

Around The State ...

Alan Hood Joins Aviation Programs Staff

A hearty welcome goes to the GDOT Aviation Programs' newest employee, Alan Hood. Alan, who joined the GDOT team in late September, will work in the Aviation Development section as an airport project manager. Alan will be responsible for approximately 25 airports including the reliever airports in metro Atlanta and others along the I-20 corridor. He may be reached at (404) 463-0975.



Alan Hood joins GDOT

Prior to joining the Aviation Programs staff, Alan worked for four years at the Griffin-Spalding County Airport as director of airport operations and interim airport manager. Alan is also a graduate of the Aviation Management program at Auburn University. Please join GDOT in welcoming Alan aboard.

Aviation Programs' New Web Site Online December 1st

GDOT-Aviation Programs is pleased to announce that a complete overhaul of its web site was completed on December 1, 2005. This year-long effort was spearheaded by David Adams of the Department's Information Technology group has finally brought Aviation Programs' web information into the 21st century. Airport sponsors, consultants and the general public should find the web site intuitive, user friendly and chock full of useful information.



Debut of new GDOT Aviation web site

To visit the web site, go to: <http://tomcat2.dot.state.ga.us/Aviation/Home/index.cfm> or log onto www.dot.state.ga.us, select "transportation modes" under the main menu and then select "aviation programs." Any feedback or corrections regarding the site should be directed to Tom Carr at (404) 651-5208.

Color Aerial Airport Photographs Coming in February '06

Every two years Aviation Programs works the Department's photogrametric unit to produce updated digital aerial photographs of all public use and military airports in Georgia. The last update was October 2003. The current update is slated to be complete in February 2006. At that time, airport sponsors and consultants will be able to download the most current color digital airport photographs from the Aviation Programs web site or they can contact Carol Comer at (404) 651-5207 for instructions to use GDOT's FTP web site for file transfer.



Be On the Look Out! Airport Inspectors Coming Your Way ...

Aviation Programs has just renewed its annual contract with GCR Associates for conducting FAA 5010 inspections. The 2006 contract is for inspections at 48 Georgia airports and all inspections should be completed by July 31, 2006. If your airport was not inspected last year, it is on the list for this year. So hurry out there and remove any approach obstructions and make any necessary airfield lighting repairs, etc. If you have any questions regarding FAA 5010 and state licensing inspections, contact Tom Carr at (404) 651-5208.

GEORGIA AIRPORT ADVOCATE



A Periodic Newsletter of the GEORGIA AIRPORTS ASSOCIATION

Winter 2006

2005 Annual Conference Continues to Grow

This year's annual conference for the Georgia Airports Association (GAA) was held at the Brasstown Valley Resort in north Georgia. The conference continues to grow and provide attendees a wealth of information. The conference was again a great success due to the participation of corporate sponsors and exhibitors and featured many educational sessions to help novice to experienced airport managers gain a better understanding of the industry.



Representative and Mrs. Chuck Scheid at GAA conference

The first day of the conference featured speakers from the FAA and State funding agencies, and included sessions on new requirements in the environmental area of spill prevention and understanding audits and financial statements. The second day of the conference included sessions on airport security with the Transportation Security Administration represented, as well as gaining a better understanding of the new changes in the airport master planning process. Other sessions featured speeches on enhancing airport revenue with development of non-aeronautical property, understanding the new aircraft approach under RNAV and GPS procedures that will be utilized in the future, and new requirements for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.



GAA Board

The highlight of the conference came during the final morning breakfast with state representatives discussing the importance of airports to the state's economy and economic development. The Representatives present were Ben Harbin, Carl Rogers, Vance Smith, and Charles Scheid, who all pledged to improve funding for the aviation program so that we may keep pace with other states in the southeast. Representative Scheid announced during his remarks that a bill has been drafted that will allow the state to spend funds collected from the motor fuel tax on aviation projects. Currently, taxes collected from the sale of aviation fuel are not to be spent on aviation projects. The aviation funding now comes directly from the general budget of the State without regard to the amount of motor fuel tax collected from aviation fuels.

