

# MESABA **ON THE MOVE**

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION PRODUCED ESPECIALLY FOR EMPLOYEES AND FRIENDS OF MESABA AVIATION, INC.

VOL.1 • NO. 9 • JULY 1987

## ≡ NEWS ≡

# Mesaba Sets Boarding Record in June

Mesaba flew 35,091 passengers in June, setting an all-time boarding record for the Minneapolis-based regional airline. The best previous record was set in March 1986, when Mesaba flew 32,943 passengers.

Comparing the growth of traffic from one year ago, passenger boardings increased 43% over the 24,488 passengers that were carried last June. In terms of load factor (the number of filled seats compared to the number of available seats), Mesaba's June 1987 load factor was 59.2%, compared with a load factor of 43.8% experienced during June of last year.

According to Phil Swenson, Vice President of Planning for Mesaba, June's traffic was "extremely encouraging." He said, "Our traffic and load factors met projections for the month of June. We are looking forward to an increase in our load factors during July and August."



Lots of passengers at Mesaba's gate area at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport reflect the traffic increases the carrier has experienced in recent months.

## Thief River Falls to be Site of Cat Festival July 31- August 2

Thief River Falls, MN Arctco, Inc., makers of Arctic Cat snowmobiles, is hosting its 5 year anniversary in Thief River Falls, Minnesota on the weekend of July 31-Aug 2. All Mesaba employees and other interested persons are invited to attend the gala event!

The three day event will feature a Walleye Fish Fry at 6:00p.m. followed by a Dance at 8:00 p.m. on Friday.

Saturday's activities include a parade, flea market, rides and many other events. A Sunday morning Pancake Breakfast is also planned.

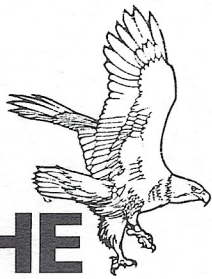
For more information, write: Arctco, Inc. Cat Festival c/o Joe Klosterman, P.O. Box 810, Thief River Falls, MN 56701.

## Pilots Vote in ALPA

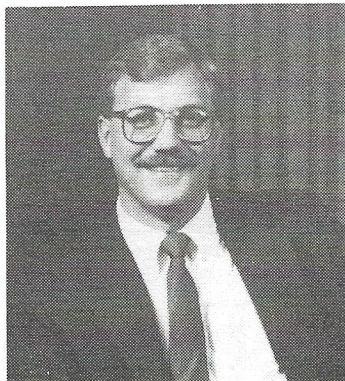
Effective July 7, 1987, Mesaba's pilot group became officially represented by the Airline Pilots' Association (ALPA) after a vote of 29-40 in favor of union representation. In order to be successful, the pilots needed 36 votes. Under the new arrangement, ALPA will act as a bargaining unit and will negotiate wage and work rules for the pilots.

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**THE EAGLE'S NEST** PRESIDENT'S LETTER  
Robert D. Swenson



To All Employees

Congratulations to all of our employees for an all-time boarding record in June. Mesaba flew 35,091 passengers during the month. As we look ahead, our boardings in July and August also look very good. We expect to top our boarding record before the summer is over.

You have probably heard that the election for union representation of the pilots by ALPA has occurred. Although as I write, we have not received any official correspondence yet, we understand that ALPA was voted in by a small margin. However disappointed I am at the outcome, it's my intention to continue to operate in an open and fair way. Now with this issue behind us, I know that all of the pilots will join with us as we continue to develop our excellent company.

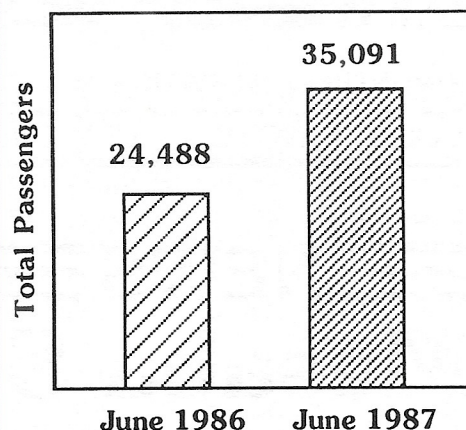
I said last month that I would continue to keep you updated on our new hangar project. We are in the final process now of signing land and apron lease agreements where the building will be located. We have put together a "Request for Project Financing" package with which we are pursuing financing for the project. As I stated before, it is only if we remain profitable going forward that we will be able to successfully secure financing for the new hangar.

