

# NAVIGAYTOR

PALM SPRINGS WAS A BLAST  
**TIME FOR A  
SPRING FLING**





LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Palm Springs!

If you missed our Winter Warm up in Palm Springs, CA over a week ago, then you better prepare for our upcoming events. We had 500 people in attendance during Saturday evening's banquet and nearly 300 at the industry expo the following day. The airlines were extremely impressed by the NGPA and the quality applicants that they got to meet face-to-face during the expo.

We were pleased to have Nate Samek and his family, along with Kathy Moore and friends and family in attendance. Nate announced the launch and vision for the Steven Moore Foundation Friday night.

Given the high demand to attend the Winter Warm Up and the many people we had to turn away due to capacity, the event planning committee has already secured the entire banquet space

for 2016 at the Renaissance hotel. Amazing that we will have gone from 257 in 2014 to 500 in 2015, and even more in 2016! Request your time off now for 2016 – we've got more exciting things for you in store!

If you joined us in Palm Springs, you were a part of a special night Saturday when we unveiled the new rebranded logo for the NGPA. Over the past 25 years, we have

had essentially the same logo, spiced up several times. To be more in line with modern LGBT organizations, this logo shows our history with wings, forming a triangle in the middle, and then clearly represents our fight toward equality with the universal rainbow colors. We have received a tremendous amount of positive feedback about

our new logo, both from members, and our advertisers.

To celebrate our 25th anniversary, you will be given a pin as our gift to you for attending a 2015 event. Be sure to see us in Fort Lauderdale or Provincetown to receive your pin. You can also purchase additional pins for \$5, which will be available for purchase at the events.

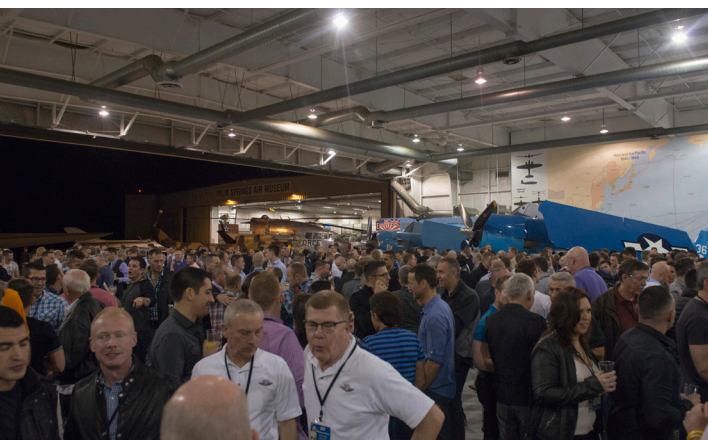
Another big thanks to those Flight Deck members of 2015! It is your financial contributions and volunteered time that continues to allow us to thrive and grow. If you are not a member of the Flight

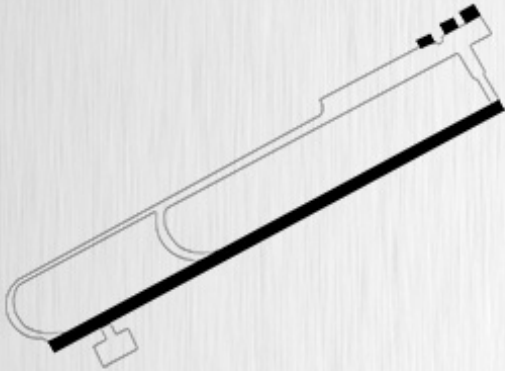


Deck yet, please consider your membership this year so that we all may benefit from the programs and community at the NGPA.

