

# NAVIGATOR

PACK YOUR BAGS

## SPRING FLING

Discover what's in store for you at our April event at B Ocean in Ft. Lauderdale!



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Big Growth, Big Events

As the warmth peers its head around the corner, don't forget you can get the warmth sooner than you think by coming down to Fort Lauderdale for our Spring Fling! We are limited on this year's space to 150 people. We anticipate a huge demand so don't delay registering. When we negotiate hotel contracts, they are done over a year in advance in most cases, and with the unanticipated growth of our PSP event and upcoming events we are at the hotel's capacity for banquet hall space. We greatly appreciate your patience and we can all celebrate these growing pains we are encountering at the NGPA.

In just a few days the NGPA will have a booth at the Women in Aviation conference. Are you going to be there? If you are going to be in Dallas, TX don't forget to stop by and visit the NGPA booth. You can purchase our famous airplane beads or renew your membership on site, or simply talk airplanes with our volunteers at the booth. Tell your friends to become a member at Women in Aviation to receive a special promotional rate for new members joining NGPA.

Our female membership within the NGPA continues to grow year over year, so be sure to tell your friends about us. Also there's no better way to meet some of our current female members by going to Women in Aviation. This will be the last year we offer a discounted membership rate for new members at the WAI. Thank you to all involved putting together the booth to proudly represent the NGPA for thousands of aviators this weekend.

You may have seen in the last magazine one of our newest partnerships was with Crew Outfitters/Stop-Over-Store. They have been delightful to work with and will be producing some nice merchandise with our new logo available to our membership for purchase. The idea is to purchase directly through their website and order fulfillment is handled through them. This has been a recurring topic within the board how to offer NGPA merchandise, so why not have professionals handle it! Look for updates on the website and Facebook with links to the merchandise once it is available.

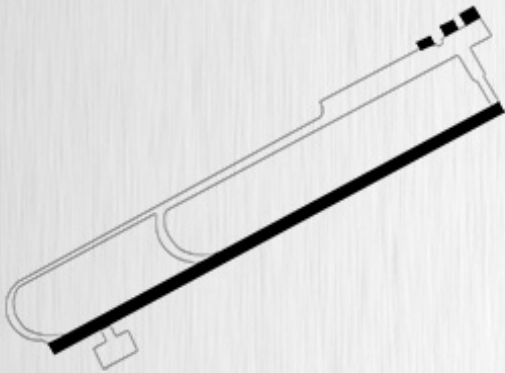
As the NGPA continues to grow, there comes change within leadership and structure. The NGPA Board of Directors is planning to meet in Philadelphia, PA where board member Mark Schmid is coordinating the venue and accommodations for the board. During this meeting we will be planning the three-year goals we envision and revisiting previous goals. We will have guest speakers during the agenda to include fundraising and governance. Are you interested in helping us out through this exciting change? We are looking for people with advocacy, fundraising, and event planning passion and experience. We find the biggest qualification is a love for the NGPA. Got that? Then we want you! Please email me if you're interested!

Look in the next edition of ALPA's magazine for an article about NGPA's smashing event in Palm Springs. After much dedication and persistence of many NGPA members and leadership, ALPA found the value in talking about the NGPA to the aviation world. Our media and public acknowledgment from Aero-news, ALPA, AOPA, and many others, should be a testament of the great things happening around the NGPA.

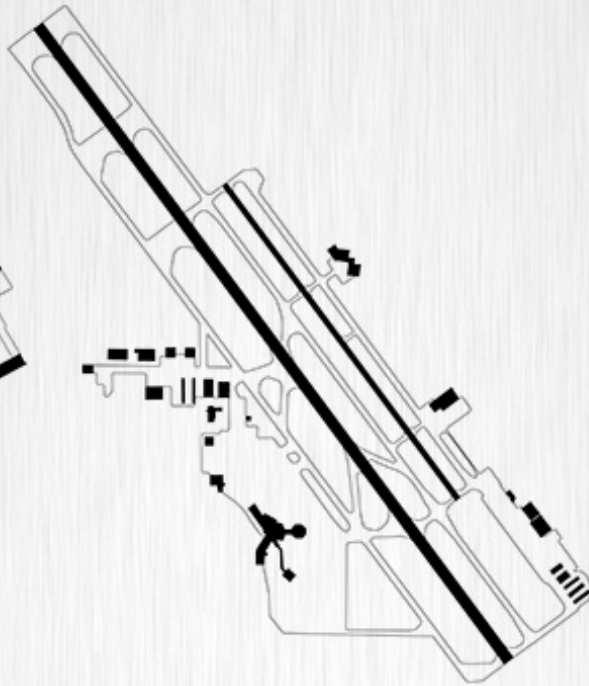
Don't forget to look for our beautifully made and first NGPA NEWS magazine of 2015 this month! If you aren't an active member, don't delay and sign up today to still receive your copy of the magazine.

