



# PLANE TALK

Publication of Statewide Aviation



Spring 2017

## *Gearing Up for Summer Construction*

Alaska has the largest aviation system in North America consisting of more than 400 public use airports, of which 242 are operated by DOT&PF. Our airports include 172 gravel runways, 47 paved airports, 22 sea-plane bases, and 1 heliport that require frequent maintenance and full blown capital projects over time.

The Department is ramping up for numerous construction projects across the state from runway lighting improvements to new buildings to rehabilitating runways and taxiways. Some of this year's larger airport projects include:

- Aniak Airport Runway will be shifted approx. 260 ft. south of its current location with construction planned to begin in late summer.
- Newtok Airport rehabilitation includes resurfacing the runway, shoulders, taxiway, and apron surfaces.
- Anchorage International will be replacing concrete panel seals on Runway 7R/25L, making improvements to Taxiway Y, and reconstructing aprons at Gates B1, B3, B5.
- Cordova Airport is rehabilitating taxiways, apron, and taxilane.
- Cold Bay Airport improvements include rehabilitating both the main and crosswind runways and safety areas, and constructing a new taxiway and apron.

The department works closely with air carriers to minimize service disruptions due to construction. More project information is available on the DOT [website](#).



## Alaska's Runways Keeping Alaskans Connected

## Message from DC Binder:



As we head into spring, airports across the state are readying for the busy summer flying season and increase in passenger traffic. Both Fairbanks and Anchorage International Airports will see an increase in flights as airlines beef up their summer schedules.

Seasonal carriers returning to Fairbanks include Air North, Condor, Japan Airlines, and United Airlines. The Anchorage Airport has Sun Country Air, Air Canada, JetBlue, Condor, Icelandair, and Yakutia Air returning for the summer, with year-round carrier Alaska Airlines adding many additional flights.

I'm proud to announce the Anchorage Airport has been consistently ranked #1 by FlightStats for on-time performance over other major west coast airports. They have been on top for over a year, which includes the challenging winter months. This busy airport has also just been awarded the [Air Cargo Excellence Award](#) for exceptional customer service and value in air cargo and specialty air cargo. This award is especially significant because it is achieved by receiving the highest scores from a survey of air cargo carriers and customers.

Just as the international airports will see a huge increase in tourism traffic so will some of the state's busy general aviation airports. Lake Hood Seaplane Base "*the busiest seaplane base in the world*" and the Talkeetna Airport will have thousands of tourists flying out of them to view Alaska's wilderness, heading out on fishing trips, and visiting numerous back country destinations.

If you're not climbing into an airplane anytime soon you can still enjoy the thrill of aviation by attending one of the many events happening around the state in May. I encourage everyone to come out to the Great Alaska Aviation Gathering on May 6th & 7th and take part in one of the nation's premier aviation events held at the FedEx hangar at the Anchorage Airport. DOT&PF will have two booths at the event.

There are many more events happening in April and May highlighted in this newsletter. I hope to see you at some of them.

Have a great summer, and Fly Safe!

John Binder  
Deputy Commissioner



**Where:** East Ramp, Fairbanks International Arpt.  
3504 South University Ave.

**When:** Saturday, May 20th, - 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Who:** Youth, adults, and anyone who is just "plane crazy"



***Fairbanks Aviation Day includes airport tours, mini-seminars, a pancake breakfast, free flights for youth, display aircraft, and much more!***



Transportation  
Security  
Administration

### *FAA Predicts the Future of Commercial, Hobbyist UAS Industry*

In its latest aerospace forecast, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is predicting big things for "nearly every aspect of air transportation," including unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), which the agency believes will have substantial growth in the next five years.

Under its newly released forecast, the FAA says the "small model hobbyist fleet" will more than triple its numbers: from 1.1 million units in 2016 to a whopping 3.55 million units in 2021. The agency says this represents an average annual growth rate of 26.4%.

However, noting the "uncertainty about the public's continued adoption" of UAS, the FAA has also laid out a high range of 4.5 million units and a low range of 2.74 million units by 2021. Although this growth rate will be "fairly steady" over the first few years of this time span, the FAA predicts that it could slow in the last two years.

