



VIRGINIA Aviation



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DOAV receives ISO 9001:2008 certification

Governor McDonnell has announced that the Virginia Department of Aviation has become the first state aviation agency in the United States to receive ISO 9001:2008 certification by undergoing an independent audit. ISO 9001:2008 is an international quality management standard that organizations implement to demonstrate their ability to provide services that meet statutory and regulatory requirements. This achievement demonstrates DOAV's strong commitment to providing the highest level of service to the aviation community and the citizens of Virginia.

Speaking about the certification, Governor McDonnell commented, "This is an achievement not only for the Virginia Department of Aviation, but for the entire Commonwealth of Virginia. It is an honor that one of our state agencies has earned a place among the high-performing companies who have ISO certification."

DOAV is the first state aviation agency in the nation, the second agency within the Commonwealth of Virginia (following Virginia Port Authority) and the third state agency in the nation to achieve ISO 9001:2008 certification (the Illinois Department of Transportation completed its certification effort in July 2009).

Companies that achieve certification demonstrate top management's commitment to their customers, establishment of clear policy, good planning, efficient resource management, effective records management, and continual analysis and improvement of business processes.

The Performance Management Group at VCU helped to integrate ISO principles into the culture of DOAV and instill its philosophy into day to day operations. Dr. Jim Burke, Director of the Performance Management Group stated, "It is our hope that this will be an example throughout the Commonwealth of how dedicated people and leadership can advance government in Virginia, even during difficult economic times."

"By becoming the first state aviation agency to achieve ISO 9001:2008 registration, DOAV is setting the example for other states to follow," said Chris Lupo, General Manager, NSF International Strategic Registrations, an authority on management systems registration. DOAV will maintain its certification by participating in bi-annual audits and complying with the strict requirements of quality standards.



Photo by Trevor Wrayton

DOAV Director Randy Burdette, Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton and John Arvay of NSF receive DOAV's ISO 9001: 2008 certification.

Director's Corner



Happy summer, my fellow aviators! I don't know about you, but after this year's winter, I am very happy warm weather is back in the Commonwealth. We've had some great fly ins already, like the Virginia Regional Festival of Flight in Suffolk and the Warbirds over the Beach air show in Virginia Beach. There are many more fly-ins, air shows and airport open houses to come throughout the summer and fall and you can find them on our website calendar at www.doav.virginia.gov. So let us help you promote your event, get us your news and let's all get out there and show your support for our aviation community!

We have some very exciting news here at the department. There are so many different channels to disperse news and information instantaneously these days and, sometimes, a printed newsletter just can't cut it as far as breaking news is concerned. That's why we've started the Virginia Aviation News blog at www.virginiaaviationnews.blogspot.com.

The blog joins our Web site, www.doav.virginia.gov, and our newsletter, *Virginia Aviation*, as our newest communications tool. Even though the blog is run by the department, its main focus will be providing news on aviation throughout the Commonwealth. Department news and information will still be posted on our Web site.

I can't encourage you enough to take advantage of these FREE advertising tools for your airports. By adding the blog as another way to send information, we have expanded our audience. You can also bookmark and follow the blog for current updates. Your news is our news, and we can't wait to share it with the world.

Virginia Aviation Editor Kelly Pruitt will be updating the blog, so please send her your breaking news and press releases, and she will upload them to the blog as soon as she gets them. She can be reached at 804-236-3631 or kelly.pruitt@doav.virginia.gov

And don't forget to keep checking the blog and our Web site for information on the upcoming Virginia Aviation Conference held August 17-20 at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel. We have some great speakers and workshops planned this year, as well as plenty of beach activities. It should be an exciting event, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Until then, I look forward to seeing you at aviation events throughout our Commonwealth.

Safe Flying,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Randy'.

Virginia Aviation Board meets, allocates funds

The Virginia Aviation Board met on May 20 in Richmond to review funding recommendations for Commonwealth Airport Fund projects. Funds allocated included \$75,238.60 for air carrier/reliever airports and \$144,072.13 for general aviation airports.

Among the projects to receive state funding was a fueling system expansion project at Louisa County Airport which received \$37,017.33 in state discretionary funds. In addition, Virginia Highlands Airport received \$32,504.80 for sinkhole repair. The next VAB meeting will be held at the Virginia Aviation Conference Aug 17-20 in Virginia Beach.

