

Florida Flyer

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Bill Johnson Retires

Palm Beach County Park Airport

by Jeremy Perusse

Palm Beach County Park Airport (LNA), known locally as Lantana Airport, is located on Florida's east coast, seven miles south-southwest of West Palm Beach in central Palm Beach County. Lantana Airport is a designated reliever for Palm Beach International Airport (PBI), located five miles to the north.

Lantana serves the general aviation interests of central and southern Palm Beach County, including the cities of Lantana, Wellington, Deerfield Beach, and the areas north of Boca Raton. The airport serves piston and turbine-powered aircraft for business, recreation, and flight training.

The airport is conveniently located close to I-95 and minutes away from downtown West Palm Beach, world class shopping, many of the area's finest golf courses and resorts, great fishing, and Palm Beach County's 47 miles of beaches. Lantana is a short drive from northern Palm Beach County, where you can find the PGA National Resort and Spa, the



Palm Beach County Department of Airports

Palm Beach County Park Airport's Runway 15/33. The new I-95 interchange at Lantana has improved access to the airport.

region's biotech research facilities, and Roger Dean Stadium, the spring training home of the St. Louis Cardinals and

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Aaron N. Smith
State Aviation Manager

“Governor Scott has proposed another record year of aviation funding with \$347 million for the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015.”

MANAGER'S CORNER

The 2015 Legislative Session is now in progress. This year the department has proposed changes to Chapter 333, Florida Statutes (F.S.), Airport Zoning.

Background. In 2012, the department created a stakeholder working group to address problems with implementing Chapter 333, F.S., and to make the law more workable. The group consisted of representatives from airports, local planning/zoning departments, the Florida Defense Alliance, the League of Cities, the Florida Airports Council, the real estate development community, and the department.

The working group determined that Chapter 333, F.S., contains internal inconsistencies, contains outdated and inconsistent provisions when compared to applicable federal regulations, and requires a local government airport protection zoning process that can be cumbersome and confusing.

Update overview. The revisions update the regulations with current federal and state laws, clarify and streamline the statutory language, provide a process that is leaner, more consistent and predictable for the end user (citizens, local governments, and property owners), and provide the local governments more flexibility in implementation of airport/airspace protection measures, while maintaining a high degree of aviation safety and protection of state aviation resources.

FY2016 proposed budget. Governor Scott has proposed another record year of aviation funding with \$347 million for the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015. This includes \$21 million for spaceport investments.

Economic impact. In 2014, the department completed the update to the Florida Statewide Aviation Economic Impact Study. Aviation contributes \$144 billion in annual economic activity. That's up \$30 billion from the 2010 study. Commercial service airports account for over \$108 billion. General aviation accounts for over \$7.7 billion. Military airfields account for \$12.8 billion. Please take time to review the study at www.dot.state.fl.us/aviation/economicimpact.shtm.

In addition, a new industry-wide study detailing the economic contributions of general aviation to the U.S. economy was released. The study was rolled out during the General Aviation Manufacturers Association's State of the Industry press conference held at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. The National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), funded the study along with the General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA), the Aircraft Electronics Association (AEA), the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), the Helicopter Association International (HAI), the National Air Transportation Association (NATA), and the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA). The study determined the industry's economic impact based on data from 2013, the most recent year available. The PricewaterhouseCoopers study and narrative report are available on NASAO's website at www.nasao.org.

Bill Johnson retires. I want to take a moment and recognize Bill Johnson, Executive Director of the Florida Airports Council (FAC). Bill has been involved in Florida aviation his entire career which included time with the Florida Department of Transportation as State Aviation Manager. He has been a true partner in aviation, an advocate for airports and the Aviation and Spaceports Office, as well as a good friend. Best wishes and success in your retirement!

New South Runway Opens at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport

The new South Runway at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport opened in September 2014 after a public celebration offering tours of the runway and many exciting activities for all ages.

The runway project extended the South Runway (10R/28L) from 5,276 feet to 8,000 feet, giving the airport two parallel commercial runways.

The project included elevating the runway, adding a new full-length parallel taxiway just north of the South Runway, and constructing an instrument landing system and a new aircraft staging and hold pad. Connecting cross-field taxiways are under construction from the new full-length parallel taxiway to the existing taxiways and the north runway.

Bridges support runway

Multiple bridges now support the extended runway and parallel taxiway as they pass over U.S. 1, the Florida East Coast Railroad, the airport perimeter road, and associated airport access ramps. The bridges feature tunnel characteristics such as fire alarms, fire suppression, and smoke evacuation.