DOTs across the USA have been using Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS or drones) in very creative ways to accomplish traditionally expensive tasks in new ways that are truly "cheaper, faster, better." Drones are a new tool in our tool box to deliver expensive infrastructure products more efficiently.

Alaska DOT&PF formed a UAS working group comprised of members from the three regions, AIAS, and M&O, and SWA to develop a drone departmental policy and procedure. The next step is to write an "operations manual" that will give guidance to help department employees and contractors operate drones in a safe and effective manner.

Continue reading... [Unmanned Aerial](#)

### *REAL ID and Air Travel Alaskans May Need U.S. Passports for Domestic Air Travel*

In less than three months, Alaska's extension from complying with the REAL ID Act expires. The REAL ID Act, which Congress passed in 2005, requires states to establish minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and other forms of identification. In 2008, the Alaska Legislature passed a bill barring the state from spending any funds to comply.

After January 22, 2018 Alaskans will need an alternate form of identification, like a passport, to go through Transportation Security Administration security for air travel—unless state laws are changed.

Governor Walker introduced House Bill 74 and Senate Bill 34 to provide Alaskans with the option to get REAL ID Act-compliant driver's licenses. Under this bill, Alaskans will have a choice whether or not they want to obtain identification that meets REAL ID Act standards.

TSA has been posting signs at airports notifying the flying public of the upcoming 2018 REAL ID airport enforcement at security check points. Adult passengers 18 and over must show valid identification at the airport checkpoint in order to travel. Acceptable forms of ID other than REAL ID include the following:

- U.S. passport
- U.S. passport card
- DHS trusted traveler cards (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST)
- US military ID (active duty or retired military and their dependents, and DoD civilians)

<https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification>

## Airport Spotlight

### *Valdez Pioneer Field Airport*

*By Steve Searles, Airport Manager*

Welcome to the Valdez Pioneer Field! We are a Part 139 certified airport serving scheduled air carrier operations and general aviation. Heli-skiing is a big thing in Southcentral Alaska and during this time of year we see a huge increase in helicopter operations and many corporate jets bringing in high dollar clients.

One of the unique challenges we face is the larger than normal amount of snowfall we experience every winter averaging around 300 inches and yes that's not a typo it is 300. We have had as little as 200 inches in a year and on the flip side I've seen several seasons over the 400 inch mark.

The airport is open and maintained 7 days a week, 365 days a year, and we do this with a four-man crew ; two full time equipment operators, one winter season equipment operator, and myself. Our jobs include repairing runway and taxiway lights. Our lights are as tall as the FAA will allow and it's not that unusual to arrive in the morning and the lights are buried under snow. Occasionally one or more lights will get "adjusted" with a piece of heavy equipment and require some TLC. Other duties include wildlife control, runway self-inspections, and we also do our own janitorial work.

Our claim to fame though has to be the annual Valdez May Day Fly-In and Airshow! For the past 13 years some 200-300 airplanes from super cubs to C-130s, and two - three thousand people all converge onto the airport Fly-In weekend. The event brings planes from all over the state and the lower 48, and features flour bombing, a balloon pop where helium balloons are released and a pilot tries to hit and pop the balloon with his or hers plane - hard to do but fun to watch. The highlight event is the STOL competition, where 20 foot take-offs and landings are what it takes to win. It's really a great event and should be on everyone's bucket list. This event brings with it a set of challenges. For the guys working on the airport, safety is always a major concern and with that many people in close proximity to planes everyone needs to be on their toes. Also putting in temporary tie downs and parking up to 300 aircraft on a small airport is not easy, but seeing that many planes on a small field is pretty cool.

So we're praying for sunny skies and we hope to see you in Valdez this May 12-14.



*The Team - Equipment Operators Brandon Kilian, Scott Smith, Jimmy Hurst, and Airport Manager Steve Searles*



## *The Premier Bush Flying Event in Alaska! May 12 - 14, 2017*

The 13th annual [Valdez Fly-In](#) and Air Show will be in Valdez at the Pioneer Field Airport. Pilots from all over Alaska and the lower 48 participate in a Poker Run and STOL competition in various classes of planes. It also includes a Flour Bombing competition, Aerobatics, Sky Divers, Static displays and a kids Balsa Plane event.

