

# Moontown Airport Annual Grass Field Fly-In

by  
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Images by Ken Philippart

The Greater Huntsville Section participated in the Annual Grass Field Fly-In at Moontown Airport (3M5) on September 17, 2106.

This marked the third consecutive year that AIAA has participated in the fly-in. Ten volunteers stepped up to work 2-hours shifts, tripling the number of previous years.' The Volunteer Handbook and processes developed for August's Space & Missile Defense Symposium exhibit were used to good purpose once again and kept things running smoothly throughout the day.

The Greater Huntsville Section exhibit included the section's quadcopter, a scrolling slide presentation, membership brochures, and assorted AIAA giveaways. But by far the most popular items were the foam gliders and helicopter spinners for the children. They were snapped up as quickly as they were brought out.



The day dawned clear and sunny as the fly-in and pancake breakfast commenced. Aircraft lined the field and several fly-bys were made by interesting aircraft. Unfortunately, the weather quickly changed as clouds rolled in and the rain started. What began as a light mist turned into a steady rain by noon. Since AIAA's table was under an airplane port, visitors took



refuge from the rain right next to the Greater Huntsville Section exhibit. Not letting an opportunity go to waste, the section's volunteers took advantage of the circumstances to promote AIAA's opportunities and benefits with the crowd that had gathered to get out of the rain. The rain did not let up, however, and the decision was made to end the fly-in early.

Despite the weather-shortened activities, it was still a very successful day. Several recruiting prospects were discovered. The section networked with the Ninety-Nines, an organization of female pilots, and received leads on possible luncheon speakers. We established contacts with Save Our Flying Heritage, the Huntsville Soaring Club and of course, the host organization, EAA Chapter 190 who immediately invited AIAA back for next year's fly-in.

A big thank you to our volunteers who gave up part of their Saturday and braved the rain to serve others. Thank you to Lauren Badia, Brandon Stiltner, Erin Gish, Shannon Stump, Ken and Lisa Philippart, Dr. Arloe Mayne, Mark Smith, Mary Richardson and Dr. H. Q. Yang. A special thanks to Mary for driving all the way from Jasper to help!

Next year's Moontown Airport Grass Field Fly-In will be on September 16 so save the date. The EAA has promised better weather!

