

**"THE AIRBOAT LINE  
TO TAMPA WILL BE ONLY A  
FORERUNNER OF GREAT ACTIVITY  
ALONG THESE LINES IN THE NEAR  
FUTURE... WHAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE  
YESTERDAY IS AN ACCOMPLISHMENT  
OF TODAY –**

**WHILE TOMORROW HERALDS  
THE UNBELIEVABLE."**

**Percy Fansler**

**St. Petersburg-Tampa Airboat Line**



**EVERY TIME WE BOARD A PLANE TO FLY  
CONVENIENTLY WHEREVER WE WISH,  
WE REMEMBER THAT FIRST FLIGHT  
100 YEARS AGO ...**



**Flight 2014 Planning Board, Inc.  
335 2nd Avenue N.E.  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701**

**[www.stpete.com/Flight2014](http://www.stpete.com/Flight2014)**

**THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF**

**The World's  
First Airline**



**FLIGHT 2014**

**January 1st 1914 - January 1st 2014**

## 100 YEARS OF COMMERCIAL FLIGHT

Almost 100 years ago, on January 1, 1914, a small plane lifted from the water in St. Petersburg's downtown with just one passenger. Twenty-three minutes later the plane landed in Tampa, thus launching the world's first regularly scheduled commercial airline flight.

Percy Fansler's vision convinced a dozen St. Petersburg business men and the Board of Trade to invest in a commercial airline from St. Petersburg to Tampa, just ten years after the Wright brothers' first flight. The "St. Petersburg-Tampa Airboat Line" was born.

The first passenger, former St. Petersburg Mayor Abe Pheil, paid \$400 at an auction for the flight to Tampa. His pilot was the young aviation pioneer Tony Jannus. The airline operated two scheduled roundtrips daily across Tampa Bay, with two bi-wing seaplanes called "Benoist Airboats." Regular one-way fare was \$5.00.

With average airspeeds of 60 mph, flight time between the Bay Cities was a fraction of the time required for the trip by car, rail or boat. That first New Year's Day flight heralded what we have since come to know as "The Birth of The Global Airline Industry."

## FLIGHT 2014

Flight 2014, Inc. is coordinating events and planning for the 100th Anniversary of The World's First Airline. The three founding organizations include the Florida Aviation Historical Society, the St. Petersburg Museum of History, and the Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society.

## CENTENNIAL PLANS

### Reenactment New Year's Day 2014

At 10:00 a.m., precisely 100 years after Tony Jannus' historic flight, founder and CEO of Fantasy of Flight, Kermit Weeks, plans to fly his full scale reproduction of the original Benoist Airboat Bi-Plane across Tampa Bay. Follow the progress of the Benoist replica construction at the website [benoist2014.com](http://benoist2014.com)

### Education

Programs at the St. Petersburg History Museum and Tampa Bay History Center will enlighten and entertain you about the historic flight and its influence.

### Exhibits

A special Centennial Exhibit is planned in the Flight One Gallery at the St. Petersburg Museum of History.

Two 1/3 scale models of the Benoist airboat, one static and one radio controlled will be on display at major airports and events around the bay area.

### Celebrations

First Night St. Pete will celebrate "First Night/First Flight" on New Year's Eve, 2013.

"Tony Jannus Day" will be celebrated at the 2014 Sun 'n Fun International Fly-in at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport.

The Flight 2014 project is supported by the cities of St. Petersburg and Tampa, their respective Chambers of Commerce, and additional organizations including the Sun 'n Fun International Fly-In & Expo, Florida Air Museum, and the three major airline airports on Florida's Gulf Coast. Mayor Bill Foster of the City of St. Petersburg and Mayor Bob Buckhorn of the City of Tampa are serving as Honorary Co-Chairs of the Celebrations.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Flight 2014 Planning Board is raising funds to support the celebrations. Funds will be used to support exhibits, educational programs, and costs associated with the reenactment of the First Airline Flight on New Year's Day, 2014.

Sponsors will be prominently identified at all events. Sponsorship Opportunities include:

<b>Friend of Flight 2014.....</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>Mayor Pheil Sponsor.....</b>	<b>\$400</b>
<b>Tony Jannus Sponsor.....</b>	<b>\$1,200</b>
<b>Percy Fansler Sponsor.....</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
<b>Benoist Airboat Sponsor.....</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>

Financial support in any amount is welcome. Please contact Flight 2014 president Will Michaels if you wish to consider a major gift at 727-420-9195. (501c3 pending)

Donate on-line at [www.stpete.com/Flight2014](http://www.stpete.com/Flight2014). Or please make a check out to "Flight 2014, Inc." and mail to:

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