Benefits of the new South Runway include keeping delays to a minimum, enhancing safety during emergency situations, reducing taxi time to and from the terminals, and allowing more flexibility for aircraft operations.

Economic benefits

The runway project provided \$1.42 billion in total economic impact for the community, including about 10,000 construction jobs over the course of the project. During 2013, at the peak of construction, the project pumped \$1 million a day into the local economy.

The runway was built on time and within budget, with a total project cost

of approximately \$800 million. The Florida Department of Transportation provided \$128 million of the funding.

"This project was the #1 runway project in the U.S. for the FAA," said Kent George, Director of Aviation, Broward County Aviation Department.

To see an animation that illustrates the expansion of the South Runway at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, visit www.broward.org/Airport/FLLair/Gallery/Pages/RunwayAnimation.aspx. ♦



Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport

The new South Runway at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. The extended runway and parallel taxiway, supported by multiple bridges, now pass over U.S. 1 and the railroad.



Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport

A view of the new South Runway while still under construction.

Palm Beach County Park Airport

From page 1

the Miami Marlins.

Lantana Airport is one of four airports owned by Palm Beach County and operated by its Department of Airports. The goal of the Department of Airports is to provide safe, efficient, and user friendly aviation facilities in Palm Beach County.

Three runways

Situated on 304 acres, Lantana Airport is an active non-towered airport with three runways located under Palm Beach International Airport's Class C airspace. Runway 03/21 is 3,256 feet long and 75 feet wide, Runway 15/33 is 3,421 feet long and 100 feet wide, and Runway 09/27 is 3,489 feet long and 75 feet wide. Runways 09/27 and 15/33 are served with parallel taxiways, and each runway is equipped with precision approach path indicators (PAPI). All runways are asphalt in good condition, and there are several instrument approaches to the airport.

One full-service fixed base operator, Galaxy Aviation of Lantana, serves Lantana Airport. Galaxy Aviation was selected through a competitive process and began providing FBO services in April 2014. Galaxy Aviation maintains a single-story terminal building and operates seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Galaxy Aviation provides aircraft parking and tie-down service, aircraft fueling, aircraft hangars, and rental car services to visitors.

Approximately 219 aircraft are based at Lantana Airport, including 191 single-engine aircraft, 29 multi-engine aircraft, and 9 helicopters. The winter season brings an additional 40 aircraft by seasonal visitors to Palm Beach County. Lantana Airport has approximately 100,000 annual aircraft operations of which 75 percent are local general aviation activity.

The Palm Beach County Department of Airports has completed several projects in recent years. Examples of these projects are improvements to the airfield signage (2009), electrical



Palm Beach County Department of Airports

Terminal building and transient ramp at Palm Beach County Park Airport.

Galaxy Aviation of Lantana, FBO

The airport's new FBO, Galaxy Aviation of Lantana, took over FBO operations on April 1, 2014. Galaxy Aviation has greatly increased the customer service and FBO experience at the airport and is planning some future improvements at the airport," says Jeremy Perusse, Airports Operations Manager for the Palm Beach County Department of Airports.

"We feel that safety is a priority, but service is a close second," says Jonathan Miller, co-owner of Galaxy Aviation of Lantana. "We want every aircraft to be greeted upon arrival, whether they are arriving in a small single engine aircraft or a larger twin engine turbo prop aircraft. Our goal is to provide every aircraft with service above and beyond what they experience at other airports." Miller and co-owner Michael Faren were previously in senior management at a Florida-based business with six FBOs (five in Florida and one in Colorado), all of which were recently sold.

Galaxy Aviation's lease requires three areas of improvement over the next five to seven years. The first set of improvements, which will be completed by the end of this year, is a new fuel farm with self-serve fuel capability and an aircraft wash rack. By April of 2017, Galaxy Aviation will complete construction of a new FBO terminal building with a minimum of 4,500 square feet. After the terminal project, Galaxy Aviation will complete 40 T-hangars on or before 2021.

The high level of customer service along with the FBO's improvements and the county's improvements at the airport will bring the field up to the standards that operators expect today, says Miller. **"It's a win-win for our based tenants and the flying public, the state of Florida, and Palm Beach County.** Our goal is to be able to compete directly with the other general aviation airports in the county, including North County Airport and Boca Raton Airport, and provide a quality alternative for the piston and turboprop operators utilizing these airports. Further, we want to build the tenant base at our airport and increase its economic contribution to the local economy."

vault renovation with the addition of an emergency generator (2010), and the rehabilitation of Runway 15/33 and reconstruction of Taxiway C (2012). Future planned improvements include

reconstruction and rehabilitation of tie-down and terminal aprons, landside improvements aimed at improving the entrance roadways, and landside parking expansion and hangar construction.



