

Apr 21, 2023

Spring GAA Meeting

Fairbanks Air Traffic Control (FAI ATCT)



Fairbanks Pilot Outreach Team:

Corey Shaw

Fairbanks Air Traffic Manager:

Tim Long

Contact Information:

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*calls may be recorded



Discussion Points

- Staffing
- Float Pond
- Military
- Firefighting



Staffing

- 15 CPCs
 - 22 is full staffing
- 10 Trainees
 - 5 Approach
 - 4 Tower
 - 1 Ground
- 2 Supervisors
 - 4 is full staffing
- ATM
 - Leaving for FSS ATM job
 - New ATM TBD

Know someone interested in becoming ATC? The FAA is hiring entry-level controllers May 5-8. Go to www.faa.gov/be-atc to find out if you're eligible and what you'll need to apply.



Float Pond

- All departing aircraft contact clearance delivery on the appropriate frequency (127.6 / 121.9 as specified on the ATIS) and advise intentions prior to contacting tower.
- If you are NOT requesting TRSA services, advise clearance delivery “negative TRSA/radar service”
- Transponder not required

Float Pond cont.

- Float pond channel extends to each N/S shore line
- Remain east of the channel at all times unless given a clearance to enter the channel
- No step taxiing/landing/departing outside the channel
- Aircraft are expected to exit the channel as soon as practical after landing unless otherwise approved
- Simultaneous opposite direction operations with the float pond and any other surface are not allowed (expect delays)

Military Exercises

- Northern Edge
 - May 4-19
- Red Flag 23-2
 - June 8-23
- Red Flag 23-3
 - Aug. 10-25

– Friday before each exercise is “Fam Day”. There are a multitude of extremely unfamiliar pilots.

Firefighting

- Priority handling
 - Only Emergencies, Medevacs, and President get more
- Often don't call Approach for sequencing
 - Head on a swivel
- Expect the large tankers to base out of FAI
 - Often land/depart against flow
- Check NOTAMs, FSS and ForeFlight for TFR updates
- Firebosses and Super Scoopers using Float Pond
 - Wake turbulence if opposite direction

Reporting Fires

- Position
 - Lat/Long, Radial/DME, Geographical
- Size
- Color of Smoke
- Visible Flames
- Nearby Structures
- Direction Moving

Questions?

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Thank you for your time.

