



Virginia Aviation

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Franklin receives stimulus money for runway

Franklin Municipal Airport will receive \$2.56 million in federal economic stimulus money to rehabilitate its 5,000-foot runway.

used by the Navy in World War II as an auxiliary base.

Gray said Branscome has already started the 110-day project. In the meantime, the airport

has converted 1,750 feet of taxiway for aircraft to use until the runway is complete.

“We are doing our best to keep operations open,” Gray said.

The state also will receive \$2.44 million to acquire a mobile aircraft rescue and firefighting training facility and \$15 million for runway rehab at Dulles International.

The money comes from the Federal Aviation Administration as a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. According to Jimmy Gray, airport manager, Franklin Municipal is one of 12 airports in the country to receive stimulus money.

Franklin Municipal is one of 12 airports in the country to receive funding for projects from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

“The last time the runway was rehabbed was in the 1980s,” he said. “This project was designed three years ago, and we’ve been waiting for funding. It feels great.”

The runway is more than 40 years old and sees about 12,000 landings a year from recreational and corporate fliers, including Union Camp, Wal-Mart and Southampton Hospital.

The 360-acre airport was built in the 1930s and

The total funding of \$1.1 billion will be distributed based on a project-priority system that addresses airport safety and security, infrastructure, runway safety, increased capacity and mitigation of environmental impacts.



Photos courtesy of Jimmy Gray

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Director's Corner



One of the great things about being the Commonwealth's Aviation Director is the responsibility to educate people on Virginia's aviation economic opportunities and promote Virginia's aviation industry. Sun n' Fun is one of those opportunities where I get to talk to a lot of Virginia pilots, see several Virginia vendors, and promote Virginia aviation and tourism to Virginia and non-Virginia pilots. This year Sun n' Fun had over 160,000 attendees and 500 exhibits. We gave out thousands of flyers, brochures and Virginia peanuts to guests stopping by our trailer. As in years past, I really enjoyed talking to so many of you. Thanks for stopping by.

But this year was also different. Being an aviation enthusiast for more than 35 years, there is nothing more exciting than seeing the aviation industry through fresh eyes. That's exactly what happened at this year's Sun n' Fun. The Department of Aviation's newest public relations specialist and editor of Virginia Aviation, Kelly Pruitt, attended Sun n' Fun for the first time. She manned the Virginia Is For Flying Lovers trailer alongside DOAV employees Carolyn Toth and Morgan Harris. I've asked her to share some of her experiences and photos from the show below.

Randy

I had only attended two local air shows since I began working for DOAV in September, so I thought I knew what to expect at Sun n' Fun. But I greatly underestimated its magnitude.

As I walked around the grounds, there were airplanes as far as the eye could see. Big ones. Small ones. Colorful ones. Two-seaters. One-seaters. Open cockpit. Closed cockpit. Planes with floats and Warbirds. It seems like every kind of plane imaginable was there.



appreciation for everything we do. Some would even say how much they wished their home state's aviation department was like ours. It really made me proud to work for a state agency that was not only appreciated by the people we serve, but admired by other states as well.

It was a pleasure meeting those of you who stopped by and said hello! I look forward to hearing more of your stories and experiences flying around our beautiful state. If you plan on attending AirVenture in Oshkosh in July, I'll see you there!

Kelly Pruitt

The air shows were phenomenal. From the thunderous roar of the fighter jets to the buzz of the aerobatic planes, watching people watch the air shows in awe was just as exciting as the show itself.

The thing that struck me most about Sun n' Fun was how much people love Virginia. I can't begin to tell you how many people stopped by the trailer to tell us about a great experience they had flying into one of our airports or about a fun vacation they took. People who used to live in Virginia would even stop by to tell us how much they missed living there. Here we were in warm, sunny Florida and people were telling us they missed having our four seasons.

What really moved me were the people who stopped in to express their



Stafford reduces aircraft personal property tax

The Stafford Board of County Supervisors recently voted to reduce personal property tax on aircraft by lowering the tax rate to \$0.0001 per \$100 of assessed value.

Stafford Regional Airport Authority (SRAA) members have maintained since the airport's opening in 2001 that disproportionately higher tax rates have impeded growth while fostering corporate hangar development at competing regional relievers in Manassas and Leesburg.

"The Stafford Board of County Supervisors recognize the importance that corporate aviation and a vibrant airport bring to the region and have sent a clear message of their support for future airport growth and development," said Walt George, chairman of SRAA. "SRAA views elimination of the aircraft personal property taxes as an important step to promoting corporate hangar development and attracting based tenants."

"Stafford joins the ranks of Dulles, Leesburg, Manassas and Warrenton-Fauquier airports that have reduced tax rates," said Randy Burdette, director of the Virginia Department of Aviation. "These airports recognize the economic value of aviation in their localities."

Stafford is a regional reliever to Dulles and Reagan National airports with a 5000-foot by 100-foot instrument runway with full parallel taxiway, Jet X and Av-Gas fuel storage facilities and 25 acres of paved aircraft parking aprons. The 550-acre facility can accommodate 75,000 annual operations including corporate business jets with gross weights up to 70,000 pounds and wing spans up to 80 feet.



Stafford Regional joins Dulles, Leesburg, Manassas and Warrenton-Fauquier in reducing aircraft personal property taxes.

Two VA pilots hit 1,000 mark in Young Eagles program



George Smith of Purcellville has flown 1,324 Young Eagles since 1992.

To say George Smith of Purcellville and Ray Judd of Huddleston like to fly Young Eagles would be an understatement. They love it.

After all, each pilot has flown more than 1,000 kids since the Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) Young Eagles program began in 1992. And they're showing no signs of stopping.

"It's fun," said Smith, who has flown 1,324 Young Eagles in his Bell JetRanger helicopter. "I've been interested in aviation all of my life. This is a way to give back."

Judd flew his 1,000th Young Eagle on Dec. 6. He and his wife Lorraine keep a 2-inch thick folder filled with notes, letters and drawings from kids he's flown over the years.

One letter Judd remembers in particular was from the father of two teenagers a few weeks after they had taken their flight.

"Before that flight, the father said there had been no communication between the kids and the parents," said Judd, who flies a 1966 Mooney M-20C. "After the flight, the kids were so excited that they talked about their ride with their parents on the way home. The father said they have had open communication with the kids ever since."

See "Young Eagles" on page 8

Lynchburg passenger boardings increase in March

In March Lynchburg Regional Airport experienced its highest airline passenger growth rate for any March period in at least 20 years, the result of a continued impressive response by Region 2000 air travelers to the airport's extremely competitive airline fares.

In all, the airport handled a total of 12,403 passengers during the month, up from 8,067 last March. That's the best showing since March of 2001, before the decline in air service levels and passenger demand following the events of September 11.

The airport-wide load factor, or percentage of seats filled, amounted to 76 percent for the month compared to 53 percent last March. Looking ahead, passenger numbers are expected to experience even higher percentage gains in the months to come since Delta Connection added a third daily regional jet flight that started April 1.

During the first quarter of 2009, total passengers at Lynchburg Regional Airport grew by 46 percent with some 10,879 more passengers being accommodated this year than last.

"There's no doubt that our very aggressive ticket pricing has resulted in Lynchburg Regional Airport re-capturing a significant number of local air travelers who previously were driving to other airports," said airport director Mark Courtney.

The traffic counts were helped in part by the first full month of service with a fifth US Airways Express flight that started on February 13. Along with the new Delta jet flight, as of April 1 these two additional flights represent a 27 percent increase in daily departure seats most days, and increase total monthly seat capacity from approximately 15,000 to nearly 20,000. This will

See "Lynchburg" on page 6

'Grand Adventurers' honored for record-breaking flight

Scott Kasprovicz and Steve Sheik were honored by the Virginia Helicopter Association (VHA) in March for their record-breaking endurance flight around the world, which they completed in 11 days, 7 hours and 2 minutes.