Best wishes to you for an enjoyable July and early August. Here's looking at 37,000 passengers one month this summer.

Sincerely,

Robert Swenson

Mesaba Aviation, Inc. Traffic Increases



Graph shows passenger increases of 43% from June of 1987 over June of 1986 for Mesaba

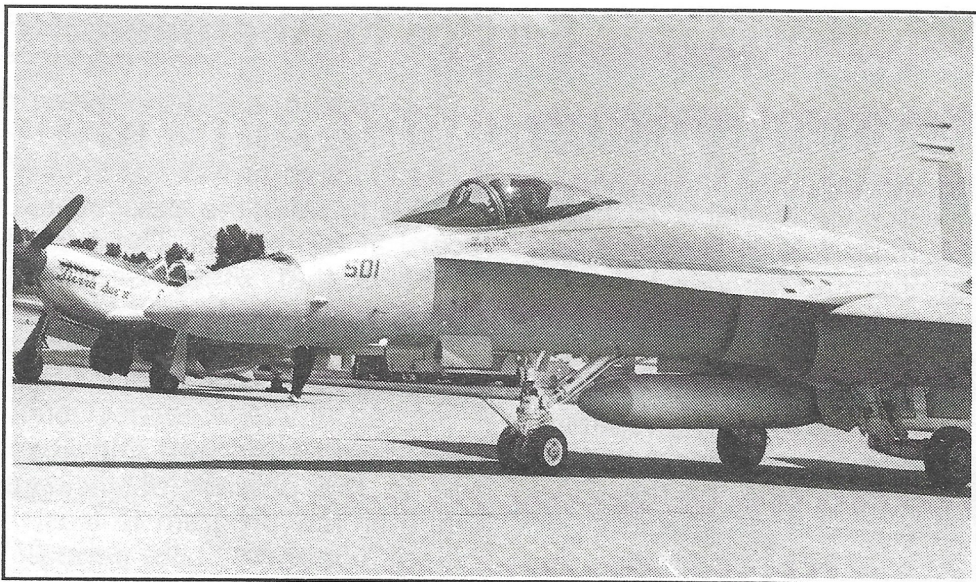
Date for Picnic Set

Thursday, August 20th, is the date set for Mesaba's annual summer picnic. The location this year will be Fort Snelling State Park, a part located on the banks of the Mississippi, not far from the Twin Cities International Airport.

The Picnic will begin at 4:00 p.m. and last until 10:00 p.m. Parking is available at the Park and a shuttle service will be operating from the general office to the park for those that fly in from the system.

If anyone has any questions, they may call Andrea at the main office. Look for a flyer to be sent to all employees soon. All Mesaba employees and their family members are invited.

**Mesaba On The Move** is published monthly by Mesaba Aviation Inc.'s Public Relations department. The Editor accepts for publication, written stories related to Mesaba and its operations. Also accepted are comments and ideas regarding the content of the publication. **Mesaba On The Move** is written especially for employees and friends of Mesaba Aviation, Inc.



Many Huron residents turned out to see this year's Huron Air Show. Mesaba displayed a booth and gave away two round-trip tickets.

## Huron Air Show a Success

The third annual Huron Air Show, sponsored by the Huron Chamber of Commerce over June 27th and 28th, was a success according to Jackie DuBoise, Mesaba customer service manager in Huron.

Among other features in the show, included the War Birds and world famous aerobatics champion, Betty Stewart. Ken Hirsch from Sioux Falls, well-known in the aviation industry, served as M.C. of the two-day event. The weather was great with the exception of Sunday afternoon, when a thunder-shower ended the show a bit early.