Palm Beach County Department of Airports

Economic Impact

The total annual economic impact of Palm Beach County Park Airport follows:

- **Total employment: 242**
- **Direct impacts: \$14,635,000**
(from the tenants/businesses at the airport and construction projects undertaken by the airport or by on-site businesses)
- **Indirect impacts: \$1,281,000**
(associated with spending from visitors who arrive in the area by way of general aviation aircraft)
- **Multiplier (additional) impacts: \$11,080,000**
- **Total output: \$26,996,000**

—from the *Florida Statewide Aviation Economic Impact Study Update, August 2014*

Serving the public

The property for Lantana Airport was originally donated to Palm Beach County by local philanthropists under the condition that the land be dedicated to serving the public. Due to the rising demand of aviation in the area, the county decided to build an airport on the land. In the time leading up to World War II, the U.S. government reached an agreement with the county where the county would dredge and prepare the land and the U.S. government would

Above: Van Wagner's Snoopy I blimp that visits Palm Beach County Park Airport annually to provide aerial coverage for the Honda Classic golf event.

Right: Hangars and ramp areas.



Palm Beach County Department of Airports

build the airfield. The airport was built, and the first aircraft landed at Lantana Airport on August 20, 1941.

The airport was later expanded to accommodate additional civilian aircraft when nearby Morrison Field, now Palm Beach International Airport, was turned over to the military during World War II. In March of 1942, Civil Air Patrol – Patrol Base 3 was established for anti-submarine patrols. The military took over these duties in August 1943. Since that time, the airport has developed additional ramp parking, hangars, and taxiways.

Economic activity

In addition to the airport's fixed base operator, there are approximately 25 additional aviation businesses located at the airport. These businesses provide a variety of aviation services such as a pilot shop, aircraft maintenance, avionics, aircraft painting, aircraft rentals, aircraft windows and canopy fabrication, and flight instruction for both rotorcraft and fixed wing aircraft. Lantana is also one of the few airports in Florida that has a propeller shop located on the field.

According to the Florida economic

impact study (updated in 2014), Lantana contributed 242 jobs and nearly \$27 million in economic activity to Palm Beach County and the local area.

Lantana Airport is home to the Civil Air Patrol's Lantana Cadet Squadron, Group 6, Florida Wing. The squadron is very active and provides a cadet program, search and rescue functions, and cooperative missions with federal, state, and local agencies, including Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection, and law enforcement and emergency management agencies. Local Boynton Aerospace Science Academy (BASA) offers programs in the fields of aviation, aeronautical science, and aviation maintenance. The BASA program is affiliated with Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and is seeking to expand its program to Lantana Airport.

To learn more about Palm Beach County Park Airport, also known as Lantana Airport, see www.pbias.org/about/general-aviation/park-airport. ♦

Jeremy Perusse is Airports Operations Manager for the Palm Beach County Department of Airports. He can be reached at (561) 471-7404 or jperusse@pbias.org.

Jim Boxold, New FDOT Secretary



*Jim Boxold
Secretary, Florida
Department of Transportation*

Governor Rick Scott appointed Jim Boxold as Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation effective January 3, 2015.

"It is an absolute honor to be appointed as Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation today," said Boxold. "Under Governor Scott's leadership, transportation has been made a top priority to help drive our state's economic growth and improve the lives of families. We will continue to focus on the Governor's mission to make Florida the best state to live and get a great job."

Jim Boxold has served as Chief of Staff of the Florida Department of Transportation since July 2013. Previously, he served as the Director of Cabinet Affairs for the Florida Commissioner of Agriculture from 2003 to 2013, and as Deputy Director of Cabinet Affairs for Governor Jeb Bush from 2001 to 2002. Boxold served as Legislative Affairs Director for Congressman Porter J. Goss from 1995 to 2001. He received his bachelor's degree from George Washington University.

