



PLANE TALK

Publication of Statewide Aviation



Winter 2015 - 2016

Alaska International Air Cargo Summit Held in Shanghai

The Alaska International Airport System (AIAS), comprised of Ted Stevens Anchorage International and Fairbanks International Airports, hosted the 2015 Alaska International Air Cargo Summit, October 29, in Shanghai, China. This was the first AIAS Air Cargo Summit held outside of Alaska.

The Air Cargo Summit brought together international air carriers, freight forwarders, and logistic service providers to create synergy in the trans-pacific market and build partnerships. These relationships are essential to Alaska's international airport business, with the trans-pacific market providing the majority of cargo traffic through Alaska.

The Shanghai Pudong Airport is the third busiest cargo airport in the world and Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport is the fifth busiest. Both airports are vital links in the trans-pacific air cargo supply chain. State of Alaska officials signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Shanghai Airport Authority - the state owned enterprise that operates both Shanghai Pudong International and Hongqiao International Airports. The MOU affirms Alaska's and Shanghai's mutually beneficial business relationship in the trans-pacific air cargo market.

The AIAS trip was an incredible success, bringing together approximately 75 aviation and freight forwarding business professionals and developing a lasting relationship with the Shanghai Airport Authority.



International airline executives and freight forwarders including the US Air Forwarders Association and the Shanghai Freight Forwarders Association participated in the Air Cargo Summit held in Shanghai.



Memorandum of Understanding signing between the Alaska International Airport System and the Shanghai Airport Authority.

Message from DC Binder:



Seasons greetings! Now that the busy Thanksgiving travel days are behind us both the Fairbanks and Anchorage International Airports are preparing for the second wave of holiday travelers. Decorations adorn the terminals and local school kids will be singing Christmas carols to provide some comfort and joy for one and all. It's truly a wonderful time of year!

This is also the time of year when we reflect on accomplishments and reevaluate our goals as we look to 2016 and new challenges. The state's fiscal situation continues to drive the department's focus on efficiencies and cost reductions. Revenue generation options at our rural airports are limited, and while many of these airports are unattended, with no lease lots or other revenue sources, ensuring they remain safe and meet the daily aviation needs of the community is costly. The Aviation Advisory Board issued a recommendation to the governor to consider an increase in aviation fuel taxes as one possibility. These taxes have not been increased in many years and the additional funds could help offset the high costs of operating and maintaining our 247 state-owned rural airports.

On the international airport front, the international air cargo carriers are important to the long-term revenue stream of the Alaska International Airport System (AIAS). The Air Cargo Summit held in Shanghai gave AIAS an opportunity to meet one-on-one with executives of Asian airlines and sign an agreement with the Shanghai Airport Authority to work together on future projects and support each other's aviation systems. While Anchorage continues to benefit from its geographic location, ongoing relationships and mu-

tually beneficial partnerships with the air cargo industry are crucial to maintaining the activity levels necessary to keep our airports, communities, and state thriving economically. Fitch Ratings recently assigned an 'A+' rating to the State of Alaska's approximately \$185.9 million of airport revenue bonds issued on behalf of the Alaska International Airport System, with a rating outlook of Stable. This is a positive reflection on the System's strong cargo and passenger position, supported conservative debt structure, and focused debt management plan.

I do want to welcome our new Fairbanks International Airport manager, Jeff Roach, to the AIAS team. His vast experience will be a great asset to the system and we welcome his addition. Lastly, and especially this time of year, thank you to all of our departmental and contract M&O professionals who keep our airports operating on a daily basis. We rely on each one of you as we partner to serve Alaskans, and your dedication and service in the face of extremely challenging conditions is very much appreciated. Well done.

Fly safe, and Merry Christmas!

John Binder
Deputy Commissioner



China Airlines received a warm welcome from the Fairbanks Airport, Explore Fairbanks officials, and UAF Chinese speaking students at their inaugural flight from Taipei to Fairbanks in an A340-300 airplane with 270 passengers onboard.

There's a New Bird in the Sky!

Anchorage Airport Ranked #2 Most Efficient in the U.S.

In a nationwide study evaluating the 100 largest airports in the United States, the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport ranked as the #2 most efficient airport. The study was conducted in preparation for the holiday season and analyzed 7 different metrics including average flight cancellation and average departure delay.

“Just 0.7% of flights through ANC over the past year were cancelled. Likewise, Anchorage International has the lowest average departure delay of any airport in the country at just 7 minutes”. The full article can be found at: <https://smartasset.com/credit-cards/most-efficient-airports>.

AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD

Issues Airport Revenue Options Press Release

The Governor's Aviation Advisory Board (AAB) issued a press release concerning revenue options for the State of Alaska's rural aviation system, excluding AIAS.

In a meeting with Governor Walker last February, the Aviation Advisory Board expressed concern over a proposal by DOT&PF to impose landing fees at some rural airports. The AAB asked the Governor for time to review the landing fee proposal and explore other revenue enhancement options for the airport system.

After several months of meeting and extensive research the AAB recommended to the Governor that the State increase the aviation motor jet and avgas fuel tax rather than impose landing fees on some rural airports or other airport user fees. This recommendation was by unanimous vote of the AAB who represent a wide spectrum of airport and runway users and aviation constituents.

