

Florida Flyer

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INSIDE

4

**2006 International Aviation
Art Contest**

5

**The Florida Aviation
Historical Society**

**Fredrick Piccolo Receives
FAA Award**

6

Hilliard Airpark

7

**Secretary Tours Tampa's
New Baggage System**

**Secretary Meets with
Florida Airports Council**

8

Bill Ashbaker Recognized

**Call for Award
Nominations**

**2006 Directory and Chart
Now Available**



Photograph courtesy of www.nasa.gov

Commission on the Future of Space and Aeronautics in Florida

Lieutenant Governor Toni Jennings recently announced the findings and recommendations of the Commission on the Future of Space and Aeronautics in Florida.

Governor Jeb Bush established the Commission in June 2005 to assess and make recommendations to strengthen Florida's role as a leader in the space and aeronautics industries. Lt. Governor Jennings served as Chair of the Commission which included 19 members

representing civil, military, commercial, and academic interests.

"Florida must remain poised to take full advantage of the unprecedented opportunities presented to us in this evolving industry. We must focus on educating our students, training our workforce in new and innovative ways, taking the lead on President Bush's Vision for Space, fostering cutting edge space-based research and development, and capturing

see Commission, page 3



MANAGER'S CORNER

by William J. Ashbaker, P.E.

“The department is recommending a \$172 million program for airport improvements in fiscal year 2007 beginning this July.”

The azaleas are blooming in Tallahassee. Therefore, we must be halfway through our annual two-month Florida legislative session. This is not a particularly active legislative session for aviation issues, but that can be a good thing.

While the Florida Airports Council is tracking over 70 proposed legislative bills and amendments, they are watching eminent domain, taxation, and growth management issues most closely. It goes without saying that the council is always interested in state airport program budget appropriation developments.

The state Aviation Program budget proposed by the department for next fiscal year is very good news for airports. The department is recommending a \$172 million program for airport improvements in fiscal year 2007 beginning this July. This is \$56 million above the current year budget and the largest single year state aviation improvement program in the history of the department. I know that Florida airport managers will be anxious to begin writing their improvement project “wish lists” even before they finish reading this article. I better explain this budget proposal. The “new” money is already assigned to projects.

Traditionally, the Florida Department of Transportation Aviation Program only included airport improvements “inside of the fence.” These are improvements like work on runways, taxiways, aprons, terminals, hangars, and similar items. Traditionally, the Aviation Program did not include items such as public access roads or transit facilities that are not on airport property. With the advent of the department’s innovative Strategic Intermodal System Program (SIS), most of our commercial service airports now are targeted to benefit from state surface transportation funding for key capacity improvements such as roads that connect the airport to major arterial and interstate roads. The funding for these projects is now counted as part of the Aviation Program. Although it may sound like we are counting “apples and oranges” in the Aviation Program, the whole \$172 million directly benefits airports. We now account for the entire transportation system that moves passengers from their home and car to an airplane or goods to market. This is good news for airports and the Florida economy—more than 8.5 percent of Florida’s gross state product is due to aviation activity. It is a new perspective and it is good for Florida.

Over the next few weeks, we will look forward to seeing the final results of the legislative session. By all counts, it looks like a good year for Florida.

The FDOT Aviation Office at Tallahassee Regional Airport during a planning retreat. Standing, from left to right: Abdul Hatim, Micki Liddell, Fred Karuga, Richard Null, Bill Ashbaker, Andy Keith, David Roberts, and Chuck Arnold. Seated in front row: Aaron Smith, Vu Trinh, and Tom Duncan.



Commission, from page 1

the promise of commercial space launch. Governor Bush and I are fully committed to ensuring Florida's position as a global leader in the space industry," said Lt. Governor Jennings.

During the last several months the Commission reviewed trends and issues in six areas: industry economics, workforce composition, education, business climate, launch environment, and management structure.

