



# PLANE TALK

Publication of Statewide Aviation



Spring 2014

## *Ted Stevens Anchorage International Award Winning Airport!*

Winners of the prestigious Air Cargo Excellence Awards include Frankfurt Airport, Singapore Changi Airport, and Alaska's Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. (ANC). The awards are significant and valued as they are determined by customers rating each airline and airport on specific criteria. John Parrott, airport manager at ANC says, "The airport has been recognized consistently with this award. We have shown that we are committed to working together with our cargo tenants to operate safely, efficiently and provide excellent service." In addition, ANC has frequently won the Balchen/Post award for airfield maintenance and snow removal, even in the winter of 2011-2012, a year of record snowfall!

*Did you know ANC is:*

- *#2 in the US for landed weight of cargo aircraft (Memphis is #1)*
- *Among the top 5 airports in the world for cargo throughput*
- *Served nearly 5 million passengers in 2013*



*Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport has won numerous snow and ice control awards. The airport has never closed for snow.*

## Message From Deputy Commissioner



As spring creeps back into Alaska I applaud the herculean efforts of our maintenance & operations personnel in keeping our airports and highways open through an extremely challenging winter. Despite numerous freeze-thaw cycles wreaking havoc on runway surfaces, air carrier appreciation has abounded, and speaks volumes to the customer service ADOT&PF provides every day.

As the 28th Legislative Session continued, the Governor's Aviation Advisory Board convened in Juneau in February, taking the opportunity to review key bills being presented this session and to meet face-to-face with legislators. ADOT&PF continues to promote awareness of statewide aviation challenges, and I'm continually encouraged by the widespread support among legislators and sister government agencies for one of our state's critical lifelines - aviation.

I recently had the opportunity to meet with several FAA and TSA directors in Washington D.C. and am encouraged by the direction our federal agencies are headed. The fiscal climate, and the need to gain efficiencies nationwide, is pressing risk-based approaches to national security and aviation challenges that directly benefit Alaska. Our local representatives continue to do a great job articulating Alaska's unique challenges and finding ways to say "yes". The Alaska region FAA recently hosted Gisele Mohler, Executive Director for FAA Regions and Center Operations, orchestrating a visit to

Dillingham, New Stuyahok, Koliganek, and Nunapitchuk. Her eyes were opened to not only the FAA's challenges in maintaining NAVAIDS and weather systems, but also the state's design, environmental and construction challenges in preserving and improving our aviation system. These visits are invaluable in keeping headquarters offices informed on what aviation means to Alaska and our rural communities. As we look towards 2015 and the FAA reauthorization bill, continual engagement is essential to ensuring the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) remains fully funded and contract tower operations continue.

I appreciated the opportunity to speak at the recent Alaska Air Carriers Association conference, and participate in a question and answer panel addressing many of the aviation community's concerns. It is important to take advantage of these opportunities to hear first-hand from Alaska's commercial air carriers as we work together to provide a safe and efficient aviation system. Congratulations to Joy Journey and her team for another successful conference.

We're looking forward to the next big aviation event being held on May 3-4, 2014 - the Great Alaska Aviation Gathering. This is the state's largest aviation trade show and draws thousands of aviation enthusiasts. ADOT&PF will have a booth at the tradeshow, and we look forward to seeing you there. Please stop by and say hello!

Finally, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Judy Chapman and congratulate her on being selected as the Division Operations Manager for Statewide Aviation. She is highly respected across Alaska's aviation community for her planning expertise, and brings a wealth of rural aviation experience to the Statewide team. Welcome aboard Judy!

Fly Safe,

John Binder  
Deputy Commissioner



## **ACRP Ambassador Program**

Rich Sewell from Statewide Aviation represents the FAA Alaska Region in the ACRP's ambassador program, which strengthens the program's connection to the airport industry. ACRP Ambassadors, are a dedicated group of volunteers, that engage with industry practitioners and stakeholders at conferences and events. They fill a vital role in getting ACRP's research products into the hands of those who most need them—industry practitioners. Since 2012, the program's Ambassadors have attended, exhibited, and presented on behalf of ACRP at dozens of conferences and events across the United States and Canada.