The conference was well received by over 220 attendees and 40 airports. Next year's conference will be held the Westin Harbor Resort in Savannah, Georgia from October 18-20, 2006. For more information on next year's conference, please contact Amanda Teston at ateston@savannahairport.com.

Visit Us Online At
WWW.GEORGIAAIRPORTS.ORG

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	2
FAA Appropriations Bill for FY 2006	3
Around the State	4

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."

GEORGIA AIRPORTS ASSOCIATION
Russell Regional Airport
304 Russell Field Road
Rome, Ga 30165

FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WOODSTOCK
GA
PAID #69





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

President: *Greg Kelly*
Director of Operations
 Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport
 400 Airways Avenue
 Savannah, GA 31408
 (912) 964-0514 Fax: (912) 964-0877
 gkelly@savannahairport.com

Treasurer: *Tim Beggerly*
Airport Director
 Ben Epps Airport
 1010 Ben Epps Dr.
 Athens, GA 30605
 (706) 613-3420 Fax: (706) 613-3425
 airport@co.clarke.ga.us

Vice President: *Mike Van Wie*
Assistant Airport Director
 DeKalb Peachtree Airport
 212 Administration Building
 2000 Airport Road
 Atlanta, GA 30341
 (770) 936-5440 Fax: (770) 936-5446
 mvanwie@co.dekalb.ga.us

Secretary: *John Crosby*
Airport Manager
 Peachtree City – Falcon Field Airport
 7 Falcon Drive
 Peachtree City, GA 30269
 (770) 487-2225 Fax: (770) 487-8814
 johncrosby@kffc.org

Directors:

C. (Lee) Rimmel: *Airport Director*
DeKalb Peachtree Airport
 212 Administration Building
 2000 Airport Road
 Atlanta, GA 30341
 (770) 936-5440 Fax: (770) 936-5446
 clremmel@co.dekalb.ga.us

James Stogner: *Airport Director*
Hartsfield International Airport
 P.O. Box 20509
 Atlanta, GA 30320
 (404) 530-6600 Fax: (404) 530-6803
 james.stogner@atlanta-airport.com

Steve Brian: *Executive Director*
Glynn County Airport Commission
 500 Cannole Street
 Brunswick, GA 31525
 (912) 265-2070 Fax: (912) 264-0228
 sbrian@flygcairports.com

Buster Boshears: *Airport Manager*
Daniel Field
 1775 Highland Avenue
 Augusta, GA 30904
 (706) 733-1647 Fax: (706) 738-9746
 wboshears@augusta.ga.gov

Karl Von Hagel: *Airport Manager*
Cobb County Airport/McCollum Field
 1723 McCollum Pkwy., Bldg. 100
 Kennesaw, GA 30144
 (770) 528-1615 Fax: (770) 528-1655
 karl.vonhagel@cobbcounty.org

Bob Holliday: *Executive Director*
Valdosta Regional Airport
 1750 Airport Road, Suite 1
 Valdosta, GA 31601
 (229) 333-1833 Fax: (229) 245-8153
 valdostaairport@mchsi.com

Mike Mathews: *(Past President)*
Airport Director
 Richard B. Russell Regional Airport
 304 Russell Field Road
 Rome, GA 30165
 (706) 295-7835 Fax: (706) 234-8076
 mathewsm@floydcounty.ga.gov

Legislative Affairs:

Mitch Ellerbee: *Airport Manager*
Thomaston-Upson County Airport
 2347 Del Ray Road
 Thomaston, GA 30286
 (706) 647-4500 Fax: (706) 636-3066
 kopn@alltel.net

President's Message

By Greg Kelly

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Officers of the Georgia Airport Association (GAA), I would like to wish each of you a Happy New Year. 2006 has the potential to be a rewarding year for all of our airports if we roll up our sleeves and work hard.

Through the efforts of our past President, Mitch Elerbee, and our lobbyists, Vernon Lee and Charlie Watts, we have started to get some recognition by some of our key state legislators. This was made evident on the morning of October 7th when five legislators attended the closing breakfast session at our 2005 annual conference held at Brasstown.