We welcome Secretary Jim Boxold to the Florida Department of Transportation. ♦

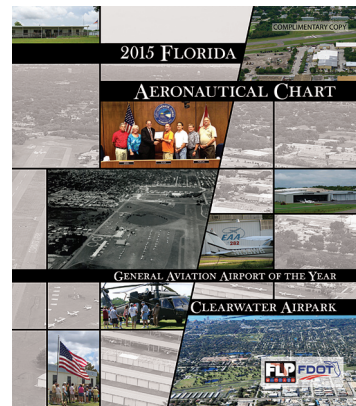
Now Available! 2015 Florida Airport Directory and Aeronautical Chart

The 2015 Florida Airport Directory and Aeronautical Chart are now available.

If you would like to receive a copy of the directory and chart, please contact Fred Karuga by email at Fred.Karuga@dot.state.fl.us. Remember to include your complete mailing address and quantity desired. If you require more than one copy, be sure to include your phone number along with your mailing information.

In most cases, we can process orders within two weeks of receiving your request. If you have any questions, please call the FDOT Aviation and Spaceports Office at (850) 414-4500.

The Florida Airport Directory and Aeronautical Chart are complimentary publications published by the FDOT Aviation and Spaceports Office, and are not to be sold by any individual or business. ♦



We congratulate Clearwater Airpark, the 2014 General Aviation Airport of the Year. Clearwater Airpark is featured on the covers of the Florida Airport Directory (below right) and Aeronautical Chart (below left).

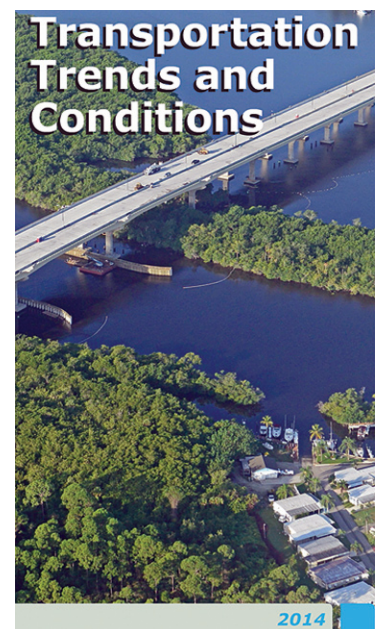


Pocket Guide Now Available

The Florida Department of Transportation Office of Policy Planning is pleased to release the *Pocket Guide to Florida Transportation Trends and Conditions – 2014*. A portable document format (PDF) version is available online at www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/trends/pg14.pdf.

FDOT mailed printed copies to FDOT districts, Florida Turnpike Enterprise, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Regional Planning Councils, as well as counties and cities.

To request a printed copy, please contact Kennedie Bright at Kennedie.Bright@dot.state.fl.us or Paula San Gregorio at Paula.Sangregorio@dot.state.fl.us, or you may call (850) 414-4800. Please provide your name, mailing address, and phone number. For comments and questions, please contact Monica Zhong at Monica.Zhong@dot.state.fl.us. ♦



New GA Airport Business Plan Guidebook Available

The *Florida General Aviation Airport Business Plan Guidebook* is now available at the website of the FDOT Aviation and Spaceports Office.

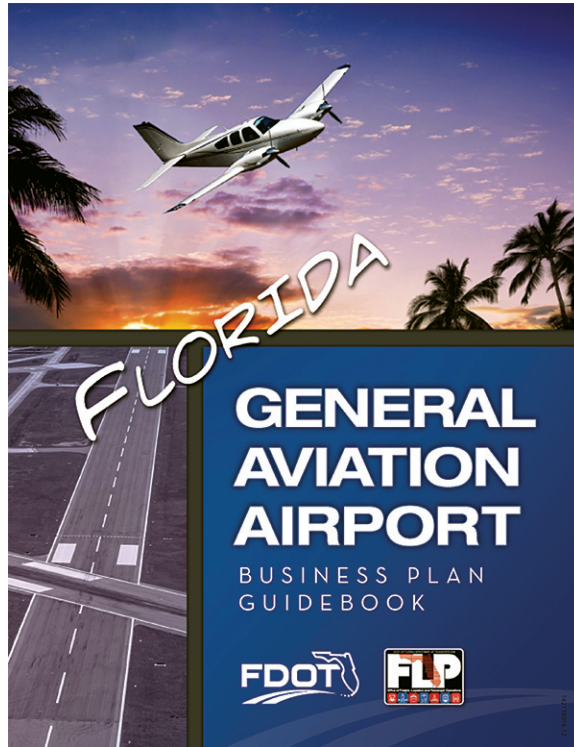
The guidebook was designed to help those who are involved with developing business plans for general aviation airports in Florida. The ultimate goal of a business plan is to assist an airport in achieving or improving its financial self-sufficiency.

