

GEORGIA AIRPORT ADVOCATE



A Periodic Newsletter of the GEORGIA AIRPORTS ASSOCIATION

Winter 2011

Conference Notes

by Margaret Gardner, GAA Correspondent

The annual 2010 GAA conference, held in Savannah this past October, was a great success. Approximately 230 attendees plus their spouses attended and learned a lot from our wonderful speakers. The conference would not have been possible without the help of Yvette Ahle, Elizabeth Knowles, Bernard Ford, and Makeba Jackson from Albany airport and Amanda Welch Parker from Savannah. We had 36 exhibitors and 28 sponsors, and want to thank them for their contribution to the success of the conference.

Many awards were presented. The General Aviation Project of the Year award went to *Harris County Airport*, Pine Mountain, the Jim White Memorial Corporate Member of the Year went to *Claudia Holliway*, of the *LPA Group*, The President's Award went to *Greg Kelly*, *Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport*, and the James Stoner Award went to *Carl "Lee" Rimmel*, formerly of *Dekalb-Peachtree Airport*. The winners of the Grand Prizes went to *Glen Beaupre* who won two Air Tran tickets and *Dr. Charles B. Gillespie* who won two Delta Airline tickets.

Be sure to join us at Reynolds Plantation in Greensboro on September 28-30 for the 2011 GAA Conference. More information to come at www.georgiaairports.org.

FAA Communications Conference, January 27-28, 2011

The Southern Region Airports Division will host the 2011 FAA Communications Conference on January 27-28, 2011 at the Embassy Suites Atlanta Airport. The conference begins at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday (11:30 am lunch on Thursday included in registration fee) and adjourns at noon Friday. The purpose of this conference is to provide a forum for airport, state and FAA management to communicate important issues that affect airports. The first day will feature speakers sharing their views on timely airport issues such as reauthorization of FAA programs, airport planning, safety, and funding. The second day will feature four one-hour leadership sessions, hosted by FAA managers leading discussions on policy and programs and listening to your concerns. Participants can find more information and register at www.faa.gov/airports/southern/airports_news_events/communications_conference.

GAA Spring Workshop, March 10-11, 2011

Georgia Airports Association (GAA) will sponsor a spring workshop March 10-11, 2011, on one of our favorite islands in South Georgia...St. Simons. The workshop will start at 10:30 am on Thursday March 10 and conclude at noon on March 11. The FAA and State have agreed to provide valuable information on grant management, airport regulatory compliance and how T-SPLOST may help fund future airport projects. The workshop will give time for large and small airports to discuss issues they bring to the meeting with appropriate officials and fellow airport peers. The Glynn County Airport Commission will help sponsor an evening out at a special venue on March 11 that you won't want to miss. The workshop will be cost \$100 per attendee, so mark your calendars now and more information will follow. ✈



Photo by Dr. Charles B. Gillespie

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MISSION STATEMENT

"To provide, develop and expand a safe and efficient airports system to meet the future economic growth of Georgia through the full implementation of the State Aviation System Plan."

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President's Message

By Blake Swafford

It's hard to believe that 2010 is already gone. It has been a very tough year for Georgia airports and general aviation as a whole. The flagging economy has been a drag on us all. On the upside, most economists agree that 2011 will be better, most aircraft manufacturers are forecasting increased sales for 2011, and nationwide we are seeing slight increases in both commercial and general aviation operations.

2011 looks to be full of opportunities for Georgia airports. With recent announcements of major aerospace projects in Georgia, a Statewide Airports Economic Impact Study underway, and the development of the new Georgia Aerospace Council Exploratory Committee, the aviation industry in Georgia is abuzz.

On the political front, the 2010 elections have drastically changed the political landscape in Georgia. Not only do we have a new Governor, but we also have 11 new State Senators and 33 new State Representatives. This means two things for the Georgia Airports Association: First, we have a tremendous opportunity to broaden support for GAA in the House, Senate, and Governor's office. Second, we have a lot of work to do in order to take advantage of this opportunity.

