



PLANE TALK

Publication of Statewide Aviation



Fall 2015

Sky Breaking II Brings Leaders Together to Commemorate Statewide Mapping Milestone

Alaska needs to have accurate mapping to manage its abundance of natural resources. In 2006, a state mapping project, the Alaska Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative, started the process of acquiring new and better maps statewide and making existing map products more easily available. Today, this program is managed by the Alaska Geospatial Council (AGC), an intergovernmental council consisting of state commissioners, regional federal directors, local governments, and the private sector. Over 60% of the state has now been mapped to high-resolution, modern standards. To commemorate this progress and recognize the efforts of the AGC and its partners, a “Sky Breaking II” event was held at the FedEx hangar in Anchorage.



Government officials and over 100 industry leaders and contractors were on-hand to celebrate the mapping milestone. Governor Walker thanked the state’s federal partners for supporting the project and asked everyone to continue working on this project knowing that it is supported by his administration. He offered his congratulations on a job well done but needing to be completed.

Accurate maps are foundational to infrastructure, utility and transportation development; oil and gas infrastructure, and mineral development; industrial planning including groundwater contamination

From Right - Governor Walker at the Sky Breaking II event with Senator Murkowski, DOT&PF Commissioner Luiken, and AGC Project Manager Nick Mastrodicasa.

mitigation and restoration; urban and agricultural land use development; project design and engineering; and telecommunications development.

The [AGC website](#) states, “*the public lands in Alaska are some of the most substantial in the northern hemisphere and are undeniably National treasures. These facts magnify the importance of effectively inventorying and managing these resources in order for Alaskans, and indeed all Americans to realize the true wealth that lies within Alaska.*”



The Sky Breaking II event held at the FedEx hangar included vendors with displays and information.

Message from DC Binder:



I realize it's still fall in parts of our state, but at our northern airports, snow is already on the ground. In preparation for winter operations, airport managers and airlines have been meeting to review snow and ice control plans and other requirements to meet air carrier needs. One of our priorities is to communicate often and work closely with airline customers and tenants to overcome challenges immediately. As a reminder, you are often our first "eyes on the ground" and your feedback is critical to identifying issues and initiating a department response.

This month will see several training opportunities for airport managers and staff. The American Association of Airport Executives will be here twice in October to instruct the Certified Member (CM) Academy, a five-day training course that provides a comprehensive overview of airport operations and management, followed by the AAAE Advanced Airport Safety and Operations Specialist training. We strive to invest heavily in our most valuable resource, our people, and the state as a whole benefits tremendously from the skills they acquire.

Our state's fiscal situation continues to be a common theme, and the governor's Aviation Advisory Board met in August to continue investigating revenue generation options and the sustainability of Alaska's rural airport system. The board will be making a recommendation to the governor soon and DOT&PF will continue to partner with all aviation stakeholders on a workable model. Your input is valued, and I continue to solicit your innovative ideas.

Finally, I want to congratulate one of our Fairbanks International Airport mechanics, John Frison, for winning the National Association of State Aviation Officials' (NASAO) Most Innovative State Award. This is the first time the State of Alaska has been recognized for an award by NASAO, and to win this particular one is especially gratifying. John's revolutionary ice breaker will result in significant cost and time savings, and may very well set a new industry standard. Well done, John!

Thank you to all those involved in keeping Alaska's aviation system operating smoothly and safely. No season reinforces the importance of our aviation life-line more than the Alaskan winter, and we rely on each one of you as we partner to serve Alaskans.

Fly safe!

John Binder
Deputy Commissioner



Ketchikan Airport Manager Mike Carney provided the Governor's Aviation Advisory Board an overview of airport operations and revenue streams supporting this airport during its August meeting.

Governor Walker Appreciates Aviation!

Governor Walker proclaimed September as Aviation Appreciation Month at the Sky Breaking II ceremony held in August at the FedEx hangar. He presented a copy of the proclamation to a group of aviation stakeholders at the event. Governor Walker emphasized the importance of aviation in Alaska and the critical role it plays in everyday life of Alaska's people and economy. Read full proclamation [here](#).



Governor Walker presents proclamation at Sky Breaking ceremony. Pictured, from left, are FAA Officials Kerry Long and Ravi Chaudhary; PenAir executives Al Orot and Matt Macri; DOT&PF Deputy Commissioner John Binder, Governor Walker, Aviation Advisory Board Member Steve Strait, Alaska Air Carriers Association Executive Director Jane Dale, DOT&PF Statewide Aviation Linda Bustamante, ACA Board Member Norman Chance, and DOT&PF Commissioner Marc Luiken.

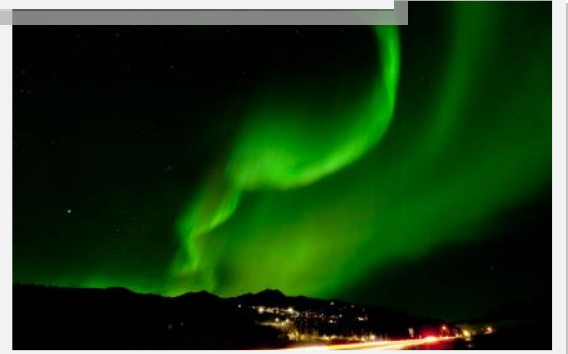
Photo courtesy Rob Stapleton/Alaskafoto

Did You Know....

