

2023 Great Alaska Aviation Gathering Schedule

Seminar Program Schedule – Tracks 1 and 2

Saturday, May 6 Track 1 at Colony Church

10:00 - 10:50	<p>Engine Failure After Takeoff <i>Capt. Brian Schiff, The Proficient Pilot</i></p> <p>Until recently, conventional training and wisdom dictated that pilots should always land straight ahead when confronted by an engine failure that occurs shortly after takeoff in a Single Engine Airplane. This controversial topic has been hotly debated since the early days of aviation, where turning around to land on the departure runway has been called “the impossible turn.” It can be argued convincingly, however, that there are instances when it would be safer to return to the airport than to land straight ahead following such an engine failure. The FAA now states matter-of-factly in Advisory Circular 61-83J that “flight instructors should demonstrate and teach trainees when and how to make a safe 180-degree turn back to the field after an engine failure.” Brian Schiff will discuss the principles involved in returning to the airport safely. It will be based to a large extent on his father, Barry Schiff’s, decades of study and research involving this subject.</p>
11:00 - 11:50	<p>Recreational Aviation Foundation – Improving Remote Airstrips <i>Al Clayton, Stef Goya, and Jeff DeFrest, RAF Alaska Liaisons</i></p> <p>The Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) is a non-profit charitable organization devoted to maintaining and improving existing remote airstrips to facilitate recreation on public lands. It also works with private and public landowners to develop new airstrips to facilitate recreational activities on public lands. The RAF has recently added additional liaisons and is increasing their activity in Alaska. Meet the Alaska team who will describe the work of the RAF to promote the safe use of remote airstrips in Alaska. The session will include a summary of recent projects, and a look at ways you can become involved in their activities this coming season.</p>
12:00 -12:50	<p>Fighting Wildfires and the Pilot <i>Jason Brooks, Mike O’Brien and Camila Roy, Alaska Fire Service</i></p> <p>From an aviation manager and smoke jumper perspective, learn how the agencies manage airspace around wildfires and work with the aviation community to ensure the safety of all.</p>
13:00 - 13:50	<p>Flying Under Pressure: Looking at how the mind operates under duress <i>Richard McSpadden, AOPA Air Safety Institute</i></p> <p>Join AOPA Senior Vice President Richard McSpadden, director of AOPA’s Air Safety Institute, as he analyzes how pilots think and act under pressure. McSpadden uses research on human performance and recent mishaps to highlight mental processing and lessons all pilots can use to improve their performance under pressure.</p>
14:00 -14:50	<p>Flying Clubs: Maximum Fun Minimum Cost <i>Steve Bateman, AOPA You Can Fly</i></p> <p>Flying clubs are wonderful ways to fly more and pay less, and, at the same time, enjoy the company and camaraderie of like-minded people. Although flying clubs are not regulated under the FARs, there are rules to follow for both the establishment and operations of flying clubs. This seminar will cover different club structures; how to keep on the right side of the FAA, your airport manager, and the IRS; and will outline some essential operational behaviors of successful flying clubs. In addition, we explain how to find a “good” club to join, and how to start one yourself. Also in this session, we’ll look at the challenges and benefits of starting a seaplane flying club.</p>
15:00 - 15:50	<p>The Future of Aviation Insurance - The Alaska Aviation Insurance Market <i>Alicia Oliver, Bill White Insurance (BWI)</i></p> <p>BWI is a local Alaska Insurance Agency located right on beautiful Lake Hood. Since 2012 BWI has been working hard on behalf of the Alaska community to continue bringing more affordable insurance solutions to the state and offer a wide range of resources and insight to the aircraft ownership community. Alicia will discuss the Alaska aviation insurance market in great detail. She will review the specific information underwriters look for when reviewing a risk to consider its insurability, how the Alaska markets differ from the Lower 48, the challenges BWI faces when trying to place coverage for Alaska clients (i.e. seaplanes, pilot age, transitional pilots, commercial risks, etc.) and lastly, she will highlight BWI’s efforts to help the Alaska pilot community obtain better coverage at reasonable rates.</p>