The Fly-In has a variety of vendors who participate adding to this true family/spectator event. For additional information, please call (907) 835-8244 or email [valdezflyin2014@gmail.com](mailto:valdezflyin2014@gmail.com)



*Lots of spectators and airplanes at the annual Valdez May Day Fly-In and Air Show*

## **Valdez's Long Transportation History....**

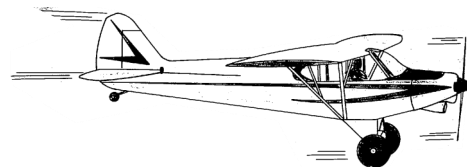
“Since it was founded over a hundred years ago, it has served as a hub for road, sea, and air travel. Valdez has had an airport since October 1927 when local residents worked with the Alaska Road Commission to build the first runway adjacent to the Old Town Building.

Strangely enough, when the first airway was being built, there were no airplanes in Valdez. It didn't take long, though. Valdez pioneer, Owen Meals bought a plane that year and took it for its first flight in June 1928. That was the first flight from a Valdez airport.

That early Valdez airstrip saw many planes, pilots, and passengers. Flightseeing was a popular activity with seamen and locals. Besides flightseers, Valdez pilots transported aerial photographers, expedition teams, judges and witnesses, steamship passengers heading further into Alaska, and supplies for mines.

In a 1934 survey, Valdez airport manager Owen Meals, reported the following statistics: \$3600 had been spent to date on hangars & buildings and \$14,000 for the runway. Two airplanes were based at the airport. 360 airplanes and 333 passengers had arrived in Valdez in 1934. 14,000 pounds of freight had departed that year. And, two commercial air carriers operated there. During World War II, more funding became available for airfields and Valdez's airway was expanded. After the War, the airfield fell into some disrepair due to lack of funding and was moved to its present location in 1952.”

To learn more about this communities fascinating history visit the Valdez Museum or their website at [www.valdezmuseum.org](http://www.valdezmuseum.org)



# April & May - All About Aviation!

20TH ANNUAL  
ALASKA AIRMEN ASSOCIATION'S



## GREAT ALASKA AVIATION GATHERING

SATURDAY, MAY 6 9AM-5PM • SUNDAY, MAY 7 10AM-5PM  
TED STEVENS ANCHORAGE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
FEDEX MAINTENANCE HANGAR



FREE ADMISSION • FREE PARKING • YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The Great Alaska Aviation Gathering has become one of America's largest free-entry aviation trade shows, with nearly 25,000 attendees!

Over 275 nationwide aviation exhibitors with indoor and outside static displays featuring light sport, general aviation, vintage, experimental, commercial, corporate and military aircraft.

For information call (907) 245-1251 or email [Gathering@alaskaairmen.org](mailto:Gathering@alaskaairmen.org) or visit [www.GreatAlaskaAviationGathering.org](http://www.GreatAlaskaAviationGathering.org)