"The Grand Adventure: A Salute to Excellence" was held in the HeloAir hangar and featured remarks by Virginia Secretary of Transportation Pierce Homer, Virginia Department of Aviation Director Randy Burdette, VHA president Bob Reid and others.

"This is another exciting accomplishment for aviation," Homer said. "It is a privilege to recognize these men for not being afraid to push the envelope. With people like Scott and Steve in the industry, we will make many more discoveries and advancements in transportation."

The flight, which began on August 7, 2008, in New York City, traveled eastbound across the Atlantic into Europe through Greenland, across western and eastern Europe into Russia, then returning to North America over the Bering Strait.

The previous record for circumnavigating the globe in a helicopter was set in 1996 when Ron Bower and co-pilot John Williams flew a Bell 430 around the world in 17 days, 6 hours, 14 minutes and 25 seconds.

Kasprovicz and Sheik flew a standard, executive-configured Agusta Westland Grand helicopter, which was on display in the hangar. In it, they covered more than 20,000 nm, 15 countries, 24 time zones, 30 states. They made 65 stops for fuel, required maintenance checks and rest.

"In order to succeed in a trip like this, you need an aircraft like the 'Grand' that has above average fuel efficiency and exceptional reliability," Kasprovicz said. "What made this record-setting flight even more meaningful is that fact that was made the trip in a factory standard aircraft that has not been specifically outfitted or modified for this kind of operation application."



Steve Sheik (left) and Scott Kasprovicz (right) were honored for their record-breaking flight around the world in a helicopter.

Aviation groups discuss ways of promoting industry

Representatives from various airports across the state came together this spring at the Virginia Aviation Museum to discuss promoting aviation in the current economic climate.

The seminar, "Promoting Aviation in Challenging Times," was hosted by the Virginia Department of Aviation (DOAV). Topics included event planning, airport advocacy, DOAV's Aviation Promotion Program and media resources.

Passion for aviation fueled each speaker's presentation. Bill Dunn of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association discussed the importance of airport advocacy, while Betty Vinson from the Virginia Chapter of the Ninety-Nines, an international organization of licensed women pilots, discussed the planning of their annual Christmas Toy Airlift, which had its highest number of donations and participation last year.

Steve Craven, a pilot with AngelFlight, which provides free air transportation for any legitimate, charitable, medically-related need, moved the attendees with his experiences, as well as Peter Bacque of the Tidewater Soaring Society, who spoke about introducing children to the world of gliders.

Judy Sparks, general manager, and Dee Whittington, public relations and marketing manager, of the Virginia Regional Festival of Flight, along with Gordon Campbell, president of the Virginia Aviation Council, discussed current planning for this year's event May 30-31 in Suffolk. Whittington said the event's Web site, www.virginiaflyin.org, has been a great tool for promoting the event to the general public as well as attracting and signing up vendors and volunteers.

"Promoting Aviation in Challenging Times' will become an annual event as we look at how we did in promoting our Commonwealth airports and communities over the previous year and then make adjustments to most efficiently take advantage of our resources and plan for the coming year," said Randy Burdette, director of DOAV. "This will enable us to showcase our airports and all the super organizations that make Virginia aviation a success. Through this process we hope to introduce a whole new generation to aviation and all it has to offer."



Photo courtesy of Dee Whittington

Dee Whittington, marketing and public relations director for the Virginia Fly-In, shares his experiences planning the annual event.

Porterfield appointed to Roanoke airport commission



The Roanoke Regional Airport Commission recently announced the appointment of Bittle W. Porterfield, III to serve as the newest member of the commission board. Porterfield replaces Granger Macfarlane, who served on the commission for 12 years.

