

PIREPS

PIREPS

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VOR Minimum Operating Network

By Mark Langrud

The FAA is transitioning the National Airspace System (NAS) to Performance Based Navigation (PBN). As a result, the VOR infrastructure in the Contiguous United States (CONUS) is being repurposed to provide a conventional backup navigation service during potential Global Positioning System (GPS) outages. This backup infrastructure is known as the VOR Minimum Operating Network (MON).

The VOR MON is designed to enable aircraft, having lost GPS service, to revert to conventional navigation procedures. This will allow users to continue through the outage area using VOR station-to-station navigation or to proceed to a MON airport where an Instrument Landing System (ILS), Localizer (LOC) or VOR approach procedure can be flown without the necessity of GPS, Distance

Measuring Equipment (DME), Automatic Direction Finder (ADF), or surveillance. Any airport with a suitable instrument approach may be used for landing, but the VOR MON assures that at least one airport will be within 100 Nautical Miles (NM).

In order to enable VOR station-to-station navigation, two new geometrically larger VOR Standard Service Volumes (SSVs) are being implemented to provide VOR signal starting at 5,000 feet Above Ground Level (AGL). Coverage will exist but may not be continuous at lower altitudes.

In Nebraska, the VORs that are candidates to be retained for the MON will be Ainsworth, Alliance, Chadron (Toadstool), Columbus, Grand Island, Hayes Center, Lincoln, McCook, Norfolk, North Platte, Scottsbluff, and Sidney. The remaining VORs in Nebraska are either state-owned or candidates to be discontinued. ■

Calendar of events:

March

3/29 | Re-Scheduled Aviation STEM Day Mid-Year Expo| ABLE ACE Facility at Oak View Mall, Omaha, NE | 11am-3pm | Contact: Hague Howey at 402.510.3528

3/29 | NEAAA Hamburger Fly-In at the Hastings Municipal Airport (HSI) | 11:30am-1pm

April

4/26 | NEAAA Hamburger Fly-In at the Hastings Municipal Airport (HSI) | 11:30am-1pm

May

5/31 | NEAAA Hamburger Fly-In at the Hastings Municipal Airport (HSI) | 11:30am-1pm

June

6/7 | State Fly-In at Gordon Municipal Airport (GRN) | 8am-2pm | Contact: Ken Costello, Gordon Airport Authority, State Fly-In Coordinator at (308) 360-9087 or ken.costello@blackhillscorp.com

6/28 | NEAAA Hamburger Fly-In at the Hastings Municipal Airport (HSI) | 11:30am-1pm



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NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Journey.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

2025 Aviation Youth Art Contest Winners

By Mark Langrud,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics recently judged submissions from across the state for the 2025 Aviation Youth Art Contest. This year's theme, "Women with Wings," honors the women who have shaped aviation through their achievements, creativity and determination.

From pioneering pilots to engineers and skydivers, women in aviation have consistently pushed boundaries, demonstrating courage, skill and innovation. Their groundbreaking achievements—from record-setting flights, breathtaking skydiving formations or flawless precision landings—women continue to inspire

future generations, serving as powerful reminders of the limitless possibilities in aviation.

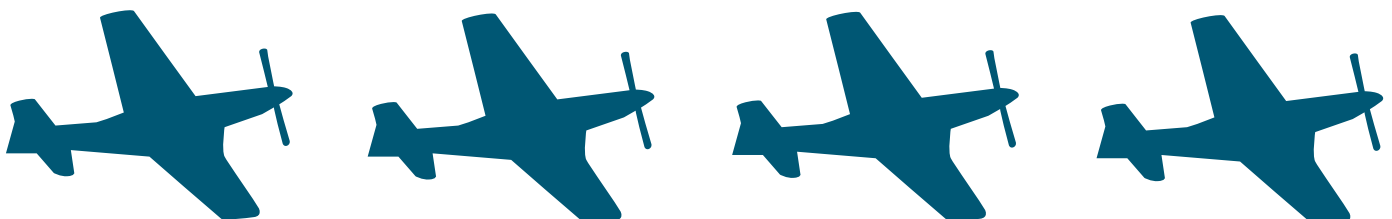
First, second, and third place winners in each age division will be sent to the International Aviation Art Contest hosted by the National Association of State Aviation Officials. Those winners and honorable mentions are:

