

GEORGIA AIRPORT ADVOCATE



A Periodic Newsletter of the GEORGIA AIRPORTS ASSOCIATION

Spring 2010

Cherokee County Airport Opens New Terminal

by Margaret Gardner, GAA Correspondent

In April 2010, Cherokee County opened its new million-dollar state-of-the-art terminal, and progress continues on other long-range airport improvement plans. The joint county, state, and federal effort culminates years of planning and development spearheaded by the Cherokee County Airport Authority and supported by the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners, U.S. and state legislators as well as local businesses and pilots. Securing GDOT-Aviation and FAA funding enabled the project to break ground in 2007, with final phases scheduled for completion by 2012. The recently opened 10,000 square-foot passenger terminal, adjacent hangar and dedicated taxiway parallel to the runway are just the beginning. An additional 155 acres of land were recently purchased and work is underway to lengthen the runway from its current 3,414 feet to 5,000 feet. Eventually the airport will provide facilities for over 300 aircraft and full capabilities for corporate jets and charter services.

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The new terminal was entirely financed by county funds, and came in under budget at just under \$2 million. Features include a large waiting area with innovative seating that allows passengers to plug in laptops and recharge cell phones in comfort while awaiting their flight. Pilots have access to a computer room for performing weather checks, filing flight plans and other preflight needs. A comfortable pilot's lounge includes a large television and recliners, private "quiet rooms" for rest between flights, as well as a bathroom with shower facilities and a kitchen area. In addition to private office space, the terminal also has a well-appointed board room large enough to host corporate meetings, with amenities such as a full catering kitchen and smart board technology for presentations. A ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce is scheduled for Friday, May 7, 2010, from 12 to 2 p.m.

According to Cherokee County Airport Authority Vice-Chairman (and former pilot), John Marinko, the airport's convenient location just off I-575 in central Cherokee County coupled with these improvements will not only encourage business development in the county, but will also help serve the growing needs of corporate travel in the area, ease overburdened airports such as Peachtree-DeKalb and McCollum, and save companies a lot of money by avoiding the fuel-intensive long approach and substantial commute into and out of Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson airport. ✈️



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."

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS****Officers:**

President: Yvette Aehle, Airport Director
SW GA Regional Airport
3905 Newton Road, Suite 100
Albany, GA 31701
(229) 430-5175, yaehle@albany.ga.us

Vice President/Legislative Liaison: Blake Swafford, Airport Director
Paulding County Airport
329 Industrial Way N.
Dallas, GA 30132
(770) 445-4659, bswafford@paulding.gov

Treasurer: Mike Mathews, Airport Director
Richard B. Russell Regional Airport
304 Russell Field Road
Rome, GA 30165
(706) 295-7835, mathewsm@floydcountyga.org

Secretary: Dr. Patti J. Clark, Executive Director
Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport
1750 Airport Road, Suite 1
Valdosta, GA 31601
(292) 333-1833, valdostaairport@mchsi.com

Directors:

Balram "B" Bheodari: Operations Manager
Atlanta-Hartsfield Jackson International Airport
P.O. Box 20509
Atlanta, GA 30320
(404) 209-4142, balram.bheodari@atlanta-airport.com

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

Hope Macaluso: Airport Manager
Troup County Airport Authority
200 Airport Parkway
LaGrange, GA 30240
(706) 884-2121, airportmanager@trouppair.com

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

Tim Weegar: (Past President), Assistant Director II/ Operations Manager
Augusta Regional Airport
1501 Aviation Way
Augusta, GA 30906
(706) 798-3236, tweegar@augustaga.gov

President's Message

By Yvette Aehle


Has it already been six months since we last saw each other at the GAA's Annual Conference in Augusta? The first months as President have been a whirlwind so far, and I expect that the next seven months will be equally challenging.

