

# NAAA eNewsletter

## PAASS Programs Scheduled for 2023-2024 Convention Season; Requirement for C-PAASS Certification

The industry's state/regional convention season begins in less than two weeks, first with Michigan AAA and then the Kansas AAA and California AAA conventions. Review the calendar of conventions [here](#). As you determine what state/regional conventions you're going to attend, make sure you plan to attend a PAASS Program. Attending the PAASS program not only makes you a safer ag pilot, it can also provide you with the continuing education units from state pesticide agencies needed to renew your commercial pesticide license.

The 2023-2024 PAASS program will begin with a review of agricultural aviation accidents from the 2023 season. It will also include a discussion of accident trends seen over the 10-year period from 2013 to 2022.

For the human factors segment, PAASS will take on the subjects of stall spin accidents and overly aggressive flying. Fran de Kock of Battlefords Airspray in Canada provides both classroom and in-cockpit instruction on how to turn an agricultural aircraft safely, training to learn how an aircraft feels as it approaches a stall, and why agricultural aviation is not aerobatics.

PAASS will go back to the basics in environmental professionalism – discussing the importance of droplet size and boom length. Using larger spray droplets and reducing the length of the boom are both proven techniques for reducing drift.

To reinforce the importance of security at ag aviation operations, the 2023-2024 PAASS program will provide details on an incident where a perpetrator attempted to steal an agricultural aircraft. By learning about this incident, operators and pilots can better assess their own security measures in order to prevent criminals from stealing or damaging equipment and contaminating fuel and agrichemicals. Review a full summary of the 2023-2024 program [here](#).

Attending a PAASS Program is one of the requirements for becoming a Certified-Professional Aerial Applicator Safety Steward (**C-PAASS**). Requirements include:

1. Annual attendance at PAASS.
2. Biennial Participation in Operation S.A.F.E. If you are unable to attend a traditional Fly-In this Fall, as an NAAA member, you have alternative options; [read more](#).
3. NAAA [Membership](#).
4. State/Regional Association Membership.

The application window for 2023 C-PAASS Certification will close shortly after the Ag Aviation Expo. Make sure your name is on this prestigious list for the inaugural year of C-PAASS. If you haven't done so yet, you can [check your 2023 C-PAASS eligibility here](#).

## Former NAAA President Leland Shelton Passes

Arthur Leland Shelton, 87, of Hereford, Texas passed away on Saturday, September 30, 2023. Memorial services will be held Saturday, October 7, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. at Avenue Baptist Church in Hereford.

Leland was the proud President of the Texas Agricultural Aviation Association in 1983 and the National Agricultural Aviation Association in 1985. He was chairman of the committee that developed Operation S.A.F.E., which has been instrumental in the industry concerning spray patterns and drift control. Leland was awarded with the NAAA Agrinaut Award in 1990 and the Outstanding Service Award in 1985 (now called the Zoren & Joan O'Brien Memorial Outstanding Service Award).

Born May 17, 1936 in Taft, California to Olin and Thelma Shelton, he was a graduate of Dimmitt High School and joined the Army where he became a paratrooper.

In 1958, Leland moved to Hereford and began working for B&O Spraying Co. In 1960, he met Mary Patton, the love of his life, and they were married on July 30, 1961. Shortly after their marriage he started flying lessons and in 1964, he got the opportunity to become a partner in the company, and it became Whiteface Aviation. He was the managing partner until 1986, when he became the sole owner. During his time in the aerial application industry, he received many awards and recognition.

Leland was a great hard-working husband, father, and grandpa, who was always proud of his family, loved having family get togethers and he also loved the times he spent in Ruidoso. Leland also enjoyed working, playing golf, fishing, and many other things.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Mary, of Hereford; sons, Terry and his wife, Sandy of Hereford, Jeff and his wife, Kim of Crockett; grandchildren, Jessica and husband, Nathan, Tanner and wife, Whitney, Raegan and husband, Ryan, Peyton, Teagan and wife, Sydney and Macie; great grandchildren, Sonen, Cora, Wesley, and Lyla; brother, Jerry and wife, Beth of Tulia; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sisters, Laquita Griffith and Melba Conard, and a brother, Donald Shelton.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Avenue Baptist Church, 130 N 25 Mile Ave, Hereford, TX 79045 or to Hereford Senior Citizens Center, 426 Ranger St., Hereford, TX 79045.