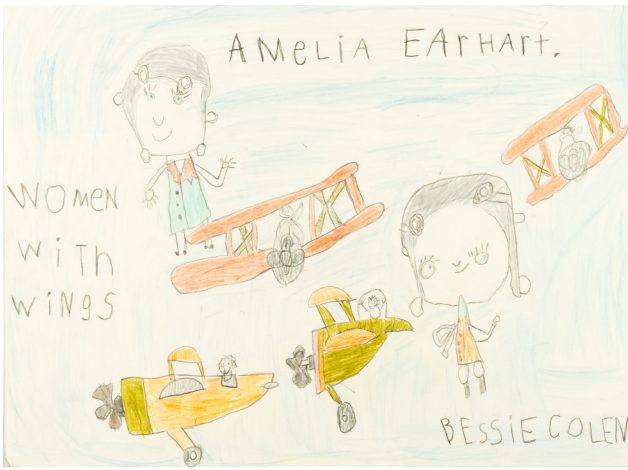
Place	Youth's Name	Age	Hometown or School	Teacher or Parent Name	Relationship
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Ages 6-9 Division					
1	Grace Schmidt	6	Cairo	Wendy Meyer-Schmidt	Parent
HM	Miles Hetzler	7	Omaha	Miosotty Hetzler	Parent

Ages 10-13 Division					
1	Kate Stock	13	Elmwood-Murdock	Linda Trundle	Teacher
2	Ben Stock	11	Elmwood-Murdock	Linda Trundle	Teacher
3	Rykken Mitchem	11	Elmwood-Murdock	Linda Trundle	Teacher
HM	Sophia Meisinger	12	Elmwood-Murdock	Linda Trundle	Teacher
HM	Isabella Dankleff	11	Elmwood-Murdock	Linda Trundle	Teacher
HM	Alexis Beach	11	Elmwood-Murdock	Linda Trundle	Teacher
HM	Hadley Hall	11	Elmwood-Murdock	Linda Trundle	Teacher
HM	Preston McHugh	11	Elmwood-Murdock	Linda Trundle	Teacher
HM	Mara Cherry	10	Elmwood-Murdock	Linda Trundle	Teacher
HM	Emmett Schutz	11	Elmwood-Murdock	Linda Trundle	Teacher
HM	Sophie Collins	12	Elmwood-Murdock	Linda Trundle	Teacher

Ages 14-17 Division					
1	Kiersten Hans	14	Wynot	Becky Hans	Parent
2	Addison vonRenzell	16	Osmond	Jessica Evans	Teacher
3	Jenna Deden	16	Ord	Sarah Norseen	Teacher
HM	Rayna Reyes	15	Humboldt Table Rock Steinauer	Sharon Joyner	Teacher
HM	Cole Hunzeker	15	Humboldt Table Rock Steinauer	Sharon Joyner	Teacher
HM	Bentley Frank	14	Osmond	Jessica Evans	Teacher
HM	Dawniquia Goodlander	14	Humboldt Table Rock Steinauer	Sharon Joyner	Teacher
HM	Eden Duryea	14	Humboldt Table Rock Steinauer	Sharon Joyner	Teacher





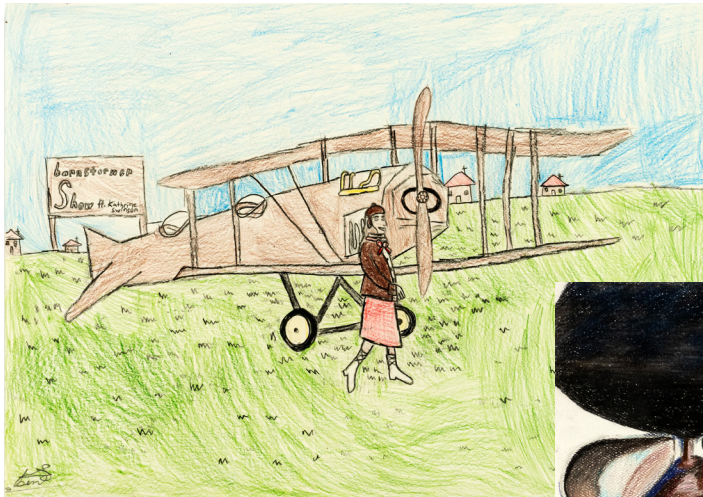
Grace Schmidt, Cairo
1st Place, Age 6-9



Kate Stock, Elmwood-Murdock
1st Place, Age 10-13



Rykken Mitchem, Elmwood-Murdock
3rd Place, Age 10-13



Ben Stock, Elmwood-Murdock
2nd Place, Age 10-13



Jenna Deden, Ord
3rd Place Age 14-17

Kiersten Hans, Wynot
1st Place, Age 14-17



Addison vonRenzell, Osmond
2nd Place, Age 14-17



Grand Island Central Nebraska Regional Airport Airfield Lighting and NAVAID Upgrades selected as Airport Project of the Year 2024