Mesaba gave away two (2) round-trip tickets at the event in addition to displaying a trade booth at the airport for interested spectators. Winners of the round-trip tickets were Bob Eickhoff of Huron and Doug Pribyl of Wolsey. Congratulations!

## Annual Meeting Slated for July 30th

Mesaba's annual stockholder meeting will be held on July 30th, at the Minneapolis Marriott Hotel/City Center. The meeting will begin at 3:30p.m. in one of the hotel's group meeting rooms.

All Mesaba employees who are stockholders are invited to attend.



Customer Service Agent Lloyd Crary, a member of the Confederate Air Force, recently donated several rides in one of the organization's LT-6G aircraft to Mesaba employees. Shown here with Rob Swenson, President of Mesaba, is Crary and the aircraft flown by Captain Steve Green. Swenson took a 30 minute ride in the airplane.

## "Buy and Fly" - New Feature in Monthly Newsletter

A new feature to be added to the monthly newsletter beginning in July, is a one page inset which lists items for sale or wanted by employees of Mesaba. The inset will be distributed each month inside "Mesaba On The Move".

Listing a personal item in "Fly & Buy" is a great way to advertise FREE your personal items to other employees each month. To list an item, Just write on a blank piece of paper the item you want to find or sell, include a name, telephone number, a description of the item and a price if you wish. Send your description to CO-MAT: Public Relations c/o Mesaba On The Move, MSPXJ G.O. Att: Editor

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# FROM AROUND THE SYSTEM

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## Traffic in Devils Lake Shows Improvement

June boarding of 211 in Devils Lake reflect a growing amount of use and interest in Mesaba air service out of Devils Lake by residents in the area.

According to Eric Lysne, Mesaba station manager, 1987 has been a very good year for traffic growth in Devils Lake. He said, "our traffic increases began early this year with discounted fares becoming available. But since then, the traffic has remained strong." A year ago June, the airport boarded less than 170 passengers compared to 211 this year. Lysne said that frequent flyers are using the service more than ever before.

Part of the credit for the traffic increase must go to local city and airport officials who have been pushing air service hard out of Devils Lake. Kenny Koehn, airport manager for Devils Lake, has made "numerous" visits to local businesses to solicit their support for local air service. Koehn and other officials have also been very involved in helping draft and support continuing Essential Air Service legislation for the next Congressional session.

Officials from Mesaba say that the traffic should continue to remain strong throughout the summer.

## New Newspaper Service In Aberdeen

Mesaba passengers on the morning flight from Aberdeen to Minneapolis have had a new service available to them, according to Pat Burke, Mesaba Station Manager in Aberdeen. For a thirty day trial basis, Mesaba and the Aberdeen American News have been making morning newspapers available to passengers as they board the flight to the Twin Cities.

"The response has been great," according to Burke. "The papers are delivered at 5:00 a.m. and the passengers board at 6:00 a.m. The great thing is that otherwise, the passengers would not be able to see the paper before they leave."

The newspaper and Mesaba are in the process of seeing whether the program is feasible to continue on a permanent basis.

## South Dakota Task Force present report to Governor

On June 24th, members of the South Dakota Essential Air Service Task Force, met with S.D. Governor George Mickelson, to present a report on air service to the Governor's office. Among important items, the report outlined the importance of South Dakota to continue pushing passage of federal E.A.S. legislation and to continue working closely with major and regional airlines that currently fly to the state. Mesaba President Robert Swenson was present for the presentation.

The task force was established on February 6, 1987, by Governor Mickelson, to study South Dakota air service. Comprised of representatives from cities around the state, the task force met several times to discuss air service and short and long term goals in the field of airline service for the state. Lt. Governor Walter Dale Miller served as chairman

of the committee. Other items in the report included: 1) South Dakota should develop a contingency plan in the case that E.A.S. legislation is not passed and the federal subsidy program is discontinued, 2) the attorney general of the state should review state laws to determine the legality of using local and state funds for subsidizing air service, 3) the state should continue working with commuter/regional airlines to establish mutually beneficial air service patterns and 4) the task force should continue to be in place until December 1988.

