



# Periodical



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## Customer Spotlight Mark & Kitty Burke

This quarter's customer spotlight is on local pilot couple Mark and Kitty Burke. You may have heard the figurative saying that romance is in the air, but it literally is for pilot couple Mark and Kitty Burke. Thanks to Mark's early passion for flying, the couple took to the skies and have been flying together for the past 37 years. Their story begins long before that though.

Even as a kid, Mark knew he wanted to be a pilot. His interest was sparked by riding along in the plane belonging to his ranch neighbor, Stanley Pope. His first flying lesson was with North Dakota aviation icon J.B. Linquist; by age 16 he had soloed and by age 17 he had acquired his private license. In 1977, he and his brother bought their first airplane, a 1948 Aeronca 7DC Champ, but they parted with it when Mark and Kitty were married at age 19.

Initially Mark was driven to pursue a career in aviation, but jobs in the industry were scarce at the time. Instead, he set aside his passion for flying and went into the insurance business. In 1993 Mark met Bob Simmers, when he insured Bob's Cessna 180. Bob gave him an opening back into the aviation industry, and Mark began to fly part-time for him. "Bob really opened the door to aviation for me," Mark says. "I'm grateful to him." In 1998, Mark was given the opportunity to step into a career with turbine aircraft when Fred Adams hired him as a pilot for a local corporate flight department. Mark was promoted to chief pilot in 2014.

Kitty, on the other hand, started her aviation journey as the passenger. Her first flight, as a junior in high school, was when Mark flew her to a neighboring town to have her senior pictures taken. From then on, Kitty became Mark's constant travel companion, accompanying him on their many adventures. It didn't matter the day or destination, whether it was a spur the moment nighttime cross-country trip to Garrison or their yearly camping expeditions in the Idaho mountains. In 2011, Kitty asked Mark to teach her how to land the plane, in case anything ever happened to him while they were in the air. To her surprise Mark replied, "Well if that's the case, then you should learn to fly yourself."

Having been a passenger for so long, Kitty didn't think it'd be that difficult to obtain her private license. However, it turned out to be the hardest thing she's ever done. "I never planned on getting my license," She said. "Mark was my instructor, and I was his first student." Many people warned Mark against teaching his wife

to fly, but the Burkes continued undaunted. Over time, the couple learned how to

leave their marriage outside the cockpit when they went to train. Many frustrating moments arose throughout Kitty's training, but debriefing and expanding their communication skills allowed them to be instructor and student, as well as husband and wife. As Mark said, "Some of the best times and worst times we've had as married people have been in a plane."

In the end, Kitty passed her check-ride and now the couple flies everywhere together, paying frequent visits to their three children in Fargo and family in Idaho. Having double the eyes and awareness every time they fly has become an excellent bonus. In fact, it's become a way of life for them. Mark now jokingly likes to refer to driving as a "primitive form of transportation."

Kitty may fly for the adventure, but for Mark, it's also his job. At the beginning of his corporate pilot career, Mark was concerned he might lose his love for aviation if he did it for a living. However, after flying hundreds of employees on a regular basis, Mark takes his work seriously so as to enhance the life of the employees. For him, aviation is "not a living, it's a love."

Even though Mark loves flying for work, he enjoys how "small planes can take you places corporate planes can't go." He and his wife hope to continue their flying adventures, and share their love of aviation with others. When retirement becomes a reality, Mark's goal is to buy a Cessna 150 for flight instruction and Kitty hopes to go into the schools with her friend, also a pilot, and get kids excited about aviation. She says, "Even if you don't do it for a living, you can still share [your love of flying] with others."

With so many years of piloting experience, one would be wise to listen to Mark's advice to anyone who has the desire to fly. "So many people say 'I've always wanted to do that', so go do it. Even if it's just one flight. We really need people with aviation experience to share with students."



Mark and Kitty camping in Idaho with their 182RG

# Quarterly Recap



Attendees in line at the fly-in pancake breakfast



Look at those old cars on display at the fly-in



A full house as the VFW Post 1326 Honor Guard presenting our nations colors.



Kids practicing their piloting techniques on the flight simulators



Bismarck Air Medical King Air, Metro Area ambulance, and Bismarck Fire truck sit on display at the fly-in behind some of the Dusters' Classical Car Collection.



This year's company picnic was held at the Dacotah Speedway. Bob Simmers drove a replica of his old racecar as the pace car for the night's races.



Families attending the fly-in were able to tour the Bismarck Air Medical King Airs.



Corina McCalister surprised her husband, Eric, with a flight around Bismarck/Mandan for their 4th wedding anniversary



# New Faces



## **Kaelin Schneider, Full-Time Flightline Technician**

Kaelin joins the Bismarck Aero Center team as a Full-time Flightline

Technician. No stranger to the aviation industry, Kaelin has spent the last six years working for his family's aerial spraying company. There, he gained the most of his aviation experience by being around the Rugby Airport. Along with his work experience, he has received an associate's degree in Business Management from Bismarck State College and obtained his private pilot's license through BAC flight instruction.

