



Virginia Aviation

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Virginia airport owners group holds first meeting

A group of private airport owners and aviation enthusiasts recently formed the Virginia Airport Owners Association (VAOA) to address issues concerning privately-owned, private-use, airports within the state. The organization, thought to be the first of its kind in the nation, will provide a united voice for this segment of the aviation industry. There are 226 privately-owned, private-use airports currently registered in Virginia.

VAOA is being commended by the Airport Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), and the Virginia Department of Aviation (DOAV) for its efforts to foster the continued growth and development of private airports in Virginia. VAOA is providing networking, communication, security awareness and economic opportunities for airport owners and aviation enthusiasts throughout the state.

“The creation of the VAOA is a great opportunity for the aviation community. It will improve communications between this segment of aviation and DOAV,” said Randy Burdette, director of DOAV. It will allow us to work together to promote a safer and more secure aviation system for the citizens of the Commonwealth.”

Future plans for VAOA include educating localities and the public about the operations and value of privately-owned airports. It will also work with state and local governments to streamline the zoning process of new airports.

For more information, contact John Mazza Jr., president, at 804-526-7665, Kevin Murray, treasurer, at 540-297-6754 or e-mail VAOA@live.com.

The Virginia Airport Owners Association is a 501(c)(6) corporation chartered in the Commonwealth of Virginia.



Photo by Al Orgain, VAOA

The first meeting of the Virginia Airport Operators Association was held on Nov. 15 at the Virginia Aviation Museum in Richmond. Topics discussed include decreasing liability exposure for owners through insurance and legislative efforts, promoting smaller airports and providing security training for owners.

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

Randall Burdette
Director
Dept. of Aviation

Cherry Evans
Division Director

Kelly Pruitt
Editor

Please send material for publication to:
Editor,
Virginia Aviation Newsletter
5702
Gulfstream Rd.
Richmond, VA 23250
or e-mail to:
kelly.pruitt@doav.virginia.gov

Director's Corner



Since this is our first edition for 2009, Happy New Year! It's hard to believe another year has flown by, but it certainly was an eventful one here at the Department of Aviation.

We are proud of the many accomplishments DOAV and our many aviation partners, have achieved last year to help make aviation a stronger and safer industry in Virginia.

One of the department's biggest highlights of the year was becoming the first state-operated flight operations department to receive the International Standard for Business Aircraft Operations (IS-BAO) certification, a code of best practice for the benefit of flight operations departments in the rapidly growing business aviation sector. IS-BAO auditors examined our safety, maintenance, training, and standardization programs and found no deficiencies. Not only were we the first state to achieve the IS-BAO certification, we were only the 120th Flight Operation world-wide to achieve the IS-BAO certification.

Other highlights include projects that involve our aviation partners like the Civil Air Patrol, Virginia Airport Operators Association (featured on the front page) and Virginia Helicopter Association. VirginiaAirTaxi.com was launched thanks to the Virginia SATS Lab and Air Taxi Association, and the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society and their partners Heart of Aviation and Technam helped continue our Virginia Aviation Ambassadors Award Program with a very gracious \$10,000 grant.

If you are interested in getting involved in aviation projects, please see the list of the organizations we partnered with in 2008 and will continue to in 2009 on the back of this newsletter. Without their support and dedication, aviation wouldn't be as strong and alive in the Commonwealth as it is today.

The Virginia Aviation Board and DOAV also helped the Commonwealth's 66 public use airports with many of their projects last year. VAB allocated almost \$12 million from the Air Carrier/Reliever Discretionary Fund and more than \$2 million from the General Aviation Discretionary Fund to help with improvement projects. DOAV allocated approximately \$2 million in maintenance, facilities and equipment and security projects. We also allocated more than \$343,000 for promotional, air service development and educational projects, and also participated in several career days, air shows and fly-ins last summer.

A lot of exciting things are in store this year, including the return of the Virginia Aviation Conference Aug. 26-28 in Roanoke. This two-and-one-half day conference is sponsored by DOAV, Virginia Aviation Board, Virginia Airport Operators Council, Virginia Aviation Business Association and others. Participants attend meetings, panel discussions, and presentations on issues relevant to the aviation community in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Virginia Aviation Board allocates funds to state airports

The Virginia Aviation Board (VAB) approved tentative allocations of Commonwealth Airport Funds for Fiscal year 2009 at its meeting on Nov. 20 at the Wyndham Hotel Richmond Airport in Richmond. Approved Air Carrier Reliever/Reliever Discretionary funding was \$3,895,398.67 and General Aviation Discretionary funding was \$300,636.2.

