



# Airport News

From DAA

Dyersville Area Aviation

*Where Airplanes and Ball Players come out of the Corn*

January /February 2018

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[www.dyersvilleairport.com](http://www.dyersvilleairport.com)

**Where new Pilots come from**



Pictured are Breeze Wessels, pilot, Tom Haas in rear seat and young Tom Haas, Jr in the co-pilot seat. In July 1983 Breeze Wessels gave a ride to a young Tom Haas, Jr. After that flight, Tom Jr. told his dad that he wanted to be a pilot. Today he is a professional pilot flying a Cessna Citation Jet for a corporation. Maybe that is what it takes to have a young person turn away from texting and thinking about the future.

We all have New Year Resolutions., we well have goals also. The president and directors sat down and thought about what we woul d like to happen in 2018. First priority is changing the color of the landing lights. The state suggested we put red/green lights on the ends of the runways. These lenses are over \$100 per light and we need 12. Next is, change the driveway into the airport which will keep us farther away from the runway when we drive in. At present the entry takes us on the inside of the displaced threshold of the runway. And third, save to build another hangar. We have had a plane tied outside for years.

We will be promoting the airport by giving rides to kids that are interested in flying. We may get more professional pilots. One or two Sunday mornings a month we will be having coffee and donuts for area pilots. When I attended the EAA Christmas party, this was brought up and all the pilots thought it was a good idea. Field of Dreams has been a good draw for the airport. We had planes from St. Paul, MN and Texas fly in to see the field. While they are here they see the

Basilica, Dyer-Botsford House and the National Toy Museum. They eat at one of our restaurants and fly home.

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With the warmth of late February all of the snow is now gone from the runway and the wind of the last few days dried and firmed up the turf so IA8 is in really nice shape for airport operations to begin for the season!

With all of the accomplishments of 2017, including the construction of the new office/pilot planning center, complete with indoor plumbing, weather station and cameras, there is a lot of work to do in 2018. Current weather conditions at the airport are available on our website at [www.dyersvilleairport.com](http://www.dyersvilleairport.com) and we will continue to upgrade the website to include feeds from the cameras for activity and runway conditions.

We have a few suggestions from the IDOT to further improve access to the airport. This will require some excavation and hopefully blacktop, add signage, and upgrade the runway end lights.

Dyersville Area Aviation is recognized by the State of Iowa as a not-for-profit corporation as most of our income is derived through donations. Up until this point donations have not shown up on our books because all of the aforementioned assets have been paid directly by the donors. We are currently preparing an application for federal 501 (c) status which will allow the donors to deduct their donations both federally and at the state level. We hope the federal 501 (c) status will enable us to increase the number of donors and show interested parties specifically how the airport is funded. I believe this particular airport is beginning its 20th year as an economic asset for the City of Dyersville. We can only estimate the value of the infrastructure at approximately a half of a million dollars over the course of those 20 years.

The City of Dyersville has been fairly generous in helping Dyersville Area Aviation financially to maintain the infrastructure. For that we are very grateful, but because the airport is privately owned there are limits to what the City Council can do. We are hopeful that the 501 (c) status, documentation of the economic benefit of the airport to the community, and the overall support for the airport will help justify IA8's existence as a public use landing area.

Public use airports do not directly generate an income through the use of the airport, but rather allow travel conveniently to and from its surrounding area to aid commerce, tourism, education and recreation. The economic benefit of an airport is difficult to quantify, especially at our rural grass landing area which is primarily unattended. We are hopeful that raising awareness of IA8's existence will help us more closely quantify the economic benefit to the

community. Anything you can do to keep this airport in a “top of the mind” status is greatly appreciated!

As always, donations of any amount are appreciated. We will keep you up to date on the 501 (c) status and keep you informed of any upcoming events.

Craig Kramer

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Winter is a slow time for the airport so I will give you some interesting facts - - -

## **Amazing WW2 Aircraft Facts..**

**On average 6600 American service men died per MONTH, during WW2 (about 220 a day).**

**People who were not around during WW2 have no understanding of the magnitude. This gives some insight.**

**276,000 aircraft manufactured in the US.**

**43,000 planes lost overseas, including 23,000 in combat.**

**14,000 lost in the continental U.S.**

**More to come next month**

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**It's Spring - pilots will begin to sharpen their skills.**





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