Ambassadors serve a two-year term and agree to represent ACRP at a minimum of 4-6 industry conferences or events over the course of the two-year term. Ambassadors receive the training, guidance, support, and materials they need to amplify ACRP's efforts to disseminate its solution-based research products. Click here for more information on [ACRP](#).

## **TSA PreCheck Now Available at Fairbanks International Airport**

TSA PreCheck is now available at both Fairbanks and Anchorage International Airports. Eligible participants are allowed to leave on their shoes, light outerwear and belt, keep a laptop in its case, and 3-1-1 compliant liquids/gels in a carry-on in select screening lanes.

Click here for more information - [TSA PreCheck](#)



*(L-R) Deputy Commissioner John Binder presents a letter from Governor Parnell to retiring FAA Alaska Regional Administrator Bob Lewis. (photo courtesy - Rob Stapleton/Alaskafoto)*

## **FAA Administrator Retires After 49 Years!**

After 49 years of service to the Federal Aviation Administration, Robert "Bob" Lewis has retired. Bob joined the FAA in Anchorage in 1966 after serving a tour with the U.S. Army. He held a variety of management positions within the FAA before being appointed Regional Executive Manager in 1997 and then Regional Administrator in December 2008. In June 2008, he received the National Career Achievement Award from the FAA's Office of Regions and Centers.

The State presented Bob with an Alaska flag that was flown over the capitol and a letter from Governor Parnell congratulating and thanking Bob for the many contributions he has made to the aviation community in Alaska.

Bob is a licensed private pilot and father of eight children. He plans to spend time with his many grandchildren and fishing!





## *Governor's Denali Peak Performance Awards*

Congratulations to all ninety-eight ADOT&PF employees for being nominated for the Governor's Denali Peak Performance Awards. Each year this program recognizes state employees who go above and beyond and exceed expectations in their work. Included in this awesome group of employees are three rural airport managers, Bob Madden, Kevin Jones, and Matt Boron. Here's a portion of their written nominations:

### **Robert Madden - Nome Airport Manager**

Bob is responsible for the maintenance operations of the Nome Airport, as well as 9 surrounding rural airports. Bob has helped manage Western District's 47 fulltime and seasonal airports, maintaining the highest standard with minimal staff, equipment, and extreme circumstances faced in remote Alaska. Bob has helped the state evolve in the airport industry, from the ongoing FAA changes, to the safety restrictions the newer aircraft have brought with them.



### **Kevin Jones - Homer Airport Manager**

Kevin is the Homer Airport Manager which includes first responder aircraft rescue and firefighting duties. He also assists with highway maintenance activities as well as directs state services in Seldovia, Port Graham and Nanwalek. Without exception Kevin represents the state in a very positive, professional, and productive manner. He is respected by the public and the multitude of agencies he routinely interacts with.



### **Matthew Boron - Haines Airport Maintenance Foreman**

Matthew is a dedicated, self-motivated, selfless, and knowledgeable man who embodies the ADOT&PF core values of integrity, excellence, and respect and does so every day. As the maintenance foreman in Haines, he supervises a crew of five heavy equipment operators and is responsible for 74 miles of highway as well as one airport. Depending on the season, you can find him plowing snow and ice off the Haines Highway or leading the roving crew from the Southeast Region in the summers.



Click here to read more about these nominees and others:  
[Denali Peak Performance Awards](#)

## *Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan*

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is in the process of updating the Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan. The plan identifies and prioritizes transportation needs for Southwest Alaska.

The project area includes the Bristol Bay, Kodiak Island and Aleutians East Boroughs, as well as the Dillingham census area and the Pribilof Islands.

