



# PLANE TALK

Publication of Statewide Aviation



SUMMER 2021

## ADOPT-AN-AIRPORT GOOSE BAY READY FOR PRACTICE!

AVIATION HAPPENINGS | GRANT AVIATION MARKS 50 YEARS

## Message from DC Binder:



It's summer, and it's exciting to see most things returning to normal around the State. July is typically one of the busiest months for passenger traffic at ANC and FAI and we're close to 2019's record levels at both airports. Cargo continues to thrive as well with activity up over 25% from previous years.

Airport construction projects are underway across the state including the installation of Automated Weather Observation Systems (AWOS) at several airports. The FAA is making some significant infrastructure improvements that will help close gaps in pilot access to weather information at airports and along Alaska flight routes. On the more unusual side, a new airport is also under construction. Located 9.5 miles to the south east, Mertarvik will be the replacement airport for the erosion-threatened village of Newtok, which is home to an Alaska Native community of 374 residents.

Congratulations to Grant Aviation for 50 years of service to rural Alaskans! As one of the State's largest Part 135 air carriers they provide a vital means of transportation for many rural residents who depend on aviation for goods, mail, medical and other essential services. This edition of Plane Talk contains much more information on the company's first 50 exciting years. I also want to thank Governor Dunleavy for presenting his May Aviation Appreciation Month proclamation at the state's largest aviation gathering, emphasizing the importance of aviation to Alaskans.

Alaska aviation depends on the support of our airport users, and a big thanks goes out to the Lake Hood Pilots Association for painting runway markings at Goose Bay Airport. Practice runways help keep Alaska's pilots proficient as they take to the skies and are often forced to land in some very non-traditional locations. DOT&PF is working on an "Adopt-An-Airport" program that leverages private volunteers to do work on our rural airports. Due to liability issues, DOT&PF is drafting regulations that permit volunteers to be on the airport, while also providing control and oversight of the work to be done. We believe this will be a big win-win for the Department and for pilots.

Finally, I want to congratulate ANC's outgoing Police and Fire Chief Jesse Davis on an outstanding career. His professionalism and leadership made a lasting mark on the ANC team. At the same time, the incoming Chief, Aaron Danielson, brings a wealth of knowledge, expertise and experience to ANC having served at FAI for the last 14 years, with the last five in the Deputy Chief and Chief positions. The APFO team remains in great hands and we wish you all the best!

Alaska, fly safe!

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

John Binder  
Deputy Commissioner



***(L-R) ANC's new Airport Police and Fire Chief, Aaron Danielson and retiring Airport Police and Fire Chief Jesse Davis.***



## Goose Bay Airport Ready for STOL!

Local pilots use the Goose Bay airport extensively to practice landings, takeoffs, and pattern work. It's conveniently located near Merrill Field, Birchwood airport, and Mat-Su Valley airports. Lake Hood Pilots' Association volunteered to partner with DOT&PF to paint runway markings this June for Short Take-Off and Landing (STOL) practice at the Goose Bay airport (Z4Ø). You're probably thinking: Isn't Goose Bay airport a gravel runway? Painting runway markings on gravel? That's strange. Yes, you'd be correct. It is a gravel runway, but they painted the runway markings with water-based paint, which can remain visible for a remarkably long time.

- What – 100' x 8 on both ends, thresholds and 2 2'x4' marks 25' off center

The STOL basic marking plan is to paint runway markings every 100 feet from the thresholds. The markings are 2'x4' and are placed 25' off-center line every 100' for 800'. The painting can be done with 3-5 people with 5-10 gallons of white paint. This project took about four hours, but that included a barbeque grilling event on the apron. It will take much less time now that they're an experienced crew!

- Background, Painting project/FAA Alaskan Airports/Matt Freeman

In 2011, AOPA's Tom George and Matt Freeman, now retired from the FAA Alaskan Airports Division, hatched an idea to help pilots practice STOL operations that could help them prepare for Bush off-airport landings. They thought it would be helpful to pilots to know exactly how much distance it would take to land their planes on a normal gravel runway before attempting more challenging off-airport landings. They fine-tuned the plan, and Matt pushed the proposal up the chain of command through Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) all the way to headquarters. Matt persisted and finally got a "modification to standards" that allows DOT&PF to paint markings on six gravel runways in Alaska. Goose Bay airport is one of the six airports.

