

The Aero Center

# RUN-UP

Bismarck Aero Center & Mandan Aero Center

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# CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT

Featuring Jeff Faught



Our customer spotlight this issue is on local pilot Jeff Faught, who works for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department out of Bismarck, ND. He is also a great advocate for aviation and aviation education in our community. Every year, he contributes a lot of his time to local fly-ins and the Bismarck Aviation Career Day, in hopes to inspire the next generation of aviators.

*Q: What drew you to aviation?*

I grew up on a farm and I would stop and look at every airplane flying over as a kid. I went to mechanic school and then got into the agriculture business as a mechanic. I focused on maintenance over my summers and had a float plane that I gave rides on.

*Q: What is your official job title?*

I am a North Dakota Game and Fish Department Wildlife Division Pilot.

*Q: What is the best part of your job?*

I work on whatever project the Department needs me on. This often includes survey studies, boat ramp surveys when the ice is going out, and some special projects for the Game Wardens. What I really enjoy though, is flying at low levels all over the state and looking at wildlife. Looking at our state's mule deer, ducks, geese, elk, mountain lions, eagles, pronghorn and more!

*Q: How has your experience been with the Aviation Career Day for Bismarck 5th graders?*

Aviation Career Day has been a great experience for me. I've been helping out with career days previous to its' inception in Bismarck. I was attending some in Fargo back in the 90's. I think these are great ways for young people to get a little taste of aviation. Even though public education isn't the biggest part of my job, I have attended a lot of career days, wildlife clubs, and done interviews for wildlife TV programs.

*Q: What advice would you give someone looking at a career in Aviation?*

If someone was looking at a similar role as what I do, I would recommend attending a collegiate program for National Resource Aviation. It is the best way to learn a lot and get started in the right direction. For someone looking for any kind of career in aviation, I would tell them to start with a Young Eagles ride. The Mandan EAA chapter gives them to students, ages 8-17, for no charge. Then get to know someone that flies and ask A LOT of questions. Its the best way to learn and get to know folks around the airport.

*Photos above: Jeff and his American Champion Scout aircraft  
Photo below: Jeff with students at Aviation Career Day*





# New Faces



## **KYLE O'BRIEN** Flightline Technician I

Kyle joins BAC with a reputation of having a great work ethic and is ready to learn more about our industry. Kyle was inspired to learn more about aviation during his high school courses at the Bismarck Career Academy. Since high school, Kyle has enlisted in the North Dakota National Guard where his MOS is Military Police. Recently, Kyle was at Strata Corporation, where he was working on the road six days per week. He is excited to settle into a job where he can get back to a better work life balance and explore career opportunities in aviation.

## **LOGAN MORRISON** Jr. Flightline Technician – Part Time

Logan joins BAC as he is wrapping up his senior year at Legacy High School. Logan's first exposure to BAC was earlier in the year, when he job shadowed in the FBO and maintenance departments. He left a positive impression with everyone at BAC during his job shadow. Logan intends to attend Northland Community Technical College in the fall of 2022 to pursue his Airframe and Powerplant License. We are excited to help Logan get a jump start into his aviation career.

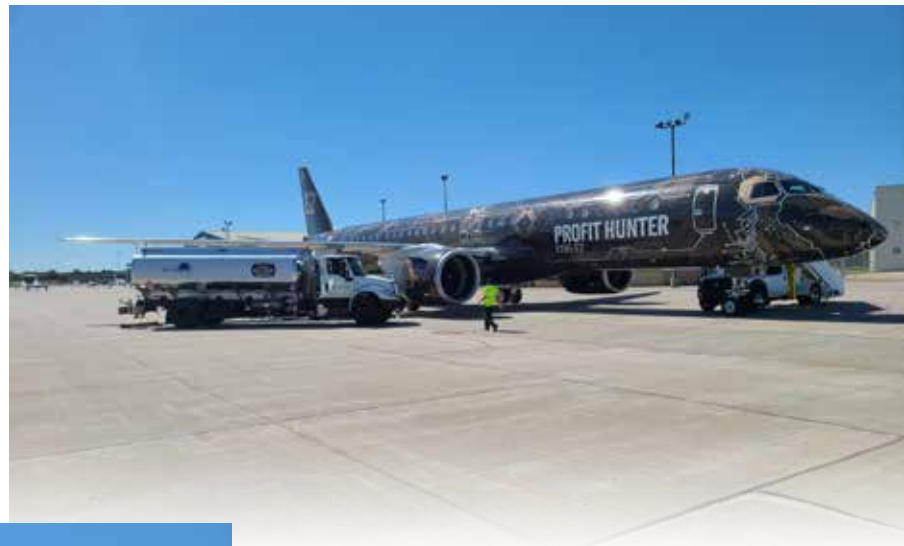


## **SPOTTED ON THE RAMP:**

*Embraer 195-E2*



*BAC is proud to be an Air Elite FBO & provide great service to all our customers.*



