

## RAF Developing Backcountry Airstrips - Mike Purpura - Chicago 99s Aviation Expo 2026

### Event Details

This seminar will discuss backcountry aviation. How new airstrips are developed and managed. Operating from these strips can be challenging due to runway conditions, terrain, wildlife, displaced thresholds, and limited space for ground operations. The RAF will provide an overview of how these strips come into existence and how to use various resources to make sure you have the most up-to-date information about these airstrips.

**Sat, Jan 31, 2026 at 11:00 CST**

**Hilton Chicago/Northbrook**

2855 Milwaukee Ave

Northbrook, IL



**Contact: Michael Baraz**

**(630) 781-8890**

After the Navy, **Mike Purpura** built a land-brokerage career, bought a Cessna 170B to reach remote ranches, and found aviation was the real game changer. He has flown his 170B throughout the U.S. and as far north as Tuktoyuktuk, NWT, Canada. He is a rated glider pilot, a board member of Windy City Soaring Association, and a member of AOPA and the Illinois Pilots Association

**Michael@Baraz.us**  
**Select #: GL03141094**  
**Lead Representative MICHAEL**  
**BARAZ n/a**

The Hilton Chicago/Northbrook is located south of Palatine Road (Willow Road) on the east side of Milwaukee Avenue.

#### **A message from the National FAASTeam Manager**

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