

PIREPS

Aviation Art Contest Participation Grows

The 2026 U.S. and International Youth Aviation Art Contest wrapped up at the state level, with more than 80 Nebraska artists illustrating the theme, *“Fly to Save Lives.”* Submissions were received by NDOT’s Aeronautics Division, who has proudly sponsored the contest since its inception in 1986. Nebraska winners were selected in three age categories – Junior (6-9), Intermediate (10-13), and Senior (14-17). Winners will receive cash prizes and trophies sponsored by the Nebraska Aviation Council and advance to the national competition in Washington, D.C. and then move on to the international competition.

The nine winning art pieces will be displayed at various locations across the state to promote the contest and raise awareness about the importance of aviation in Nebraska. Aviation is critical for connecting communities, supporting economic growth, and providing essential services.

The 2027 competition will kick off in October 2026. To join the mailing list, please contact Mark Langrud, NDOT Division of Aeronautics chief pilot, at 402-471-2371 or mark.langrud@nebraska.gov. Additional information about the contest and the traveling exhibit can be found at dot.nebraska.gov/aeronautics. ■



Senior Division
(Ages 14-17)

1st place
Kiersten Hans
Wynot, NE



2nd place
Graham Trompke
Loomis, NE



3rd place
Harlow Sides
Gering, NE

PIREPS

March 2026

Vol 79, Issue 3

Published monthly by
Nebraska Dept. of Transportation
Aeronautics Division
1600 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln NE 68502
402-471-2371

dot.nebraska.gov/aeronautics

Governor Jim Pillen
NDOT Director Vicki Kramer
Aeronautics Commission
Scott Tarry, PhD, Chair
Michael Cook Edward Dunn
Jon Large Tom Trumble

Administration

Director..... Jeremy Borrell
Deputy Director..... Joshua Meyers

Comments/Questions:

mark.langrud@nebraska.gov

Circulation: 3320

Aviation Art Contest (cont'd.)



1st place

Rory O'Donnell
Lincoln, NE



3rd place

Elena Powers
Plattsmouth, NE

Intermediate Division

(Ages 10-13)



2nd place

Holly Hepburn
Lincoln, NE

Junior Division

(Ages 6-9)



1st place

Avery Powers
Plattsmouth, NE



2nd place

June Powers
Plattsmouth, NE



3rd place

Grace Schmidt
Cairo, NE

Sandi Decker of Fairbury Elected to the Nebraska Aviation Hall of Fame

The Nebraska Aviation Hall of Fame Class of 2026 includes Sandi Decker of Fairbury, NE. Sandi has spoken with thousands of pilots, both in person and via the airport Unicom. Sandi holds a private pilot's license and once owned an aircraft. She has spent countless hours promoting aviation, organizing aviation events and supporting legislation

Sandi has been active with the local airport authority, serving the board for 45 plus years. She maintained a watchful eye on the airports' improvement projects over the years, providing guidance to the consultant firms assigned engineers. There are several engineers present this evening that remember being assigned to their first ever project at this airport. Those engineers learned a great deal from this seasoned airport veteran, most often not from any textbook. A number of those engineers never returned for another project at this airport, but remained engineers, gaining invaluable experience from this individual, and have never forgotten that first airport project.

Many of Nebraska's airports have a group of local pilots that form a 'flying' organization, hosting learning events,

just for fun competitive events and 'flyovers' to honor a fallen pilot or member. Sandi has been involved with the airport's local pilot group, rarely missing an event. The airport has hosted State Fly-In's, with this individual coordinating many of those events.

As a journalist, Sandi has had opportunities to experience some first-person activities. Night vision goggles on a low-level course, parachuting, mock mass casualty and a ride in a F-4 Phantom jet. Something only a few women in Nebraska have experienced.



Nebraska has numerous state aviation organizations known across the entire state. One of the more active, long-time organizations is NAAO [NE Association of Airport Officials]. Sandi is the longest member of NAAO, having been associated with the organization for decades, holding various offices, currently serving as vice

president. She has worked tirelessly with the Nebraska Legislature to direct funds to the Aeronautics Division for the purpose of funding state airport projects. This advocacy was directed both toward the Legislature and Executive branches of our state government. ■

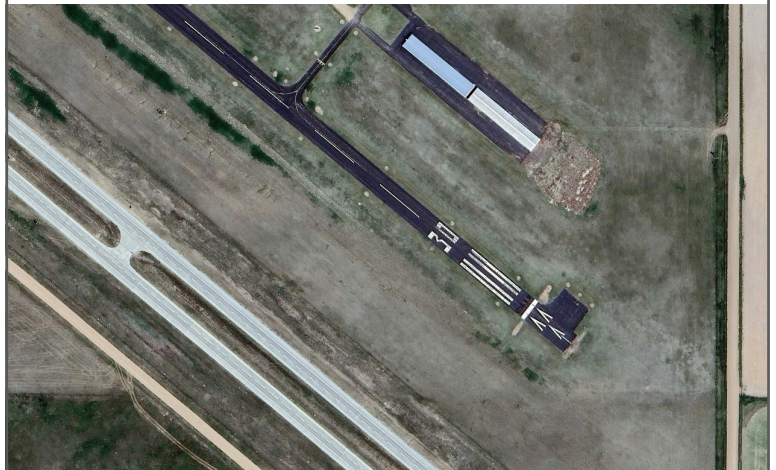
 **CHAPTER 569**

MONTHLY FLY-IN BREAKFAST
2nd Saturday of the Month (April – October)
8am – 10am

Come for Good Food, Good Fun, and Good Conversation!