## Rantizo, Spray Drone Company, Receives \$6 Million in Expansion Funding

Aerial spray drone company Rantizo, an NAAA Allied Industry member based in Iowa City, IA, has received \$6 million in expansion funding led by Leaps by Bayer, Fulcrum Global Capital, and Innova Memphis. Leaps by Bayer (Bayer the pesticide and pharmaceutical company) has invested over \$1.5 billion in venture capital in the agriculture and health care industries in an effort, according to its website, to “shift core paradigms in our industries.”

CEO Rantizo Mariah Scott stated, "Our vision is to build a service network that puts autonomy to work in ag, starting with spray drone services. We are excited to expand our nationwide operator network, deploy our work management and as-applied map software, and continue our exponential growth in acres treated."

Rantizo operators provide drone application services in 30 states. View the full press release [here](#).

## NAAA & NAAREF Board Meetings Kickoff Tomorrow

The October 2023 NAAA & NAAREF Board and Committee meetings take place Friday and Saturday in Dayton, OH. Some meetings start today, and PAASS Train the Trainer concludes today. Click [here](#) to view a schedule.

**Please note:** Board and committee members should have already received a link and directions to download the electronic board book. If you have not received instructions, please contact [Lauren Henretty](#) for more details. The board book can be downloaded to your computer, tablet or you can print your committee items.

All meetings are open to NAAA members. If you are not a board or committee member but you're interested in attending, please contact [Lauren Henretty](#) for more details.

### Meeting Details: Dayton Convention Center

Meetings will take place at the Dayton Convention Center, which is a couple of miles from the hotel. All meetings will be on the third floor of the convention center. NAAA will offer a continuous shuttle on Friday and Saturday. Members can also uber, walk or take the hotel shuttle (runs within a five mile radius). Transportation details are in the electronic board book, provided to board and committee members.

### Hotel Details

The Marriott at the University of Dayton  
1414 South Patterson Blvd.  
Dayton, OH 45409

**The room block has closed. If you're interested in a room, please contact [Lauren Henretty](#).**

**Dayton, OH Information:** Further information on Dayton can be found online at [www.daytoncvb.com](http://www.daytoncvb.com).

## Aerial Applicators Showed up in Droves at the Greenville, MS Aviation Day

This past weekend, the city of Greenville, MS, Mid-Delta Airport hosted Greenville Aviation Day. The event hosted a wide range of aircraft, hot air balloons, an Aeroshell team performance, and many aerial applicators showed up to show off their aircraft and the aerial application industry.

Jon Byrd, a pilot in Sidon, MS flew in and displayed the Snow S-2. Richard Davidson, operator of Southland Flying Service in Tchula, MS flew in a Stearman and Baylor Bryant, operator of Valley Air Applicators in Indianola, MS flew in and displayed the AT-602. Blues Air, LLC, affiliated with Delta State University, exhibited an AT-802 and Cessna Ag Truck.

Exciting demonstrations were performed at the aviation day. Our industry's own Frank Kimmel of Kimmel Aviation Insurance Agency in Greenwood, MS performed in his T-6.

Stephen Covington amazed everyone with his aerobatic performances in his highly modified Pitts S2S named the "Raptor". Eric Hollingsworth put on quite the show in his L2 Taylorcraft by performing exciting aerobatics.

If you're hosting or exhibiting at a similar event in the future, don't forget to share [NAAA's Career webpage](#), which is chocked full of information, such as flight schools and scholarship opportunities.

## Pre-Register for the Ag Aviation Expo to Avoid Long Lines Onsite

We urge you to pre-register before Nov. 3 for the 2023 Ag Aviation Expo, which saves you \$75 per person. Pre-registration helps us to have accurate food, beverage and seating counts at our events. [Attendee registration](#) and [booth sales](#) are open for the NAAA Expo in Palm Springs Dec. 4-7! You'll hear from Burt Rutan, Aerospace entrepreneur and Virgin Galactic spacecraft designer, at the Monday [Kickoff Breakfast](#). Tuesday's [General Session](#) features Ed Messina, Director of EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs, Terry Kippley, President of the Council of Producers and Distributors of Agrotechnology and a Turning Safely discussion moderated by Fran de Kock of Battlefords Airspray in Canada.

