

June 21, 2007

User Fee Battle Continues

Airlines Ramp Up User Fee Fight With More Attacks on GA

From the Desk of Bob Blouin, GWBAA President: While flying to Chicago over the weekend, I read what United Airlines had published in its “Hemispheres” magazine, asserting that user fees should be imposed on business aviation operators. (See the article for yourself at <http://www.hemispheresmagazine.com/jun07/voices.html>.) The airlines are at it again, as NBAA recently pointed out, and as I experienced first hand. Commentaries in not just United’s but also Northwest’s in-flight magazines have singled out business aviation as the cause of flight delays and congestion, In pursuit of airlines’ plan to (1) shift billions of dollars of their costs onto general aviation by introducing new user fees, and (2) shift control of the air traffic control system away from FAA.

The Department of Transportation’s statistics show that weather and the *airlines’ own scheduling practices* are what is to blame for delays, not general aviation. NBAA President and CEO Ed Bolen recently sent a strongly worded letter to the CEOs of United and Northwest demanding that the carriers publish retractions in their upcoming editions of their magazines.

These latest attacks on general aviation come on the heels of print ads placed by the airlines’ Washington lobby group (the Air Transport Association) in Capitol Hill newspapers and television ads run on CNN Airport Network. NBAA and other organizations have not allowed the airlines’ deceptions, mischaracterizations and outright falsehoods to go unchallenged. NBAA’s Bolen recently sent a letter to CNN Airport Network demanding that the airlines’ deceptive television advertisement be removed from the network’s programming. (See the letter at <http://web.nbaa.org/public/news/letters/cnn20070528.pdf>.) Additionally, the Alliance for Aviation Across America (“AAAA”) – of which GWBAA and NBAA are members – has run print and television ads that refute the claims made by ATA. (For more on AAAA, please see below.)

Please take the time to send a message to your U.S. Representative and Senators, using the NBAA’s Online Advocacy Center (<http://web.nbaa.org/public/govt/userfees/>).

You Too Can Join Alliance for Aviation Across America

Alliance for Aviation Across America (“AAAA”) is a new organization of aviation enthusiasts and professionals, local airports, civic organizations representing rural and agriculture interests, city, county and state officials, economic development entities, non-profit organizations, small and mid-size businesses, and others committed to protecting small and rural communities. AAAA is dedicated to properly modernizing America’s air traffic control system to enhance safety, promote efficiency and expand capacity in order to ensure all Americans have access to air transportation. Please visit <http://www.aviationacrossamerica.org/> for more details.

TSA Announces Additional DCA Gateway Airport

Readers of GWBAA News will recall that TSA has allowed business aviation operators to resume flights at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport on a highly restricted basis, pursuant to the DCA Access Standard Security Program (DASSP). One of the requirements is that the flight must depart from a designated gateway airport. TSA has recently and quietly announced the designation of an additional gateway: Lambert St. Louis International Airport. Signature Flight Support will be the initial supporting FBO at STL. For more information, please visit the NBAA's website at <http://web.nbaa.org/public/ops/security/dassp/> or the TSA's website at http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/ga/ga_dca_access.shtm.

Regional News Roundup

NBAA has warned pilots flying to **Washington Dulles International Airport** to be cautious in their approach to Runway 19R; preliminary construction is under way for a new runway parallel to the existing runway, and a substance used to seal the surface soil under the new runway has been applied. This substance closely resembles poured concrete from the air, and on at least two occasions general aviation aircraft have lined up for the future, still unopened runway. The airport is in the process of applying "X" markings to the surface.



The Carroll County Commissioners approved a \$56 million plan to expand **Carroll County Regional Airport** by a 2-1 vote. The plan includes the relocation and extension of the main runway as well as the construction of new corporate hangars. The required environmental assessment could take up to two years to complete, and an airspace study of how the expansion will affect other airports also will be required, but the plan envisions that all construction will be completed by 2013.

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors deferred its consideration of the planned Crosstrail development near **Leesburg Executive Airport** until July. The Board first plans to meet with members of the town council of Leesburg, which owns and operates the airport and which has expressed concerns that the development would negatively impact the airport's viability.

Frederick Aviation, Inc., the largest FBO at **Frederick Municipal Airport**, has been acquired by Encore FBO, LLC of Houston. Frederick Aviation is the latest in a series of acquisitions for Encore, which also owns fixed base operations in Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Ireland and France. Ted Hamilton, Encore's operations vice president, is reported to have said that he expects the transition to be simple because owners Bill Caudell and Bill Greenwell have managed the company well.



