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“The explosive growth of the **unmanned aircraft industry** makes evaluating detection technologies an urgent priority,” said Marke “Hoot” Gibson, FAA Senior Advisor on UAS Integration.

The results of testing under our PathFinder agreement with the FAA at Atlantic City International Airport demonstrate that CACI’s proprietary system – SkyTracker – performed as designed. SkyTracker successfully identified, detected, and tracked UAS in flight, and precisely located drone ground operators – all without interfering with airport ground operations.

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Annual Part 135/GA Survey

The annual GA survey is a primary source of information on the Part 135 and general aviation fleet, including the ways aircraft are utilized and the estimated total number of hours flown. Information received via the survey helps determine funding for infrastructure projects and service needs, as well as assessing the impact of regulatory changes. The survey also is used to calculate the general aviation aircraft accident rate.

By completing the survey, members will help the FAA collect as much information about the business aviation community so informed decisions will reflect your priorities. Operators may complete the survey online. The link for the online survey is being sent to invited owners and operators.

Previous years’ survey results can be found at:

http://www.faa.gov/data_research/aviation_data_statistics/general_aviation/.

- *FAA needs to hear from everyone!* Please respond.
- **Your responses are confidential.** Tetra Tech is an independent research firm that conducts the GA Survey on behalf of the FAA. The information will be used only for statistical purposes and will not be published or released in any form that would reveal an individual participant.

AACA Board Supports ADOT- AAB on Fuel Taxes

The AACA Board of Directors voted to support the ADOT- Aviation Advisory Board (ADOT-AAB) recommendation to increase fuel taxes and generate more revenue for the rural airport system over instituting new landing fees or aircraft registration fees. The ADOT-AAB proposed both the jet and av-gas fuel tax increase to \$.10 per gallon.

Board members also desired a stronger voice in how tax revenue funds will be spent and supported revenue generated through fuel taxes be solely used to support the rural airport system. In addition, the board has encouraged AACA members’ voice concerns or support over increased fuel taxes with their legislator.

Big Game Commercial Services Board Update

On February 23 the transporter subcommittee met and voted on the following issues:

1. The board resolution to remove air taxis exemption from statute.
2. The pending proposal to create transporter use areas.
3. The new transporter activity report filing fees of \$50 per report.

Consensus was not reach on the proposals however, the committee chair urged transporters develop a proposal on fees prior to the March 8-10 Board Meeting in Fairbanks. The meeting call in number is **Teleconference: 1-800-315-6338 Access Code:**

24272. Committee meeting minutes are available at:

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/BigGameCommercialServicesBoard.aspx>



Supporting and advocating for a sustainable Alaskan commercial aviation industry founded upon the principles of safety management and professionalism

ALASKA AIR CARRIERS ASSOCIATION
2301 Merrill Field Drive, A3
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Phone: 907 277-0071
jane@alaskaaircarriers.org

alaskaaircarriers.org

The Alaska Air Carriers Association (AACAA) represents the interests of Alaska's aviation businesses before regulatory agencies, federal, state and local governments. Our members meet the needs of rural Alaskans and the traveling public by providing scheduled commuter travel, on-demand air charter, emergency medical evacuation, flight seeing, pilot training, aircraft maintenance, parts sales, fuel sales, storage, rental, and airline servicing.



House Leadership to Move Short-Term Extension

The controversial FAA Reauthorization Bill that contains a proposal to create a not-for-profit air traffic control corporation — is no longer on a fast track for floor consideration. House Leadership is pursuing a short-term extension of the FAA in advance of its March 31st expiration. Attention now turns to the Senate, where it is widely believed lawmakers are developing a long-term bill that does not include the corporatization proposal.

AK Aircrash Investigations

Below is an abbreviated letter from AACAA to the Smithsonian Channel and Vesper Entertainment on the tv reality series production entitled "AK Aircrash Investigations":

... Expectedly, the Alaskan air carrier community is concerned there may be financial loss to the industry as a result of the focused content just prior to the short busy summer season. AACAA members rely on the seasonal influx of summer tourist industry and Alaskans for flightseeing, hunting and fishing expeditions, lodge visits or routine transportation to local off the road system communities and cabins. The AACAA suggests the Smithsonian Networks/Vesper Entertainment commit to the following changes:

- Confirm you have removed the community name associated with the episodes. Explain the rationale for those episodes you have not renamed.
- Offer the carriers a similar courtesy as provided the NTSB and permit a select group of air carriers to preview all shows.

Include content to explain:

- An estimated 200 additional aviation automated weather reporting systems are needed in the State of Alaska to meet the density of weather availability in the lower contiguous 48 states.
- How the Medallion Foundation has helped improve aviation safety and reduce the accident rate throughout Alaska. Since the Medallion Foundations started in 2001 the accident rate has been reduced by 47%.
- 82% of the communities in Alaska are not connected to the road system and are dependent on commercial air service for all necessary modern conveniences that are fully enjoyed and taken for granted in the lower 48 states including but not limited to doctor and hospital visits, grocery shopping, and more

Response Received.

The Smithsonian Channel received the association's letter and asked select members to participate in the production of short video clips to be included in the televised show. These video clips offer a glimpse into Alaskan transportation issues, safety milestones achieved, and the uniqueness of transportation in Alaska.

FAA Revokes authorizations to Ameri-King

In December 2015, the FAA revoked the FAA PMA and TSO authorization to Ameri-King. Ameri-King has been a popular ELT manufacturer with both the older 121.5 Mhz and the newer 406 Mhz ELT's.