



Periodical



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Customer Spotlight Darrel Pittman

This quarter's Customer Spotlight is on life-long aviator Darrel Pittman.

At young ages, most all kids are interested in airplanes. From the young age of 5, Darrel was not only very interested in planes and aviation, but he could even start identifying aircraft as they flew over. From that point, his love for aircraft and flying never faded.

When Darrel got older, it was no surprise that he found himself working in an aviation career. He first started out with the Air Traffic Control in the Air Force back in 1955 then moved to Oakland Center, CA to work for the FAA as an Air Traffic Controller. In 1997, Darrel found his way to Minot, ND and finished out the remaining 9 years of his astounding 51 year career as an Air Traffic Controller. When talking about his ATC career, he mentions there were a lot of good times and a few really tragic times. He would never forget his opportunity to work with the Thunderbirds (flying F-100's at the time) and being a part of the famous DB Cooper hijacking of a Boeing 727 on November 24th 1971. After finally calling it quits in the ATC business in 2006, Darrel decided to stay involved in aviation by going to work for the Civil Air Patrol and worked his way up to Vice Wing Commander as a Lt. Col.



When learning to flying, Darrel really lucked out. He learned in Oakland Center from a friend looking to stay current, in a Yankee Trainer 1 that needed to build hours. With instruction and aircraft rental covered, his only expense was paying \$.65 a gallon for fuel. From that point, Darrel owned or had part ownership in multiple Cessna 172's, a 1966 Cherokee 235 and one "sweet flying" Piper Comanche 250. Since getting his license, he has been able to accumulate about 3,000 hours. Darrel gives a lot of credit for abilities and successes over the years to some of his closest friends including Russ Bracken, Steve Vivian, Fred Adams, Kent & Warren Pietsch, Bob Simmers and Mike Aarestad.

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Events you need to know about!

4th Annual Aviation Poker Run

Coming up **May 9th**, Mandan Aero Center will be hosting the 4th Annual Aviation Poker Run at the Mandan Municipal Airport. It is \$15 per person to participate and lunch is included. The rules are simple. Pick up a ticket from three participating ND airports and arrive in Mandan before 12pm. If you have the best hand, you are the winner of the \$300 grand prize! Other prizes will be given away, including 2 ForeFlight Subscriptions. All proceeds from this event goes to support Relay for Life and the fight against cancer.

Participating airports include: Bismarck, Carrington, Devils Lake, Dickinson, Fargo, Garrison, Glen Ullin, Harvey, Hazelton, Hazen, Jamestown, Linton, Minot, Napoleon, Richardton, Riverdale, Valley City Washburn, Watford City and Williston.

Planes & Pancakes Fly-in

June 7th, The Mandan EAA Chapter #1008 is hosting a pancake breakfast at the Mandan Municipal Airport from 8-11:30am. Airplane and Helicopter rides will be available as well as other fun activities. After breakfast, transportation will be provided, upon request, to downtown Mandan for the Buggies-N-Blues!

For more information: go to www.mandanairport.com or call 701.663.0669



Since retiring from the Civil Air Patrol in 2014, Darrel keeps himself busy with his involvement in the Mandan EAA Chapter 1008, ND Pilot Association, ND Aviation Council, his own private aviation consulting and Buckstop Junction, where he is currently working to have the old Capitol Aviation Hangar transformed into a museum to honor the late Bob Watts.



When asked what advice he would give a young person looking at aviation as a career, he says “just get involved in some fashion. I have always thought aviation is one of the best industries there ever was. I know I wouldn’t have done anything different.”

If you are interested in learning more about Darrel’s career, he is just putting the finishing touches on his book. He is aiming for a 2016 release and a possible book signing next Upper Midwest Aviation Symposium in Bismarck, ND.

Congratulations



ND Aviation Hall of Fame Inductee - Bob Simmers

During the 2015 Upper Midwest Aviation Symposium, Bismarck Aero Center Co-Owner Bob Simmers was inducted into the ND Aviation Hall of Fame. With over 16,000 hours and nearly 300 pilot licenses or endorsements issued, Bob’s experience

and passion became etched in ND aviation history. For Bob, this is an accomplishment that all pilots dream about; leaving a lasting legacy in the industry that you love.

with his Private Pilot license and, in a little over a year, obtained his Instrument, Commercial and CFI ratings through independent study.

With his new CFI rating, Garhett will be able to mentor and teach local aviation students towards obtaining their own pilot license as well as provide depth to our Flight Department. We are proud of Garhett for his accomplishment and look forward to see him grow with his new responsibilities.



AMT Diamond Award

The Bismarck Aero Center Maintenance Department received FAA Safety “Diamond Award of Excellence” at the 2015 Upper Midwest Aviation Symposium. Co-Owner Mike Aarestad accepted the award from FAA representative Jeff Boe. The award is given to maintenance facilities that

provide 100% of employed Aircraft Maintenance Technicians with 12+ hours of training in a calendar year. This is the first year that Bismarck Aero Center has received the award, but Mike is confident BAC will continue to receive this award each year.



40 under 40 Award - Jon Simmers

Each year, the Prairie Business Magazine recognizes a list of 40 young professionals in the northern plains that provide inspiration and leadership to our growing region. The list includes business owners, entrepreneurs, executives and community leaders that work to make a difference from within

their industry and community. The recent issue recognizes BAC/MAC CEO Jon Simmers due to the continued growth and sustainability of Bismarck Aero Center as well as involvement in multiple different aviation industry and community associations.



Garhett becomes Certified Flight Instructor

Garhett Langer has successfully completed the requirements to become a Certified Flight Instructor (CFI). His aviation career with Bismarck Aero Center (BAC) started during the fall of 2013 as an Aircraft Maintenance Assistant and Flightline Technician.

As Garhett’s love for aviation grew, he dedicated himself to becoming a Professional Pilot and Flight Instructor. He started



Dale Carnegie Training Completion

A&P/IA Technician Jason Wondra completed the 9 week intensive course on leadership and managerial development. The course focused on multiple development areas such as communication, efficiency and performance growth. A couple big take-aways for Jason was how to help engage

peers in their work to ultimately help them become better and enjoy and enjoy what they do, and how to interact with peers and customers more effectively.

Moving on up!



Tracie Gefroh, CPA, CGMA
Controller

Bismarck native, Tracie Gefroh has been promoted to Controller at Bismarck Aero Center. She has over 30 years of accounting experience with the last 18 months at BAC. Tracie is a Graduate of the Bismarck-Mandan Leadership Program and a 20+ year member of

the ND society of Certified Public Accountants. During her tenure, Tracie has brought high standards of integrity, stability, discipline, accountability, problem solving and fun to the accounting department at BAC.

Most notably, Tracie has been leading our organization through the development of data tools that will help our Department Managers make better decisions on a daily basis. Her role will continue to evolve toward developing improved efficiency data tools and higher levels of financial analysis that drive our company's financial stability.

Along with her new initiatives, Tracie will continue to be responsible for managing Bismarck Aero Center's accounting department, maintaining accounting accuracy and driving the organization's financial results. Her track record for continuous improvements and consistency suggest a positive trend for our organization's overall future.



Jeff Horan, CFII
Director of Flight Operations

Jeff, a Bismarck native, started his aviation career with Bismarck Aero Center (BAC) during the summer of 2010 and has been flying professionally with the company since 2013. As Professional Pilot, Jeff has embraced the

professional, customer service and safety standards that we have developed during BAC's 25 years in providing contract pilot services.

Jeff attended the University of North Dakota where he received his commercial, multi-engine, instrument and Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) ratings. His background as a CFI with the University of North Dakota and as an Operations Agent with Bismarck Municipal Airport has provided him great depth with respect to flight safety and operations management experience.

