



Virginia Aviation

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Virginia Aviation Conference brings together airports, industry professionals

More than 220 airport representatives and industry professionals attended the 35th annual Virginia Aviation Conference held at the Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center Aug. 26-28.

Washington ADO, and Rusty Harrington, DOAV; and Airport and FBO Relationships presented by Jerry O' Sullivan, Greenbrier Valley Airport, and Carolyn Strock, C.E. Strock Consulting.

The event was hosted by the Virginia Aviation Board, Virginia Department of Aviation, Virginia Airport Operators Council and the Virginia Aviation Business Association. Presenting sponsors included Delta Airport Consultants, Inc., The LPA Group, Inc. and Talbert & Bright, Inc.

Lunch featured Kenneth A. Rowe, former DOAV director and recipient of the Virginia Aviation Lifetime Achievement Award, who shared stories from his 30-year career in aviation.



Attendees of the 35th annual Virginia Aviation Conference in Roanoke enjoy a reception before the Virginia Aviation Banquet on Aug. 27. From left to right: Hank Rempe, Lake Anna Airport; Alan Wagner, VAB; Marianne Radcliff, VAB; and Jackie Dankos, Hanover County Airport/former VAB member.

The conference kicked off Wednesday evening with a welcome reception for attendees and 24 exhibitors. Thursday's agenda included welcoming remarks by DOAV Director Randy Burdette and Keynote speaker Lisa Piccione, senior vice president of government affairs for the National Business Aviation Association, who provided an update on the organization's work advocating for the general aviation industry.

Attendees had the opportunity to attend one of two Thursday morning breakout sessions: Airport Planning 101 presented by Jeffrey Breedon, FAA

Banquet followed later that evening where winners of the Airport Manager of the Year, Aviation Person of the Year and Virginia Aviation Lifetime Achievement Award were honored. (See page 3)

Friday morning featured roundtable discussions for general aviation airports and air carrier airports, followed by the August Virginia Aviation Board meeting.

Airport managers and sponsors met with their respective Virginia Aviation Board members in roundtable sessions to discuss issues happening in their regions Thursday afternoon. The annual Virginia Aviation Awards

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Director's Corner

Another fantastic season for fly-ins and air shows is wrapping up in the Commonwealth. This year we gave out nine grants for airport events and more than twenty airport events such as open houses, fly-ins and air shows were held across the state.

Whether you're planning on hosting your first or fiftieth air show next year, you need to start planning TODAY! Advanced planning ensures a safe, fun and successful show.

Planning an airport event isn't easy, but there are resources out there that will make it much easier on you and your staff. The first step is scheduling your event. Please check our website, www.doav.virginia.gov, to see when other aviation events are occurring throughout the Commonwealth. When possible choose a date that does not overlap another aviation event. This will allow your aviation supporters to focus on your event and allow the maximum participation at your event. Next, check the local calendars to see if you are competing for resources/participation locally. Send the information about your event to Betty Wilson (Betty.Wilson@doav.virginia.gov) to be posted on our calendar of events. Also, we will submit your date and information to all the national aviation media as well as local media for your event.

Next, apply for an Aviation Promotion Grant. The program provides funding to airport sponsors for the promotion of commercial aviation services and general aviation activities. The program is available to all airport sponsors meeting the eligibility criteria. For more information, visit our Web site and click on 'Programs.'

There are also online resources that can get you started in the right direction for planning your airport event. A great place to start is AOPAs "Complete Guide to Holding an Airport Open House." It has some very detailed lists in the booklet to help you with your planning. The International Council of Air Shows, Inc. at www.airshows.aero is also a great resource. The site features information on every aspect of planning an air show including performers, logistics like waste management, budgeting, marketing, concessions and sponsorship. If you're into "how-to" guides, this site is for you!

There are also many local resources to help you in planning your airport event. If you are an airport manager or sponsor, contact your local EAA chapter who can provide aircraft to fly in and Young Eagles rides, which are always a big draw! Locate a chapter on the EAA Web site at www.eaa.org/chapters/locator. Also reach out to other local aviation organizations such as the Civil Air Patrol, cap.findlocation.com, or local soaring clubs, www.ssa.org/sport/wheretofly.asp, that can help add some great displays and exhibitors to your event.

Looking for an Air Boss? John Dudley Barksdale, our newest newsletter correspondent (see his column "Letters from the Air Boss" on page 5) could be your man! Contact Editor Kelly Pruitt for his information.