Rep. Chuck Scheid (R) District 22 was one of those in attendance. Rep. Scheid, who is a pilot, has promised to introduce legislation in this session, which will call for all tax revenue derived from the sale of aviation fuel in the state of Georgia to be dedicated to airport projects only. As you are probably aware, the GDOT Airport's Division was allocated \$5 million in 2005 which is not nearly enough to meet the needs of our airports. Based on 2004 data, Rep. Scheid's proposed legislation has the potential to generate \$35 million for airports the first year.

Our airports need this, our airports want this and our airports can have this if we work together and lobby our legislators very aggressively. Here is what each of us needs to do right now.

1. Contact your legislators in both the house and senate to let them know that Rep. Chuck Scheid is introducing legislation during this session, which is critical to ensure that your airport remains a viable component of your community economic development. If you are not sure who your legislators are or how to contact them, please call Mrs. Amanda Teston at (912) 964-0514. She will assist you.
2. Encourage other members of your local government and aviation community to contact their legislators as well expressing support for this initiative.
3. Develop some talking points that will outline the present and potential economic impact your airport has on your community.
4. Make sure your CIP is current and reflective of all of your needs.
5. Be prepared to follow up with calls, letters, and emails to your legislators to maximize our impact at the right time. We will let you know when the optimum time to follow up is.
6. Call me at (912) 964-0514 or email me at gkelly@savannahairport.com if you have any questions.

Rep. Scheid is cautiously optimistic about the chances of this legislation passing but we will have to get behind it in a big way to help it get over all the hurdles. This means all of us. The officers, Board of Directors and our lobbyists are fully engaged in this initiative and will work very hard to help see it through but we will need your help.

In an effort to continue to gain exposure with our legislators, your officers and Board of Directors have approved a more aggressive lobbying strategy. There is a cost associated with this effort but as you can see from the treasurer's report, we are in a good financial position to do this.

This underlines the importance of continuing to have a solid membership and a successful well-attended annual conference. Both are vital sources of funds, which are being used to help further our cause at the State Capitol. The 2005 Conference Committee led by Steve Brian, Samantha Benton, Colette Edmisten of BQK and Amanda Teston of SAV did a great job at ensuring this past conference was successful in all aspects, including the financial aspect which again gives us the resources to get our message out to those who cast the votes.

For those of you who did not attend the conference, we regret you could not be there as it was very informative. The new officers elected there are as follows:

President: *Greg Kelly*
 Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport
Vice President: *Mike Van Wie*
 DeKalb Peachtree Airport

Secretary: *John Crosby*
 Peachtree City-Falcon Field Airport
Treasurer: *Tim Beggerly*
 Ben Epps Airport

We look forward to serving you.



FAA Appropriations Bill for FY 2006

On November 30, 2005, the President signed into law the fiscal year 2006 spending bill for the departments of Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, Judiciary, District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies (H.R. 3058). The measure includes \$3.55 billion for the Airport Improvement Program – a record amount and \$550 million above the President's request. The bill also includes funding for FAA Operations, FAA Facilities and Equipment, the Airport Cooperative Research Program, the Small Community Air Service Development Program, Essential Air Service, and the Contract Tower and Contract Tower Cost-Share Programs. Additionally, the measure carries forward a requirement that FAA pay for the space it uses in airport-owned buildings.

The following are some of the key issues addressed in the conference report accompanying the bill. There is a strong possibility that Congress will pass an across-the-board cut to federal programs that may affect the figures cited below. Congressional leaders are said to be considering a cut in the 1 percent to 2 percent range. Congress included an across-the-board cut last year of 0.80 percent.