If you're looking to grow your business, find a job or sell a product or service in the aerial application industry, the 2023 Ag Aviation Expo is the place for you! Our expo has everything from a world-class trade show floor featuring aircraft and helicopters to education sessions, expert speakers and many networking opportunities!

### Getting to Palm Springs

[Palm Springs International Airport \(PSP\)](#) offers 12 airlines flying nonstop from 32 destinations and connecting from more than 500 destinations worldwide.

As you search your airfare options into Palm Springs for the Ag Aviation Expo, visit NAAA's [Transportation Discount](#) webpage and explore tickets on Delta and United Airlines.

If you'd like to fly into another airport and drive to Palm Springs, below are driving times from several airports. *Contact your [hotel](#) for parking details.* Book your hotel room [online](#).

- Los Angeles – 2 hours
- San Diego – 2 hours 15 minutes
- Anaheim – 1 hour 45 minutes
- Phoenix, Arizona – 4 hours
- Las Vegas, Nevada – 4 hours

### Low-Time Pilot Registration

If you are an ag pilot with less than five years of experience or are interested in becoming an ag pilot, we are offering a special price to attend the NAAA Ag Aviation Expo for pilots like you. Further details are available [here](#).

## Details for the 2023 Ag Aviation Expo

- **Dates:** Dec. 4-7, 2023
- **Location:** Palm Springs Convention Center and Renaissance (the two facilities are attached)
- **Kickoff Breakfast Speaker:** [Burt Rutan](#), Aerospace Legend
- **General Session Speakers:** [Ed Messina & Terry Kippley & Turn Smart Safety Session](#)
- **Schedule of Events:** See the current, tentative schedule [here](#).
- **Hotel:** [Details here](#).
- **Attendee Registration:** Now Open [here](#).
- **Exhibitor Booth Sales:** Booth Sales Open [here](#).
- **Sponsorship Opportunities:** View the sponsorships opportunities [here](#). We have sponsorships available for all budget sizes. Please email [Lindsay](#) if you would like to secure a sponsorship from last year or be contacted about 2023 opportunities!
- **Auction Donations:** Thank you to Pratt & Whitney Canada for donating a PT6-34AG to this year's NAAA Live Auction. In addition to their generous engine donation, Pratt & Whitney will also have an additional surprise donation at the NAAA Live Auction to celebrate their 60th anniversary of the PT6 family of engines and for reaching nearly 1 billion hours flown since the company was founded in 1928. Please consider [making a donation](#) for the Live and Silent Auction. Support the aerial application industry by donating an item today. Email [Lauren](#) with your donation details.

## NAAA Support Committee Events at Ag Aviation Expo

We look forward to seeing you at the 2023 NAAA Ag Aviation Expo in Palm Springs, CA, Dec. 4-7. The NAAA Support Committee has organized several fun events at the Ag Aviation Expo for spouses/significant others, family members and office crew. Save \$75 by [pre-registering](#) by Nov. 3 for what promises to be an outstanding convention!

## 2023 Ag Aviation Expo Support Committee Events

### Monday, Dec. 4: Food & Wine Tasting (RSVP required) 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Enjoy a food and wine pairing cooking demonstration from the chef of the Palm Springs Convention Center. Meet other women in the industry and enjoy a great light lunch and new wines. RSVP required for event to Cathy Ellett at [catellett@gmail.com](mailto:catellett@gmail.com). *Sponsored by GarrCo Products Inc. and Star-Flex*

### Wednesday, Dec. 6: Athena Project Presentation (no RSVP required) 9:45–11:45 a.m.

Attend the Wednesday Athena Project presentation titled, "Five Blades to Propel your Health and Wellness," which will cover nutrition and hydration, physical, mental and environmental health, as well as relationships. The program is written by the Athena presenters and committee members for office bookkeepers, working loaders, operators, pilots and family members. The program covers information that is beneficial to anyone working in the industry and family members. Attend this session, whether you're a spouse, office crew or family member, to gain inspiration, encouragement, and advice on better ways to serve our industry. All are invited and no RSVP is required. *Sponsored by Chuck Holzwarth Flying Service.*

