**Minneapolis Airports Conference**

**April 20–22, 2016**

Madden’s on Gull Lake, Brainerd, MN

**Town Hall Conference Center**

Plan to attend the 2016 Minnesota Airports Conference in Brainerd! The conference is brought to you by the Minnesota Council of Airports and the Minnesota Department of Transportation and is facilitated by the Airport Technical Assistance Program (AirTAP).

**Conference highlights:**
- Experts in aviation and aerospace fields sharing their experiences in general assembly presentations, workshops, and open forums
- Technical and safety presentations
- Airport tour
- Industry trade show
- Awards and recognition program
- Networking opportunities
- The Minnesota Council of Airports annual meeting

The Minnesota Airports Conference focuses on airport management, operations, and maintenance but is open to anyone interested in aviation.

More details are available at: www.airtap.umn.edu/events/airportsconference/2016

**Registration**

The fee for the full conference is $195 if registration is received on or before April 8, 2016.* This price includes the sessions, breakfasts, lunches, breaks, awards luncheon, and prize drawings.

The one-day registration fee (Wednesday or Thursday only) is $100. The guest evening social fee (Wednesday or Thursday) is $50.

*Fees after April 8 will increase to $225 (full conference) and $130 (one day).

**Room Reservations**

Rooms are available at Madden’s for special rates. Please call Madden’s at 800-642-5369 or visit www.Maddens.com and identify yourself as an attendee of the Minnesota Airports Conference.
Minnesota Airports Conference • Program Agenda

Wednesday, April 20, 2016
8:00–11:00 a.m.  Vendor setup and registration
9:15–9:30 a.m.  Board buses to East Gull Lake Airport
9:45–10:45 a.m.  Turf Airstrip Tour/Technical Session
   Join Scott Hoffmann (Madden’s), Eric Rudingen (Willmar), Larry Lust (Sleepy Eye), John Ostrom (MAC), and Al Schumacher (USDA) for a walking tour focused on turf strip maintenance and other related GA airport maintenance best practices.
10:00–11:00 a.m.  Commercial Service Airports Meeting
11:00 a.m.  Exhibit hall opens
11:00–11:55 a.m.  • Concurrent Sessions
   Air Service Development Challenges and Emerging Trends Impacting Non-hub Airports
   Join Mike Mooney (Sixel), Faye Malarkay (FAA), and Bill Swebar (InterVista) in a discussion of emerging trends and challenges facing regional or non-hub airports.
   Technology, Social Media & Public Engagement for Small Airports
   Learn about creative ways from Blaine Peterson (DLH) and Jason & McDiarmid Law), John DeCoster (Trillion Aviation), and Evan Wilson (MAC) on the difference between and correct application of retail vs. self fuel.
   Emerging Technology to Administer and Maintain Small Airports
   Hear from Pablo Nuesch (Spiegel & McDiarmid Law), John DeCoster (Trillion Aviation), Chris Smith (League of Minnesota Cities), and Greg Reigel (Regel Law Firm and the League of Minnesota Cities).
Technology, Social Media & Public Engagement for Small Airports
Learn about career options available in aviation! Meet aviation professionals Rachel Obermoller (MnDOT), Jake Martin (FAA), Jacque Gamel (USE), and Joe Hedrick (Thief River Falls) and learn about their education, daily work experience, and the road they took to their current position.
4:00–5:00 p.m.  MCOA Annual Meeting
5:15–8:00 p.m.  Social mixer with hors d’oeuvres, cash bar, and live music

Thursday, April 21, 2016
7:30–8:30 a.m.  Breakfast and exhibit hall open
Exhibits will be open throughout the day to allow more time to visit vendors and network.
7:30–8:30 a.m.  MCOA breakfast board meeting
8:30–9:30 a.m.  • Concurrent Sessions
   Minimal Standards 101
   Hear from Pablo Nuesch (Spiegel & McDiarmid Law), John DeCoster (Trillion Aviation), and Evan Wilson (MAC) about why minimum standards are an important regulatory tool in an airport manager’s toolkit.
   Airport Zoning Update
   During development of the 2012 State Aviation System Plan, stakeholders asked MnDOT to begin a process to review airport safety zoning requirements. Come hear an update on this and the proposed legislative changes from speakers Ryan Gaug (MnDOT), Shaun Germolus (MCOA), and Neil Ralston (MAC).
6:00–6:30 p.m.  BBQ Mixer with Mn Vikings and Twins players
Enjoy a BBQ buffet and meet Minnesota Vikings player Adam Thielen and former Minnesota Twins Jack Morris.

Friday, April 22, 2016
7:00–8:00 a.m.  Breakfast
8:00–8:30 a.m.  State of the Airport Business with Jeff Hamiel
   Hear what’s happening on Minnesota’s aviation scene from the MAC executive director in this engaging and popular session.
8:30–9:30 a.m.  UAVs—What Does the Airport Manager Need to Know?
   Hear from Jon Beck (Northland) about the types of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) operations, current state and federal laws, requirements for flying UAVs legally, coordinating with UAV operators, and options for use that may threaten an airport.
9:30–10:15 a.m.  Networking with colleagues and exhibitors
10:15 a.m.–11:15 a.m.  Awards Luncheon
   Join us as we recognize scholarship recipients and those receiving awards for excellence in aviation.
11:30 a.m.–1:15 p.m.  Concurrent Sessions
   Minimum Standards 101
   Hear from Pablo Nuesch (Spiegel & McDiarmid Law), John DeCoster (Trillion Aviation), and Evan Wilson (MAC) about why minimum standards are an important regulatory tool in an airport manager’s toolkit.
6:00–6:30 p.m.  Networking, visit vendors, and ice cream social

Don’t miss this year’s meet-and-greet with Minnesota sports pros!
Adam Thielen, Minnesota Vikings wide receiver, and Jack Morris, winning pitcher for the Minnesota Twins in Game 7 of the 1991 World Series, will be sharing their experiences and views on the persistence and work ethic that drove their careers at the 2016 Minnesota Airports Conference in Brainerd. This will be an opportunity for conference participants to meet and hear from two native Minnesotans who have excelled in professional sports.

Hear astronaut ‘Hoot’ Gibson speak at opening luncheon
Robert “Hoot” Gibson—naval aviator, astronaut, aviation crash investigator, and air race pilot—will speak at the opening luncheon about his tour of duty in the Navy, his experience piloting aircraft, his life as an astronaut, and his current career as an aviation expert witness.