- **Airport Improvement Program Funding:** Of the \$3.55 billion in funding for AIP, \$71.1 million is designated for administration of the AIP program, \$10 million is made available for the Small Community Air Service Development Program, and \$10 million is provided for the Airport Cooperative Research Program. The \$10 million in funding for the Small Community Air Service Development Program is a \$10 million reduction from last year's enacted level. The measure also continues the prohibition against using AIP funds for EDS installation projects.
- **High Priority AIP Projects (Earmarks):** The bill highlights a number of "high-priority" AIP projects. The specific project list can be viewed at http://www.aaae.org/_pdf/_govpdf/Nov1805.pdf.
- **Facilities and Equipment Funding:** \$2.54 billion is designated for the FAA Facilities and Equipment account, which funds a number of ATC modernization programs. Roughly on par with last year's enacted level, but \$600 million below the authorized level and the amount included in the House-passed version of the bill. Further, \$17.5 million in F&E funding is provided for the Airport Technology Program and \$4 million is provided for airport pavement research.
- **FAA Operations:** \$8.186 billion is provided for FAA Operations, some \$175 million above the President's request and \$475 million above last year's level.
- **FAA Space in Airports:** Once again a general provision is included prohibiting the FAA from requiring airports to provide space free of charge in airport-owned buildings.
- **Airport Cooperative Research Program:** \$10 million in AIP funding is designated to be used to fund the Airport Cooperative Research Program, a \$7 million increase over last year's funding level.
- **Essential Air Service:** \$110 million is provided for EAS, an increase of \$8 million above last year.
- **Contract Tower Program:** \$90.5 million is included for the Contract Tower Program and \$7.5 million for the Contract Tower Cost-Sharing Program.
- **Research, Engineering, and Development:** \$138 million is provided for FAA R,E,&D, a \$7 million increase above last year's level. A total of \$16 million in R&D funding – \$4 million more than last year – is set aside for the Energy and Environment account, which is aimed at reducing the "environmental impact" of aviation.
- **Nighttime Tower Closings:** The conference report does not address reported plans by the FAA to close certain low-activity air traffic control towers to nighttime operations. Despite interest from members of the House and Senate in preventing FAA from moving forward with these plans, no action was taken largely because the agency has yet to officially unveil any plans in this area.
- **Airport Runway Safety Areas:** A requirement is included that states, "no later than December 31, 2015, airports shall improve...runway safety areas to comply with FAA Part 139 design standards." The agreement also requires FAA to report annually on the agency's progress toward improving runway safety areas.
- **Flight Service Stations:** Despite a fair amount of opposition and a vote in the House prohibiting FAA from moving forward to contract with Lockheed for flight service station operations, the conference agreement allows the "privatization" of flight service stations and provides \$150 million in funding for transition costs.
- **Wright Amendment:** The conference deal adds Missouri to the states that are currently exempted from Wright Amendment restrictions. Lawmakers have vowed further action on the Wright Amendment in conjunction with the upcoming FAA reauthorization process.
- **"Virtual Primary" Airports:** Airports that have temporarily slipped below the 10,000 enplanement threshold are allowed to maintain a minimum entitlement, but caps that entitlement at \$500,000. The conference report states that, "It is the conferees intent that this will be the last extension for such subsidies."
- **Screening Partnership Program (Opt-Out):** In advance of the conference on the DOT spending bill, concerns were raised by TSA and others that a provision in the bill dealing with competitive sourcing of government services to the private sector could negatively impact the Screening Partnership Program and prohibit further participation by interested airports. The Airport Legislative Alliance worked to ensure that the language did not affect the SPP and in the end TSA and the Department of Defense were exempted from the competitive sourcing language.
- **On-Airport Mobile Refuelers:** In response to concerns raised by airports and a broad coalition of aviation interests, conferees included a recommendation that DOT work with the EPA to "establish reasonable methods of compliance for the EPA's Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure requirements as they relate to on-airport mobile refuelers." and that "...DOT and EPA work together to ensure that the regulations do not impose unreasonable cost burdens on the operators of the refueling vehicles."
- **Avian Flu Preparations:** The conference report requires the Secretary of Transportation in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the FAA administrator to establish procedures to ensure that proper precautions be taken by airports and air carriers to recognize and prevent the spread of avian flu.