the collective knowledge and experiences of prior hosts to guide a new host through each step of the planning process. It moves from general to specific in a logical order and includes checklists, timelines, suggestions and even standardized forms for describing the event and providing registration information for those wishing to attend. It's turnkey simple to follow and helps give our events consistent quality.



How do you find this magic solution? Just log in to coloradopilots.org > Fly-In Activities > CPA Fly-in Planning. On the resulting single page, you'll see an introduction followed by several buttons that cover Fly-in procedures and sample documents related to them. The sample documents are taken from past CPA events run by different hosts to give you the "flavor" of how we operate. Everything is there and yes, it really is that simple! And if for any reason you do hit a roadblock, the Fly-in Committee Chairman is only a phone call or email away to help you across it. You're never alone at any time. Go have a look. I think you'll be surprised at how well the "yellow brick road" is laid out and paved for you. If you're so inclined, we'd love to have more of our members host events in the future. The process is logically conceived and easier than ever to follow. Try it!

**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

REGISTER NOW:

Young Eagles Rally- September 11, 2026

- Hosted by EAA Chapter 1634

LaJunta, Colorado- September 26 & 27, 2026

- Host, Brett Pomainville

Omaha, Nebraska- October 1-4, 2026

- Host, United States Pilots Association

Wray, Colorado- October 3, 2026

- Host, The Ian McBeth Foundation

Spirit Engineering- October 10, 2026

- Hosted by Bill Marvel



WHAT?

Five Empty Seats and No Takers?

We just learned during the recent Sedona, AZ trip that LaJunta Fly-in host Brett Pomainville is aware of five available aircraft seats for his event that have been offered by attending pilots, but no one has signed up to take them!

By now, all members should realize that the registration form used for every CPA Fly-in event allows pilots with empty seats to indicate that and for members who don't have access to an airplane to take one of them. The host puts those pilots and would-be passengers in touch with each other so they can work out travel details on their own. This is done for every CPA trip.

Of course, primarily due to density altitude considerations for many of our trips, seats are not always available. But for the LaJunta event this isn't a concern and hence these seats have popped up but no one had submitted a registration form indicating an interest in one!

This is a great opportunity for newer and/or younger members just getting involved with aviation to become acquainted with some CPA aircraft owners and to meet many other members on one of our trips. Once you go on one, you'll want to attend others in the future. They're that good.

If this applies to you, don't miss this opportunity to fly by contacting event host Brett Pomainville at brett.pomainville@gmail.com.





ROCKY MOUNTAIN AERO GROUP PRESENTS

RUNWAY TO ADVENTURE

AN EAA CHAPTER 1634 YOUNG EAGLES RALLY EVENT

**YOUTH AGES 8 - 17
FLY FOR FREE**

MEET PILOTS
ASK QUESTION AND LEARN MORE ABOUT FLYING

EXPLORE AIRCRAFT
TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT VARIOUS AIRCRAFT ON DISPLAY

AIRPORT EQUIPMENT DISPLAY
GET A CLOSER LOOK AT THE VARIOUS EQUIPMENT THAT HELP KEEP THE AIRPORT RUNNING SAFELY

EXPLORE AVIATION CAREERS
LEARN ABOUT THE MANY AVIATION CAREER PATHS AVAILABLE

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

**FRIDAY
SEPT 11, 2026
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

RIFLE GARFIELD COUNTY AIRPORT (KRIL)
375 COUNTY RD 352, RIFLE, CO 81650

DISCOVER **FLY** **EXPLORE** **BE INSPIRED**

PRESENTED BY ROCKY MOUNTAIN AERO GROUP

HOSTED BY RIFLE GARFIELD COUNTY AIRPORT

EVENT PARTNERS ATLANTIC ASPEN FLIGHT ACADEMY EPIC COLORADO TRAVEL BOOKS

SCAN TO LEARN MORE OR REGISTER

PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS MUST ACCOMPANY YOUTH - FLIGHTS PROVIDED BY VOLUNTEER PILOTS.



La Junta Tarantula Fest!

