



PLANE TALK

Publication of Statewide Aviation



SPRING 2021

ANCHORAGE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT Never Closed For Snow!



AVIATION HAPPENINGS | MEET THE LEASING TEAM

Message from DC Binder:



Nana korobi, ya oki. Fall down seven times, stand up eight. This Japanese proverb means choosing to never give up hope, and to always strive for more. Today, we celebrate standing up again.

As spring comes to Alaska several passenger airlines have announced new city pairs and more nonstop flights just in time to boost this summer's tourism season. Aviation gatherings are returning including one of the nation's premier aviation events - the Great Alaska Aviation Gathering on May 8th and 9th at the Palmer Fairgrounds. The Valdez Fly-In and Airshow will resume this year as well on May 28-30th. Aviation enthusiasts (and there are many in our state) are excited and looking forward to once again participating in these great aviation activities.

Statewide Aviation Leasing is a busy group handling over a thousand agreements throughout the state. Congratulations to Sharyn Augustine and Margaret Moody on their recent promotions to Leasing Chiefs. I'm also happy to welcome Todd Bishoff Dimond as the new Airport Manager for the Valdez Pioneer Field. He's starting just in time to help coordinate one of the state's highly anticipated fly-ins!

Now that winter's over I'd like to thank both the Anchorage and Fairbanks International Airports for their outstanding performance in snow and ice control. The Anchorage Airport has the distinction

of never having closed due to snow! Congratulations to ANC's Airfield Maintenance operators for their ability to maintain three runways exceeding 10,500 ft. long, 27 taxiways, and approximately 33 million square feet of airfield pavement.

As we launch into summer, I'd be remiss if I failed to mention safety. Please take advantage of every resource available as you take to the skies. If you see something unusual, say something! We are committed to maintaining the world's safest airport system and you are oftentimes our first eyes and ears.

Thank you for all you do for Alaska, have a great summer, and Fly Safe!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Binder".

John Binder
Deputy Commissioner



The Valdez Fly-In and Airshow has been cleared for takeoff and will be back again this year over Memorial Day weekend. This event brings planes from all over the state and lower 48, and features flour bombing and a STOL competition, where 20 foot takeoffs and landings are what it takes to win!

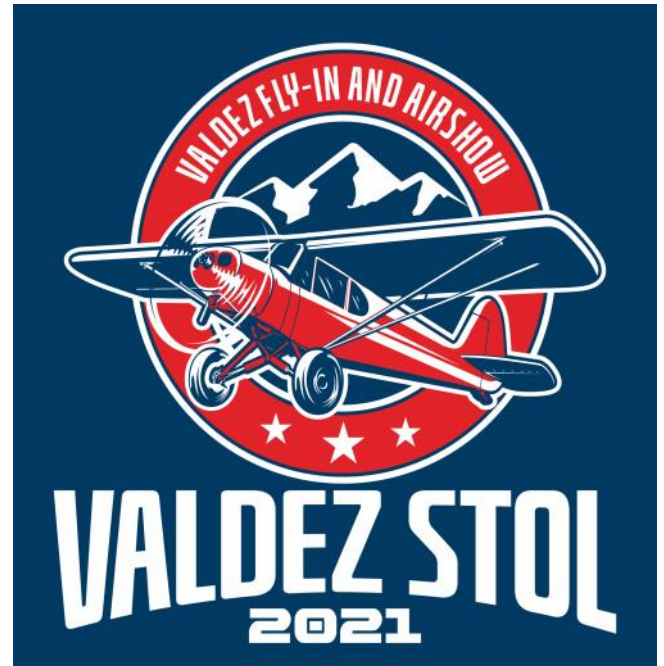


**Abby Austin, Executive Director
Alaska Airmen's Association**

Abby Austin has joined the Alaska Airmen Association bringing her passion for flying to the state's largest general aviation organization with over 2000 active members.

Abby began her flying and aviation career in her hometown of Austin, Texas, working at the local FBO. Having found her passion, she completed her flight certifications and Aviation Management degree at the University of North Dakota. She holds a Commercial license with Instrument, Multi-Engine, and Seaplane ratings. During her 20-year career in general aviation, she has had the opportunity to work in almost every sector of the industry from Flight Schools and 135 Charter Operations to Manufacturers and Parts Distributors. Over the years, she has become increasingly aware of the greatest challenge the industry faces – the need to cultivate the next generation of pilots, mechanics, and other industry professionals. Increasing access to and participation in general aviation has been a passion of hers both personally and through volunteer work with groups like the 99s and Youth Aviation Adventure.

Contact Abby at 907/245-1251 or email her at Info@alaskaairmen.org



May 28-30, 2021

More information at <https://www.valdezflyin.com/>

Anchorage Travel and Tourism Industry

Job Fair

**11 am to 4 pm
Saturday,
April 10, 2021**

Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport,
North Terminal
No cost to attend! Free parking!
For more info, call (907) 266-2119.