In his role as Director of Flight Operations, Jeff will be responsible for providing leadership in managing client relations, growing our pilot depth, business development, aircraft fleet management and developing standardized processes to improve company efficiency.



Skylar Schneider
Lead Flightline Technician

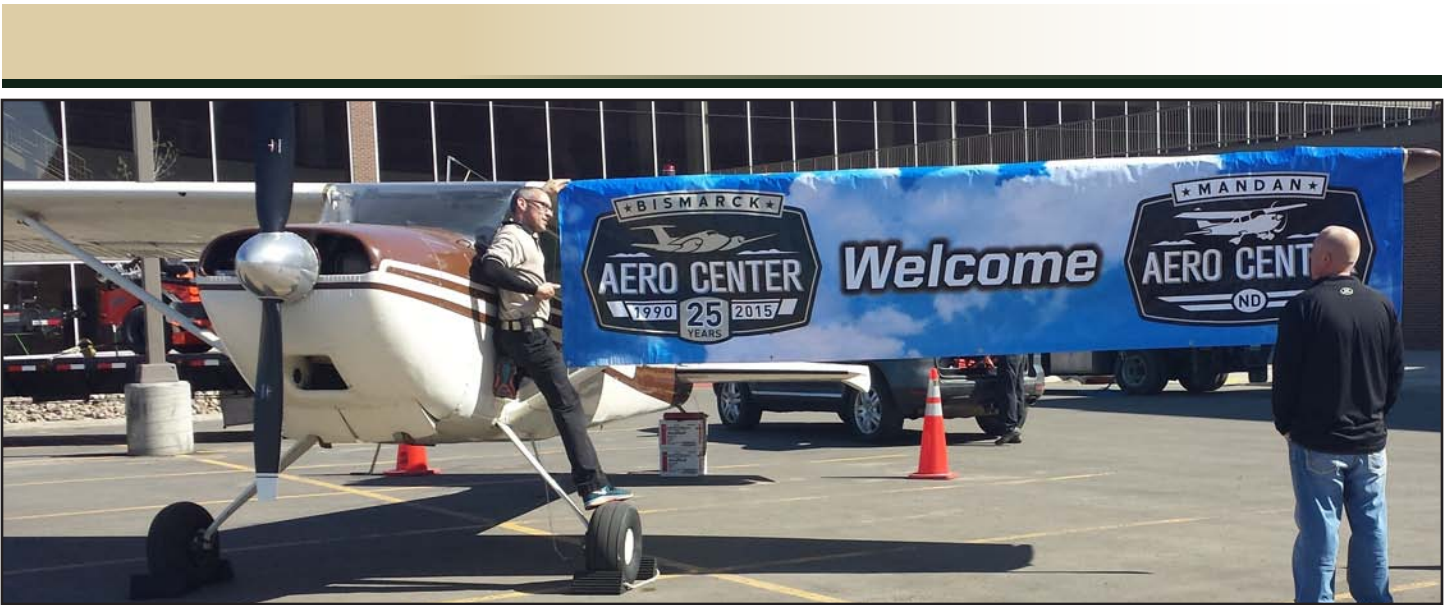
Skylar has been promoted to Lead Flightline Technician. He has been with BAC since the fall of 2013, and has done an outstanding job as a Flightline Technician and part-time Professional Pilot.

Skylar has been in the aviation industry all his life, coming from a family agricultural spraying operation based out of his hometown of Rugby, ND. He earned this opportunity through continually showing high levels of accountability, leadership, integrity and decision-making skills. Some of Skylar's new role responsibilities will be to adhere, train and enforce customer service standards and expectations, lead all Fuel Quality Assurance Measures, train new employees on all operations, and delegate tasks focused on optimizing efficiency and customer satisfaction.

