



PLANE TALK

Publication of Statewide Aviation



Winter 2015

Aviation Careers - There's a Demand!

Did you know there are 47,000 aviation related jobs in Alaska, representing 8 percent of Alaska's economy and 10 percent of our workforce? Aviation in Alaska not only supports thousands of jobs but serves as the lifeline for 82% of the state's rural communities not connected to a road system.

Aviation is an exciting field to be in. If you want to learn more about the industry or are looking for a job, come by the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport Job Fair on March 21st. There will be representatives from airlines, state and federal agencies, and airport businesses hoping to fill over 200 jobs.

The latest release from the U.S. Department of Transportation reports that U.S. scheduled passenger airlines employed 386,912 workers in November 2014, 1.5 percent more than November 2013. Of the top 10 airlines Alaska Airlines is ranked 8, employing 10,787 employees. That number includes flight crew, passenger and cargo handlers, maintenance, and ground support jobs. In the last five years, the FAA has hired more than 5,000 new air traffic controllers and they plan to hire more than 6,600 new controllers over the next five years.

Alaska students have many avenues to get involved with aviation. The [Civil Air Patrol](#) has a cadet training program and both UAF and UAA offer aviation programs. Or they can come by the Job Fair and hear first hand from many employers.



The North Terminal at the Anchorage Airport provides easy access for job seekers. Over 1,000 people have participated in years past.

Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport Job Fair

**Saturday, March 21st
North Terminal
No Cost to Attend
Free Parking**

**Over 200 Jobs Available
Call 266-2119 for more
information**

Message from DC Binder:



As winter appears to be losing this year's battle with mother nature, weather seems to be a big topic. While more moderate temperatures and snowfall yield savings across the state, the freeze/thaw cycles and freezing precipitation that result bring a whole new set of challenges. Our maintenance and operations personnel continue to amaze as they clear iced runways and develop innovative ways to keep Alaska flying. You'll see a real life example in the "yeti", discussed later in the newsletter. In light of the fiscal climate, we applaud new ways of doing things and eagerly solicit your ideas.

With the State's budget challenge the Department is focusing hard on finding efficiencies and using performance metrics to assess our effectiveness. We're contacting air carriers to validate current and future fleet mix forecasts to ensure we're planning for and maintaining the infrastructure essential to meeting rural Alaska's needs.

Speaking of the budget, paramount in today's climate is the need to both reduce costs and generate more revenue. Statewide Aviation will be partnering with the Governor's Aviation Advisory Board over the next few months to identify potential revenue generating opportunities while also highlighting areas where the Department can realize savings without negatively impacting Alaskans. One common revenue source is landing fees, and public hearings are scheduled to discuss their proposed implementation at the Deadhorse Airport. This is an important airport to the oil industry and Alaska, and we want to ensure we're able to keep providing the services necessary to meet the aviation safety needs of all users. The proposal is

posted for public comment, with public hearings scheduled for March 23 in Anchorage and March 25 in Fairbanks.

Activity at the Alaska International Airports continues to be encouraging, with international cargo traffic staying strong. In addition, scheduled international passenger traffic is on the horizon providing Alaskans the opportunity for non-stop service directly to Asia, as well as some new U.S. destinations in the near future. In addition, the Lake Hood Master Planning process continues to move forward and we appreciate the great community involvement to date. This airport is a good example of all that is Alaska, and together we can put together a plan that ensures its viability for years to come.

Finally, we had the opportunity last week to participate in the Alaska Air Carriers Association's annual conference and greatly appreciated the conversation and knowledge sharing this event provides. As our eyes around the state, the carriers oftentimes provide the first line of communication for issues developing with service or infrastructure. Thanks to Jane Dale and her team for including DOT&PF.

Fly Safe,

John Binder
Deputy Commissioner



U.S. based Dynamic Airways has started weekly charter passenger service between Changsha, China and Los Angeles with a stop in Anchorage. Eventually they hope to provide twice weekly scheduled service between Changsha and 3 US Cities, LA., Las Vegas, and New York, all flights stopping in Anchorage.

General Aviation Supports Alaska Farming

The following excerpt is from an article published by Mike Williams, managing partner of Alaska Peony Distributors, LLC and member of the [Alliance for Aviation Across America](#).

Alaska is known for many things, the vast array of wildlife, breathtaking vistas, hunting, fishing and other recreational activities. But many people may not think of the peony flower when they think of Alaska. The truth is that the peony is a highly sought after commercial flower with a very limited growing season. Peony flowers require highly specific environmental conditions and Alaska is the only region in the world that is currently producing peonies between the months of July and September, a time when many of these flowers are sought for weddings. This has given Alaska a unique advantage and the industry is expanding on a daily basis.

My company, Alaska Peony Distributors, LLC provides post-harvest services including processing, marketing, sales, transportation and storage services to the growing peony industry here in Alaska. We have a distribution network that supports 25 plus farms and covers a service area of over 7300 square miles. These farms are spread far apart and they often have little to no roadway access. In fact, according to the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, roughly 82% of Alaska's communities are inaccessible by road. The highway system in Alaska is also limited, and the added hurdles of summer tourist traffic and weather can make our trips an all day endeavor.