First of all, I want to give Tim Weegar an "atta-boy" for the wonderful leadership that he has exhibited in his tenure as President this past year. The Presidency is an interesting demon; you start out with the legislative part of the job and work through all the day-to-day issues of running an association, keeping in touch with the Board of Directors and reading the constant news machine to see what items may affect our airports and getting that message out. The final frosting on the cake is the Big Daddy of all tasks—putting together the annual conference. As those who attended our conference in Augusta can attest, our conferences are getting larger and more popular with exhibitors, speakers, members and non-members alike. All of your work culminates in that one event and then you are done! It is a tough act to follow; Tim and his assistant Durinda put together a top-notch conference and I know that Tim and I will become best buddies as I start planning our October 13-15, 2010 conference in Savannah. Mark your calendars now...

The first challenge is already upon us—Georgia's General Assembly is in session. Georgia Airports Association is getting the wheels turning on our legislative agenda with our lobbyist Vernon Lee. Vernon is a much respected person at Georgia's capitol and we are very thankful for his efforts. He knows our legislators and is well-versed on our needs and why funding Georgia's 104 airports are so important. I have tapped my Vice President Blake Swafford to be our Legislative Liaison at the Capitol when Vernon needs our help educating our leaders how important airports are to the State. The third cheerleader we have on our side is Carol Comer at GDOT. All of you know through your contact with her is that she tries to help us all on our projects and understands more than anyone how many unfunded needs are out there. Our top priority for 2010 is the same as in 2009—we need to get our legislators to pass a House Resolution that will propose an amendment to the State's Constitution to provide a vehicle for future airport funding by utilizing the fuel taxes derived by jet fuel and aviation gasoline that now help to fund the State's roads and bridges. Those funds would be directed to maintaining and improving our airports instead. This promises to be an uphill battle with the State's economy falling short of revenues and looking for funds to cut from the budget. However, we need to keep our message out there: if our legislators are looking to turn around the State's economy, we must make our airports a priority. I know I am preaching to the choir to everyone reading this newsletter, but our lawmakers need to understand the economic benefits of the airports that serve our communities, both large and small. After all, the airport is the welcome mat for your community and growing businesses or industry requires airports that can accommodate business' needs!

How can you help? **Contact your Senator and Representative and tell them what you need.** Invite them to your airport and give them a tour. Show them what your short- and long-term vision is for your airport. Let them know that you need help and the current \$6-7 million budget is not adequate for your future infrastructure needs. We are not asking for additional funding; we just want the funding that we already contribute to the State to be appropriated back to the airports so that we can compete with the surrounding states' airport systems and can bring more economic development to our State.

If you are unsure how to contact your local legislator, you may search for him/her online at <http://www.legis.state.ga.us/> or contact Vernon Lee at vleegovaffairs@bellsouth.net and he can get the contact information you need.

As Jerry Maguire would say (sort of), "Help Us Help You!" If there is something specific that you would like to see Georgia Airports Association address, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the other Board of Directors. I am blessed to have such knowledgeable professionals serving on the Board and we are looking forward to moving our association onward and upward! 



Around the State . . .

Augusta Regional Welcomes American Eagle

Augusta Regional Airport is pleased to announce non-stop service from AGS to Dallas-Ft. Worth on American Eagle Airlines beginning June 10, 2010. American Eagle will operate the service with 50-seat Embraer ERJ-145 jets.

“Our community’s aggressive on-going efforts to enhance air service are reaping great dividends,” said Augusta Aviation Chairman Karlton Howard. “This new American Eagle service is really exciting. It just reinforces that as travelers from this region continue to fly from Augusta, carriers will respond by providing more options with competitively priced fares.”

This announcement is great news for Augusta Richmond County and the CSRA,” said Augusta Vice Mayor Alvin Mason. “Expanding air service creates jobs and supports economic growth by giving travelers more options and drawing business investment to the region. This will bring new opportunities to the region and will benefit travelers and businesses alike.”

“The strong support of our local community has created steady passenger growth at the Augusta Regional Airport over the last few years which has made this community more attractive to airlines,” said Gary LeTellier, Executive Director of the Augusta Regional Airport. “We thank American Eagle for the confidence they are showing in our community and we look forward to making this service a success and to a long partnership with American Eagle.”

Changes in Progress at Athens Airport

The Athens airport is in the final stages of removing potential obstructions (trees) from runway approaches. The

project cleared about 55 acres of trees.

