



Virginia Aviation

Published by the Virginia Department of Aviation



March/April 2008

New Tappahannock-Essex County Airport Opens

This past October, a rare event took place in Tappahannock, VA – a brand new general aviation airport opened. The new Tappahannock-Essex County Airport is fully equipped with 4,300-foot runway, 4,000-square foot terminal building, 24 hangars, a weather station and self-service fuel. This new airport has been built to accommodate single and twin engine planes and small jets that weigh up to 12,500 pounds and with wingspans under 79 feet.



The brand new terminal at Tappahannock-Essex Airport.

“They don’t build new airports every year,” said Charles W. Bowman, Tappahannock-Essex County Airport Manager.

“Most airport construction involves some sort of make-over to an existing airport facility or runway.”

This brand new \$13 million airport was constructed to replace the old 2,800-foot runway, originally built by the United States Army for coastal defense in World War II. Over the years, local development such as a factory, a water tank and adjacent schools made this airport unacceptable according to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations and a new facility was needed.

In 1999, after years of planning, 477 acres of land three miles south of Tappahannock was purchased by the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport Authority.

Construction finally began in 2006 with funding from various sources, including the FAA, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Town of Tappahannock and Essex County.

“I feel fortunate to run one of the most beautiful airports I have ever seen,” said Bowman and added, “The Town of Tappahannock and Essex County should be very proud of the facility that has been built here.”

This airport, which serves the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula Tidewater regions of Virginia through both business and recreational aviation, currently averages about 325 total flights per month and all signs point to experiencing a steady increase over the coming months as word of its existence spreads among the aviation community.

“It is interesting when you open a new airport it takes several months before anyone knows you are there due to the delay in the airport identifier being published,” said Bowman. In late December, Tappahannock-Essex County Airport was finally added to the FAA’s publications.

If operations at the new facility warrant, there is available space on-site to increase the runway length to 5,400-feet as well as space for additional hangars and taxiways.

Virginia Aviation is a bi-monthly publication produced by the Virginia Department of Aviation, Public Communications and Education Division in the interest of and for the promotion of aviation.

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DOAV Temporarily Suspends Aviation Ambassadors Awards

The DOAV recently announced that it will have to temporarily suspend its Aviation Ambassadors recognition awards due to low aviation revenue collections.

“We are proud of the 137 participants who have completed the Aviation Ambassador program,” said Randy Burdette, DOAV’s director. “We encourage the aviation community and general public to continue flying and visiting Virginia’s airports.”

This highly successful program was established in 2005 to encourage pilots and the general public to visit all of Virginia’s 66 public use airports, attend pilot safety seminars and visit aviation related museums throughout the Commonwealth, receiving a stamp in their DOAV issued Aviation Passport.

Despite the suspension of the awards program, the DOAV will continue to verify passports and recognize this program’s participants. When funding becomes available, the DOAV hopes to resume providing awards to those who complete the program.

To receive the latest information regarding the status of the program, please visit DOAV’s website at www.doav.virginia.gov.

2007 is Another Record Year at Richmond International Airport

Richmond International Airport (RIC) had a record year for passenger traffic in 2007 as more than 3.63 million travelers used the facility, according to the Capital Region Airport Commission – representing an increase of more than ten percent over 2006, the previous record year, that saw 3.29 million travelers at RIC.

Since 2005 and the arrival of AirTran Airways, JetBlue Airways and Skybus Airlines, passenger traffic at RIC has increased 46 percent. This includes 31-consecutive months of airport traffic growth; with December 2007 traffic up 2.5 percent.

Delta and US Airways continue to be the airline market share leaders at RIC each with 24.3 percent.

In addition, a \$78 million, 500,000 square feet terminal was completed in July 2007, and 2008 and the future look bright as construction on the I-64/Route 895 connector, the Pocahontas Parkway Airport Connector and its North parking garage are all expected to be completed sometime this year or early 2009.

“We were able to improve our use of the eight airlines which were operating at the start of the year, welcomed a new carrier to RIC when Skybus started its nonstop service to Columbus, Ohio in May and dedicated the airports new terminal,” said Beverley W. “Booty” Armstrong, Capital Region Airport Commission Chairman.