Among the approved projects include Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport, which will receive \$1.8 million for the construction of a clear span hangar, Leesburg Executive Airport, which will receive \$724,795 for T-hanger site preparation and south apron expansion, and Luray Caverns Airport, which will receive \$504 for land acquisition.

Dean named 2008 Aviation Person of the Year

By Teresa Dunham, *Liberty Journal Magazine*

On a spiritual gifts test, Dave Young's highest scores are for primary leadership, administration and faith.

"I guess I am a builder by nature. I like to build programs," he said.

As Dean of Liberty University's newly formed School of Aeronautics, that's exactly what Young is doing. He's piloting a revamped aviation program that has grown from four students to more than 250 in the past few years.

Expanding its offerings to include training for aircraft mechanics in spring 2009, the FAA-certified School of Aeronautics provides four-year Bachelor of Science in Aviation degrees for aspiring private and commercial pilots.

"My primary focus has been developing and growing the program," said Young. "I would like to see us be the center of excellence for missionary aviation in the United States."

Young put the program on the map recently by winning one of Virginia's most prestigious aviation awards, the 2008 Aviation Person of the Year, presented by the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Aviation.

"Not only does he have a long history of making contributions to aviation, but he has made some very specific contributions within the last year to an area [of aviation education] that we consider very important," said Betty Wilson of the Virginia Department of Aviation.

Young, who received a plaque in Richmond, Va., insists the award wasn't a solo effort.

"I do believe it is a reflection on our program here at Liberty University," he said. "Without our program, obviously, I wouldn't even be considered for it."



Photo by Les Schofer, *Liberty Journal Magazine*.

Dave Young, dean of Liberty University's School of Aeronautics, was named the 2008 Aviation Person of the Year.

Christmas Toy Airlift doubles donations from last year



Ninety-Nine Betty Vinson poses with a National Guardsman who helped collect toys at the Christmas Toy Airlift.

A troubled economy didn't keep folks from making donations at the Virginia Chapter Ninety-Nines' annual Christmas Toy Airlift Dec. 13 at Chesterfield County Airport. In fact, toy donations doubled from last year.

"We had an outstanding day Saturday at the Toy Airlift," said Betty Vinson, who organized the event. "The results far exceeded our wildest expectations."

More than 23 pilots from airports around the state flew in approximately 700 toys to benefit families of military and wounded veterans this holiday season. The Ninety-Nines also collected \$440 in gift cards for the McGuire's Veterans Hospital.

Hot lunches for sale at the event raised \$632 for breast cancer research.

Also at the event, pilots from the Experimental Aircraft Association and Wing Nuts Flying Club flew 78 children and adults for the Young Eagles program.

Three new members inducted into hall of fame

Three new members of the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame were inducted last fall at the Virginia Aviation Museum.

Elmer Durand Bailey of Richmond, Norman “Norm” Crabill of Newport News and Gen. John R. Dailey, USMC (Ret.) were honored for their service and accomplishments in the aviation industry.

The late “D” Bailey was instrumental in the development of Northfield Airport in Richmond. He was a veteran flight examiner, a major supporter of the Civil Air Patrol and a founder of the Virginia Aviation Trades Association (now the Virginia Aviation Business Association). He later became assistant manager of the Patrick Henry Airport in Newport News.

Crabill was a former VAHS board member and a co-author of its *Virginia Airports* book. He was also the first chairman of the Historical Marker Committee. He is also known for working with NASA in pre-orbital test flights, in the Lunar Orbital Program, including five spacecraft flights around the Moon. He was also the Mission Analysis and Design Manager for the Viking to Mars Project.

Dailey flew 450 missions in Vietnam and was an assistant commandant of the United States Marine Corps in 1990. After his retirement, he worked with NASA, co-chaired the Aeronautics Coordinating Board and was a delegate to the Research and Technology Organization supporting NATO. Dailey then assumed duties as director of the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum. It was during his tenure that the museum was expanded to include the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, which features a collection of historic aviation and space artifacts, including the Space Shuttle Enterprise.



Photos courtesy of the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society

Elmer Durand Bailey (left), Norman Crabill (middle) and Gen. John R. Dailey (right) were inducted into the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame last fall. The men were honored for their service to the aviation industry.

