



# PLANE TALK

Publication of Statewide Aviation



Summer 2015

## *Fly-Ins Kick Off Summer Season*

Aviators are out in full force this time of year enjoying Alaska's wild blue yonder. There are many events that kick off the summer flying season including the annual Valdez and Talkeetna Fly-Ins. Pilots from all over Alaska and the lower 48 attend and many local families. DOT&PF airport managers are on-hand providing lots of support for the weekend events.



*55 aircraft showed up for the Hudson Memorial Fly-In held in the historic community of Talkeetna - gateway to Denali National Park. Many camp at the airport with their airplane and enjoy a pancake breakfast, poker run, and vendor booths. (Photos courtesy of Stephen Hanson)*



*The Valdez Fly-In features a Poker Run , STOL competition in various classes of planes, Flour Bombing competition, Aerobatics, Sky Divers, and Static displays. The first day saw a dusting of snow but it didn't hamper the STOL competition - this year's winner landed in less than 6 feet!*

*(Photo courtesy of Melissa Osborn)*

## *Message from DC Binder:*



Now that summer is in full swing and we've been blessed with some amazing weather I hope you've been able to spend some time enjoying the great outdoors. The pilots flying out of Lake Hood sure are! During the summer this busy seaplane base can see as many as 10,000 operations a month. If you're in the area we invite you to check-out the activity at Lake Hood and stop by the Alaska Aviation Museum for a great photo op.

The Alaska Airports Training Conference held in May for airport managers from across the state was a huge success. The conference focused on emergency preparedness, organizing and implementing meaningful tri-annual drills, and the importance of vetting airport emergency plans with airport users. We appreciated having airline participation from Alaska, PenAir, Ravn and Cathay Pacific.

The American Association of Airport Executives provides other training that greatly benefits airport managers. Their Certified Member (CM) Program includes a five day training course that provides a comprehensive overview of airport operations and management. To date, 99 airport managers have taken the CM training including 35 from rural, state operated airports. Another class is planned for this October.

The Governor's Aviation Advisory Board met in June to discuss revenue generation options and the sustainability of Alaska's rural airport system. As we look for ways to maintain safe service levels across the state, many traditional funding mechanisms found

throughout the lower 48 just don't fit well in Alaska. As the AAB tackles this challenge and prepares their recommendation to the governor, I solicit your innovative ideas and inputs.

Speaking of budgets, one area influenced positively by the price of oil is the Alaska International Airport System. Thanks to lower fuel prices (and a little help from the west coast port struggles), air cargo activity was up in FY15 for the first time in many years. In fact, Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport moved back into the #5 position worldwide for landed cargo weight. Many thanks to the great team that keeps the economic engines, that are our Anchorage and Fairbanks International Airports, rolling smoothly each and every day.

Finally, I want to congratulate Dee Hansen and her team on another tremendous Great Alaskan Aviation Gathering. It continues to be a truly class act, and provides valuable insight into aviation's integral role in our Alaska way of life. Well done Dee!

Enjoy your summer, and Happy Landings!

John Binder  
Deputy Commissioner



*This is the view from the deck of the Orin Seybert Merrill Field Cab at the Alaska Aviation Museum. (photo Rob Stapleton/Alaskafoto)*



### ***FLYING IN MILITARY AIRSPACE***

The Air Force would like the general aviation community to be aware of increased flying and military operating areas during major flying exercises. Pamphlets and useful military airspace information is available on this website: <http://www.jber.af.mil/11af/alaskaairspaceinfo/index.asp>

### ***DOT&PF SUPPORTS LARGEST AVIATION GATHERING***

The Great Alaska Aviation Gathering is the state's premier aviation event held annually in May. Over 20,000 aviation enthusiasts head out to the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport to enjoy static airplane displays, catching up with pilots, and learning about the latest in aviation technology and supplies. DOT&PF airport managers and staff are on-hand to provide information and answer questions.