“It would appear that last year’s momentum is carrying over into 2008,” added Armstrong.

United Express Comes to Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport

United Express recently began offering service from Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport (SHD) to Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD). These flights, three times daily during the week and two times daily on weekends, will be operated by Colgan Air, Inc. and will operate on the 34-seat Saab 340 aircraft.

“We are pleased to announce the arrival of the United Express product to the Shenandoah Valley,” said Gerald Garber, Chairman of the Airport Commission.

According to Greg Campbell, Executive Director of SHD, negotiations between the airport and Colgan Air had gone on for some time as SHD customers repeatedly showed a desire for a larger aircraft, more competitive fares and better connecting flights. “That is exactly what Colgan has delivered,” said Campbell.

Virginia on Pace to be 1st State to Receive International Standard for Business Aircraft Operations (IS-BAO) Certification

On January 17th, twelve individuals from various agencies and corporations, and from as far away as White Plains, NY, attended an 8-hour IS-BAO Workshop at the Department of Aviation (DOAV). These individuals, including Mike Mills, DOAV's Director of Flight Operations & Safety Division; Duane Hunter, Manager of the FAA's Richmond Flight Standards District Office; and Henry Ogrodzinski, President & CEO of the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO); covered various topics including IS-BAO Standards, Safety Risk Analysis and how to prepare for an IS-BAO audit.



IS-BAO workshop attendees at DOAV.

The full-day training was conducted by Katherine Perfetti, Standards Manager for the International Business Aviation Council (IBAC), and was intended to assist operators such as DOAV who are implementing the IS-BAO.

IS-BAO is a code of best practice and is intended to promote professional operational practices and expand upon business aviation's excellent safety record and was developed by the aviation industry. It was initially introduced and made available to the business aviation community at the European Business Aviation Conference and Exhibit in Geneva, Switzerland back in May 2002 and is administered by IBAC.

According to its website, at the core of the IS-BAO is the requirement that all certificate holders develop, implement and maintain a company Safety Management System (SMS). The stated goal of the SMS is to manage safety risks effectively. A safety-risk profile is a documented overview of the risks likely to be experienced by the flight operations of the company. The safety-risk profile is operator specific. Guidelines have been developed to assist business aircraft operators to: identify the hazards and categorize the risks related to their operations; develop and document mitigations and; track and measure the results of their activities.

Certificates of Registration are issued by IBAC to flight departments that have demonstrated compliance through successful completion of a third party industry audit by an IBAC Accredited Auditor.

For the aviation industry and DOAV, the benefits of IS-BAO are numerous and include: self-education - as IS-BAO helps flight departments learn from the experiences of their peers; reducing the potential for repeat errors and mistakes; as well as increased passenger confidence – passengers will be reassured in the knowledge that their flight department continually meets professional safety standards set forth by IS-BAO.

IBAC is a non-profit, non-governmental association which represents, promotes and protects the interests of business aviation in international policy and regulatory forums. IBAC was founded in 1981 with five founding members with a mission to represent, promote and protect the interests of business aviation in international regulatory and policy making venues.

For more information on IBAC and IS-BAO, please visit www.ibac.org.



WANT TO BE FEATURED IN VIRGINIA AVIATION?

Submit your story ideas and/or event information to:

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Or via e-mail at: Jeff.Baldwin@doav.virginia.gov



DOAV Director Randall Burdette and Cord Sterling with reception attendees.

DOAV Participates in Annual Virginia Aviation & Aerospace Legislative Reception

On Tuesday, January 29th, the DOAV participated in the annual Aviation & Aerospace Legislative Reception at the Library of Virginia.

Twenty-one legislators and hundreds of aviation/aerospace professionals attended this year's event, which was once again co-hosted by Senator Charles J. Colgan and Delegate Frank D. Hargrove.

Special guest Cord A. Sterling, Vice President of Legislative Affairs for the Aerospace Industries Association, spoke to the attendees about the importance of getting today's youth interested in aviation/aerospace careers.

