

# GEORGIA AIRPORT ADVOCATE



A Periodic Newsletter of the GEORGIA AIRPORTS ASSOCIATION

Summer 2008

## General Aviation Security, Continued

by Lee Rimmel, Airport Director, PDK, ATL

General aviation security apparently remains a priority for DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff. Consequently, TSA is focusing on a number of security initiatives to counter the threat of GA aircraft being used as a weapon or as a mode of transporting illicit materials or dangerous individuals. TSA remains focused on what TSA calls 'larger aircraft' operating internationally. TSA wants to transition from a fixed based operator system to a secure fixed base operator system for international flights. This means the FBO would check the international flight manifest again the eAPIS (Electronic Advanced Passenger Information System) to verify the security eligibility of both the passengers and crew. TSA is also working on a positive pilot ID program which would verify the pilot's identity prior to entering the US.

TSA is also working on recommended Security Action Items for GA aircraft operators & FBOs, which TSA hopes will be available by September 2008. These action items for the most part have been pulled from the 2004 TSA Security Guidelines for General Aviation Airports.

Lastly, TSA is still wrestling with the General Aviation Vulnerability Assessment Program. The 9/11 Commission legislation signed into law last year requires TSA to develop a standardized threat and vulnerability assessment for GA airports within one year. TSA is working toward the August 3, 2008 deadline to develop and implement such a vulnerability assessment program. The program will most likely consist of a self-assessment performed by the GA airport operator to "TSA standards," again as currently outlined in the TSA Security Guidelines for General Aviation Airports. GA airports that can accommodate larger GA aircraft, especially over 12,500 pounds, will most likely be required by perform the self-assessment and report results directly to TSA. TSA is still working to finalize the details of the program and has promised to work with GA industry associations and state aviation offices to prepare for and implement the new vulnerability assessment requirements once they are formalized.

So it appears that general aviation airport security could soon be turning a new page. We'll get the new information to you as soon as we know it is available. ✈

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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."

### 2008 Annual Conference *Rolling in a New Year of Aviation*

October 1-3, 2008  
Callaway Gardens  
Pine Mountain, GA

*The Georgia Airports Association Board of Directors cordially invite you to this year's Annual Conference. Visit [www.georgiaairports.org](http://www.georgiaairports.org) for information on registration, hotel accommodations and reservations, room rates, and sponsorship opportunities.*



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# President’s Message

By John Crosby

### Greetings to All

Thanks again to all of you who participated this year in the legislative session for the hard work and dedication. It goes without saying that Vernon Lee is worth every cent and more that we pay him for his knowledge and persistence at the Capitol on our behalf. He is already planning for the next session and has gained additional support from both sides of the aisle on aviation issues. Increased funding with no strings is the goal so that we can better compete with our neighboring states. The Governor did mark up the proposed budget for FY09 but we still ended up with \$16.2 million in state funding. It is an improvement over previous years, but we will keep trying for more. Carol and staff perform miracles with the funding they have and all of us appreciate their great work.

The 2008 Conference is shaping up very well and I appreciate the volunteers who have been so helpful in organizing the different activities. Many of you have already registered and I urge others to do so soon. The Lodge will fill up soon and the Cottages soon thereafter. I would like to remind the sponsors and exhibitors about the special drawing for those who register before July 31 for the “early bird incentive package”. Opportunities still exists for sponsoring many of the conference events. Please contact myself or Sheila Stubbs at 678-923-1949 or 770-429-8923 for information. We want to showcase all of our sponsors and exhibitors as best we can. We all recognize that without you the conference would be nearly impossible and less informative. Our agenda this year will be scrambled compared to previous years by inviting the FAA and State to give their presentations on Friday in concert with our invited State elected officials. We have invited Congressman Westmoreland to address the Conference during the opening session. He should be able to shed some light on the political posturing with the FAA funding issues in Washington. He is a great friend and supporter of aviation on both the State and Federal level and we look forward to his presentation. The remainder of the agenda is filled with sessions that we feel are important to all of our airport sponsors, exhibitors and consultants. Please give any suggestions you may have that will make the conference more enjoyable.