By Mark Langrud



(Pictured L to R) Mike Olson, Central Nebraska Regional Airport (Grand Island) Manager; Wes Harris, Central Nebraska Regional Airport (Grand Island) Maintenance/Operations Manager; Andy Beil, Benesch; Alex Bernhardson, Benesch; Jeremy Borrell, NDOT Aeronautics Director

The Airfield Lighting and NAVAID Upgrades project at Central Nebraska Regional Airport (GRI) involved the comprehensive replacement of airfield lighting and signage systems on Runways 17/35 and 13/31, as well as all associated taxiways. The upgrades included installing new LED High-Intensity Runway Lights (HIRL) on Runway 17/35, Medium-Intensity Runway Lights (MIRL) on Runway 13/31, LED taxiway lighting, and airfield guidance signs. Additionally, the airport's PAPI-4L on Runway 35 and the rotating beacon (with a tip-down pole) were replaced with modern LED equipment.

Improvements to the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) and Electrical Vault included replacing all regulators with new L-829 Constant Current Regulators (CCRs) featuring current monitoring capabilities and upgrading the L-821 "mimic" panels for enhanced system control and reliability.

The project was executed in six strategically designed construction phases, with sub-phases within each phase, ensuring the airport, including its commercial passenger operations, remained fully operational throughout the duration of the project. The phased approach minimized disruptions while delivering critical infrastructure upgrades.

The upgrades at GRI addressed challenges with aging airfield lighting and electrical infrastructure. By replacing systems over 20 years old with energy-efficient LED

technology, the airport reduced maintenance costs and improved efficiency. The new LED lighting and signage systems enhance visibility, durability, and energy savings, contributing to cost and environmental benefits. Reorganizing and replacing electrical circuits and wiring eliminated safety hazards for operations personnel. A new homerun junction can plaza and conduit system centralized circuits to the Electrical Vault, simplifying maintenance and improving reliability. A counterpoise system was installed to protect against lightning strikes, reducing electrical damage risks. Replacing the outdated PAPI-4L on Runway 35 and the rotating beacon with LED equipment improved navigation system safety and reliability. The Electrical Vault received upgraded L-829 constant current regulators with monitoring capabilities, and the L-821 lighting control system was replaced with a modern "mimic" system, ensuring seamless control from both the ATCT

and Electrical Vault. These upgrades ensure safer and more efficient operations for GRI. ■

2024 PROJECT OF THE YEAR

AIRFIELD LIGHTING & NAVAID UPGRADES
Central Nebraska Regional Airport (GRI), Grand Island, Nebraska

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The airfield lighting and NAVAID upgrades project at Central Nebraska Regional Airport (GRI) involved the comprehensive replacement of airfield lighting and signage systems on Runways 17/35 and 13/31, as well as all associated taxiways. The upgrades included installing new LED High-Intensity Runway Lights (HIRL) on Runway 17/35, Medium-Intensity Runway Lights (MIRL) on Runway 13/31, LED taxiway lighting, and airfield guidance signs. Additionally, the airport's PAPI-4L on Runway 35 and the rotating beacon (with a tip-down pole) were replaced with modern LED equipment.

PROJECT BENEFITS
The upgrades at Central Nebraska Regional Airport (GRI) addressed challenges with aging airfield lighting and electrical infrastructure. By replacing systems over 20 years old with energy-efficient LED technology, the airport reduced maintenance costs and improved efficiency. The new LED lighting and signage systems enhance visibility, durability, and energy savings, contributing to cost and environmental benefits. Reorganizing and replacing electrical circuits and wiring eliminated safety hazards for operations personnel. A new homerun junction can plaza and conduit system centralized circuits to the Electrical Vault, simplifying maintenance and improving reliability. A counterpoise system was installed to protect against lightning strikes, reducing electrical damage risks. Replacing the outdated PAPI-4L on Runway 35 and the rotating beacon with LED equipment improved navigation system safety and reliability. The Electrical Vault received upgraded L-829 constant current regulators with monitoring capabilities, and the L-821 lighting control system was replaced with a modern "mimic" system, ensuring seamless control from both the ATCT and Electrical Vault. These upgrades ensure safer and more efficient operations for GRI.

AWARDED TO:

Hall County Airport Authority SPONSOR	Benesch CONSULTANT	Watts Electric Company PRIME CONTRACTOR
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Scottsbluff Western Nebraska Regional Airport selected as Airport of the Year 2024

By Mark Langrud



(Pictured L to R) Jeff Wolfe, M.C. Schaff & Associates; Raul Aguallo, Scottsbluff Airport Manager; Neal Smith, Scottsbluff Airport Authority Chairman; Jeremy Borrell, NDOT Aeronautics Director

that protect runway approach surfaces and ensure compatible land use. Zoning agreements with Scotts Bluff County also safeguard airspace and support responsible development around the airport.

