



# PLANE TALK

Publication of Statewide Aviation



Fall 2017

## *“Dust Busters” at DOT&PF*

The Talkeetna Airport repaving project had a big challenge this summer replacing all existing asphalt while keeping the airport operating with an average of 500 operations a day. For more than 20 years air carriers at TKA have operated off of paved surfaces. This year’s project involved milling off pavement from both the runway and taxiway, and requiring air carriers to operate from the new temporary gravel taxiway as a temporary runway. The crew applied a dust palliative, EK35, to the gravel surface to control dust and loose gravel. After application of the EK35, the surface was rolled with a steel drum roller compactor and a multi-tire pneumatic compactor to tighten the gravel surface.

There were some initial problems. Some aircraft picked-up small rocks sometimes resulting in damage to props that could require additional maintenance. Local air carriers and DOT worked together to resolve these issues. Touch down zones were re-rolled and re-compacted on a daily basis to minimize any loosening of gravel where aircraft touched down. After several days of this process, the surface was tight enough to generate a small puff of white tire smoke as aircraft wheels contacted the surface and allowed normal operations for several months.



*Temporary gravel runway at the Talkeetna Airport looks paved - thanks to the construction crew!*

*(Photo courtesy of Joddy French, Ahtna Construction & Primary Products Corporation)*

The Department has been using dust control products effectively on gravel runways and roads for more than 15 years. EK35 makes clay and silt size particles larger so they can’t become airborne. It’s also insoluble in water, so it does not wash out in rain, is nonflammable, noncombustible, and importantly for airplanes, noncorrosive. The Talkeetna project emphasized the benefits of this product coupled with additional compacting. Today the airport is once again fully paved and air carriers are pleased with the final product and the good communication during the process.

DOT&PF owns and operates 172 gravel runways that can create dust problems and result in costly maintenance. Over the years, the department has tested and compared non-corrosive palliatives at 21 different regional sites, and developed cost-effective dust control options for local governments. More information can be found online in the [July 2015 Dust Control Field Guide for Gravel Surfaces](#) published by DOT&PF Research, Development and Technology Transfer, Alaska University Transportation System, and the Alaska Local Technical Assistance Program.

## Message from DC Binder:



It's with great pleasure that I announce that the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has once again received national recognition from the National Association of State Airport Officials! The 2017 NASAO Most Innovative State Program award was presented to DOT&PF for developing the Aircraft Familiarization Video for Aircraft Rescue & Firefighting (ARFF) Personnel. The geographic, climactic, and fiscal challenges that Alaska faces demand ingenuity and finding new ways to conduct aviation activities more efficiently is essential. I know these ARFF training videos will change the way Alaska conducts training and I'm thrilled to see that many airports nationwide are already finding them equally beneficial.

The State's fiscal situation continues to be a primary discussion across our airport system. Rural airports are not staffed 24/7 and some airport crews have dual roles and also maintain village roads. The department's focus on managing costs continues with the recent implementation of "after hour" fees for services requested outside of normal duty hours. The department once had the overtime budget available to accommodate air carrier requests, such as snow removal and runway inspections, critical to their respective operations. While medical evacuation requests are not subject to the afterhours fees, this new program allows us to allocate our very limited resources to the highest priorities. I applaud all of the stakeholder collaboration that went into this change, and solicit immediate feedback on any elements that aren't working as planned or can be improved upon.

After a comprehensive 2-year effort to appraise property values at airports statewide, DOT&PF increased airport leasing rates and other miscellaneous fees on July 1<sup>st</sup> to

move slowly towards fair market rates. This move will keep the department compliant with grant assurances that require airport sponsors to be as self-sustaining as possible, and also help to reduce the disparity between on-airport rates and land rent in the local community. The State of Alaska receives approximately \$200M annually in federal airport improvement funds and ensuring compliance with federal requirements is a critical role of the Department.

Finally, many conversations continue regarding the costs and benefits of other potential revenue options including fuel taxes, registration fees, landing fees, etc. The Aviation Advisory Board and several of the aviation groups are actively engaged with their membership in gathering feedback and recommendations as to the most feasible and equitable options available. I encourage you to be a part of whatever solution is reached. The Department's goal will always be to maintain the safest and most effective airport system possible with the resources available, and I welcome any ideas and suggestions you may have on how we can do that better.