David Pettet,  
Executive Director, NGPA

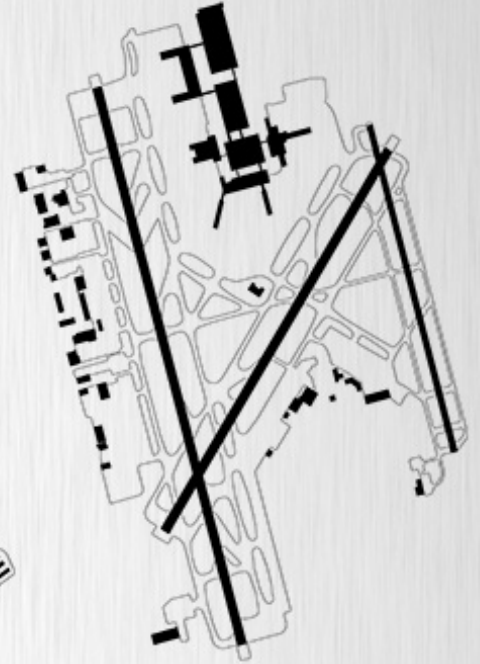




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#### UPCOMING EVENTS

## 2015 Pride Events

The National Gay Pilots Association will be celebrating Pride this year in D.C. If you are a local, please reach out to Russ Prechtel at [russ.prechtel@gmail.com](mailto:russ.prechtel@gmail.com) for more details. Want the NGPA to come to your local pride event? Send your request to our membership committee chair Mark Schmid at [Mark.Schmid@ngpa.org](mailto:Mark.Schmid@ngpa.org). The committee meets on a monthly basis to discuss future NGPA involvement with Pride events.



#### UPCOMING EVENTS

## Women in Aviation

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

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. 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 [ngpawomen@gmail.com](mailto:ngpawomen@gmail.com).







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



#### GOT NEWS?

## Celebrations

We love to brag about all of you! Did you get a new rating? New job? Engaged? We want to hear about it. Email [celebrations@ngpa.org](mailto:celebrations@ngpa.org) so we can celebrate with you! Were you hired or asked to interview as a result of the Industry Expo in January? We want to hear about that too!



#### CALL FOR ENTRIES

## Education Fund

The Education Fund Board of Directors are working hard and promoting our 30/30 campaign for scholarships this year. We are looking for 30 qualified applications for plans to award \$30,000. This will be NGPA's largest amount given in one year's applications. Tell your friends and student pilots you know about our scholarship. Deadline is April 15, 2015, and the application is available online at [www.ngpa.org](http://www.ngpa.org).



#### 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!





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PACK YOUR BAGS!

# Time for a Spring Fling!

KYLE SZARY

CHAIRMAN, EVENTS PLANNING COMMITTEE

There's fewer than 30 days before the official start of spring, which means the 2015 NGPA Ft. Lauderdale Spring Fling is just around the corner!

The Spring Fling is being held **Friday, April 24-Sunday, April 26 at the B Ocean Ft. Lauderdale** (it's the same hotel as last year—just a new name), and is the perfect getaway: it's a chance to see the NGPA friends you love while basking in the warm Florida sun.

The B Ocean is offering a special NGPA rate of **\$164/night**, and a link to book online is at [www.ngpa.org](http://www.ngpa.org). You may also book via

telephone through the hotel's sales office at 1-888-Bhotels (662-4683). Space is limited.

The 2015 NGPA Ft. Lauderdale Spring Fling will feature all of the things you love, with a few changes. On Friday, join us at our welcome reception at **Richardson Historic Park & Nature Preserve**. Located in Wilton Manors, the park features a plantation-style mansion overlooking a five-acre park and is in close proximity to the center of Wilton Manors' gay neighborhood.

On Saturday, our dinner banquet will feature live entertainment



JEFF JONES

from South Florida native **Jeff Jones**, who will present his unique flavor of LGBT-themed comedy in an exclusive NGPA performance. Mr. Jones has performed throughout the southeast U.S. at many clubs in addition to appearing with Alec Mappa, Joel McHale, and the legendary Joan Rivers.

Sunday will feature **lunch on the beach** and our first-ever **NGPA swimsuit contest** oceanside at the B Ocean hosted by NGPA-er Tom Morin. That night, wrap up a great weekend and have one last laugh at Ft. Lauderdale favorite **Rosie's**.

Registration for the 2015 NGPA Ft. Lauderdale Spring Fling will open in just a few days, and will be **limited to the first 150 registrants**, so don't delay booking your hotel room!



**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)



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FORT LAUDERDALE BEACH







RAINBOW FLYERS IN DALLAS

EAT, SLEEP, NGPA

# Local Groups

## Canada Aviation Pride Group

Calling all NGPAers to the “great white north” - Canada! For those of you overnighiting, flying up with your aircraft, or just wanting to come up and say “Hello Eh” ... please keep these dates in mind and join your Canadian neighbours.

### Toronto YYZ

March:

“Mile High” every Tuesday at Boutique Bar

June 26:

YYZ Pride Social

### Vancouver YVR

March 14th - Spring

Fling Pub Night

Aug 2nd - YVR PRIDE

Please visit us online for more information at [canadianaviationpride.org](http://canadianaviationpride.org) and “like” us on Facebook at “CanadianAviationPride.”

## 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 7 pm, followed by dinner and future event briefings at 7:30 pm.

Guests and prospective members are always welcome. Find us on Facebook at “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 at “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 scheduled for the weekend of July 24th - 26th, 2015. Email [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,



# Local Groups, continued

do fly-ins and other fun social events. For information or to join the group, find us on Facebook and email Doug@TeamSecord.com for more information.

## 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

### *Philidelphia Area*

Philadelphia's only local gay pilot group is for any pilot or aviation enthusiast in the Philadelphia region. Liberty Fliers will start 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 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. In March, THE RFPFA are going to have a cocktail evening at Mel's condo where he will show a movie of their TBM crossing of the North Atlantic. Contact Mel Rushton at [Mel@melandtom.net](mailto:Mel@melandtom.net) for more

information or to join the group. 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).

## 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 Prechtl at [Red911forme@gmail.com](mailto:Red911forme@gmail.com) or find their group on Facebook! <http://facebook.com/groups/OutOnTheRunway>