The FAA tentatively ruled that a 31-story tower proposed for construction in Rosslyn would be a presumed hazard to navigation at nearby **Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport**. The developer, JBG Cos., has indicated that it will appeal the ruling within FAA. The FAA recently issued two similar rulings for considerably shorter buildings proposed for construction in the Crystal City and Columbia Pike neighborhoods of Arlington.



U.S. Customs and Border Protection has selected **Hartwood Airport** in Somerville, Virginia as a test site for border-control technology, ranging from license plate readers to x-ray machines to radiation detectors. Hartwood Airport is best known as a skydiving hub. CBP will lease one of the runways for the tests; public operations at the airport will continue. Fauquier County has indicated that a permit, preceded by public hearings, will be required before CBP can start operations.

The Department of Transportation also awarded \$7.3 million to **Hagerstown Regional Airport** for its pending runway extension project. The airport had expected to receive \$6 million, but successfully lobbied for \$1.5 million more to cover the rising costs of asphalt, copper and other materials. In other Hagerstown news, a \$2.79 million contract to repave and rehabilitate parts of the airport's taxiway was tentatively awarded to C. William Hetzer, Inc. Additionally, the dismissal of a lawsuit alleging that the manager of the airport had made inappropriate advances towards an employee in 2002-03 was affirmed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. The employee had sued Washington County in 2005; at the time, the county's labor counsel had said that there was "no factual or legal basis" for the lawsuit, and the courts agreed.

Wicomico County has been awarded \$4.6 million by the U.S. Department of Transportation to complete reconstruction of the main runway at **Salisbury-Ocean City Wicomico Regional Airport**. The project is expected to be completed by fall 2007. Plans are in the works to extend the main runway by 900 feet, but these funds are not connected to that project. Federal grants also were awarded to **Thurgood Marshall Baltimore-Washington International Airport** (\$6 million for taxiway improvements); **Cambridge-Dorchester Airport** (\$169,000 for runway safety area improvements); and **Tipton Airport** (\$82,000 for pavement replacement).

Upcoming Aviation Events

- **June 23:** Essex SkyPark's annual "**Wings and Wheels Fly-In Family Day**," Noon-6pm. For more information, please visit <http://www.essexskyparkassn.org/essex/FD.pdf>.
- **June 26:** National Aeronautics Association luncheon honoring the "**Most Memorable Records of 2006**" at the Crystal Gateway Marriott. For more information, please visit <http://www.naa.aero/html/awards/shwNews.cfm?newsid=318&cmsid=58>.
- **June 27: Committee for Dulles** luncheon featuring James E. Bennett, President and CEO of MAAA, at the Washington Dulles Hilton. For more information, please visit http://www.committeefordulles.org/events/current_lunch.htm.

- **June 28: Aero Club** luncheon featuring Captain John Prater, President of ALPA International. For more information, visit <http://www.aeroclub.org/luncheons.htm>.
- **July 19: Baltimore-Washington Air Cargo Association's** 2007 golf tournament at Compass Pointe in Pasadena, Maryland. For more information, please visit: http://www.bwicargo.com/Golf2007/Compass_Pointe_Outing_Flyer_2007.pdf.
- **September 1: 16th Annual Louisa County Airshow.** For more information please contact Dawn Pickhardt Howard at (540) 967-0050 or dawnp@firstva.com.
- **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, please 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, please visit <http://web.nbaa.org/public/cs/amc/2007>.

GWBA Offers Online Benefits

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

GWBA Contacts

GWBA President Bob Blouin (info@gwba.com) and GWBA Secretary Jol Silversmith of Zuckert, Scoutt & Rasenberger, LLP (jasilversmith@zsrllaw.com) write and edit GWBA News. GWBA's success and ability to make a difference depends on the breadth of its support and your participation – so please send any ideas or comments for future newsletters, or for GWBA, in general, to Bob or Jol, or any of the following people:

Mary Miller, Treasurer: mary.miller@signatureflight.com

Cassandra Bosco, Communications Chair: cbosco@tailwindscomm.com

Greg Cirillo, Events Chair: gcirillo@wrf.com

Bob Rockwood, Membership Chair: racersblue@earthlink.net

Jim Lumley, Operations, Safety and Security Chair: jpilot3@aol.com

Under the terms of the Federal CAN-SPAM Act, this e-mail may be considered to be an "advertisement" or "solicitation." If you do not wish to receive any further emails from GWBA. So please send an email to: info@gwba.com, with the words "OPT-OUT" in the subject line. The postal address for GWBA is c/o Sky Group Associates, Inc., Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Hangar 7, Washington, DC 20001.