By the time this newsletter is published our state leader Carol Comer will be at work and going strong. We welcome her back and hope that all is going well. The State staff is working hard to put the FY09 program together and we all look forward to another great year in Georgia Aviation.

Blue Skies, John 

### Ladies and Gentleman of the G.A.A.

Hello, again. John and Mike have been gracious enough to let me include a faxable membership application to the Georgia chamber at the special G.A.A. rate of \$340.00. Now more than ever the Georgia Chamber needs your participation and airport membership in our statewide organization. Strength in numbers is a proven fact.

I am diligently working with many of you to overcome the financial shortfall from the state this last session, and just as importantly, trying to come up with solutions for some of the individual projects on going and planed at your airports.

That being said, I urge you to commit at this time to becoming members of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

Sincerely,  
Alex Crown



## Around the State . . .

### Legislative Update from Vernon Lee

The 2008 legislative session ended at midnight *Sine Die* on Friday, April 4, 2008. It will probably go down as the most disagreeable legislative session in Georgia's history! But the 2008 legislative session was a successful session for the Georgia Airports Association. The Appropriations Committee understood the need to increase funding for all of Georgia's 104 airports. John Crosby, Carol Comer and others of the Association are to be thanked for their trips to the Capitol and for all of their hard work during this legislative session.

HR 48 and HR228 were resolutions introduced by members of the Appropriations Committee to help secure permanent funding for airports. HR228 made it out of three committees and to the House floor for a vote before some of the Democratic leadership decided to amend it. The Republican leadership objected to this, pulled the bill and recommitted it back to the Rules Committee to place it under "structure rule". This does not allow the resolution to be amended or adversely affect the original intent of the resolution. It was at this time that Delta got involved, subsequently objected to, and fought the resolution. Rep. Mark Burkhalter held the resolution in the Rules Committee and it died there. Thanks Delta!

The Select Members of the Appropriations Committee held their position for funding the airports. The House put more money in the budget for specially designated projects but the Senate took that money out but agreed to the basic amount. The total State funds were \$21,655,457 with fifteen million more for this year. The total funds including Federal funds were \$28,155,457.

The special projects break down like this: \$4,000,000 for a flight building at the new Paulding County Airport, \$700,000 for Glynn County Airport Commission and \$500,000 for improvements to McKinnon Airport. It was a good year for Georgia's Airports. We now hope the Governor does not veto any of this funding.

Our strategy for the 2009 Legislative session will be to slowly increase our funding and try a new resolution for that term. Once again thank you for all of your hard work and constant communication with your legislators. If you have any questions, please contact me at 770-975-3530.

### Atlanta Honors Two HNTB Fellows

Jim Drinkard and Scott Hyde, both aviation experts with HNTB Corporation, were the guests of honor at a reception held recently at Atlanta's prestigious Vinings Club. The two were recognized for their achievement as HNTB Fellows, one of the highest recognitions an HNTB professional can receive.



The event was attended by more than 40 guests, including Ben DeCosta, the Aviation General Manager at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport,

and Dan Malloy, the airport's Aviation Assistant General Manager for Planning and Development. HNTB leadership in attendance included Scott Butzen, Southeast Division President; Evan Futterman, Chairman of Aviation Services; and Bob Miller, Atlanta Office Leader.

Drinkard will commemorate 31 years with HNTB in August, while Hyde recently celebrated 15 years with the company. Both are assigned to the \$6 billion capital program for HJAIA. For more information about HNTB, visit [www.hntb.com](http://www.hntb.com).



### Perdue Announces OneGeorgia Awards

Governor Perdue and the OneGeorgia Authority Board approved the grants and loans from the OneGeorgia Authority's portfolio of financing programs including Equity, EDGE, and E 9-1-1. "The investments we are making will assist with a variety of economic developments and pay dividends by retaining and creating jobs, stimulating private investment and enhancing regional competitiveness," said Governor Sonny Perdue.

