

# NAVIGATOR



PREPARE FOR

SUMMER!



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## LOOKING FORWARD TO SUMMER!

Spring is right around the corner and it is a busy summer for the NGPA. Our Spring Fling 2015 event in Fort Lauderdale Florida was a smashing hit. This year Tom Frost and John Marchildon hosted a classy and beautiful event at the Richardson Historic Park and Nature Preserve House in Wilton Manors, where we all gathered for socializing before hitting the local restaurants and nightlife.

FLL was my second event as NGPA's Executive Director, and it was great to have a little time to enjoy the sun. Our events planning committee did an incredible job, as always, putting

together a fantastic event and even more importantly, within our budget. Our events continue to outdo the previous events, and in FLL, we had NGPA logo lanyards for the attendees for the first time. This small added bonus increased our local image and is another great way to proudly represent the organization we all love.

Check out our upcoming events to see where we are going to be this summer. NGPA is working on increased visibility, and you will see us at **Pride in Denver, Washington D.C., Chicago and OBAP!** If you live in these cities or planning on attending the events,

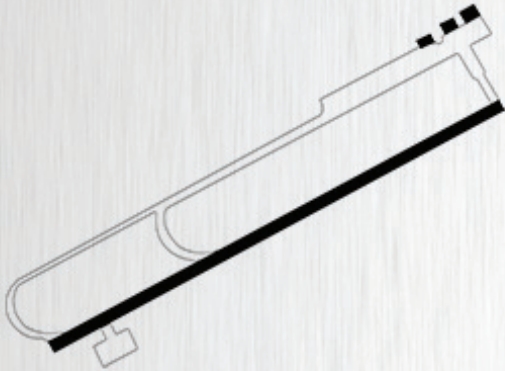
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be sure to reach out to Mark Schmid ([mark.schmid@ngpa.org](mailto:mark.schmid@ngpa.org)) to see what you can do to represent the NGPA.

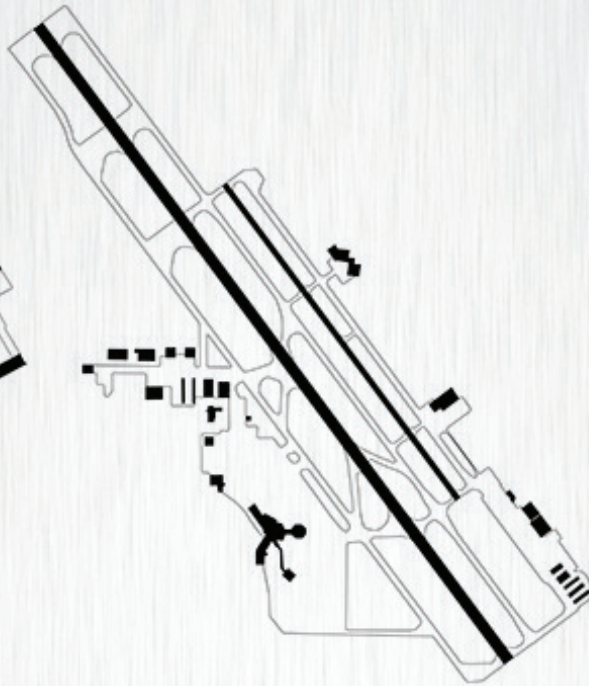
Preparation for the annual Industry Expo in Palm Springs, CA in January 2016 has already begun. Airlines and business are starting to confirm their attendance. Check your emails and our website in the months ahead to see who's coming.

Rosemary Miller and her husband Wes, were able to join our event in FLL. Rosemary beautifies and creates our quarterly magazine and a lot of the new materials you see coming from us. She joined as our guest to see what the NGPA really is. We thank Rosemary for her hard work and dedication to the NGPA.

