

BRAINERD LAKES REGIONAL AIRPORT

NEWSLETTER

Construction Activity

Various construction activities were performed this fall related to Runway 5/23, including cleaning and resealing of joints, bituminous patch repair, and marking removal and repainting. This work will preserve the life of the pavement for years to come. Along with the work performed on the runway, BRD was able to have a long-awaited inbound destination sign installed on Taxiway A to help guide pilots to the terminal and NorthPoint Aviation.

BRD commissioned two new 63' x 65' hangars. These new hangars each feature their own airside parking lots, garage door, and a 64' x 22.5' bi-fold hangar door. The airport has a variety of hangar options and sizes available for lease. Please call (218) 825-2166, email info@BrainerdAirport.com, or stop by Airport Administration Suite 5 for more information on leasing a hangar.

Crack sealing was performed within the general aviation t-hangar area this summer. Crack sealing prevents the intrusion of water into cracks, growth of cracks, and further deterioration of the pavement. Crack sealing is a preventative maintenance project BRD aims to accomplish on an annual basis with prioritization of areas that need it most.

Airport Awards

Since the debut of the airport's new Aircraft Rescue Firefighting and Snow Removal Equipment Facility, the building has received two prestigious awards, which include:

- Advanced Builders and Contractor's Excellence in Construction Eagle Award
- Minnesota Council of Airport's Commercial Service Airport Project of the Year Award



Annual airfield painting concluded in September in coordination with MnDOT Aeronautics and the painting contractor. This project also involved removal of thick paint buildup on Taxiway A. As paint is layered on, paint does not adhere as easily and airport plows slowing start to chip it away, causing foreign object debris on the airfield. BRD is grateful MnDOT Aeronautics has recognized this issue and offered assistance in water-blasting markings with excessive buildup prior to annual painting.

Rumor has it.....

Taxiway A2 was Removed!

This is TRUE!

Taxiway A2 has long been in BRD's Airport Layout Plan for removal due to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) runway incursion concerns potentially caused by the direct access and short distance from the ramp to the runway. The taxiway was successfully excavated, regraded and reseeded in October. Runway 5/23 no longer has four turnoffs; thus, taxiway guidance and designations signs were relocated as part of the project. The latest version depicting this change was published in the FAA's Airport Facility Directory in December.



2024 Full-Scale Exercise

All commercial service airports are required to conduct a full-scale emergency exercise every three years. This requirement helps ensure the airport's emergency plan capability is adequate, addresses any operational changes, and identifies areas of improvement. BRD conducted an exercise in September indicative of the commercial aircraft it serves with over 20 participating entities ranging from volunteer organizations, local media, and tasked local, state, and federal mutual aid agencies. Overall, the exercise was a success, with communication and triage being the focus of improvement. The airport's next full-scale exercise will be held in September of 2027.

BRD BADGING

In coordination with the Transportation Security Administration, the Brainerd Lakes Regional Airport has updated its security policies and procedures.



Individuals needing access to the airfield must be escorted or have BRD issued badge identification media.

Please call (218) 825-2166, email info@brainerdairport.com, or stop by Airport Administration Suite #5 to arrange a badging appointment with airport staff.



EVENTS

Community involvement has been a long-focused interest for BRD. The airport participated in various events in 2024 including school tours, Brainerd Fire Department's Open House, Trunk or Treat hosted by the Northern Pacific Center, and the American Legion's Community Thanksgiving Meal. Events hosted at the airport in 2024 included EAA Local Chapter 1610 events, Business After Hours hosted by NorthPoint Aviation and Wing's Café, the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award Ceremony for long time BRD tenant Doug Mansfield, and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) "Lifesaver" honor ceremony for DNR Pilot Grace Zeller. For interest in educational tours or presentations, airport involvement in an event, or hosting of community events at the airport, call (218) 8252-2166, email info@brainerdairport.com or stop by Airport Administration Suite #5 to make arrangements with staff.



DID YOU KNOW??

Sun Country offers seasonal direct flights to Laughlin, NV, Riverside Resort and casino from BRD aboard a 737-800 jet aircraft. Once arriving at Laughlin/Bullhead City International Airport, the resort will be there to pick you up for some much-needed rest and relaxation. Flights book up quickly so don't wait! For more information or to book a flight, please visit Riverside Resort's Website.



Happenings at General Aviation

- Fully transitioned Soloy Aviation Solutions from its original location in Olympia, Washington to Brainerd, MN
- Cessna Aircraft and Cirrus Aircraft Approved Service Center
- Full Avionics modification facility – Garmin Dealer
- Held the Business After Hours event with Wings Café in September that had quite a gathering of around 120 people
- XP470 engine upgrade for Cessna 180 and 182's has been getting popular in the industry again leading to increased sales
- Added a 5,000-gallon Jet Fuel truck to assist with larger aircraft fueling
- Added a hoist capable of lifting 6,000 lb. aircraft for float installation/removals
- Expanded maintenance capabilities to work on aircraft up to 12,500 lbs

AVIATION STUDENTS IN BRAINERD!!



Inspiring the Next Generation

In early 2024, BRD Airport Administration, Northpoint staff, and Brainerd High School partnered to begin offering a full-semester, job shadowing opportunity to Brainerd High School students, one student at a time. February through May, two hours daily, Isabell Ploof, a high school student junior, shadowed the airport deputy director, as well as NorthPoint Aviation mechanics, line staff, and aircraft sales staff. During this time, she was immersed in everything it takes to operate an airport and FBO, from maintaining Part 139 compliance to fueling aircraft. Another student will have the opportunity to shadow in the same fashion beginning in February of 2025.

Brainerd High School aviation classes continue to be an important part of the elective classes offered to students. Flight instructor Tom Koop is teaching his 10th consecutive year of aviation elective classes. Offered in the fall semester, Fundamentals of Aviation, teaches students processes and procedures required to become a pilot. Aviation media is studied to learn aviation concepts and career opportunities are explored through learning from guest speakers representing airlines, college flight schools, air traffic controllers, military pilots, law enforcement pilots, and more. Private Pilot Ground School is offered in the spring semester and is designed to prepare students to take the FAA written private pilot exam at the end of the semester. More than 150 students have received aviation-related education and exposure by registering for this class over the last 10 years with many more to come.

Learn & Fly 

Success Stories:

Congratulations to the following Students of Tom Koop:

Ella Ostrowski passed her private pilot check ride in June, just 3 days before departing for the U.S. Naval Academy, private pilot certificate in hand. Ella had been the 2023 recipient of the Aitkin Chapter of EAA's Ray Scholarship of \$11,000 towards private pilot training. Ella's goal is to fly Navy fighter jets from aircraft carriers.

Jennifer Walinowicz became a certified flight instructor, a huge step in her flying pursuits. Jennifer is a lead flight attendant with United Airlines and has now completed her private pilot, instrument rating, commercial pilot, and is now a flight instructor at NorthPoint Aviation.

Kristoffer Koop earned his single engine commercial pilot license in August and intends to complete his multi-engine commercial certificate in the spring of 2025.

Truman Dirks, an employee at NorthPoint Aviation, earned his private pilot certificate just one week before beginning the professional pilot program at the University of North Dakota. Truman has his sights set on an airline career.

Emma Storm passed her private pilot check ride in late October and is now a student at Minnesota State University, Mankato's professional pilot program. Emma intends to be an airline pilot.

Brandon Eberts was awarded the 2024 EAA Ray Scholarship from the Brainerd Chapter of EAA, providing \$11,000 towards his pilot training. Brandon completed his private pilot license in late October and plans to pursue a career in aerospace engineering.

Levi Loken, an employee at NorthPoint Aviation, passed his private pilot check ride in late October and will be training for his tailwheel endorsement and instrument rating going forward. He hopes to become a corporate pilot and intends to pursue his professional pilot training at NorthPoint Aviation.

Congratulations to the following Students of Chase Hardonclark:

Sam Hardonclark earned his private pilot license in just a few short months. The FAA requires at least 40 hours of flight time to earn a private pilot's license, of which Sam accomplished in only 41 hours. Sam is now chasing his Instrument Flight Rating and Commercial License at Minnesota State University in Mankato.

Jeff Essig, owner of Clean N' Seal, purchased a Skylane C182, a high-performance aircraft, and achieved his private pilot's license for business and pleasure. He is now pursuing his Instrument Flight Rating.

Christopher Tangen achieved his private pilot's license and is now enjoying time in the sky with his family after purchasing his own aircraft.

Steven Selisker, family member of an owner of NorthPoint Aviation and private pilot, was signed off to take his Instrument Flight Rating and Commercial Certificate. He's now aiming for further ratings in Broomfield Colorado.

Joslyn Wyatt, at only age 15, is preparing to take her first solo on her 16th birthday.

Richard Browne, a commercial airline pilot for a Japanese airline from South Africa with over 10,000 flight hours, came all the way to BRD to achieve his Single Engine Commercial Certificate at NorthPoint Aviation. He plans to revisit once again to achieve his Certified Flight Instructor Certificate. An article was featured about Richard's flight training experience at NorthPoint Aviation in Global Aviator.



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