Sterling graduated with a Masters of Science degree from California State University, served in the United States Marine Corps and is a current member of the Commonwealth's Transportation Board, Stafford County's Board of Supervisors and the Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority.

Sterling, a former member of the Stafford County Regional Airport Authority, has also served on the Senate Armed Services Committee and was a key national security advisor to Senator John Warner.

NASA Astronaut Dr. Andrew Thomas was also in attendance and signed autographs for interested reception attendees. Dr. Thomas, a 15-year NASA veteran, began his professional career as a research scientist with Lockheed Aeronautical Systems Company in Marietta, GA in 1977.

Dr. Thomas has participated in four NASA shuttle missions, including a 141-day stay aboard *Mir* Space Station as Flight Engineer 2 in 1998. He returned to earth aboard the Space Shuttle *Discovery* on June 12, 1998, after completing 2,250 orbits of the earth.

His most recent NASA shuttle mission occurred aboard *Discovery* from July 26 to August 9, 2005. This mission was the first mission following the Columbia accident, at which time Dr. Thomas and *Discovery* crew members continued to work on assembling the International Space Station. Dr. Thomas was responsible for testing and evaluating new procedures for flight safety and inspection and repair techniques for the Shuttle's thermal protection system.

Hanover Airport to Host 2008 Chick-fil-A "Operation Cow Drop"

On Saturday, April 26th, beginning at 11 a.m., Hanover County Airport will host Chick-fil-A of Richmond's Inaugural "Operation Cow Drop." This family friendly event is a fun and easy way to support a local non-profit group, while simultaneously enjoying the aviation industry and one of the Commonwealth's airports.

Chick-fil-A will drop all of the pre-sold mini plush cows, parachute attached, from an airplane and the cows landing closest to a marked "cows eye" will win prizes for their respective owner; first prize will be two airline tickets from Airtran Airlines. The cow drop will occur at approximately 3 p.m.

Anybody wishing to get involved can pick up one of these cows for \$10.

For more information, please contact Pam Myers at 804-928-8848, or via email at pmyers@chick-fil-arichmond.com.

Hanover County Airport opened in 1971 and provides general aviation service to both corporate and recreational pilots. The Airport serves small single engine and multi-engine aircraft, as well as light business jets.



Air Canada Coming to Richmond International Airport

Starting May 1, 2008, Richmond International Airport (RIC) will welcome twice daily, year-round non-stop service to and from Toronto via Air Canada. These flights will be conducted using a 37-seat Jazz Dash 8 aircraft and will be the only non-stop service between the two cities and RIC's only international route.

"It is apparent that there are communities of interest, including numerous companies in the Greater Richmond region, which will benefit from the ease of nonstop access to Toronto and beyond," said Beverley W. "Booty" Armstrong, Capital Region Airport Commission Chairman.

According to an Air Canada press release, these flights are consolidated under one roof in the expanded Terminal One at Pearson International Airport and are timed to provide passengers convenient connections to and from cities across Canada and European destinations such as London's Heathrow Airport, Frankfurt and Zurich.

"Air Canada continues to expand non-stop services that offer customers more choice and better value," said Daniel Shurz, Vice President of Network Planning for Air Canada.

For more information and/or reservations, travelers may visit www.aircanada.com, call toll-free at 1-888-247-2422.



Air Canada's Jazz Dash 8 Aircraft like this will be used for the Richmond to Toronto; Toronto to Richmond route.



Flightline full of Ercoupes from a previous Fly-in.

Major Aviation Event Adopts New Name, Website Address and Announces New Location

The 10-year-old Virginia Regional EAA Fly-in will now be known as the Virginia Regional Festival of Flight. This new name complies with a directive from the Experimental Aircraft Association in Oshkosh, WI to raise public awareness of continuing independent status of the event.

The 2008 Virginia Regional Festival of Flight, previously named the Virginia Regional EAA Fly-in, will be held at the Suffolk Executive Airport on June 14th and 15th and will show a continued tradition of expansion.

The new fly-in location, only 40 miles west of the major Hampton Roads cities of Norfolk, Virginia Beach and Chesapeake and 15 miles north of the North Carolina State line, offers an ideal venue for growth.

