

January 29, 2010

## Loudoun County Aircraft Tax Increase Avoided

### Board of Supervisors Rejects Proposal to Increase Taxes by up to 4000%

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors on January 20 rejected a proposal to increase its property tax on aircraft, which is currently one cent per \$100 of assessed value. The finance committee of the board had suggested a new rate of up to 40 cents - a 4000% increase. The Town of Leesburg, in which Leesburg Executive Airport is located, previously has opposed efforts to raise the tax, and continued its opposition in this case, with support from the aviation community, including GWBAA. Before the Supervisors meeting, Leesburg Airport Commission Chair Dennis Boykin told *Leesburg Today* that “[a]ny increase above the current level will chase aircraft away and create a net loss of revenue to the county.”

At the meeting, industry representatives alerted the board to numerous flaws in its proposal – including that five nearby airports in Virginia have tax rates well below \$0.01, and additional nearby airports in Maryland and West Virginia that have no taxes at all. FBOs at Washington Dulles Airport (also in Loudoun County) further argued that a tax increase would negatively affect their business; FBOs employ hundreds of people that support and service aircraft have been forced to reduce their staff. Based on the wide-ranging negative feedback, Loudoun County unanimously decided not to increase the tax. GWBAA President Paige Kroner stated that “while this is a victory for the business aviation community, it is an important reminder that we cannot be complacent, and must remain vigilant against threats to our ability to conduct business in the greater Washington area.”

### FAA General Aviation News



The current issue of FAA's bi-monthly publication for general aviation – simply titled “Aviation News” – is now available from the FAA website, at [http://www.faa.gov/news/aviation\\_news/](http://www.faa.gov/news/aviation_news/). The theme of the issue is “The Human element in Aviation,” which discusses a spectrum of issues ranging from fatigue to workload management. Other stories include a summary of the special flight rules training now available for flights in New York City airspace; a reminder of the dangers of wintertime carburetor icing; and a discussion of the advantages and hazards of using GPS for navigation.

### Regional News Round-Up

James Bennett (President of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority) recently stated that he was eager to see post-9/11 restrictions on general aviation flights at **Ronald Reagan**

**Washington National Airport** eased. The *Sun-Gazette* reports that his remarks at a January 19 forum hosted by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments included that general aviation is "a very important part of our aviation infrastructure capacity at Reagan National - we'd certainly like to see that returned." Pre-9/11, DCA accommodated about 10 to 12 general-aviation flights per hour, but now handles just one or two per day, Bennett said. Carmine Gallo, administrator of the FAA's Eastern Region, added that aviation officials are holding an "ongoing, aggressive discussion" about general aviation's access to Reagan National.

**Arcadia Aviation** - a member of GWBAA - has announced that it has been awarded the ARGUS Platinum rating by the ARGUS International, Inc., which performs on-site safety audits for corporate flight departments, charter operators, and commercial airlines. The ARGUS Platinum rating is awarded only to those air charter operators who have implemented a functional Safety Management System and Emergency Response Plan and observe industry best practices relative to the safety of their operations and maintenance. Arcadia Aviation is a full service charter operator and aircraft management firm that provides a highly personalized jet charter service and customized aircraft ownership solutions for individual and corporate clients in the US and internationally. Arcadia Aviation's local facilities include a full service FBO in Martinsburg, WV (MRB) and a sales office in Washington, DC.

The **Culpeper Regional Airport Advisory Committee** has elected John Hunton as its chairman and Jim Bailey as its vice chairman for 2010. The seven-member board consists of volunteers and a representative of the county Board of Supervisors.

At the end of December, a homeless man stole and attempted to fly a Piper Super Cub at **Frederick Municipal Airport**. The aircraft, owned by the Mid-Atlantic Soaring Association, suffered propeller and engine damage; the perpetrator was arrested shortly thereafter. As always, remember to think both safety and security!

*If you're aware of any news of interest to business aviation occurring around the greater Washington area, please let us know at [info@gwbaa.com](mailto:info@gwbaa.com).*

## Upcoming Aviation Events

- **February 3-4:** Comprehensive two-day Safety Management Systems (SMS) training course by PAI Consulting in Alexandria, Virginia. For more information, please visit <http://www.paiconsulting.com/SMS.html>.
- **February 11:** National Aeronautic Association luncheon featuring Dr. Ashton Carter, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott. For more information, please visit <http://www.naa.aero/html/events/index.cfm?cmsid=110>.
- **February 11:** International Aviation Club luncheon featuring Harry Hohmeister, CEO of Swiss international Air Lines, at the Grand Hyatt. For more information, please visit <http://www.iacwashington.org>.
- **February 20:** 8th Annual First State Chapter PAMA/Dassault Falcon Jet IA Renewal / Maintenance Workshop in Newark, Delaware. For more information, please visit <http://www.firststatepama.com/SympRegist.html>.

- **March 2-4:** ACI-NA/AAAE spring Washington conference, at the Omni Shoreham. For more information visit, <http://www.aci-na.org/2010/springwashington10/welcome.html>.
- **March 3:** National Aeronautic Association spring awards ceremony and luncheon, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott. For more information, please visit <http://www.naa.aero/html/events/index.cfm?cmsid=263>.
- **March 9-10:** 35th Annual FAA Aviation Forecast Conference at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. For more information, please visit [http://www.faa.gov/news/conferences\\_events/aviation\\_forecast\\_2010/](http://www.faa.gov/news/conferences_events/aviation_forecast_2010/).
- **March 24:** AOPA Air Safety Foundation seminar on “10 Things Other Pilots Do Wrong” at the Hilton in Gaithersburg, Maryland. For more information, please visit <http://www.aopa.org/asf/seminars/seminar.cfm?FA=SS>.
- **April 8:** National Aeronautic Association luncheon featuring Randy Babbitt, FAA Administrator, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott. For more information, please visit <http://www.naa.aero/html/events/index.cfm?cmsid=110>.
- **April 21:** AOPA Air Safety Foundation seminar on “10 Things Other Pilots Do Wrong” at the Crowne Plaza in Timonium, Maryland. For more information, please visit <http://www.aopa.org/asf/seminars/seminar.cfm?FA=SS>.
- **May 3:** 22nd annual Greater Washington Aviation Open, to benefit the Corporate Angel Network. For more information, please visit <http://www.gwao.org>.
- **September 28:** Save the date for the sixth annual GWBAA golf tournament at the Hendon Centennial Golf Course.

## 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 Jol Silversmith ([jasilversmith@zsrlaw.com](mailto:jasilversmith@zsrlaw.com)) if you want to post your company’s information.

## GWBAA Contacts

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