



PLANE TALK

Publication of Statewide Aviation



Spring 2019

Senator Ted Stevens Honored at Alaska's Largest Airport

The Ted Stevens Foundation unveiled a 631-pound life-size bronze statue of the late Senator Stevens at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. It shows Stevens, who served in the U.S. Senate for 40 years, with a welcoming disposition, seated on a bench with beautifully etched glass interpretive signs on nearby columns. This space will serve as a special place for Alaskans and visitors, and provide a history of the Senator's many accomplishments.

Senator Stevens entered the Senate in 1968 and was one of the 10 longest-serving senators in U.S. history. He championed Alaska aviation as a former WWII Flying Tigers pilot, many transportation infrastructure projects, supported construction of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline and advocated protections for Alaska commercial fisheries.

Senator Stevens holds forth at the entrance to Concourse C in the secure area.



Message from DC Binder:



The Alaska DOT&PF manages 239 airports across the state: 237 in rural Alaska and the 2 international airports located in Anchorage and Fairbanks. Aviation is considered a lifeline for rural residents providing the primary means of transportation for 82% of the communities not connected to a contiguous road system.

The department continually evaluates the aviation system and the need for DOT&PF to maintain runways in locations where there are few or no residents. In 2009 the state managed 256 airports but over the last 10 years the state has transferred the ownership and management of 17 seaplane bases to local municipalities/communities. The decision to transfer or divest airports/seaplane bases is made only after extensive public involvement and coordination with the FAA.

Our core mission is to **Keep Alaska Moving through Service and Infrastructure** and we adhere to that mission even during these tough fiscal times.

Now that spring has sprung construction activity is right around the corner. One of the bigger projects happening is at the very busy Anchorage Airport. The airport's north/south runway renewal project will require a full runway closure April through October, allowing construction to occur 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. During construction, air traffic will be shifted to the East/West Runways creating a temporary increase in air traffic and noise over the city. Airport operations and noise levels will return to normal upon completion of the project. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we complete the final

phase of construction. To stay up to date on the project visit the website at <http://anc15-33.com/>

There are many aviation events happening around the state in May starting with the Great Alaska Aviation Gathering on May 4th & 5th. This event is one of the nation's premier aviation events held at the FedEx hangar at the Anchorage Airport. We've highlighted other events in this newsletter. I hope to see you at some of them.

Have a great summer, and Fly Safe!

John Binder
Deputy Commissioner



10:00 a.m. Meet at the Old Air field Maintenance Bldg. (4100 Aircraft Drive) Pick up garbage bags and find a clean-up team and location.

10:00-12:00 CLEAN-UP - Garbage, brush & covered debris should be placed near the roadside for pick-up by Airport Maintenance.

12:00-1:00 Celebration Picnic back at Old Field Maintenance Bldg. Food, beverages, prizes and **LOTS OF FUN!**

For more information call Tom Johnston at 266-2546

April & May - All About Aviation

ALASKA AIRMEN ASSOCIATION

GREAT ALASKA AVIATION GATHERING

SATURDAY, MAY 4 9AM-5PM
SUNDAY, MAY 5 10AM-5PM

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With over 275 nationwide aviation exhibitors with indoor and outside static displays featuring light sport, general aviation, vintage, experimental, commercial, corporate and military aircraft, and 25,000 attendees, the Great Alaska Aviation Gathering has become one of America's largest free-entry aviation trade shows!

For information call (907) 245-1251 or email Gathering@alaskaairmen.org or visit www.GreatAlaskaAviationGathering.org







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MAY 10-12, 2019



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34th Annual Seaplane Safety Seminar

Sign In: ... 0800 - 0830
Program: ... 0830 - 1330

Featuring:
David McKay,
Former CEO, US-AIG
Matt Sigrinius,
General Manager Aerocat
Harry Shannon,
Seaplane Pilots Association
Clint Beszak,
Air Traffic Supervisor
Lake Hood Tower
Master Pilot Awards

Saturday, April 27, 2019
UAA Aviation Technology Center
2811 Merrill Field Drive, Anchorage, Alaska

Sponsored by:





Battle of the Sludge!

Over the years the Lake Hood Seaplane Base has experienced significant growth of aquatic vegetation, so much so, the airport's lone lake harvester has been unable to keep up. During the summer of 2015 successful mitigation efforts were introduced returning the weeds to a manageable level. As the weed growth was inhibited a new challenge presented itself. Algae blooms began floating to the surface as a result of the massive underwater vegetation mat which began to decompose. This floating mat was the consistency of a thick jelly and would move around the lake with the wind, choking float slips and displacing aircraft users. Certain portions of the seaplane base simply became unnavigable. Airfield Maintenance crews attempted multiple methods for controlling the sludge but none were practical on a large scale.

The airport's airfield maintenance team built a vessel "The Work Barge" in 2015 that works in close quarters to float slips. The barge was intended to be used for equipment transport and as a floating work platform. However, now with the airport needing a way to tackle the sludge they outfitted the work barge with a skid mounted 6 inch pump and rotating suction boom. A floating discharge line was run to shore to filter the organic matter from the water through a screened box. The result was an immense success. The shallow draft vessel was able to be maneuvered in clogged sections of the lake, clear one slip in under 15 minutes, and draw in algae from a wide area. This innovative configuration is saving the airport time and money and joins a growing list of innovations rooted in the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport's Airfield Maintenance Section.

Kudos to the Project Team

Leroy Metcalf, Foreman

Allen Meuser, Mechanic, Deck Hand

Phil Petrie, Foreman, Skipper

Robbie Huck, Mechanic Lead, Deck Hand

Dylan Kutzer, Mechanic, First Mate

JR Bewley-Aman, Fabricator

Pete Ranaldi, Mechanic

Shawn Sexton, Mechanic, Launcher

Mike Vaillancourt, Fabricator



The Work Barge



Top photo - Algae floating to the surface

Bottom - A screened box filters organic matter

All photos courtesy ANC Field Maintenance

St. Paul Island - there's a new bird on the island!

Ravn Alaska, the state's largest regional airline, now provides service to St. Paul Island in their Bombardier Dash-8 aircraft, configured for 29 passengers. Flights are scheduled on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday. Ravn Alaska flights offer their signature beverage and snack service, a fresh baked cookie, a selection of non-alcoholic beverages, and Alaskan Brewing Company beer for purchase, along with wine and GoPicnic snacks.

About Ravn Air Group

Over 1,300 employees support Ravn Air Group headquartered in Anchorage. Ravn operates a fleet of almost 70 aircraft on more than 400 flights per day, or nearly 3,000 flights a week, from hubs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Bethel, Aniak, St. Mary's, Nome, Kotzebue, Unalakleet, Barrow, and Galena. Ravn is a frequent flyer and code-share partner with Alaska Airlines.

About St. Paul Island

Saint Paul Island is the largest of the Pribilof Islands, a group of four Alaskan volcanic islands located in the Bering Sea between the United States and Russia. The airport is owned and operated by the State of Alaska. St. Paul is part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. It is the breeding grounds for more than 500,000 northern fur seals and millions of seabirds, and is surrounded by one of the world's richest fishing grounds. Tourists flock to St. Paul Island because of its rugged, remote, bird watching paradise. Contact [St. Paul Island Tours](#) for more information.

***RAVN Dash-8 in St. Paul, Sunday March 3, 2019, first scheduled flight to St. Paul after the company obtained extended over water certification.
Flight crew - Captain Andrew Moss, First Officer Jarrett Weiss, and Flight Attendant Emily Malak***

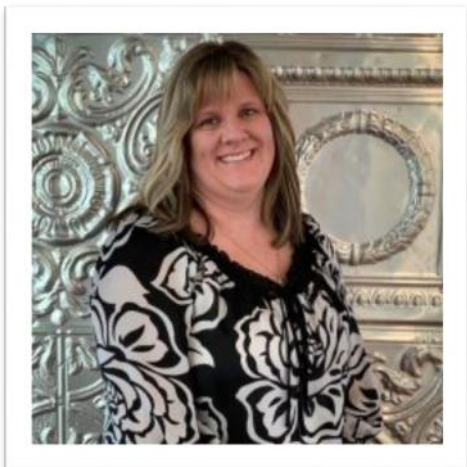


***FAI Promotes From Within!
New Division Operations Manager***



Theresa Harvey accepted the Division Operations Manager/Assistant Airport Manager position at Fairbanks International Airport (FAI). This position oversees leasing, accounting, environmental, marketing, and communications. Theresa brings a wealth of experience to the position, including over 19 years at FAI in both accounting and leasing, most recently as FAI's chief of leasing.

New Leasing Chief



Christel Burgess accepted the position of Chief of Leasing for Fairbanks International Airport. She has been with DOT for 21 years; 17 of those years spent at FAI. Her position oversees all terminal space, concessions, permits, and airport property at FAI.

***Alaska Aviation Museum
20th Aviation Hall of Fame***

On March 9, the Alaska Aviation Museum proudly inducted three new members to its Aviation Hall of Fame: Leon (Babe) Alsworth received the Explorer & Pathfinder Award, Hans Roald Amundsen was inducted with the Aviation Entrepreneur Award, and Jim Jansen entered with the Lifetime Achievement Award.



Jim Jansen

Lifetime Achievement Award

Leaving the trucking industry to join Lynden Transport in 1970, Mr. Jansen rose to become CEO and President of the company, building Lynden into a transportation powerhouse.



**Leon Babe Alsworth
Explorer & Pathfinder
Award**

An Alaska bush pilot since 1939, Mr. Alsworth built a pilot sanctuary at Hardenberg Bay on Lake Clark, now known as Port Alsworth.



**Hans Roald Amundsen
Aviation Entrepreneur
Award**

Mr. Amundsen arrived in Alaska in 1936, and took to the air throughout Alaska with a passion for spreading the gospel on behalf of the Evangelical Covenant Church.



Security Awareness Corner

DOT&PF operates 237 airports in the rural airport system; seventeen of those are regulated by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Fifteen of the seventeen airports are what TSA designates as Category III airports. These Category III airports are served by aircraft with more than 60 seats and have many airport security requirements, while the other two airports are designated as TSA Category IV airports which have fewer requirements. While security and reporting suspicious activity is important at any airport, DOT&PF and the airport community at these seventeen airports regulated by TSA have increased requirements. You will find a small security awareness topic in each issue of PlaneTalk to help reinforce the importance of airport security and to bolster the security culture already in place at these airports.

Fencing on these airports typically serves purposes from both safety and security perspectives. Fencing can prevent inadvertent or intentional access to restricted or dangerous areas and can also exclude wildlife from aircraft operational areas. Fencing needs to be in good repair and well maintained to remain effective.

As winter turns to spring, fencing that may have been buried begins to emerge from the melting snow. As an airport community everyone needs to be on the lookout for problem areas with fencing such as excessive gaps, holes, and breaks in the fence. Another fencing related area to pay attention to is clear zones. Each airport has a specific setback from the fence for any vehicles, equipment, or other items. Any deficiencies with fencing should be reported to the local airport management office. As always report any suspicious activity right away to the local airport management office or law enforcement.



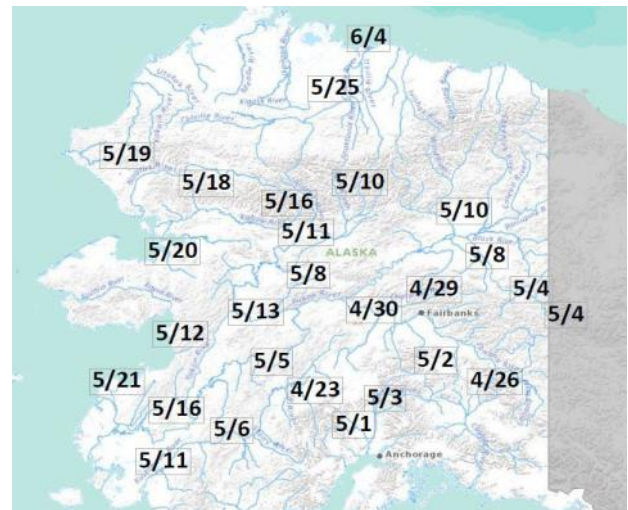
The National Weather Service (NWS) is responsible for monitoring river ice conditions to identify potential flooding, forecasts, warnings, and navigation information. www.weather.gov/aprfc/riverWatchProgram Air taxi operators and pilots that fly between rural communities on a daily basis are in a great position to notice changes on the river.

River and lake ice observations can be provided to the Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center via:

- Radio from aircraft to AFSS with observations for inclusion in a PIREP
- Phone 1-800-847-1739
- Email report and/or photos to nws.ar.aprfc@noaa.gov
- Aerial Photographs are becoming more common and can be geo-tagged.

Visit this website for more information: <https://www.weather.gov/aprfc/riverWatchProgram>

Average Breakup Dates Shown





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To learn more visit our website: dot.alaska.gov

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Division of Statewide Aviation
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