Wahoo Municipal Airport **KAHQ**

Can you identify the following Nebraska public airport based on the following aerial snippet? North is up. (Answer is on the last page)



Takeoff Minimums

By David Morris

While mechanical failure is potentially hazardous during any phase of flight, a failure during takeoff under instrument conditions is extremely critical. In the event of an emergency, a decision must be made to either return to the departure airport or fly directly to a takeoff alternate. If the departure weather were below the landing minimums for the departure airport, the flight would be unable to return for landing, leaving few options and little time to reach a takeoff alternate.

In the early years of air transportation, landing minimums for commercial operators were usually lower than takeoff minimums. Therefore, it was possible that minimums allowed pilots to land at an airport but not depart from that airport. Additionally, all takeoff minimums once included ceiling as well as visibility. If an airport has non-standard takeoff minimums, they (referred to by some as either the "triangle T" or "trouble T") will be placed in the notes section of the instrument procedure chart. Some departure procedures allow a departure with standard minimums provided specific aircraft performance requirements are met.

Today, takeoff minimums are typically lower than published landing minimums and ceiling requirements are only included if it is necessary to see and avoid obstacles in the departure area. The FAA establishes takeoff minimums for every airport that has published Standard Instrument Approaches. These minimums are used by commercially operated aircraft, namely Part 121 and 135 operators. At airports where minimums are not established, these same carriers are required to use FAA designated standard minimums (1 statute mile (SM) visibility for single and two-engine aircraft, and 1/2 SM for helicopters and aircraft with more than two engines).

Aircraft operating under Part 91 are not required to comply with established takeoff minimums. Legally, a zero/zero departure may be made but it is never advisable. If commercial pilots who fly passengers on a daily basis must comply with takeoff minimums, then good judgment and common sense would tell all instrument pilots to follow the established minimums as well. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Recurring Monthly Events

3rd Thursday | Third Thursday Pilot Lunch | 88 Tactical, 15350 Shepard St., Suite 1, Omaha | 11am | Open to the public

2nd Saturday (April-October) | EAA 569 Fly-In Breakfast | Wahoo Municipal Airport (AHQ) | 8-10am | suggested donation: \$10/ adults; \$5/kids

Last Saturday (March-October) | Nebraska Chapter of the Antique Airplane Association Hamburger fly-In lunch at Hastings Municipal Airport (KHSI) | 11:30am-1pm (free-will donation)

Last Saturday | Burgers & Brats | Wayne Municipal Airport (LCG) | 5-8pm

Monthly Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter Meetings

- **EAA 80** | 2nd Monday | 7pm | EAA ABLE ACE Facility, Oakview Mall, Omaha (October-May) and Oracle Aviation, Millard Airport (June-August) | www.eaa80.org/
 - **EAA 80 IMC Club** | 2nd Tuesday (October-May) | 6:30pm | EAA ABLE ACE Facility, Oakview Mall, Omaha
 - **EAA 80 VMC Club** | 2nd Tuesday (October-May) | 6:30 pm | Revv Aviation, Council Bluffs Municipal Airport
 - **EAA 291** | 1st Saturday | 8:30am | Wayne Municipal Airport | chapters.eaa.org/eeaa291
 - **EAA 544** | Last Monday | 7pm | Hastings Municipal Airport | chapters.eaa.org/eeaa544
 - **EAA 562** | 3rd Saturday | 1pm | Hershey Airport
 - **EAA 569 and IAC 80** | 1st Tuesday | 7pm | Lincoln Municipal Airport Terminal, 2nd Floor Meeting room, 2400 West Adams St. Lincoln, NE | www.eaa569.org
 - **EAA 608** | 3rd Saturday | 8am | Robbins Aviation, Western Nebraska Regional Airport, Scottsbluff | chapters.eaa.org/eeaa608
 - **EAA 804** | 2nd Sunday | 2pm | O'Neill Municipal Airport Terminal Building
 - **EAA 918** | 2nd Tuesday | 6pm | Norfolk Regional Airport FBO | chapters.eaa.org/eeaa918
 - **EAA 1055** | 1st Tuesday | 7pm | York Municipal Airport | chapters.eaa.org/eeaa1055
 - **EAA 1091** | 2nd Tuesday | 6:30pm | Airport Managers Office | Kearney Regional Airport | chapters.eaa.org/eeaa1091
 - **EAA 1571** | 2nd Saturday | 12pm | Central City Municipal Airport | www.1571.eeachapter.org/
- ### Monthly Women in Aviation International Chapter Meetings
- **WAI Cornhusker Chapter** | 1st Thursday | 4pm | Meeting rotates between LNK Terminal and Duncan Aviation
 - **WAI Platte River Chapter** | 3rd Tuesday | 6:30pm | North Platte Regional Airport (LBF) Conf. Rm.



Nebraska State Fly-In

Fremont Municipal Airport

📅 Saturday, June 20, 2026 ⌚ 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM
📍 Location: 1777 W 23rd St, Fremont, NE 68025

Celebrate aviation in Nebraska at this family-friendly event!

- Vendor Fair
- Aviation Hall of Fame Display
- Local Entertainment
- Children's Activities

FREE BREAKFAST!

Sponsored by:



NEBRASKA AVIATION COUNCIL

For More Information:
Cari Hoffart, Airport Manager
☎ (402) 727-2691



CITY OF FREMONT NEBRASKA

Airport quiz answer: Chappell