Enjoy the Alaska fall, and Fly safe!

John Binder  
Deputy Commissioner



***The Aviation Advisory Board met in Dillingham with local aviation stakeholders and community leaders. The board provides recommendations to the DOT&PF Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner on public policy related to the department's aviation functions.***



## *NASAO Awards DOT&PF Most Innovative State Program Award*



*(L-R) Troy LaRue, Statewide Aviation Division Operations Manager, Sergeant Darcey Perry, Anchorage Airport Police and Fire, Todd Hanley, DOT&PF Statewide Training Coordinator, and Deputy Commissioner John Binder received the Most Innovative State Program Award at the NASAO Conference.  
Photo courtesy NASAO.*

DOT&PF won the National Association of State Officials (NASAO) “Most Innovative State Program Award” for developing an Aircraft Familiarization Video for Aircraft Rescue & Firefighting (ARFF) Personnel.

Todd Hanley and Sergeant Darcey Perry created the videos to better familiarize first responders with aircraft operate at their airports. They chose five aircraft most commonly used at our certificated airports. The team worked with flight crews from Alaska Airlines, Ravn Alaska, PenAir, and LifeMed Alaska.

The videos have multiple benefits that reach all aspects of aviation and have changed the way Alaska conducts training. Airports nationwide are also finding them equally beneficial.

Videos can be viewed online at:  
<https://vimeo.com/album/4777892>

## *Compete in the GAMA/Build A Plane Aviation Design Challenge*



The General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA) and Build A Plane have opened registration for the 2018 Aviation Design Challenge, an annual competition promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) skills among U.S. high school students through aviation.

GAMA will provide the first 110 schools that register complimentary “Fly to Learn” curriculum and software, powered by X-Plane, that teach aerodynamic and aviation engineering principles. Teachers will guide students through the science of flight and airplane design, completing the curricula in approximately six weeks in the classroom or in four weeks through an accelerated program. Schools will then apply that knowledge to modify an airplane design and complete a mission in a virtual fly-off using the software, which GAMA judges will score based on application of what the team learned, and performance parameters. Four students, one teacher and one chaperone from the winning team will receive an all-expenses-paid trip during the summer of 2018 to experience general aviation manufacturing firsthand.

The nationwide competition has attracted growing interest each year since its inception in 2013. This year, 93 schools from 31 states and Washington, DC, registered for the competition — an 18 percent increase in participation from 2016. As a result of the competition, several past winners and entrants are now pursuing careers in aviation.

To learn more about the competition or to register, please visit the GAMA Aviation Design Challenge webpage - [www.gama.aero](http://www.gama.aero)

## Airport Highlights



*Top - Bottom: PenAir's flyby over Lake Hood gave the crowd a thrill during the Aviation Festival this summer; Cold Bay Airport completed a major runway resurfacing project and on a clear day you can see Mt. Frosty! The Unalaska Airport now has a new DOT&PF Chemical Storage & Mixing, and Equipment Storage Building. The WW II airplanes parked in front were there for the 75th Anniversary of the Bombing of Dutch Harbor and the Aleut Evacuation.*



## ***Backcountry Airstrips of Alaska***

### *An Important, but Often Overlooked Resource*

Alaska DOT&PF needs your help! The state's backcountry airstrips are an important element of our aviation system often serving as the only access points to remote areas. DOT&PF wants these facilities to be preserved and protected and continue to benefit Alaskans.

A Backcountry Airstrip Work Group conducted an extensive survey of backcountry airstrip users as part of the Alaska Aviation System Plan. The survey collected a wide range of data, including who uses the system and why.

56% of respondents indicated backcountry airstrips they visit are in need of repairs and maintenance.

79% of respondents state interest in volunteer opportunities to help maintain the system.

One of the many survey comments - "These airstrips serve as a vital means of access to remote public lands that would otherwise be completely inaccessible. They serve as well to help the state in the development of resources..."