Porterfield is the president of Rice Management Company and a member of the Virginia Aviation Board. He is also a private aircraft owner and pilot. His long history of public service includes past president of the Roanoke Chamber of Commerce, vice president of the Regional Partnership, past rector for the Board of Visitors of Radford University, former chairman of the Roanoke Valley Resource Authority, and a four-year gubernatorial appointment to the State Council for Higher Education.

The Roanoke Regional Airport is the primary airport for Southwest Virginia, serving a population region of more than 700,000 people in Southwest Virginia and eastern West Virginia. The Roanoke Regional Airport is served by five airlines with non-stop service to nine cities and one-stop connections to hundreds more.

Chesapeake Regional Airport shows off new terminal building

Earlier this spring, the Chesapeake Airport Authority held a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house to mark the opening of the expanded and renovated terminal building at Chesapeake Regional Airport.

Chesapeake Mayor Alan Krasnoff, Virginia Aviation Board Member Rick Franklin and Airport Authority Chairman Lee Lowder performed the ribbon cutting.

The building was funded through a combination of state and city funding.

“We have been looking forward to this all winter,” Lowder said. “This is another example of how the City of Chesapeake has been able to leverage a small local contribution to maximize federal and state grants. This effort allows the construction of a first rate facility for the benefit of our citizens and our business community partners.”

Opened in 1978, Chesapeake Regional has 135 based aircraft, including a Lear jet, and a 5,500-foot runway that serves corporate jets. The airport generates close to \$10 million annually in economic activity for the Chesapeake area.

The project was engineered by Talbert & Bright Inc., an airport engineering firm in Chesterfield. It was designed by architect Terry Ammons and constructed in two phases by P. G. Harris, a Chesapeake-based construction company.

“Paul Harris did an excellent job,” said Joe Love, airport manager. “I couldn’t be more pleased with the product that he delivered. This facility is state-of-the-art for both private and corporate pilots as well as their passengers, including Wi-Fi capability.”

“Both the Virginia Department of Aviation and the FAA have provided extensive

grants for the capital development of the airport over the years. We would not have this superb airport without them,” Love said. “But without the local support of the City of Chesapeake, we just couldn’t make it happen.”



Rick Franklin, member of the Virginia Aviation Board; Alan Krasnoff, Mayor of Chesapeake; and Lee Lowder, chairman of the Chesapeake Airport Authority were on hand for the dedication of Chesapeake Regional’s new terminal.

Lynchburg...(continued from page 4)

bring Lynchburg Regional Airport’s seat capacity to a level not seen in over seven years.

With the additional flights, Lynchburg Regional Airport now offers a total of eight daily departures most days of the week, provided by two airlines. US Airways provides five daily departures on 37-seat and 50-seat Dash-8 aircraft to Charlotte, and Delta Connection continues its all-jet service with three daily departures most days on 50-seat regional jets to Atlanta.

Delicious Destinations: Food with a view

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

Hoppy's Skytop Restaurant & Lounge
 Manassas Regional Airport
 9998 Wakeman Drive (second floor of Volo Aviation building)
 703-330-5536
 Open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, Saturdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (with breakfast served from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.) and Sundays 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
www.hoppysrestaurant.com



Do you like your food with a beautiful view? Located in Manassas Regional Airport, family-owned Hoppy's Skytop Restaurant & Lounge has a panoramic view of the runway with aircraft landing and taking off through an almost fully-surrounded, glassed-in facility.

Lunch choices include such airport names as The Take-Off (meatballs smothered in homemade marinara sauce and fresh melted cheese); The Cockpit (sliced oven roasted turkey breast on a soft roll); and The Runway (slow cooked pork shoulder in sweet/smoky barbecue sauce. Country fried steak is a customer favorite.

The dinner menu includes New York strip steak, crab cakes, penne pasta with alfredo, beer-battered cod fillets and aïlanthro chicken breast. For groups, prime rib can be ordered ahead.

Appetizers include soup du jour, onion rings, mozzarella sticks, chicken tenders, vegetable egg roll, potato wrapped shrimp and chicken wings.

