

PIREPS



UNO Flying Mavs Earn Top-10 Finish at NIFA SAFECON Nationals

The University of Nebraska at Omaha Flying Mavs concluded a standout season with an impressive performance at the National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA) SAFECON competition in Moline, Illinois, finishing 8th overall out of 32 collegiate flight teams from across the nation.

The national competition marked the culmination of nearly a year of preparation for the Flying Mavs, who dedicated countless hours throughout the academic year to training in both flight and ground events. Competing against some of the top collegiate aviation programs in the country, UNO students delivered multiple top finishes, national championships, and individual honors.

Over the last year, the Flying Mavs also incorporated NeuroTrainer into their training routines as part of the team's preparation for competition. Using virtual reality cognitive training technology, students completed regular sessions focused on improving reaction time, situational awareness, focus, and decision-making skills that directly translate to aviation performance.

The integration of NeuroTrainer became another tool the team used to prepare for the high-pressure environment of NIFA SAFECON competition. Flight Team members utilized the system consistently throughout the season, including during travel and competition preparation, as part of the program's continued focus on innovation and performance development.

The addition of NeuroTrainer was made possible through support from the Barbara Weitz Innovation and Excellence Fund at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, which helped provide the technology and resources needed to expand cognitive performance training opportunities for students in the Aviation Institute.

One of the team's biggest accomplishments came in IFR (Instrument Simulated Flight), where Thomas Reid captured 1st place and earned the title of national champion. The Flying Mavs also secured another national championship in Traditional Navigation, with Cullen Leitner serving as pilot and Will Skradski as safety observer, earning 1st place overall.

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Governor Jim Pillen
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Director..... Jeremy Borrell
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Comments/Questions:
mark.langrud@nebraska.gov
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Left to right: Thomas Reid, Shay Sinnard, Trevor Denker, Chloe Schrick, Tyler Suing, Izzie Peetz, Alex Duman, Cullen Leitner, Tyler Thieman, Will Skradski, Zach Nanfite, Hung Nguyen, Connor Grell, Shoichi Yasui

Flying Mavs (cont'd)

UNO continued its strong performance in navigation events as Thomas Reid and Alex Duman earned 2nd place in Unlimited Navigation. In the CRM/LOFT competition, Tyler Thieman, serving as Pilot Flying, and Trevor Denker, serving as Pilot Monitoring, finished 3rd nationally.

Additional individual event results included:

- Aircraft Preflight:**

Tyler Thieman - 7th place;
Alex Duman – 18th place

- Computer Accuracy:**

Tyler Thieman - 13th place;
Alex Duman - 18th place

- Ground Trainer:**

Thomas Reid - 11th place

- Short Field Landing:**

Tyler Thieman - 9th place

The Flying Mavs also earned recognition in the overall Top Pilot standings, with Thomas Reid placing 10th nationally and Tyler Thieman finishing 12th overall among competitors.

"We are extremely proud of the team and how much time and effort we all put in to make our performance possible," said Thomas Reid. "Every person played a role in making us better as a group, leading to an exciting and memorable competition."

Head Coach Skip Bailey also reflected on the team's season and growth throughout the year.

"Watching this team grow throughout the year has been incredibly rewarding," Bailey said. "Their dedication, professionalism, and work ethic showed in every practice and every competition. I couldn't be prouder of the way they represented the university on the national stage. They supported each other through every challenge and truly competed as a team."

The strong finish at nationals highlights the continued growth and success of the UNO Flying Mavs program, as well as the dedication and professionalism of its student competitors. Through months of preparation, teamwork, and flight training, the team represented UNO on a national stage while continuing the program's tradition of excellence in collegiate aviation competition.

The Flying Mavs will now begin preparing for the 2026 Region VI SAFECON in October in Salina, Kansas and a return appearance in 2027 at the NIFA SAFECON National Competition, which will be held May 10-14 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. ■