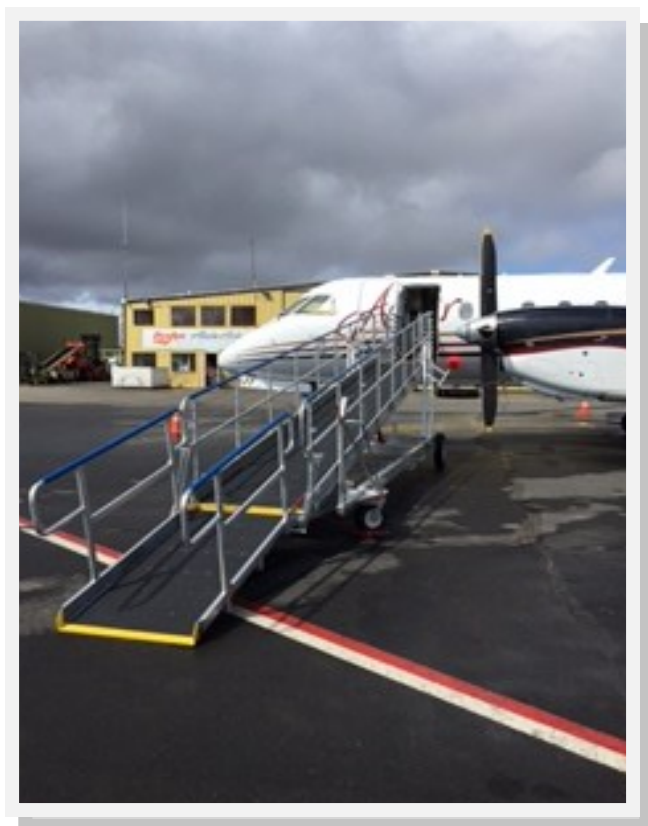


***(L-R) Jeremy Worrall, Melissa Osborn and Roger Maggard staff the DOT&PF booth at the Great Alaska Aviation Gathering.***

### ***PASSENGER BOARDING RAMPS PURCHASED FOR RURAL AIRPORTS***

The Department has purchased passenger boarding ramps for the Anchorage, Dillingham, Cold Bay, Unalaska, King Salmon, and Homer Airports. The ramps will provide boarding assistance to individuals with disabilities. Wheelchair access to smaller aircraft is challenging and the ramps will make the process easier and provide better service and comfort for passengers.

The airlines and airports are working together to maintain and service the new ramps. PenAir advises the ramps are working great and they've used them multiple times.



***Passenger Boarding Ramp at the Dillingham Airport greatly assists disabled passengers when boarding or disembarking regional aircraft.***

## Airport Highlights

### *Alaska Airport Training Conference 2015*

Over 100 airport managers from DOT&PF and non-DOT airports gathered in Anchorage for the 2nd semi-annual airport managers training conference. The conference focused on airport and airline emergency response plans. Keynote speaker Vallie Collins, a passenger on the “Miracle on the Hudson” flight, recounted her harrowing experience. She emphasized the importance of first responders, who rescued all 155 passengers in 17 minutes before the airplane sank. She riveted the audience with her presentation and set the stage for the 2 1/2 day conference.