Last March, DOAV held a seminar on event/air show planning at the Virginia Aviation Museum that featured organizers of the Virginia Regional Festival of Flight, as well as airport managers and sponsors who shared their experiences planning air shows and fly-ins. Contact Judy Sparks and volunteer to support the Virginia Regional Festival of Flight at virginiaflyin.org. We received so much positive feedback from attendees that we are planning on holding a similar seminar in January or February 2010. Please keep an eye out for more information!

Air shows and fly-ins are some of the best ways to share our love for aviation with our local communities. They are a great way to introduce children to the world of flying, as well as promoting our local airports and FBOs. Consider holding one at your airport and see what happens!



Virginia Aviation Board approves funding for projects

The Virginia Aviation Board met on Aug. 28 in Roanoke to review funding recommendations for Commonwealth Airport Fund projects. Funds available included \$5,717,868.34 for air carrier/reliever airports and \$2,741,032.97 for general aviation airports. Air carrier entitlements totaled \$8,324,165.05.

Among the projects to receive state funding was a terminal building construction project at Orange County Airport which received \$1,090,954.32 in state discretionary funds. In addition, Lake Anna Airport received \$823,500.00 for widening, rehabilitation, and lighting of Runway 8-26 to bring it up to minimum standards. Mountain Empire airport received \$35,850.40 for terminal area site preparation design and \$64,920.88 for terminal building design.

The next VAB meeting is Nov. 19 at the Holiday Inn Richmond Airport located at 445 International Center Drive, Sandston.

The VAB has eight members representing seven regions of the Commonwealth. The Board approves funding requests brought to it by the Virginia Department of Aviation (DOAV).

Virginia Aviation Awards presented at annual conference



The Virginia Department of Aviation (DOAV) presented the 2009 Virginia Aviation Awards at the 35th annual Virginia Aviation Conference Aug. 26-28 in Roanoke. The awards recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to aviation in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Edward Wallis was named “Virginia Airport Manager of the Year” for his achievements at the Stafford Regional Airport, including the lowering of aircraft personal property taxes, hosting the Force Protection Equipment Demonstration 7 for its second consecutive year, and creating ties with local Boy Scout troops to educate children about aviation. He tirelessly promotes airport growth and development, and positive community awareness and interaction.

Richard S. Williams, MD, FACS received the “Virginia Aviation Person of the Year” award for his significant role in providing senior

Federal Aviation Administration Aviation Medical Examiner Services to southwest Virginia at his own expense. He performed more than 250 medical examinations last year, paying particular attention to pilots without FAA insurance. His outstanding track record with helping pilots and his reputation for excellence makes him an asset to the Virginia aviation community.



Kenneth A. Rowe was honored with the “Virginia Aviation Lifetime Achievement Award” for his lifetime contributions to aviation in Virginia. His 30-year service to Virginia included piloting duties during the terms of eight governors. He served as deputy director of the Virginia Department of Aviation for 21 years and was appointed director in 1983. He served for 10 years. Under his tenure, DOAV was repeatedly recognized as one of the most effective aviation agencies in the nation, leading the way in the use of satellite technology and navigational aids, in providing financial assistance to localities for airport planning and development as well as protection of airports from potentially dangerous encroachment. His contributions to Virginia’s aviation industry are immeasurable.

The recipients were recognized at the Virginia Aviation Awards Banquet on Aug. 27 at the Hotel Roanoke



The Virginia Aviation Awards were presented at the Virginia Aviation Conference in Roanoke.

Top left: Airport Manager of the Year Edward Wallis of Stafford Regional Airport receives his award.

Middle right: Aviation Person of the Year Dr. Richard Williams is presented his award by Sara Parmenter and DOAV Director Randy Burdette.

Bottom left: Virginia Aviation Lifetime Achievement Award Winner Kenneth Rowe poses with Burdette.

Director of state flight operations receives governor's transportation safety award

Michael Mills, director of the Flight Operations and Safety Division for the Virginia Department of Aviation (DOAV), recently received the W. Calvin Falwell/Major Kenneth Rowe Award for Aviation Safety. The award is part of the Governor's Transportation Safety Awards program, which recognizes individuals and/or organizations that have made extraordinary contributions to transportation safety in Virginia.