Bennett resigns from MWA

James Bennett, president and CEO of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority retired May 8.

Bennett announced his resignation at a board meeting in April. He worked for the authority for 14 years.

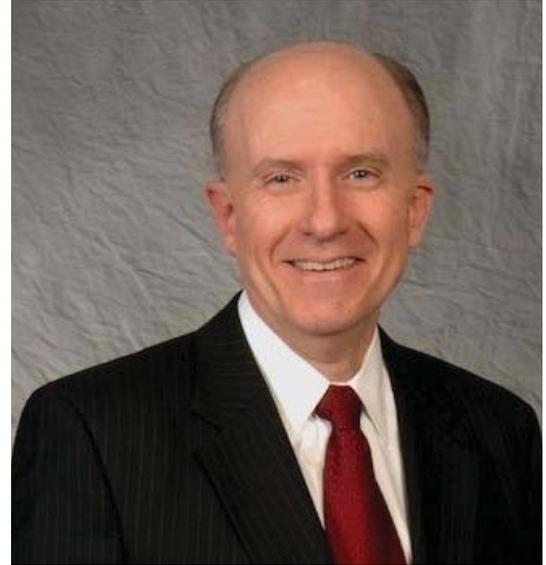
"I am very thankful for the opportunity and the support the board has given me over the years to lead an incredible organization like the Airports Authority. Aviation is a business that I have dedicated my life to, and I can't think of a better place to have been during these recent years of dramatic change and challenges to our industry. We have met these challenges because of the leadership of the board and the efforts of our tremendous group of employees. They are truly the backbone of the airports authority, and they make their mark every day on the service we provide to the region and the world," Bennett said.

Bennett was the second head of the authority in its 24-year history. Under his leadership, Washington Dulles improved its position as a major transatlantic gateway and became a significant gateway to the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. Domestically, access to low fares at Washington Dulles has grown substantially. Road improvements to substantially improve the capacity of the Dulles Corridor and to provide access to Washington Dulles from the south and west are underway. The Environmental Impact Study for Dulles Airport's fourth and fifth runways was completed, the fourth runway built, and progress made toward construction of the fifth, and the Dulles Rail Project was financed and entered construction.

He served as chairman of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, campaign chair for the Arlington United Way, a member of the Loudoun County Economic Development Commission and a member of the Board of the Greater Washington Initiative.

He also held positions with the Airport Operators Council International and airports in Phoenix, Ariz., Shreveport, La. and Flint, Mich.

He currently serves as the President/CEO of Abu Dhabi Airports Company in the United Arab Emirates.



Delta adds more service between Richmond, New York

Wanna take a bite out of the Big Apple? Now there are more options to get there.

Delta Air Lines today announced it will nearly double its daily nonstop flights between Richmond and New York City from four to seven, effective Sept. 7. The airline will add two additional daily round-trip flights between Richmond and LaGuardia, and one additional round-trip flight between Richmond and JFK.

The new service, part of Delta's ongoing expansion in New York, will provide Richmond travelers new options for travel to the nation's No. 1 business airport at LaGuardia and the nation's largest international gateway at JFK.

"As an important center of business in the South, Richmond is an ideal market in which to expand Delta's service at New York-LaGuardia and JFK," said Ned Walker, Delta's senior vice president and chief communications officer. "Delta's Richmond customers will enjoy more convenient nonstop service to both New York's preferred airport for business travelers at LaGuardia and our international hub at JFK."

Virginia pilot places in senior gliding competition

Who says you shouldn't spend your golden years with your head in the clouds?

Every year pilots, ages 55 and over, head to Seminole Lake Gliderport in Clermont, Fla, a small community between Tampa and Orlando, for the Seniors Soaring Championships. This year's event was held on March 6-13. Jim Garrison from Charlottesville, who has participated in the event for the last two years, came in 26th place out of 40 pilots in 2010.

The Seminole Lake competition began in 1991 and attracts 50-60 top pilots from the United States and Canada.

"Florida provides excellent soaring conditions this time of the year and it is hard to resist if your plane has languished in a hanger for the winter," Garrison said. "Each day of the competition, a course is set that varies between 100-200 miles depending on the expected weather and strength of the thermal lift."