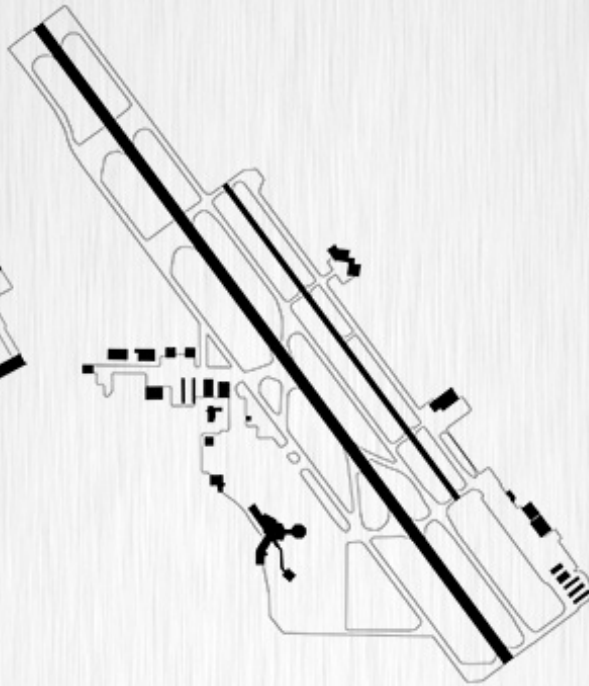
Thank you for giving me a successful and memorable first event as your newest and youngest Executive Director of the National Gay Pilots Association. See you in Florida!

David Pettet,  
Executive Director, NGPA

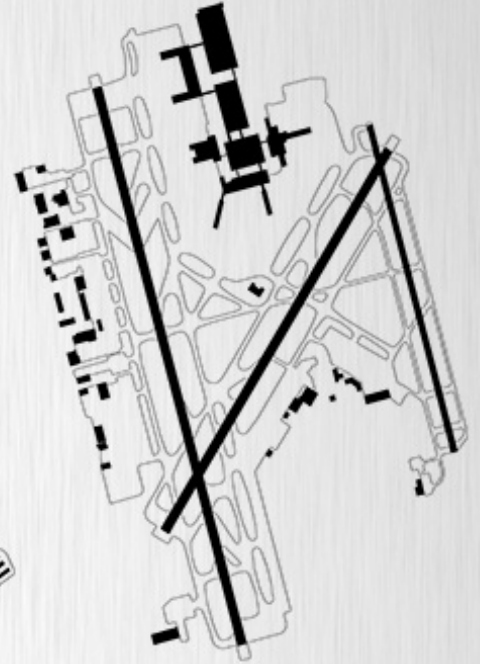




**PVC**  
PROVINCETOWN, MA



**PSP**  
PALM SPRINGS, CA



**FLL**  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL

MADE EXCLUSIVELY FOR  
THE NGPA WINTER WARM UP 2015  
IN HONOR OF STEVEN MOORE

15% of all sales will be donated to the NGPA.

ORDER YOURS TODAY BY VISITING [08LEFT.COM/NGPA](http://08LEFT.COM/NGPA)





#### UPCOMING EVENTS

## Presenting the NGPA to the Flight School Association of North America

A few days after our Winter Warm Up, Captain Nick Michaels and myself spoke in San Diego at the Flight School Association of North America (FSANA). We were able to present the NGPA to flight schools, aircraft manufactures, airlines, and aviation supply and equipment businesses. We gained a lot of support and started new friendships and partnerships with these groups, including support from the President of the Regional Airline Association (RAA), Roger Coahon.) With our increased visibility and professional image, we continue to gain support from all facets of the aviation industry and community.



## NATIONAL LGBTQ TASK FORCE

#### CREATING PARTNERSHIPS

## Task Force Creating Change Conference

Board Chair, Scott Shatzer, and I were in Denver from Feb 5-8 attending one of the largest LGBT conferences called Creating Change, produced by TASKFORCE. Here we attended workshops, and had great networking opportunities with major organizations and companies, including other LGBT organizations just like the NGPA.

There are many organizations – both non-LGBT and LGBT – with which we would benefit being mutual partners. NGPA member and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University student John Sami attended, as well. It is exciting to see the continued support of ERAU for the LGBT community. I will be excited to give feedback regarding our attendance in the March Navegaytor.