The Commission adopted 18 recommendations, the most significant of which are listed below.

- Establish a Center for Math and Science Education Research to enhance K-12 mathematics and science instruction quality.
- Create a center of excellence with focus on space and aeronautics research and technology.
- Position Florida to assemble, test, check out, launch, maintain, and refurbish NASA's new crew exploration vehicle, which will replace the space shuttle after its retirement in 2010.
- Expand the tools available for recruitment of space and aeronautics businesses.
- Improve highway, rail, and waterway connections to the Cape Canaveral Spaceport.
- Plan and develop a commercial spaceport targeted initially at horizontal launches, such as those that support the space tourism industry, while continuing with efforts to enhance commercial launches at the Cape. The commercial spaceport should be located separately from the federal lands at the Cape.
- Consolidate Florida's existing space entities into a new organization, Space Florida.
- Provide dedicated funding to support innovative education programs and other space initiatives.

Lt. Governor Jennings also announced Governor Bush's \$55 million



Photographs, counter-clockwise from left: Lt. Governor Toni Jennings and NASA Administrator Michael Griffin; members of the Commission on the Future of Space and Aeronautics in Florida; NASA Administrator Michael Griffin speaks to the Commission.



Photographs courtesy of Florida Space Authority

budget proposal for space and aeronautics for 2006/2007. The budget proposal includes \$4 million for innovative education and space programs, \$2 million for the creation of the Center for Math and Science Education Research, \$35 million for recruitment of the crew

exploration vehicle, \$3 million in tax relief for the space and defense industry, and \$11 million to support Space Florida's operations and implementation of the Commission's recommendations.

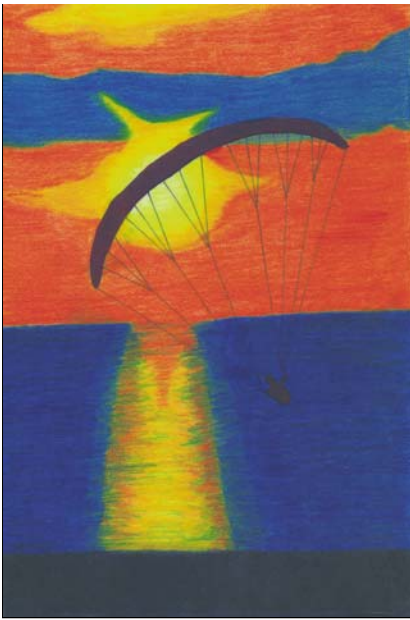
Bills will be filed in the Florida Senate and House to implement the Commission's recommendations.

"Florida faces an unprecedented opportunity when it comes to the future of space and aeronautics in our state," said Senator Mike Fasano. "As a member of this Commission, I believe the recommendations contained in this report will prove significant to Florida's mission to capture and build upon all the space and aeronautics industry has to offer our state. Florida must make certain it retains and grows its role as a national leader in space." ♦

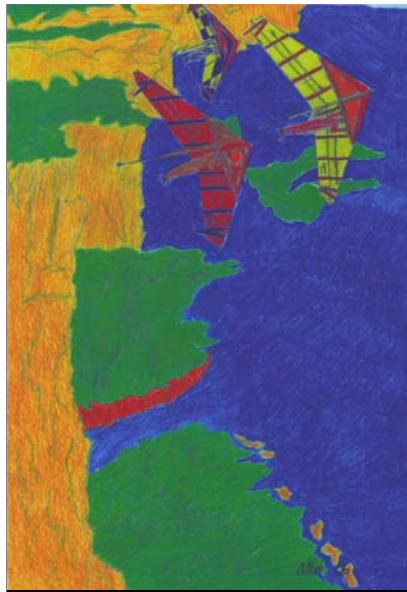
This article was based on a summary of the Commission's final report and a press release dated January 18, 2006. For the full final report of the Commission on the Future of Space and Aeronautics in Florida, see www.myflorida.com/myflorida/government/governorinitiatives/space_commission.