We would like to include your input with our efforts to ensure these airstrips are preserved and protected. If you want to be contacted regarding future backcountry airstrip projects please contact:

Alaska Statewide Aviation - 907-269-0730  
Email: [statewideaviation@alaska.gov](mailto:statewideaviation@alaska.gov)



***Photos top-bottom -***

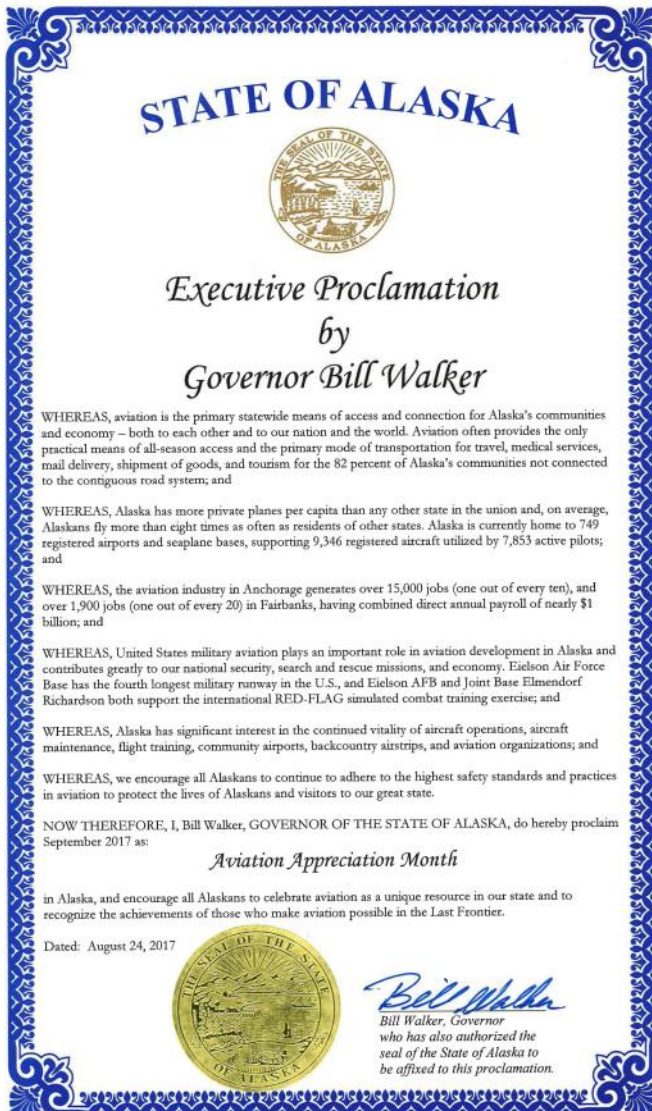
***Kansas Creek  
(photo courtesy, Tom  
George, AOPA)***

***Glacier Creek  
Farewell  
(photos courtesy of Dave  
Wilson)***

## ***Governor Walker Proclaims September Aviation Appreciation Month***

Governor Bill Walker declared September 2017 **Aviation Appreciation Month** in Alaska. In the proclamation, Governor Walker recognizes the significance of aviation in Alaska. Aviation is the primary statewide means of access and connection for eighty-two percent of Alaska's communities not connected to the contiguous road system. And Alaska is home to 749 registered airports and seaplane bases, supporting 9,346 registered aircraft utilized by 7,853 active pilots.

Link to full document: [Aviation Appreciation](#)



## ***Jeremy Worrall Awarded NWAAAE's Aviation Excellence Award***



***(L-R) Pete Higgins, A.A.E., Director of Airport Operations, Salt Lake City Department of Airports presenting NWAAAE's Aviation Excellence Award to Jeremy Worrall, A.A.E., ACE, Statewide Airport Operations Superintendent.***

The Aviation Excellence Award was presented to Jeremy Worrall, AAE, ACE, Statewide Airport Operations Superintendent. Jeremy manages the FAA and TSA regulatory compliance for the nineteen rural Part 139 airports owned and operated by the State of Alaska. He promotes a culture of transparency, regulatory compliance, and innovation in his everyday efforts to ensure Alaskan airports operate safely with an eye towards efficiency.

