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## 2021 AACOA Convention

Save The Date!

VIRTUAL

February 15-19  
Anchorage, Alaska

We're so excited to announce the dates for the 2021 Alaska Air Carriers Association Convention. Due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, we will be making the convention available online.

- This year we will have traditional and new sponsorship opportunities to fit online attendance.
- AACOA will host initial and recurrent Haz-Mat, drug and alcohol, an IA Renewal along with new informative safety and management-related sessions.
- We're looking forward to elevating the convention this year to meet the new "normal".
- Watch this space for more details on the 2021 Alaska Air Carriers Association Convention!

SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!

Please Visit: **SPONSOR THE CONVENTION** ([alaskaaircarriers.org](http://alaskaaircarriers.org))

# AACA Convention Update

## Silent Auction Donations:

AACA is still in need of donations for this year's auction! It will be open to the public, so if you know of anyone who would be interested in donating please have them contact Chelsea at [events@alaskaaircarriers.org](mailto:events@alaskaaircarriers.org) or call 907.277.0071.

## Convention Sponsorships:

There are still sponsorship opportunities available for the 2021 Annual Convention! Please visit the sponsorship page [here](#) to find out more information!

## Convention Registration:

Registration is now open! To register, please visit the website and fill out the registration form [here](#) or email [events@alaskaaircarriers.org](mailto:events@alaskaaircarriers.org).

## Baldwin Aviation Presents: Make Your Risk Assessment a Star!



**ALASKA AVIATION  
SAFETY EXCHANGE**

Powered by **SMS Designed  
for the  
Alaskan Operator**

Affordable Pricing · Easy to Use · 24/7 Support  
Click Here for FREE Safety Videos · AlaskaAviation.com

## Making your Risk Assessment Tool a STAR

Mention the acronym “GUMPS” to just about any fixed wing pilot and watch their eyes move upward and to the right. Their neurolinguistics are probably showing you they are visually remembering: gas, undercarriage, mixture, props, and safety. It is a tried mental checklist and litany that has served, and saved, many a pilot.

[Click here to view the full article on the Alaska Aviation Safety Exchange page, provided by Baldwin Aviation.](#)

## Operators - Hiring Opportunity

Are you looking to expand your team? AACA may be able to help. Contact [events@alaskaaircarriers.org](mailto:events@alaskaaircarriers.org) if you're interested in hiring a veteran looking to become an A&P mechanic.

## Pilots, ATC Cleared for Vaccine with No-Fly Interval, Advisory on Dry Ice

Pilots who receive the Covid 19 vaccine from Pfizer-BioNTech are cleared to get the

vaccine but must wait 48 hours after each dose before taking on flying of safety-related duties, according to the FAA Office of Aerospace Medicine, which notified RACCA on December 12. This clears up significant concern amongst pilots after unions suggested pilots not get the vaccine until getting this advisory.

AAM is monitoring patient response to the vaccine and may adjust its policy as necessary to ensure aviation safety. It will also evaluate additional vaccines cleared under the Food & Drug Administration's Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). [Read more](#)

Source: Regional Air Cargo Carriers Association

## Simple Fix For 206 Cargo Door Issue Offered

Two Canadian companies have partnered to come up with a relatively simple fix for a design quirk on Cessna 206s that has been blamed for the loss of at least eight lives over the past 30 years. [Read the full article here.](#)



# INVITATION



On behalf of the  
Air Traffic Organization Mission Support Services (AJV)  
PBN Co-Leads Derek Wolfe & Chris Thomas invite you to attend

### **PBN Core Work Group (CWG) Design Meeting**

#### **Alaska T-Routes**

**Feb18 – Feb 19**

**2021**

9:00am – 4:30pm (PST)

**Objective:** Review T-Routes to overlay Alaska colored airways.

Please contact the Co-Leads for questions

Derek Wolfe ([derek.wolfe@faa.gov](mailto:derek.wolfe@faa.gov))

Chris Thomas ([cthomas@natca.net](mailto:cthomas@natca.net))

Version 3 – Nov 2020

Derek Wolfe: [derek.wolfe@faa.gov](mailto:derek.wolfe@faa.gov)

Chris Thomas: [cthomas@natca.net](mailto:cthomas@natca.net)

## Updated Interim COVID-19 Occupational Health and Safety Guidance for Air Carriers and Crews

The CDC and FAA provided additional guidance for air carriers and their crews in SAFO 20009 to reduce crewmembers' risk of exposure to COVID-19 and decrease the risk of transmission of the virus on board aircraft and through air travel.

[Read more here.](#)

## Transportation of COVID-19 Vaccines Requiring Large Quantities of Dry Ice

SAFO 20017 provides information and recommendations to persons conducting operations under Parts 121, 125, 129, 135 on safety issues related to the transportation of COVID-19 vaccines.

[Read more here.](#)

## Lessons Learned from CARES Act Loan Program for Aviation and Other Eligible Businesses

Aviation groups were interviewed for a recently released GAO report examining the loan program provided to aviation businesses in the CARES Act. The report highlighted that Treasury prioritized applications from the largest passenger airlines, leaving smaller carriers and other businesses with access to few loans. Improved communication on goals and timelines was recommended for future programs.

[Read the report here.](#)

## FAA Proposes to Replace Textual FA with a Graphical Forecast - Member Input Needed

AFS-220, Air Carrier Operations Branch, is trying to gather feedback on replacing the textual Alaska Area Forecast (FA) with a Graphical Forecast for Aviation (GFA) product. The GFA product is available on [www.aviationweather.gov](http://www.aviationweather.gov).

The FAA has already asked the NWS to discontinue the Conus Area Forecast and provide the information in an automated graphical product known as the Graphical Forecast for Aviation or GFA. See the attached NWS notice.

The test period for the state of Alaska starts on December 10, 2020 and runs through September 30, 2021. The NWS anticipates a letter from the FAA formally requesting the discontinuance of the text Area Forecast.

The Aviation Weather Center who originally produced the area forecast for the lower 48 and the gulf has reallocated its resources and its meteorologists who now provide enhancements on other products. The Alaska Aviation Weather Unit may also shift to provide improvements of other products in Alaska. However, unlike the CONUS, the text

FA seems to be a vitally important product and discontinuance may be a significant step backwards.

The FAA is asking for feedback on the proposal to replace the textual FA with the GFA product. Here are some considerations and hope you will provide AACA with additional specific comments.

- Alaska lacks the abundance of weather products available throughout the CONUS that provide detail weather data.
- Individuals that write the Area Forecast in Alaska have experience and understand the unique weather patterns. This expertise is unlikely to be available where the graphical diagrams would be generated.
- One potential issue is the impact to new law, HR302 Section 322, where it states the Area Forecast must be used. At this point, it's unknown whether the graphical forecast would be an acceptable substitute for the textual FA.

**Please consider forwarding your comments to AACA and FAA AFS 220.**

**Public Information Statement 20-91**  
**Graphical Forecast for Aviation**

Please email [events@alaskaaircarriers.org](mailto:events@alaskaaircarriers.org) for the supporting documents if the links above do not work.

## Register today for the FREE December webinar with *First National Bank Alaska!*

Join AEDC on Dec. 16, 2020 at 10 a.m. for AEDC Voice with sponsors **Alaska Executive Search & Bradison Management Group**. AEDC Voice is a free monthly webinar that takes a deeper dive into AEDC reports and interviews with key business leaders from different industry sectors.

The December webinar will feature our Guest Speaker Ryan Strong, Executive Vice President and Chief Banking Officer at First National Bank Alaska (FNBA). Learn more about FNBA, how COVID has affected the banking industry and what they're seeing moving forward as we move into recovery.

## Welcome New Member, Ampaire!

AMPAIRE

We're so pleased to have Ampaire join AACA. Below is an article published by AVweb.



### Ampaire Conducts Airline Route Flight Trials With Hybrid-Electric Aircraft

In partnership with Hawaii-based Mokulele Airlines, Ampaire has completed the first demonstration flight using its hybrid-electric Electric EEL on an established airline route. For the demonstration, the aircraft made a round-trip flight from Hawaii's Kahului Airport (OGG) to Hana (HNM) and back on a single charge. Ampaire intends to fly the route regularly as part of a one-month demonstration program designed to evaluate the company's technology and showcase "electric aviation's potential."

“We’re following the successful path of hybrid-electric automobiles in transforming ground transportation by taking that model to the sky,” said Ampaire CEO Kevin Noertker. “By upgrading current aircraft with hybrid-electric propulsion we can enter the market quickly and take advantage of existing infrastructure for fixed-wing aviation.” A converted Cessna 337 Skymaster, Ampaire’s Electric EEL is powered by rear-mounted 310-horsepower Continental IO-550 engine and a 160 kW electric power unit up front. As previously reported by AVweb, the Electric EEL completed a 341-statute-mile test flight last October. Ampaire’s Hawaii flight trials are also supported by climate change solutions company Elemental Excelsior.

**We hope you enjoy  
this holiday season!**



**Alaska Air Carriers Association**  
907-277-0071