The glider pilots fly the course as fast as the weather and their skill allow, and their track through the air is recorded by an on board flight computer which logs their GPS position every few seconds. Competitors generally finish the race in about three hours. Gliders can average 55 to 70 miles per hour during a cross country flight, but part of their time is spent circling in lift to regain the altitude lost while gliding toward their destination. Each pilot's flight track is analyzed by a computer program and scores are awarded for the speed averaged over the entire course. The fastest flight each day receives 1000 points; slower flights are awarded fewer points based on a percentage of the winners overall speed. At the end of

the week, the pilot with the highest score (representing the most fast flights) wins the event and the trophy.

"The trick to higher speeds is to find strong thermals, climb quickly and know how much altitude to burn off to get to the next thermal. The less time you spend climbing, the faster your overall speed will be around a course" Garrison said. "Contest flying really stretches your skills and teaches you things you may not know about soaring" added Garrison, who participates in 3-4 gliding competitions a year. Another part of the fun is the camaraderie. Garrison noted that "you're around like-minded people for the entire week. I really enjoy the companionship of the other pilots"

Garrison has been into sailplanes since he moved to Charlottesville in 1984. He thought they'd be an equivalent hobby to sailboats since he didn't have access to

a large body of water. But he soon found out the two hobbies were very different.

"Sailplanes are very exquisite machines," he said. "It's a lifetime sport. You build up knowledge and skills. Every flight adds something to your experience."

Gliding has become a popular activity in Virginia. In 2009, nearly 3,000 gliders took off and landed at Eagles Nest Airport in Waynesboro alone. The Virginia Glider Association was also recently established and holds 54 members.



Photos courtesy of Jim Garrison and Ben Johnson

Jim Garrison placed 26th in the Seniors Soaring Championship in Clermont, Fla. in March.

Business and Thunderbirds boomed at Sun n' Fun 2010



Representatives from the Virginia Department of Aviation once again journeyed to Lakeland, Fla. to exhibit at the 36th annual Sun n' Fun Fly-In April 13-18. And from the view of the trailer, it looked like the show was successful.

About 165,000 people attended the show as well as 522 vendors, who reported healthy sales, reflecting the changes in the nation's economy over the last year.

More aircraft, as well as different kinds of aircraft flew into the show including many factory aircraft as well as light-sport and ultralights.

Sun 'n Fun International Fly-In and Expo President John Burton remarked on closing day, "Overall we've had a great fly-in."

The United States Air Force Thunderbirds F-16 demonstration team returned this year with a few afternoon shows. As one of the show's highlights, the team was featured frequently on local newscasts, giving a few lucky reporters the ride of their lives. When asked what he would do differently on his next ride in a F-16, one Tampa Bay reporter replied, "I'd bring a third plastic bag." Good times!

Next year's show will take place March 29-April 3. For more information, visit www.sun-n-fun.org.

Races bring in jet business for Danville

With the loud motors and roaring crowds, Virginia International Raceway may not be the most ideal neighbor. But for Danville Regional Airport, it's a welcomed one!

For the races in April, 19 different jets landed at Danville Regional due to the VIR race. The list of jets included Citations, Lears, Gulfstreams, Hawkers and Challengers.

"This is a common occurrence for major VIR races," said Marc Adelman, manager of Danville Regional Airport. "A few years ago, we even had Boeing Business jets fly in."

Located 12 miles east of Danville, VIR and its 3.27-mile natural terrain road course has become the premier motorsports facility of its type in America. Each season brings at least a dozen spectator events featuring vintage and modern sports cars and motorcycles. Some of the highlights are the Grand-Am Rolex Sports Car Series, AMA Superbikes and GT LIVE.

And VIR doesn't mind the noise of air traffic either. Having Danville's 6500-foot precision ILS runway just 12 miles away has been a huge benefit, according to Connie Nyholm, co-owner of VIR.

"Racers like to fly their own planes—it's their preferred method of transportation," Nyholm said. "We're happy to help attract business to the Danville region and having the airport nearby is a huge benefit to us."

For more information on VIR, visit www.virnow.com and Danville Regional airport at hwww.danville-va.gov/index.aspx?nid=507.



