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## GWBAA Year in Review

Happy Holidays!

I hope this finds you well and spending time with family and friends. This has been quite a successful and philanthropic year for the Greater Washington Business Aviation Association (GWBAA) – all because of our members and sponsors!

The following is a highlight of many of the successes that GWBAA played a part in throughout 2021.

In March of this year, GWBAA was invited by Paul VI Catholic High School to participate in its **Virtual Career Fair**. Through the gracious help of Pedro Manancero (BAE Systems), who recorded and edited two videos about his career experience as a business aviation pilot, these students were exposed to the bizav community. The NBAA Regional Group Committee learned of this effort and invited Pedro to participate in one of their meetings and to share his videos.

On April 21, GWBAA kicked off the events for the year with the **GWBAA Virtual Safety Standdown** with two NBAA Safety Committee Members as speakers – Sheryl Clarke and Jeff Wofford. They challenged competitors and peers to collaborate to enhance Business Aviation safety and to understand our personal limitations and taking the “Top Gun” approach to improve our performance.

In May, Ms. Gina Sihakhoon – a student at UDC – passed her **A&P Practical Exam**. Awarded this scholarship from GWBAA in 2020, she had been unable to complete this exam due to pandemic-related delays until 2021.

On September 16, GWBAA hosted the **GWBAA Golf Classic** at the 1757 Golf Club in Ashburn, Virginia, with over 100 golfers and sponsors in attendance. As typical, a great time was had by all with some good-natured fun and low scores – through the aid of mulligans! It was great to see so many of you at the tournament and enjoying the day. Through the sales of the mulligans, GWBAA donated to the Corporate Angel Network.

Later in the month, the **GWBAA Open House and Aircraft Display** was hosted by ProJet Aviation at Leesburg Executive Airport. At this event, attendees toured six aircraft– Bombardier’s Challenger 350 and Global 7500, a Citation Longitude, a Dassault Falcon 900LX, a Gulfstream G500, and a HondaJet while enjoying a beautiful day with great food and drink. GWBAA also welcomed NBAA President and CEO, Ed Bolen to the event where he spoke on advocacy efforts to promote the industry, as well as Town of Leesburg Mayor, Kelly Burk, who spoke on the importance of the Leesburg Executive Airport to Leesburg and Loudoun County.

In October, several GWBAA Board Members who attended NBAA-BACE in Las Vegas hosted a “**GWBAA Meet and Greet**” at the NBAA booth. It was a great opportunity to welcome GWBAA members and meet potential new ones, as well as for peers to network.

Later in October, GWBAA was an exhibitor and participated at the **Aviation Expo** in Leesburg, Virginia at ProJet Aviation. This event brings high school and college students to the airport and exposes them to a vast array of opportunities in the aviation industry. At this event, GWBAA awarded a scholarship to Rafael Garcia-Rodriguez, an Aerospace Engineering student at Virginia Tech.

In December, in lieu of a Holiday Party, GWBAA donated to the **Aero Club Foundation of Washington** as well as **Angel Flight Mid-Atlantic**.

This year also brought about some transition to the GWBAA Board as two long dedicated board members – Dan Walker and Greg Kinsella – stepped off the board. With both having relocated to outside the GWBAA area, we hope they will become active in their new regions as they were with us. Dan and Greg have been invaluable to GWBAA and we appreciate all that they did through many years serving on the Board. GWBAA also recently added two new Board Members – Chris Younger and Lisa Quinto – and we look forward to their insight and experience as they become more involved.

This year we also had a few individuals that gave a significant amount of their time to GWBAA on a recurring basis. A special thanks to Art Ginolfi who has helped with membership, Collin King who has provided GWBAA with graphics aid, and Charles Tack, who for many, many years has been the official GWBAA photographer.

An association this size would not be able to function without the help of volunteers. Anyone who has signed up to help at an event or assist with GWBAA in some capacity, we thank you for everything that you have done!

We also want to thank the generosity of our sponsors. When 2021 started and we weren’t quite sure what it would look like, you stayed with us and contributed to our events, which in turn allows GWBAA to continue our philanthropic endeavors.

Last but not least, thank you to all our GWBAA Board members. You all give tirelessly of yourselves. Every single one of you is an asset, a leader, and active in our mission and I cannot thank you all enough.

I wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season. Hopefully with a little downtime to enjoy those important to you and look forward to a great 2022!

Jamie Wilson  
President  
Greater Washington Business Aviation Association



Photo courtesy of Mark Smith

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## Regional News Round-Up

**Richmond International Airport** has entered into a tentative agreement to acquire 161 acres of additional property, which would allow new aeronautical development at the southeast of the airport. In other Richmond news, FAA has proposed closing its control tower during overnight hours, as a cost savings measure.

**Frederick Municipal Airport** is one of many airports in the region that continues to benefit from federal pandemic and infrastructure grant programs - most recently, receiving \$59,000 authorized by the March 2021 American Rescue Plan Act, in addition to ongoing funding from FAA's Airport Improvement Program. (FAA also has announced expected allocations available under the more recent infrastructure act, but has not yet started accepting grant applications.)

Ed Wallis, Manager of Operations at **Stafford Regional Airport**, will retire next month after holding a variety of positions at the airport since 2001, the year the airport opened. The new airport manager will be James Stover.

The **Committee for Dulles** will hold its annual airport manager's report luncheon on January 27, both in-person at the Dulles Airport Marriott and virtually. For more information, please visit <https://www.committeefordulles.org/events/dulles-airport-managers-report>.

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## About GWBAA

GWBAA President Jamie Wilson ([jamie.wilson@fbopartners.com](mailto:jamie.wilson@fbopartners.com)) and GWBAA Secretary Jol Silversmith of KMA Zuckert LLC ([jsilversmith@kmazuckert.com](mailto:jsilversmith@kmazuckert.com)) write and edit GWBAA News.

GWBAA'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 GWBAA, in general, to Jamie or Jol.

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## NBAA Membership Discount

As a new GWBAA member benefit, if you are not currently a member of NBAA, you can now join at a discounted rate using promo code GWBAA100. When you join NBAA not only will you receive \$100 off your first-year NBAA membership dues, NBAA will return 50% of your dues to GWBAA, allowing us to keep working on regional issues on your behalf.

NBAA members enjoy a direct line to industry experts, career development opportunities, discounts to all NBAA events, and much more. Learn more - <https://nbaa.org/membership/>.

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