**Wednesday, Dec. 6: NAAREF Relationship Drift (no RSVP required) 4–6 p.m.**

The Relationship Drift Session will look at how personal relationships affect pilot decision making and safety. Men and women should attend this session together, including couples and office crew. This is similar in format to the popular Compaass Rose program, but instead of better facilitating relations between inexperienced pilots and more experienced operators, the new session is designed to facilitate relations between operators/pilots and their spouses or significant others and office crew. All are invited! *Sponsored by Rotorcraft Repair & Manufacturing*

## FAA Approves Some UAS BVLOS Operations Without Visual Observers

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recently released decisions on several Petitions for Exemption from commercial Uncrewed Aircraft System (UAS) operators seeking to conduct beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) operations without the use of visual observers (VOs). These Petitions were opened for public comment in June of this year along with a broader request for comment on UAS BVLOS operations in general. [NAAA provided comments for each of these](#), alongside several other industry partners.

On September 6, 2023, the FAA granted UPS Flight Forward, Inc. (UPSFF) an amended [Exemption](#) for Part 135 package delivery operations utilizing its Matternet M2 UAS. UPSFF will now be permitted to utilize its Ground-Based Surveillance System (GBSS) in lieu of VOs to conduct BVLOS operations.

NAAA submitted [comments](#) on UPSFF's Petition for Exemption in June, with a primary concern being a lack of evidence supporting the efficacy of this GBSS with respect to low-altitude crewed Part 137 operations. In their response to NAAA's comments, the FAA clarified that this exemption enables the petitioner's operations to use its GBSS with the associated display tool, which combined make up its detect and avoid (DAA) system, once the system is approved and documented in their OpSpecs. This exemption does not authorize the system itself.

The FAA pointed to the potential benefits of a technical solution, such as GBSS, that avoid the human factor challenges of reliance on VOs for deconfliction. Such challenges would include, but not be limited to, fatigue and distraction. A collision and avoidance plan will be required to be submitted to the FAA for each area where the system will operate, and a NOTAM (D) indicating the actual area to be flown each day, as defined by a point and the minimum radius, must be filed. This decision specifically states: *"Commercial agricultural aircraft operators and others engaged in aviation activities at altitudes below 400 ft. AGL can maintain awareness of UA activities in their areas of operation by regularly reviewing these NOTAMS."*

The Conditions & Limitations to this Exemption, however, explicitly uphold [right-of-way rules](#) stating *"The PIC must ensure that the UA remain clear of, and give way to, any manned aircraft at all times..."*

On September 18, 2023, the FAA granted Zipline, Inc. a similar amended [Exemption](#) for Part 135 package delivery operations utilizing UAS. Zipline will now be permitted to utilize its proprietary DAA technology in lieu of VOs to conduct BVLOS operations. The FAA cited the above UPSFF Exemption, stating that Zipline's reasons for requesting an exemption were *"similar in all material respects to relief previously granted."* Further, *"the reasons stated by the FAA for granting [the UPSFF Exemption] also apply to [Zipline's] situation."* As with UPSFF, the FAA approved Zipline's use of its DAA technology in lieu of VOs to conduct BVLOS operations but did not approve the DAA technology itself.

The FAA indirectly referenced the other Exemptions recently granted and made clear their intentions for future rulemaking, stating:

*"The exemptions that have been issued contain specific conditions and limitations related to data collection and will enable the FAA to obtain the information that it needs to provide the basis for further rulemaking efforts. The FAA intends for this exemption to add to the foundational framework to safely enable UAS cargo delivery operations for compensation or hire within the NAS that will ultimately be reflected in a final rule. The FAA views this exemption, and the other exemptions it has issued, as steps toward rulemaking."*

On September 20, 2023, the FAA granted uAvionix Corp. a similar [Exemption](#). This Exemption differed, though, in that FAA's approval of their DAA system *"explicitly includes approval of the Vantis surveillance and communications link capabilities as a third-party service provider when the Vantis network is used..."* In this Exemption, the FAA also provided insight to its philosophy on DAA system approval:

*"DAA technology comes in various forms such as third-party service providers, on-board DAA systems capable of detecting other aircraft by means of acoustics or radar and ground based DAA systems that provide live feeds directly to a UA. The FAA recognizes that these examples are not all-encompassing, and that industry will continue to develop different ways for UA to detect and avoid other aircraft during BVLOS operations. Some DAA systems may be more beneficial for certain types of operation. For example, an operator conducting a linear infrastructure inspection may choose to use an on-board DAA system, as opposed to a*