**Keywords: Warm sand, swimsuits, pilots.**

**This year, the NGPA  
Fort Lauderdale Spring Fling  
is going to be more fun than ever.**



B Ocean Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort | April 24-26, 2015  
Registration opens soon at [www.ngpa.org](http://www.ngpa.org)



B OCEAN RESORT  
FORT LAUDERDALE BEACH





WINNERS

# Queen of the Fleet




PSP 2015 Queen of the Fleet. Mike Fillman & Chandler Wonderly - N206AH



Right: Tim Fountain, Princess of the Fleet - N39TF    Left: Thomas Harnett, 3rd place – N231TH





The Women In Aviation conference will take place March 5 -7 in Dallas. Register online at <http://wai.org>.

When booking your hotel rooms, please use the hotels listed for the conference on the website, or from a source you have used before and trust. The conference hotels are the Hilton Anatole with a special rate of \$162/night. Reserve your room by calling (214) 748-1200 or online at <http://anatole.hilton.com>.

Another option is the Hilton Garden Inn for \$119/night. Make sure your reservations are made directly and mention the women in aviation room block for the special rates. For those looking to share a room for the weekend or a night, please post that on the NGPA forum.

Want to get involved? Lend your services and volunteer at the NGPA booth! As an NGPA member, this is an excellent way to meet other members and network at the conference while helping our organization in the process. We need volunteers in the Dallas area to help get the booth products shipped to the area and delivered to the conference and back to the NGPA offices. Booth volunteers are needed the entire weekend. For those who are new to NGPA or the Women In Aviation conference, this is a great way to engage and meet new people. If you would like to volunteer for any and/or all of these opportunities please contact me at [ngpawomen@gmail.com](mailto:ngpawomen@gmail.com).

- Beth Blankenship

AMAZING WOMEN

# Women In Aviation Conference



B OCEAN RESORT  
FORT LAUDERDALE BEACH



#### UPCOMING EVENTS

## Save the Dates!

The NGPA will be at the following events in the coming months. Be sure to mark your calendars and come join us!

### WOMEN IN AVIATION CONFERENCE

DALLAS, TX

MARCH 5-7, 2015

### SPRING FLING

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL

APRIL 24-26, 2015

### NGPA CAPE COD CLASSIC

PROVINCETOWN, MA

SEPTEMBER 18 - 20, 2015



#### GIVE US A HAND

## Get involved

Volunteer! We need your help to continue to help the NGPA thrive and grow? Go to <http://ngpa.org> and click on "volunteer," and see where your talents and skills fit best with our organization. Don't see it listed? Send me an email and I'll help place you! We never turn away good help!



#### GOT NEWS?

## Celebrations

Have any bigs news to share with us and the rest of the NGPA? Email [celebrations@ngpa.org](mailto:celebrations@ngpa.org) with photos, stories or what you want to say so we can get it in our next magazine!



#### G'HEAD

## Ask me anything!

Helloooo darlings! My mailbox is empty! Now, I know the world hasn't suddenly turned into a gay-friendly utopia, I'm out there slinging metal across the sky right with y'all. Please, send [Betty@ngpa.org](mailto:Betty@ngpa.org) your issues! If your colleagues are asking questions or making comments that leave you tongue-tied, fuming or frustrated, you know who to tell! Let's develop dialogues to use when you encounter the clueless, the ignorant, or the offensive!





GET SOCIAL

# Local Groups

Canada Aviation Pride Group  
Canadian Aviation Pride

If you find yourself in Toronto or Vancouver ... we invite you to connect with your Canadian neighbours. Please see a list of "save the dates" and mark your calendars.

This year we are very excited to be hosting a private event in Toronto on Friday June 26th from 7pm-10pm, in partnership with Rainbow Village Travel - and YOU are invited.

Details on how to RSVP will be available in the Spring edition of the NGPA Magazine.