This brand new beauty stopped through KBIS one windy fall day. "The Profit Hunter" is a Embraer 195-E2, with a range of 2,600 nautical miles and a max take off weight of 135,585 lbs! This was just a proto-type, but don't be surprised if you start seeing this aircraft flying around in the coming years.

# PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

## Garmin Adds GFCTM 500 for Cessna 182 A-D Yaw Damp Available for Fixed-Gear Cessna 182C-T Models

Garmin recently announced they received FAA STC for the GFC 500 autopilot in additional Cessna 182 series aircraft. This approval adds the Cessna 182, 182A, 182B, 182C, and 182D models to the already approved Cessna 182E through T models.

Some of the highlights of the Garmin GFC 500 autopilot include:

- Cost-effective, precise and smooth in-flight characteristics, built-in self-monitoring capabilities and lower cost of ownership when compared to older autopilot systems
- Designed for light piston, fixed-wing aircraft, GFC 500 is now available for a growing list of aircraft models
- Leverages certificated flight instruments such as the G51 and GI 2751 for attitude reference, and optionally flight displays such as the G3X Touch or G500 TXi2 for display of autopilot modes and flight director cues.
- Robust feature set, including safety features such

as underspeed and overspeed protection, a dedicated return-to-level (LVL) mode button, Garmin ESP™ (Electronic Stability and Protection), Flight Director (FD), coupled approaches and missed approaches when paired with a compatible navigator

- Offers 2-axis (pitch and roll) capabilities with optional pitch-trim; yaw damper optionally available on select aircraft



If you are interested in learning more about the new GFC 500 technology, call me at 701.223.4754 or email me at [Krish@bismarckaero.com](mailto:Krish@bismarckaero.com).

*The Tech Guy, Kris*

## GET TO KNOW YOUR TECH

### George Pfaltzgraff, A&P Maintenance Technician

*Full-Time Mandan Aero Center employee for almost two years*

*Q: Where did you get your start in aviation?*

Growing up in Wisconsin, I went to fly-ins a lot with my family and got really into airplanes. Then, I started working on my private pilot license in 2005, when I was just 14 years old. I earned my license when I was 19. Currently, I am working on my instrument rating and really have just a cross country trip left.

*Q: What encouraged you to obtain your A&P recently?*

I wanted to have a career in aviation and actually moved to North Dakota for apprenticeship opportunities. First to Beulah and then to Bismarck for the apprentice program with Mandan Aero Center. It's a good company and was a very good opportunity for me. I finished my apprenticeship in September and in October, I went to Tennessee to earn my A&P license.

*Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?*

I love fixing airplanes and working on a variety of different models. I also really like my coworkers; everyone I work with are good people to be around. I'm really looking forward to my career advancing in the next few years at MAC!



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

We wish all of our Bismarck Aero Center and Mandan Aero Center family and friends a healthy and joyful holiday season and a fulfilling 2022!



In September, BAC hosted the Annual Bismarck Fly-in & Drive-in pancake breakfast. The weather and turnout was great!



In October, MAC hosted the 5th Annual Props and Hops Fundraiser. The selection committee elected to show appreciation to our area's local Aircraft Technicians. \$12,000 was raised during the event!



# Upcoming Events



<b>17-21 JAN</b>	Schedulers and Dispatchers (San Diego, CA)
<b>6-8 MAR</b>	Fly-ND Conference (Fargo, ND)
<b>11 MAY</b>	Aviation Career Day (Bismarck, ND)

We recommend confirming upcoming events with local airports or organizers.

## COME FLY WITH US *Flight Instruction Tip*

You wouldn't let a backseat driver dictate how you drive, so don't let a backseat flyer dictate how you fly.

Often, our non-aviator passengers do not fully understand the risks that are associated with certain types of flying. Their desire to make the flight happen can influence our Go/No-Go decision, despite our better judgement. Passengers generally expect air travel to be akin to a car ride and can be disappointed when a flight gets cancelled for unfavorable weather conditions or maintenance issues. It is our job as the pilot-in-command to be able to make those safe decisions regardless of cognitive stressors.