- The aviation industry generates \$3.5 billion and over 47,000 Alaskan jobs annually, accounting for 10% of the jobs in Alaska
- There are 737 registered airports and seaplane bases, housing 9,347 registered aircraft utilized by 8,032 active pilots
- Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport is ranked #2 in North America for landed weight of cargo and #5 in the world for cargo throughput

China Airlines Increases Winter Tourism To Fairbanks

One of the best places in the world to see the Aurora Borealis!



DOT&PF Photo - Scott Simpson

There's an exciting development in aurora tourism as Fairbanks prepares to welcome more international passengers this winter. China Airlines announced they will operate three charter flights in December from Taipei to Fairbanks in A340 aircraft that seat 276 passengers. The tourists will stay in Fairbanks for four nights and five days, participating in aurora-centered tour programs.

This is also exciting news for Fairbanks International Airport as it continues to market Fairbanks as a destination for international passenger and cargo flights.

China Airlines is Taiwan's largest airline with a fleet of 101 aircraft and more than 11,000 employees worldwide. As one of the SkyTeam airline alliance's 20 members, China Airlines offers passengers access to an extensive global network of more than 16,270 daily flights to 1,057 destinations in 179 countries. Find out more at www.china-airlines.com

Airport Highlights

Mike Coffey New Southcoast Region Director

For the first time in more than 35 years, the department changed its regional boundaries. It also promoted Mike Coffey to the first full-time Regional Director of the new Southcoast Region. The new region includes the coastal regions of Southeast Alaska, Kodiak Island, Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Chain. There are 19 maintenance stations in the new region - Adak, Akun, Cold Bay, Gustavus, Haines, Hoonah, Iliamna, Juneau, Kalsin Bay, Ketchikan, Klawock, Kodiak, Naknek/King Salmon, Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, Unalaska, Wrangell, and Yakutat.

Mike has over 30 years of maintenance, operations, design and construction experience with DOT&PF. In his previous position as Chief of Statewide Maintenance and Operations, he was responsible for the development of the Alaska Maintenance Leadership Academy, implementation of the Everyday Lean Innovations and Ideas Initiative, and the creation of a rural airport contractor training program. Mike has a special interest in winter maintenance and has been responsible for bringing an enhanced salt brine anti-icing program, TowPlows, ice breakers, and an Alaska Specific EMDSS to Alaska.

DOT&PF Commissioner Luiken said, "Mike has shown great leadership in his role as Chief of Statewide M&O through the implementation of efficiencies and department-wide collaboration. Mike is the perfect fit for the position and we are fortunate to have him step into this new and challenging role."



New Manager at Nome Airport Joseph "JJ" Johnson

Joseph Johnson, a three year veteran with the State of Alaska has accepted the position of Rural Airport Foreman for the Nome Station. Born in Anchorage and raised in Nome, Joseph has built an extensive construction background over the last eight years. He was hired by the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities in 2012 as a seasonal summer hire with the highway crew. After four months of working as a laborer and driver he was offered a full-time equipment operator position at the Nome Airport.



The Nome Airport serves as a major hub for the transportation network of the Bering Strait region, serving over 59,000 passengers and 19,000 tons of cargo and mail annually. Initially constructed by the military as a strategic regional facility, the Nome Airport now provides regularly scheduled commercial passenger air service to communities throughout the region, as well as the only regional connection to Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. Nome City Field, located approximately one mile east of the Nome Airport, is a general aviation (GA) runway serving small aircraft.

Major construction projects at this airport include the recently completed apron improvements and runway safety area project that will be completed in 2016. The contract amount for both projects is \$27,817,793.00



New Airport Inspection Program Helps DOT&PF Manage Airport Assets

The 2012 FAA Modernization and Reform Act recognized the growing need to integrate Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) into the National Airspace System, and established six national test sites to help accomplish this goal. In December 2013 FAA selected the University of Alaska as one of the six test site sponsors. The Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration (ACUASI) is part of the University of Alaska Fairbanks within the Geophysical Institute, and the UA Board of Regents gave ACUASI the role of leading all unmanned aircraft programs for the UA system.

There are dynamic changes happening with the unmanned aircraft industry and DOT&PF is at the table with other lead representatives from industry and the FAA discussing how to move forward safely. For more information go to <http://acuasi.alaska.edu>

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 22 - 2015 Mat-Su Transportation Fair - 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center, 1001 S Mack Drive, Wasilla, Alaska

NOVEMBER 6 - Alaska Air Carriers Association Aviation Legends & Medallion Safety Awards Dinner, 5 p.m. Anchorage Marriott Hotel, call 277-0071 for tickets.