Letters from the Air Boss

They Call Me Mr. Airshow: The Legend of Bill Sweet

I was born in 1956 in Farmville and have always had a positive affiliation with that south central Virginia town, including friends such as Mayor Sid Newman. Sid is a real proponent of local aviation, owning a Citabria and one of the most pristine Piper Comanches in the United States. I also owe this town and airport for three other first opportunities: My first air show, my first air ride and where I produced my first air show ten years later.

I was at the crossroads of the town with my dad getting a haircut in a little barber shop and noticed taped to the window a small poster about the upcoming Bill Sweet's National Air Show—billed as the #1 Air Show in America featuring great air show performers.

Here I was nearly 14 years old—heck, life was passing me by! I had never ridden in a plane and had only seen them behind a fence at Byrd Field, thanks to my father, John Mills Barksdale, who got me out of my 2nd grade class at Phenix Elementary early one day and drove me to Richmond to see some big planes.

The closest I had ever come to seeing an air show was watching local crop dusters Charlie Foster and Glenn Holt spraying tobacco. In this rural community this equated to a highlight of the summer.

Like preparing for an air show, there were preliminary details that needed attention. We had to go out into the tobacco field and drape an old bed sheet over four erected tobacco sticks as a marker to the pilots, helping ensure they sprayed the right field. Next order was to get the heck out of the way, because the planes were a-comin', and you don't wanta get sprayed.

My heart raced when I watched them swoop below the tree lines abruptly pulling up at the end of a small field. More amazing I now realize they were flying basically stock Piper Cubs with a spray system, sometimes with the original 65 HP engines.

The talk at the local country store was they flew under power lines. I never saw that, but I saw one fellow fly through one. Unlike George Washington who could not tell a lie, when the crew from Southside Electric Co-op arrived to repair the cut wire and asked me how that power line broke, my lips were sealed. "I'm just a kid—I don't know nothin'—must'a snapped". I hope that statute of limitations has run out after 40+ years so I can clear my conscience. Forgive me, Lord, after all they were a local power coopera-

tive, so we all paid.

Unknowingly I had now established my bond with my newfound aviation fraternity. From then on it seemed that the pilots flew a little lower over my house and wagged their wings a little more. Proudly, I was one of them! Now back to the story....



Bill Sweet

Looking at the poster it dawned on me, "Houston we've got a problem". The show date conflicted with our annual family vacation to Myrtle Beach, a long way from Farmville. The barber gave me a copy of the poster, "Son, I hope you can make it, it's gonna be a lot of fun—you'll see flying like you've never seen."

I carried that little poster around in my pocket for two weeks, reading it a thousand times. Unfortunately for my parents and two brothers it was all I talked about. "If I don't make this show, my life will be changed forever!" Thankfully my parents cut the trip short so that I could attend the Greatest Air Show on Earth, making me the happiest kid on earth!

Never underestimate the power of that little air show poster; get the community excited, make air show ambassadors out of your local merchants and pilots, and create something that everyone wants to come to. It doesn't have to be a large event; it's about getting the public together and introducing them to aviation. Do it like they did in the old days—if you don't have a large advertising budget, draw up a poster, stick up signs and negotiate some local ads.

The Virginia DOAV Aviation Promotion Program helps stimulate aeronautical activity and promote aviation across the state by raising awareness in the business and public sectors about the programs and services provided and the economic benefits generated by Virginia airports. Take advantage of their resources and network to help launch your airport in a positive direction. www.doav.virginia.gov/programs

CAVU,
John Dudley Barksdale

Rain doesn't dampen Festival of Flight's spirit

Every year, organizers of the Virginia Regional Festival of Flight in Suffolk roll the weather dice and this year, the weather gods responded with moving, unsettled weather, rain and thunderstorms up and down the East Coast. The Suffolk airport managed rather good flying conditions during the Festival until mid-afternoon Sunday.

Nearly 200 aircraft flew in from as far as Massachusetts, Michigan, and North Carolina. The RV and tent camping area held 130 campers, another growing area of the fly-in.

“Obviously the numbers are down from last year, due to weather in the surrounding areas...I know we were missing many attendees from the great state of North Carolina this year,” said Scott Huff and Lindy Kirkland, co-chairmen for aircraft parking.