Event organizers realized that they had outgrown the Dinwiddie County Airport, and are excited that the move to the Suffolk Executive Airport (SFQ) will offer possibilities for increasing the full range of Fly-In activities; including forums, workshops, aviation vendor displays, aircraft demonstration flights, youth activities and expanded parking for attendees.

All pilots, aircraft owners, homebuilders as well as anyone interested in the exciting field of personal aviation are invited to visit the fly-in event's new website, www.VirginiaFlyIn.org. This site will offer the most up to date information on the fly-in.

Questions about advertising and vendor opportunities should be directed to Judy Sparks, Fly-In Manager, at 703-590-9112, or via email at JHSparks@comcast.net.

Newport News - Williamsburg International Airport a Beehive of Activity Throughout 2007



Newport News - Williamsburg Airport's new air traffic control tower.

In 2007, Newport News – Williamsburg International Airport (PHF) was extremely busy continuing its expansion and growth. This included opening a new 140-foot-tall air traffic control tower, a parking garage with 727 spaces and finishing the year with increased passenger traffic.

The air traffic control tower was completed in late June and took a little over a year to construct at an estimated cost of \$15 million.

“Equipped with all new state of the art equipment and an unbeatable view of the airport and surrounding area, the new tower is a welcome improvement for our air traffic controllers,” said Bill Cook, Air Traffic Manager for the airport.

This tower was a long awaited upgrade for the airport because, “the airport has been listed as one of the five fastest growing airports in the nation and the new tower could not have come at a better time,” said Jim Smith, Executive Director of the Peninsula Airport Commission (PAC).

The new tower brought changes to the region as a new radar system that includes the Newport News – Williamsburg International Airport, Norfolk International Airport and Langley Air Force Base went live. “The new radar is a mosaic system which combines numerous radar feeds into one display,” said Cook.

The airport also opened its brand new \$10 million parking garage in the summer of 2007, just in time for passengers traveling during the busy summer months.

These airport improvements helped Newport News – Williamsburg Airport see passenger growth of nearly .3 percent, from 1,052,813 passengers in 2006 to 1,055,886 passengers in 2007.

“We are extremely pleased with the passenger growth that we had in 2007 and are hopeful that this trend will follow us into 2008,” said Smith.

The airport also recently announced that starting mid-February, it will offer travelers more choices as it will begin direct service to Tampa, FL on Airtran Airways.

“2008 promises even more growth and expansion for the airport with the planning of our second concourse,” said Smith. There are also plans for an expanded baggage claim area and a second parking garage.

“As always, the passengers of Southeastern Virginia have helped to shape the Newport News – Williamsburg Airport and we are grateful for their continued support and loyalty.”



Calendar of Events March - May

March 22-23

“Chili Weekend” at Lunenburg County Airport 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Free chili and brunswick stew will be served both days at the airport to the flying community. Beverages and snacks will also be available. For more information, please send an e-mail to w31airport@embarqmail.com, or call Michael Cocker, Airport Manager, at 434-696-4624 or 804-840-3200. Check Notam for availability of avgas.

March 29

IA AMT Training at DOAV

For more information contact Mike Alakszay of the Richmond FSDO at (804) 222-7494 or mike.alakszay@faa.gov.

May 3

Tangier Island Fly-in

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tickets are \$50 per person with proceeds from this event used for repaving the airstrip and construction a terminal building. Please contact Neil S. Kaye, MD at 302-234-8950 or via email at nskaye@aol.com with any questions or to purchase tickets.

New Faces at DOAV



Amy Wells joined DOAV as an Airport Engineer back in September. Wells is a 1994 graduate of Old Dominion University and holds a Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering. Prior to DOAV, Wells worked for 8 years at the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and prior to that worked as a consultant for various engineering firms in both Richmond and Virginia Beach. She and her husband, Mike, are avid bowlers and have a 4-year-old son, Stephen.

