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FAA Reauthorization Bill Enacted

Congress Finally Reauthorizes Aviation Programs

On February 14, President Obama signed into law the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012. Since 2007, the FAA had been funded by a series of stopgap bills, since Congress had been unable to agree on the terms of a long-term funding bill (largely because of disputes over issues not directly related to business aviation). The bill does include provisions of general interest to business aviation – including the go-ahead for FAA to develop the long-promised “NextGen” ATC system. Of local interest is that FAA is required to conduct a study of how access to airports in the D.C. Special Flight Rules Area could be improved. Additionally, the law bans most operations by Stage 2 business jets – but the prohibition will not enter into effect until December 31, 2015. For more information about the act – as well as the next round of issues for business aviation on Capitol Hill, such as a renewed push to impose user fees on general aviation – please visit <http://www.nbaa.org/advocacy/issues/modernization/>.

Safety Standdown Planning Continues – Mike Mulane To Provide Keynote

The sixth annual GWBAA safety standdown is now scheduled to be held on May 16 at the NTSB Training Center in Ashburn, VA. GWBAA is pleased to announce that the keynote speaker will be former astronaut and USAF Colonel Mike Mulane, who flew on three space shuttle missions and emphasizes the importance of “stopping the normalization of deviance.”

More information will be made available on the GWBAA website as it becomes available. For sponsorship and other information, please contact Jim Garland at jgarland@sharpedetails.com. Also, volunteers are still needed – please contact GWBAA President Paige Kroner at info@gwbaa.com if you’re interested.



Regional News Round-Up

The Leesburg Town Council has voted to make the budget for **Leesburg Executive Airport** part of the town's General Fund. According to Town Manager John Wells, the change would enable better management of the town's budget. According to the *Loudoun Times*, the airport has been operated as an enterprise fund since 1965, separately accounting for all operational and capital costs, but Airport Fund revenues and grants have been insufficient to cover those costs.



The Carroll County Board of Commissioners, by a 3-2 vote, has rejected a proposed \$74 million expansion of **Carroll County Regional Airport**. The project would have upgraded the runway to allow regular operations by class C3 aircraft, in addition to other improvements. The county will still need to make various expenditures on the airport in the near future, including runway repairs and a new master plan that excludes the now-rejected plans.

A three-month \$8 million runway rehabilitation project at **Winchester Regional Airport** has been completed. The airport was expected to lose \$125,000 due to operational restrictions during the construction, but airport Executive Director Renny Manuel told the Northern Virginia Daily that the actual numbers were "much less." In other news, PHI Air Care 4 has announced that it would relocate its emergency response operations from Winchester to Front Royal-Warren County Airport. Reginald Cassagnol, the latter's manager, stated that "[t]hey felt they could better serve the valley if they were located here,"

A bipartisan group of state lawmakers in Maryland is investigating plans by Baltimore County to close **Essex Skypark**. The County alleges that the airport is now a month-to-month tenant, and that the property should be re-forested. A bill has been introduced which would prohibit the county from taking control of Essex and would allow it to continue to operate. Delegate Michael Weir, Jr. told the *Essex-Middle River Patch* that: "The Essex Skypark is a vital part of the history of eastern Baltimore County. It's also utilized by the fire department, police department, and National Guard for training purposes in case it's needed during an emergency or national disaster. There has to be other answers to address forest mitigation needs."



The St. Mary's County department of Public Works and Transportation has asked business near **St. Mary's County Regional Airport** to keep trash containers closed, to avoid attracting buzzards that could be a hazard to aircraft.

The *Fredericksburg Star* reported the passing of Joan Savee Kulp Woody, a pilot who with her husband operated **Hyde Field** and **Manassas Regional Airport** in the 1950s.

On January 22, the pilot of a small aircraft at **St. Mary's County Regional Airport** was injured during an engine test; the aircraft reportedly was improperly chocked, and pivoted into a hangar door. As always, fly safely!

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. For links to news stories compiled by GWBA, please visit <http://www.gwbaa.com/links.html>.

FAA Issues Guidance for Use of Trusts for Aircraft Registration

In 2011, FAA announced that it would study the use of "non-citizen trusts" to register aircraft, in which U.S. citizens were the trustees but the beneficiaries were not U.S. citizens. FAA stated

that it was concerned that such arrangements impaired its oversight of those aircraft. FAA now has released a proposed policy, which would continue to allow non-citizen trusts, but would impose new requirements, including that operating agreements for such aircraft be submitted to FAA, and that there be limitations on the authority of non-U.S. citizens to remove a trustee. Comments on the new policy will be accepted through March 31. A copy of the proposal is available online at <http://www.regulations.gov#!documentDetail;D=FAA-2012-0012-0001>.

Upcoming Aviation Events

- **February 29:** NBAA Webinar on "Operating into DCA: Improved Process Increases Activity" at 1pm eastern time. For more information, please visit <http://nbaa.peachnewmedia.com/store/seminar/seminar.php?seminar=11007>.
- **March 1:** National Aeronautic Association luncheon featuring Tom Burbage of Lockheed Martin, General Manager of F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program. For more information, please visit <http://naa.aero/html/events/index.cfm?cmsid=110>.
- **March 8-9:** 37th Annual FAA Aviation Forecast Conference at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC. For more information, please visit http://www.faa.gov/news/conferences_events/aviation_forecast_2012/.
- **March 13:** National Aeronautic Association luncheon featuring its spring awards program, including the 2011 Collier Trophy, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott. For more information, please visit <http://naa.aero/html/events/index.cfm?cmsid=110>.
- **March 14-16:** American Association of Airport Executives and Airports Council International-North America legislative conference. For more information, please visit <http://events.aaae.org/sites/120304/index.cfm>.
- **March 28:** NATA 2012 FBO Leadership Conference at the Hyatt Regency. For more information, please visit <http://www.nata.aero/Event.aspx?page=1952§ionid=1449>.
- **April 3-6:** 55th annual Airline Electronics Association convention at Gaylord National Hotel & Convention Center in Prince George's County, Maryland. For more information, please visit <http://www.aea.net/convention/DC2012/>.
- **April 10:** National Aeronautic Association luncheon featuring David Bronczek, CEO of FedEx Express, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott. For more information, please visit <http://naa.aero/html/events/index.cfm?cmsid=110>.
- **May 3-5:** 17th Annual Maryland Regional Aviation Conference and the 2nd Annual Maryland Regional Festival of Flight at Hagerstown Regional Airport. For more information, please visit <http://www.marylandairportmanagers.org/conference>.
- **May 16:** Hold this date for the annual GWBAA safety standdown; more details will be provided shortly.
- **June 7:** NBAA Business Aviation Regional Forum at Teterboro Airport; GWBAA will host a booth at the forum to highlight how membership can benefit community members from

Philadelphia to the Carolinas. For more information about the forum, please visit <http://www.nbaa.org/events/forums/20120607/>.

- **June 20-21:** ATW's 5th Annual Eco-Aviation Conference & Awards Ceremony at the Renaissance Arlington. For information, please visit <http://atwonline.com/events/atw-s-5th-annual-eco-aviation-conference-awards-ceremony>.
- **June 26:** National Aeronautic Association luncheon featuring Capt. Eugene Cernan, Commander of Apollo 17, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott. For more information, please visit <http://naa.aero/html/events/index.cfm?cmsid=110>.

GWBA Offers Online Benefits

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

GWBA Contacts

GWBA President Paige Kroner of Signature Flight Support (paige.kroner@signatureflight.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 Paige or Jol.

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