Kaelin will fill a much needed role as Ray gets closer to obtaining his CFI in the next month. The confidence he has shown will help him make the transition to flightline technician easily. Kaelin is eager to grow his aviation knowledge and start contributing to the BAC team.



## **Emily Gerhart, Part-Time Flightline Technician**

Emily comes to Bismarck Aero Center as a part time Flightline Technician. Emily

has a strong passion for aviation and helping others. Right now, her long term goal is to get as much experience and knowledge of aviation that she can, so that one day she can become a Bush Pilot in the Philippines. She is one year into a ten-year plan to accomplish that goal and has already obtained her private pilot license. She hopes to start working on her instrument and commercial ratings as soon as she can.

Along with her work on the flightline and her flight training, Emily will continue working full time at Val's Auto Beauty Center in Mandan. She has been there for two years and is known as being a hard worker by her peers.



## **Matthew Jahraus, Full-Time Flightline Technician**

Matthew joins the Bismarck Aero Center team as an Over-night Flightline Technician.

Referred to by many as a hard worker, Matt has a proven background of being a reliable guy that is always willing to help his peers get the job done. Before bringing his talents to Bismarck Aero Center, he worked over night for Target and was a Warehouse Worker at GCR Tires & Service.

Being on the night shift is something that Matt is very familiar with and is looking forward to. His references bragged about his ability to quickly learn his duties and maintain a good work ethic while working independently. His peers on the Flightline are excited to start working with him and see what he can bring to the department.

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## Product Spotlight Flight Stream 510 Multimedia Card

Garmin is introducing the Flight Stream 510 Multimedia Card (MMC), their newest database management product. As an addition to the Connex platform, the Flight Stream 510 works with your GTN 650 and GTN 750 series navigators to efficiently increase your flexibility and convenience in and out of the cockpit. This high-technology program takes your in-flight media capabilities to a whole new level, whether it's weather, traffic, GPS information, or music.

With the Flight Stream 510, you can:

- Enable Database Concierge wireless avionics database updates
- Use 2-way flight plan transfers with adaptable avionics and apps
- Use your Apple device in flight for phone calls and to send/receive text messages, using the Garmin Pilot app with compatible avionics
- Stream traffic, weather, GPS information and back-up attitude information from your avionics to your portables and mobile devices

- Wirelessly control SiriusXM satellite music from your mobile devices anywhere in the cabin

This product is easy to install, requiring no wiring changes or complex installation. Manage your Garmin Pilot app database subscriptions even easier, while also using your wireless flight plan transfer with your GTN as well as sharing traffic, weather, GPS and more. The Flight Stream 510 can even wirelessly display back-up attitude info on mobile devices if you have G500 or G600 glass flight displays paired with a GTN.

This product offers customers the most advanced connectivity options, so you can work with greater media flexibility as well as convenience both on the ground and in the sky. Learn more about the Flight Stream 510 or to see how it can compliment your current avionics, contact Kris Hexom at 701.223.4754 or [krish@bismarckaero.com](mailto:krish@bismarckaero.com).



# Moving On Up



**Nicolette Derosier,**  
**Communications Intern**

Nicolette expanded her role at Bismarck Aero Center this September by becoming a full-time communications intern. She has been with BAC since September 2014, working part-time customer service at the Flightline office in the evenings. Studying at the University of Mary, Nicolette has been actively

involved in Emerging Leaders Academy, worked as a Student Ambassador and has been on the academic honor roll the past six semesters.

Originally from White Bear Lake, MN, Nicolette grew up learning about aviation from her father, an aircraft mechanic. Now in her fourth and final year at the University of Mary, she is hoping to complete her degree in Mass Communications this December. Nicolette is eager to put everything she's learned in school to use in her internship. Her new role will have her working on a variety of company projects, community events, recruitment activities, and helping with social media and other community communications.



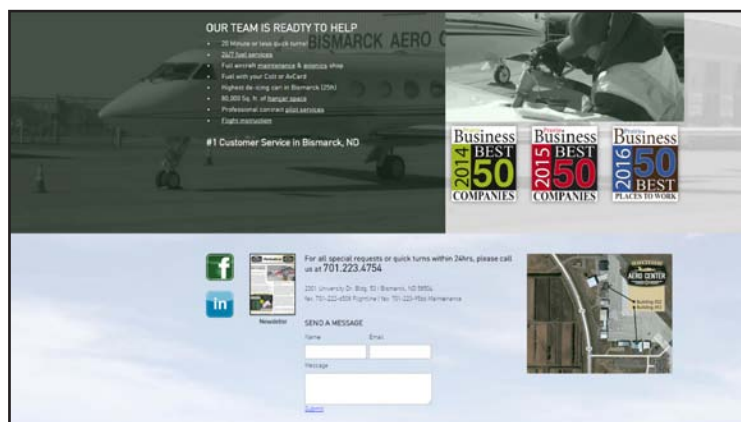
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## Redesigned website

Bismarckaero.com has just received a makeover! With a fresh, modern look and easier navigation, the newly redesigned site make for a better experience for all visitors. Updated for efficient use, header features up to date weather, fuel prices and a bigger photo gallery for an enhanced look at our facilities. Besides the look, the site has a new easy to access "contact us" footer at the bottom of every page, revamped employment page for easier use, frequently asked questions and a customer testimonial page. Go to bismarckaero.com and check out our new online look.