2023 Great Alaska Aviation Gathering Schedule continued

Saturday, May 6 Track 2 at Hoskins Hall

10:00 - 10:50	<p>Alaska Airmen’s Association Annual Meeting <i>Stephen Ratcliff, Board President</i></p> <p>Your Association is working for general aviation year around. Come to the annual meeting for an update on the state of Association and to meet the members of the Board of Directors. Board members will provide an overview of current programs and a look at future plans.</p>
11:00 - 11:50	<p>Flying to the Future, Building the Drone Industry in Alaska <i>Nick Adkins, Deputy Dir, Alaska Center for UAS Integration, University of Alaska Fairbanks</i></p> <p>The Alaska Center for UAS Integration, UAF’s drone program, has been hard at work with the FAA and industry stakeholders to safely integrate drones into the National Airspace System. We’ve successfully flown unmanned aircraft at Fairbanks International Airport and have been granted permission to allow more extensive testing. The project has plans for hangars in Nenana, and future test sites in Valdez and Palmer.</p>
12:00 - 12:50	<p>Getting and Keeping Your Aviation Medical Certification <i>Robert Thomas, MD, ATP Medicine, LTD</i></p> <p>Dr. Robert Thomas will provide an overview of the process and components of examination for medical certification for pilots, the benefits of basic medical certification, and an update on trends and issues his practice has seen with medical certifications for pilots.</p>
13:00 - 13:50	<p style="text-align: center;">Purposely left blank</p>
14:00 - 14:50	<p>Invasive Species: Elodia, What it is and Why You Should Care <i>Dan Coleman, Invasive Weeds an Agricultural Pest Coordinator, Alaska DNR</i></p> <p>Elodea is an invasive (nonnative) plant species which can destroy habitat for native fish and other animals degrading water bodies along with fishing opportunities. It has been found in at least 35 water bodies in the state: ten freshwater systems in Interior Alaska, nine water bodies in Southcentral, seven lakes on the Kenai Peninsula, and nine water bodies around Cordova. It can easily spread among water bodies when attached to floatplanes, fishing gear, trailered boats, and even in water transported between freshwater systems. Mr. Coleman specializes in controlling the spread of elodea in Alaska and its eradication. His talk will cover the nature of the plant, how and why it threatens Alaska’s water bodies and fish populations, what is being done to identify and eradicate it, and what people who use Alaska’s water bodies for recreation, food and travel can do to lessen and remove its threat.</p>
15:00 - 15:50	<p>Alaska Public Use Cabins <i>Bill Rusk</i></p> <p>The U.S. Forest Service built a number of cabins around Alaska that are available for free, or for a nominal fee, for the enjoyment of the general public. Some of these cabins are on the road system, and some have runway strips near them, and some are accessible via floatplane. This session will discuss the locations, reservation system, and access to this wonderful resource.</p>

2023 Great Alaska Aviation Gathering Schedule continued

Sunday, May 7 Seminar Track 1 at Colony Church

8:00 - 11:00	<p>AOPA Rusty Pilot Seminar - Getting Back To Flying: Easier Than You Think <i>Brian Schiff, AOPA Rusty Pilot Program</i> <i>Note: This special three-hour seminar requires advance registration. To register go to: https://pic.aopa.org/events/item/52/3552</i></p> <p>If you're like more than 500,000 other pilots, you've taken a little breather from flying. Maybe the pitter-patter of little feet, a growing business, or a medical setback had something to do with it. Whatever the case, things are different now. You're back in the game and would like to start flying again. You've come to the right place.</p> <p>The AOPA Rusty Pilots program has helped over 10,000 inactive pilots return to flying. If 10,000+ other people with similar stories can do this, you can too!</p> <p>No Checkride Required. You Can Do This.</p> <p>You may have forgotten that pilot certificates never expire. All you need is a Flight Review. A little brush-up with your local CFI, enough flights to demonstrate competence again (minimum one hour), and – presto! – you're back in the air.</p>
13:00 - 13:50	<p>Purposely left blank</p>
12:00 - 12:50	<p>AOPA's High School STEM Program <i>Steve Bateman, AOPA You Can Fly and John Fick, King Tech High School</i></p> <p>AOPA has developed a set of high school courses that are available free to high schools, and are based on aviation content, yet meet routine science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) course requirements. This seminar will provide an overview of information covered in the courses, an example of their use at King Tech High School in Anchorage, and how to explore getting this program at a high school near you.</p>
13:00 - 13:50	<p>The State of the Seaplane Community <i>Steve McCaughey, Seaplane Pilots Association</i></p> <p>The seaplane community is faced with significant challenges, but also has numerous opportunities. Join Steven McCaughey, the Executive Director of the Seaplane Pilots Association for a briefing on the state of the seaplane community. Seaplane safety, invasive species and a declining population of seaplane pilots are at the forefront of the association's efforts. Impressively the seaplane flight schools, commercial operators and manufactures are aggressively working with SPA to address these challenges and create new opportunities for the growth and future health of water flying. Whether you are a seaplane owner or operator, or want to earn your seaplane rating we hope you will join us.</p>
14:00 - 14:50	<p>Alaska Airmen's Advocating for You <i>Adam White, Alaska Airmen's Association</i></p> <p>Learn about the advocacy efforts of the Alaska Airmen's Association and hear about the issues that loom on the horizon. This interactive seminar will help you better understand the issues that have an effect on General Aviation in Alaska. Thankfully, it is not all doom and gloom, and you will also hear how things are getting better. Your voice as a member of the Alaska Airmen's Association counts and carries weight.</p>
15:00 - 15:50	<p>Mountain Passes, PIREPs and IFR Routes: Alaska Showing the Way <i>Tom George, AOPA and Adam White, Alaska Airmen's Association</i></p> <p>Helping pilots find mountain passes, IFR routes that snake through the mountains, increasing weather reporting, new approaches to filing and retrieving Pilot Reports are among the topics that will be addressed in this presentation. We will look at how AOPA and the Alaska Airmen's Association, along with other government and industry partners are working together using Alaska as a proving ground to benefit GA nationally.</p>

