



PLANE TALK

Publication of Statewide Aviation



Fall 2018

DOT&PF Shines on the National Scene Alaska Wins NASAO Award Four Years in a Row!

Alaska DOT&PF is once again recognized by the [National Association of State Aviation Officials \(NASAO\)](#) for important achievements in the aviation community. This year DOT&PF won the “*Most Innovative State Program Award*” for an airfield lighting systems safety video titled “*The Monster Below*”. Dennis Deering, airfield electrician at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, made the video to provide airfield workers a better understanding of the airfield electrical system, potential dangers of the system and how to avoid them. The video has been incorporated into airport training programs across the nation and will significantly contribute to the working knowledge of airfield lighting series circuit and to the safety of those that work around them.

NASAO’s *Most Innovative State Program Award* recognizes truly unique and service-oriented state aviation programs and projects bringing them to a broad audience of other states, federal agencies and the aviation industry. DOT&PF has also won this award for an aircraft familiarization video for aircraft rescue & firefighting personnel familiarizing the first responders with aircraft most commonly used at their airports; and for the “*Yeti*”, a snow and ice crusher designed by John Frison, airfield maintenance mechanic at Fairbanks International Airport. In 2016, the *Distinguished Service Award* was presented to Roger Maggard for his dedication and tireless effort managing Alaska’s aviation system and the largest Airport Improvement Program in the country.



The Yeti



(L-R) Troy LaRue, Statewide Aviation Division Operations Manager, Dennis Deering, and Deputy Commissioner John Binder receive the Most Innovative State Program Award at this year’s NASAO Conference.

Message from DC Binder:



The big news this fall is the passage of the FAA reauthorization bill that will provide stable funding and predictability to the aviation industry. As an aviation-oriented state, this bill will help Alaska DOT&PF deliver steady aviation service and predictable aviation capital projects for the next five years. Some significant provisions for Alaska include:

Preserving Essential Air Service (EAS) funding. There are 234 communities in Alaska on the EAS eligibility list with 61 currently being served. Little Diomed Heliport was added as an EAS-qualified airport.

Reauthorization of the Small Community Air Service Development Program. Just this year Fairbanks International received a \$750,000 grant for air service development.

Provides Airport Improvement Program (AIP) entitlement funding of \$600,000 for airports with enplanements between 8,000 and 10,000, which will increase AIP funding for several Alaska airports.

Authorizes incidental access to public or private property, including Alaska Native land allotments, adjacent to airport access roads, which has been prohibited in the past.

And includes modifications and clarifications for integrating Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) into the National Airspace System (Alaska is one of ten Integration Pilot Program sites in the country and this legislation will help us speed drone integration safely and efficiently); and many other positive amendments focused on Alaska.

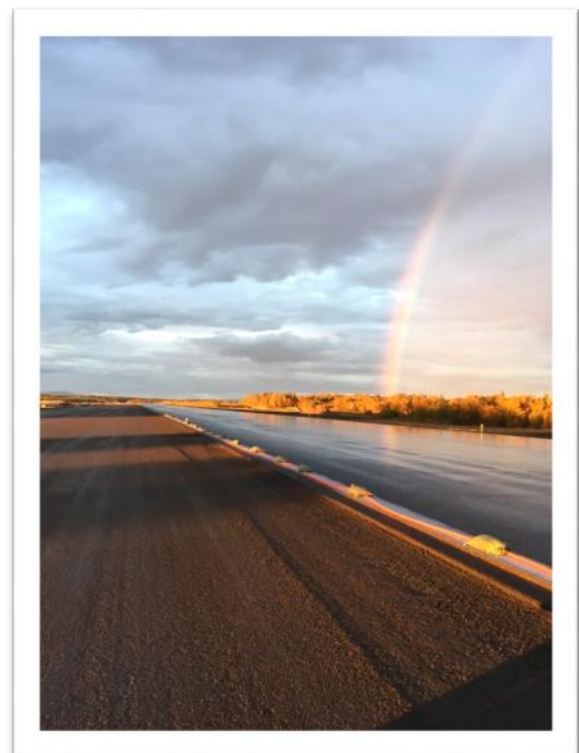
This summer also saw many airport construction projects underway across the state. Some of the larger

projects included repaving and rehabilitating runways at busy hub airports in Dillingham, King Salmon and Anchorage. Tremendous coordination is needed on projects of this scale to ensure continued operations and minimize impacts to the community. Thank you to the airport managers, contractors, and businesses for your flexibility and participation in the successful projects. I also want to thank all of the local residents for your patience and understanding with increased noise levels and the general inconvenience.