*third-party service provider, as that type of operation would account for more limited airborne traffic in the proximity to the infrastructure in which is the only airspace that those operations will occur. Conversely, a package delivery operator may choose to utilize a third-party service provider which could provide a larger scale airborne traffic layout along multiple routes of flight. The FAA does not intend to specify which DAA system is applicable to which type of operation; rather, the FAA is requiring the operator to use a system that is able to detect ADS-B equipped and non-ADS-B equipped (cooperative and non-cooperative) aircraft in order to remain "well clear" of other detected aircraft. For the purposes of this exemption, "well clear" means maintaining a horizontal distance of 2,000 feet and 250 feet above and below a detected aircraft..."*

Put together, these recently granted Exemptions are plainly a foundation upon which the FAA intends to build policy integrating UAS BVLOS operations into the national airspace. As this plays out, NAAA will continue to impress upon the FAA the importance of maintaining a safe airspace for agricultural aviators.

## Beware of Fraudulent Email with Ag Aviation Expo Name

NAAA received notification that scammers using the company name Convention Housing Experts LLC have sent an email to several Allied members offering hotel rooms. THIS EMAIL IS SPAM AND NOT AFFILIATED WITH NAAA; PLEASE DELETE IT.

Please only book your Ag Aviation Expo hotel room using information directly from NAAA. You can find our hotel room block details [here](#).

If you are unsure if an email is legitimately from NAAA, please feel free to email [information@agaviation.org](mailto:information@agaviation.org) for clarification. Any message from NAAA will come directly from a staff member's email address, [information@agaviation.org](mailto:information@agaviation.org), or [naaaexpo@agaviation.org](mailto:naaaexpo@agaviation.org).

There are several reports of entities trying to scam people by having them give money toward fraudulent efforts. Do not fall victim to one of these scams.

## Renew Your NAAA Membership for 2024

Thank you for your support of NAAA as a 2023 member. We request your continued support by [renewing your NAAA membership](#) for 2024. While you have been busy aiding farmers to produce a safe, affordable, and abundant supply of food, fiber, and bioenergy, NAAA has been busy making sure low altitude airspace is safe for your aerial application business to operate, as well as ensuring that you have the pesticide products you need to do your job.

Several of NAAA's accomplishments this year, on your behalf, include:

- NAAA launched **C-PAASS**, for aerial applicators that take additional steps to augment their professionalism through education and testing who may be recognized and rewarded by their insurance providers, pesticide manufacturers, and customers.
- Since 2017, NAAA has submitted a total of 267 comments to the EPA to keep aerial applications on pesticide labels with great success enabling you to keep a deep inventory of pesticide tools without unnecessary and burdensome restrictions.
- Due to NAAA's advocacy work, the House passed FAA Reauthorization bill directing FAA to broaden protections ensuring the safety of manned aircraft from drones operating beyond visual line of site in addition to those drones operating under Part 107 and those above 55 pounds.
- NAAA is actively advocating Congress for Farm Bill inclusion of exempting NPDES Permits for pesticide applicators and other key unnecessary, burdensome and duplicative regulatory relief provisions, in addition to continuing substantive USDA research for developing safer, more efficient aerial application technologies.
- NAAA's "Aerial Application: Above All Forms of Crop Care" ad campaign and accompanying [web search tool](#) identifying member businesses is widely circulated to hundreds of thousands of potential aerial application users.

You will also continue to receive ongoing benefits, such as legal consultation on federal aviation laws, discounts for attending or exhibiting at the Ag Aviation Expo, staying connected to members through the print and online NAAA Membership Directory and receiving Association publications and eNewsletters, social media briefings and substantive web content at [AgAviation.org](#).

**Please make it a priority to [renew your NAAA membership](#)**---the payoff far exceeds what you will spend in dues in the form of effective advocacy that reduces regulation and taxes affecting your aerial application business and trade association membership dues are tax deductible.

## CropLife Magazine eNews Publishes NAAA Cover Crops Press Release

In continued coverage from [NAAA's press release](#) alerting communities about ag pilots working to seed cover crops, CropLife, a U.S. agribusiness publication, has published the information on their [website](#). The CropLife website receives 35,000 visitors per month, which is great awareness for the good work of aerial applicators, to ag retailers, distributors, manufacturers and suppliers.

