

# **General Aviation Association Fairbanks International Airport Meeting Notes April 25, 2017**

Vice President Paul Merrifield opened the meeting with introductions of the GAA board members

## **Alaska Airmen Association**

Laurie Hege, new Fairbanks representative

- Invited folks to stop by and meet her. Mon-Thu, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, or call her at 907-479-9500.
- Reminded us of the Great Alaska Aviation Gathering in May.
- We can call on her to investigate any aviation related items of interest.

## **Airport Management**

Melissa Osborn, Chief of Operations

- NO runway incursions on East Ramp since last report!
- Continuing problems with accounting system, particularly tie-down invoicing. Patience.
- FAI received an award for work on improving reporting of runway conditions.
- Construction planning:
  - Security upgrades on west side in 2017,
  - Taxiway B upgrade in 2018 (see below for more details),
  - East Ramp upgrades in planning, scope to be determined.

R J Stumpf, Airport Engineer

- Extensive testing of the water in the float pond. (copies of report to Tom George).

## **Air Traffic Control**

Amanda Reimann, Tower:

- Staffing: currently 15 certified controllers and 10 trainees. Expect this to improve to 20 certified and 5 trainees by December.
- Reviewed TRSA procedures.

- Frequent Flyer Codes: they have been working on getting more codes for Frequent Flyer assignment, but still only a limited number available. They request that Frequent Flyers PREFACE their call sign with “Frequent Flyer” when checking in with clearance delivery. This saves controllers from having to enter your information as you talk.
- Reviewed Flight Following (FF) procedures. Request FF from Ground, and be clear if you want FF beyond Fairbanks. Assigned squawk codes starting with 0 are local only. Codes starting with 1 will follow you beyond.
- ATIS antenna has been moved, and reports are requested on whether this is helping with the lack of coverage to the west.
- The new Fusion consoles are in and extend radar coverage considerably.
- Emphasized that we MUST read back ALL hold short instructions and runway assignments with call sign, and any clearance containing an altitude assignment or vector. Also, don’t shorten your call sign until ATC has done so. Similar call signs can cause serious confusion.
- Brief report on runway condition reporting.
- Reviewed Special VFR procedures, listing prioritization of requests.
- Called attention to the increased military flying, including UAS flights.
- Gave an overview of the guidelines for UAS flying, Hobby vs. Commercial use.
- Reroofing the tower will happen mid-May to mid-June. During the night hours of 2000 to 0700, the tower may be relocated. If you are operating during those hours, pay extra attention, and please be patient.

## **Flight Service Station**

Matt Worker, FSS Chief

- Reminded us that we will be using ICAO flight plans in the very near future.
- Requested more PIREPS:
  - During break-up, they want river ice and flooding reports.
  - PIREPS help validate forecasts, hopefully making them more accurate in the future.
- Brief overview of weathercams and the Alaska Aviation Weather Unit.
- Discussed enhanced Special Reporting Service (eSRS), for electronic tracking units such as InReach and Spot. This is an Alaskan program to explore the benefits. Sign up at FSS and add this to your Master Flight Plan, if so equipped.

## **AOPA**

Tom George, AOPA Alaska Representative:

- New Fox3 and Paxon MOAs have been delayed, at least till November, 2017.
- Commented on the proposed expansion of Restricted Areas 2201 and 2205.
- You can report aviation issues about the military to phone 800-538-6647.
- A new weather cam system is being developed and is in beta testing. You can access it and respond to a survey at [avcamstest.faa.gov](http://avcamstest.faa.gov).
- There are Google maps of ADSB coverage in Alaska, at different flight altitudes. Google “FAA adsb map” to find it.
- A DOT-led working group on Alaskan Back Country Airstrips, is requesting info and surveys of such strips. Tom showed a report on the charting history of Gold King Creek Airstrip over the last several decades.

## **Airport Management**

Cyndie Little Project Manager with Michael Baker International

- Taxiway B reconstruction in 2018
  - Pavement dates from 1974
  - Replace pavement and lighting
  - Enhanced markings and lighting
  - Gate across B
  - Possible gate across Float Pond Road

## **Business Meeting**

- Minutes of the Fall 2016 GAA meeting were approved by unanimous consent.
- Treasurer Phyllis Tate reported a bank balance of \$1415.35 as of 3/31/2017, not including room charges, dues, donations & sponsorship received for or at the 4/25 meeting.
- Changes to the Constitution and By-Laws were voted on and unanimously accepted.
- Scheduled election of officers was postponed, due to lack of candidates.
- Meeting adjourned.