

GWBAA News

Greater Washington Business Aviation Association, Inc.

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GWBAA Donations Announced; Spending Bills Aid General Aviation

Welcome to the December issue of the GWBAA News.

GWBAA Recognizes Signature Flight Support For Charitable Efforts:



Left to right: NBAA Chair Ken Emerick; Kristen Rensch and Mary Miller of Signature Flight Support; GWBAA President Bob Blouin.

On November 11, at the NBAA Convention in Orlando, NBAA Chairman Ken Emerick was on hand to assist GWBAA President Bob Blouin in presenting Kristen Rensch and Mary Miller of Signature Flight Support recognition for their volunteer efforts to organize the first annual GWBAA Golf Tournament, which was held on November 2, 2005. The tournament raised \$1,250 for the Aero Club Education Foundation and \$1,500 for the Red Cross Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

FAA to Hold Public Meeting on ADIZ Proposal:

The FAA has announced that it will hold two public meetings in January about its proposal to make permanent the Washington, D.C., Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ). The meetings will also be attended by representatives from the departments of Defense and Homeland Security. The FAA has indicated that it wants to hear specifics from pilots, including how much the ADIZ has reduced their flying; what has been the loss of time and revenue for pilots forced to fly longer routes because of the ADIZ; and whether the ADIZ has caused a loss of income

The public meetings are scheduled to be held on January 12 at the Sheraton Hotel in Columbia, Maryland, and on January 18 at the Airport Marriott in Dulles, Virginia. Both meetings will run between 1pm and 4pm, then resume at 6:30pm and run until 9pm. Pilots wishing to speak will need to submit a written request by January 5 for the first meeting and January 11 for the second meeting. The complete FAA notice about the meetings and requests to speak is available online at <http://dmses.dot.gov/docimages/p83/377187.pdf>.

In addition, the FAA is continuing to accept written comments about the proposal, which is available online at http://dmses.dot.gov/docimages/pdf92/341297_web.pdf. Comments

can be filed before February 6, 2006 in docket FAA–2003–17005 using any one of the following methods: the DOT docket website at <http://dms.dot.gov>; the government-wide rulemaking website at <http://www.regulations.gov>; mail or hand delivery (Monday through Friday between 9am and 5pm) to the DOT Docket Management Facility, 400 Seventh Street SW, Nassif Building, Room PL–401, Washington, D.C. 20590; or fax at (202) 493-2251.

Additional Restricted Airspace in the Greater Washington Area:

In a related development, a new restricted area - with a radius of one nautical mile - was designated as of November 22, 2005 above Vice President Dick Cheney's new home on the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland, about 30 miles east of Washington, DC. The airspace restriction is in force at all times, whether or not the vice president is in residence. Cheney's official residence is on the grounds of the United States Naval Observatory in Northwest Washington, which is under permanently restricted airspace.

TSA to Provide "One Stop Shop" for General Aviation:

Rob Rottman, General Manager for General Aviation Security at TSA, recently contacted GWBAA and other industry stakeholders to announce that TSA finally would be providing a "one stop shop" for general aviation. In particular, Rottman stated that as part of Secretary Chertoff and Kip Hawley's "Second Stage Review" of TSA, the Office of Transportation Sector Network Management had been created. This office, headed by Mike Restovich, will encompass all areas of transportation including general aviation, airports, airlines, mass transit, rail, maritime, highway, international programs, pipeline and cargo. More importantly, a division for each industry will have combined responsibility for policy, programs, stakeholder affairs, compliance, and threat intelligence.

This reorganization has the potential to benefit general aviation; as Rottman noted, it means that not only can a single shop answer questions, but also modify the underlying program all in one step.

GWBAA President Bob Blouin welcomed the news of Rottman's appointment by saying: "Rob will be a great asset to the business aviation community as we move forward to improve access to TFR's and KDCA". We look forward to working with Rottman, who has invited all GA related questions, concerns and requests to be sent to his office; he can be contacted at (571) 227-2289 or robert.rottman@dhs.gov

Congress Passes FAA Funding Bill:

President Bush has signed the FAA funding bill for FY2006, which, in effect, concludes: "The current system for collecting aviation taxes works." This is in contrast to the FAA's position that the tax collection system is "broken." Significantly, Congress has again said no to user fees -- the general aviation community has been able to convince Congress that the current system is the fairest and most responsible way to pay for aviation's benefits. All taxes will continue to be collected through current system of excise taxes and general fund contributions. The prohibition on user fees, however, expires in September 2006. Those in Washington who continue to support a funding system with the "revenue stream" tied to services provided will no doubt resurface next year. Meanwhile, Congress found that, for fiscal year 2006, the revenue from the aviation trust fund and the general fund was enough to give the FAA even more money than the Bush administration asked for. That's good news for us in general aviation.

