



# PLANE TALK

Publication of Statewide Aviation



Summer 2017

## *Runways Are For Airplanes!*

Statewide Aviation, rural airport managers, and air carriers have launched a safety campaign to help keep the many unattended airports across the state secure and kids safe. 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 the runways numerous times daily and can't always see unauthorized activity. Currently, the campaign includes displaying posters around the community and airing safety PSA's on local radio stations.

**Misviit Tengssuutet Aturkaqait**  
**RUNWAYS ARE FOR AIRPLANES**

**DANGER**  
KEEP OFF RUNWAY

Kyle Kaganak, Commercial Pilot, Bethel, Alaska  
Graduate of Yuut Yaqungviat Flight School

*Pilot Kyle Kaganak says.....*  
"Runways are for the use of airplanes. Pilots may not be able to see you on the runways, so please stay off of them and protect your airport."



*Photos - Safety poster designed for the Y-K Delta area with local pilot Kyle Kaganak and Red Devil airport in background; kids playing next to an unattended runway; Earl Samuelson, member of the Aviation Advisory Board giving runway safety posters to Perry Barr and Alana Shaw of the village of Wainwright.*

## Message from DC Binder:



I hope you enjoy this issue of Plane Talk as it is filled with events and news about many great people across our state contributing to the success, growth, safety, and development of Alaska's aviation industry. We've highlighted a few of the folks and organizations that have supported and contributed so much.

I'll start by adding my congratulations to Larry Rivers and the successful Talkeetna Build-A-Plane project. Larry was nationally recognized for his contributions to aerospace education and is successfully preparing kids to join the aviation workforce across the state.

I'd also like to thank Evan Booth for 30 years of dedicated service to DOT&PF and maintaining the rural airports in the western district – what a tremendous contribution to Alaska, and he will be sorely missed. Steve Searles, Valdez Airport Manager and Steve Hanson, Talkeetna Airport Manager have both given a considerable amount of their personal time supporting weekend Fly-In's at their airports this year. A big "thanks" goes out to you both for all you do to hold these well attended and successful community events at your busy airports while maintaining safe and effective operations.

The international airports are also very involved in supporting their communities. Coordinated by the Airport Operators Council, [Fairbanks Aviation Day](#) is held annually at the Fairbanks airport and offers the public and families a chance to learn more about airport operations, tours, mini-seminars, a pancake breakfast, and free flights for youth. In Anchorage, the Alaska Airmen's Association held another stellar Great Alaskan Aviation Gathering at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, attended by more than 20,000 pilots and aviation enthusiasts. Congratulations to both airports for a

job well done!

I feel blessed to live and work in Alaska and be a part of our dynamic aviation industry. Thank you for all you do for our state and airport system, and I hope you're having a great summer.

Happy Landings!

John Binder

Deputy Commissioner



***Governor Walker presented Fairbanks Airport Officer RJ Dobson with the Crisis Responder Denali Peak Award. Officer Dobson demonstrated exceptional commitment and competence while responding to a child riding the escalator improperly, ultimately saving this child from plummeting approximately 25 feet to the floor. Way to go RJ!***



***Over 17,000 people attended this year's Valdez Fly-In and Air Show. The event features a Poker Run, numerous competitions, Aerobatics, Sky Divers, Static displays, and more. Kids are seen here enjoying the balsa wood plane contest.***



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

The Alaska Airmen's Association continues to do a stellar job sponsoring the state's premier aviation event - the Great Alaska Aviation Gathering! Held in early May, over 20,000 aviation enthusiasts went to the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport to enjoy static airplane displays, catch up with friends, and learn about the latest in aviation technology and supplies. DOT&PF airport managers and staff are on-hand to provide information and answer questions over the busy weekend event.