Maintenance Corner

Spring is a great time to get the plane out for some flying around the state. Before taking off, here are a couple helpful tips to make sure you are taking care of your aircraft. First, be sure to put some air in the tires. It's easy to spin the valves off the tubes with low pressure on landings. Second, engine manufacturers suggest changing the oil every 4 months, but seemingly twice a year might be a good compromise. And finally, it has been found that starting the engine and

ground operating the airplane only, every once in a while, is detrimental to the aircraft and can be counterproductive to corrosion prevention. This is because the engine doesn't get hot enough to boil out the moisture, but it does run warm enough to create more moisture potentially causing further corrosion. Instead, just pull the propeller thru once in a while to spread out the oil on the cylinder walls during storage. Happy flying!



Celebrating 25 Years serving Bismarck/Mandan

April 17th will be remembered for many years to come by those who attended the BAC 25th Anniversary Celebration at the Bismarck Event Center. Whether it was being goofy in the photobooth or testing out piloting skills at the Flight Simulators, smiles filled the hall. The event hosted over 500 BAC family and friends from locally and afar, greatly exceeding expectations. It was almost emotionally overwhelming to see a packed house helping us commemorate this achievement.

Highlighting the evening was a brief Celebration Ceremony emceed by local pilot and funny man, Mark Burke. Mayor Mike Seminary started out by giving some kind words of accomplishment, and gratitude for what General Aviation does for the Bismarck/Mandan community. It is often overlooked how important an airport is to a community until a person is exposed to the experiences of flying and the quicker form of travel. Sometimes a person's first experience with the Bismarck community starts right here at the General Aviation Ramp.

family values felt by employees and customers alike. It will be made available to watch online at a future date for anyone that would like to learn more about us. Following the video, Mike and Bob spoke to the crowd, expressing gratitude to those who helped them get to where they are and, of course, sharing a couple fun aviation stories from over the years. Both men have been responsible for laying the foundation of our company and helping start numerous aviation professionals in their careers.



Following Mayor Seminary was the unveiling of the BAC 25th Anniversary Video, and speeches from the Co-Owners Mike Aarestad and Bob Simmers, and CEO Jon Simmers. The video really emphasizes the history of Bismarck Aero Center and the



Jon concluded the evening with a huge announcement for both Bismarck Aero Center and Mandan Aero Center. Earlier that afternoon, an agreement was signed for Mandan Aero Center to acquire two brand new hangars at the Mandan Airport. This will allow MAC the opportunity to improve services offered to the Mandan Airport. Along with this, Bismarck Aero Center is awaiting FAA approval to expand on hangar 6 and build a brand new heated hangar on the Bismarck Airport. Both projects are great advancements and show the possibilities for our company to be around for the next 25 years.

After the event, Jon said with a smile on his face, "I am still on cloud 9 with how well tonight went and the turnout of people that showed up. We are very blessed to have so much support from our families, friends, customers and community. I look forward to the next 25 years and seeing how we can continue to improve our organization to help complement the growth of the Bismarck/Mandan community."

Thank you Mayor Seminary and Mark Burke for your kind words, and thank you again to everyone that came out and helped make April 17th a night to remember!



Welcome some new faces to the BAC/MAC Team



Joseph Lockwood,
Full-Time A&P Maintenance Technician
Joe joins BAC with almost 10 years of General Aviation aircraft maintenance experience. He received his Airframe & Powerplant (A&P) license in 1999 from Shasta College in Redding, CA. Joe spent the last 7 years at Redding Jet Center/ IASCO Flight Training School, where

he has been supporting a fleet of over 35 flight training aircraft. The IASCO fleet included thirty 172's, seven Beech Duchesses and two C-90 King Airs. Most recently, Joe worked as the Lead Shop Supervisor and Interim Director of Maintenance for the Flight School. During his time at that airport, he also received his Private Pilot's license.

Joe is excited to get back to focusing on aircraft maintenance and inspections and honing in on his turbine aircraft skills. He is coming to Bismarck Aero Center perfectly timed for a busy November schedule, where his skills will make a great addition to our team.