AAB's next meeting is scheduled for January 27th in Juneau, Alaska. More information on the Aviation Advisory Board is available [here](#).

Congratulations to PenAir for the newest addition to their fleet - the Saab 2000! PenAir's CEO Danny Seybert, couldn't be happier, "Our customers are going to appreciate the performance and comfort of the Saab 2000. We're excited to welcome this larger, newer, and faster aircraft to our fleet."

The airline's current fleet consists of Saab 340B's. Those aircraft will slowly be repositioned to the Lower 48 to support new markets in Oregon and the companies east coast operation.

Alaska is where the newer, faster Saab 2000 will operate. The plane is configured for 45 passengers with lots of leg room and comfortable leather seats.



PenAir's new Saab 2000 arriving at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport; and PenAir CEO Danny Seybert standing next to his new plane.

Fairbanks International Airport Highlights

Jeff Roach New Fairbanks Airport Manager



Jeff Roach has been appointed Airport Manager of Fairbanks International Airport. Jeff has more than 30 years of aviation experience in Alaska. Most recently Jeff managed planning and programming for more than 100 airports in DOT&PF’s Northern Region. As an active member of the Fairbanks community, he serves on a variety of volunteer boards and committees.

“Jeff’s knowledge and experience make him exceptionally qualified for this position. He will be a valuable addition to the international airport team,” said John Binder, ADOT&PF deputy commissioner.

Fairbanks International Airport (FAI), the state’s second busiest airport, links interior Alaska communities to the world. and regional link to Interior Alaska communities. FAI, together with Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, comprise the Alaska International Airport System. As such, FAI plays a critical role in supporting international cargo tech stops between Asia and North America.

HMSHost Opening Two New Concessions

If you’re traveling through the Fairbanks Airport you’ll be happy to see that HMSHost has opened a Starbucks located just past the TSA check point. Their next concession will be a full-service restaurant featuring dishes such as beef brisket, host pastrami, a Reuben with kraut and Russian dressing, and turkey sliders with avocado butter. There will also be a variety of local brews and cocktails.



Airports of the World Features FAI

The *Airports of the World* magazine ([September/October issue](#)) featured both the community of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks International Airport.



Upcoming Events

JANUARY 22, 2016 - Aviation Art Contest - entries must be postmarked by this date.

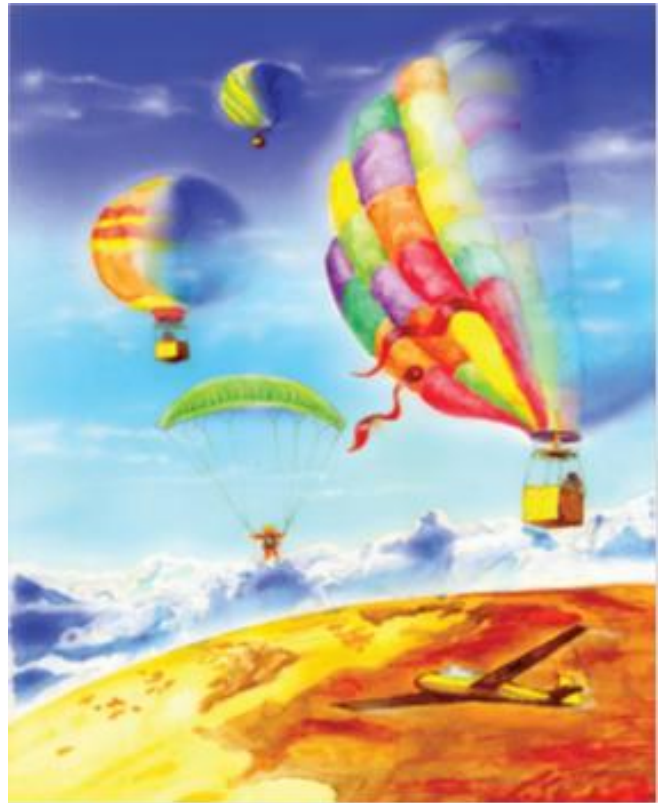
JANUARY 27, 2016 Aviation Advisory Board - will meet in Juneau at DOT&PF Headquarters Conference Room #140 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 9-11, 2016 Alaska Air Carriers Association Annual Convention - at the Hotel Captain Cook. Contact AACA for more information - 277-0071

MARCH 18, 2016 Aviation Hall of Fame - mark your calendar for this annual event.

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)



AVIATION ART CONTEST

Grab your favorite tools and create a poster!

This year's theme is *Air Sports In Harmony With Nature*. Children between the ages of 6 and 17 may participate.

Entries must be postmarked by January 22, 2016 and sent to Aviation Art Contest, Statewide Aviation, P.O. Box 196900 Anchorage 99519-6900 Contact Statewide Aviation for more information at (907) 269-0730.

