

Vice President Pence Flies into Yellowstone Airport on the Way to Old Faithful

On Thursday June 13th Vice President Mike Pence and his wife, Karen, flew into the Yellowstone Airport for a trip into Yellowstone National Park. Preparation for the visit started days in advance and many different government agencies came together to help the event go smoothly.

The airport was an obvious pick for the Vice President and his staff due to its proximity to Yellowstone National Park and Old Faithful Geyser, where Mr. Pence gave a speech alongside Interior Secretary David Bernhardt about funding park improvements.

Mike and Karen Pence arrived on a highly equipped version of the Boeing's 757 known as "Air Force Two" The Yellowstone Airport operations and management team had been coordinating many of the logistics for the visit with the Secret Service and the Air Force all week. A few airport staff members had the chance to meet the Pences and even more had the opportunity to tour Air Force Two.

Many federal and local agencies collaborated to ensure the motorcade moved swiftly through the park; however, there was a slowdown due to some bison inching towards the road, a problem that many park visitors can relate to. The trip to Yellowstone wrapped up the vice president's two day visit to Montana and it surely left a positive impact on the town of West Yellowstone and the airport after being in the spotlight.



Mike and Karen Pence visit West Yellowstone Photo Credit: Aeronautics Staff



Brad Wursten's MSX-R aircraft, Air Fair attendees enjoying events Photo Credit: Aeronautics Staff

First West Yellowstone Air Fair Sponsored by Choice Aviation

On July 20, 2019, Choice Aviation sponsored the first West Yellowstone Air Fair at Yellowstone Airport. Choice Aviation has put on many similar events at airports across the region. The event started at 9:00 a.m. with free aircraft rides followed by a ping pong ball airplane drop competition for the kids in attendance. Like an Easter egg hunt, the kids searched for ping pong balls in a controlled space that had been dropped earlier by an airplane. The kids who collected the most ping pong balls won prizes.

Around 11:30 a.m. Brad Wursten, an experienced airshow pilot, thrilled the Air Fair audience with an amazing show of aerobatic flight maneuvers in his MSX-R Aerobatic Aircraft. The event also included a free BBQ lunch and a chance to look at amazing airplanes that flew in for the event. The Air Fair event was a great opportunity for residents from town and the surrounding West Yellowstone area to experience aviation from one of its most fun perspectives. This is a biennial event. Be sure to put it on your calendar for the third week of July 2021.

The Round Engine Round-Up Returns to Yellowstone Airport



Breakfast is enjoyed by many at Yellowstone Airport campground. Photo Credit: Aeronautics Staff

On Saturday, June 29, 2019, Yellowstone Airport hosted an event put on by the Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF), which is an organization that works to preserve, maintain, and create general aviation air strips. The organization was founded by a group of Montana pilots who wanted to work to protect aviation against the threat of airstrip closures. The organization puts on multiple events each year to help bring pilots together and advocate for their common cause.

One event that draws a lot of attention is the Round Engine Round-Up. This was the second year in a row that the Round Engine Round-Up made a stop through Yellowstone Airport for breakfast at the pilot campground.

The volunteers from RAF came together on Friday evening to start getting everything prepared the delicious Saturday breakfast, which was followed by great views of antique round engine aircraft. The Round Engine Round-Up was a great opportunity to get the word out about RAF and show pilots and aviation enthusiasts the various amenities that the Yellowstone Airport has to offer.