Mills was recognized for leading DOAV's efforts in obtaining the International Standard for Business Aircraft Operations (IS-BAO) certification (www.ibac.org/isbao.php). IS-BAO, developed by the business aviation industry for the benefit of the industry and community, is a code of best practices designed to help flight departments worldwide achieve a high level of safety and professionalism. IS-BAO began as a program in May 2002. Since that time, only 166 flight operations departments in the business aircraft community have been certified worldwide.

DOAV is the first state-operated flight department to receive this prestigious certification in the nation. Mills and his division, which includes five full-time and four part-time pilots, two maintenance personnel and a flight coordinator, has an exemplary safety record. They have increased pilot and maintenance training in addition to other types of ground safety training. All of this has been done to raise the bar of safety in order to reduce risk.

Mills joined DOAV in 2000 and became director of the Flight Operations and Safety Division in 2003. As director,

he supervises the operation, budgeting and maintenance of state aircraft assigned to the department. He oversees scheduling of the aircraft and pilots for the transportation of state personnel. Mills also supervises the safety programs administrator in initiating safety programs for the general aviation public through the presentation of safety seminars, meetings and clinics, as well as the internal safety management system for the department.

Mills holds an Airline Transport Pilot license (Multi-Engine

Land) and is type-rated in the Cessna Citation 500 Series and the Hawker Beechcraft B300 King Air Series aircraft. He has a commercial pilot/instrument license for single engine aircraft, and is also a certified flight instructor. Mills is the department's representative with the National Business Aviation Association, a member of the American Association of Airport Executives and the Lead Virginia (www.leadvirginia.org) Class of 2009.

A native of Patrick County,

Mills is a graduate of Stuart High School Class of 1967 and Virginia Tech. He and his wife, Robin, live in Prince George County. He is the son of Almeda B. Mills and the late Charles H. Mills of Stuart.



Michael Mills, director of the Flight Operations and Safety Division for the Virginia Department of Aviation, recently received the W. Calvin Falwell/Major Kenneth Rowe Award for Aviation Safety at the 2009 Judicial Transportation Safety Conference in Virginia Beach. From left to right: Deputy Secretary of Transportation Ralph Davis, Mills, DMV Deputy Commissioner David Mitchell and Selden Rhodes, a member of the Virginia Board of Transportation Safety.

Pilots N Paws helps shelter animals get home safely

Nick O'Connell has always been a dog person. So when he read an article about Pilots N Paws in the Oct. 2008 edition of *AOPA Pilot* magazine, it immediately struck a chord.

"I've had dogs all my life," he said. "I thought it was a great idea, so I called and signed up."

Since then, O'Connell has made 30 transports for Pilots N Paws, a non-profit organization that connects animal shelters and pet rescue groups to general aviation pilots willing to fly an animal to its new home. Over the last 18 months, about 605 pilots have signed up and more than 1,000 animals have been saved. Costs for the plane, pilot and fuel is borne by the pilots. There is no charge to the rescues, shelters or adopters.

The organization has transported everything from cats to snakes to baby chicks to pot-bellied pigs. Dogs are their biggest customers.

"People aren't looking for breed-specific dogs anymore," O'Connell said. "People just love shelter dogs."

One of O'Connell's most memorable transports is Trevor, a traumatized shelter dog who was adopted by a couple in Maryland. When both owners passed away, O'Connell helped transport Trevor to the couple's daughter in Florida.

"Trevor shook due to the trauma and abuse he received from the owners before the couple in Maryland. He took one look at the plane, and then to me as if to say, 'I don't think so,'"

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O'Connell transported unwanted puppies who were found in a trash can.

Department of Aviation announces fall safety seminars

The Virginia Department of Aviation and AOPA Air Safety Foundation will present safety seminars entitled "What Went Wrong" at four locations across the Commonwealth of Virginia Oct. 5-8 from 7-9 p.m.

Kurt Reesman, an aviation professor at Liberty University's School of Aeronautics, is the featured speaker.