The process began in 2011 with fact-finding and community visits. Phase 2 is expected to begin in early-2014 and be completed in mid-2015.

### *Aviation Issues to be addressed in Phase 2*

#### **Runway Length**

Examine runway length needs in the region based on recent and potential changes to the aircraft fleet, to support economic development, and for economical fuel/cargo access for communities without barge service. Identify the highest priority runway extensions and other high priority airport improvements in the region.

**Precision Approaches** Identify a priority ranking of improved approaches in the region based on work completed under the Alaska Aviation System Plan

You can help us determine which projects should be considered, and which are most important. If you have suggestions on airports in SW Alaska that need a runway extension to support economic development, are in need of navigation aids, and/or need airport improvement projects, please submit your comments to: [swaktransplan@dowlhkm.com](mailto:swaktransplan@dowlhkm.com)

More information available at:  
[www.swaktransplan.com](http://www.swaktransplan.com)

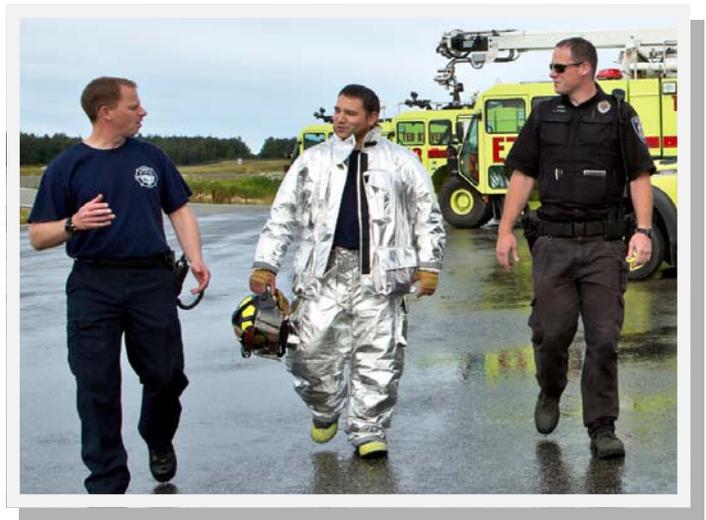
Project Manager  
Tom Middendorf  
(907) 562-2000  
[tmiddendorf@dowlhkm.com](mailto:tmiddendorf@dowlhkm.com)

## Upcoming Events

**APRIL - 24 Aviation Advisory Board Meeting, DOT&PF Central Region Main Conference Room, Anchorage**

**APRIL - 26 Seaplane Safety Seminar 8:00a.m., Tom Wardleigh Hangar/OAS. Contact Mary O'Connor for more information (907) 271-1571**

**MAY 3-4 Great Alaska Aviation Gathering FedEx Hangar, Ted Stevens Anchorage Int'l. Airport**



***Get your career MOVING!***

**JOB FAIR**

**10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Saturday,**

**March 22, 2014**

**Ted Stevens Anchorage  
International Airport**

North Terminal

**No cost to attend!  
Free parking!**

For more info, call (907) 266-2119

# Galena Interior Learning Academy (GILA)

By Josh Kaufield, Aviation Technology  
Galena City School District (GCSD)

*GILA is Alaska's longest operating residential secondary vocational school offering students from all over Alaska the opportunity to gain industry standard vocational certification in numerous programs including aviation.*

We operate a Private Pilot Certification program that reaches out to about 40-50 students each year. Our aviation program includes a Private Pilot Ground School Course and Private Pilot Flight School Course. We operate 3 separate aircraft, and over the last 3 years, we will have seen:

- 1) 9 students earn their Private Pilot Certificates
- 2) 19 students fly an airplane solo.
- 3) 12-15 students pass the Private Pilot - Airplane Knowledge Exam.

At GCSD we acknowledge that aviation is one of the largest employment industries in the State of Alaska. We believe that this industry is made up of more than just pilots, so we choose to reach out to as many students as we can possibly support. We also believe that a Private Pilot Training Course provides a good platform of aviation training for these students because it exposes them to a variety of skills and areas that many aviation professionals need to be familiar with: radio communication procedures, weather, aircraft systems, aeronautical judgment and decision making, aerodynamics, avionics and flight instrument systems, etc. Whether it be an aircraft dispatcher, air traffic controller, aircraft mechanic, flight engineer, aeronautical engineer, or pilot, the training they receive here is relevant to nearly all aviation related vocations.

Reaching out to a large number of students who are interested in aviation also allows an opportunity for me, as the instructor, to assess and evaluate the readiness of each individual for our Private Pilot Flight Training Program. Though every student is interested in learning about airplanes, not all of them are ready to fly an airplane. The structure of our program ensures that the flight training we provide is a proper fit for the students who are involved in it.

Our Private Pilot Ground School and Private Pilot Flight School course have both been approved through University of Alaska Fairbanks to allow students in our program to potentially earn a total of 6 college credits before graduation.



***"GILA - where we train Alaska pilots in their own backyard". More information at this website: [gila.galenaalaska.org](http://gila.galenaalaska.org)***

## *Alaska Chapter 99s Celebrate 60 Years*

On January 19, 1954 an intrepid group of women pilots gathered at Helen Stoddard's house to form the Alaska Chapter of the Ninety-Nines International Organization of Women Pilots. The original members were Helen Stoddard, Pat McGee, Margo Cook, Lois Wise, Helen Snyder, Laurine Nielson, Decema Andresen, and Ruth Hurst. The Ninety-Nines International Organization was just 25 years old and the first airplane flight in Alaska had taken place only 41 years before the Alaska Chapter was chartered.

THE NINETY-NINES, INC., is an international organization of women pilots from 35 countries with members throughout the world. They are a non-profit, charitable membership corporation.

The organization came into being in November 1929. All American female pilots assembled to create an organization for mutual support and the advancement of aviation. Amelia Earhart was elected as first president and the group was named for the original 99 charter members.

In Alaska, the 99s are involved in Air Marking – painting the name of an Airport on the ramp in 32 foot high letters. They offer a Flying Companion Seminars – for non-pilots to share with them information on how to read a chart, how to use the radio, what to do in the event of an emergency.

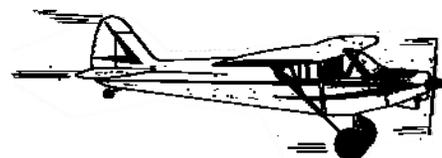
The 99s offer scholarships to aspiring women pilots to finish a private pilot training or to achieve an advanced rating. They participate in and support aviation Safety Seminars, aviation education in the community and, for fun, organize “fly ins” to interesting places.

Jean White, the oldest active member at age 92, still volunteers to help with Girl Scout activities. Jean was a charter member of the Civil Air Patrol in Iowa. Too short to become a WASP (Women's Army Service Pilot) in 1942 Jean joined the Air Force and served initially as a maintenance technician and later



*Jean White stands next to an exhibit about the Ninety-Nines 60th Anniversary currently on display at the Aviation Museum at Lake Hood.*

was moved into logistics. Jean served two tours at Elmendorf Air Force base and retired from the Air Force as a Lt. Colonel. Currently there is an exhibit about the Ninety-Nines 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on display at the Aviation Museum at Lake Hood. For more information visit [www.ak99s.org](http://www.ak99s.org) – the local Alaska Chapter website; or [www.ninetynines.org](http://www.ninetynines.org) for the International Headquarters website.





*Our mission is to:*

*“Keep Alaska Moving through*

*service and infrastructure.”*

*To learn more visit our website: [www.dot.alaska.gov](http://www.dot.alaska.gov)*

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
Division of Statewide Aviation  
4111 Aviation Ave.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

**Return Service Requested**

**TO:**