

GWBAA News

Greater Washington Business Aviation Association, Inc.

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Protect What We Have: Secure Aircraft & Watch That ADIZ!

July 18, 2005

Welcome to the July issue of the GWBAA News.

TSA Interim Final Rule (IFR) Update:

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has released its Interim Final Rule (IFR) that outlines procedures for general aviation aircraft seeking access to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). A copy of the interim rule (1.73 MB, PDF) can be downloaded from http://www.tsa.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/IFR_DCA_GA.pdf.

The effective date of this rule is 30 days following its publication in the Federal Register – essentially, mid-August. NBAA will work closely with the TSA to assist GWBAA Members applying for access to DCA. GWBAA encourages Members to work with the national association's staff to resolve questions regarding the application and implementation of this new rule. For additional information, contact NBAA's Doug Carr at dcarr@nbaa.org

Watch That ADIZ:

Recently, a Kingair pilot flew unannounced into the DC ADIZ and caused yet another evacuation of Capitol Hill. (See: "Stray Plane Sets Off Evacuation Of Capitol" at www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/06/29/AR2005062902957.html). I found myself wondering "what was the pilot thinking?" and even found it humorous that something like this would cause that much of a panic. I quickly realized that this is no laughing matter, there is a lot at stake for all of us.

This event sparked news reports that suggested the Bush administration might seek to extend the ADIZ. That has not happened and hopefully will not in the future. To ensure that it does not, we all must energetically pass the word to folks flying near, into, and out of the DC area to file a flight plan, maintain radio contact with ATC, and receive a discreet transponder code. To do anything less is irresponsible and may put our community in jeopardy of losing more airspace in the name of security. NATA, NBAA, AOPA and EAA continue to "put the word out," but sometimes (as we have seen) that's not enough.

U.S. Senate Weighs In:

Last week, the spending bill for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was in play. Some senators are submitting amendments that would make our members very unhappy. The nastiest one says anyone who negligently violates Washington's restricted flight zone leading to the evacuation of a public building could be slapped with a \$100,000 fine, confiscation of the aircraft, and a five-year loss of flying privileges. New Mexico Senators Pete Domenici and Jeff Bingaman sponsored this amendment, and NBAA, NATA and other groups are already talking to them. The wished-for penalty is extremely harsh – too harsh in fact – but it is clear that Congress wants to get every operator's interest that they will not accept any more excuses for these violations.

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Same Issue, This Time Related To Locking Aircraft:

On the heels of the ADIZ incursion comes the political reaction to last month's incident of an intoxicated individual stealing a Cessna 172 aircraft from an airport in Danbury, CT, eventually landing at the Westchester County Airport (KHPN), located just to the east of the Indian Point nuclear facility. This got the attention of Senators Hillary R. Clinton (D-N.Y.) and Richard Durbin (D-III), who proposed an amendment calling for a government study of GA security that would examine the potential for GA aircraft to be used as weapons against high-risk sites and would check the overall security of GA airports. It would also assess what technology is available to easily track GA aircraft and prevent aircraft theft. We will keep you posted if a study is commissioned.

Please do your best to communicate just how important locking aircraft and paying attention to the ADIZ is to our community, and just maybe we can prevent another incursion and further restrictions.

General Aviation at National Airport Celebrated:

On June 23 aviation and business leaders attended a celebration of the anticipated return of general aviation to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, keynoted by Senator George Allen and co-sponsored by the Washington Airports Task Force, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, the National Business Aviation Association, and Signature Flight Support. At the event, Mary Miller, Corporate Vice President of Customer Relations, Signature Flight Support (and Treasurer of GWBAA) stated "we are looking forward to working with our customers, the Airports Authority and the federal agencies to ensure that the limited return of business aircraft to Reagan National happens smoothly so that the remaining limits can be progressively lifted." For more information about the event, please visit <http://www.gwbaa.com/celebrate050623.pdf>.

U2 Concert Tickets To Be Auctioned:

Thanks to the generosity of Peter Leonard-Morgan and Susan Kopacz of Loudoun Aviation, GWBAA will offer, for auction to the highest bidder, two tickets to the U2 concert at MCI Center on Thursday, October 20, 2005. You will be hosted in skybox seating with Peter, Susan, and some of their team. Proceeds from the auction will be included in GWBAA's contribution to the Aero Club of Washington Foundation. The Foundation funds aviation related educational work including in-school projects and internships in the Greater Washington area. If you would like to bid on the tickets please send your bid and contact information to bid@gwbaa.com. All bids must be in \$25.00 increments. GWBAA will post the highest bids received to date in the August and September newsletters. Bidding will close on October 3, 2005, and the successful bidder will be contacted thereafter. If you have any questions, please call Bob Blouin at (202) 415-1512.

Upcoming Events:

The **National Air Transportation Association** will hold four one-day seminars on deicing in September 2005: on September 7 in Hartford, CT; on September 14 in Dayton, OH; on September 21 in Denver, CO; and on September 28 in Milwaukee, WI. These seminars are designed for line techs, ground personnel, flight crews, and dispatch personnel, and meet FAA and Transport Canada requirements; the fee for each seminar is \$425 per person. For more information, visit <http://www.nata.aero/events/index.html>.

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On **October 10**, GWBAA will hold its **first annual golf tournament** at the International Country Club in Fairfax. Registration details, charitable benefactors, and sponsorship opportunities will be posted on the GWBAA website soon.

GWBAA Contacts:

Should you have any ideas or comments for future newsletters or for GWBAA in general, please don't hesitate to contact the following people:

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In addition, for general issues, please contact Bob Blouin, President, at info@gwbaa.com or (202) 415-1512. GWBAA's success and ability to make a difference depends on the breadth of its support and participation.