NAAA CEO Andrew Moore was interviewed by RFD-TV's Tammi Arender on Wednesday, Sept. 20 in a segment for Market Day Report. View the broadcast [here](#). Market Day Report impressions average 500,000 people per week and is one of RFD-TV's top watched shows.



RFD-TV is the #1 cable network for farmers & ranchers.

Moore was also interviewed by Jesse Allen on the daily news program, [Agriculture of America](#) produced by the American Ag Network, a nationwide radio, digital and multimedia ag news network. Listen to Moore on the early part of the episode [here](#). Agriculture of America can be heard nationwide on over 40 radio stations (including SiriusXM Rural Radio Channel 147 on Satellite Radio). Nearly 1.65 million listeners tuned in during August 2023 with an average of 10,515 podcast downloads for 2023. The news release was also picked up by the American Ag Network [website](#).

If your operation is still seeding cover crops by air this Fall, NAAA has prepared a cover crops [sample press release](#) (*this link will open a Word document*) that you can personalize to your own aerial application business and send to your local media outlets.

## Is Operation S.A.F.E. on your End-of-Season Checklist?

If your aircraft has not been through Operation S.A.F.E. in 2022 or 2023, NAAREF recommends doing so prior to the start of the 2024 season. While many across the country have their aircraft pattern tested in the Spring, it is not at all uncommon to do so in the Fall. Performing this critical testing on your equipment in the Fall presents several benefits. The operational pace, for one, is typically milder in Fall compared to Spring. You also may have ideas for application setup changes fresh in your mind after a season focused on your work.

If you are unable to attend a traditional Fly-In this Fall, as an NAAA member, you have alternative options.

Earlier this year, [NAAA announced the release of DropFlight](#), an iPhone/iPad app which allows extremely fast scanning and analysis of water-sensitive spray cards, all on your Apple mobile devices. This tool, created under the direction of a U.S. aerial applicator, is targeted specifically for aerial applicators to use in assessing spray pattern uniformity, effective swath width and droplet size across the swath.

### Download DropFlight on the App Store

Use NAAA member code: **NAAA23**

Another option for conducting your own spray pattern testing is to use AccuPatt, the same desktop (Windows/MacOS) software that Operation S.A.F.E. Analysts use. Originally developed to run the string testing systems you may have seen at a Fly-In, AccuPatt has grown to include spray-card-analysis functionality that can be used independently to perform spray-card-only pattern testing. Now, it is being offered to NAAA members for use in their own operation at no cost. A flatbed scanner is required to digitize the spray-cards for analysis.

### Download AccuPatt for Windows/MacOS

Consult the [User Manual](#) to get up and running

To further reduce friction in getting your spray pattern testing underway, DropFlight is also offering all the needed [testing gear](#). Available as a [convenient kit](#), or by the piece, their card mounting system makes it simple to lay out cards uniformly and in the correct orientation to the wind. This testing gear will work with both DropFlight and AccuPatt and is the fastest and most convenient way to acquire all the equipment you need to conduct your own pattern testing.

As always, if you consult with a [NAAREF-recognized Operation S.A.F.E. Analyst](#) about your pattern testing data, they can report this to NAAREF as participation in Operation S.A.F.E. NAAA members will receive an official letter of participation and credit toward C-PAASS certification.

The application window for 2023 C-PAASS Certification will close shortly after the Ag Aviation Expo. Make sure your name is on this prestigious list for the inaugural year of C-PAASS; if Operation S.A.F.E. credit is the only box left for you to tick before applying, this is your opportunity. If you haven't done so yet, you can [check your 2023 C-PAASS eligibility here](#).

## Tenth Fatal Ag Accident of 2023 Claims the Life of Lawrence Polries

NAAA is saddened to report that Lawrence (Larry) Polries from Jamestown, ND was killed in an ag accident on September 19, 2023. He was 63 years old at the time of his death. Larry was born on January 6, 1960, and grew up on a farm near Sykeston, ND, where he graduated from high school in 1978. The members and staff of NAAA offer their deepest sympathies and condolences to Larry's friends and family.