Civic engagement is central to WNRA's mission. The airport hosts monthly Kiwanis Club meetings and public forums for groups like the Scottsbluff-Gering United Chamber of Commerce and leaders such as Congressman Adrian Smith, Senator Deb Fischer, and Governor Jim Pillen. These efforts strengthen WNRA's community partnerships. The airport also drives economic growth, supports critical freight services, and partners with Air Med and agricultural vendors to provide essential services. Through infrastructure improvements and community-focused initiatives, WNRA remains a vital resource for Western Nebraska and Eastern Wyoming. ■

NDOT Aeronautics has selected Scottsbluff Western Nebraska Regional Airport (WNRA) as Airport of the Year 2025. WNRA is a vital hub for transient pilots and the surrounding community. The airport provides services including full-service and credit card-operated Jet-A and 100LL fueling, as well as aircraft maintenance for jet, turboprop, and piston aircraft through two FBOs. Users can also access flight instruction, Hertz car rentals, and an airport courtesy car for short trips. This past year, WNRA partnered with the Kimball Country Transit Authority to provide affordable transportation to Denver International Airport, improving access for low-income residents.

WNRA actively promotes its services through public engagement. The Airport Director attends about 12 local events annually to share updates on amenities and initiatives. This year, WNRA launched a revamped, user-friendly website to highlight its offerings. The airport also hosts tours for schools and residents to raise aviation awareness. A new partnership with Western Nebraska Community College aims to establish maintenance and flight instruction courses. Collaboration with the local EAA chapter fosters aviation enthusiasm through events that showcase the airport's services.

WNRA maintains strong ties with local governments and civic organizations, reinforcing its role in regional development. The airport works with Scottsbluff, Gering, Terrytown, and Minatare through inter-local ordinances

2024 AIRPORT OF THE YEAR
WESTERN NEBRASKA REGIONAL AIRPORT
WILLIAM B HEILIG FIELD
 Scottsbluff, Nebraska

COMMUNITY RELATIONS
 Western Nebraska Regional Airport (WNRA) is a vital hub for transient pilots and the surrounding community. The airport provides services including full-service and credit card-operated Jet-A and 100LL fueling, as well as aircraft maintenance for jet, turbo prop, and piston aircraft through two FBOs. Users can also access flight instruction, Hertz car rentals, and an airport courtesy car for short trips. This past year, WNRA partnered with the Kimball Country Transit Authority to provide affordable transportation to Denver International Airport, improving access for low-income residents.

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COMMUNITY SUPPORT
 WNRA maintains strong ties with local governments and civic organizations, reinforcing its role in regional development. The airport works with Scottsbluff, Gering, Terrytown, and Minatare through inter-local ordinances that protect runway approach surfaces and ensure compatible land use. Zoning agreements with Scotts Bluff County also safeguard airspace and support responsible development around the airport. Civic engagement is central to WNRA's mission. The airport hosts monthly Kiwanis Club meetings and public forums for groups like the Scottsbluff-Gering United Chamber of Commerce and leaders such as Congressman Adrian Smith, Senator Deb Fischer, and Governor Jim Pillen. These efforts strengthen WNRA's community partnerships. The airport also drives economic growth, supports critical freight services, and partners with Air Med and agricultural vendors to provide essential services. Through infrastructure improvements and community-focused initiatives, WNRA remains a vital resource for Western Nebraska and Eastern Wyoming.

AWARDED TO:
Airport Authority of the County of Scotts Bluff & WNRA
 Authority: Donald Overman, Neal Smith, Dawne Wolfe, Matt Ziegler, Bob Unzicker, Joe Nichols ■ Airport: Raul Aguallo and Staff

Gordon Municipal Airport



Saturday, June 7, 2025

Nebraska State Fly-In 8:00AM – 2:00 PM

Some of the activities being planned are:

**Aerial Show by the Red Star Pilots Association, a Drone Demonstration,
National Guard Fly-Over, Vendor & Business Reps,
Pilot Competitions, Entertainment, Crafts for Children, and ...**

FOOD!

Including a FREE BREAKFAST!

For more information, please email:

Ken Costello, Gordon Airport Authority, State Fly-In Coordinator

ken.costello@blackhillscorp.com 308-360-9087



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Airport location is: 1882 U.S. Highway 20, Gordon, Nebraska 69343