The following dates and locations are:

Oct. 5
Virginia Tech Airport
1601 Tech Center Drive
Blacksburg, Virginia 24060
(540) 231-4444
<http://vtmea.newcitymedia.com/contact.html>

Oct. 7
Virginia Aviation Museum
5701 Huntsman Road
Richmond, Virginia 23250
(804) 236-3622
<http://www.vam.smv.org/visit/default.asp>

Oct. 6
Danville Regional Airport General Aviation
424 Airport Drive
Danville, Virginia 24540
(434) 793-7033
<http://www.flydanville.com/default.htm>

Oct. 8
Virginia Air & Space Center
600 Settlers Landing Road
Hampton, Virginia 23669
(757) 727-0900
<http://www.vasc.org/visitvasc/directions.html>

Letters from the Air Boss: Air Show Reflections

Dear Friends in Aviation,

Oh what a wonderful Labor Day weekend! The 18th Annual Louisa County Airshow was fantastic! It was all so meaningful and memorable. Dawn Howard Pickhardt and Admiral Dewitt Freeman deserve our many thanks in involving and inviting us to participate. It was an honor and a privilege to be part of the show! Seeing the public, especially the children, share such a special event, meant so much.

I was most happy to share this with my wife Liz. She was able to touch a bit of my past that she had never seen before, and I was afraid that would not happen again. But now, like in our spiritual lives, I feel the Lord has given me an opportunity to rededicate part of my life to aviation. I am really excited about it and see some new doors opening. Doing what I love best, totally immersed in aviation, sharing it with the general public, being around the wonderful old planes and, most of all, those pilots and show people. That experience, next to family, I love most.



I appreciate your help and support and that of all my friends at the Flying Circus. On that note, a special thanks to Captain Kirk Wicker in his comedy Cub routine, the "famous Chuck Tippet" (he really is you know!), my longtime friend and mentor "The Flying Farmer" Charlie Kulp, my newest friend and supporter "Waco Man" John Corradi and wife Maggie.

"Terminal Velocity Man" Jim Schorfheide and Julie, and "The Nightingale of the Air" Jana Leigh McWhorter, who sang the Star Spangled Banner upon Jim's gracious descent with an American flag. It's all in the timing—I've seen lots of air shows and this was the best ever! So precise—it could not have been improved by one second either way.

"Yak Attack" Roger Marshall – you thrilled the crowd with your daring moves and total command of your exotic YAK 55 aircraft, solid as a manhole cover built to take 23 g's plus or minus. Charlie "Unlimited" Schwenker—your maneuvers really wrung it out in your red, white and blue Extra 300—it made for a great end to the scheduled air show! Mike Spalding, in your beautiful T-6, stirred the hearts of many with the glorious sound of that radial engine.

John Corradi, your brainstorm at dinner the night before the show with all the other pilots was heartfelt when they immedi-

ately jumped in to create the Missing Man Formation tribute in honor of Admiral Freeman's grandson, Marine Captain Matthew Freeman, who was recently killed in Afghanistan. There was hardly a dry eye in the crowd of over 8,000!

I just couldn't get enough, so the next morning I flew in my Clipped Wing Cub to experience the Flying Circus in Bealeton one more time. To all of you at the Circus who have given so much of your time, I realize the sacrifice you are making—at times taking you away from your families when you may like to be doing something else. In the big picture of life, you are sharing your given talents and skills by greatly enriching the lives of thousands in ways that you may never hear about.

Sitting on the bleachers Sunday with Charlie Kulp was really a special time, watching the show like we'd never seen it before. You know the story and routine with the "Dastardly Black Baron" using every trick and line in the book to pursue the affection of the maybe not-so "Damsel in Distress" FiFi. The "Aces of the Air" defending her honor with skill and aerial bravery. Ending the show with the Fleur de Lis, pyrotechnics and "America the Beautiful"—it still brings tears to my eyes, and yes to Charlie's eyes too. A special thanks to Jim McWhorter, Jessie Bean, Tim Bridges, "Bogy," the Conn Brothers, Jim Wine, the rest of the pilots and jumpers.



To the dedicated ground crew, the sound crew and concessionaires—you are the unsung heroes—vital to the show in many ways. I cheer you on. You have a real treasure in your "Time Warp" announcer Chris Edwards who sets the tone and makes the magic.

To John King and the King Family, thank you for your devotion and leadership in keeping the legacy alive. We are all grateful to you. The Flying Circus is one of America's greatest treasures!

So keep it up, make the crowd cheer a little longer and boo (the baron) a little louder. My air show hat is forever off to you and all that you do. Jessie and Jimmie Woods, "Squeek Burnett" and the original "Flying Aces" would be proud of you. May the show go on!

CAVU,
John Dudley Barksdale

2009 Top Eagles named

The Virginia Department of Aviation (DOAV) recently recognized Rick Rahim of Great Falls, Richard Largent of Stephens City and William Bryant of Woodlawn with Top Eagle awards for their participation in the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles Program.

