

May 16, 2007

FAA Reauthorization Advances

Senate to Introduce Its Bill in May

The Senate Commerce Committee is due to mark-up its FAA reauthorization bill in mid-May. The bill must be voted by the twenty-three members of the committee and, assuming a positive outcome, be sent to the full Senate for passage. The House of Representatives will be writing its own version in coming weeks. The two bills will have differing provisions, which must be reconciled in a Senate/House conference, before final legislation is passed by both bodies and sent to the president for signature. The deadline for reauthorization is September 30, 2007.

Most of the attention that has been given to the deliberations has focused on how FAA and NextGen air traffic control system will be funded. The administration proposed a new system of user fees, which was supported by commercial airlines and opposed by general aviation. The mooted Senate bill largely rejects FAA's proposal but introduces a "Modernization Surcharge," which has been welcomed by airlines but rejected by the general aviation community. This \$25 charge would be paid per flight, which is defined as a "takeoff and landing by an aircraft conducted under instrument flight rules". There are several exemptions for GA operations – notably, piston powered aircraft and turboprops operating outside controlled airspace.

GWBAA encourages its members to stay tuned to this debate, the outcome of which will greatly affect general aviation. Go to websites of the GA and airline trade associations in Washington to read what they say about the immediate Senate bill and refer to them in coming weeks to keep informed. The five principal groups are: NBAA (<http://www.nbaa.org>) AOPA (<http://www.aopa.org>), GAMA (<http://www.gama.aero>), NATA (<http://www.nata.aero>), and ATA (<http://www.airlines.org>). NBAA's website has a very handy way for you to contact your elected representatives, called "Contact Congress." GWBAA encourages you to voice your own opinion to the people that count.

Regional News Roundup

The Loudoun County Transportation Land Use Committee approved an amended plan for the Crosstrail development near **Leesburg Executive Airport** and forwarded the plan to the full Board of Supervisors, which is expected to consider it on May 15. The Town of Leesburg and some of the county's own planning staff have opposed the project, on the grounds that development near the airport is likely to result in complaints about operations at the airport and endanger the long-term viability of the airport.





On May 1, the Carroll County Commissioners approved sending the draft master plan for **Carroll County Regional Airport** to a public hearing, which is expected to be scheduled later this month. The plan proposes that a new, longer runway be built northwest of the existing runway, which would provide enough space for an instrument landing system while limiting the necessary land acquisition. If the project is approved by the County, the FAA would contribute \$71 million towards the costs of the runway as well as a new terminal building.

Jimmy's Flying Grille at the **Salisbury-Ocean City Wicomico Regional Airport** closed on April 24, citing a dispute with the airport as to whether its lease should be in the name of the current management team. Owner James Tennefoss, Sr. stated that he hoped the issue would be resolved following a meeting with airport officials.

The Somerset County Commissioners announced that they will re-examine plans to expand **Crisfield-Somerset County Airport** after neighbors were informed of plans to acquire three homes in the airport's runway protection zone in advance of a planned extension of the runway by 1,821 feet, to a total length of 4,000 feet. The plan would also require wetlands mitigation, to replace the eight acres of marshland, and also incorporates other proposals such as for a parallel taxiway.



A recent Washington Post article discussed the phenomenon of the “**\$100 hamburger run**” and provided information about some airport restaurants in the greater Washington area. See <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/03/AR2007050301954.html>.



The Frederick County Airport Commission has asked the Frederick County Board of Aldermen for more time to consider adjustments to airport landing fees. The Board has voted to increase hangar and tie-down fees by 15%, as well as to charge landing fees to pilots who are not based at **Frederick Municipal Airport**. The Commission has warned that the fees could drive away pilots and ultimately cause the County to lose money. At the same time, Airport Manager Charlie Abell noted that the airport will soon lose \$250,000 in annual revenue due to the demolition – as part of an obstruction removal program – of properties it currently rents.

Fauquier County residents have objected to a proposal to build a **private helicopter pad in Carter's Run**, west of Warrenton. Although the County Board of Zoning Appeals already has issued a permit to Ronald C. Devine – the owner of several Burger King franchises who plans to use the pad for flights to and from Manassas – neighbors argue that the flights will devalue

property and disturb horse breeders and trainers in the vicinity. The three-year permit limits the pad to 15 flights per year and prohibits night flights, except for emergencies.

Montgomery County Airpark reports that electrical vault relocation work and other airfield improvement projects are expected to continue over the next several months. The runway is expected to be closed on four nights (midnight-5am) in early June to allow crack resealing; please watch for NOTAMS. In addition, runway number and marker painting will occur in the fall. The airport also has issued a reminder about wildlife; in April, an aircraft on takeoff collided with a 20-pound turkey vulture, and Canadian geese are also a recurring issue.



Upcoming Aviation Events

- **June 2: 17th Annual AOPA Fly-In and Open House** at Frederick Municipal Airport. For more details, visit <http://www.aopa.org/special/fly-in/>.
- **June 2:** Aviation Safety Seminar on “Single Pilot IFR” at Rising Phoenix Aviation, Manassas Regional Airport, 10-11:30am. For more details, contact Laura Suite at (540) 671-0006 or myskymaster@hotmail.com.
- **June 8:** Deadline for D.C.-area fixed-based general aviation operators and general aviation ground support service providers to submit **9/11 compensation applications**. For more details, visit http://dmses.dot.gov/docimages/pdf101/464682_web.pdf.
- **September 15:** The **2nd Semi-Annual National Capital Region Airline Collectible Expo** will be held at Holiday Inn Washington Dulles Airport, from 8am-3pm. For more details, visit http://www.specialtyexpo.com/Washington_IAD_Airline_EXPO.html.
- **September 25-27:** **NBAA’s 60th Annual Meeting and Convention** will be held in Atlanta; for details, visit <http://web.nbaa.org/public/cs/amc/2007>.

GWBAA Offers Online Benefits

We continue to add member information for GWBAA’s electronic membership directory – <http://www.gwbaa.com/directory.html>. This service is available to GWBAA members at no cost. Please contact Bob Blouin (info@gwbaa.com) if you want to post your company’s information.

GWBAA Contacts

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