



First Flight Pilot Facility

*A gift to the nation from the
400,000 members of the
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association*



Welcome to the First Flight Pilot Facility

One century ago, the Wright brothers set forth from this place of sand and wind and flew the first successful powered aircraft into the pages of history. On these dunes, they planted the seeds of today's vibrant air transportation system. By far the largest component of that system is general aviation, comprising all flying activity outside of scheduled airlines and the military.

The men and women who own and fly general aviation airplanes are the heirs to the Wright's dream. Landing at First Flight Airfield is a pilgrimage for all general aviation pilots. This much-loved destination inspires pilots and non-pilots alike to share the dream of personal flight that the Wright brothers made possible.

The members of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association donated this state-of-the-art pilot facility to the American people to commemorate the 100th anniversary of powered flight. It is the only new structure built at this historic site to remain after the Centennial of Flight celebrations.

Fifty years from now, this facility will still be here, serving pilots and visitors to these hallowed sands, celebrating the Wright brothers' achievements and ensuring the future of personal flight.

First Flight Pilot Facility Features

The 900-square-foot First Flight Pilot Facility was officially opened on May 10, 2003. The building is designed to withstand the brutal Outer Banks weather (including hurricanes) and will last more than 50 years with minimal maintenance. A donation from the members of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association funded the construction. The building is owned and operated by the National Park Service.

The facility is located adjacent to the 3,000-foot First Flight Airfield, which is accessible to almost all personally flown general aviation aircraft.



The handicap-accessible building has restrooms, a pay phone, and vending machines that will be available around the clock. There is also an office for an air tour concession.

Previously, the only structures to greet arriving pilots and visitors to the west side of the Wright

Brothers National Memorial were a phone booth, small shack and portable toilets.



Pilot flight-planning center

The pilot flight-planning center includes two computer terminals that put real-time weather and planning tools at pilots' fingertips.

One terminal provides a satellite link to current weather information using the Meteorlogix MXVision Aviation Sentry system. The second features a high-speed Internet connection for access to the latest flight planning information provided by Jeppesen.



The communications system includes one-button telephone access to FAA flight services, the National Park Service, aircraft services, and hotels, taxis, and other travel needs.

The flight-planning center is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in accordance with regular park hours and holiday schedules.



The First Flight Pilot Facility

- is a gift of the members of AOPA to the American people to honor the Wright brothers' legacy and the generations of pilots who have followed them in flight;
- is the only new permanent structure that will remain after the Centennial celebration;
- contains a state-of-the-art flight-planning center for pilots landing at First Flight Airfield;
- offers computerized weather-briefing and flight planning, wall-mounted navigation charts, and flight planning workspace for pilots;
- is hurricane resistant and is designed to last more than 50 years;
- provides new restrooms, vending facilities to all visitors to First Flight Airfield and the west side of Wright Brothers National Memorial; and,
- was built in coordination with the National Park Service and First Flight Centennial Foundation.

Celebrating the past, ensuring the future of general aviation

AOPA is the world's largest aviation membership association. It represents the interests of its members – and of all general aviation – on federal, state and local issues.

AOPA was founded in 1939 with the three-part goal of making flying safer, more affordable, and more enjoyable for all Americans. It remains dedicated to these objectives today.

An important part of AOPA's mission is the preservation and protection of general aviation airports such as First Flight Airfield. General aviation serves more than 18,000 community airports, while the airlines reach just 540 communities.

General aviation airports – like First Flight – are not only living reminders of America's rich aviation heritage, they are key components of the nation's transportation infrastructure and important economic engines in their communities.

For more information about general aviation, visit www.GAservingAmerica.org.

To join AOPA, call 1-800-USA-AOPA or visit www.aopa.org.



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