General aviation gives us the potential to expand peony farming to far flung locations like Bethel, Dillingham, Kodiak, Copper River Valley or any other Alaskan location with a suitable microclimate for growing peonies.

Across Alaska, the story is the same — general aviation helps companies to reach far-off markets, transport goods, supplies and staff and make multiple stops in one day. The use of general aviation is also critical for the delivery of healthcare services in our state. For example, Blood Bank of Alaska relies heavily on general aviation aircraft to transport blood to remote communities across Alaska, and these aircraft are also used for disaster relief and law enforcement. Here in Alaska, luckily, people tend to realize the incredible value of general aviation to the state. Entire story available [here](#)



Chartered aircraft from Lake Hood based Regal Air are used for picking up peony stems or peony root stock from EagleSong Peony Farm



Photos Courtesy Alaska Peony Distributors

Introducing the YETI Junior!

Compacted snow and ice are an on-going and yearly challenge for the Fairbanks International Airport's (FAI) Field Maintenance Crew. Countless hours and dollars are spent trying to mechanically and chemically remove compacted snow and ice with varying degrees of success. Statewide Maintenance & Operations recently purchased a couple different commercially available ice breakers that worked exceptionally well on the Fairbanks area road system. The ice breakers were loaned to FAI so they could test them on the airport.

FAI loved the concept of the commercially available ice breakers but they did not quite work for their conditions. They would also be difficult and expensive to maintain because you could not replace individual teeth as they wear out. Rather than just say "it does not work", John Frison took up the challenge and designed his own ice breaking machine that he named the YETI. John utilized a follow-me-wobbly axle as the primary frame. It's a front-mounted loader attachment that utilizes grader scarfire teeth to crush and break-up compacted snow and ice.



(L-R) John Frison, auto mechanic - advanced journeyman, with Fairbanks International Airport stands next to the YETI - an ice breaker he designed. He recently introduced the YETI Junior to help remove ice on the airport's smaller areas. The YETI fractures the ice allowing de-icing chemicals to work quicker and leaves pockets for sand that provides traction.

The YETI fractures the ice and creates pockets with a pathway to the underlying asphalt so the deicing chemical can get under the ice and start to work versus melting down through the ice. It also helps in the actual removal of ice and leaves pockets for sand to provide traction for aircraft operating on the active surfaces.

John recently designed the YETI Junior. This skid-steer attachment is a smaller version of the YETI and will help remove ice on the airport's smaller areas like parking lots and walkways.



Meet the Team



Troy LaRue is the new Division Operations Manager of Statewide Aviation, directly supporting Deputy Commissioner Binder with oversight of the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' aviation policy and functions. In this role he participates in and coordinates policy development and implementation, aviation system planning, capital project delivery, and maintenance and operations associated with the state of Alaska's 247 rural airports.

Troy has 18 years of airport operational experience working for ADOT&PF. He began his career with the Department in 1997 as an equipment operator, was promoted to Unalaska Airport Manager in 2000, and then to Maintenance and Operations Superintendent Southwest District in 2003. His duties for the SW District over the last 11.5 years have required him to work closely with all divisions within the ADOT&PF; multiple airport users across the state; and federal regulatory agencies.

Deputy Commissioner Binder says, "We are thrilled to have Troy as the Operations Manager for Statewide Aviation. He brings a tremendous amount of experience and leadership to the Statewide Aviation team that will provide continuity and immediate impact to the division."



The ARFFWG is coming to Alaska to put on a Cold Weather Operation ARFF Workshop in March. The workshop will be held at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Anchorage, the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport and Merrill Field, on March 23-26, 2015.

Topics to be discussed:

- Complexities and obstacles with cold weather operations and lessons learned
- Single ARFF Operator Aircraft Familiarization
- Business jets
- Course on effective triennial with limited personnel
- Performing drills without ruining your equipment.
- New aircraft coming out
- Motivating your volunteers when you are only a volunteer
- General aviation aircraft
- Full scale drill preparations and evaluations

The Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting Working Group is a non-profit international organization dedicated to the sharing of Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) information between airport firefighters, municipal fire departments, and all others concerned with aircraft fire fighting.

Register at www.arffwg.org

Sponsored by:



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AND SAFETY SERVICES



PenAir Celebrates 60 years of Aviation Service

PenAir, one of Alaska's oldest and largest regional air carriers, is celebrating 60 years of service this year. The company was founded by Orin Seybert in 1955, when he was 19 years old living in Pilot Point, Alaska. He started with a 1946 two-seat Taylorcraft and grew the company's fleet to Saab 340 aircraft. PenAir has just announced the addition of three Saab 2000 aircraft. The newer, faster, larger Saab 2000s will be delivered starting midsummer. More information available at www.penair.com

Free Field Trips to the Museum

Attracting young people to aviation is a goal of the Alaska Aviation Museum. It's also a goal of BP, who is once again generously sponsoring free field trips during the school year to the museum. This allows the museum to share Alaskan aviation history with a new generation. Teachers can call the museum at 248-5325 to schedule field trips. This grant also allows for homeschoolers, and boy scout and girl scout groups. The museum is available for field trips from 9am-5pm Wednesday through Saturdays and on Sundays from noon-5pm. Orin Seybert volunteers his time as a docent to the students so they learn from a bush pilot who IS a real bush pilot!

