

December 19, 2006

Wishing You All a Safe and Happy Holiday

- **Special Thanks to the GWBAA Board and Volunteers**

It is time to reflect on the last twelve months, and it is with great appreciation that we recognize the GWBAA Board and all the volunteers that make things happen throughout the year. These positions are all voluntary, so expertise and sweat equity are very much appreciated and enjoyed by the membership. We must also hand out kudos to the many sponsors of our events – they deserve our appreciation. Our sponsors have shown they sincerely care about this community. Many thanks to you all!

- **GWBAA Celebrates the Holidays:**

The December 1st Holiday Reception attracted over 70 folks enjoying the good company of fellow business aviation professionals. Our sincere thanks to Signature Flight Support for the use of their facility and particularly to Mary Miller and Kyle Herbig for their excellent planning and execution. Rudy's Inflight Catering did a great job with the food and many attendees departed with wonderful door prizes provided by Gulfstream, Bombardier, Aero Records, Martinair, Chantilly Air and Air Routing International.

- **GWBAA Scheduling a Safety/Security Stand Down for 2007:**

The Safety Stand Down event will be held March 8, 2007. NBAA has been encouraging regional groups to promote safety as an ongoing effort and to add a safety element to their organizations' mission. One way many regional groups have promoted safety is through the founding of an annual Safety Day in their cities and regions. The Georgia Business Aviation Association (GBAA) recently demonstrated a fine model with its recent Safety Day held in Atlanta, which attracted more than 100 business aviation operators from across the southeast U.S. Speakers from NBAA, FAA, Flight Safety Foundation, and other business aviation organizations led informative sessions.

GWBAA's operations, safety and security chairman, Jim Lumley, leads a committee that will be finalizing the agenda for our event. Topics include aeronautical decision-making, human factors in aviation maintenance, cabin safety and security, and fatigue management. Invited speakers include Edward Bolen, president of NBAA; Greg Feith, former NTSB accident investigator; Jim Burin of Flight Safety International; and Rob Rottman of TSA. Further details will be posted in upcoming newsletters and on the website at <http://www.gwbaa.com>.

- **Beware of Bogus Cape Town Notices:**

The NBAA has issued a public warning about letters and emails being sent by an "International Aircraft Registry" located in Oklahoma City. These communications suggest that aircraft owners have not registered their aircraft in compliance with the Cape Town Treaty, allegedly putting their lien and/or title at stake. As an initial matter, the Cape Town International Registry began operations on March 1, 2006; ownership interests established before that date are grandfathered and do not need to be registered. Moreover, there is no relation between this entity and the FAA Registry in Oklahoma City, or any other legitimate organization. The FAA has posted a useful page of information about the Cape Town Treaty at http://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/aircraft_certification/aircraft_registry/cape_town_treaty/.

- **Interested in Joining the New Schedulers and Dispatchers Committee?**

A few GWBAA members have shown early interest in volunteering to form a Schedulers and Dispatchers Committee. Please contact us via email at info@gwbaa.com if you want to play an active role forming the group.

- **FAA/NASA Safety Database Enhancements:**

The Aviation Safety Reporting System ("ASRS") is a joint FAA/NASA project that since 1975 has enabled pilots, mechanics, and other industry participants to submit confidential safety incident reports. Readers may recall that last month's issue of GWBAA News reported that ASRS reports now can be filed online. ASRS also has announced the rollout of improved search features on its database, which can be accessed at <http://asrs.arc.nasa.gov/search.htm>. To learn more about ASRS in general, please visit http://asrs.arc.nasa.gov/overview_nf.htm.

- **Aero Club of Washington Honors Scott Crossfield and Norman Mineta:**

On November 29, 2006, the Aero Club of Washington awarded legendary test pilot Scott Crossfield the Donald D. Engen Trophy for Aviation Excellence, which was accepted by his daughter, Sally Crossfield. Scott Crossfield was the untimely victim of weather he encountered over Georgia earlier this year. FAA Administrator Marion Blakey, in conferring the honor, noted, "Scott Crossfield blazed a trail where few others ever could - or did."