With 45 newly elected officials to educate on the importance of Georgia airports and the value of aviation to the state of Georgia, we have our work cut out for us. Our lobbyist does a very good job representing us in Atlanta. However, a newly elected Senator or Representative is far more likely to talk to his or her constituents (that's you!) than a lobbyist. We need to make contact with these new officials *now*. If you have a newly elected Senator or Representative in your district I urge you to get in touch with them as soon as possible.

To this regard I believe it is very important for the family of airports in Georgia to support one another. Some of you have vastly more experience than others in dealing with elected officials and "selling" the value of airports. If you know of a neighboring airport or another airport in your district that may have new staff please reach out to those individuals. See if they need help with identifying their elected officials. If you need help getting in touch with your newly elected Senator or Representative our lobbyist can be of assistance. Furthermore, if you do not feel comfortable meeting with those elected officials for any reason please give myself or Mitch Ellerbee a call, we will be glad to attend meetings with you or on your behalf when schedules permit. Lastly, there is always strength in numbers. Joining up with several airports in your region to meet with newly elected or re-elected officials is a great approach. If we can get 104 airports working simultaneously to educate legislators on the real value of airports to the economy of the state, 2011 can be the year that sustainable funding for airports in Georgia is finally realized!

May God Bless you and your family in the 2011. ✈️

*Happy New Year to all
of Georgia's airports*

*From the FAA Atlanta
Airports District Office*





Around the State . . .

Governor Perdue Receives Kitty Hawk Award

In December the Federal Aviation Administration Southern Region recognized Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue with its highest honor, The Kitty Hawk Award. The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to aviation in the Southeast.

During Gov. Perdue's tenure, the Georgia State Airport Aid Program contributed \$55.6 million to general aviation airports throughout Georgia. AIRGeorgia, the Airport Initiative in Rural Georgia Fund, granted \$32 million to rural airports during the past eight years. Matching funds from other sources resulted in a \$90 million total investment in Georgia airports under AIRGeorgia. The funding enabled general aviation airports to extend runways, install lighting and navigational aids, construct new terminal buildings, hangars and an airport maintenance building that enabled retention of 300 jobs. Several airports are extending runways to 5,000 feet. When complete, every Georgian will be within a 30 minute drive of an airport that can handle 85 percent of today's corporate aircraft.

Gulfstream Outstanding Flight Awards

Gulfstream Aerospace recently announced Phoenix Air Group of Cartersville, GA, and the U.S. Navy's Executive Transport Detachment Pacific, Hickam AFB, Hawaii, as the winners of the Gulfstream Outstanding Flight Award. Representatives from the two organizations received the Alber-Rowley Trophy during an awards dinner at the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) Annual Meeting and Convention in Atlanta.



Gulfstream's annual Outstanding Flight Award Program spotlights flights involving superior airmanship and operational achievements performed in Gulfstream aircraft.

Phoenix Air Group, an international aircraft services company, won the commercial award for a year-long series of flights by a single Gulfstream III in support of the U.S. Africa Command. The aircraft flew nearly 400,000 miles over 900 hours, visiting 45 countries in Africa and the Middle East in demanding and harsh operational environments.

The U.S. Navy Executive Transport Detachment Pacific provides airlift/transportation services in support of the U.S. Pacific Fleet commander. Their winning mission involved 54 hours of flying over 10 days to four different countries. The crew and the aircraft endured challenging weather and harsh conditions in remote locations.

Atlanta Regional Airport Expands

In addition to the 550' extension of the 5220' runway currently under construction and expected to be completed by the end of 2010, Atlanta Regional Airport in Peachtree City has just finished another phase of a new 64-acre hangar area. Within the next two years the airport will be at a runway length over 6000' and have several new hangars. FFC is planning a C-130 fly-in for early spring. Call (770) 487-2225 or visit www.atlantaregionalairport.com for more information.