This coming week, on Sat Feb 7th we will have a booth set up at Careers in Aviation Expo (Hamilton Air Museum). Later that evening we will be doing a "bar hop" in the gay village in Toronto. The following week, on Fri Feb 13th, a group of us are going to visit Vancouver's ATC Area Control Centre.

Please join Canadian Aviation Pride on Facebook and sign up on our website to receive more information.

Website: [http://www.](http://www.canadianaviationpride.org)

[canadianaviationpride.org](http://www.canadianaviationpride.org)

Newsletter sign up: [http://www.](http://www.canadianaviationpride.org/contact/)

[canadianaviationpride.org/contact/](http://www.canadianaviationpride.org/contact/)

Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.](https://www.facebook.com/CanadianAviationPride)

[com/CanadianAviationPride](https://www.facebook.com/groups/gaypilots/)  
Facebook group: [https://www.facebook.](https://www.facebook.com/groups/gaypilots/)

## Canadian Aviation Pride's "Save the Dates" 2015

Toronto YYZ	
February 7	Wings Magazine Hamilton Careers in Aviation Expo (CAP Booth)
February 7	Village Bar Hop
Mid Apr	Sunday Brunch
June 13	Toronto Pearson Runway Run
June 19-28	Pride Toronto
June 26	Pride Toronto Social
Early July	Post Pride Picnic
July 20-26	Air Venture/ Oshkosh
Summer	Beach Day
Fall	Wine Tour
Mid Nov	Year End Party
Note: Mile High Tuesday (aviation industry night) at Boutique Bar occurs every Tuesday evening.	

Vancouver YVR	
February 13	ATC ACC tour
March 14	Spring Fling - House Party
April 19	Wine Tour
July 1	Mel and Tom's Canada Day Fireworks
July 31	Pride Weekend Gathering
August 2	YVR Pride
Late November	Year End Party
NGPA	
Jan 22-25	Palm Springs "Winter Warm Up"
Apr 24-26	Fort Lauderdale "Florida Fling"
Sep 18-20	Cape Cod "Cape Cod Classic"



## Local Groups, *continued*

### Golden Gate Flyers

#### San Francisco Area

San Francisco's Golden Gate Flyers club holds monthly dinner meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. The meeting venue alternates between The Sausage Factory Restaurant in the Castro on even numbered months and Don Ramon's Mexican Restaurant in South-of-Market on the odd numbered months. Members and guests enjoy meeting for drinks and socializing at 7pm, followed by dinner and future event briefings at 7:30pm. Guests and prospective members are always welcome. Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/groups/GoldenGateFlyers](https://www.facebook.com/groups/GoldenGateFlyers) or email [mike.fillman@gmail.com](mailto:mike.fillman@gmail.com) for more information.

Members and guests enjoy meeting for greetings and drinks at the bar around 7:00, then move to the private dining room at 7:30 for dinner and briefings on upcoming events. Guests and prospective members are always welcome. Email: [wildblue@goldengateflyers.org](mailto:wildblue@goldengateflyers.org).

### Windy City Flyers,

#### Chicago NGPA Group

The Windy City Flyers are often meeting up for drinks, potluck dinners, and out making trouble. If you are in Chicago, you can get more information on this group's events in two ways.

You can join their group on Facebook. [facebook.com/groups/chicagongpa](https://www.facebook.com/groups/chicagongpa). You can also email John Burdick at [john.burdick@me.com](mailto:john.burdick@me.com).

### Cascade Flyers

#### Seattle Area

1. Cascade Flyers meets up for dinner the last Wednesday of the month. Check out the Cascade Flyers Facebook page for the location, or ask to be on our groups private email list.
2. The Orcas Island Fly In is schedule for the weekend of July 24th - 26th, 2015. [russborgnin@gmail.com](mailto:russborgnin@gmail.com).

### Mile High Flyers

#### Denver Area

Hey Denver aviators!!! Find us on Facebook for the local members in the Denver area. Search us out at "Mile High Flyers." Mile High Flyers is a local group based in Denver. Our purpose is to promote networking and social events within the GLBT aviation community including our supporters and other aviation enthusiasts. We meet monthly. We do fly-ins and other fun social events. For information or to join the group, find us on Facebook and/or email [Doug@TeamSecord.com](mailto:Doug@TeamSecord.com).