Guidebook topics

The guidebook covers a number of topics, including the following:

- Why is a business plan needed?
- The differences between a business plan, master plan, and strategic plan.
- Special information for general aviation airport business planning.
- Best management practices with reference documents and “things to think about.”
- Business plan components that every airport should consider including in the business plan, such as developing a project team, reviewing existing plans and policies that could affect the airport, coordinating with local government, collecting data, and much more.
- How to take data and information and use it to develop a set of goals and objectives for the airport.
- How to carry out the airport’s goals and objectives.
- Developing an action plan, budget, and marketing plan.
- Maintaining the business plan.

To assist in the development of the guidebook, a technical advisory committee was created from members of general aviation airports in Florida to



provide input throughout its development. Additionally, airport and aviation professionals were interviewed to gather information related to airport business planning, and information was obtained through Continuing Florida Aviation System Planning Process (CFASPP) meetings throughout the state.

Obtain a copy of the guidebook

To obtain an electronic copy of the *Florida General Aviation Airport Business Plan Guidebook* and a brochure about the guidebook, please visit the FDOT Aviation and Spaceports Office’s website at www.dot.state.fl.us/aviation. From the “Office Resources” section, choose “Documents and Publications” and then scroll down to “Planning” where you will see the *Florida General Aviation Airport Business Plan Guidebook* and the *Primer to the Florida General Aviation Airport Business Plan Guidebook*. ♦

Send Us Your Aviation Award Nominations

Email nominations by May 31

The FDOT Aviation and Spaceports Office will present the Florida Aviation Awards at the Florida Airports Council’s annual conference in July. The awards include outstanding aviation professional, distinguished aviation service, general aviation airport, commercial service airport, general aviation airport project, and commercial service airport project.

Airports, local government officials, federal officials, consultants, contractors, industry partners, and department staff who wish to nominate professionals, airports, or projects for these awards may send nominations to Aaron Smith, State Aviation Manager, at Aaron.Smith@dot.state.fl.us. Nomination requirements may be found on our website at www.dot.state.fl.us/aviation under “Office Resources – Programs and Services – Awards Program.” **Nominations must be received by May 31.** ♦

Calendar

Please contact event organizers before attending in case of cancellation due to weather or other factors.

April 21–26, 2015

SUN ’n FUN International Fly-In & Expo, Lakeland Linder Regional Airport (LAL). For more information, see www.sun-n-fun.org or call SUN ’n FUN at (863) 644-2431.

July 26–29, 2015

FAC’s 46th Annual Conference and Exposition in Boca Raton. For more information, call the Florida Airports Council at (850) 224-2964 or see www.floridaairports.org.

For information about CFASPP, see www.cfaspp.com.

Bill Johnson Retires

Bill Johnson retired recently after serving as Executive Director of the Florida Airports Council for more than 13 years. Under Bill Johnson's guidance, the organization changed its name to the Florida Airports Council (FAC) and expanded FAC's membership and philosophy to be more proactive and inclusive, and to have a larger voice on behalf of the airports.

Since September 2001, Johnson has guided FAC through a number of legislative changes and challenges in the aviation industry. "Over the past 10-plus years, Bill Johnson and his staff have guided the Florida Airports Council in a very professional manner and have achieved extraordinary accomplishments for the industry in Florida," says Michael Stewart, Chairman of the FAC Board. "The board congratulates Mr. Johnson on his transition to new challenges in the aviation industry."

During Johnson's service as Executive Director, grant funding increased from \$97 million in 2001 to \$336 million in 2015.



Bill Johnson

In addition to his position with FAC, Bill Johnson administered the FAC Education Foundation, providing scholarships and internships to students in Florida, and coordinated FAC's three student chapters.

Bill Johnson's wife Marycatherine and daughter Ashley are also leaving the Florida Airports Council. Marycatherine Johnson was FAC's Director of Finance, Administration and Meeting Services.

Johnson previously served as Director of Economic Development for the City of Tallahassee, Director of Aviation at Tallahassee Regional Airport, State Aviation Manager for the Florida Department of Transportation, Assistant City Manager and Director of Economic Development for the City of Fort Lauderdale, and Airport Manager for Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport.

He has a master's degree in aviation education and a bachelor's degree in aviation administration from Middle Tennessee State University and an associate degree in flight technology from Florida Institute of Technology. Johnson is an Accredited Airport Executive (A.A.E.) and a licensed pilot.

Bill Johnson's service to airports and aviation has been invaluable. We wish him well in his next endeavors. ♦

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