Noise Abatement Procedures

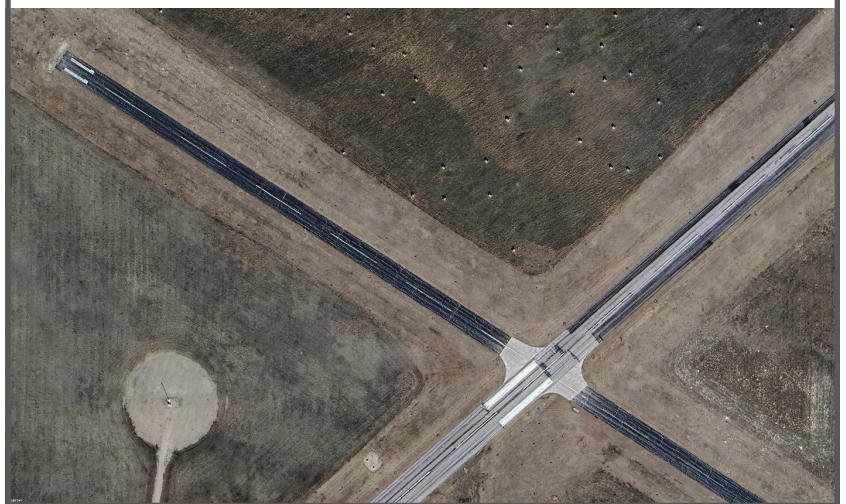
By David Morris

As the aviation industry continues to grow and air traffic increases, so does the population of people and businesses around airports. As a result, noise abatement procedures have become common place at most of the nation's airports. Part 150 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (FARs) specifies the responsibilities of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to investigate the recommendations of the airport operator in a noise compatibility program and approve or disapprove the noise abatement suggestions. This is a crucial step in ensuring that the airport is not unduly inhibited by noise requirements and that air traffic workload and efficiency are not significantly impacted, all while considering the noise problems addressed by the surrounding community.

While most departure procedures are designed for obstacle clearance and workload reduction, there are some Standard Instrument Departures (SIDs) that are developed solely to comply with noise abatement requirements. Typically, noise abatement restrictions are incorporated into the main body of the SID. These types of restrictions require higher departure altitudes, larger climb gradients, reduced airspeeds, and turns to avoid specific areas.

Noise restrictions may also be evident during a radar departure. Air Traffic Control (ATC) may require us to turn away from our intended course or vector us around a particular area. While these restrictions may seem burdensome, it is important to remember that it is our duty to comply with written and spoken requests from ATC. ■

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

- 6/6** | 1st Annual Plane Fun Poker Run | O'Neill Municipal Airport (ONL) | 9am | \$20 Buy in | Rain Date: June 13 | Route: KONL - KANW - KTIF - KODX - KONL | Contact: Brady Dexter at 402-340-2581
- 6/7** | Fly-In Breakfast | Tekamah Municipal Airport (KTQE), 3997 County Road G, Tekamah, NE | 7am-Noon | free-will donations appreciated. Proceeds go to the Tekamah Right & Rescue Departments | Contact Doug at 402-480-3534 with any questions
- 6/12** | Lincoln Drive-In Movie Night featuring the movie: Cars | Lincoln Airport (LNK), 3801 NW 34th St, Lincoln, NE | 7pm. Movie starts at dark | RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lnk-drive-in-movie-night-cars-tickets-1988514887558>
- 6/13** | EAA 569 Fly-In Breakfast | Wahoo Municipal Airport (AHQ) | 8-10am | suggested donation: \$10/adults; \$5/kids
- 6/17** | Third Wednesday Cookouts hosted by the Great Plains Wing of the Commemorative Air Force | Council Bluffs Municipal Airport (KCBF) | 16803 McCandless Road, Council Bluffs, IA | 5:30-7pm (free-will donation) | contact: Jeff at 402-981-4633
- 6/20** | State Fly-In at Fremont Municipal Airport
- 6/21** | 80th Annual Harlan Fly-In Breakfast | Harlan, IA Municipal Airport (HNR) | 7:30-11am | Breakfast Free to all Fly-Ins | Info: Scott Pigsley, Airport Manager 712-744-3366
- 6/21** | EAA 804 Fly-In/Walk-In Breakfast during Berry Pepper Days | 7-11am | Creighton Municipal Airport | free-will donation & PIC eat free | Questions: Contact Barry Steans at 308-379-5331 or Jason Schindler at 402-961-9499
- 6/27** | Nebraska Chapter of the Antique Airplane Association Hamburger Fly-In | Hastings Municipal Airport (KHSI) | 11:30am-1pm (free-will donation)
- 6/27** | A'ror'n Days Fly-In Breakfast | Aurora Municipal Airport (KAUH) | 7-10am (PIC eat free)
- 6/28** | Fly-In Breakfast | Pender Airport (0C4) | 8-11am (PIC eat free)

July

- 7/11** | EAA 569 Fly-In Breakfast | Wahoo Municipal Airport (AHQ) | 8-10am | suggested donation: \$10/ adults; \$5/kids
- 7/15** | Third Wednesday Cookouts hosted by the Great Plains Wing of the Commemorative Air Force | Council Bluffs Municipal Airport (KCBF) | 16803 McCandless Road, Council Bluffs, IA | 5:30-7pm (free-will donation) | contact: Jeff at 402-981-4633
- 7/25** | Nebraska Chapter of the Antique Airplane Association Hamburger Fly-In | Hastings Municipal Airport (KHSI) | 11:30am-1pm (free-will donation)
- 7/26** | Genoa Fly-In | Genoa Municipal Airport (97Y) | 7:30-10am | All pilots each free, free-will donation | Contact Richard Gaunt for additional information 402-270-5103



EAA CHAPTER 569
THE GREAT PLAINS

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**

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!


We are thrilled to bring this special aviation experience to the Fremont community! Come learn about aviation across the state and discover the exciting local operations right here at your airport.

Vendors, we'd love to hear from you - please reach out today to host a booth at this event

Sponsored by:



For More Information:

Cari Hoffart, Airport Manager
 (402) 727-2691



Airport quiz answer: Gordon