And finally, as our airports prepare for winter operations, we continue to coordinate with airlines to provide after hour services when needed. Fees and services were initially addressed for the larger hub airports that provide airport rescue and firefighting services. We are also reviewing maintenance services at unattended airports in order to ensure the highest service levels possible within budgetary and operational constraints.

Enjoy the Alaska fall, and Fly safe!

John Binder
Deputy Commissioner



***Dillingham Airport Repaving Project
Photo - Cliff Douglas, WEED Engineering***



Willy Widgeon Joins Rural Airport Safety Campaign

DOT&PF’s rural airport safety campaign now includes coloring books that will be sent to elementary school kids in villages experiencing runway safety issues. Often times the runway in a village attracts kids for activities such as bike riding, racing 3 wheelers, or snow machines. Small aircraft that service these villages land on runways numerous times daily and can’t always see unauthorized activity.

The coloring book will have kids following Bush Pilot Willy Widgeon as he flies around Alaska delivering passengers and important supplies to villages. Willy is very happy when he can land on a runway that has all of its lights working and this message is carried through the narrative and activities in the book.

Currently there are three coloring book covers translating Runways are for Airplanes in Inupiaq, Yupik and Athabascan. The safety campaign also includes displaying posters around communities and airing safety PSA’s on local radio stations.

Zero Tolerance Transporting Drugs



Traveling? Keep an eye out for these posters! In support of the Public Safety Action Plan, DOT&PF has posters at airports, on ferries and at ferry terminals reminding travelers that Alaska takes a strong stance against transportation of illegal drugs. Airports across Alaska, and the Alaska Marine Highway System staff work closely with law enforcement to curb drug trafficking. For more information on posters for air terminals please contact Statewide Aviation 907/266-2596.

Fairbanks International Airport Implements Tip Line 1-800-TIP-4FIA

The Fairbanks Airport (FAI) is committed to helping eliminate illegal drug transportation and building a Safer Alaska for everyone. After Governor Walker declared a public health crisis in order to combat the state’s opioid epidemic, FAI and its police officers committed to doing their part in combatting this threat to Alaska’s citizens.

Please help keep your community safe by reporting illegal drug transportation to the FAI tip line at 1-800-TIP- 4FIA or (1-877-847-4342) or the Alaska State Troopers.

For more steps you can take to counteract the opioid epidemic, including secure storage of prescriptions and safe disposal of unused medications, visit opioids.alaska.gov.

History of the Aviation Infrastructure in Alaska (abridged) *By Tom George, AOPA Alaska Regional Manager*

Most Alaskan's know that the first powered aircraft flight in Alaska took place in 1913, as a demonstration at that year's Fourth of July celebration in Fairbanks. And that commercial aviation started a decade later when pioneer aviator Ben Eielson talked several Fairbanks businessmen into buying a Curtiss JN-4D "Jenny." Eielson proceeded to fly from the local ball field, sometimes cutting weeks off the travel time to remote mining claims. But when did we start to develop the airfields, communication and weather stations to support this new mode of transportation? Who did the work? I recently spent a few hours at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in the Rasmuson Library looking for answers to these and other questions.

From Airfields to Airport System

As aviation first started to develop, airplanes literally operated from fields. A ball-field in Fairbanks. Hay fields in other places. Since Alaska did not achieve statehood until 1959, the initial efforts at dealing with aviation as a system fell to Alaska Territorial government. Aviation is included in the *1929 Annual Report of the Governor of Alaska to the Secretary of the Interior*, mentioning that "At the present time there are 44 landing fields in the Territory and three transportation companies operating a total of eight commercial airplanes."

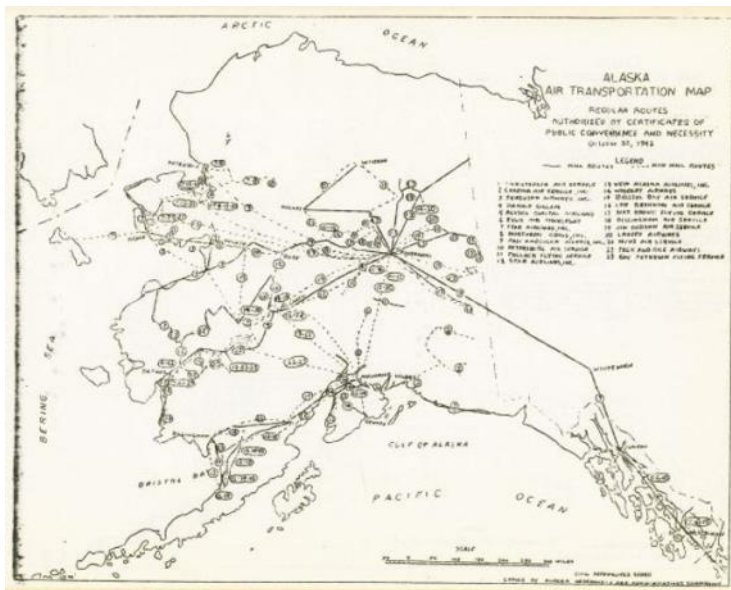
1937 Alaska Aeronautics and Communication Commission