***Future aviators stop by the DOT&PF booth at the Great Alaska Aviation Gathering. Mark Ransom and Orin Seybert with the Alaska Aviation Museum supporting this great event.***



***Congratulations to Evan Booth in Nome on his retirement after more than 30 years of service with the State of Alaska. He has spent his career keeping our roads and airports safe for Alaskans. Thank you for your service!***



***Congratulations to the "snow crew" at Fairbanks International Airport for winning the Balchen Post Award for outstanding snow and ice control Winter 2016-2017.***

## What Can I Do With My Model Aircraft?

Having fun means flying safely! Hobby or recreational flying doesn't require FAA approval but you must follow safety guidelines. Any other use requires FAA authorization.

**AVOID DOING ANYTHING HAZARDOUS TO OTHER AIRPLANES OR PEOPLE AND PROPERTY ON THE GROUND**

Here are some guidelines to follow:

- **DO** fly a model aircraft/drone at the local model aircraft club
- **DO** take lessons and learn to fly safely
- **DO** contact the airport control tower when flying within 5 miles of the airport
- **DO** fly a model aircraft for personal enjoyment
- **DO** consider joining the [Academy of Model Aeronautics](#) (lots of member benefits)
- **DON'T** fly near manned aircraft
- **DON'T** fly beyond line of sight of the operator
- **DON'T** fly an aircraft weighing more than 55 lbs. unless it's certified by an aeromodelling community-based organization
- **DON'T** fly contrary to your aeromodelling community-based safety guidelines
- **DON'T** fly model aircraft for payment or commercial purposes

For more information about safety training and guidelines, visit [www.knowbeforeyoufly.org](http://www.knowbeforeyoufly.org) or visit [www.faa.gov/uas](http://www.faa.gov/uas)

## Alaska Airport Training Conference 2017

Over 160 airport managers from across the state, representatives from the FAA, air carriers, and other government agencies gathered in Anchorage for this year's Alaska Airport Training Conference. This semi-annual conference featured speakers and demonstrations focused on airport operations, leadership, and professional development. Each session provided the most current airport information in an interactive setting promoting networking and the sharing of knowledge and experiences across the vast rural aviation system. The conference is facilitated by Alaska DOT&PF and the FAA, and made possible by numerous sponsors.



*The conference included demonstrations on runway paint and marking; and ice & snow removal from airport light canisters.*



# Airport Training Conference Photos





### *Jessica Earp Honored by National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) for Saving Jet Pilot*



*NATCA Executives VP Trish Gilbert, President Paul Rinaldi, and Alaska Regional VP Clint Lancaster presenting award to Jessica Earp.*

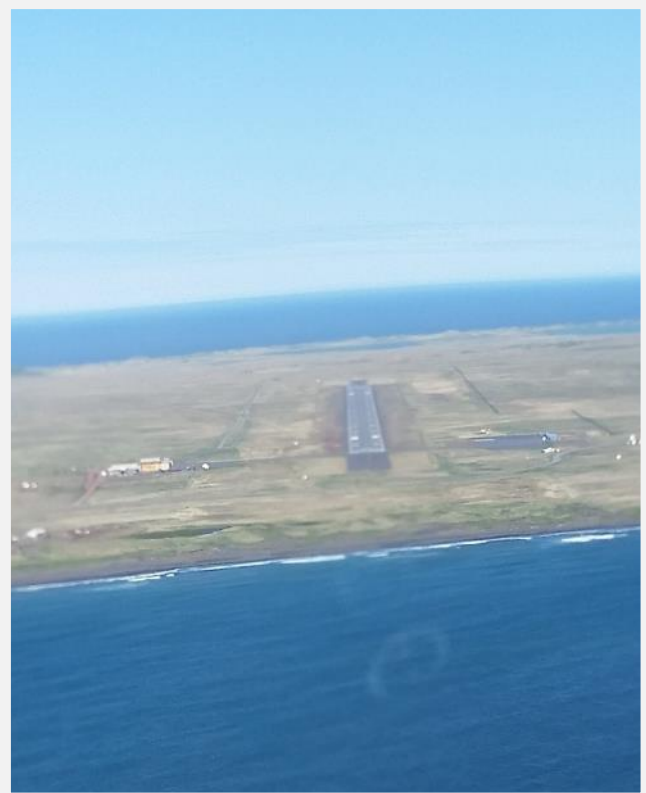
NATCA awarded Jessica Earp, controller with Anchorage Center, the Alaska Region Archie League Medal of Safety Award for saving a fighter jet pilot needing to make an emergency landing.