Maggie Hendrickson,
Technical Research Specialist
Maggie joins Bismarck Aero Center (BAC) as a third generation pilot. She graduated with honors from the University of North Dakota (UND) in 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in the field of Aeronautics with a double major in Air Traffic Control and in Norwegianian.

Since graduating, Maggie has worked with UND as a Graduate Associate in the Air Traffic Control Tower Department and with the City of Bismarck as a 911 Dispatcher. In her new role as BAC's Technical Research Specialist, Maggie will be responsible for conducting all Airworthy Directive research, creating log entries, work order entries, process improvements and assisting the maintenance department with other technical data projects.



Steve Iglehart,
Aircraft Support Technician
Steve joins Mandan Aero Center with a great love for aviation. As a mechanic, Steve started out at Ressler Chevrolet for 10 years and another three years with Dakota Westmoreland Coal. Since then, Steve shifted careers to working as an Aerial Crop Duster and working

on his own aircraft. During his spraying off-season, Steve will spend time working with Mike, Tim, and John at MAC. As Aircraft Support Technician, Steve will be assisting with annual

inspections, routine maintenance and aircraft repair. Steve's aviation and mechanical backgrounds will prove to be a great addition to the Mandan Aero Center shop.



Coltin Marquardt,
Flightline Technician
Coltin comes back to BAC with a growing passion for aviation. He graduated from Bismarck High School last May, and was a student in Mike McHugh's Aviation I & II classes at the Bismarck Career Academy. After high school, Coltin joined the National Guard,

completed basic training at Fort Jackson SC, and currently holds the rank of Private First Class. Last spring, Coltin completed a 10 week Aviation Internship with us under Jeff Horan and Jason Wondra. They both would agree that he is a great learner and has a hardworking attitude. As a Flightline Technician, Coltin will work to uphold the Bismarck Aero Center Customer Service Standards while helping out with the growing workload at the FBO.



Colbie Fandrich,
Part Time Flightline Technician
Colbie, a Wishek ND native, comes to Bismarck Aero Center as a determined student looking to learn more about aviation. He is recent honor graduate of Wishek High School and a current student at Bismarck State College, going for his instrumentation and control

degree. Colbie came highly recommended as a hard worker through the multiple jobs he worked while still going to high school. Colbie will provide extra help on the Flightline during the afternoons and weekends.



Dan Fitzner,
Part Time Flightline Technician
Dan comes to Bismarck Aero Center with over 7 years of experience and education in aviation. His love for flying has led him to the Aviation Branch upon joining the Military, where he has gained over 600 flight hours as a crew chief and over 400 flight hours as a pilot on a

UH-60 Blackhawk. During his service, Dan completed multiple leadership courses and worked as an Aircraft Technician at the Army Aviation Support Facility, doing aircraft inspections, parts replacement and troubleshooting. Currently, Dan is working on his Private Pilot's License and is still an active member of the ND Army National Guard. At BAC, Dan will provide quality depth and leadership on our Flightline as business continues to grow.



Joshua Simmers, Commercial Pilot
 Joshua joins BAC with over 10 years of aviation experience. He has served in the aviation industry in both pilot and administrative roles. During his 2.5 year tenure at the North Dakota Department of Commerce, Joshua's role was to promote aviation business opportunities within the state through various sectors including UAS, ADS-B and manufacturing. He also served with the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission for approximately 3 years in the role of promoting Education and Awareness activities within the state of North Dakota as well as piloting their Cessna 206. Most recently, Joshua returned from a one year tour serving our country as a Blackhawk PIC in Kosovo.

At Bismarck Aero Center, he will be taking over as a Commercial Pilot in our Pilot Services Department and will work closely with the Director of Flight Operations to meet and exceed customer expectations.



Steven Schaffner, Certified Flight Instructor (CFI)
 Steven is returning to Bismarck Aero Center after completing his schooling and CFI commitments with the University of North Dakota (UND). A 2014 UND graduate, Steven spent

the last 12 months building flight hours as a full-time Flight Instructor at UND. He has worked with us during the summers of 2011, 2012, and 2013 as an Aircraft Refueler and in the Flight Department as a Pilot. During his involvement at Bismarck Airport, he recognized the various advancement opportunities for Professional Pilots in our region. Steven will be a great addition to our Flight Department and Bismarck Aero Center team.



Mike Stolz, Certified Flight Instructor- Part Time
 Mike Stolz joins Bismarck Aero Center with just under 5 years of flying experience. He started his aviation career at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, MI where he received his Bachelor of Technology in Aviation Flight and Business. He was also a flight instructor for the school's Part 61 Flight School, performing duties as a CFI, CFII and MEI rated pilot. After finishing up with his studies, Mike worked as Assistant Chief Pilot for Williams Aerial & Mapping before coming to North Dakota. He has built up 2113 hours of total flight time and is currently working with Larry's Aerial spraying out of Carrington, ND. During his time off, Mike is planning to come to Bismarck and help the BAC flight department with its growing list of flight students.

Product Spotlight

2015 Aircraft Electronics Association (AEA) Convention

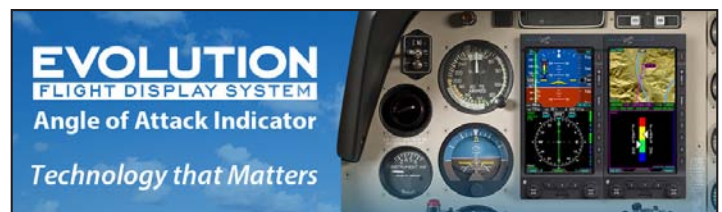
Featuring the Aspen Evolution AOA

This year was the AEA's 58th Annual Convention and Trade Show and it was a good one. The show was held at the Gaylord Texan Convention Center in Dallas TX, and saw a sold out exhibitor show hall as well as record attendees. As ADS-B equipment was still a very popular topic for most vendors, Aspen Avionics unveiled its new addition of the Angle of Attack (AOA) indicator to its "Evolution" primary flight displays. The best part about this addition is that there is no need to install any hardware or physically modify the aircraft. The addition is a software-only upgrade that uses Aspen's ADAHRS to provide an algorithm-derived AOA indicator on the Aspen displays.

The Evolution AOA indicator can be displayed either on a half or third window on the multifunction display, so no matter what, the AOA can be seen in a pilot's normal instrument scan. The

AOA also knows when it is needed. It will automatically show up when the aircraft is flying within the AOA indicator envelope and will disappear at cruise speeds. Pricing has not been officially announced for the upgrade, but an Aspen dealer only needs a few minutes to accomplish the upgrade and a quick calibration flight.

The AOA upgrade is scheduled to be available in July. Make sure to contact Kris Hexom at krish@bismarckaero.com or call 701.223.4754 for additional information.





Events to look forward to

May 9	Aviation Poker Run, Mandan Airport
May 13	12th Annual Aviation Career Day, Bismarck Airport
June 7	Mandan “Planes & Pancakes” Fly-in
June 12	Relay for Life “Survivor Dinner”
July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 19	Movie Nights at Mandan Airport
Sept. 13	Bismarck Pancake Breakfast Fly-in

Trivia

At the Bismarck Aero Center 25th Anniversary Celebration, we brought over a special welcoming aircraft that sat in the Bismarck Event Center parking lot. What type of aircraft was this?

Correctly answer before May 31st for your chance to win a \$25 gift card! Contact Shae Helling at shaeh@bismarckaero.com or 701.223.4754

Last newsletters correct answer was B. Dominguez Field, Los Angeles, CA was the location of the first Fly-in held in the United States. Congratulations to Marc Hotchkiss, last quarter’s lucky trivia winner.

- A. Super Cub
- B. American Champion Scout
- C. C180 Tail Dragger
- D. Challenger 605

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2301 University Drive Bldg. 53
Bismarck, N.D. 58504
701.223.4754
www.bismarckkaero.com