NOVEMBER 21 - Aviation Safety Foundation Fall Safety Seminar, Coast Int'l Inn 8:00 a.m. call 907-243-7237 or 907-229-6885 for more information.

DON'T MISS! . . . Hangar Flying
Episodes air on KAKM Channel 7 at 5:40 p.m. every Monday and Friday.

YOUR AVIATION LINK! - Join Rob Stapleton weekly as he covers aviation events and stories statewide on Channel 4 News at 9:00 p.m. and Channel 13 News at 10:00 p.m. (Statewide coverage)

The Capital Improvement and Maintenance Program, CIMP for short, is a new process that will identify and prioritize capital and maintenance needs on an airport. Using Microsoft Surface Pro tablets, inspections will be performed consistently and will contain a great deal of information used in the planning and maintaining of the system. Each inspection is loaded into a centralized database at www.AlaskaASP.com and stored for easy access.

Statewide Aviation and DOWL traveled to Central, Northern, and Southcoast regions in June and July and provided training through a model airport inspection to demonstrate the program. Staff from Design, Planning, Maintenance and Operations, Statewide Equipment Fleet, and Facilities gathered to learn the program and its features. By the end of October, 45 airport inspections will be complete. The CIMP program is funded by the FAA under the Alaska Aviation System Plan.

For more information on the CIMP program or the Alaska Aviation System Plan, please contact Rebecca Rauf at rebecca.rauf@alaska.gov.



DOT&PF staff watch as DOWL contractor Dwight Stuller demonstrates the Microsoft Surface Pro tablet during an inspection of a general aviation airport in Fairbanks.

NASAO Awards John Frison Most Innovative State Program Award

The National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) awarded our own John Frison, airfield mechanic at the Fairbanks International Airport (FAI), the Most Innovative State Program Award for his design of “Yeti,” a snow and ice crusher. “This revolutionary icebreaker will result in significant cost and time savings, and may set a new industry standard,” said DOT&PF Deputy Commissioner John Binder. “It’s the first time a member of DOT&PF has been recognized by NASAO and is a huge honor for John and the department.”

As airports across the nation adapt to changing climates, the team at FAI came up with a unique idea to improve the removal of ice and compact snow. John took the idea behind commercial icebreakers and designed an icebreaking machine named the Yeti. The Yeti fractures ice on runways and taxiways by creating pockets in the ice allowing deicing chemicals to access the underlying asphalt faster. DOT&PF encourages all employees to share ideas that make operational improvements.

The Yeti was first submitted to the department’s “Everyday Lean Innovations and Ideas” program. And was the winner of the Commissioner’s Innovation of the Year Award. It also received a Governor’s Denali Peak performance Award honorable mention for Innovation in Cost-savings.



John Frison and the Yeti.



L-R Statewide Aviation Operations Manager Troy LaRue, John Frison, and DOT&PF Deputy Commissioner John Binder at the NASAO Conference Awards Banquet.



Yeti Jr.

Air Force One Arrives in Dillingham and Kotzebue

A once-in-a-lifetime event came to our regional airports. DOT&PF airport managers and staff performed magnificently working closely with members of the White House Communications Agency and the Crew of Air Force One in support of President Obama's visit to both communities. Certificates of appreciation thanked them for their "unique abilities, superb attitude and professionalism enabling the agency to provide critical communications for the president, the White House staff, and the United States Secret Service."

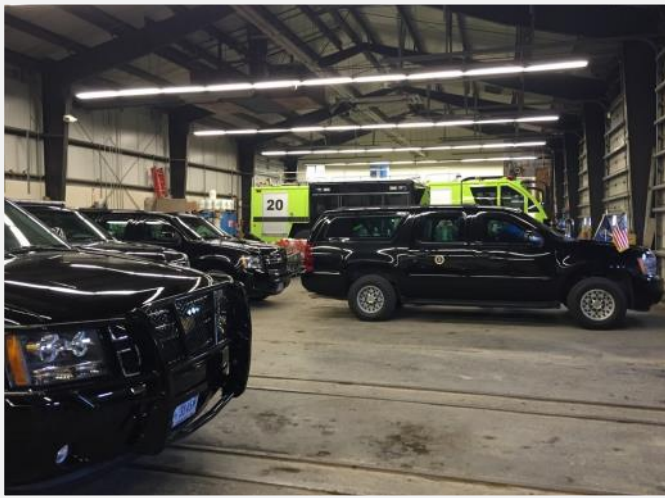


Air Force One was the first Boeing 757 passenger jet to land at the Kotzebue Airport with one of our finest standing guard!



Signed photo of Air Force One presented to the Kotzebue Airport Team.

L-R Air Force One Presidential Advance Agent - Toby, Kotzebue DOT airport staff: Jackson Snyder, Ess Scott, Charles Gallahorn, Alvin Werneke, and Air Force One Presidential Advance Agent, Buddy.



When the president travels, he brings a few vehicles with him! The Dillingham Airport provided its maintenance hangar as temporary storage for the vehicles and this Boeing C-17 is how they arrived.





Our mission is to:

“Keep Alaska Moving through

service and infrastructure.”

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

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