# Bismarck Fly-in Continues to Soar

There is no better feeling than being in the company of good people while supporting a good cause, and that is exactly what we had for this year's annual Bismarck Fly-in Pancake Breakfast. Over 900 people came out to the Bismarck Airport on a beautiful September day to eat breakfast and enjoy the event's activities. Along with the record attendance, between eight and nine thousand dollars in funds were raised for the Scottish Rite Speech Therapy Center for Children. It was the biggest pancake breakfast that has ever taken place at the Bismarck Airport!

This year's event took place on the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, so the fly-in committee felt we needed to do something special for day. On the hours of 9am and 11am, former District Judge Robert Wefald led everyone in the "Pledge of Allegiance" followed by a brief inspirational speech. It reminded us that even with the tragedy on that fateful day, we all must stay strong and never forget about the sacrifices made by brave men and women, here and overseas. Along with Mr. Wefald, the VFW Post 1326 Color Guard presented our nation's flag.

Alan Jackson, though not present at the event, said it best when he once said "If anything good came out of 9/11, to me, was that people were so cynical about the world - all you hear about on

the news is all the bad stuff every day, but what was refreshing to me was after that, you saw how many good people there are out there. For every one bad one, there's a thousand good ones." On September 11th, 2016, we had just about a thousand of those good people at the Bismarck Airport.

Thanks are in order for all the folks that took time out of their Sunday to serve pancakes, set up displays and help the event run smoothly. The Bismarck Masons worked very hard cooking the pancakes, eggs and sausage. The Rainbow Girls helped clear tables and serve coffee to attendees. Finally, the static displays by Sanford AirMed Team, Civil Air Patrol, Bismarck Air Medical, Bismarck Airport Recue & Fire Fighters, Bismarck Police Department and Bismarck Fire Department were very interactive and had kids smiling all day.

Make sure to mark your calendars for next year, the 7th edition of the Bismarck Fly-in will be on September 10th, 2017. Count on another delicious breakfast, airplane rides and a fun time for the whole family. You will have to wait to see what next year's main attraction will be!

Sincerely, Bismarck Fly-In Planning Committee

## BAC 3-peats as a 50 Best Place to Work

For the third year in a row, Bismarck Aero Center has been listed as one of the 50 Best Places to Work by Prairie Business Magazine. The list is made up of 50 businesses in the northern Plains, nominated through anonymous employee surveys. Businesses are chosen based off work environment, employee benefits and employee happiness, as well as the number received per company. Prairie Business Magazine received almost 950 surveys this year!

Jon Simmers, CEO, shares his joy in BAC being chosen as one of the best. "At Bismarck Aero Center, we pride ourselves on our allegiance to one another and our family atmosphere. We all care about each other. In fact, allegiance is one of our core values. Many thanks to all of our co-workers for making BAC one of the best places to work!"



## Maintenance Corner

"We would like to take this maintenance corner to remind all aircraft owners about their Federal Registration. At this point in time, all planes should be operating with a current registration in the pouch on display in their interior. If the Federal Registration white card does not have an expiration date in the lower corner, it is not a current registration. This should not be confused with any state registrations you might already have in your plane. It is inexpensive to re-register with the FAA, as they are using this system to acquire information on actual flying numbers. Until further notice, all aircraft owners will re-register again according to the date listed on the card.

Prior to 1978, aircraft weight and balance information, along with the current equipment list, was not part of an official Pilot Operating Handbook (POH) but was kept in a separate binder somewhere in the aircraft. Check your plane to verify your registration is in the right place and is current. From 1978 and on, the info can be found in an official binder book. Your registration card should be put behind the airworthiness certificate, when it is displayed in the pouch on the display of your aircraft interior. If you need it, we can help you decide if you have the current revision level."



## Events to look forward to

- Nov. 1-3** NBAA-Business Aviation Convention, Orlando FL
- Dec. 16** Holiday Kuchen Party at Bismarck Aero Center
- Feb. 7-10** NBAA Schedulers & Dispatchers Conference, Fort Worth TX

## Trivia

The first piloted supersonic airplane flight took place on October 14th, 1947. The X-1 rocket-powered research plane, built by Bell Aircraft Corp., was piloted faster than the speed of sound by Capt. Charles Yeager, U.S. Air Force. Nowadays, you can find this orange aircraft hanging in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C. What is the plane's nickname?

Submit your answer before November 25th for a chance to win a \$25 gift card! Contact Shae Helling at [shaeh@bismarckaero.com](mailto:shaeh@bismarckaero.com) or 701.223.4754.

Last newsletter's correct answer was D. Donald Trump's 757 is a very nice aircraft, but it is not as tall or as wide as Air Force One's Boeing. Congratulations to Doug Alm for being last quarter's lucky winner.

- A: The Memphis Belle  
B: The Glamorous Glennis  
C: The Spruce Goose  
D: The Leaping Larry

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