The Equity Fund is designed to assist communities and regions in building the necessary infrastructure to support economic development. The program's flexibility also provides financial assistance to enhance publicly-owned tourism initiatives, workforce development opportunities and downtown revitalization projects. In addition, loan funds are available through the Equity Revolving Loan Fund to assist small business owners with business growth and expansion opportunities.

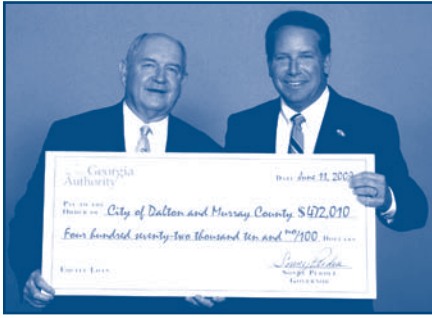
Ten Equity awards totaling over \$5.2 million were awarded to:

- Dooly County road and rail construction to assist Dooly County in the location of an asphalt plant facility.
- Southeast Georgia Joint Development Authority construction of 12,600 linear foot railroad passing siding alongside the 182-mile Norfolk Southern (NS) Macon to Brunswick line.
- Warren County water infrastructure improvements and rail construction to serve Plastic Tubing Industries.
- Greensboro Downtown Development Authority renovation of the Greensboro Gymnasium into a community and regional cultural center known as "Festival Hall."
- Evans County Industrial Development Authority acquisition of a 41,800 square foot packing facility, office building and 17 acres of farm land in Claxton/Evans County for the expansion of BFG Produce, LLC.
- Berrien County Development Authority acquisition of 174 acres for a new industrial park in Berrien County.
- Development Authority of Jones County construction of a 4-lane divided median entrance road that will extend 5,000 linear feet into the new 962-acre Georgia Regional Industrial Park in the southern tip of Jones County.

(continued on page 4)

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

▪ City of Dalton and Murray County enhancing Regional Competiveness with construction of two ten-unit aircraft t-hangars at the Dalton Municipal Airport in Whitfield County in order to comply with FAA safety regulations.



▪ McIntosh County Industrial Development Authority street, water and sewer improvements

to serve a 400-acre addition to the McIntosh County Industrial Park located along I-95 near Darien.

▪ Thomaston-Upson County Industrial Development Authority construction of a rail spur off the Norfolk Southern rail line to Central Georgia Business and Technology Park to serve an existing company, Innoware Plastics, Inc.

Five EDGE awards, totaling \$1,350,000, are leveraged against more than \$88 million in total project costs and are projected to create over 445 jobs within the next three years. The EDGE recipients include:

- Douglas-Coffee County Industrial Authority building acquisition for a bottled water production facility.
- Development Authority of LaGrange site preparation costs in support of the location of a 90,000 square foot injection molding facility in LaGrange.
- Rockmart Development Authority building construction in support of the expansion of Engineered Fabrics Corporation (EFC), an aircraft equipment

manufacturer with 514 existing jobs.

▪ Griffin-Spalding County Development Authority acquisition of 30 acres in the Hudson Industrial Park for the location of Sumika Polymer Compounds America, Inc.

▪ Quitman County Development Authority construction of a metal building with 14,000 square feet of usable space to accommodate the expansion of D & J Plastics.

## On the Move

**Dr. Patti J. Clark** has replaced Bob Holliday as the Interim Executive Director and Airport Manager for the Valdosta Regional Airport in Valdosta, Georgia. She is a long-time faculty member for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University at the Moody Center. Prior to serving as the Valdosta Airport Manager, Dr. Clark was the Director of Academics for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University at Moody AFB.



Other changes include **Jeff Herrington** replacing Scott Turner at Statesboro-Bulloch County Airport. **Michael Larkin** is now Interim City Manager/Airport Manager at Camilla, replacing Mike Scott who has moved on to the City of Moultrie.

## Request for Directory Updates Coming

In August be on the lookout for a request from GDOT for Airport Directory corrections and updates. Tom Carr will be compiling this information for a new edition of the state airport directory that will be released in early 2008. ✈️

### GEORGIA AIRPORTS ASSOCIATION

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