

# BLAINE AIRPORT PROMOTION GROUP

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TAKING YOUR AMBITIONS SKYWARD

8891 Airport Road C-2, Blaine MN. 55449

*Sixth Year of Publication*



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# FBO

A **fixed-base operator** is a term that originated in the United States. After the end of World War I in November, 1918 aviation was unregulated and surplus military aircraft were inexpensive. These returning aviators were looking for jobs so began offering rides, aerobatic flight demonstrations and performances at airshows moving around the countryside with their mechanics as they developed businesses in early flight instruction and aircraft sales.

The **Air Commerce Act** was passed by Congress in 1926 resulting in the licensing of pilots, aircraft maintenance requirements and regulations in training standards. These pilots and mechanics formed permanent businesses at the growing number of airports that ushered in the United States aviation infrastructure that we know today.

The **Federal Aviation Administration** (FAA) was formed under the name Federal Aviation Agency in 1958. The FAA regulates some activities that may be within the FBO activities such as flight training, air taxi, air carrier service and repair stations but the term FBO has no regulatory standards through the federal government and is defined as a commercial business providing aeronautical services such as fueling, maintenance, storage, ground and flight instruction and line services for general aviation aircraft.

In 2014 there were 542 U. S. airports certified to serve commercial air carrier aircraft with nine or more seats and a total of 18,762 General Aviation airports. The Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport reported passenger traffic of 35,147,083 passengers served with 412,586 aircraft movements. The estimated total for all U.S. domestic revenue cargo carried in 2015 was 13,184.070 tons and total of 65,050.570 ton of domestic and international revenue cargo. The modern airport has become a hub for local businesses that can connect commerce and business travel to the rest of the world.



Pilots and mechanics continue to be major contributors to the aviation industry keeping the commerce of the industry moving but that is not all that makes an airport. An entire airport can be seen as a business within the aviation industry but it is more than that. An airport is home to many individual businesses that work together as a community sharing common goals.

THE ANOKA COUNTY-BLAINE AIRPORT is one of the six airports that form the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) Reliever Airport structure. As a reliever airport only 20 minutes from the Minneapolis-Saint Paul International airport the Blaine airport can service a large variety and number of aircraft while relieving the traffic at the larger airport.

AIRPORT MAINTENANCE is in a field of Civil Engineering. The main reason for this position is for the maintainer to operate heavy equipment to ensure safety of landing and travel areas. Equipment must be maintained in accordance with legislation, policies and procedures to ensure the reliability, access and safety of the airport grounds and facilities. The tasks required for Blaine airport maintenance department provide the support for the control tower operation that watches over 68,000 takeoffs and landings annually, 407 general aviation aircraft that are based here with two FBO locations set on the 1,800-acre airport site.

BOLDUC AVIATION SPECIALIZED SERVICE, INC. is an FAA approved powerplant repair station providing professional engine rebuilding, repair and inspection service.

R.C. AVIONICS offers experienced personnel and quality products, providing high-quality avionics service for all types of aircraft; single-engine piston, high-performance twin and medium business class jets.

AVIATION MEDICAL MINNESOTA provides Aeromedical consultation as a Certified FAA Senior Aviation Medical Examiner as well as exams for classes including ATC and student pilots and exams for scuba, bus drivers, and other specialties.

LIFE LINK III is a leader in air medical transportation, providing services for patients in Minnesota and throughout the United States via helicopter and airplane ambulance with service day and night, 365 days a year. The Blaine airport base is one of four bases in Minnesota and is housed at the Key Air facility. Pilots and medical staff are ready and airborne within minutes of a call.

MINNESOTA HELICOPTERS INC. provides a full range of services that include flight training, charter service, aerial filming and photography, scenic tours, helicopter sales and maintenance.

TWIN CITIES AVIATION is a FAA certified flight school offering private, instrument and commercial pilot training as well as being a certified aircraft repair station.

SIM FLITE MINNESOTA, LLC offers pilots a cost effective way to increase proficiency, acquire an instrument rating or learning a new glass systems available in today's demanding and challenging aviation environment using technology called advanced aviation training devices (AATD).

Several charter services, delivery of needed medical supplies, general aviation related repair centers, the Blaine Sports Center Operation that is the destination for 4 million visitors annually, 40 acres of ball field and soccer fields and a Park and Ride are included in the land use of the Anoka County Blaine Airport. A Wilder Foundation study in 2005 reported that the airport contributed more than \$35.1 million to the area's economy and supported 350 jobs.

CIVIL AIR PATROL is a civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force created in December 1941 to provide civilian air support to aid the war effort of World War II. Border and costal patrol, military training assistance, courier services

and search and rescue were carried out by CAP. Since then CAP has carried out three congressionally mandated objectives: emergency service, aerospace education for youth and the general public and cadet programs for teenage youth. A CAP unit is based at the Anoka County-Blaine Airport.

KEY AIR and CIRRUS FLIGHT OPERATIONS are fixed base operators, or "FBO," at the Anoka County airport in Blaine, Minnesota. The acronym FBO started back when there were not many airports around and farmers who had fuel available, would paint those letters on the roof of their barn. Pilots flying overhead could easily see where to land for services. The needs of aviators have grown, and so have the facilities and services offered. Thousands of FBOs now exist and compete for business aviation customers. While the building designs become larger and more refined, amenities become more plentiful, the product remains the same. FBOs sell fuel. It is, however, slightly more complicated than that. Companies and individuals use business aircraft to save time, and increase their convenience, privacy and safety. The main goal as an FBO, is to help facilitate those factors by providing a high level of customer service to efficiently satisfy the expectations of business aviation customers.

FBOs are staffed by customer service representatives who help keep the schedule coordinated, and provide concierge service to the business aviation operators arriving and departing from the facility. Concierge services arrange rental cars and limousine transportation, reserve hotel rooms, order catering, provide ground travel information and update the schedule and communicate the timing of events to the line service staff. The line service staff provide movement of aircraft, perform fuel quality control, fuel the aircraft, service the aircraft lavatory, and provide valet passenger vehicles and many other tasks. The facility is also serviced by the line service staff to provide cleaning and stocking of supplies, snow removal, mowing of the lawn, perform preventive maintenance work on equipment and on the building.

As the fleet of business aircraft is continually upgraded to new models, the aircraft will get more efficient, burn less fuel, and can travel farther before refueling. This creates a very competitive environment, especially in the Midwest, to attract that business and sell them fuel. Some FBOs branch out from hanger leasing and fueling business to include aircraft management, charter, flight training, and aircraft maintenance services. **The FBO becomes a busy hub of the airport.**