ANE

Sponsored by Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport,
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

We are an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Security Spotlight

Jeremy Worrall

DOT&PF Airport Operations Superintendent

As spring and long, warmer days approach it's a good time to remind airport users of airport security requirements. This information applies to all DOT&PF rural airports with TSA Airport ID Badging Programs.

All facilities within the airport security perimeter that can be accessed from the public side to the airside restricted areas must comply with TSA regulations and the Airport Security Program. This means that those access points must be closed and secured at all times unless they are constantly and effectively monitored by a properly badged person. In practice this means that when the sun is shining and it's nice to open doors and get some fresh air, if the hangar door is the regulated access point a badged individual needs to be responsible for monitoring that open door.

As the summer season rolls around and airports start to get busier be watchful for any personnel without an airport ID badge or with an expired or incorrect ID badge. The airport security training that all badgeholders complete details badge challenge procedures and how to handle these situations.

DOT&PF is engaged in a system wide airport security study that will continue to visit airports this summer. DOT&PF staff and consultant team will be conducting site visits at each tenant facility on the airport, scanning each facility with a mapping tool, and will be interviewing and discussing airport security with local airport stakeholders. Thank you in advance for your time and cooperation as we continue this important project. Dillingham, Wrangell, and Yakutat are the next three airports that we will be visiting in the next few months.

As always remember if you *See Something/Say Something* and report anything suspicious or out of place to airport management.

Extracting Flight Visibility from FAA Weather Camera Data

Tom George, AOPA Alaska Regional Manager

The FAA is preparing to evaluate an experimental technique to estimate flight visibility from FAA Weather Camera data at a number of locations in Alaska. The *Visibility Estimation through Image Analytics* (VEIA) program was developed by the MIT Lincoln Laboratory. The system compares current weather camera images with a clear day reference image and uses image processing to compute an estimate of visibility in statute miles. By running this algorithm with each new image that is acquired during daylight hours, it also provides a record to monitor the trends when weather is changing.

The evaluation will be conducted between April and June 2021, and the FAA team is looking for pilots, dispatchers as well as meteorologists and Flight Service staff to be involved in the effort. Participants will be provided individual accounts to access products and provided training materials on the VEIA capabilities and functionality. All participants are asked to use the VEIA system and participate in two virtual meetings to provide feedback to the evaluation team. At the end of the assessment, each participant is expected to complete a final questionnaire. To participate in this evaluation, use the links below to register.

VEIA Registration links:

Pilot: <https://forms.gle/cZLychGHER9fgeuk9>

Dispatcher:

<https://forms.gle/x5UMCYBtUXxNhdJT7>

Meteorologist:

<https://forms.gle/VFfewc2bnucnxoEfCA>

FAA Flight Services:

<https://forms.gle/7MQWDHdfbZkHuxmCA>

Please consider devoting some time to help determine if this product is suitable for operational use. If you need more information, contact: Jill Miller at jill.f-ctr.miller@faa.gov or call 609-412-9080 (EDT)

Airport Master Plans

Airport master plans set a course and provide guidance for future aviation investment in support of communities and the state. Aviation stakeholders and the public are encouraged to participate in the process. The following airports are currently undergoing master plans:

- **Birchwood Airport**
<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/creg/birchwoodamp/>
- **Cordova Airport**
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/88193346e73948948a5b7d92b42bb031>
- **Dillingham Airport**
<http://dot.alaska.gov/creg/dillingham/>
- **Quinhagak Airport** (Airport Layout Plan)
<http://dot.alaska.gov/creg/quinhagakalp/>
- **Unalaska/Dutch Harbor Airport**
<http://dot.alaska.gov/sereg/projects/unalaska/>
- **Valdez Pioneer Field Airport**
<http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/valdez-airport/>

Transportation planners for each airport can be found at this link:

<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/cip/stip/assets/dotplanners.pdf>



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Merrill Field Simulators - Open to the Public

Ralph Gibbs, Airport Manager

The MOA Sim Center is now open to the public. We provide Part 61, 91, and 135 Alaskan pilots an opportunity to keep their instrument skills proficient to avoid inadvertent IMC flight and, if necessary, transition to instrument flight, thus avoiding an inadvertent IMC mishap.

Mission Statement:

Flight Safety Through Instrument Flight Mastery

There are seven AATDs available using an interim scheduling model. Flight Schedule Pro software will be operational this summer. Precision Flight Controls (PFC) and FlyIt are manufacturer brand names. FAA Letters of Authorizations are available for all. Email the airport manager to make a reservation - Donald.gibbs@anchorageak.gov. The fee is \$50 per hour and you will be provided onsite gate access during your flights for this interim period. More information at this link: http://www.muni.org/Departments/merrill_field/Pages/Flight-Simulation-Training-.aspx

All GA piston drivers and CFIs are strongly encouraged to contact one of the airport's many flights schools possessing AATDs. All can be found on the Merrill Field [website](#) and will be given first right of refusal.