The S.D. Department of Transportation commissioned a study to begin on July 1, on air service study of the state to determine short and long range air service needs. That report is scheduled to be complete by July 1, 1988.

## Jamestown Air Show slated for August 8-9

If you are interested in seeing F-14s and F-18s blazing through the low skies of North Dakota this summer, then Jamestown is the place for you on August 8-9, when Jamestown plays host to a summer air show. According to Bill Steinmetz, Mesaba customer service agent in Jamestown, the show should be a great one to see.

"Mesaba will have a Metro III displayed at the airport for local bypassers on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning," said Steinmetz. "Any person who wants more information on the show should feel free to call us."

## MESABA *Trivia*

Mesaba Trivia is a monthly quiz on Mesaba, the company and its employees. Answer the following questions correctly and you qualify for a monthly drawing for a dinner for two.

- Only Mesaba employees are eligible to win.
- Answers must be submitted on a separate sheet of paper and sent to "Mesaba On The Move", COMAT XJMSP G.O.
- Winner and answers will be printed each month.
- Answers must be received no later than the 25th of each month.

1. What was the percentage increase in traffic from June 1986 to June 1987 on Mesaba?  
2. Who is Mesaba's Director of Maintenance in Grand Rapids, Minnesota and how many years

## Annual Mesaba Picnic

**When: Thursday, Aug. 20  
4:00 p.m. -10:00 p.m.**

**Where: Ft. Snelling St. Park  
(near the airport)**

**Who's Invited: All Mesaba employees and their family members**

**Look for a flyer soon!**

has he been with Mesaba?

3. What are the date(s) of Arctco, Inc.'s Cat Festival in Thief River Falls?

4. Mesaba's annual company picnic is scheduled to take place on August 20th. At last years picnic, the flight department squared off against the customer service department in the finals of the volleyball championship. Which department won the match?

5. What is the name of the new 'for sale and wanted' page insert which will be distributed each month in "Mesaba On The Move" beginning in July?

6. Where is Mesaba's annual picnic going to be held this year?

7. Jamestown's Summer Air Show will be held on what date this year?

8. Before July's boarding record for Mesaba, what month did Mesaba set a record in the number of passengers carried? How many passengers were carried during that month?

Answers to May's Trivia Questions:

1. Craig Carroll
2. 1982
3. 32,943 passengers
4. December 1984
5. Simmons - Detroit  
Big Sky - Billings  
Phoenix Air Lines - Memphis  
and Minneapolis
6. Brad Osborn  
Chris VanDenHeuvel
7. 1981
8. Mitch Einerson  
Fran Einerson  
Mark Langer  
Mark Hopper  
Peter Johnson

There were no winners in May.

# EMPLOYEE NEWS

## NEW EMPLOYEES

### Full-time

#### Minneapolis

Patrick Hoel, pilot.  
 Scott Nephew, pilot.  
 Gary Schaack, pilot.  
 Jay Share, pilot.  
 John Will, pilot.  
 Michael Fischer, pilot.  
 Anne Meyer, flight attendant.  
 David Van Gunsuen, grooming department.  
 Larry Tighe, dispatcher.  
 Rebecca Hallas, dispatcher.  
 Anita Johnson, accountant clerk.  
 Stacey Carlberg, customer service agent.

#### Brainard

Betty Jo Barry, customer service agent

#### Grand Rapids FBO

Jeff O'Konek, flight instructor

### Part-time

#### Minneapolis

Daniel Viner, customer service agent  
 Roger Clingman, customer service agent.  
 Tim Rogers, customer service agent.  
 Jeff Braun, customer service agent.  
 Randall Dallman, customer service agent.  
 Sherry Morris, customer service agent.  
 Rose Scheur, maintenance records area.

#### Brainard

Susan Hortness, customer service agent.

#### Grand Rapids FBO

David Foss, flight instructor.



## Outstanding Service Award Given to Mesaba Flight Attendant

As part of a new award program in place at Mesaba, above and beyond the call service is being recognized by an outstanding service award. The first of those awards to be given was recently presented to flight attendant **Vicki Windschitl**. She was nominated for this award for her exemplary performance in the skies as well as on the ground.