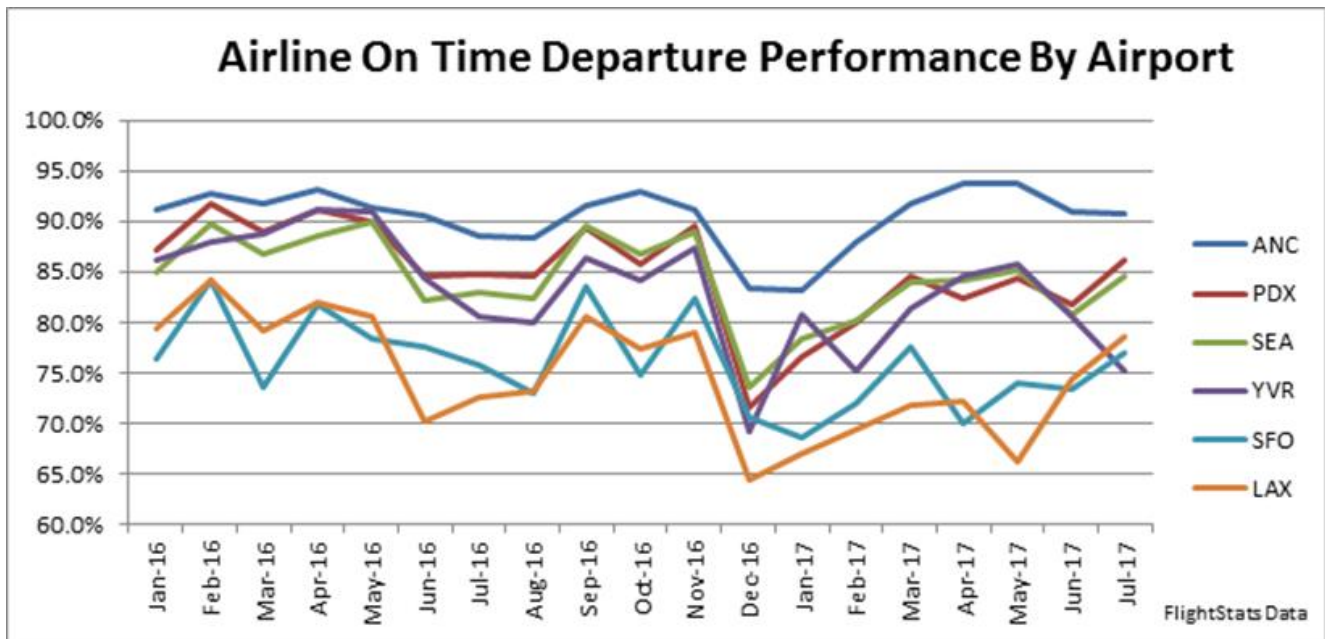
Jeremy also dedicates tremendous time and effort to the local, statewide, and national aviation communities, and is a great asset to both ADOT&PF and to AAAE.

The Northwest Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives (NWAAAE) recognizes individuals and companies who represent the very best in the field of aviation.



## *Being #1 Never Gets Old!*

*Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport continues to maintain the #1 position for on time departures.*



Real World  
Design Challenge



Enter this national competition to solve an engineering design problem. This year students will be designing an unmanned aerial System with the mission of precision agriculture. Students work to develop an engineering design notebook detailing their solution to a design problem and get it reviewed by professionals. [Registration](#) is free and you will have access to free engineering software for participating!

Teams of 3 to 7 high school students from around the country work on an engineering design problem from now through January to determine state winners. The state winners are invited to **compete for \$50,000 scholarships** to Embry Riddle Aeronautical University going to the National winning team. If you have any questions about the competition or the challenge visit Real World Design Challenge website: [www.realworlddesignchallenge.org](http://www.realworlddesignchallenge.org)

## Upcoming Events

**OCTOBER 27 - Alaska Air Carriers Association Alaskan Aviation Legends & Medallion Foundation Awards Banquet**, 5 p.m. Marriott Hotel Downtown Anchorage, call **271-0071** for tickets. AACAA will be honoring Lynn Ellis, Fred Richards, and Lee Staheli - who are the very essence and foundation of Alaskan aviation.

**NOVEMBER 4 - Alaska Aviation Museum Big Band Bash**, Egan Center, Doors open at 6:00pm. Call 907-248-5325 for more information.

**MARCH 4, 2018 - SAVE THE DATE** - Alaska Aviation Museum's annual Hall of Fame – Egan Center, Anchorage. Come and help celebrate the Museum's 30th anniversary and honor pioneer aviators who contributed to Alaska's aviation industry.

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



*Our mission is to:*

*“Keep Alaska Moving through*

*service and infrastructure.”*

*To learn more visit our website: [dot.alaska.gov](http://dot.alaska.gov)*

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