Southwest GA Regional Seeks Bids

Southwest Georgia Regional Airport (KABY) is currently out for bid for a new commercial terminal building as part of its three-phase terminal complex improvement plan. The first phase, awarded this past summer, includes the replacement of approximately 90,000 square feet of aircraft parking apron for commercial flights. The second phase is the construction of a 24,900 square foot commercial terminal building. The new terminal will integrate more modern passenger conveniences such as free wireless internet access, work stations beyond security, efficient electrical and HVAC systems, and a state-of-the-art security and access control system. Space will also be built for four on-airport rental car concessionaires and a snack bar or retail concessionaire.

The third phase consists of the demolition of the current terminal, construction of a new terminal drive, new short-term parking lot and rental car ready return parking lot, along with a new curb front and will be bid out in the next year. The projects are being funded with a combination of FAA/GDOT and local SPLOST funding and should be complete in early 2013.

Baxley Municipal to Begin Improvements

The Baxley Municipal Airport will start construction on a new F.B.O. building and its ramp will be extended 300 feet starting in 2011. Plans include a state-of-the-art pilot's lounge, conference room, bedrooms, pilot living area, and restroom with showers.

OneGeorgia Authority Awards Five Airport Grants

On December 15, 2010, Governor Sonny Perdue announced the award of four AIRGeorgia grants and one Equity Fund grant.

The following airports received funding to extend their runways to 5000' under the AIRGeorgia Program: Ashburn-Turner County Airport, \$2,100,000; Elberton-Elbert County Airport, \$1,323,212; Nashville-Berrien County Airport, \$1,266,350; and Sylvester Airport, \$2,000,000. Additionally, the Adel-Cook County Airport received \$500,000 to construct a new airport terminal building. Upon completion of the runway extension projects, 76 of Georgia's 104 publicly-owned public-use airports will have a runway at least 5000', supporting statewide efforts to stimulate economic development opportunities.

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Around the State . . . (continued from page 3)

Airport License Fees to increase in 2011

During the legislature's 2010 session House Bill 1055 was passed and signed into law. This law allows for the increase in a number of fees charged by the state. Included in this bill is a provision to increase biennial airport license fees. Fees will increase from a flat fee of \$10 per airport to \$100 per runway up to a maximum of \$400 per airport.

Airport license renewal applications containing the increased fees will be mailed to airport owners in July 2011 and are due payable no later than September 30, 2011. FAA Part 139 certificated airports are exempt from state airport licensing requirements.

A copy of House Bill 1055 and its history can be viewed on the Georgia General Assembly's website at www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2009_10/sum/hb1055.htm.

Statewide Airport Economic Impact Study Update

GDOT's Statewide Airport Economic Impact Study Update continues at full speed. Currently a rigorous survey effort is underway to collect economic data from airport management, business tenants, passengers and aviation-dependant users. An evaluation of the airports' contribution to taxes in Georgia is also being conducted. In addition to providing numerical data, the study also includes profiles of businesses and case studies of several airports to ensure that the "story" of the impact of aviation beyond just dollars is presented in a meaningful way.

The study should prove to be an important tool not only by quantifying and describing how the current system operates and benefits the state, but also by providing state and local officials a better understanding of the role that each airport plays in meeting Georgia's overall transportation and economic goals. During the next several months, data that has been compiled will be analyzed to determine the number of jobs, payroll, and economic output that each airport is contributing to the Georgia economy. The study results and its special tax revenue study will be published in late 2011.

Statewide AWOS Contract

GDOT has executed a new statewide contract for the purchase of Automated Weather Observing Systems (AWOS). The contract was awarded to Vaisala, Inc. and provides established contract prices for new or replacement AWOS systems, replacement of individual system components, spare parts and test equipment. Detail information is available by contacting your GDOT-Aviation Programs Project Manager.

2011-2012 Airport Directory goes to Press

The 2011-2012 edition of GDOT's Georgia Airport Directory is slated to go to press in January and should be available for distribution to airports and FBOs statewide in February 2011. Due to budgetary constraints printing of the directory was delayed from last year. 