[Guide to Creating a Practice Runway](#) is intended for airport owners, pilot groups, airport support groups or others interested in creating a practice runway at an airport to improve pilot proficiency.

For more information contact Rich Sewell, Aviation Policy Planner, 907/269-0725 or [rich.sewell@alaska.gov](mailto:rich.sewell@alaska.gov)



**Members of the Lake Hood Pilots' Association and DOT&PF paint runway markings at Goose Bay Airport. Photos courtesy of Don DeVoe**

## Security Spotlight

Jeremy Worrall, DOT&PF Airport Operations Superintendent

*This information applies at those DOT&PF rural airports with TSA required airport ID badging programs in place.*

As salmon seasons swing into full gear in many parts of the state we see a large increase in cargo flights hauling fish that eventually reaches markets around the world. This seasonal increase often requires new employees and may involve people who are unfamiliar with the airport environment. With an influx of seasonal employees it is important to remain diligent in your execution of security measures and to help new personnel understand and adapt to the security requirements at the airport.

Requirements that sometime need refreshed include:

- All personnel not under an active escort must be badged at that airport
- All personnel must challenge anyone they see who is not wearing a badge.

Challenge procedures are defined in the airport security training you receive in the badging process, however, if you have questions about it please contact your supervisor or airport management.

Increased vehicle traffic through gates goes along with the uptick in cargo operations.

- Vehicle gates must be secured properly at all times unless immediately attended/monitored by a badged individual.

Note that a gate cannot be effectively monitored from inside a building or via a camera feed, rather it requires a badged person to physically be present at the gate to monitor and control access.

DOT&PF is engaged in a system-wide airport security study that will continue to visit airports this year. DOT&PF staff along with our consultant team will be conducting site visits at each tenant facility on the airport, scanning each facility with a mapping tool, and interviewing and discussing airport security with local airport stakeholders. Thank you in advance for your time and cooperation as we continue this important project. As always remember the see something/say something model and report anything suspicious or out of place to airport management immediately.

## New AAE Certified Members

Congratulations to Phil Cheasebro and Philana Miles for earning their CM designation. Alaska's airport managers and staff are receiving advanced airport technical training through certification programs offered by the American Association of Airport Executives.



Phil Cheasebro, P.E., C.M.  
Aviation Design Project Manager



Philana Miles, C.M.  
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Planner



## ALASKA AVIATION MUSEUM HAPPENINGS



### NEW EXHIBITS AND MORE AT THE MUSEUM

- *The U.S. Army Service's famed "Black Wolf Squadron" planted its mark on Alaska history in 1920, when four biplanes flew across our northern skies in an attempt to prove the feasibility of long-distance air travel.*
- *Merrill Field Tower Cab now features an exhibit about Orin Seybert and PenAir. Orin is a legend in Alaska aviation starting the airline as a young man in Pilot Point.*
- *Aviation Festival - July 18th, from 10am to 4pm. The museum's annual fly-by festival features vintage aircraft flying over beautiful Lake Hood, music, food trucks, and beer & wine. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids over the age of 6.*
- *Hall of Fame Dinner honoring Ted Stevens, Marge and Bob Baker, and Ron Sheardown, 6:00pm, August 28th at the Anchorage Marriott Downtown.*

*For more information visit:*

*[www.alaskaairmuseum.org](http://www.alaskaairmuseum.org) or call 907/248-5325*



**The Black Wolf Squadron**  
**The U.S. Army's 1920**  
**New York to Nome Flight**

# AVIATION HAPPENINGS

## ***The Great Alaska Aviation Gathering***

The state's largest aviation gathering was a huge success drawing thousands of aviation enthusiasts to the Alaska State Fairgrounds and Palmer Airport. Zach Stohr and his family of future aviators stopped by to visit at the DOT&PF booth. Governor Dunleavy proclaimed May Aviation Appreciation Month and presented the Alaska Airmen's Association with a signed copy of the proclamation. The Airmen's also presented a group of scholarship winners with a check totaling \$59,000.00 in scholarship funds!