Ashburn teen works to educate classmates about aviation

You know you have a deep love for aviation when your first thought after narrowly escaping serious injury is, “Do I still get to ride in the helicopter?”

That was Emily Bacon’s first question after she was rescued from being stuck in an underground cave while spelunking during summer camp two years ago. Thankfully, the only injury the then 13-year-old received was disappointment when the emergency medical helicopter flew back to its base after learning she was OK.

Now 15, Bacon has since ridden in a helicopter, but for purely recreational reasons. She has also recently taken her first glider ride—a birthday present from her mother.

“It was one of the most amazing things I’ve ever done,” Bacon said. “Sometimes you can’t enjoy a plane ride because of the engine noise, but a glider is peaceful and simple. You really feel the heights.”

See “Teen” on page 7

Wallops Island Flight Facility receives historical marker



Photo by Gordon Campbell

Wallops Island Flight Facility received a historical marker from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in November.

NASA's Wallops Island Flight Facility was recognized for its contributions to aerospace research with a historical marker at a ceremony on a cold and windy day last fall.

The marker was created by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) with funding from the Virginia Department of Aviation. The site was nominated by the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society (VAHS), and the ceremony was hosted by BaySys Technologies, Inc. on behalf of VAHS.

According to DHR, the Wallops Island Flight Facility was established in 1945 by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics and is one of the oldest launch sites in the world. The facility was built to conduct aeronautical research using rocket-propelled vehicles. Its first rocket, the Tiamat, was launched on July 4, 1945.

With the birth of NASA in 1958, Wallops contributed to the development of components of space flight programs, capsule escape and recovery techniques.

In 1981, Wallops was consolidated with the Goddard Space Flight Center and is now NASA's primary facility for suborbital programs.

"The Department of Aviation is continuing to work with NASA, Wallops Island and Accomack County to explore joint-use potential and how more state resources can be utilized to support the continued growth and future expansion of the Wallops facility and potentially an aerospace center of excellence for the region," said Randy Burdette, director of DOAV.

Dulles opens fourth runway



Photo courtesy of Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority

Washington-Dulles International Airport opened its fourth runway on Nov. 20.

More than two hundred guests attended the grand opening of Washington-Dulles International Airport's first new runway in more than 46 years.

The new runway is a north-south runway 9,400 feet long and 150 feet wide, and it becomes Dulles Airport's fourth runway. Its first flight was an American Airlines plane bound for Los Angeles.

The airport now has three parallel north-south runways and one east-west runway. The three existing runways date back to the airport's 1962 opening.

In recent years, as aircraft operations at Dulles grew, expanding the current three-runway system became a necessity. The Airports Authority Board of Directors approved the new runway in 2001, and the environmental process began in 2002 with construction starting in 2006 after approval from the Federal Aviation Administration.

The \$355 million fourth runway and its associated projects will support the future development of the airport and will allow the Air Traffic Controllers more flexibility in directing aircraft operations.

Plans call for a fifth runway in the future that will run east-west. Dulles Airport has more than 12,000 acres of land which will be developed as future needs are identified.

Lonesome Pine celebrates 50 years with historic aircraft

In today's economic climate, it is harder and harder for local airports to stay in business. So when Lonesome Pine Airport in Wise reached its 50th anniversary in October, it celebrated for three days with a very special guest.

"The Spirit of Freedom," a vintage Douglas C-54 military transport used during the 1948 Berlin Airlift, was on display for the three-day event and reenacted "Operation Little Vittles," the famous candy drop made to the children of Berlin during the Cold War.



Photos courtesy of Donnie Rose

"I was able to ride up in the right seat of the C-54 during the reenactment, and it was such a thrill," said Bob Spera, who has operated the Lonesome Pine Airport for almost 17 years. "It's one of the highlights of my career."

Approximately 3,000 people visited the airport during the weekend anniversary celebration, which also included a rereading of the original proclamation and a list of all the original donors. There were also ceremonies honoring the airport's two founding fathers George Wharton and Fred Dotson.

Lonesome Pine Airport, named for the novel *Trail of the Lonesome Pine* by local writer John Fox, has been regional Southwest Virginia's only airport since the commission was established in 1958. Since then, the airport has seen its runway extended from 4,050 feet to 5,400 feet, a new access road built from the south side

of the airport to Route 646 and a new terminal building that opened in 1991. Currently 25 aircraft are stationed on or near the airport.