The Commission, comprised of the Territorial Governor and one commission member from each of Alaska's four judicial districts, initially oversaw the installation of weather stations, and collected statistics on aviation activity, which were detailed in a series of annual reports. A supervisor was hired to coordinate this activity. The commission's initial role was "supervision and promotion of aeronautical and communications within the Territory..." even then, not to duplicate or conflict with federal regulations.

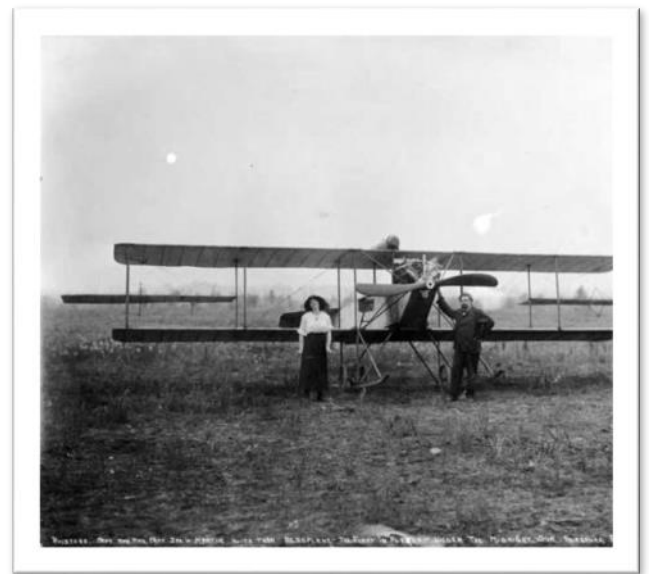
New Aviation Regulations for Alaska

As the United States geared up for war, the military temporarily took over operation of some of the territorial radio stations, and aviation operations in general. Even at that time, people were looking ahead to the need to expand, as manufacturers announced planned production of aircraft to support "private flying."

Read entire article at this link: <https://blog.aopa.org/aopa/author/tgeorge/page/2/>



*Alaska Air Transportation Map
Regular Routes Authorized by Certificates of
Public Convenience and Necessity
October 1942*



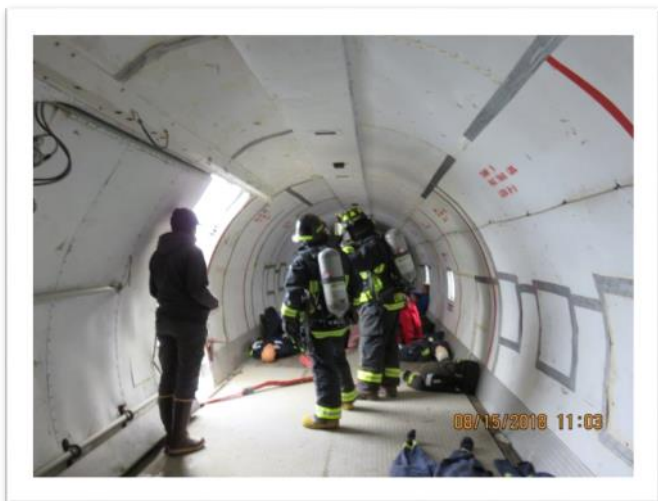
James V. and Lilly Martin brought the first airplane to Alaska for a demonstration flight in Fairbanks on July 3, 1913. They flew the plane over Fairbanks at 200 feet and up to 45 mph. (Photo credit –P281-081 Alaska State Library Harold & Leila Waffle Photograph Collection)

DOT&PF Airports Conduct Emergency Training

The Cold Bay Airport and Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport conducted full-scale emergency training exercises this year as required by the Federal Aviation Administration Regulation Part 139. The exercises demonstrate an airport's ability to respond to a real-world emergency. Managing an aviation incident with the potential for mass casualties requires special training and the cooperative efforts of many responders. Airports rely on their Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) team, law enforcement officers, public safety, security, and community volunteers to take part in the learning experience. Following the exercise, participants assemble to debrief and identify the strengths and weaknesses of the response.

Cold Bay Airport Manager, Hap Kremer, was impressed with what a small community (less than 60 people) did to step up and help out with the responses. Overall he said it was a very successful drill.