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MAY  19-21

# TALKEETNA FLY-IN

*Honoring the past, celebrating the future*

## 2017

TALKEETNA, ALASKA

SPONSORED BY ALASKA AIRMEN ASSOCIATION

**FRIDAY: 5PM - CLOSE: BURGER AND BREW AT THE WEST RIB PUB**

**SATURDAY:**

8-12 - BREAKFAST AVAILABLE AT LATITUDE 62 AND THE TALKEETNA ROADHOUSE

11:00 - BOOTHS OPEN AT SET UP FROM 9-11

12:00 - POKER RUN DEADLINE

12:00 - EVENT REGISTRATION DEADLINE

1:00 - GUEST SPEAKER - CARL THOMAS

2:00 - FLYING EVENT: QUALIFYING ROUND FOR SLOW/FAST COMPETITION

3:00 - AERIAL SCAVENGER HUNT, TREASURE HUNT

4:00 - TALKEETNA BUILD-A-PLANE TOUR

5:00 - Balsa FLYING CONTEST

5:30 - UNICYCLE RACE

6-9 - DINNER AT DENALI BREW PUB

9-11 - LIVE MUSIC AT THE FAIRVIEW

**SUNDAY:**

9-11 - PANCAKES AT THE AIRPORT  
SPONSORED BY THE TALKEETNA ROADHOUSE

11:00 - MISSING MAN FORMATION FLIGHT

11:30 - NSI EVENT AND AIRPLANE TAKE OFF AND LAND DEMO

12:30 - SLOW/FAST COMPETITION

12:30 - BUILD-A-PLANE AUCTION CLOSES  
(PLEASE PICK UP YOUR ITEMS)

2:00 - AWARDS CEREMONY - MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

**REGISTER ONLINE FOR FREE EVENTS AND BOOTH SPACE.**

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TALKEETNAFLYIN](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TALKEETNAFLYIN)  
(907) 733 • 4808



## 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Seaplane Safety Seminar

Photo Credit - NIOSH

**Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017**

Registration begins at 0800, Safety Seminar from 0830-1600

at the UAA Aviation Technology Center on Merrill Field, Anchorage, Alaska

**Keynote Speaker: Steven McCaughey**  
Executive Director, Seaplane Pilots Association

Presentations on:

- Practical Aerodynamics
- River Operations
- FAA Medical Updates
- Observations on Mechanical Issues
- ADS-B Mandate and Solutions
- Expert Panel - Flight Plans and Survival Technologies

Lunch available by Alpha Eta Rho



For more information:  
Phone: 907-243-7237 or email: [aasfonline@gmail.com](mailto:aasfonline@gmail.com)



Seaplane Pilots Association

**Get your career MOVING!**

# Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport Job Fair

**10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
**Saturday, April 8, 2017**

Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, North Terminal

**No cost to attend!**  
**Free parking!**

For more info, call (907) 266-2119.



 Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport

 NAC  
NORTHERN AIR CARGO



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**Orin Seybert**  
*A Legend In Alaska Aviation*



**Orin Seybert, founder of PenAir and Matt Atkinson, AACA president. Orin was presented awards at the Alaska Air Carriers Association's Convention Feb.23, at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage, AK.**

**Photo by Rob Stapleton/Alaskafoto**

Congratulations to Orin Seybert for receiving the Federal Aviation Administration's Master Pilot Award and the Alaska Air Carriers Association's Pilot of the Year Award in front of dozens of his family members and Alaska aviation industry owners and pilots at the annual AACA Convention.

Orin founded Peninsula Airways in 1955. He was 19 years old, living in Pilot Point, Alaska and owned a 1946 two-seat Taylorcraft. In 1956, a four-seat Piper Tri-Pacer was purchased, and the company was officially named Peninsula Airways. Today, the airline is one of the largest regional airlines in Alaska and one of the largest leasers of the Saab 340 aircraft in the United States.

He recently published his memoir "You Breathe, I Fly: The Orin Seybert/PenAir Story". The book is a fascinating look at the history of PenAir and the people and events that shaped the company. Copies of the book are on sale at the Alaska Aviation Museum with all proceeds going to the museum.



**Aviation Adventures Family Free Day**

Kid's Day Partnership with Anchorage Promise  
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Alaska Aviation Museum  
4721 Aircraft Drive, Anchorage, AK. 99502

Join the Alaska Aviation Museum on the third Saturday of every month (October through May) for aviation-themed activities for the whole family!  
Free for the whole family!

April 15th is also Kid's Day, created by Anchorage's Promise. We'll be free to the public all day, come visit us at our booth at the Dena'ina Center!



**Anchorage International Airport  
May 5th**

**10:00am - 12:00pm**

**Meet at the old Field Maintenance  
Facility on Aircraft Drive**



*Our mission is to:*

*“Keep Alaska Moving through*

*service and infrastructure.”*

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

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
Division of Statewide Aviation  
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Anchorage, Alaska 99502

**Return Service Requested**

**TO:**