Spera attributes the economic growth of the commu-

nity to the longevity of the airport, but admits it hasn't been immune to the economic problems of late.

"The University of Virginia at Wise, the coal mining industry, the new power plant—



Left: The C-54 used during the Berlin Airlift arrives at Lonesome Pine Airport in Wise to celebrate the airport's 50th anniversary.

Right: Local students learn the history of the Berlin Airlift before boarding the plane for a tour.

there's good stability here," he said. "Business lately has been fair enough to keep a fixed-base operator alive."

In October the airport, in conjunction with EAA Chapter 1416, is planning another vintage aircraft event called "World War II Living History Weekend." It will feature reenactments as well as a movie festival.

Delicious Destinations: a seafood tradition in Tappahannock

Editor's Note: Check out reviews on the DOAV Web site at www.doav.virginia.gov. Have a suggestion? Send to kelly.pruitt@doav.virginia.gov.



Lowery's Restaurant
528 Church Lane
Tappahannock, VA 22560
804-443-2800

Monday-Thursday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday open for
Breakfast 8 a.m.-10:30 a.m.; Saturday 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m.
www.lowerysrestaurant.com

Just because it doesn't feel like beach weather outside doesn't mean there's no great seafood available.

Fly into Tappahannock-Essex County Airport and take their courtesy shuttle to the famous Lowery's, where crabcakes, soft shell crabs, oysters and other seafood fare is their specialty.

According to their Web site, all the seafood is local. Oysters served at Lowery's come from Bevan's Oyster Company located in Kinsale about 30 miles from Tappahannock. The fresh jumbo lump crab meat comes exclusively from Little River Seafood in Reedville. Having both Little River and Bevan's located in the Northern Neck so close, Lowery's gets multiple deliveries weekly.

Lowery's also serves USDA Choice steaks and prime rib, oven-roasted turkey, a weekend breakfast and all-american fried chicken, which is another popular dish.

"They won't tell you what's in it, but it's something they're known for," said Gordon Birkett, chairman of the airport authority. "And you can get almost anything on the menu to go."

Teen...(continued from page 4)

Bacon's mother, Lisa, is program manager of pre-college outreach/student conferences at the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. She introduced her daughter to the world of aviation at a young age. She has volunteered at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar Hazy Center in Chantilly, and she participates in both Space Day and Be a Pilot Day festivities.

Bacon, who wants to earn her pilots license before she graduates high school, said she notices her friends' interest in her flying adventures, and wants to organize an aviation career day for high school students to educate other teens about opportunities in the aviation industry.

"A lot of kids don't know [flying] is available to do in their free time," Bacon said. "We need to make it more publicly known that they can take rides and learn how to fly a plane now and not just dream about it."

Also a Girl Scout, Bacon wants to enter the aviation career day project into the Girl Scout Gold Award competition. The winning project is something that fulfills a need within a girl's community, creates change and is something that becomes ongoing.

"We can use the career day to get information out about jobs and scholarships available to students who may have an interest in aviation or space," Bacon said.

After high school, Bacon would like to attend Virginia Tech and study to become an aerospace engineer. To explore opportunities like Emily's, please contact your local chapter of EAA or The Soaring Society of America.

Emily Bacon (below) wants to organize an aviation career day at her high school in Ashburn.

Photo courtesy of Lisa Bacon





Calendar of Events

<http://www.doav.virginia.gov/>

Organizations you can join to help promote aviation awareness and education in the Commonwealth:

Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association (AOPA).....	www.aopa.org	800-872-2672
Civil Air Patrol (CAP).....	www.cap.gov	877-227-9142
Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA).....	www.eaa.org	800-JOIN-EAA
National Business Aviation Association (NBAA).....	www.nbaa.org	202-783-9000
National Coalition for Aviation Education (NCAE).....	www.aviationeducation.org	
The Ninety-Nines, Inc.	www.ninety-nines.org	800.994.1929
Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society (VAHS).....	www.vahsonline.org	804-222-8690
Virginia Airport Owners Association (VAOA).....		804-526-7665
Virginia Aviation Business Association (VABA).....	www.thevaba.org	804-271-7793
Virginia Aviation Foundation (VAF).....	www.vaaf.org	804-249-9366
Virginia Helicopter Association (VHA).....	www.vahelicopters.com	757-342-6899

Purpose: "To foster aviation as an industry, as a mode of aviation; to develop uniform laws and regulations; and to otherwise encourage cooperation and mutual aid among the several states."
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