Larry was involved with farming most of his life except for some time spent coal mining. He purchased an ultra-light aircraft in the 1980's to scare blackbirds away from sunflowers and in doing so discovered his passion for flying. This eventually grew into his own ag aviation operation that served hundreds of farmers near Carrington, ND.

Besides flying, Larry loved spending time on the beach in the Gulf of Mexico collecting seashells with his family, growing crops, and visiting with his customers. He also enjoyed skiing, snowmobiling, riding motorcycles, and boating. He was a member of the ND

Agricultural Aviation Association and squadron member of the Civil Air Patrol for several years.

Larry has survived by his wife, six daughters, nine grandchildren, sisters, a brother, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. His visitation was held on September 22, 2023, followed by his funeral in Sykeston, ND, on September 23. Click [here](#) to read Larry's full obituary and offer online condolences to his family.

## Aerial Application Represents at Mississippi Commemorative Air Force Event

This past weekend, the Mississippi Wing of the Commemorative Air Force hosted a [Hangar Hangover](#) event in Madison, MS. The event hosts a wide range of aircraft and cars for spectators to view, including fully restored aircraft from the World War II era.

An exciting addition this year was aerial application aircraft on display with the Snow S-2, an Air Tractor 502 and a couple of Stearmans. Attendees were able to view the AT-502 and Snow S-2 side-by-side to see the evolution of the aircraft.

John Byrd, pilot of Dixie Dusters in Itta Bena, MS, displayed an Air Tractor 502. Baylor Bryant, operator of Valley Air Applicators in Indianola, MS flew in and displayed the Snow S-2. Stearmans were flown in and displayed by Pete Jones of Air Repair in Cleveland, MS and Richard Davidson, operator of Southland Flying Service in Tchula, MS.

Many other general aviation aircraft were on display, including T-6 Texan, Beech 10, a C-47 and DC-3. The event organizers target young children through teenage years to bring awareness about aviation and aerospace training as a future career.

If you're hosting or exhibiting at a similar event in the future, don't forget to share [NAAA's Career webpage](#), which is chocked full of information, such as flight schools and scholarship opportunities.

## AD Amended for Continental Engines Oil Filter Adapter Gasket

The FAA has issued [Airworthiness Directive \(AD\) 2023-17-04](#) (superseding AD 2022-04-04) which requires replacing the oil filter adapter gasket on certain Continental Aerospace Technologies Inc. engines.

NAAA reported on this in [September 2022](#) and [June 2023](#) when the FAA initially proposed applicability changes to AD 2022-04-04, expanded replacement gasket part numbers and later updated the applicability once again.

This AD affects certain Continental Model C-125, C145, IO-360, IO-470, IO-550, O-300, O-470, TSIO-360, and TSIO-520 series engines and certain Continental Motors IO-520 series engines with a certain oil filter adapter installed. On affected engines, this AD requires replacement of the oil filter adapter fiber gasket with a copper or stainless-steel PTFE gasket.

This AD is effective October 23, 2023 – [View the AD](#) to check applicability details.

## Thank You, NAAA Ag Aviation Expo Sponsors! Attendees, Register Today!

[Attendee registration](#) and [booth sales](#) are open! NAAA sincerely appreciates the companies that support NAAA and the agricultural aviation industry by sponsoring the [2023 Ag Aviation Expo](#) in Palm Springs, California, Dec. 4-7. We have been fortunate over the years to be able to count on many of our Allied Industry members to sponsor a convention program, activity or item that benefits attendees. We appreciate them taking advantage of the opportunity to reach thousands of potential customers in the agricultural aviation industry. More opportunities to participate in the auction and to sponsor are listed below.

Sponsoring companies help ensure the success of our annual Ag Aviation Expo, and we still have many opportunities [available](#)! Seventy-five percent of attendees surveyed in a post-convention survey stated they would be "very likely" to use the products and services of a company that sponsors the NAAA Ag Aviation Expo.