Davia Archer joined DOAV as its Customer Relations Specialist in January 2008. Archer is a 2006 graduate of Hampton University with a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations. After graduation, she entered the workforce as a Fiscal Technician for the Department of Juvenile Justice at Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center. She assisted in planning several events and became involved in numerous public relations functions. Davia has a 1-year-old daughter, Maliah, and has volunteered as a Project Manager for a non-profit organizations' 10th Annual Wearable Arts Fashion Show.



Jeff Baldwin joined DOAV as its Public Relations Specialist in January 2008. Baldwin is a 1998 graduate of Utica College of Syracuse University with a Bachelors of Arts in History with a concentration in both writing and journalism studies. He joins DOAV with nearly 10 years of public relations and marketing experience, and was most recently the Public Relations Director for The Salvation Army Richmond Area Command. Baldwin and his wife, Stacie, moved to Virginia in 2004 from New York. He is an animal lover and sports fanatic and recalls one of his fondest memories from childhood was going to Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome, NY to watch the Thunderbirds and Blue Angels perform.

Rolls-Royce to Open Aircraft Engine Plant in Prince George County

Last fall, Governor Timothy M. Kaine announced that Rolls-Royce, a leading provider of power systems and services for use on land, at sea and in the air, will build a state-of-the-art aero-engine facility on a 1,025-acre site in Prince George County, subsequently bringing 500 new jobs to the Commonwealth.



This facility, slated to be operational by the end of 2009, will assemble and test the RB282 engine, recently selected by France's Dassault Aviation for its Falcon, the company's super midsize jet.

Initially, Rolls-Royce will invest \$100 million to establish this facility, with options to invest up to \$500 million to support future advanced manufacturing as opportunities present themselves for its defense and civil aerospace businesses.

Virginia successfully competed against several other states for this facility.

"Rolls-Royce's investment is transformational for the Commonwealth of Virginia and the future of our economy," said Governor Kaine. "Rolls-Royce's decision to locate these operations here is strong affirmation of the talent and professionalism of our educated, high-tech workforce and Virginia's competitiveness globally."

A team comprised of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, Prince George County, Virginia's Gateway Region, the Virginia Port Authority, the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Virginia Community College System, the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, the Virginia Secretaries of Trade, Education, Finance and Transportation and the Virginia Liaison Office all worked countless hours to bring this plant to the Commonwealth.

"I am pleased that Virginia has been selected as the location for this important work," said Sir John Rose, Rolls-Royce Chief Executive. "Rolls-Royce has had a strong relationship with Virginia since 1990 and this new facility builds on that partnership."



Greg Wright from Tappahannock-Essex Airport and Santa with some of the toys collected during the airlift.

Virginia Chapter Ninety-Nines Deliver Smiles With Toy Airlift

In December, the Virginia Chapter Ninety-Nines held their third Toy Airlift at Chesterfield County Airport, with this latest effort benefiting veterans, active-duty military and patients at Fort Lee and the Hunter Holmes McGuire Medical Center, Richmond VMAC.

Through their devotion and tireless efforts, 332 toys for Fort Lee families and \$550 in gift cards for the medical center were collected during the day-long airlift.

In addition, the Virginia Ninety-Nines also raised \$140 for “Fly for the Breast Cancer Cure” by selling food items, dessert and ice tea throughout the event.

“Having a successful Toy Airlift is a bit of work but it is definitely a lot of fun and it left us feeling so warm and fuzzy inside,” said Betty Vinson, Event Chairperson for the Virginia Chapter Ninety-Nines. “We are already working on planning next year’s event.”

Their first toy airlift was in 1999 in response to the flooding in Franklin, VA in the late fall. It became apparent that numerous flood victims would not be able to provide a Christmas for their children, so a plan was devised to collect toys and fly them to that area.

“Pilots are always looking for a reason to fly and the aviation community has a big heart,” said Vinson. “Give us a flying destination combined with the chance to help someone and it is a win – win situation, right?”

For more information, please visit www.ninety-nines.org.

If you are interested in learning more about what is going on in the Department of Aviation, please call our office at (804) 236-3624 or our Sponsor Hotline at (800) 292-1034. Visit our website for updates on future events at: www.doav.virginia.gov.

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