

## “AMERICA’S SEAPLANE CITY” – TAVARES, FLORIDA

Big things are happening in Tavares, Florida! Known as America’s Seaplane City, Tavares sits on the shore of Lake Dora, northwest of Orlando, Florida. The Tavares Seaplane Base is a favorite among seaplane pilots from across the country; many local pilots regularly splash in for the city’s wide array of dining options. The seaplane base is nestled in the heart of the bustling downtown waterfront entertainment district, providing visitors with options for breakfast, lunch, dinner, evening entertainment and lodging.

During November the City of Tavares welcomed their first Aviation Manager, charged with managing the seaplane base, marina and Wooton Park. Matthew Elia came to Tavares by way of Massachusetts, where he worked in airport administration and aviation education. Matt is a flight instructor, commercial pilot and genuine aviation enthusiast. He earned his seaplane rating in Alaska years ago and his love of



*Tavares Seaplane Base welcomes all types of seaplanes.  
FAI certified virtual runway on Lake Dora – Unicom 122.975*

seaplanes brought him south this past fall. A passionate advocate for aviation, Matt is commonly found talking with visiting pilots about their flight to Tavares, and rumor has it he is pretty good at recommending a place to eat...

Visitors are welcome every day, but many choose to coordinate their visit with one of Tavares’ special events, all of which take place in Wooton Park, adjacent to the seaplane base. Over the course of each year Tavares plays host to aviation, fishing, boating, cultural and historical themed events, plus many more. During the summer months children can visit the aviation-themed splash park to cool off. Positioned within Wooton Park, surrounded by trees draped with Spanish moss, the Splash Park is a fan favorite amongst children from around the Tavares area.

This spring Tavares will be hosting Seaplane-A-Palooza during the weekend of April 30th and May 1st. The weekend-long event will be action-packed for pilots, family members, friends and aviation enthusiasts of all ages.

Saturday will feature a “Planes, Trains & BBQ” theme. Wooton Park in the heart of

the City of Tavares will be filled with the sweet-smelling scent of a state-sanctioned BBQ competition. Visitors will be able to sample the field of BBQ-ers to nominate the “fan favorite” for an award. Attendees will be looking skyward around midday as an aerobatics airshow appears over Lake Dora. The sounds competing with the hum of the airshow will be the production on the other side of the park where parkgoers will be able to experience robbery-themed train rides!

Sunday will be highlighted by a flying poker run in local lakes and various seaplane competitions, plus more good-eating BBQ. Pilots will be tasked with flying to local lakes and collecting playing cards for the morning poker run, where the best hand will walk away with a big prize. Pilots will be able to participate in various flying competitions later in the day.

Prizes will be given for the shortest take-off and most accurate landing, as well as for the best watermelon drop, closest to the buoy takes top prize! Seaplane pilots that fly in will receive dining vouchers to downtown restaurants and gift packs. Pilots who fly in for the weekend and spend the night

### U.S Sport Aviation Expo Sebring, Florida

*January 20-23, 2016*

- Exhibitors
- Ask the Expert
- Light Sport Aircraft Displays
- Avionics
- Aircraft Parts
- Pilot Supplies

Tel: 863-655-6444  
[www.sportaviationexpo.com](http://www.sportaviationexpo.com)

# Travel Spotlight



will receive additional special prizes! Tavares has a great entertainment district offering visitors a wide array of options during the evening. Pilots are invited to experience this first hand during the Seaplane-A-Palooza weekend.

Pilots who can't attend the Seaplane-A-Palooza event, and even those who do attend, should mark their calendars for the annual Monster Splash In event, scheduled for October 29th this year.

The Tavares Seaplane Base is dedicated

to serving seaplanes and their pilots with the highest level of quality service during events and every other day throughout the year. A seaplane ramp to the tarmac, docks and green grass shoreline are all available for aircraft parking. 100LL and Recreational fuel is also available.

Visiting for the day is quick and easy with no tiedown fees. The Prop Shop offers a relaxing environment for pilots to rest and review flight plans, in addition to a full stock of refreshments, America's Seaplane City gear and a selection of supplies and gifts. Friendly staff is on hand for assistance with any of your needs throughout your visit in Tavares. Whether you come for a day, or a weekend, you'll quickly notice the waterfront community that has embraced being America's Seaplane City!

For more information contact the Tavares Seaplane Base, 352.742.6267, [seaplanebase@tavares.org](mailto:seaplanebase@tavares.org).



Come visit the Tavares WaterFront Entertainment District

"In America's Seaplane City" Tavares, Florida

*You can reach us by plane, train, boat or car  
Spend the day or stay the night*

- Restaurants
- Live Entertainment
- Retail & Specialty Shops
- Hotels
- Train, Plane & Boat rides available, too

Contact [loubuigas@aol.com](mailto:loubuigas@aol.com) or visit  
[www.facebook.com/  
TavaresWaterFrontEntertainmentDistrict](http://www.facebook.com/TavaresWaterFrontEntertainmentDistrict)

SEAPLANE BASE • FA1



America's Seaplane City



TAVARES, FL • ONLY 45-MIN NW OF ORLANDO



VISIT [WWW.TAVARES.ORG](http://WWW.TAVARES.ORG)  
FLY-IN@TAVARES.ORG • (352) 742-6267