Windschitl has received numerous complimentary letters and telephone calls through the Customer Relations office from satisfied passengers commending her for her wonderful personality and helpfulness during their flight with Mesaba.

Holly VanZant, Director of Inflight Services who presented the award, said Vicki "always takes things in stride." She continued, "Vicki simply does not let things get to her, no matter how difficult."

Our congratulations to Vicki for a job well done.

### July Birthdays

Robert A. Lieser	15
Lawrence J. Takin	15
William Hammerseng	16
MDP	16
Gerald Jagerson	17
Milton Allen	18
Kenneth Steltzner	18
Mitchell Hagen	20
Karen Katterhagen	21
June Landeen	22
Patrick Bane	23
John Burnett	26
Martin Lewandowski	26
Ronn Parker	27

Merrilee Schaaf	27
Rebecca Haskell	31

### August Birthdays

Gerald Eidenshink	4
Kep Hodgson	7
Daniel Kelly	8
Daniel Dady	9
James Haarbauer	9
Judith Boeddeker	10
Charlotte Roden	10
Steven Elowson	11
Deborah Kaeder	12
Sally Vanderlind	12
Robert Martin	13
Robert Winzenburg	14

## Employee Featured in Ad

Mesaba records clerk Gloria Jansen was recently featured in an Anoka Technical Institute (ATI) advertisement on July 12th, in the Minneapolis Star and Tribune TV Guide section. Standing beside a Fokker F27 (see below), Jansen is shown along with mechanic John Weir.

Jansen began schooling at ATI in 1986 and soon after secured a job in the maintenance records department. Along with her, Mesaba employees Ronda Miller (maintenance planner), Charlotte Roden and Anita Johnson (accounting clerks) are also all gradu-

ates of Anoka Aviation Administration program.



Gloria Jansen: "In less than 12 months from beginning my training at Anoka T.I., I have an exciting career with Mesaba Airlines."

### Aviation Career for Your Future at Anoka Technical Institute

- 3 Classes starting Sept 8th
  - AVIATION MANAGEMENT
  - AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL
- Anoka T.I. has been in the business of Aviation training for 17 years.
- Both one year certified programs and two year college degree programs in cooperation with Anoka-Ramsey Community College available.
- Financial aid for those who qualify.



#### ANOKA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Anoka-Hennepin Independent School District,  
 1355 West Main, Anoka, Minnesota 55303  
 612/437-1000 Ask for Aviation Careers • Call Toll Free 1-800-247-5588

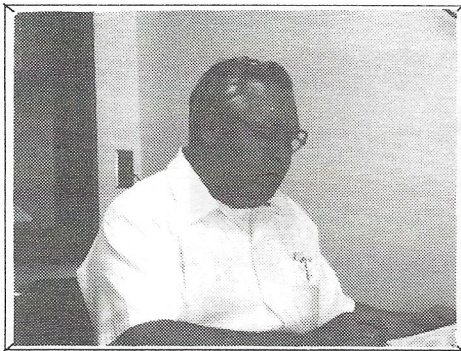
Mesaba employee Gloria Jansen is seen here in a recent advertisement as a graduate from Anoka Technical Institute.

# A MESABA CLOSE-UP

## Grand Rapid's FBO: Mesaba's Northern Extension

Standing on the village green in Grand Rapids, Minnesota (A quaint little city of 13,000 located 180 miles north of the Twin Cities and right smack in the middle of resort country), one is reminded of Mesaba Aviation everytime an airplane files over toward the city airport. That's because, in addition to providing daily scheduled airline service to Grand Rapids, Mesaba also operates an extensive aviation base at the airport. Most of the aircraft landing or departing the airport, in some way, have a connection with Mesaba.