External pressures are felt by both new and old (well, at least more experienced) pilots alike. Whether it is a crucial business meeting or a long-awaited trip to Red Pepper restaurant in Grand Forks, all pilots will experience a sense of "get-there-itis" at some point. These pressures can push pilots to the edge of their comfort

zone and compel them to fly with unnecessary risks. Successfully managing external pressures is vital. External pressures often lead us to ignore other hazardous factors, beginning a chain of poor decisions.

Fortunately, there are simple techniques pilots can implement to lessen the stress associated with these pressures. One of the most effective strategies is to create a list of personal minimums based on experience level and proficiency. When these minimums are written down and followed, it makes it easier to make a definitive No-Go call on flights that push our individual boundaries. These personal minimums should be fluid and often be updated with increased competence. A great way to increase our skillset is to fly with more experienced pilots in unfamiliar situations. The greater variety of conditions we expose ourselves to, the more confident we become in the cockpit. Know your limitations and remember; you are the pilot-in-command.

*Happy Flying! -Clint*

*Interested in flight instruction at BAC?  
Contact Clint: 701-223-4754 or  
clintm@bismarckaero.com*



# Congrats!



## **GEORGE PFALTZGRAFF** A&P Maintenance Technician

Congratulations to George! Recently, George met the FAA requirements of documenting on the job training to become a licensed A&P Maintenance Technician. George took it upon himself to take two weeks off from work and attend an accelerated study course that helped him prepare and pass the FAA required oral and written exams. At the end of his two weeks, George returned to BAC with his FAA-issued Airframe and Power-plant License. Congratulations to George on his promotion from apprentice to licensed A&P Maintenance Technician!

## **CLINT MAY** Certified Flight Instructor – Full Time

Clint has accepted the position as full-time Lead CFI at BAC. This is a natural transition for both BAC and Clint as he has been working part-time with Ray for the past 15 months. Clint is no stranger to this role, as he was the Manager of a part 141 flight school where he assigned students, supervised CFI's, ensured adherence to FAA regulations, and worked directly with several students as a CFI himself. During his tenure as Manager, Clint developed a reputation as a fair supervisor and an excellent CFI. This spring, Clint, and his wife Abre purchased a home in south Bismarck where they are raising their two boys, Elliot and Griffin. Clint is also a U.S. Army Veteran and recently completed his Masters of Business Administration.



*Clint May and Ray Brooks*

## MAINTENANCE CORNER

Have you been thinking about buying a new plane, or perhaps selling yours and upgrading to something else?

You are not alone if you answered yes to that question, as the used aircraft market has exploded recently. At Bismarck Aero Center, there have been more requests for pre-buy inspections in the past few months than the past few years combined. We strongly recommend pre-buy inspections, as we have heard (and seen for ourselves) many horror stories about pre-buys not being done and having major issues with the aircraft after the sale has gone through.

We recommend doing a two-stage pre-buy on a plane that you are not familiar with. In the first stage,

we recommend looking at critical parts, such as landing gear components and engine compressions. If everything looks good in the first stage, then we recommend moving into a second stage inspection, which can be as extensive as an annual inspection and can save you money if you decide to turn it into an annual inspection.

If the aircraft is out of the area and you have your choice of shops to perform the inspection, we recommend picking an independent shop that has not seen or worked on the airplane in the past. If you have any questions on the subject, please give us a call, as having a pre-buy inspection performed could save you a lot of money and headaches.

*- Erik Peterson, Lead Maintenance Technician*



## Do you know your **TRIVIA?**

The holidays are here, and many people are traveling across the country this year to visit family and friends! How many travelers did the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) estimate would be screened at airports over Thanksgiving weekend 2021?

- A. 15 million
- B. 20 million
- C. 37 million
- D. 53 million

Submit your answer by 12/13 for a chance to win a \$25 gift card! Contact Shae at [shaeh@bismarckaero.com](mailto:shaeh@bismarckaero.com) or message us on our Facebook page.

*The answer to our previous question is B. National Aviation Day was first celebrated on August 19, 1939, on the anniversary of Orville Wright's birthday. Congratulations to Rodger Haugen for being this quarter's lucky winner!*

Keep up to date with events, aviation news & cool aircraft! Follow us at:

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