Thank you to our 2023 Ag Aviation Expo sponsors:

- **Diamond Sponsors:** BASF, Pratt & Whitney Canada, Syngenta, UPL North America
- **Platinum Sponsor:** Transland
- **Gold Sponsors:** AG-NAV, AgriSmart Information Systems/Flight Plan Online, Air Tractor, Covington Aircraft, Bayer CropScience, GarrCo Products, Insero, Old Republic Aerospace, Starr Insurance Companies
- **Silver Sponsors:** Aeris Insurance Solutions, AgAir Update, AIG, AssuredPartners, CapstanAG, Chuck Holzwarth Flying Service, Davidson Solid Rock Insurance, FMC, Kimmel Aviation Insurance Agency, Lane Aviation, North Star Aviation Inc., Perfect Flight App, Rotorcraft Repair & Manufacturing, Southeastern Aircraft Sales & Service, Star-Flex, Turbine Conversions, US Specialty Insurance Company/Tokio Marine HCC
- **Bronze Sponsors:** Chem-Man by DataSmart, Praxidyn

We know that sponsoring companies have the opportunity to support many organizations, and we appreciate their support of NAAA! We still have sponsorships available for this year's Ag Aviation Expo. Learn more about sponsorship [here](#) or contact [Lindsay Barber](#) at (202) 546-5722.

## Details for the 2023 Ag Aviation Expo

- **Dates:** Dec. 4-7, 2023
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- **Exhibitor Booth Sales:** Booth Sales Open [here](#).
- **Sponsorship Opportunities:** View the sponsorships opportunities [here](#). We have sponsorships available for all budget sizes. Please email [Lindsay](#) if you would like to secure a sponsorship from last year or be contacted about 2023 opportunities!
- **Auction Donations:** Thank you to Pratt & Whitney Canada for donating a PT6-34AG to this year's NAAA Live Auction. Please consider [making a donation](#) for the Live and Silent Auction. The earlier you inform us of your auction donation, the more advertising you will receive on the NAAA website and in NAAA publications. Support the aerial application industry by donating an item today. Email [Lauren](#) with your donation details.

## Important Call for GPS Data to Protect Manned Ag Aircraft from Drones

In 2022, an FAA advisory committee weighted with drone interests from Amazon, Google and other unmanned corporate interests suggested that the agency promulgate rules that drones operating beyond visual line of sight be permitted to:

- Increase their weight to 1,320 pounds
- Not equip with ADS-B identification technology
- Not give the right of way to manned aircraft when operating in rural, low-altitude airspace because they claimed there are no other users of this airspace.

As an ag aviator, you know these requests to be patently unsafe and based on false premises. As such, we call on you to help us collect information on ag aircraft's use of the low-altitude airspace. NAAA is working with and supports Mississippi State University's (MSU) Raspet Flight Research Laboratory and its continuing research on safe operational distances between low-altitude, manned aircraft and drones. The study's objectives are to:

1. Identify Ag Aircraft Operational Trends
2. Develop Ag Aircraft Operational Model
3. Validate Model through Observation/Collection of Empirical Data
4. Inform/Educate UAS Operators
5. Promote Safety in all Low-Altitude Ag Environments

**Your voluntary participation in this study is critical** to achieving these objectives. NAAA encourages you to donate your GPS flight log data to participate in this timely research. Logs from any year(s) are welcome and will be washed of any identifying information prior to use.

Many of you have previously contributed during the first stage of data collection from 2017 to 2020 when NAAA members donated 49,180 flight logs from 20 states. The second stage of the study began in 2021 and seeks to additionally include aircraft make and model info. These details are important, as the airspace modeling will be impacted by aircraft types differently, such as fixed-wing versus helicopter operations.

More GPS flight log data is needed to continue this study. Because of the diverse growing areas and unique geographical challenges experienced by aerial applicators, it is imperative that as many states and regions as possible are represented. This will ultimately help facilitate the safe integration of unmanned aircraft into these different airspaces.

As a reminder, NAAA and Raspet have agreed that all submitted information will remain confidential, and all GPS flight logs will be stripped of any personally identifying information before any research is conducted using the data.

There are several methods available to submit your data:

1. Request a secure upload link for larger uploads OR email directly to Madison Dixon, Research Director.  
**Email:** [mdixon@raspet.msstate.edu](mailto:mdixon@raspet.msstate.edu)
2. Mail a flash drive or other storage device to the address below. (The device will be immediately mailed back once data is received if a return address is provided):

**Address:**

Attn: Madison Dixon  
Raspet Flight Research Lab – Bldg. 2  
114 Airport Rd.  
Starkville, MS 39759