(Note: For this event Venmo and Zelle can be used)

La Junta, CO (KLHX)
Friday, September 25 – Saturday, September 26
Hosted by Brett Pomainville

Be a part of CPA history and join our first **Wildlife Safari!** The City of La Junta, Colorado, is rolling out the red carpet for our visit to their annual **Tarantula Fest!** No plane? **You can even drive to this Fly-in for day trip** if you want (but you still need to register so we can include you in the CPA activities)!

What is Tarantula Fest?!?

Imagine a small-town festival of everything arachnid celebrating the annual expedition of thousands of Brown Tarantulas across Colorado's southeastern grasslands. As featured in *National Geographic* and on national TV, wildlife scientists and visitors from around the world converge on La Junta each year in late September to witness this unique phenomena and study the Brown Tarantulas on the move in their native habitat.



Colorado Brown Tarantula



CPA Safari Rover

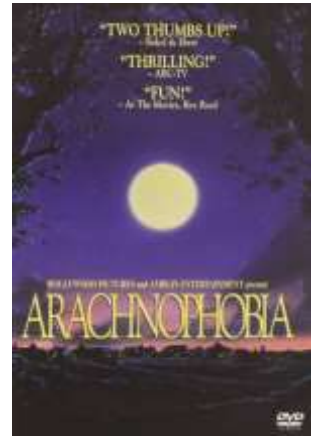
A Wildlife Safari in Colorado?!?

You bet! Africa's Serengeti boasts its Big 5, but on this Fly-in *you* will get to see up close something none of your globe-trotting friends have – **Colorado's Big 8** (legs, of course) roaming our own Comanche National Grasslands!



Friday's Thread

Arrive at La Junta (KLHX) by 10:00 AM. A coach shuttle will take us to the hotel to drop our bags then onward to downtown La Junta for lunch at **Mexico City Café**. A three block walk takes us to Otero College for "**Tarantula Talk**" with **arachnid experts** Dr. Paula Cushing and Dr. Cara Shillington. Be sure to ask them why all the male tarantulas are on the prowl. Our coach shuttle then takes us to the historic Fox Theatre for a free showing of the **movie Arachnophobia** to get us in the right mood for when the **Big 8** emerge from their burrows.



Ranger with Big 8 Tracking Device

At twilight, our **CPA Tarantula Safari** begins. Accompanied by a Tarantula Ranger, we will travel by coach through Comanche National Grasslands to spot some of the **thousands of male Colorado Brown Tarantulas looking for love**. Then back to our hotel for check-in, followed by a **Pizza Dinner** and **Ice Cream Sundae Social**. And be ready for a tarantula-themed **Trivia Contest** with fabulous CPA prizes!

Saturday's Tangle



Miss Tarantula Contest Winner

Enjoy a free hot breakfast, check-out, and leave your bags at the hotel. Our CPA coach will drop us at the center of La Junta's web of festival events, starting with the **Tarantula Parade**. Then, on your own, you can take a spin at the town's **Classic Car Show**; crawl through the **Tarantula Education Center**, snare a deal on unique gifts at the **Tarantula Arts Fair**, or even compete in the **Eight Legged Races** or the county commissioner's **Hairy Leg Contest** (be sure to show off your CPA socks for this one!). We then meet for a bite of lunch at **Dickey's Barbecue Pit**. At 2:00 PM, our coach picks us up to collect our luggage at the hotel and transfer to KLHX for afternoon departures.

Hang Out For More (optional!)

Although CPA-planned activities end after lunch Saturday, Tarantula Fest continues through Saturday night. Highlights include: Koshare Dancers Show, Chuckwagon Dinner, and a Tarantula-themed evening Drone Show. Those wishing to remain in La Junta after lunch on Saturday will be on their own for lodging and transportation arrangements.