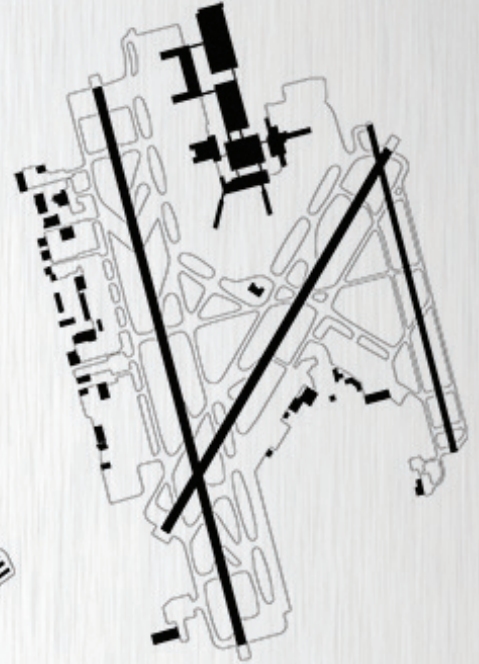
David Pettet  
Executive Director, NGPA



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## BE ON THE BOARD!

The NGPA board of directors is recruiting.

The window for applications is open and will remain open until October 15th, 2015. The leadership has been looking for board members to join from all back grounds of aviation to create diversity and ensure each demographic of the NGPA is heard and spoken for.

If you have that passion to serve the organization we all love and cherish, please visit our website homepage under "latest news" to download the form. Also check out our volunteer page to see where you can start helping out today!

## PHILADELPHIA MEET UP

The Strategic planning session of the NGPA board is coming to Philadelphia for its annual meeting on May 9th 2015.

It will be held at the Friends Center in Center City, Philadelphia. This is the board's annual meeting where the goals, plans, and strategy of the organization are discussed for the upcoming year.

The location will have special meaning this year, as Philadelphia is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first public gay protests, which took place in Philadelphia on July 4, 1965. It is regarded as the birth of the modern LGBT civil rights movement.

The Meeting will be from 9AM to 6PM. After the meeting, the board members will be meeting up with some local pilots from Liberty Fliers, Philadelphia's local gay pilot group to enjoy some of the Philadelphia Gayborhood establishments. If you are in Philadelphia on May 9th, feel free to contact Mark Schmid at [mark.schmid@ngpa.org](mailto:mark.schmid@ngpa.org).





THE GOLDEN  
GATE FLYERS  
CELEBRATE THEIR  
20TH ANNIVERSARY  
AT THE SAUSAGE  
FACTORY IN SAN  
FRANCISCO.

## GOLDEN GATE FLYERS 20TH ANNIVERSARY FLYING + FRIENDSHIP

On April 8, members of the Golden Gate Flyers gathered at The Sausage Factory in San Francisco to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the club.

Several of the founding members were in attendance, including Ralph Higgs, Kim Haas, Mike Bingham, Jim Gabbert, Tim Nousen, Larry Summers, Paul Millner, Mary Rose, Mike Hart and Mike Radtke. Attendance at this regularly scheduled dinner meeting was an all-time high: 55 members and guests.

In addition, 7 new members joined that evening. The night began with no-host cocktails in the private room of the restaurant, followed by buffet-style appetizers and pizza, all complimentary of the Golden Gate Flyers Club treasury.

Stan Cooper and Ralph Higgs prepared a short presentation on the history of the club, from its founding through the present day, highlighting many of the fun events the club has participated in over the years. This included the many fly-ins to places such as Sunriver, Auburn, Watsonville, Paso Robles, Carmel Valley Ranch, Rocky Point and Shelter Cove, just to name a few.

Some of the club memorabilia was on display, including tee shirts, club by-laws and newsletters. Members also heard the story of riding in the 1997 Pride Parade in Jim Gabbert's pink Cadillac, which acted as the club's float. Unfortunately, the car broke down and the members had to push it the rest of the parade route!

The presentation also paid tribute to five of our members who have flown west: Geoff Peck, Jeff Meek, Arnie Jackson, Walt Haught and Fred Hansen. The evening concluded with more cocktails and a revolving slide show, complimentary of Mike Hart, including many pictures of his infamous "polar bear swim" at his home in Palm Springs!