Dee Whittington, the PR Chairman added, “The weather challenges stretched from South Carolina to Tennessee to Ohio and up into Pennsylvania and north.”

A Rally Adventure event was added to this year's activities offering a new way for pilots to fly their homebuilt or LSA planes against the clock. Due to the weather and a late start announcing the event, only five planes flew the 60 NM triangular course. Charles Collier, the organizer, said “The pilots were pleased with the course. This was a good year to work out the bugs in the system, but still things went rather well. All should expect an earlier announcement of the 2011 Rally Adventure on the web site, as well as more pilot handouts on Saturday of the fly-in.”

The hundreds of attendees enjoyed the 38 forum and six workshop sessions, the largest group of forums and workshops ever. Presenters from as far as the West Coast who brought expertise in areas such as alternative engines, engine overhaul, propeller maintenance and overhaul, weather

judgment, corrosion in aging aircraft, and the latest in EFIS technology. Interestingly, on Sunday afternoon even after the rain started and as thunder clapped, several forums continued with attentive audiences.

Many attendees hopped on the two tractor-drawn shuttles to visit The Fighter Factory Restoration Center on the other side of the airport. That large hangar offered a peek at a major restoration facility which continues to bring back to flying status WWII and an increasing number of WWI era airplanes.



Photo courtesy of Dee Whittington

Father and son look over Dave Fowler's Glasair at the Virginia Regional Festival of Flight.

sport.

The aircraft vendor area was host to mostly LSA aircraft, but organizers were pleased to have WACO Classic Aircraft fly in from Michigan. And from Chesapeake, a Bakeng Duce under construction showed excellent wood workmanship by students at the Aviation Institute of Maintenance.

The Virginia Department of Aviation sponsored a tent for various aviation organizations including Liberty University, Hampton University, Virginia Helicopter Association, and the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society.

Many photos as well as judging and drawing results will be soon available on the fly-in web site, www.VirginiaFlyIn.org.

NASA exhibited for the first time at the Festival and offered kids the chance to use three flight simulators with expert teachers. In another location, a full motion P-51 simulator, provided a realistic flight experience. As always, the stomp rockets were sought out by the kids. The RC modelers, located next to the Youth Area, were pleased to be able to fly their electric RC models all day. In addition, the kids had a session each day with RC builder and flier, Harry Cahoon, to teach them about the



Calendar of Events www.doav.virginia.gov/calendar.htm

August 7, 2010

2nd Annual Bath County Wings & Wheels Festival will take place from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Ingalls Field Airport in Hot Springs. Car/truck/motorcycle & tractor show, aerobatic & comedy air shows, military aircraft display, vendors, live music, food, model airplane demonstrations, and children's activities. Sponsored by Bath County Airport Authority, Bath County Chamber of Commerce, and Bath County Parks & Recreation. Free admission and parking. For more information call Melinda@800-628-8092 or e-mail bathco@tds.net.

August 18-20, 2010

Virginia Aviation Conference will take place at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel. Visit www.doav.virginia.gov for details.

September 4, 2010

19th Annual Louisa County Airshow will take place from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Louisa County Airport/Freeman Field. Aerobatic performances, aircraft static displays, radio controlled model airplanes, food, music, face-painting, balloons, aircraft rides (fee), exhibits, and much, much more. For more information contact Dawn Pickhardt Howard at 540-967-0050 or dawnp@nexet.net.

September 11, 2010

Front Royal Annual Airshow will be held from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. at Front Royal-Warren County Airport. Includes Flying Circus, warbirds, static displays, aerobatics, antique autos, airplane pull competition, hot air balloons, etc. Sponsored by Warren County. For more information contact Reginald Cassagnol at 540-635-3570 or CGACASS@yahoo.com.

September 18, 2010

6th Annual Fly-In, Car Show, Bike Show and Community Celebration will take place at Stafford Regional Airport. For more information contact Ed Wallis at 540-658-9313 or info@StaffordAirport.com

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Purpose: "To foster aviation as an industry, as a mode of transportation for persons and property and as an arm of the national defense; to join with Federal government and other groups in research, development and advancement of aviation; to develop uniform laws and regulations; and to otherwise encourage cooperation and mutual aid among the several states."
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