

Flying Dentists Association Fly-In, Spearfish, S.D.

by George Larson

The Flying Dentists Association's (FDA) national meeting started with a fly-in to Clyde Ice Airport at Spearfish, S.D., June 22-26. The national meeting and accommodations were at the Spearfish Holiday Inn and Convention Center. FDA was officially formed on June 5, 1960 in Amarillo, Texas, by a group of 29 dentists who became its founding members. A constitution and bylaws were drawn up with officers and directors elected. The locations for annual conventions are chosen in resort-type settings, with access to clinical programs and aviation facilities, along with appeal for the entire family of the association members attending. The association has four districts to accommodate membership distribution and natural geographic barriers: Eastern, Central, Western and Pacific. Each district has its flying activities during the year. A monthly newsletter keeps all members informed of district activities as well as national meetings.



Mark E. Mosier

Mark E. Mosier, D.D.S., F.A.G.D., outgoing national president, is from Clarinda, Iowa.

Mosier became involved early in the association because two of its charter members were his father and grandfather. He joined the association and by 1965, there were several hundred members. The aviation boom was in full swing during the 1960s with everybody flying, and the organization really took-off. FDA has annual and regional meetings throughout the year.

There were 200 members in Spearfish, arriving in 47 aircraft. FDA has a missions division and have been active in Central America. Their newsletter is published 11 times a year, and their web site is www.fly-ingdentists.org. FDA is a family organization for all ages. They recruit dental students as well as retired dentists.

"I flew in from Clarinda, Iowa, in a 1999 Mooney," said Mosier. "Our membership flies a variety of aircraft from antiques to modern types, with most being single-engine (aircraft), some twins and a few turboprops. Mooney Airplane Company flew in a new aircraft for our members to fly (this year). This is pretty common for our meetings to have a new aircraft (on display)."

Mosier said that FDA selected Spearfish, S.D. for its national fly-in in 2007 because of its central location, excellent activities in the area and close proximity between the airport and hotel. They also got a lot of support from municipal organizations. "We have had a great convention, and the weather was great for flying in the local area," concluded Mosier. □