Athens has begun the design work for a 600’ extension to primary runway 9/27. This will allow Athens to meet the operational requirements of corporate and charter aircraft operating at AHN. Upon completion the runway will be 6,122’, include a new glide slope, MALSF lighting system and parallel taxiway.

Athens has also been approved to move into the design phase for a new commercial terminal, which will construct a new 12,000 square-foot terminal to replace the existing terminal built in the 1950s (see concept below). This will be



Phase I and if required at a later date, Phase II will expand the terminal to 18,000 square feet. The terminal will house all the support businesses for commercial aviation such as car rental agencies, TSA, police, etc. The project is funded by the Athens-Clarke County SPLOST Program and is expected to be complete in Fall of 2012.

Hold the Date!

2010 GAA Annual Conference

October 13-15, 2010

The Westin Savannah Harbor
Savannah, GA

The Georgia Airports Association Board of Directors cordially invite you to this year’s Annual Conference. Visit www.georgiaairports.org for information on registration, hotel accommodations and reservations, room rates, and sponsorship opportunities.

Southwest Georgia Regional Airport Projects

As of February 1, 2010, Eagles of America, the same company that provides excellent customer service in KMGR (Moultrie) has now opened an Albany location, and to the delight of pilots, has already dropped the price of fuel by \$1!

The airport is currently designing a new terminal complex that will include a commercial passenger terminal, associated aircraft apron, curb front, terminal drive and parking lots. The design will take approximately 9 months to complete and the project will go out for bid in the fall. The project will be funded with a combination of FAA grants, Passenger Facility Charges, Customer Facility Charges and SPLOST funds. We hope to be under construction in 2011.

KABY also began an airfield electrical improvement project last month. This project includes replacement of airfield lighting and airfield signage, installation of a new rotating beacon, installation of a new pilot-controlled lighting system (PCLS), and installation of a new airfield lighting vault and regulator. The work is being performed by TCA Electrical Contractors and was designed by The LPA Group.

New AWOS at Franklin-Hart

The Franklin-Hart airport installed a new automated weather observing station (AWOS) in January and recently completed a fencing project.

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Russell Regional Airport
304 Russell Field Road
Rome, GA 30165

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

New Terminal Opening in Paulding County

The Paulding Northwest Atlanta Airport is about to open its state of the art Aviation Terminal Building and Economic Development Center (see concept below). This facility is a 23,000 square-foot building that will house the Fixed Based Operator (FBO), airport management offices, economic



development offices, flex lease space, and a restaurant. The FBO will feature all of the amenities that any professional pilot has come to expect, including internet and electronic weather access, meeting areas, pilot rest areas, and sufficient parking for both vehicles and aircraft of all sizes. A grand opening/open house is scheduled for May 1, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will include static aircraft displays, an aerobatic performance, terminal tours, a pilot meet and greet, as well as tours of this impressive, two-story building.

FAA Runway Safety Bulletin #30

An airport “hot spot” is a runway safety related problem area or intersection on an airport. The ICAO definition is “A location on an aerodrome movement area with a history or potential risk of collision or runway incursion, and where heightened attention by pilots and drivers is necessary.”

Potential surface incidents, particularly runway incursions (RIs), may be prevented and/or reduced by identifying airports’ hot spots and in assisting airport users to plan for the safest possible path of movement in and around the airport. Pilots’ review and familiarity of an airport’s hot spots add another layer of safety to their pre/post flight preparations. Proper planning helps reduce confusion and pilot errors by eliminating last-minute questions and by becoming familiar with known problem areas.

A list of airport diagrams depicting hot spot locations can be found on the FAA website at http://www.faa.gov/airports/runway_safety/hotspots/hotspots_list.

We are publishing kneeboard charts of hot spot locations to further explain and emphasize specific and troublesome areas on the airfield. Pilots can use these kneeboards in their flight planning and while in the cockpit.

Fifteen kneeboard charts are being printed of top RI airports that had 5+ RIs, using FY2009 statistics, October 2008–September 2009. All airports are encouraged to submit hot spot photos and descriptions for publishing and downloading off of the FAA website. 