

2026 Great Alaska Aviation Gathering Seminar Speaker Schedule

Seminars hosted by the **Alaskan Aviation Safety Foundation** (CAO 22 Apr 2026)

Saturday, May 2nd

<i>Time</i>	<i>Hoskins Hall</i>
10:00 - 10:50	<p>New Product Updates - Mini Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits of SureFly Electronic Ignition, Jason Hutchison, SureFly Partners, Ltd. • Updates to Alaska Aviation Weather Unit (AAWU) Charts, David Kochevar NWS • Hangar, Hangar Homes, and Runway Access with Alaska Aviation Real Estate Expert Stewart Smith, Stewart Smith, SSS Commercial Real Estate <p>Qualifies for a ½ hr of Basic Risk Management WINGS Credit</p>
11:00 - 11:50	<p>Lycoming Engines EIS Technical Overview <i>Judson Rupert, Fellow Engineer, Lycoming Engines</i></p> <p>The Lycoming Electronic Ignition System (EIS) is a drop in magneto replacement for certified and non-certified Lycoming engines. This presentation covers the technical specification and shows a pilot or mechanic how to install and operate the EIS on a Lycoming Engine.</p> <p>Qualifies for 1 hr of AMT Credit</p>
12:00 - 12:50	<p>The Don Young Alaska Aviation Safety Initiative <i>Erik Amend, Acting FAA Alaska Regional Administrator</i></p> <p>The Don Young Alaska Aviation Safety Initiative aims to reduce accidents and improve aviation safety in Alaska. Over the next few years, upgrades and expansion of aviation infrastructure is planned across Alaska. The FAA is working with Alaska industry partners to evaluate needs and propose solutions. This presentation will provide an introduction to the initiative, and an overview of the improvements planned to start as early as this summer.</p> <p>Qualifies for 1 hr of Advanced Risk Management WINGS Credit</p>
13:00 - 13:50	<p>AOPA Update- Fight For Your Freedom to Fly! <i>Mike Ginter, Senior Vice President AOPA Air Safety Institute</i></p> <p>AOPA is on the front lines of protecting your freedom to fly from the Capitol in Washington, DC and across all 50 states. Attend this update on the state of General Aviation in America, provided by Mike Ginter, Senior Vice President of the AOPA Air Safety Institute.</p> <p>Qualifies for 1 hr of Basic Elective WINGS Credit</p>
14:00 - 14:50	<p>Top Advocacy Issues Facing Alaska- See the GAAG website for all seminar details https://www.alaskaairmen.org/seminars</p>
15:00 - 15:50	<p>See the GAAG website for all details about this presentation https://www.alaskaairmen.org/seminars</p>

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Sunday, May 3rd

<i>Time</i>	<i>Hoskins Hall</i>
11:00 - 11:50	<p>New Product Updates - Mini Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Star-Batt Mini-solution for your Starlink® Mini, Chris Carlberg, Star-Batt & Batteries Plus Alaska • LIDAR and Radar Altimeters, Sean Sherman, Owner, Skeeter Enterprises LLC • Converting the Cessna 206 to Turbine Power: TCL's Akadi C206 for Alaskan Missions, Ann Hatfield-Grahek, Turbine Conversions, Ltd. • Dynon Avionics for Experimental and Certified Aircraft, Kyle George, Sales and Production Manager, Dynon Avionics <p>Qualifies for 1 hr of Basic Elective WINGS Credit</p>
12:00 - 12:50	<p>You're Not as Good as You Think: A Case for Deliberate Airmanship <i>Steve Johnson, Supercub.org</i></p> <p>Most pilots don't crash because of bad luck. This presentation challenges the idea that experience alone equals proficiency and examines how complacency, normalized risk, and undeliberate flying quietly erode safety. Drawing from personal experience, accident trends, and thousands of hours of instruction, this talk makes a practical case for deliberate airmanship.</p> <p>Qualifies for 1 hr of Master Risk Management WINGS Credit</p>
13:00 - 13:50	<p>Updates to Alaska Aviation Weather Unit (AAWU) Charts <i>Prince Dalal, Meteorologist, National Weather Service Alaska Aviation Weather Unit and Anchorage Volcanic Ash Advisory Center</i></p> <p>The AAWU has made updates recently to their website, including an overhaul of their Surface Weather Charts this Spring, in this talk Prince will describe the updates, the motivation for them, and how to access the latest charts.</p> <p>Qualifies for 1 hr of Basic Risk Management WINGS Credit</p>
14:00 - 14:50	<p>General Aviation Safety in Alaska and Nationwide <i>Mike Ginter, Senior Vice President, AOPA Air Safety Foundation</i></p> <p>General Aviation safety has drastically improved over the last 35 years. The last five years have set new records as we suffer fewer accidents while flying more than ever. Join this update with Mike Ginter, Senior Vice President of the AOPA Air Safety Institute, to get the latest on safety stats in Alaska and nationwide. The Air Safety Institute has been driving the GA accident rate down for over 75 years, but we have more work to do.</p> <p>Qualifies for 1 hr of Advanced Risk Management WINGS Credit</p>

	Sunday, May 3rd
15:00 - 15:50	<p>Decision Before Skill: Stewardship, Safety, and Etiquette in Alaska's Backcountry <i>Stef Goza, Alaska State Liaison, Recreational Aviation Foundation</i></p> <p>Flying in Alaska offers a level of freedom and access that is rare anywhere else. From remote strips to off-airport landings, much of what we do depends not only on skill, but on sound judgment, respect for the land, and a strong culture within the aviation community. Presented on behalf of the Recreational Aviation Foundation, this session explores how pilot decision-making, mentorship, and backcountry etiquette help support safe operations and maintain the trust that allows continued access to remote airstrips and landing areas in the backcountry. Topics will include common human-factor traps, risk patterns seen in Alaska flying, and the role individual pilots play in representing aviation when operating on shared public lands.</p> <p>This is not an instructional session, but a discussion about judgment, responsibility, and the pilot culture that helps keep Alaska flying safe, respectful, and sustainable for future generations.</p> <p>Qualifies for 1 hr of Master Airport Operations WINGS Credit</p>