The Commission's Findings

- Florida must enhance its workforce, education, and research capabilities, with emphasis on mathematics, science, engineering, and related fields.
- Florida must remain the nation's premier location for civil, military, and commercial launches.
- A new organization, Space Florida, is needed to provide statewide leadership, advocacy, and coordination for space-related policy.



Natalia De Gracia
First Place, Ages 10-13



Alexander Campbell
Second Place, Ages 10-13



Sarah A. Taliento
Third Place, Ages 10-13

2006 *International Aviation Art Contest*



Derek W. Stockstill
First Place, Ages 6-9

Florida students did a wonderful job depicting this year's aviation art contest theme, "Air Sports and Nature in Harmony," as you can see from the winning entries presented here.

We appreciate the work of all the students who participated in the art contest and the parents and teachers who encouraged them.

About the contest

In the fall of each year, schools in Florida receive a brochure explaining the details of the contest. Entries are due in January for judging at the state level. All state first-place winners compete nationally in March; then national winners compete in the international contest in May.

The judges choose first, second, and third-place winners in each of three

categories, ages 6-9, ages 10-13, and ages 14-17. We received an unusually low number of entries for the 2006 contest in Florida, thus we had four winners this year instead of nine.

Florida's judges

"It was good to see work come from new schools in the state, and we hope to see the number of entrants return to the numbers seen last year," says Barbara Brubaker who has masterfully coordinated the judging of the art contest in Florida for four years. "We salute the young artists and their teachers and thank them for their creative, colorful work."

Barbara Brubaker is a photography teacher at Wellington Community High School in Palm Beach County. She is also Past-President of the Palm Beach County Art Teachers Association and a

member of the Florida Art Education Association. Other judges were Melissa Conners and Ashley Bailey of the Advanced Photo Group at Wellington.

We thank the judges for their excellent work and the Florida Art Education Association for managing the contest.

Contest sponsors

The 2006 International Aviation Art Contest was sponsored by the National Aeronautic Association, National Association of State Aviation Officials, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Federal Aviation Administration, in cooperation with the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale. The contest is designed to encourage young people to become more familiar with and to participate in aeronautics, engineering, and science. ♦

The Florida Aviation Historical Society

The Florida Aviation Historical Society (FAHS) is dedicated to preserving Florida's aviation heritage and to promoting Florida aviation, aerospace, and airports. This nonprofit corporation was founded in 1977 in the Tampa Bay area by aviation enthusiasts who joined together to record, honor, and perpetuate Florida's rich aviation heritage.

FAHS is Florida's largest aviation historical society with approximately 900 members in 26 states. All of the organization's services are performed by volunteers; FAHS has no paid employees.

During the past few years, FAHS members have built and flown reproductions of some historic aircraft. FAHS's reproduction of the world's first airliner, the 1914 Benoist Airboat, is on display at the St. Petersburg Museum of History. A reproduction of the 1928 Ford Flivver, also built by FAHS members, is on display at the Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa.

FAHS has published two books, "Florida's Aviation History, the First 100 Years" and "The World's First Airline, the St. Petersburg-Tampa Airboat Line." These books are available for \$15 each by writing FAHS at P.O. Box 127, Indian Rocks, Florida 33785.

Another FAHS endeavor is marking Florida's aviation-related historical sites. These historical markers are located in Jacksonville at the home of the first Blue Angels demonstration and near Brooksville at a 1945 Mustang aircraft crash site.

In 2003, FAHS founded the Florida Aviation Hall of Fame to recognize aviators who were instrumental in the development of aviation in Florida. FAHS, in cooperation with the Florida Air Museum at Sun 'n Fun, held the third installation of Hall of Fame honorees in December 2005, adding four more aviation pioneers to the Hall of Fame.