More than 100 community volunteers turned out for ANC's "Field Day" to don moulage (mock injuries), receive some rudimentary acting instructions and play the role of crash survivor or victim. Airport Police and Fire Officer, Bentler said, "it was the best ANC exercise he had ever participated in."



*Above photos taken by Aaron Mercurief, Cold Bay
Photos on right courtesy of ANC and Rob Stapleton*

Roger Maggard
Recognized for 40 years with State of Alaska!



Roger Maggard, Airport Development Manager with Statewide Aviation, was presented a certificate by Commissioner Marc Luiken. Roger has worked 40 years for the State of Alaska, starting with DOT&PF in 1982. Thank you for your service Roger!

Stephen Sustarich Presented
Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award



FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector presents Stephen Sustarich with the FAA's "Charles Taylor Master Mechanic" award recognizing his life-accomplishments and 50-year career in the field. Stephen has worked at Temsco Helicopters since 1989. Click [here](#) for more on story.

Class of 2018!
American Association of Airport Executives
Certified Member Academy Candidates



DOT&PF airport managers, planners, officers and engineers participated in an intensive, week-long training class focused on numerous airport and aviation topics.

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 27 - Women in Aviation International Hangar Halloween at Alaska Aviation Museum. Show support for Women in Aviation International Last Frontier Chapter, open bar, appetizers, live music and comedian, door prizes, auctions, all for only \$20 (\$10 for members), tickets available at the door.

NOVEMBER 10 - Alaska Aviation Museum [Big Band Bash](#), Egan Center, Doors open at 6:00pm. Call 907-248-5325 for more information.

MARCH 9, 2019 - SAVE THE DATE - Alaska Aviation Museum's annual Hall of Fame – Hotel Captain Cook. Come and help celebrate the Museum's 31st 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)

Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (ANC)

***Airport Continues Growth
Passenger Enplanements Up 3%
Air Cargo Up 6.7%***

Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (ANC) reports its best second quarter passenger numbers in 5 years! Passenger enplanements were up nearly 3 percent when compared with the second quarter of 2017. Numbers from April, May, and June are the best ANC has seen over the last five years. June was especially strong with an increase of 4.3 percent.

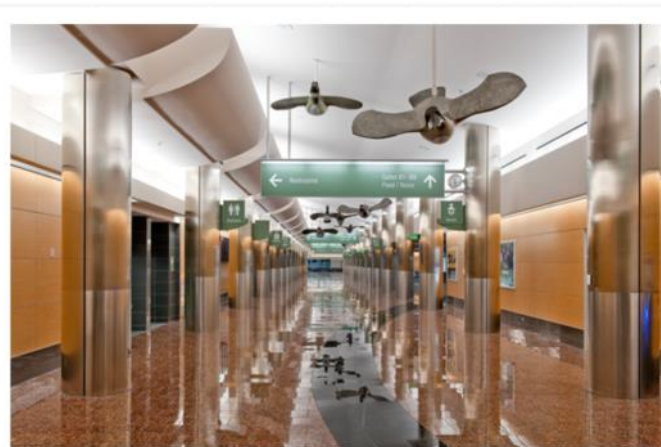
“Alaska is a world class tourism destination, there’s something for everyone,” says Jim Szczesniak, Airport Manager. “The nation’s largest state boasts many opportunities, from world renowned ecotourism, to a plethora of other outdoor activities, and a rich local and native culture. As the gateway to Alaska, the Anchorage Airport works hard to grow the airport so that we can grow the Alaskan economy.”

***Airport Ranks #5 in the World for
Cargo Throughput and #2 in the U.S.***

More than 2.7 million metric tons of cargo transited through ANC according to the 2017 Airport Council International Annual World Airport Traffic Report.

Jim Szczesniak says, ‘the airport remains a substantial part of the world air cargo system, and that’s good for Anchorage and good for the State. We continue to promote our strategic location, and the synergies that Anchorage can provide in air cargo transfer, e-commerce distribution centers, major and minor aircraft maintenance and repair, and aircraft parts warehousing. This all translates to good paying jobs for Alaskans.’

Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport is less than 9.5 hours from 90 percent of the industrialized world and serves more than 5 million passengers annually. The airport is responsible for approximately 15,577 airport & community jobs, earning \$1 billion. That's 1 in 10 jobs in Anchorage!



***ANC Through the Years
Top - Airport in 1958
Middle - Passenger Concourse 1968
Bottom - C Concourse Today***



Our mission is to:

“Keep Alaska Moving through

service and infrastructure.”

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

To receive Plane Talk sign up here:



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