The EAA Young Eagles program was launched in 1992 to give interested children, ages 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.

Over this past year, in the Commonwealth of Virginia alone, 103 pilots gave 1,484 young people an introduction to aviation through the program. Rahim topped the list with 105 Young Eagles flown, Largent came in second with 82 flights and Bryant came in third place, flying 70 Young Eagles.

"The kids really love it," said Bryant, who has a 4-seat helicopter. "It's a good thing all around for everyone."

The Young Eagles Program has counted more than 1.4 million flights 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.

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



Rick Rahim of Great Falls was named the Virginia Top Eagle of EAA's Young Eagles program for flying 105 young people this year.

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O'Connell said. "Suddenly he jumped in the pilot's seat and was ready to go. It's these kinds of things that put me in a position where I can't stop doing this."



Nick O'Connell, a pilot for Pilots N Paws, transported Trevor (above) from Maryland to Florida. Unfortunately, Trevor was not able to ride in the pilot's seat like he thought.

According to the American Humane Society, 9.6 million animals are euthanized annually in the United States.

"I heard the stories about kill shelters, and I was just shocked by the numbers," said O'Connell, who flies a Cherokee 180 out of Williamsburg-Jamestown Airport. "Our message is to strengthen spaying and neutering laws in states with an overpopulation of pets and promoting responsible pet ownership."

During the week of Sept. 12-20, Pilots N Paws set a goal of saving 5,000 animals. Look for the results in the next edition of *Virginia Aviation*.

For more information on joining Pilots N Paws, visit www.pilotsnpaws.org.

New abandoned vehicle law takes effect Oct. 1

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles would like to inform airports across Virginia about a new law taking effect Oct. 1 that may help remove vehicles abandoned on airport parking lots more quickly. The new procedure allows eligible individuals, businesses, or government agencies in possession of an abandoned vehicle to remove it from their property and to initiate a records request on DMV's website, www.dmvNOW.com. The process costs \$25.

After initiating a records request and discovering a Virginia vehicle owner or lienholder, DMV will send a certified letter advising them to remove the vehicle from the property. The former process required the person in possession of the abandoned vehicle to mail certified letters to the vehicle's owners or lienholders.

If the vehicle is not claimed after 15 days (120 days for manufactured homes), DMV's online process may be used again to post an intent to auction the abandoned vehicle. The intent to auction must remain posted for 21 days before auctioning, titling or demolishing the vehicle. However, if no vehicle owner is located during the initial records request, the vehicle may be demolished without posting an intent to auction.

In addition to the new automated process, a searchable database of vehicles that are active in DMV's automated abandoned vehicle process will be available on DMV's website after Oct. 1. Using the vehicle's identification number, owners, lienholders and law enforcement can conduct a search to find the location of missing or stolen vehicles.

Effective Oct. 1, Virginia code defines an abandoned vehicle as any motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer or parts of a motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer that:

- is left unattended on public property for more than 48 hours in violation of a state law or local ordinance, or
- has remained for more than 48 hours on private property without the consent of the property's owner, regardless of whether it was brought onto the private property with the consent of the owner or person in control of the private property
- is left unattended on the shoulder of a primary highway
- has remained unclaimed in a garage for more than 10 days or for more than 10 days beyond the period the vehicle was to remain on the premises, or
- has remained unclaimed in a self-service storage unit under the provisions of Chapter 23 of Virginia state code 55-416.

New Market holds festival of flight

Many Shenandoah Valley pilots volunteered their planes and pilot skills to provide more than 100 Young Eagle flights at New Market Airport this summer, in an extremely well-attended Festival of Flight sponsored by the local Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) Chapter 511.

The event drew participants from not only around Virginia but from other nearby states, including Pennsylvania, on a perfectly clear, low temperature, low humidity day.

Displays and demos included ultralights and homebuilts of various sorts as well as demonstrations of radio controlled aircraft. A World War II Fairchild PT-19 trainer was also there, offering rides.

Also among the participants was the Shenandoah Valley Soaring (SVS) club, based at Waynesboro's Eagle's Nest Airport, who showed up in force with two sailplanes and tow plane to give glider rides and information about the sport of soaring. Another member had a static display of his single-place glider.



Photo courtesy of Ben Johnson

The Shenandoah Valley Soaring Club exhibited at an air show in New Market this summer.