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NOTAMs & Runway Conditions Work Groups Being Formed

The Alaska Air Carriers Association Joint Safety Committee (JSC) has been discussing airport condition reporting as it relates to several issues.

We met with FAA and DOT&PF personnel to foster development of a good reporting system, tracking process, and feedback loop so that air carriers are kept informed or can easily access the information.

If you are interested in being included in either of the work groups, please indicate your interest by email to Joy Journey, our Executive Director (joy@alaskaaircarriers.org).

We look forward to discussing possibilities and facilitating an effective tracking process with a feedback loop.

The JSC was established to address specific issues to make aviation in Alaska safer. The committee, chaired by Bob Hajdukovich of Frontier, is small and composed of representation from the NTSB, DOT&PF, FAA, AMD, Medallion, AACA, and industry.

The JSC has been an effective force for safety change in the Alaska aviation industry. The Medallion Foundation, the Alliance for Safety, and the Circle of Safety each came from the JSC.

Airport Condition Reporting is a topic that has required our continued attention. It is vital to safe operations, efficient/cost effective use of aircraft, reliable air transportation, and cost containment for State/Federal funds.

From multiple user comments, it is possible the State is paying for maintenance of airports, but may not be getting what they are paying for in terms of quality and reliability.

The lack of a transparent process is a big part of the problem according to feedback from AACA and Aviation Safety Council of Alaska (ASCA) participants. These participants do not see progress in solving problems on some airports. AACA may learn that the State airports division has the best track record and performance rating in the Nation. AACA hopes the

NEXT YEAR:

AACA 44th Annual Conference
March 2-6, 2010
Hotel Captain Cook
Anchorage

New Monthly Feature: **MARKET NEWS**

Presented monthly will be recent economic and stock market highlights, which you might find useful as you form and execute your financial goals. This feature will be provided by one of our Associate Members, Bob Ward, who is Vice President for Investments at Wedbush Morgan Securities in Seattle.

Click this link to view the [March 18 MARKET NEWS](#).

SARAS Donates Over \$11,000 to AAACA for the Scholarship Fund

In the fall of 2008 the Southeast Alaska Regional Air Show (SARAS) reached a cooperative agreement with AACA to provide over \$11,000 to be awarded through the Forrest Jones Memorial Scholarship Fund.

SARAS is an organization dedicated to sponsorship of aviation related educational activities and events, and most recently sponsored an air show in Juneau during 2000. That very successful show included US Armed Forces exhibits from across Alaska as well as the Lower 48, numerous general aviation displays, and featured a show by the Snowbirds, the Canadian Forces aerial demonstration team.

Although SARAS raised funds to conduct a follow-up air show in 2002, the events of 9/11 significantly impacted SARAS' ability to attract sufficient participants. After several years of trying to organize a follow-up air show, the SARAS Board ultimately realized another air show was not likely to happen and decided to redirect the raised funds to further Alaskans' aviation education.

Rather than establish its own scholarship program, SARAS was very pleased to partner with the AACA by providing its remaining funds to the Forrest Jones Memorial Scholarship Fund.

"The SARAS Board of Directors expresses its heartfelt thanks to the AACA Board of Directors and especially it's Executive

information can be posted so it is easily accessible on a website. One idea was to establish a "blog" where users could post unofficial comments.

AACA BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Introduction

The purpose of AACA is to foster and support a stable commercial aviation industry founded upon the principles of safety, professionalism and longevity.

AACA is honored to represent over 160 companies who have joined together to continue to improve safety and reduce accidents, to continue raising the bar in all aspects of operational excellence, and to continue both activities while improving the financial and moral vibrancy of our companies.

If you examine the Board of Directors of any successful company or industry, you will find that members represent not only those actively involved within that industry, but most frequently those who support the industry either by using its services or providing products and services to the industry. Most board of directors include members of the financial, insurance, service and manufacturing sectors.

The ability to bring diversity and a broad base of knowledge to bear upon a specific industry or need is what makes any team stronger.

We will introduce several of our Board Members in these next few issues, leading up to our new association year, which starts July 1, 2009.

AACA BOARD: President Wilfred Ryan

Wilfred "Boyuck" Ryan has been president of AACA for almost three years. He was raised in Unalakleet, graduating from Covenant High School in 1971. He has six sisters and two brothers, and a long history of Inupiaq, Irish and Russian heritage. His great grandfather on Wilfred's side of the family immigrated to Alaska from Ireland during the Klondike and Gold Rush. His great grandfather on Eva's side was a Russian fur trader in Alaska during the late 1800's. Both maternal great grandmothers were full blooded Eskimos.

While in high school at age 17, Wilfred acquired his Private pilots license and acquired his Airline Transport Pilots and flight instructor certificates at age 23. Today, Wilfred has more than 28,000 flight hours, all primarily in Western Alaska. He attended the Alaska Methodist University in Anchorage then Linfield college in Oregon. In 1991, he acquired his Associates degree from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Wilfred served as Chief Pilot from 1971 to 1977 for Unalakleet Air Taxi, a charter company that his father started in 1953. As President, he changed the name of the company to Ryan Air Service which once was the largest commuter airline in the State, serving 80 rural communities with 35 aircraft and 380 employees. In 1988, Wilfred left Ryan Air Service and worked for Baker Aviation in Kotzebue as a Chief Pilot. In 1989, the Bering Strait School District considered opening a new flight department and hired Wilfred as the Travel Manager and Pilot where he worked for seven years. From 1996 to 1997, Wilfred worked again for Baker Aviation as the Director of Operations. Finally returning to Arctic Transportation Services (formerly Ryan Air Service), in 1997, Wilfred now serves as the President of ATS.

In addition to his aviation career, Wilfred served as a Board Member for the Unalakleet Native Corp., from 1973 to 1976; as Mayor of Unalakleet from 1983 to 1984; as a Board Member for the Norton Sound Emergency Medical Services from 1984 to 1986 and as a former Board Member with the AACA from 1985 to 1988.

AACA BOARD: New Member Michelle Fabry

Michelle was elected to the AACA Membership on March 4th, and will serve a term until June 30, 2011.

Michelle brings 19 years of aviation experience, and is currently the Director of Safety and Security at Era Aviation. She is a certified dispatcher and holds an FCC Radio Operator Permit. Michelle managed the dispatch department at Era for over five years. In addition, Michelle has extensive experience in customer service, ground instruction, and training.

Michelle holds a bachelors degree in Global Logistics Management, and has completed continuing education in system safety management, aircraft accident investigation, SMS, ASAP, TapRoot, and internal auditing.

In addition, Michelle is a board member of the ASCA and is a Career Academy

Director, Joy Journey, for their willingness to work with SARAS to increase the availability of aviation scholarships to Alaskans," writes Tom Ward, SARAS' Treasurer.

"AACA is honored to be entrusted with the donation from SARAS," says Journey. "It is exciting and inspiring to participate with these youth by rewarding their demonstrated hard work and dedication to building a firm foundation for future contributions to aviation in Alaska."

New WEATHER CAMS

Nancy Schommer, Program Manager of the Weather Camera Office, sends an update that thirteen new sites were added in 2008. The last of the new sites are now providing weather camera services at:

<http://akweathercams.faa.gov> and include:

Bethel
Eek
Galena
Homer
Hydaburg
Soldotna
Tuntutuliak

If you have questions, you can contact Nancy at 907 271-5177 or via email to nancy.k.schomer@faa.gov

Merrill Field Noise Abatement

Anchorage's Merrill Field Management and the FAA Traffic Control Tower have been working with the community and have identified behaviors that can help reduce aviation noise. If you fly into or out of Merrill Field, please review the attached and help reduce noise. Your assistance in following these fly-friendly guidelines is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, contact Darlene Sivyer, Merrill Field Airport Office Manager, 907 343-6308.

Volcano Watch Websites

Three websites for your use in monitoring Mt. Redoubt activity:

<http://www.avo.alaska.edu/activity/Redoubt.php>
<http://pafc.arh.noaa.gov/volcano.php>
<http://aawu.arh.noaa.gov/>

Air Navigation System is FAA's Priority

Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood said the FAA's top priority will be modernizing the nation's air traffic control system. The Wall Street Journal (3/26) reported that LaHood expects the next FAA administrator will be instrumental in getting the multibillion-dollar

Dispatcher Advisory Board member.

Michelle brings a fresh perspective, a willingness to serve, and a desire to contribute to the continued safety initiatives in Alaska's aviation community.



2009 Scholarship Recipients at the Award Banquet. L-R: Glenn Bohn & Lorraine Phillips (parents of **Bret Bohn**--absent), Margaret Jones (wife of the late Forrest Jones); **Coty Mayo** (Fairbanks); Jeannie Johnson (President of SARAS); Linda Julliard, **Hayden Julliard**, and Alan Julliard.

Full announcement in April's Newsletter!

Alaska Aviation System Plan (AASP)

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is requesting your input on issues facing aviation in Alaska. As part of an Alaska Aviation System Plan, the DOT&PF has prepared an aviation issues survey that can be found at the Plan web site www.AlaskaASP.com.

The AASP sets the vision for aviation in Alaska by identifying needed airport improvements, setting funding priorities, and addressing aviation policy. The web site also has more information about the project, what has been completed, and what is coming up. For more information you can also contact Rebecca Cronkhite at DOT&PF at 907-266-0728 or Tom Middendorf at DOWL HKM at 907-562-2000.

To take the survey visit: <http://www.alaskaasp.com/survey.aspx>

Public Notices

The Alaska Flight Services Information Area Group website has been updated with 6 aviation safety items:

1. Delta T MOAs Approved for 2009 Exercise Season - [Red Flag Exercise Update](#) (announcing the planned Activation times).
2. The [Fairbanks Airport ATCT Letter to Airmen 09-2](#) concerning change in VFR Practice Approaches.
3. The [Fairbanks Airport ATCT Letter to Airmen 09-1](#) concerning Areas of non-visibility from the Tower.
4. The AFSIAG Request for public comment concerning the proposed decommissioning of the [Outer Marker at Cold Bay](#).
5. The AFSIAG Request for public comment concerning the proposed decommissioning of the [Wessels NDB and TWEB at Middleton Island](#).
6. The AFSIAG Request for public comment concerning the proposed

project off the ground. "It will happen under the watch of this president, this DOT secretary and the FAA administrator," LaHood said.



From the 2009 Convention: John Allen, FAA Flight Standards Services Director joined us from Washington DC. He is shown here with Angela Elgee, Manager of the FAA Flight Standards Division, Alaska Region.

Petersburg AK Runway Closure

The Runway in Petersburg will be closed until the morning of April 22, 2009 due to runway construction. There is a NOTAM in place.

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decommissioning of the [Mendenhall NDB and TWEB](#) near Juneau.

7. Notice of Proposed Rulemaking - Concerning the proposed establishment revision and removal of Area Navigation ([RNAV Routes \(T & Q\)](#)) in the State of Alaska.

Alaskan Region home page: <http://www.alaska.faa.gov>

Alaskan Region Air Traffic Organization home page is at :

<http://www.alaska.faa.gov/at>

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