In April, Hoppy's incorporated a champagne brunch every Sunday from 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Reservations are required.

Teachers receive grant money from DOAV

The Virginia Department of Aviation (DOAV) recently handed out eight \$250 grants to teachers across the state towards aviation-related lessons and activities. The recipients are:

- Lt. Col. William Carter, Franklin County High School in Rocky Mount;
- Sue Goncarovs, Olde Creek Elementary School in Alexandria;
- Gwendolyn Lee Lomax, Francis Mallory Elementary School in Hampton;
- Randall Miller, Kings Glen Elementary School in Springfield;
- Donald Mullins, J. M. Bevins Elementary School in Grundy;
- Amy Sabarre, Martinsville Middle School in Martinsville;
- Mary Montague Sikes, West Point Elementary School in West Point; and
- Sally Tobler, Hardin Reynolds Memorial School in Critz.

Teachers of grades K-12, who incorporate aviation into their classrooms, are eligible to apply for DOAV's grant program every school year. This year's activities include profiling historic aviation figures, constructing flying models, learning how parachutes work and studying weather conditions.

"Utilizing aviation in lesson plans is an excellent way to foster interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) subjects and to motivate students to succeed in school," said Betty Wilson, DOAV Public Relations Manager. "It is our hope that some of the students impacted by these activities will join the aviation workforce in the future."

Teachers receiving the grant must complete their lesson before the end of the 08-09 school year, and submit a final report to DOAV, including a summary of the results of the lesson or activity, a lesson plan, how many students benefited from the activity, a materials list with costs and receipts for items purchased.

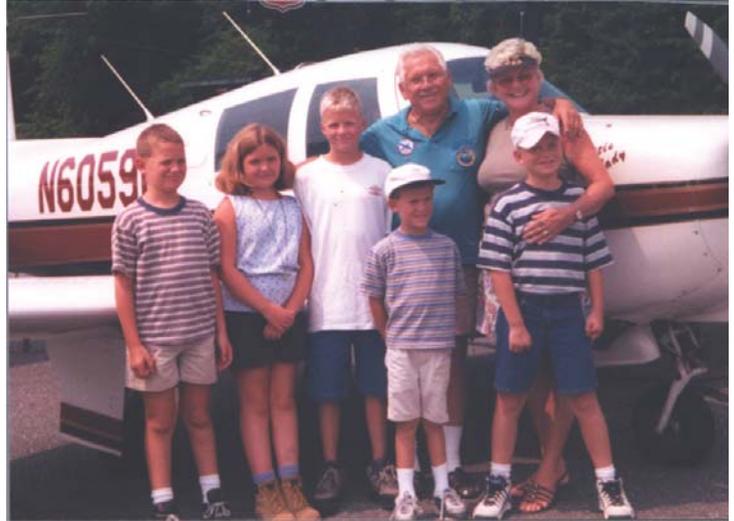
For more information on the DOAV's other educational programs, visit www.doav.virginia.gov/aved.htm.

Young Eagles...(continued from page 3)

The EAA Young Eagles program, www.youneagles.org, was launched to give interested children, aged 8-17, an opportunity to go flying in a general aviation aircraft. These flights are offered free of charge and are made possible through the generosity of EAA member volunteers.

In 2008, 120 Virginia pilots gave 1,707 young people an introduction to aviation through the program. The top three participants (Smith ranked second, while Rich Rahim of Great Falls came in first and Richard Largent of Stephens City ranked third.) were from EAA Chapter 186, which has flown more than 12,000 Young Eagles.

The Young Eagles Program passed a milestone in June with its 1.4 millionth flight since the program's beginning. Young Eagles have been registered in more than 90 different countries and have been flown by more than 41,000 volunteer pilots.



Ray and Lorraine Judd have flown 1,000 Young Eagles since 1992.

For more information about Young Eagles, visit www.youneagles.org or call 877-806-8902.

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