## ***Military Conducts Successful Northern Edge Joint Training Exercise in Cold Bay***

Cold Bay was buzzing with activity from the air, ground and sea during the first two weeks of May as military forces descended on the community in support of Northern Edge 21, a U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Exercise. The massive joint exercise provides high-end realistic war fighter training and enhances the combat readiness of joint participating forces. Northern Edge was designed to increase interoperability between the Marine Corps, Navy, Army and Air Force. Full story available at [In the Loop Newsletter](#) published by the Aleutians East Borough.



***Cold Bay DOT crew members conducted drills with expeditionary firefighting and rescue Marines from the 15th MEU during Northern Edge 21.***



***MV-22B 22 Ospreys took part in Northern Edge 21  
Photos courtesy of Hap Kremer***



## FAI and ANC News

### ***Fairbanks International Airport Operators' Council Announces 2021 Scholarship Recipient***



The Fairbanks International Airport Operators' Council (AOC) announced Jake Golden as their 2021 scholarship recipient. Golden, a recent graduate of West Valley High School, will be attending University of Alaska Anchorage beginning fall 2021 where he will be pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Technology with an emphasis in Professional Piloting. After he completes his degree program, he plans to stay in Alaska and further his aviation career. He hopes to build flight time working with regional carriers based in Alaska. His ultimate, long-term goal is to work for a major airline. The AOC is thrilled to award this \$2,000 scholarship to Golden to aid him in making his dream a reality, congratulations!

### ***ANC Welcomes New Chinese Cargo Carrier SF Airlines***

New air carriers are touching down at ANC this summer. SF Airlines a Chinese cargo airline owned by SF Express is headquartered in the #1 freight depot of the international shipping center of Bao'an International Airport in Shenzhen, Guangdong province. Their first inaugural flight through ANC was on June 28 2021. They will fly from SZX to ANC onto LAX, 2-3 times a week to start.



***The SF Airlines flight crew are welcomed to ANC by Deputy Airport Manager Trudy Wassel.***

### ***Frontier Airlines Begins New Seasonal Passenger Service***

Frontier Airlines is now offering seasonal non-stop service between Anchorage and Denver. Flights will operate 2 times a week through September.



***Fire truck salute for the first Frontier Airlines non-stop arrival from Denver!***

# GRANT AVIATION CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!

Grant Aviation is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding! Festivities include a company hosted BBQ lunch for customers and employees on the 4th of July at eight hub bases and drawings for gift items and round-trip tickets.

## Then and Now:

Grant was formed as Delta Air Service in 1971, an air taxi located in Emmonak with a single aircraft. Long before there was a formal medevac service, Grant pioneered in providing medevac services to the remote villages in western Alaska. In 1994, the village of Emmonak presented the airline with an owl mask in appreciation for the numerous life-saving medevac efforts Grant provided to the community. The mask hangs in the lobby of Grant's HQ in Anchorage and serves as the basis for the Grant Aviation logo.



In the mid-1990's, Grant was approved as an air carrier to carry mail which allowed Grant to expand its footprint to include the Bethel and King Salmon regions. As Grant became a qualified mail carrier the company changed their name from Delta Air Service to Grant Aviation to avoid confusion with Delta Airlines. In the early 2000's, Grant became a certified air ambulance provider and continues to serve as the medevac provider to the Yukon-Kuskokwim area in concert with the LifeMed team.

As PenAir exited the Part 135 market in the early 2010's, Grant added service to Dillingham, Cold Bay, and Unalaska. The company continued to grow and as RAVN exited the Part 135 market in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region, Grant increased service to surrounding communities and added the former RAVN facilities at the Bethel Airport. The company has grown from a 1 aircraft operation to a 50 aircraft operation and is looking forward to the next 50 years providing the vital air carrier services to the communities in western, southwestern, and southcentral Alaska.



(Article and photos courtesy of Grant Aviation)