



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



2026 Air Race Classic coming to St. Louis Regional Airport

East Alton, IL – St. Louis Regional Airport is hosting the 49th Annual Air Race Classic Start, bringing one of the nation's premier all-female aviation competitions to the region. The Air Race Classic is an all-female-piloted aviation race which provides approximately 60 teams from around the country the opportunity to fly a pre-determined cross-country route over a four-day period. Competitors are judged on their cross-country flying skills as they visit eleven different airports en route to the terminus. This year's race includes 106 participants from 28 states. Teams of two to three pilots will compete in single-engine aircraft.

Operated entirely by volunteers, the Air Race Classic, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to: encouraging and educating current and future women pilots; increasing public awareness of general aviation; demonstrating women's roles in aviation; preserving and promoting the tradition of pioneering women in aviation.

As the host and Start airport for the event, race officials and participants will descend upon St. Louis Regional Airport for several days of pre-race preparations which include detailed event briefings, aircraft safety inspections, and celebratory gatherings all leading to the take-off event on the morning of Tuesday, June 23, 2026 where spectators can expect to see dozens of aircraft take off in rapid succession as the race begins. The community is invited to attend these free, family-friendly events, including:

- **Saturday, June 20, 7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.** – Pancake Breakfast hosted by EAA Chapter 864. Enjoy all you can eat pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, coffee and juice for just \$10 per plate.
- **Saturday, June 20, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** – Meet the Racers event. Meet the 106 participants that make up the field of the 49th Annual Air Race Classic.
- **Saturday, June 20, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.** – Youth Event – Youth ages 8-17 can experience aviation-related topics that the racers must know and consider as part of their race. Hands-on activities in conjunction with EAA Chapter 864. Currently this event is sold out.
- **Tuesday, June 23, 7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.** - Celebratory Takeoff Event – Visit the airport to watch the 106 racers and 46 aircraft depart within an hour as they begin their 4-day race journey. Doors open at 7:30am with the first departure planned for 8am. Free admission, bring your own chair.

All public events are hosted at St. Louis Regional Airport, 8 Terminal Drive, East Alton, IL 62024.

Media representatives interested in covering the Air Race Classic at St. Louis Regional Airport are encouraged to contact Danny Adams (dadams@stlouisregional.com) or 618-259-2531.

For more information about Air Race Classic, Inc. or the Air Race Classic event, visit www.airraceclassic.org

About St. Louis Regional Airport:

The St. Louis Regional Airport (ALN), classified as an FAA Reliever Airport, provides more than 1,500 jobs with an annual economic impact of \$480 million. With two runways capable of handling a variety of aircraft, the Airport serves a diverse clientele from private aviators to Fortune 500 companies, and regional aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul customers. For more information, visit www.stlouisregional.com or follow the airport on Facebook: St. Louis Regional Airport.



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



EAA CHAPTER 864 PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2026
7:30 - 11:30 AM**

**\$10/adult
\$5/kids 4-12 years
Kids under 3 FREE**

**Enjoy all you can eat
pancakes, scrambled
eggs, sausage,
coffee, and juice.**



eea864info@gmail.com



**St. Louis Regional Airport (KALN)
8 Terminal Drive, East Alton, IL 62024**

**Come out and enjoy breakfast,
learn about the air race, meet
the pilots, and see airplanes.**



**FREE
YOUTH TAKEOFF EVENT
JUNE 20, 2026
1—3 PM
ST LOUIS REGIONAL AIRPORT
EAST ALTON, ILLINOIS**

Youth (ages 10-17) join as we learn more about aviation at the upcoming Air Race Classic at St. Louis Regional Airport. Learn what the pilots need to know before the race begins.

Participants will rotate through interactive activity stations focused on:

Aircraft Preflight

Forces of Flight

Instrumentation

Navigation

Runways and Air Traffic Control

Airframe and Powerplant Mechanics

ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY EMAIL

INCLUDE—Name, age and parent contact info

ARC2026YouthEvent@gmail.com

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED

(NOTE: Girl Scouts should register with Council)

SPONSORED BY EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 864

NO Young Eagle Flights will be provided at this event



JOIN US FOR THE TAKE-OFF CELEBRATION

FREE ADMISSION

The Air Race Classic contestants start their 2,384 mile journey from St. Louis Regional Airport

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

8:00am - 9:30am

Doors open at 7:30am

St. Louis Regional Airport
16 Terminal Drive
East Alton, IL 62024

Bring your own chair to the designated viewing area to watch the take-off.



The Air Race Classic is an all-female piloted aviation race featuring 46 teams from across the country, all competing in flying a pre-determined four-day route. For the first time ever, St. Louis Regional Airport will serve as the starting point—don't miss this exciting takeoff event!



8 Terminal Drive
East Alton, IL 62024
618-259-2531
airportdirector@stlouisregional.com

St. Louis Regional Airport