Accommodations and Fees

We have a special CPA rate of \$129 + tax per night with free breakfast and a 24-hour cancellation policy at the Hampton Inn (option to extend a second night on your own, if desired), but we have a limited number of rooms and La Junta hotels fill months in advance of this world-renowned event. The hotel will only release CPA rooms to individuals on the attendance list I send them, so **please DO NOT contact the hotel until you have heard from me.** Complete the registration form and submit payment and I will notify people based on the planning and priority list and the order the forms are returned. You can also make this Fly-in a day trip from most Front Range locations if you prefer not to fly or stay overnight (but you still need to register and pay the fee so we can include you in the CPA activities). **A fee of \$30 per person** covers the Pizza Dinner, Ice Cream Sundae Social, tips for the tarantula ranger and coach shuttle drivers, fabulous Tarantula Trivia Contest prizes, and other incidentals. You can pay by paper check made out to “Colorado Pilots Association”, Venmo to “@brettpomainville”, or Zelle to “Brett Pomainville” (Venmo/Zelle associated with phone number 720-378-3304; be sure to write your Full Name and “CPA La Junta Fly-in” in the notes/memo fields). Host Brett Pomainville (720) 378-3304, brett.pomainville@gmail.com.



Omaha FlyOut 2026

Omaha NE, October 1-4, 2026

Join your fellow pilots for a weekend of fun visiting the Strategic Air Command Museum.

More information, schedule of events and booking of accommodations can be found at:

[US Pilots - Omaha FlyOut 2026](#)





6TH ANNUAL
IAN
MCBETH
Brew n' Que
FLY IN
OCTOBER 3, 2026

 **BREW**
 **'QUE**
 **FAMILY FUN**
 **PUMPKIN DROPS**
& MORE



WRAY MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (2V5)
36395 US HWY 385, WRAY, CO
10 AM - 3 PM

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CPA's Firsthand Look at G.A. Innovation in Western Colorado

A tour of Grand Junction's Spirit Engineering Factory

Bill Marvel, Fly-in Committee Chairman

On Saturday October 10, CPA members will have Spirit Engineering's facilities all to themselves as President, CEO and aircraft designer Steve Wood leads us on a full factory tour. This is where the aircraft that shocked Oshkosh attendees in 2025 was designed and built. The single seat, all aluminum aircraft with folding wings for "take home" storage arrived unannounced at Oshkosh last year 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 fly 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, not A.I. or vaporware, and they are being built and delivered to new owners as fast as they come 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

Steve will be taking us through the entire factory showing and explaining the magic that takes place there. We'll see the equipment they use, the design innovations they developed and how they are able to efficiently manufacture and sell the aircraft for their current price of \$69,500, fly away.

Steve Wood started out in aeronautical engineering with Cessna and later, after many years of owning a defense contractor business here in town, sold it to make way for his real goal of building an affordable airplane. He had the skills and experience to not only design one but also to create the factory and tooling needed to manufacture it.



Serious cost containment is in large part the result of extensive vertical integration – they make almost 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 was adopted from 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 and ingeniously 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 – 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, and we'll have an up close and personal visit with it in October.



Opened cockpit entry



Yes, it has a strong wing!



A real factory full of real airplanes!

Given the distance from most members on the front range, driving or flying are options, as is spending the night. When I receive registrations from this Flight Lines issue, I'll determine how, where and when we'll meet. We may have a group dinner for those staying the night but those details will be determined by your future responses because of the different means of transportation and travel schedules members will have. Expect more information by email to attendees as details are worked out. But right now, just complete and return the registration form in this issue. 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.

TV news link: [Local aeronautical engineers revolutionizing the aviation and aircraft manufacturing industry](#)





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 MEMBERS DRIVING TO THIS EVENT, PLEASE
COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SECTION**

Which event are you registering for?		La Junta September 25-26	
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: \$ _____ 30 _____ times total number in party _____ = \$ _____			
Anyone on a first CPA Fly-in?		Yes	No

Please use Venmo to “@brettpomainville”, or Zelle to “Brett Pomainville” (write your Full Name and “CPA La Junta Fly-in” in the notes/memo fields), or send a check for the above amount, **made out to the Colorado Pilots Association**, to the Fly-in host:

Brett Pomainville (720) 378 3304 brett.pomainville@gmail.com
5846 Grandville Ave Unit A, Longmont, CO 80503





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Name: Phone: () Email: # Seats

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

Which event are you registering for?		Spirit Engineering Tour, October 10	
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 ___ zero ___ = \$ ___ zero ___			
Anyone on a first CPA Fly-in?		Yes	No

Please send or email this completed form to the Fly-in host:

Bill Marvel (310) 293 2013 rv8tor@msn.com
492 Escondido Circle
Grand Junction, CO 81507



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