### Unusual Attitudes

#### Southern California Area

Unusual Attitudes will be having a joint event with the San Diego Chapter of GreatOutdoors on

the weekend of April 10-12. We will be flying in to Agua Caliente Airstrip in Eastern San Diego County and camping with GO at the county park. More info is available on the Unusual Attitudes website, [www.unusualattitudes.org](http://www.unusualattitudes.org).

### Liberty Fliers

#### Philadelphia Area

Philadelphia's only local gay pilot group is for any pilot or aviation enthusiast in the Philadelphia region. Liberty Fliers will start out with monthly social meetings at some of Philly's local hot spots. We are planning to have fly-ins, dinners, and participate in local pride events. Join or "like" us on both our Facebook group and page. For more information, contact Mark Schmid at [mark.schmid@ngpa.org](mailto:mark.schmid@ngpa.org) or 609-221-6623.

### Twin City Flyers

#### Minneapolis Area

The Twin City Fliers is a group representing the Minneapolis-St. Paul gay aviation community within the National Gay Pilots Association. We are working to create a network of people in the area for social functions as well as career networking. We are going to be hosting regular events such as fly-ins, dinners, happy-hours, etc. for meeting and interacting with people in the area. Our Facebook page



## Local Groups, continued

is accessible at: [facebook.com/groups/TwinCityFliers](https://facebook.com/groups/TwinCityFliers). Feel free to send them a message!

### **Mach1 Flyers,**

Southern Florida Area

Mach 1 Flyers is a social and networking group for gay and lesbian pilots and aviation professionals in the South Florida area. NGPA membership is encouraged, but not required. Mach 1 Flyers meets monthly for a social. They also organize fly-ins around the south Florida area! Check them out! Email Cale Choi at [cale.choi@me.com](mailto:cale.choi@me.com) or look them up on Facebook at Mach1Flyers.

### **Rainbow Flyers**

Dallas/Fort Worth Area

The Rainbow Flyers is a group of GLBT aviators, their supporters and aviation enthusiasts in and around the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. The Rainbow Flyers meets monthly for social gatherings and fly-ins. Contact Mel Rushton at [Mel@melandtom.net](mailto:Mel@melandtom.net) for more information or to join the group. The RFPA had a reunion lunch at KRBD on 1/24. Our next event will be a tour of Russ's BBJ at KDAL on 2/21. You can also find us on Facebook by searching for Rainbow Flyers.

### **Heartland Flyers**

Kansas City Area

Heartland Flyers is a new group organized primarily around the greater metropolitan Kansas City area for the purpose of

fostering social interaction and regular meet-ups. We welcome all gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender members of the aviation community, including both commercial and general aviation pilots and people from all aspects of the industry, as well as aviation enthusiasts. The group meets monthly for brunches, dinners, special events and fly-ins. For more information about the group and activities, contact Ron Davis at [flynba@gmail.com](mailto:flynba@gmail.com) or visit their Facebook page at [facebook.com/groups/heartlandflyers](https://facebook.com/groups/heartlandflyers).

### **CaCtuS FLYErS**

Phoenix Area

The Cactus Flyers have their monthly dinner near the beginning of every month. If you are in the Phoenix area, contact them! E-mail [cactusflyers@aol.com](mailto:cactusflyers@aol.com) or call (602) 540-6241.

Out on the Runway,

Washington DC Area

Out on the Runway has an activity scheduled every month in the region, we have new members and are looking for new ideas for get-togethers! If you are in the greater Washington DC area and you are interested in meeting LGBT pilots, contact the group's coordinator, Russ Prechtel at [Red911forme@gmail.com](mailto:Red911forme@gmail.com) or find their group on Facebook! <http://facebook.com/groups/OutOnTheRunway>