Though the Company has moved a good portion of its airline and accounting operations to Minneapolis over the past several years, Mesaba still employs 17 persons in Grand Rapids, operates a scheduled daily airline service to the city and owns and operates a fixed-based aviation operation on the airport field. That



Gene Voigt, Director of Maintenance

airport today is known as "Gordy Newstrom Field," named after Gordy Newstrom, a long-time resident of Grand Rapids and original founder of Mesaba Air-



Mesaba's Grand Rapids operation: The Company's Northern Extension

lines. With two daily round-trip Metro III flights to the Twin Cities, Mesaba carries approximately 600 passengers in and out of Grand Rapids each month. During the summer months, that number increases because of the number of tourists that travel to the area. In June, Mesaba scheduled an evening non-stop flight between the Twin Cities and Grand Rapids to accommodate the extra traffic generated during the summer months. That schedule change, according to Bill Downing, Customer Service Manager in Grand Rapids, "has made the service even better."

### Extensive maintenance base

Gene Voigt is Mesaba's Director of Maintenance in Grand Rapids and as such, oversees Mesaba's daily maintenance operations at the Grand Rapids airport. "We do daily maintenance on Mesaba's aircraft in the area," says Voigt, who began as an employee of Mesaba as a mechanic over 33 years ago (he still brags that he can bump any non-revenue passenger, almost, with his seniority card which reads 001).

With 7 full-time mechanics on duty around the clock, Mesaba's Grand Rapid maintenance team is extensively trained and is equipped to handle all types of major or minor maintenance work that is required. Voigt says that each Spring and Fall, their shop stays "especially busy" putting on and taking off floats on the planes owned by area residents.

Currently, the shop is working on a privately-owned plane that recently turned over in the water as it was attempting to land on the lake near the airport (see photo inset).

On a regular nightly basis, the department also does "routine nightly inspections and other maintenance work" on one of Mesaba's Metro III's which overnights in Grand Rapids, according to Voigt. In addition, the department is trained to handle most mechanical repairs that might develop.

At the airport, Mesaba is the major tenant, owning a series of 10 T-hangars, one storage building and one of the several maintenance hangars located on the airport property. The company leases its major hangar facility from the city of Grand Rapids.

### Flight School and Aircraft Rental - the other side of the operation

On the other side of the fixed-base operation is the flight school and aircraft rental operation that Mesaba has in place at the Grand Rapids Airport. Mesaba owns 3 of its own Cessna 172 aircraft which it uses to give flight lessons, rents or uses for other aviation service needs. In addition to flight department manager, Dave Claypool, Mesaba employs two full-time flight instructors, Jeff O'Konek and Dave Foss, who give flight instruction lessons to student pilots. According to Claypool, Mesaba cur-



**The Fixed Base Operation has on more than one occasion helped aircraft owners upright their seaplanes. This airplane overturned while trying to land on a Grand Rapids lake.**

rently is giving lessons to approximately 24 students in the area.

In addition to private flight lessons, Mesaba's flight department does a good deal of work with the Department of Natural Resources. Mesaba flies teams of researchers and foresters weekly over the Itasca County area tracking radio-tagged bears in the region and photographing land parcels.

Also, says Claypool, the flight department is currently working with the region's community college system to set up an aviation pro-

gram which would allow college students to get credit for flying and working in the aviation maintenance area. Even without that program, Mesaba is currently logging approximately 2000 hours a year with its aircraft, according to Claypool.

Other areas in which the fixed-base operation derives revenue include money for hangar rent, fuel sales, aircraft tie-downs, and of course, the aircraft rental of the Cessna 172's. Dave Claypool said that persons who have their private pilot's license will find that

renting an aircraft is almost always less expensive in the long run than owning their own plane.

The Grand Rapids operation offers a unique situation for Mesaba's employee group, all of whom work closely within the confines of the airport. All of Mesaba's customer service personnel, for example, double as line crew personnel, moving and fueling airplanes on the airport and at the seaplane base located on the northside of the airport as needed. And each of the departments interact on a daily basis while covering their own areas of responsibilities.

Mesaba's aviation operations have been located in Grand Rapids since 1944 when Gordy Newstrom founded the Company. While the aircraft have changed somewhat and the number of daily operations varied, the same service exists today. That's Mesaba's northern extension of the Company!

## **MESABA ON THE MOVE**

Mesaba Aviation, Inc.  
6201 34th Avenue South  
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