Full contest rules at: www.nasao.org



AVIATION HALL OF FAME GALA

The 2016 Aviation Hall of Fame Gala is scheduled for March 18th. This years inductees are:

Steve Mills – Explorer/Pathway Pilot
Harold Esmailka, Ruby – Entrepreneur Pilot
Dick and Lavelle Betz – Lifetime Achievement Award

Contact the Museum for tickets and more information - 248-5325.

Congratulations Jim Rowe and Bering Air - Alaska Aviation Legend!

The Alaska Aviation Legends program honors men and women who have helped make our state more accessible and impacted the course of Alaskan history. This year's recipients included Jim Rowe and Bering Air, the airline he and his wife Chris started in 1979 in Nome.

In an interview with the AACA, Jim said, "the early year's weren't all the glamor you see today flying turbo prop airplanes, flying at altitude, great runways, GPS and the like. My first 20 years, were mostly all off airport operations flying single engine Otters, Beavers, Beech 18's, and a lot of search and rescues, in a lot of ways they were also the best."

Today, Bering Air is a major regional airline with scheduled, charter, fixed wing and helicopter operations. They provide scheduled flight service to western Alaska and helicopter services and logistical support statewide, as well as to the Lower 48, Canada and into the Russian Far East.

Bering Air is the oldest, continuous serving air carrier based at the Nome Airport. The company serves numerous communities throughout western Alaska and also has hubs in Kotzebue and Unalakleet.

The [Alaska Aviation Legends program](#) is sponsored by the [Alaska Air Carriers Association](#), Alaska Aviation Museum, and supported by Alaska Dispatch News.

Photos: Bering Air family at the AACA banquet, Jim and Chris Rowe (2nd and 3rd from right) and Bering Air Headquarters at the Nome Airport.



Photo courtesy - David Karp



Photo courtesy - Bering Air

FAA Requires Drone Registration

The FAA now requires all small unmanned aircraft/drones that weigh more than half-pound, be registered with the federal government. Unmanned aircraft enthusiasts are considered aviators and with that comes a great deal of responsibility. The FAA wants to work with users to ensure they operate drones safely. Owners may register at www.faa.gov/uas/registration

The normal registration fee is \$5, but in an effort to encourage as many people as possible to register quickly, the FAA is **waiving this fee** for the first 30 days (from Dec. 21, 2015 to Jan 20, 2016).

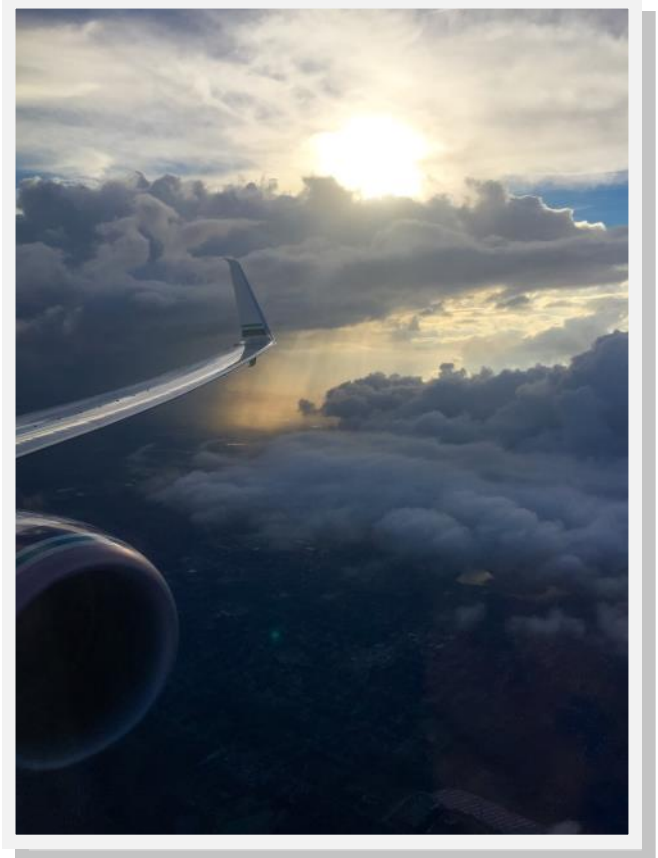


PRE-FLIGHT CHECKLIST

- ▶ I fly below 400 feet
- ▶ I always fly within visual line of sight
- ▶ I'm aware of FAA airspace requirements: faa.gov/go/uastfr
- ▶ I never fly over groups of people
- ▶ I never fly over stadiums and sports events
- ▶ I never fly within 5 miles of an airport without first contacting air traffic control and airport authorities
- ▶ I never fly near emergency response efforts such as fires
- ▶ I never fly near other aircraft
- ▶ I never fly under the influence



Governor Bill Walker and Lt. Governor Mallott presented the New Sustainable Alaska Plan at the Lynden Hangar at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. For more information on the 2017 state budget - <https://www.omb.alaska.gov/index.php>



Thank you Shelley Potter for this beautiful photo of our "state bird" flying into Orlando.



Our mission is to:

“Keep Alaska Moving through

service and infrastructure.”

To learn more visit our website: dot.alaska.gov

To receive Plane Talk sign up here:



Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Division of Statewide Aviation
4111 Aviation Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Return Service Requested

TO: