



Virginia Aviation

Published by the Virginia Department of Aviation



March/April 2009

Airport commission purchases Marks Municipal

The Clarksville-Boydton Airport Commission has purchased Marks Municipal Airport for \$608,755. The airport is located on approximately 100 acres, 2 miles south of Clarksville.

The purchase of the airport was funded in part by the Authority and the Virginia Aviation Board (VAB) through the Airport Capital Program, which provides funding for planning and engineering projects that focus on airport facility development. In general, these projects include master plan and airport layout plan studies, environmental studies, land acquisition, airside facility design and construction and terminal building design and construction.

Marks Municipal Airport had previously been operated by the Authority under a lease from the Marks estate, which owned the property.

“Our community has been working on purchasing the airport property for about 14 years. There were many hurdles to jump and it took real team

spirit to see it through,” said Mike Denton, commission chairman and airport manager. “We’re very thankful for all the patience and support from the VAB, Department of Aviation and our consulting engineers and our communities. We’re

proud to be a part of the outstanding Virginia airport system and excited about our next phase of development.”

Marks Municipal is located in Southern Virginia near Buggs Island Lake and the Occoneechee State Park. The local area is known for fishing, boating and other water sports as well as camping and golf.



Photo courtesy of Mike Farrow

The Clarksville-Boydton Airport Commission recently purchased Marks Municipal Airport and its property (outlined above in white) in January.

The Clarksville-Boydton Regional Airport Commission was established in 2005 to provide a safe, efficient, convenient and economically self-sustaining air transportation facility consistent with state and federal guidelines responsive to airport-user and community needs while supporting and promoting the Region's economic growth and development. It is composed of five members from Clarksville and two from Boydton.

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



The General Assembly has adjourned, and spring is around the corner. The General Assembly had a very tough job in front of them this year and reviewed every area for cost and benefit for the Commonwealth. Of course, with revenues declining in almost every area, the focus for the 2009 Session of the General Assembly was how to balance the books.

During the 2009 Session of the Virginia General Assembly, Senators and Delegates introduced 1448 pieces of legislation. I would like to share a couple pieces of legislation that were aviation focused.

Probably the most interesting was the effort by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) to allow for the shooting of turkeys that are found to be a hazard at Dulles. We asked that MWAA broaden the scope to say "wildlife" instead of simply "turkey" within the proposal for SB 1515. The bill's patron, Sen. Ken Stolle (R), agreed. The bill had no trouble whatsoever until its final vote when the scope of the bill was pulled back to allow for kill permits to be issued only for turkeys and geese. The bill has passed and awaits the signature of Governor Kaine.

SB 1508 was offered by Senator Phillip Puckett (R) which allows for the creation of the Breaks Regional Airport Authority. The existing Grundy airport site will be mined for the valuable coal under its runway. After the mining is complete, the localities in the region will then reconstruct a longer runway to support larger business aircraft. Now they will have the ability to do so under the banner of a regional authority.

An interesting bill on the House side was introduced by Delegate Glenn Oder (R) that would have linked increases in passenger and cargo activity at Washington Dulles and Reagan National Airport's tax revenue streams for the operation of the Northern Virginia Regional Transportation Authority. In other words, revenues could have been diverted from the aviation revenues which are reinvested in our aviation system, and instead held locally for various transportation needs. The concept would have likewise applied to the Port and transportation needs in Hampton Roads and would have applied as well for other similar regions of the state. HB 1579 was a very complex concept that created quite a bit of discussion but ultimately failed.

For airports that are private owned for private use, HB 2484 was introduced, which was offered by Delegate Frank Hargrove (R). This bill added the words private-owned/private-use airports to existing legislation that protects land owners for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities on private property. It releases liability for an airport owner when an individual or party accesses a private airport and then suffers an incident. Most can see the logic in this, in that private airports are typically viewed as places to enter at your own risk. The bill went through committee without any trouble but then failed to get out of the Senate during the last leg of the legislative process. The Virginia Airport Owners Association (VAOA) has said they will work to have the bill reintroduced next year.

These are certainly challenging times with revenue reductions in almost every area. However, we have a lot to be thankful for. We have a forecast for significant growth over the next six to eight years and we have a very proactive aviation community in the Commonwealth. Together we will continue to build Virginia's aviation system to provide unsurpassed access to the national system and economic opportunities for the communities we serve.

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 Wednesday, August 20, 2008 at the Wyndham Hotel Richmond Airport in Richmond. Approved Air Carrier Reliever/Reliever Discretionary funding was \$7,736,036.03; General Aviation Discretionary funding was \$2,309,066.92; and State Entitlement funding was \$11,655,472.72.

The VAB also passed a resolution honoring the late Jean Waltrip, who managed the Williamsburg-Jamestown Airport for more than 30 years. Mrs. Waltrip had been instrumental in forming the airport with her husband Larry. In 2001, the Waltrips became the first husband and wife team to be inducted in the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society Hall of Fame. In 2005, the couple received the Captain John Smith Award, given by James City County Economic Development Division, as the top business in James City County.

Annual legislative reception attendance up

The annual Aviation and Aerospace Legislative Reception hosted by Sen. Charles J. Colgan, D-Manassas, and Del. Frank Hargrove, R-Glen Allen, saw record attendance this year.

The event was sponsored by the Virginia Aviation Business Association with support from the Virginia Aviation Board and other aviation organizations

Held on Feb. 4 at the Library of Virginia in Richmond, the reception drew approximately 300 people, including 33 legislators, Secretary of Trade and Commerce Patrick Gottschalk, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Robert Bloxom and Chief Deputy Attorney General Lisa M. Hicks-Thomas. The goal of the event is to increase awareness of how vital the aviation and aerospace industry is to the economic well-being and future of the Commonwealth.

“It was great to see the amount of support for Virginia aviation businesses and aerospace at this year’s reception. We are pleased to be working with our new partners in the Aerospace industry,” said Thomas T. “Mike” Mickel, Jr., president of VABA. “With a strong and active membership, we can continue to enhance and promote aviation and aerospace in Virginia.”

Among the 15 exhibitors included Angel Flight, Federal Aviation Administration, the Department of Aviation, Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society, Unysis, National Institute of Aerospace and Aurora Flight Services, who had its GoldenEye 80 Unmanned Aircraft on display.

The GoldenEye 80 is integrated and tested in Manassas and has been developed to provide tactical situational awareness and lethality to our nation’s war fighters. Aurora Flight Services



Sen. Charles J. Colgan (D), reception host, tries out the flight simulator at the Unysis exhibit during the Aviation and Aerospace Legislative Reception.



About 300 people attended this year’s legislative reception sponsored by the Virginia Aviation Business Association with support from the Virginia Aviation Board and several other organizations.

is conducting developmental tests and demonstrations of the GoldenEye 80 Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) and has recently achieved significant progress in both technology risk reduction and system maturation. The GoldenEye 80 is a ducted fan, vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) autonomous UAS, configured to support multiple warfighter missions.

NASA astronaut Andrew Thomas was also on hand to sign autographs and visit with reception attendees. Thomas has worked for NASA since 1993. He took his first flight in Space Shuttle Endeavor, which was the first of a total of four flights into space. His last flight was in August 2005 aboard Discovery, which was the return to flight mission following the Columbia accident.

Lonesome Pine manager receives Master CFI accreditation

Robert J. Spera, manager of Lonesome Pine Airport in Wise and owner of Liberty Flying Service, recently received a Master CFI (Certificated Flight Instructor) designation from the National Association of Flight Instructors (NAFI). He has held this professional accreditation continuously since 2002.

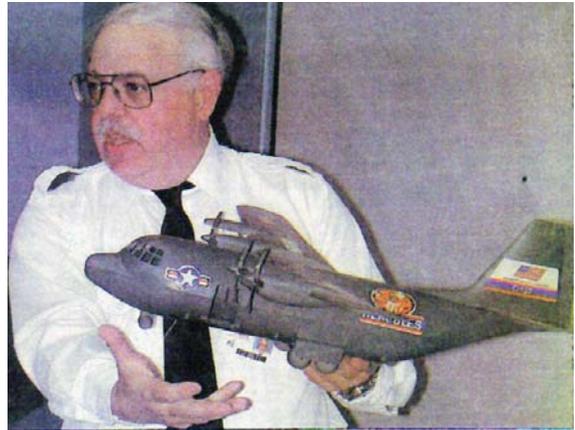
To help put these achievements in their proper perspective, there are approximately 91,000 CFIs in the United States. Fewer than 600 of them have achieved that distinction thus far. The last 13 national Flight Instructors of the Year were Master CFIs while Spera is one of only 14 Virginia aviation educators who has earned the designation.

“The Master Instructor accreditation singles out the best that the right seat has to offer,” said former FAA Administrator Marion Blakey.

The Master Instructor designation is the only industry professional accreditation recognized by the FAA. It is earned by candidates through a rigorous process of continuing professional activity and peer review. Much like a flight instructor’s certificate, it must be renewed biennially.

To publicly recognize these individuals and their noteworthy accomplishments, NAFI will host its Meet the Masters breakfasts in April and July during Sun 'n Fun in Lakeland, Fla. and EAA’s AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wis., respectively.

NAFI is dedicated to providing support and recognition for America’s aviation educators while helping them raise and maintain their level of professionalism. It is also committed to providing a safe and effective learning environment for student pilots. The Association was founded in 1967 and affiliated with EAA in 1995.



Bob Spera, manager of Lonesome Pine Airport, recently received a NAFI Master CFI accreditation. He has held the designation since 2002.

DOAV announces spring safety seminars

The Virginia Department of Aviation and AOPA Air Safety Foundation will present safety seminars entitled “GPS from the Ground Up” at four locations across the Commonwealth of Virginia April 13-16 from 7-9 p.m.

The seminar discusses GPS operations as a whole, not just individual unit-specific functions. It will include a brief compare/contrast of specific units and how technology has evolved, and then move into meaningful tips and advice for every phase of flight: Flight planning, preflight, departure, enroute and more.

April 13

Virginia Tech Airport
1601 Tech Center Drive
Blacksburg, Virginia 24060
(540) 231-4444

Directions:

<http://vtmea.newcitymedia.com/contact.html>

April 15

Virginia Aviation Museum
5701 Huntsman Road
Richmond, Virginia 23250
(804) 236-3622

Directions:

www.vam.smv.org/visit/default.asp

April 14

Danville Regional Airport
General Aviation
424 Airport Drive
Danville, Virginia 24540
(434) 793-7033

Directions:

www.flydanville.com/default.htm

April 16

Virginia Air & Space Center
600 Settlers Landing Road
Hampton, Virginia 23669
(757) 727-0900

Directions:

www.vasc.org/visitvasc/directions.html

Washington National named in healthiest airports survey

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport recently ranked sixth on a list compiled by *Health* magazine of the country's healthiest airports.

A panel of *Health's* editors reviewed data on all major U.S. airports regarding food choices, bathroom cleanliness, environmental friendliness, safety measures, runway accidents, delays, construction, stress reducers like artwork and spa services, creature comforts like on-site fitness facilities and children's play areas and overall consumer satisfaction.

The magazine cited Washington National's art program as "the perfect diversion" to getting in a cramped airplane. In 1997 as part of the airport's Architectural Enhancement Program, Architect Cesar Pelli integrated 30 works—stained glass, marble and glass mosaics, terrazzo, cast bronze, hammered aluminum and copper, and traditional paint on board and canvas—into terminals B and C.

"Artists were selected to represent a cross section of American art today, with a focus on the Washington, DC area," Pelli said. "Different schools of art are represented; so are artists at different stages in their career. The selection was made keeping in mind that this is not an exhibition in a museum, but art in a public building."

Washington National's walking-and-biking trail and ease of moment through the airport for its 19 million travelers per year also helped rank the airport in the Top 10.

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport topped the list for its healthy dining options and inclusion of two pet parks on the property. Other airports that made the cut include Baltimore/Washington International, O'Hare International, Detroit Metropolitan and Denver International.



Photo courtesy of Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority

The "Solstice" floor medallion by Valerie Jaudon is part of the art program at Washington National Airport, which earned a spot on Health magazine's healthiest airports list.

Charlottesville adds Delta flights to Atlanta

Delta Connection will be adding a third daily nonstop flight between Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport (CHO) and Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

The new Atlanta flight schedule goes into effect on March 1. All flights are aboard Delta's CRJ 200, a 50-seat regional jet. The schedule is as follows:

Departures from CHO:

7 a.m. – Flight 5507
11 a.m. – Flight 5376
5 p.m. – Flight 4922

Arrivals at CHO:

10:31 a.m. – Flight 5376
4:31 p.m. – Flight 4922
9:47 p.m. – Flight 4923

The additional Atlanta flight will give central Virginia another option for direct travel to and from a popular destination that in turn offers a multitude of connections to domestic and international destinations.

Delta continues to add destinations – including many international airports – that are just one stop from CHO.

The Delta counter at CHO is open from 4:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. For more information or to make a reservation, call 800-221-1212 or visit www.delta.com.

Gordonsville Municipal Airport gets a facelift

One of Virginia's oldest airports was starting to show its age. So the folks at Gordonsville Municipal decided to do something about it.

The first meeting of the Gordonsville Airport Preservation Society (GAPS) was July 2008 at the Bluebird Aerodrome hangar located on the field. In attendance was Sen. R. Edward Houck, D-Spotsylvania, Del. Ed Scott, R-Culpeper, Mayor Bob Coiner, Virginia Department of Aviation (DOAV) Director Randy Burdette and Brent Hall of Gordonsville Aero Services.

The group's mission is to preserve, support and supplement the maintenance, historical records and the contributions the airport makes to the local community. It supports and encourages the presence of light sport, experimental, antique fixed and rotor wing general aviation aircraft.

The group's first order of business—give the airport a face lift.

Amenities installed and brought back to operating status in the past year include a new wind sock, pilot-controlled runway lighting and general airport maintenance and grounds keeping.

With copies of the original charter document and local aeronautical charts in hand, the airport is known to have existed since 1937. It is believed that it may have been active prior to being on the charts and, GAPS is currently seeking information relating to it being used as part of early mail routes. The airport beacon tower is the original airways tower— one of very few still in existence anywhere. This tower helped airmail pilots find their way along the mail routes and to find the reliever fields.

“GAPS is working in the tradition of maintaining a general aviation airport engaged with the general public to create an inviting atmosphere conducive to airports of the past,” said Faith Olen-Glick, co-founder of GAPS. “Gordonsville Municipal Airport is a place everyone can actively participate in historically creating the future of aviation, even if you do not fly yourself, you are welcome to contribute your skills toward a common goal.”

Brent Hall, owner of Gordonsville Aero Services, has managed the removal of trees and obstacles at both ends and along the sides of the runway, making the approaches friendlier. He has been working in conjunction with DOAV and the town of Gordonsville, making as many improvements as possible with the funding available.

Faith and her husband Caleb are responsible for the formation of GAPS and the revitalization and general maintenance of the Gordonsville Airport. They can be found at the Bluebird Aerodrome, www.bluebirdaerodrome.com.

com, every weekend, where they invite you to visit and take part in grassroots aviation at its best.

At present, there are two commercial businesses on the field. Dominion Air Services, which supports light sport aircraft sales, service and instruction, www.dominionairservices.com, and Tailwheel Basics, LLC, www.tailwheelbasics.com, which specializes in tailwheel transition training, aerial photography, ELSA and SLSA service and maintenance.

For more information on the airport, visit www.townofgordonsville.org.



Photo courtesy of Skip Degan

The Gordonsville Airport Preservation Society (GAPS) formed in July to help maintain Gordonsville Municipal, one of the state's oldest airports.

Delicious Destinations: A restaurant fit for a king

Editor's Note: Have a suggestion? Send to kelly.pruitt@doav.virginia.gov.

King's Korner
7511 Airfield Drive
Richmond, VA 23237
804-743-9333
Open Mon.-Fri. from 11 a.m.-2 p.m, for lunch buffet and Sundays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for
brunch
www.kingskornercatering.com



You don't have to be royalty to fly in and dine at King's Korner restaurant located in the Chesterfield County Airport. Although the restaurant/catering company has served its share of high-profile guests, including former President George W. Bush, Sr, Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf and sausage king Jimmy Dean.

King's Korner has been catering to the Richmond area since 1982. They offer a lunch buffet, with a full salad bar, featuring daily specials such as smoked chicken and meatloaf on Mondays, fried chicken and Salisbury steak on Tuesdays, chicken and dumplings and country-fried steak on Wednesdays, fried chicken and meatballs on Thursday, and seafood on Friday.

The Sunday brunch buffet features scrambled eggs, grits, hashbrowns, apples, sausage gravy, sausage, bacon, French toast sticks, biscuits, fried chicken, beef brisket, mashed potatoes, green beans plus a full salad bar.

King's Korner is also known for its pulled pork and chicken barbecue, which is featured on the lunch buffet every day as well as the Sunday brunch buffet.

The restaurant also offers catering services for all kinds of events, and its banquet hall can accommodate up to 200 people.

2009 Culpeper AirFest date set



Photo courtesy of Tanya Woodward

Even though air show/fly-in seasons feels like eons away, some of the state's shows are already lining up for 2009.

Culpeper County's annual AirFest will be held on Oct. 10. And if last year's show is any indication, there should be no threat of the show being cancelled this year.

"This show was by far our most amazing, not just for the spectacular air demonstrations that we had but for the outpouring of monetary support from our local businesses that allowed us to once again provide the public with a free event," said Tanya Woodward, who organized the event.

In 2008, the show was in danger of being cancelled due to a county budget shortfall and the troubled economy. But when the Airport Advisory Committee made the announcement, private companies and individuals donated more than \$16,000 to keep the show going.

AirFest features performers such as the Bealeton Flying Circus and Dr. Smoke as well as demonstrations of several vintage war-time aircraft. Children, aged 8-17, can also take free aircraft rides with the Young Eagles program. Approximately 2,000 people attend each year.

The show garnered rave reviews last year from attendees.

"I just wanted to thank Culpeper Airport and the Culpeper County Government for hosting the Culpeper Air Show this past weekend," said an attendee from Locust Grove in an e-mail to the Airport Authority. "We have not been able to afford to go on vacation this year or do much at all with the economy the way it is and the high price of gas. We had a wonderful time."



Calendar of Events

March 28, 2009

“Promoting your Airport in Challenging Times” presented by the Virginia Department of Aviation 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Virginia Aviation Museum. Topics include planning an open house, promotion grants, conducting a fly-in and more.

April 4, 2009

Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society will hold its Annual Auction and Spring Party at the Virginia Aviation Museum from 5:30-9 p.m. The event will feature door prizes, open bar and heavy hors d’oeuvres. Tickets are \$15. Contact Jennifer Melton at (804) 222-8690 or email her at vahs@smv.org to purchase tickets or donate items.

May 2, 2009

Regional Festival of Flight free volunteer picnic will be held at the Suffolk Executive Airport. Interested in volunteering at the largest fly-in in the Mid-Atlantic region? Then come join us for volunteer training followed by an all you can eat picnic/cookout. Training starts at 11 a.m. at the Suffolk Airport terminal building and picnic follows at noon. For more information, contact Judy Pastusek, volunteer coordinator, at pas26va@comcast.net or 703-271-8008.

May 30-31, 2009

Virginia Regional Festival of Flight will be held at Suffolk Executive Airport. (poster(pdf)
poster(jpg)

August 26-28, 2009

Virginia Aviation Conference will be held at the Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center in Roanoke, Virginia. For more information contact Betty Wilson at (804) 225-3783.

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."
MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AVIATION OFFICIALS
The Department of Aviation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in the employment or the provision of service.

Presorted
Standard
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Richmond, VA
Permit No. 949

Commonwealth of Virginia
Department of Aviation
5702 Gulfstream Road
Richmond, VA 23250-2422