***Vallie Collins and Troy LaRue at the Airport Training Conference.***



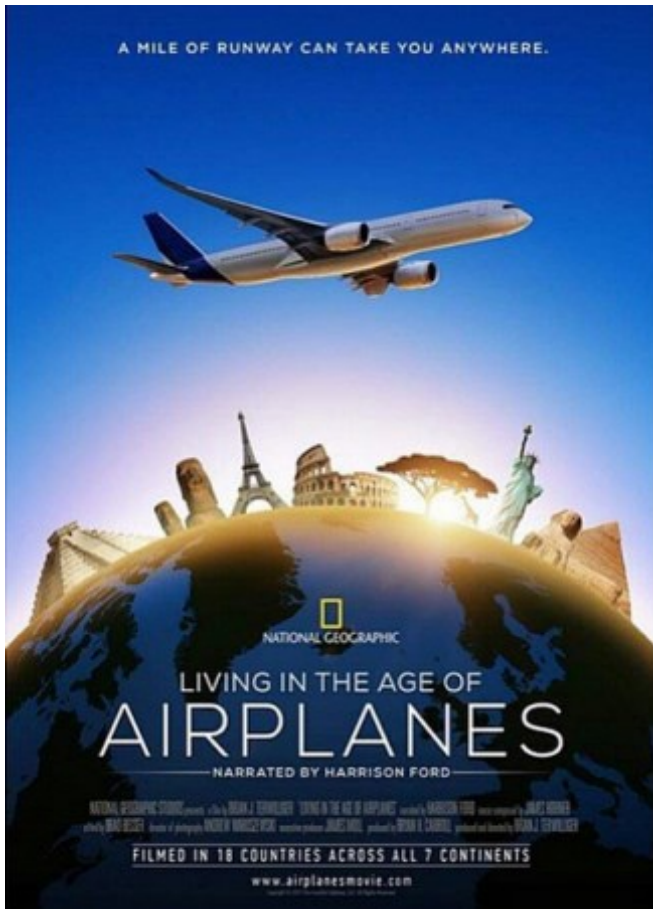
***Airport Managers from across Alaska participated in the conference.***



### ***Congratulations Paul Khera, A.A.E., ACE !***

Paul Khera, Airport Safety and Security Officer for DOT&PF, Southcoast Region, recently earned the designation of Accredited Airport Executive (A.A.E.) by the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE). Paul has been with the Department since 2008. In his position he manages all aspects of FAA and TSA regulatory compliance related to safety, operations, and security. Recently the number of airports he manages has doubled to 56 airports. Paul says, “the AAAE training has increased my level of confidence in making decisions and better understanding the process and resources available to managing airports.”

Candidates are required to meet a number of prerequisites to earn this designation, and complete a three phase process. Each phase is designed to test one’s knowledge, comprehension, and understanding of aviation management and requires a commitment, time and knowledge to successfully complete the rigorous program. DOT&PF has been partnering with AAAE for many years bringing airport training courses to Alaska. Both DOT and non-DOT managed airports participate.

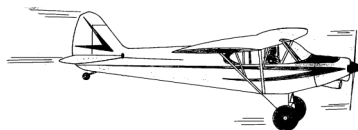


## ***NEW FILM CELEBRATING AVIATION***

*Living in the Age of Airplanes*, a National Geographic documentary, opened in big-screen theaters across the country in April. The film, narrated by Harrison Ford, celebrates how the airplane has enriched our lives and changed the world.

Set in 95 locations spanning 18 countries and all 7 continents, the film has been six years in the making. NASA has developed an educational resource guide to accompany the film, available as a [PDF](#).

Promoters say new sites will continue to be added "throughout 2015 and beyond." The film also will be shown at the fly-in theater at EAA AirVenture, in Oshkosh, on Sunday July 19. Efforts are underway to bring the film to Alaska.



## ***CHINESE AVIATION DELEGATION VISITS ALASKA***

DOT&PF's Division of Statewide Aviation and Merrill Field Airport welcomed officials from the North China Regional Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) in June.

The two day visit included a tour of Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport's Airfield Maintenance Facility, Lake Hood Seaplane Base, and Merrill Field Airport. They focused on learning more about general aviation in Alaska and the challenges of wintertime operations.

Airport and airway infrastructure have a long way to go in China; however, as general aviation develops the CAAC wants to continue to visit Alaska to learn how we manage and operate the largest aviation system in North America.