FAHS members meet monthly, alternating meeting locations between the Radisson Hotel in Clearwater and the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport. The meetings offer opportunities to talk with other aviation enthusiasts and to share interests and experiences. Business meetings are followed by a speaker or an aviation video presentation. Guests are always welcome. For more information, see FAHS's web site at groups.yahoo.com/group/FAHS_website. ♦

We thank Neil Cosentino and Warren J. Brown for their assistance in preparing

this article. Neil manages the Florida Airport/Area Correspondent program for FAHS, and Warren is the News Editor for FAHS. For a free copy of FAHS's bi-monthly newsletter, write Warren Brown at warenbrown@aol.com or P.O. Box 127, Indian Rocks, Florida 33785.

FAHS Seeks Correspondents

The Florida Aviation Historical Society is recruiting Florida Airport/Area Correspondents who will assist FAHS by nominating inductees to the Florida Aviation Hall of Fame and by identifying Pioneer Pilots and Pioneer Persons who have contributed to aviation and aerospace. All information received from correspondents will be archived and available on the FAHS web site. One need not be a member of FAHS or a pilot to be a correspondent. For information, please contact Neil Cosentino, phone (813) 251-4669 (weekdays), (813) 784-4669 (weekends), e-mail neil.cosentino@verizon.net.

Fredrick Piccolo Receives FAA Award

Fredrick J. Piccolo, President and CEO of Sarasota Bradenton International Airport, recently received the 2005 Commercial Service Airport Manager of the Year award from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Southern Region Airports Division.

Under Piccolo's leadership, the airport has completed many projects to increase safety, efficiency, and security. Some of these projects include completing a \$4.2 million technologically advanced security and access control project, extending the airport's primary runway for enhanced safety in operations, and developing a passenger processing system

which provides a computerized ticket counter and gate equipment for passenger processing.

The airport installed emergency generators to provide electrical power for the terminal and the entire airfield if commercial power fails. Also, the airport has low power costs and sells power to the local utility during peak periods.

A U.S. Department of Transportation Small Community Air Service grant acquired under Piccolo's leadership resulted in low-cost air service from Sarasota to major metropolitan airports in the northeast, south, and midwest. Passenger traffic has grown 18 percent,

and seasonal traffic from Canada has increased 200 percent in the past year.

"Fred Piccolo has been instrumental in the long-term success of the Sarasota Bradenton International Airport. His tenure has been marked by sustained growth and excellence," said Rusty Chapman, Manager, Airports Division, FAA Southern Region. "His tireless leadership serves as an inspiration to aviation professionals throughout the nation." ♦

This article is a summary of an FAA press release dated January 26, 2006. To read the complete press release, see www.faa.gov/news.

Hilliard Airpark

Hilliard Airpark serves the general aviation and recreational needs of Nassau County residents and visitors. Owned by the town of Hilliard, the airport is located one mile east of Hilliard just off US 1. Nassau County, in north-east Florida, borders Georgia on the north and the Atlantic Ocean on the east.

Hilliard Airpark is ideal for fly-ins, camping, hunting, and fishing, and it is close to Alltel Stadium, a venue for National Football League games and other sporting events. The airport hosts several impromptu fly-in gatherings throughout the year as well as the annual meeting of the Florida Sport Aviation Antique and Classic Association.

The airport had its beginning in 1969 when Nassau County deeded 22 acres to the town of Hilliard. The town then acquired an additional eight acres of land through the eminent domain process in order to provide for a usable 2,000 feet of turf runway.

For many years, Hilliard Airpark provided a place for local and transient aviators to enjoy their sport until the early 1990s when the airport was closed due to tree growth on each end of the runway. Tree clearing was not possible at that time without an easement from the adjacent property owner in order to maintain the airport's 20:1 approach.