Upcoming Events

MARCH

- 7th Fairbanks Mini Aviation Expo—UAF Hangar at FAI**
- 16th Aviation Museum Lecture Series—*Iditarod Air Force* - Free to Public**
- 21st Anchorage Airport Job Fair**
- 23rd-26th—ARFF and Cold Weather Operations**
- 26th 16th annual Alaska Aviation Museum Hall of Fame event—5:30 p.m. Merrill Field**

APRIL

- 25th Alaskan Aviation Spring Seaplane Safety Seminar - call 243-7237 or aasfonline@gmail.com**



ALASKA AVIATION HALL OF FAME

This year the Alaska Aviation Museum will induct Oren Hudson, George Pappas and Frank Dorbrandt into the Hall of Fame.

The 16th annual Alaska Aviation Hall of Fame event is set for Thursday, March 26, 2015

WINGS OF FREEDOM HANGAR
2400 E. 5th Avenue
Merrill Field

Call 248-5325 for tickets or information.

Airport Highlight

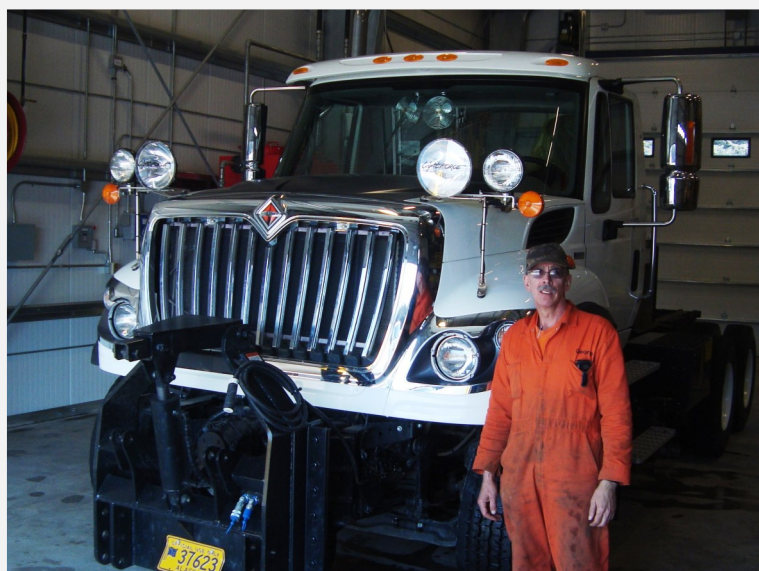
Seldovia Station - One Man Shop!

Seldovia is one of the oldest communities on the Kenai Peninsula. And, as is the case with many towns in Alaska, it's off the road system, relying on air service, passenger ferries, and the Alaska Marine Highway for access. The Alaska DOT&PF has 79 maintenance facilities across the state responsible for all maintenance and operation activities to keep our highways, bridges, airports, buildings, and harbors in good condition and safe for the traveling public. Only one of these facilities is a year-round one man shop and that's the Seldovia Station.

This station has been managed solely by George Oliveira for the last 24 years. George is responsible for both the airport and state maintained roads in the Seldovia area. Some of his duties include blading, snowplowing, brush cutting, sign repair, dust control, inspect, clean, and replace culverts, clean ditches, springtime sweeping of the paved streets in town, screening gravel for both road/airport resurfacing projects and winter sand, and maintaining and issuing appropriate NOTAM's for the airport. Along with that he is also responsible for the everyday maintenance of the shop and equipment, including all necessary safety inspections and training. George is the first responder to all work related emergency situations such as storms, fallen trees, mud and landslides, and roadway/airport flooding.

Kevin Jones, Homer Airport Manager says, "George does it all! Over the years he has been a pleasure to work with and in my opinion his service to the Seldovia community has been outstanding. With him being the only employee stationed there, any time day or night, weekend or holiday, when an emergency arises or the weather doesn't cooperate, George is there assessing the problem, planning a solution, and putting it into action."

Kerry Long, FAA Alaska Administrator, visited Seldovia last summer. He said, "It's amazing to find someone like George who is able to run the Seldovia Airport maintenance operations single handedly. In listening to him explain everything he does, from mining and crushing rock for the runway surfaces to maintaining, repairing, and operating the heavy equipment, one quickly realizes that the extensive skills, experience, and responsibilities George has, are few and far between. The City of Seldovia and surrounding communities are very lucky to have him keeping their limited road system and airport lifeline operational and in top condition year round."



George Oliveria says, "this job has been a good career choice—it is both challenging and rewarding. I love serving the public and all the things I get to do for the DOT&PF."



Our mission is to:

“Keep Alaska Moving through

service and infrastructure.”

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

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Return Service Requested

TO: