



PLANE TALK

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RUSSIAN FATA VISIT ALASKA'S AIRPORTS



(Second from left) FAA Alaska Airports Deputy Manager Jim Lomen, FAA International Liaison Officer Charlene Derry, Deputy Commissioner of Aviation Steve Hatter, FATA Director Alexander Neradko and senior managers participated in many briefings and meetings during their week long visit to Alaska.

Russian Federal Air Transport Agency (FATA) officials visited Alaska this summer as part of the Federal Aviation Administration's continuing flight safety cooperation with the Russian Federation. The trip was designed to discuss and demonstrate the highly robust general aviation system in Alaska. The week long visit was filled with briefings, tours and presentations about aviation standards, pilot safety, and government oversight. A highlight was coordinated by the Alaska Airmen's Association who arranged for single engine aircraft to fly the group to Talkeetna, Skwentna, Palmer and Birchwood Airports.

Russia is in the process of developing regulations for general aviation and uncontrolled airspace. Up until a little over a year ago, all airspace belonged to the military.

One issue concerning U.S. aviators is reducing travel and trade barriers in both the U.S. and Russia. Alaska's Aviation Advisory Board issued a resolution in 2010 asking for action to improve trade, communication and transportation to the Russian Far East. Direct air travel between Alaska and the Russian Far East would benefit commerce, economic development, cultural exchange, and access to Bering National Park. The entire resolution can be seen at this link:

http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdav/documents/AAB/Resolution2010-ImproveTrade_Russian_Far_East.pdf

Deputy Commissioner's Column



Welcome to the first edition of Plane Talk! Aviation is a dynamic industry in our great state and this new quarterly newsletter is intended to keep all of you—our Alaska aviation stakeholders—updated on the key topics we're focusing on in the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) Statewide Aviation Division.

I've had the privilege of serving as the DOT&PF Deputy Commissioner for Aviation for nine months and I am now pleased to know many of you. It has been both challenging and rewarding to learn the scope and scale of my responsibilities, while setting an agenda that ensures careful stewardship of the public trust and best serves all of you, the citizens of Alaska. I've tried quite hard to get out of the office and see firsthand our diverse state aviation system and to hear directly from you about aviation challenges and concerns. In so doing I've been able to visit all three DOT&PF regions and numerous hub and rural airports and I cannot help but be impressed and amazed in seeing the breadth and depth of aviation activity in our state.

As I've visited airports and the communities they serve across the state, I see a need to focus on better methods of identifying, tracking, and addressing a variety of needs at the airport infrastructure the state of Alaska owns. Therefore, I'll be putting emphasis on maintenance and operations, or M&O, at the airports DOT&PF is responsible for. We'll also be taking a hard look at compatible land use on and around airports in order to ensure we are meeting our federal regulatory responsibilities and protect continued access to FAA funding needed to improve our system.

Regarding federal agencies and our state government interaction with them, we do need to remain vigilant of federal policy decisions that could impact the status and health of the Alaska Aviation system. Commissioner Luiken and I pledge to do our part to ensure federal decision-makers consider decisions based on facts and not inaccurate assumptions or myths about Alaska! We have to tell our story well and often in a time when federal funding will likely be tougher to secure and federal agencies trend toward more, not less regulation. Bypass mail, Essential Air Service (EAS), the Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative, Safety Management Systems (SMS), Runway Safety Areas (RSAs), and supporting aviation safety partnerships are just a few of the areas where we'll continue to seek input and advice from key stakeholders and work with federal partners towards positive and sustainable outcomes.

As a final thought I'll turn to the importance of strategic planning and the emphasis Commissioner Luiken and I are placing on strategic thinking. We both learned in the military how important it is to know as an organization your core purpose and the non-negotiable core values that drive you, no matter what. Next, it is vital to set a strategic agenda that rests firmly on the organization's purpose and values in such a way that leadership can meaningfully measure progress and success. Too many strategic planning efforts fall flat because they lack accountability and measures of success. It's one thing to set out with a grand vision; it's another thing entirely for an organization to truly commit to the steps to get to the vision finish line. You should know Commissioner Luiken has partnered with his department leadership team to create a fresh and bold strategic plan for the DOT&PF. Statewide Aviation functions have significant play in this plan. I have also set out to conduct a similar strategic planning effort within our Alaska International Airports System (AIAS). Specifics and updates to these efforts will be forthcoming in later department communications.

Thank you all for all that you do to promote and support aviation in our great state. Fly safely!

Aviation Advisory Board Visits Y-K Delta and Rural Airports

The Governor's Aviation Advisory Board held their quarterly board meeting in Bethel this summer that included visits to three rural airports—Kipnuk, Cheforak and Kwigillingok. The first two are both undergoing airport relocation projects and Kwigillingok is scheduled for surface maintenance improvements. All projects are expected to be completed next year.

The Board is addressing key issues that include the impacts of expanding postal hubs in Alaska, maintenance and operations at rural airports and long-term sustainability of funding rural airport improvements.



Mike Hoffman and students of the Yuut Yaquungviat Flight School provided an overview to the Board.



Kipnuk's snow removal equipment building and grader.



Commissioner Luiken, Deputy Commissioner Hatter with Kipnuk Airport Village Contractor—Carl Kiunya.



Bypass mail on the ramp in Bethel ready to be loaded



Landing at Kwigillingok Airport.

Airport Spotlight

Talkeetna Airport—Gateway to Denali

The Talkeetna Airport is a busy general aviation (GA) airport that is home to six air taxis and experiences a huge increase in scenic flights during the tourism season to nearby Mt. McKinley. There was a time when this airport primarily saw Cessna 185's but today the fleet mix includes turbine Otters, Beavers and Navajos. Annual operations have increased from 13,500 in the 90's to over 20,000 today.

The 2nd annual Hudson Memorial Fly-In was held at the Talkeetna Airport in May. The event attracted about 30 airplanes, with lots of participation from the local community. Activities included a tour of the Talkeetna Build-A-Plane project, music, pancake breakfast, introductory flight lessons and a memorial flyover.



The Hudson Memorial Fly-In attracted about 30 airplanes. Pilots were able to overnight at the airport in tents under their “wings”.

This summer the FAA installed its 150th weather camera at the Talkeetna Airport. Weather cameras enable pilots to access real time pictures of current weather information to help them decide whether it's safe to fly. The FAA plans to install weather cameras at an additional 24 sites in Alaska this year and to have 221 camera sites in place by the end of 2014.



Runway maintenance at the airport includes crack sealing, paving, painting and lighting repair.

DOT&PF Airport Manager Steve Hanson and his assistant Pete McCullough are a two-man crew responsible for all of the daily maintenance and operations at the Talkeetna Airport. In addition to overseeing an airport that is open 24/7, they maintain roads (40 lane miles) and 14 miles of paved pathway surrounding the Talkeetna area. During the summer season they also maintain the Skwentna Airport.



Bob Lewis, FAA Regional Administrator and Steve Hanson, DOT&PF Talkeetna Airport Manager were on-hand for the 150th weather camera activation that included a tour and briefing for airport users and the media.

Aviation Educational Outreach

Alaska Aviation Career Fair



Future pilot Carlos Grande from Romig Middle School and his sister, attended the Career Fair.

The Federal Aviation Administration and DOT&PF Statewide Aviation sponsored the first Alaska Aviation Career Fair at the Aviation Heritage Museum this year. Over 80 local high school and middle school students heard from industry representatives including pilots, an air traffic controller, aircraft mechanic, and helicopter operator. Each speaker gave a 15 minute presentation relating to their personal stories of how they got started in the industry and the types of jobs their companies offer. There were also booths set-up and staffed providing more information.

Special thanks to the following businesses and organizations for their participation and support—Aviation Heritage Museum, FedEx, Lynden Air Cargo, PenAir, Signature Flight Support, Ryan Air, Everts Air Cargo, Northern Air Cargo, Group 3 Aviation, University of Alaska, King Career Center, FAA, Anchorage Airport, and Alaska Air National Guard, and Yuut Yaquungviat Flight School.

Other aviation educational programs include the ACE (Aviation Career Education) Academy, Youth Aviation Adventure Program, and Build A Plane project.

Angie Slingluff, Aviation & Space Education Coordinator, organizes aviation education outreach efforts for the FAA. She welcomes opportunities to meet and connect with students and can be reached at 907/271-5228 or angie.slingluff@faa.gov

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

19th Kulis ANG Base—officially transfers base to Anchorage International Airport

19-23 ... Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) delegation visit Alaska for general aviation system overview.

OCTOBER

10-12 ... Airport Operations Practicum by Alaska Airports Association

24-25 ... Airlines/Airport Affairs Committee Meeting — ANC

NOVEMBER

1-2 Aviation Advisory Board Meeting Fairbanks



Many aviation industry businesses and organizations supported the Career Fair.



Mike Lucas with Yuut Yaquungviat Flight School flew in from Bethel to participate.

Aviation Stakeholder Spotlight

Alaska Airports Association

The Alaska Airports Association (AkAA), is an organization that brings together professionals and individuals to enhance and promote the operation and management of airports within the State of Alaska. Among the goals of the organization is the creation of educational opportunities for airport managers, staff and other stakeholders. The association is also dedicated to helping the public understand the value of airports and aviation to local communities.

Jane Dale, serves as the Chair of the AkAA, and is a founding member of the Association. Ms. Dale has a degree in Engineering and Biology from the Michigan Technical University, managed a municipal airport for four years and now lives and cares for a private airport in south-central Alaska. She is Secretary of the Alaska Aviation Coordination Council, is the Vice-Chair on the Matanuska Susitna Aviation Advisory Board, and serves as the AOPA Airport Support Network Volunteer for the Willow Airport. Jane is a private pilot, owns a Piper Super Cub and enjoys recreational flying.

AkAA, with support from the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities - Statewide Aviation and the Anchorage International Airport, has conducted two Alaska Airport Operations Practicum training courses. More than 70 state, municipal, and private airport professionals attended these three-day classes.

AkAA has engaged the services of Stephen Quilty to instruct this course. Mr. Quilty has ten years professional experience managing several airports across the country and is credited with development of the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) Certified Manager course.

The 3rd **Alaska Airports Operation Practicum** is scheduled for October 10-12, at the Anchorage International Airport Maintenance Training Room. For details or to sign up for the class see:

<http://dot.alaska.ecatts.com/lmsTrainingCalendar>

Other training programs are under consideration. The organization is requesting previous attendees and interested parties complete the Training Topics Survey available at www.surveymonkey.com/s/MJLBCFL

More information about the Alaska Airports Associations is available at www.akairports.org or email chair@akairports.org



(L-R) Adam Archibald—Airport Security Coordinator for Ketchikan Airport and Mike Carney—Ketchikan Airport Manager at an “Airport Operations Practicum”.



Jane Dale, Chair of the Alaska Airports Association and her Piper Super Cub.

Cargo Airship Workshop



(L to R) Participants in the Air Cargo Workshop included UAA Chancellor Tom Case, NASA Ames Center Director Pete Worden, Lt. Governor Mead Treadwell, and Statewide Aviation Project Manager Nick Mastrodicasa

A two-day Cargo Airships for Northern Operations Workshop was recently held in Anchorage bringing together numerous transportation and resource development companies and government organizations to hear from airship experts.

Airship experts described the possibilities heavy lift airship transport offers, and the challenges of developing practical and cost effective airship systems for commercial transport of goods and materials.

The potential benefits of heavy lift cargo airships in northern latitudes may include:

- Reducing the cost of living in rural/remote areas by reducing the cost of delivering, point to point, cargo such as groceries, building material and fuel;
- Transportation of personnel, material and heavy equipment over the tundra where ice roads are less tenable due to climate change in support of oil and gas development. Airships could also play a role in exploration and spill response;
- Moving heavy equipment, building material and other difficult to move heavy components from fabrication site to construction site, in support of hydro projects, the erection of wind generators and other remote energy projects.

The workshop was co-organized by Alaska DOT&PF and NASA Ames Research Center.

Governor's Family Picnic 2011

Governor Parnell hosted four family picnics throughout the state this summer and invited departments to participate and do public outreach. DOT&PF was excited to join in and positioned heavy equipment at the picnics for kids to climb on and a booth was set-up passing out lots of information and giveaways.



Volunteers from the Alaska Military Youth Academy and DOT&PF staffed the booth at the Anchorage Picnic.



M&O employees helping kids climb in and out of the cab.



Future DOT&PF employees—plastic hardhats were a hit!



Our mission is to:

*“Get Alaska Moving through
service and infrastructure.”*

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



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