On July 25, 2016, a Navy F-18 departed Eielson Air Force Base following a refueling stop en route to Asia for a training exercise. Shortly after takeoff, the pilot shut down one engine and declared an emergency due to an aircraft malfunction. The pilot operated the second engine at reduced power in order to conserve fuel, and immediately turned back toward Eielson. A second F-18 flying with the aircraft also turned back. The tanker that had accompanied the aircraft was unable to break off and give the aircraft in distress additional fuel at the time because it was refueling a different F-18 in the group. By the time the tanker was able to break from the group, the emergency was too far away for the tanker to catch up. The weather surrounding the Aleutian Islands was poor and most airports were reporting only a quarter-mile visibility.

The F-18 pilot attempted to find an airport with a runway long enough to land, and decided to head to King Salmon Airport, which has an 8,900-foot long runway. With low fuel and a bad weather situation on

the ground, the pilot was desperate to get the aircraft on the ground. Anchorage Center controller Jessica Earp took quick action and suggested nearby St. Paul Airport (SNP). The airport has a 6,500-foot runway and was reporting VFR (visual flight rules) conditions at the time. Until Earp suggested the airport, the pilot had not considered the possibility and, because of deteriorating conditions, was looking to ditch the F-18 in the ocean in hope of a water rescue. The next closest airport with a comparable runway was about 300 miles away over the Bering Sea. When Earp relayed that SNP reported VFR conditions, the pilot was anxious to head that way. Earp issued a heading and the pilot was able to get the airport in sight and land without incident. Without Earp's quick thinking, the pilot would have had to ditch the F-18 in the middle of the ocean. Her knowledge of the airspace and the airports within it prevented a potentially tragic outcome.

### *St. Paul Airport*



*St. Paul Island is a small, 40-square mile island in the Bering Sea that has a population of 532. The airport is owned and operated by Alaska DOT&PF.*

## ***Congratulations to Larry Rivers and the Talkeetna Build A Plane Project***



The National Coalition for Aviation and Space Education has inducted Larry Rivers, Director of the Alaska Talkeetna Build A Plane (TBAP) into the Crown Circle for Aerospace Education Leadership. This award recognizes those who have made significant contributions to aerospace education in either a local, regional, or national role.

Larry has been the Director of the TBAP for the past 7 years. This is an all-volunteer organization providing a cost free program for students through the sale of restored aircraft. All donations go directly toward aircraft restoration.

Shortly after Larry started in his position, a destroyed Piper Cherokee Six aircraft was donated to the program. Larry worked tirelessly to find sponsors and bring in resources to help the youth master the skills needed to plan for a complete restoration of the aircraft.

Larry says, “The Cherokee is completed and registered and has a new Airworthiness Certificate. We now have a Cessna 172 project that’s in full tear down and going back together. The industry support is just amazing. Better yet, we have a bunch of kids with their A&P’s working all over the place...several at Everts Air in Fairbanks; a couple are doing maintenance for United and Delta Airlines in Fairbanks; one is working for Northern Air Cargo in Anchorage; and one for K2 Aviation in Talkeetna. There are several private pilots as well and others in UAF’s AP school finishing up.”

Currently there is a challenge to find funding to purchase the building that has been donated for the project since 2010. The group is so large now they are working in two buildings.

For more information visit the website or their Facebook page - [www.talkeetnabuildaplane.org](http://www.talkeetnabuildaplane.org)

(Thanks to Angie Slingluff for story and photos)



***Real Kids.....  
Building Real Airplanes!***



***Before and After Photos of Cherokee N645CH!***



*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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