***CAAC officials met with Orin Seybert (Third from left) at the Alaska Aviation Museum during their Lake Hood tour.***



### ***John Parrott Elected to the AAAE Board of Directors***

The Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport Manager, John Parrott, AAE, has been elected to serve on the [American Association of Airport Executives](#) (AAAE) Board of Directors. He was selected, among others, from a prestigious peer group of airport executives from around the nation. John is past president of AAAE's Northwest Chapter. He also serves on the Armed Services YMCA of Alaska Board, is an Ex Officio Advisory to the Visit Anchorage Board, Ex Officio member of the AEDC Board and member of the UAA College of Business and Public Policy Advisory Board.

John began working at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport after retiring from the USAF in 1998. He has served as the Airport Security Manager, Operations Manager, Deputy Director until 2009 when he was promoted to Airport Manager. He has been a vital piece of the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport's growth and success as an economic engine of Alaska.

Founded in 1928, AAAE is the world's largest professional organization representing the men and women who work at public-use commercial and general aviation airports. AAAE's 5,000-plus members represent some 850 airports and hundreds of companies and organizations that support the airport industry.

## **Upcoming Events**

**AUGUST 25 - Aviation Advisory Board Meeting**  
Meeting will be held at the Landing Hotel in Ketchikan from 8am to 5pm.

**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)

### ***Capital Improvement and Maintenance Program (CIMP)***

The Alaska Aviation System Plan (AASP) is developing a systematic, trackable, and updatable process to assess and record airport conditions and needs on a regular basis. The CIMP program will identify and prioritize capital and maintenance needs across the aviation system. Using Microsoft Surface Pro tablets, DOT&PF staff perform inspections when traveling to airports. By using tablets, inspections can be performed more frequently, will have more details, and become consistent no matter who conducts them. Each inspection is loaded into a centralized database at [www.AlaskaASP.com](http://www.AlaskaASP.com) and stored for easy access.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Rauf at [rebecca.rauf@alaska.gov](mailto:rebecca.rauf@alaska.gov).



***Model inspections with DOT&PF staff at the Birchwood Airport.***

## ***WRANGELL AIRPORT AND M&O STATION***

By Mike Coffey, Statewide M&O Chief

The DOT&PF maintenance station and Wrangell Airport are located on Wrangell island in Southeast Alaska. The maintenance crew consists of three operators and one state equipment fleet mechanic. This small crew maintains a certificated airport, 43 miles of highway, and 26 vehicles. They serve a population of 2,500 residents, on an island that supports timber harvesting, a fishing industry, and tourism. Wrangell is situated near the mouth of the wild and scenic Stikine River.



***Wrangell crew (L-R), Scott Estaugh, Willie Bloom, Mocha, Gary Allen, Dan Gross.***

The Wrangell crew, led by Foreman/Airport Manager Willie Bloom, consistently meets or exceeds the many regulatory requirements for maintaining airports and highways. Wrangell Airport has passed its annual Part 139 certification inspection with no correction items five years in a row, and the crew has been commended by the FAA certification inspector for their operational procedures. Likewise, TSA inspectors have found the airport to be in full compliance with security requirements and noted the vigilance and prompt action the crew takes in response to compliance testing.

TSA recently recognized Willie Bloom with a plaque for his exceptional management of the security program. A recent OSHA inspection also found the shop to be in full compliance with safety regulations.

How does the Wrangell crew manage to exceed the many technical requirements of their job? Teamwork is the answer. Willie is quick to pass on to his crew the credit for the accolades the station receives. Willie shares responsibilities with each crew member and they work together to get work done and to meet their obligations. For example, Willie and the crew take time on a regular basis to review the status of their airport training and make sure they stay up to date on all training and associated records. Willie uses the various talents of his willing crew to make sure everything is ship shape and up to date.

A visitor to Wrangell will note the excellent condition of the State's assets. The highways are well maintained – swept, brushed, and properly ditched. The airport pavement is in excellent condition and the grounds are well maintained. The shops are clean and well organized, and all equipment services are current. All of these conditions are outward signs of what teamwork and initiative can accomplish.



***Alaska Airlines taking off from the Wrangell Airport.***

***Photo courtesy, Paul Khera, DOT&PF***



*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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