As a reminder, GGF holds monthly dinner meetings on the first Wednesday of the month, alternating between The Sausage Factory (even months) and Don Ramon's (odd months.)

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 20th Anniversary and here's looking forward to another 20 years of flying and friendship!



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## 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're in the greater Washington DC area and 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!

[FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/OUTONTHERUNWAY](https://www.facebook.com/groups/OUTONTHERUNWAY)



# LOCAL GROUPS

## CANADIAN AVIATION PRIDE CANADA

Calling all NGPAers to the "great white north" - Canada! Well, it's not that white up here any more. In fact, it gets sizzling HOT at the end of June - right in time for Pride Toronto!!! We are inviting YOU to kick off Pride at our Summer Social on Friday June 26th @ 8PM in Toronto. RSVP by emailing [1046@travelplus.ca](mailto:1046@travelplus.ca). Visit us online for more information at [canadianaviationpride.org](http://canadianaviationpride.org) and "like" us on Facebook at [facebook.com/CanadianAviationPride](https://www.facebook.com/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 greetings and drinks at the bar around 7 p.m., then move to the private dining room

at 7:30 p.m. for dinner and briefings on upcoming events. Guests and prospective members are always welcome. Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/groups/GoldenGateFlyers](https://www.facebook.com/groups/GoldenGateFlyers) or email [wildblue@goldengateflyers.org](mailto:wildblue@goldengateflyers.org) for more information.

## 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



## CANADIAN AVIATION PRIDE CONNECTING CANADA'S LGBT AVIATION COMMUNITY

# SUMMER SOCIAL YYZ

June 26, 2015 at 8:00 PM | Rainbow Village Travel, 449 Church St., Toronto, Canada

RSVP BY EMAILING [1046@TRAVELPLUS.CA](mailto:1046@TRAVELPLUS.CA)

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information on this group's events in two ways: Join their group on **Facebook at [facebook.com/groups/chicagongpa](https://facebook.com/groups/chicagongpa)**, or 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. Contact **[russborgnin@gmail.com](mailto:russborgnin@gmail.com)**.

## MILE HIGH FLYERS

### DENVER AREA

Hey Denver aviators!!! 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, do fly-ins and other fun social events. For information or to join the group, find us on Facebook for the local members in the Denver area. Search us out at "Mile High Flyers," 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 at **[unusualattitudes.org](http://unusualattitudes.org)**.

## LIBERTY FLYERS

### PHILADELPHIA AREA

Liberty Fliers is the Philadelphia area's only gay pilot group. We meet weekly for cocktail hours, dinner and events. Join us at the local watering hole in the Gayborhood, or out flying at a PHL area airport. For more information please contact Mark Schmid **[mark.schmid@ngpa.org](mailto:mark.schmid@ngpa.org)** or Matt Stevens **[mastevens2@gmail.com](mailto:mastevens2@gmail.com)** for more information. Also, please check out our Facebook group, "Liberty Fliers"

## TWIN CITY FLYERS

### MINNEAPOLIS - ST. PAUL 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 us 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. 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 commercial pilots, general aviation pilots, people from all aspects of the industry, and 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)**.

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EVENT YOU WOULD  
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## 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!

**NGPA CAPE COD CLASSIC 2015**  
PROVINCETOWN, MA  
SEPTEMBER 18 - 20, 2015

**DC PRIDE**  
WASHINGTON DC  
JUNE 12 - 14, 2015

**CHICAGO PRIDE**  
CHICAGO, IL  
JUNE 28, 2015

**OBAP 2015**  
WASHINGTON DC  
AUGUST 12 - 14, 2015

**NGPA WINTER WARM-UP**  
PALM SPRINGS, CA  
JANUARY 21 - 24, 2016



## EMAIL BETTY!

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!



## CELEBRATIONS

We love our amazing members!  
Give us something to brag about!

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





# WHERE UNIVERSITY MEETS THE SKY

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