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Registration Continues for GWBAA Golf Tournament

Registration is now open for the **GWBAA Golf Classic** on Thursday, September 15, 2022. Always one of our most anticipated events, this year will be our 18th annual tournament and we are looking forward to another great day of networking and fun.

The picturesque **1757 Golf Club** is a Par 70 course that is “a shot makers dream and features views of the majestic Virginia landscape” and continuous aircraft on final for KIAD. The course scores a 4.4 out of 5 stars on Google.

Registration and breakfast open at 7:00 AM. The event will include a 4-person scramble with a shotgun start of 8:00 AM. Awards luncheon and reception will follow directly after the completion of the golf tournament (approximately 1:30 PM).

To sign-up to play and/or to sponsor, please visit <https://birdease.com/2022GWBAAGolf>.

Thank you to our sponsors!



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Meet the GWBAA Board

Q&A with Hunter Weiss, President, Welsch Aviation, Inc. (and GWBAA's Open House Chair)

Q. How did you first get interested in business aviation?

Inadvertently! I grew up in an aviation household as my father was an Air Force fighter pilot who later held various positions at a few corporate aircraft manufacturers (Lear Jet, Beechcraft and British Aerospace). My family flew on the aircraft my father was marketing more times than I can count so aviation was always in the background. At a young age I would buy cars fix them up and sell them and later worked in high end retail sales during my high school and college days. After college I was offered an entry level position at Welsch Aviation and now 35 years later, almost to the day, I own Welsch Aviation and am perpetuating its 73-year history.

Q. What is the best part of your job?

I enjoy the people I meet when I am hired to exclusively acquire or sell a corporate aircraft and show them the step-by-step process of what I do for them. I lay the process out, which is more involved than people think, and then execute the process and exceed the expectations of the client as I take ownership of the transaction as if the aircraft were my own.

Q. What surprised you about business aviation once you got into this field?

Once fully engaged in my career it was apparent to me how diverse the 'aviation field' is daily. When people mention business aviation the first thought is a pilot, but s/he cannot fly without maintenance getting done on the aircraft, aircraft traffic controllers directing them, the aircraft will need to be stored, fueled, insured, and scheduled to fly. There are many hands involved enabling aircraft to fly.

Q. How did you get involved with GWBAA?

I was asked by an old friend and client who was on the GWBAA board at the time to join and that was over 10 years ago!

Q. What has been your favorite part of being involved with GWBAA?

I feel it is important to give back to the community that has supported me for 35 years. GWBAA holds at least four key events each year all with different topics which enable us to exist as an organization but more importantly we also have a large philanthropic side that supports several causes such as Corporate Angel Network, Aero Club of Washington and scholarships through the Leesburg Airport Aviation Expo.

Q. What do you do in your free time?

First and foremost is spending time with my family at Deep Creek Lake, MD hiking and boating with my wife Michele and two children, Spencer and Erica. My long-term hobby is participating in Porsche Club of America track events which I have participated in for 20 years. I also have national accreditation as an approved driving Instructor for people who are learning to drive on the racetrack.

Q. What advice do you have for someone starting a career in business aviation?

I believe step one would be to learn that there are a multitude of careers and career pathways in business aviation. I would venture a guess that each of the board members arrived on the board without any of us following the same path and few of us are employed in the same exact career. Your pathway can be with or without college however, I would research what you are interested in and then contact someone that does something similar then blaze your own trail. The Leesburg Aviation Expo is a good example, if attended, you will find many aviation careers on display. The National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) is also a prominent supporter and proper avenue to explore careers, www.nbaa.org.

Regional News Round-Up

A demonstration of the use of small unmanned aerial systems was part of the 95th Annual Apple Blossom Festival in Winchester, with the Virginia Department of Aviation and other sponsors showing how multiple vehicles can operate in the same airspace.

An article published by WTOP provided a general summary of the ongoing restrictions for general aviation operations at **Reagan Washington National Airport** - <https://wtop.com/business-finance/2022/05/despite-surge-in-private-air-travel-dca-charter-flights-still-face-tough-9-11-restrictions/>.

Among other recent federal infrastructure grants, **Culpeper Regional Airport** has received \$3 million to remove runway obstructions.

St. Mary's Ryken High School (SMR) in Leonardtown, Maryland is the location of a new flight academy that provides flight simulators and other experiential learning programs.

At **Stafford Regional Airport**, the runway extension project is reported to be 40% complete, with an expected completion date in the fall. In other Stafford news, the airport has filed an application at the FAA for permission to use a 0.89 acre parcel, disconnected from the airfield, for non-aeronautical purposes.

In the latest issue of *Smithsonian* magazine, Christopher Browne, the former Manager of both DCA and IAD (and the current Director of the Air and Space Museum) is interviewed about his experiences in the Navy's "Top Gun" program - <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/top-gun-is-back-but-is-the-elite-navy-fighter-pilot-school-really-like-the-movies-180980149/>.

Hanover County Municipal Airport has completed construction of its new terminal.



Upcoming Events

June 9: National Aeronautics Association Robert J. Collier Trophy Dinner at the Marriott Marquis. For more information, please visit <https://naa.aero/events/upcoming-events/>.

As above, please hold Thursday, **September 15** for GWBAA's annual charitable golf tournament at the 1757 Golf Club.

About GWBAA

GWBAA President Jamie Wilson (jamie.wilson@fbopartners.com) and GWBAA Secretary Jol Silversmith of KMA Zuckert LLC (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.

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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