Citation 550 Jet Simulator

Statewide Aviation Airport Leasing

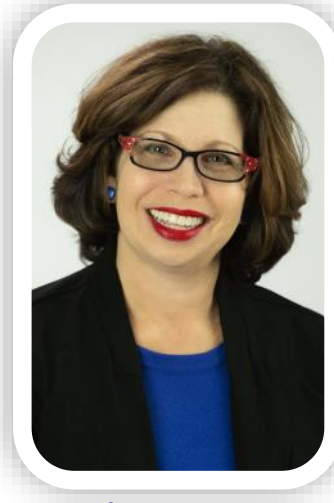
Statewide Aviation leases property at rural airports owned by the State of Alaska. **eLeasing** is the on-line system for processing applications for leases, building permits, land-use permits, mobile fuel dispensing permits, and aircraft tiedown permits. More information at <http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdav/leasing.shtml>



Clark Cox

Statewide Aviation Leasing Program Manager

Clark supports the 3 regional leasing offices and provides regulatory and policy guidance to ensure a consistent application of the leasing and permitting process statewide. Prior to joining DOT&PF in 2020, he worked for 20 years in the Anchorage office of DNR's, Division of Mining, Land and Water.



Vickie L. Swain

Chief, Central Region Aviation Leasing

Vickie brings 25 years of state service to the public, with DOT&PF since 2012. Vickie began her career with DOT&PF as an Airport Leasing Specialist (ALS) II, promoted up to an ALS III, and since 2018 is the Leasing Chief, collaborating with a staff of 7 ALS', managing 135 rural airports located within the Central and Southcoast region of the State.



Sharyn Augustine

Chief, Southcoast Region Aviation Leasing

Sharyn has worked in the Southcoast Region for 13 years starting as a Leasing Specialist II and was recently promoted to Chief. She's originally from New Zealand but moved to Juneau to marry a life-long Juneauite and now has two teenage boys and four dogs.



Margaret J. Moody

Chief, Northern Region Aviation Leasing

Margaret has worked in the Northern Region since October 2009. She started as an Airport Leasing Specialist I and recently was promoted to Chief. She moved to Fairbanks after retiring from the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Federal Contract Compliance; with 33 years of Federal service.

Airlines Expand Summer Service to Alaska!

FAI Preparing for Unprecedented Increase in Passenger Flights

The Fairbanks International Airport is expecting an approximate 33% increase in seat capacity to the lower 48 over 2019 numbers and expecting a record year in number of flights and passengers.

Both American Airlines and Sun Country Airlines are starting new seasonal service to Fairbanks. American will be providing seasonal daily flights to Dallas-Fort Worth and Chicago and Sun Country will provide direct weekly service to Minneapolis.



United Airlines is returning this summer with a non-stop flight to Chicago and to Anchorage. Delta Airlines has added six additional flights to Seattle, Minneapolis, and Salt Lake City. Condor will be back with direct weekly summer service to Frankfurt from May 22nd—Sept. 14th.

Alaska Airlines is increasing summer service to include four daily flights to Seattle and eight flights to Anchorage.

“Air service development is a priority at FAI and we are proud to see this record expansion at the airport. We are very fortunate to have the support and partnership of so many groups throughout Fairbanks including our partners at Explore Fairbanks,” said Angie Spear, Airport Manager.

ANC Welcomes New Carriers and New Non-Stop Service

Two new air carriers will be touching down at ANC this summer. German low-cost carrier Eurowings begins seasonal service from Frankfurt three days per week starting June 3 ending October 30. Eastern Airlines weekly seasonal service to New York’s JFK begins May 28 ending October 29.

Alaska Airlines announced new seasonal non-stop service between Anchorage and Minneapolis-St. Paul. This summer, Alaska will fly nonstop to 11 destinations between Anchorage and the Lower 48 and Hawaii!



Delta Airlines is adding new weekend service to its hubs in Detroit, Los Angeles, and New York (JFK) and Minneapolis/St. Paul will get three daily nonstop flights. Delta will offer a year-round nonstop flight from Salt Lake City (SLC) to Anchorage, with a summer seasonal second daily flight starting on June 19th. And, lastly out of Anchorage, Delta will resume daily service to Atlanta from May 5th.

American Airlines will be flying a wide-body aircraft this summer to Dallas. American’s 787-9s feature **30 fully flat reverse herringbone business class seats.**



ALASKA AIRMEN ASSOCIATION

GREAT ALASKA AVIATION GATHERING

May 8-9, 2021
Sat 9a-5p; Sun 10a-5p



Free admission & parking
NEW location!

Alaska State Fairgrounds &
Palmer Municipal Airport

NEW! Fly-in parking!

Live aircraft action!

Over 150 aviation exhibitors
Discovery flights & kids' activities
Flight Simulator demos
Unique display aircraft
Food trucks galore

For more info: 907.245.1251
or info@alaskaairmen.org

alaskaairmen.org

original artwork by Jennifer Sonne