The Aero Club of Washington also awarded the National Aviation Association's Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy to Norman Y. Mineta at its annual dinner December 15, 2006. The trophy was given in recognition of Mineta's accomplishments in the world of transportation and aviation, including his recently concluded service as Secretary of Transportation. GWBAA Secretary Jol A. Silversmith was on hand at the head table to honor Mineta; many other members and friends of GWBAA also were in attendance.

- **Regional News Roundup:**

The Department of Homeland Security has approved a grant for the purchase of a 24-hour security management system for **Carroll County Regional Airport**. The county is expected to complete a draft of a master plan for the airport by December 31, and to conduct public

hearings in January and February 2007. Some county residents have expressed opposition to plans to expand the airport's facilities, because of noise, air pollution, and security concerns. The majority of the funding for the expansion would come from federal and state grants, although \$1.9 million in county funds would be used to extend the existing 5,100-foot runway by an additional 1,400 feet.

In response to two mishaps this year, the Capital Region Airport Commission adopted new rules for the operation of fuel trucks at **Richmond International Airport**. Most notably, the new regulations allow the commission to suspend a fuel company's operating rights in the event of a serious accident. But the commission declined to adopt a rule that would also have permitted a suspension after six moving violations, concluding that minor infractions should not be grounds on which to ban a fuel company.



The Loudon County Board of Supervisors declined to reach a final decision on the proposed Crosstrail development near **Leesburg Executive Airport**, instead requesting additional input from the Town of Leesburg and the developer. As readers may recall, the town has expressed concern that the development could threaten the viability of the airport, because residents would complain about aircraft noise.

Vertol Systems, Inc., an Oregon-based aviation company, has submitted a proposal to build a 30,000-square-foot corporate hangar at **Stafford Regional Airport** to house the company's helicopters. Vertol would be the airport's first corporate tenant.



A meeting was held to discuss a draft environmental study for the expansion of **Ocean City Airport**; some members of the Worcester County Commissioners expressed skepticism about the project. The expansion, which would extend two of the airport's runways, would require the taking of neighboring farmland. Bud Church, the commissioner who represents the district in which the airport is located, stated his opposition to the expansion plan and noted that "It's going to be a hot issue over there."

Dulles Jet Center at **Washington Dulles Airport** celebrated its grand opening earlier this month. The facility includes four 40,000-square-foot hangars and a 25,000-square foot office complex on property leased from Signature Flight Support. The announced tenants include E*Trade Financial Corp. This is the first aviation-related project for its developer, Bethesda-based Landow & Co., although Landow has itself owned corporate jets for more than twenty years.

Two general aviation accidents in the Greater Washington area claimed three lives. The pilot and passenger of a Cessna 210 were killed December 9 in an accident near **Annapolis Lee Airport**; on December 10, the pilot of a Piper Lance was killed in an accident near **Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport**. Please fly safe over the holidays!



- **Upcoming Aviation Events:**

- **March 8:** Mark your calendar for a half-day GWBAA Safety Stand Down; for additional details, see above.
- **April 14:** The 1st Semi-Annual National Capital Region Airline Collectible Expo will be held at Holiday Inn Washington Dulles Airport, from 8am-3pm. For more details, visit http://www.specialtyexpo.com/Washington_IAD_Airline_EXPO.html.

- **GWBAA Offers Online Benefits:**

We are continuing to add member information for GWBAA's electronic membership directory – <http://www.gwbaa.com/directory.html>. This service is available to GWBAA members at no cost. Please contact Bob Blouin (info@gwbaa.com) if you want to post your company's information.

- **GWBAA Contacts:**

GWBAA President Bob Blouin (info@gwbaa.com) and GWBAA Secretary Jol Silversmith of Zuckert, Scoutt & Rasenberger, LLP (jasilversmith@zsrllaw.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 Bob or Jol, or any of the following people:

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