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Sunday, May 7 Seminar Track 2 at Hoskin Hall

8:00 -11:00	Purposely left blank
11:00 -11:50	<p>An Update on GAMI Unleaded Aviation Fuel for Alaska <i>Tylor Hall, General Aviation Manufacturers, Inc. and Ross St. John, Crowley</i> The conversion from 100 Low Lead to an unleaded fuel is a big change for the aviation industry. This presentation will provide an update on that process, and the plans to bring the GAMI unleaded fuel to Alaska.</p>
12:00 -12:50	<p>FAA Enforcement Actions: How They Work and How to Respond <i>Brent R. Cole, Esq., Law Offices of Brent R. Cole, P.C.</i> Mr. Cole will explain the basics of an FAA enforcement action, including whether to talk to an FAA aviation safety inspector, what is involved in resolving an FAA enforcement action, and what stays on a pilot's FAA record. He will also cover the purpose and timeliness in filing a NASA report, and NTSB reporting requirements.</p>
13:00 - 13:50	<p>Search and Rescue: Roles and Response S <i>Alaska Rescue Coordination Center</i> The Alaska Rescue Coordination Center (ARCC) provides 24-hour rescue coordination capability in support of U.S. military and civil aviation search and rescue needs in Alaska. It is the primary agency responsible for military and aviation search and rescue in Alaska. In addition to monitoring emergency locator beacons, the ARCC Alaska Air National Guard coordinates all Department of Defense support to Alaska search and rescue agencies including the Alaska State Troopers, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Civil Air Patrol, and the National Park Service. This presentation will focus on conducting search and rescue operations and the roles of the different agencies involved. It will also cover things individuals can do to improve the chances of being found as well as survival considerations.</p>
14:00 - 14:50	<p>Survival Considerations and Kits S <i>Civil Air Patrol Capt. Richard Dennis</i> The presentation will focus on items to include in an aviation survival kit. In a potential survival situation, what would we wish to have? What is required by Alaska Statute and what critical items should be in the survival vest we are wearing? Come and participate in a session that presents Alaska Statute requirements along with some commonsense suggestions.</p>
15:00 - 15:50	<p>Aircraft Recovery S <i>Kevin Wyckoff, Alaska Claims Services, Inc.</i> Alaska Claims Services works with aviation insurers to investigate causes and recover downed aircraft. Mr. Wyckoff has extensive experience in recovering aircraft following an accident or incident. He will talk about issues dealing with landowners and land managers of the various types of public land in Alaska and implications for aircraft recovery. He will also address the roles of the insurer and the owner in recovery of aircraft.</p>

S = Survival Training Track

WINGS credit: This year's seminars also include presentations eligible for credit in the FAA's WINGS – Pilot Proficiency Program. This program encourages pilots to improve their skills and knowledge as pilots by reviewing, refreshing, and continuing their education. Attendees wishing to receive WINGS credit should ensure they sign in with an attendant at the seminars.

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