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In a related development, Congress allocated \$3.55 billion to the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), which means that money will be available for non-air carrier GA airports. The Bush administration had asked for only \$3 billion; because of some complex formulas built into the law that would have meant no guaranteed funding for smaller general aviation airports.

Funding Bill Would Compensate DC-3 Airports:

The omnibus spending bill that includes funding for FAA also includes a provision to provide \$5 million in assistance to the "DC-3" airports that have for all practical purposes been closed to non-local traffic since 2001 - College Park Airport, Potomac Airfield, and Washington Executive/Hyde Field. The bill specifically states that the funds are intended to compensate "FBOs and general aviation service providers for "direct and incremental financial losses incurred while such airports were closed to general aviation operations ... solely due to the actions of the Federal government."

In other DC-3 news, Potomac Airfield owner David Wartofsky has publicly stated that he expects the airport to re-open in mid-December. As previously reported, the airport has been closed since November 1, 2005, when TSA informed Potomac Airfield that its security program did not comply with TSA requirements; GWBAA will provide updates as they occur.

Next GWBAA Board Meeting To be Held On January 19th:

The next Board meeting is scheduled to take place at the offices of Zuckert, Scoutt & Rasenberger, LLP (in Washington, DC at 888 Seventeenth Street, N.W., Suite 700) on January 19, 2006 from 1pm to 3pm. Seating is limited so if you would like to attend the meeting please rsvp to info@gwbaa.com before January 10th. Details will be sent to you by return email. The agenda will include a brief "State of the Association" presentation by Bob Blouin and discussion of GWBAA events for 2006.

GWBAA Approved for OSAC Membership:

This week, GWBAA has been approved as an Associate Member of the Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC). OSAC is a Federal Advisory Committee that promotes security cooperation between American business and private sector interests and the Department of State, as well as other federal agencies. OSAC currently includes more than 2,700 member organizations and 600 associate members. As an associate member of OSAC, GWBAA is able to access the content of the organization's website (at <http://www.ds-osac.org>) and correspond with members and other associates. If you are interested in being included in the list of GWBAA members that have access to OSAC's resources, please contact Bob Blouin at info@gwbaa.com.

GWBAA Offers Online Benefits:

We are continuing to receive member information for the GWBAA electronic membership directory – <http://www.gwbaa.com/directory.html>. As announced earlier, this additional service to the membership is being offered at no additional cost. If you would like to post your company information please contact Bob Blouin via email at info@gwbaa.com.

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Upcoming Business Aviation Events:

- January 12, 2006: FAA's first public meeting on its ADIZ proposal; Sheraton Hotel in Columbia, Maryland, 1pm – 4pm and 6:30pm – 9pm.
- January 18, 2006: FAA's second public meeting on its ADIZ proposal; Airport Marriott in Dulles, Virginia, 1pm – 4pm and 6:30pm – 9pm.
- January 19, 2006: GWBAA board meeting; Zuckert, Scutt & Rasenberger, LLP, 888 Seventeenth Street, N.W., Washington, DC, 1pm – 3pm.
- June 8, 2006: NBAA has announced that it will hold a regional forum at Dulles for the greater Washington, DC area on this date; GWBAA will post further details as they become available from NBAA.
- July 6-8, 2006: The World Airline Historical Society will hold its 30th Anniversary Collectibles Show in Tysons Corner, Virginia; this should be an interesting opportunity to both socialize and add to one's stock of memorabilia. For more information, visit <http://www.ai2006.com>.

GWBAA Contacts:

Send any ideas or comments for future newsletters or for GWBAA in general to info@gwbaa.com or any of the following people:

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GWBAA's success and ability to make a difference depends on the breadth of its support and your participation.

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