Reviving the airport

Then in 1995, the town of Hilliard began the process of reviving the facility, working once again with the state of Florida and adjacent property owners to clear the trees and prepare the facility for inspection and certification. The town's efforts were successful, and the undertaking cost the town of Hilliard and the Florida Department of Transportation more than \$180,000 during the five-year period. Through persistence and a great deal of hard work, Hilliard Airpark was certified and reopened in 2000 with a 3,365-foot turf runway.

The airport has a green-and-white rotating beacon and wind indicator, but no taxiway and no approach lights.

Hilliard Airpark serves the needs of single-engine and some light twin-engine general aviation aircraft, although aircraft as large as a DC-3 have used the airport in the past. The largest plane that uses the airport on a regular basis is the Beech King Air, and the current airpark reference code (as defined by Federal Aviation Administration Circular 150/5300-13) for the airport is A-II.

The airport currently has 31 based general aviation aircraft. Most of these aircraft are in hangars, while a few are stored on unpaved tie-downs. There are 17 hangars located at the facility and sufficient space to accommodate approximately 160 tie-downs by using both sides of the runway. Hilliard Airpark plans to develop an additional 30 covered storage spaces.

The airport installed security fencing in 2004, and having just completed the master plan update in December 2005, plans are to upgrade runway lighting, construct additional T-hangars, and install a 10,000-gallon fuel tank. The airport also plans to install an irrigation well system to support its firefighting capabilities and to irrigate its turf runway.

Annual operations

Transient or visiting general aviation aircraft account for approximately 30 percent of the airport's annual operations. The airport estimates that approximately four percent of its annual general aviation operations are business related.

While the airport does not have any based military aircraft, it does accommodate approximately 500 annual transient military operations which are predominantly conducted by National Guard helicopters.

Hilliard Airpark does not currently offer flight training, but it supports the training activities of other schools. Approximately 60 percent of the airport's annual activity is related to flight training.



Photographs by Lucian H. Bailey, Jr.

Photographs, top: Aerial view of Hilliard Airpark from the north, looking south. Above: Lucian Bailey took this photograph of himself while flying Pat Green's Corvair powered Pietenpol; a view of Hilliard Airpark is in the background.

Airport management sees the facility experiencing modest growth in the coming years, and its vision is to provide a first-class airport facility for its tenants and visitors. ♦

We thank Lucian "Jack" Bailey for his assistance in preparing this article. Lucian is Councilman/Airport Commissioner and former Airport Manager for the town of Hilliard, and he is also a Master Sergeant, Florida Air National Guard, Jacksonville, Florida, 125th Maintenance Squadron. He can be reached at lucian.bailey@fljack.ang.af.mil or (904) 502-7567.

Secretary Tours Tampa's New Baggage System

Recently, the Florida Secretary of Transportation, Denver Stutler, toured Tampa International Airport to learn about the airport's new in-line baggage system.

In 2004, Tampa International Airport became the first airport in the U.S. to implement a multi-user in-line baggage handling system integrated with 21 explosive detection systems (EDS) machines.

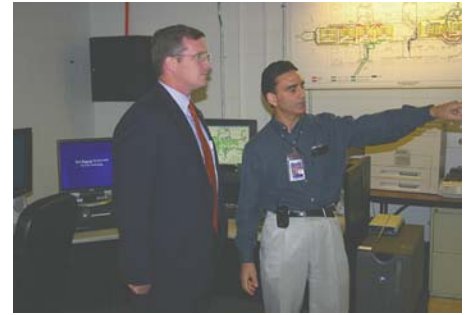
Tampa International was one of the first airports to own and maintain the entire outbound baggage system. Traditionally, baggage handling systems are owned by the airlines.

Some items of interest about the in-line baggage system include:

- Tampa International Airport has screened 16,400,000 bags with the new system as of January 31, 2006.

- The highest monthly total was 899,793 bags screened in March 2005.
- The EDS processing rate is 6 bags per minute.
- The airport's annual labor cost for the system is \$3.3 million for 77 employees.
- Total electrical costs are approximately \$1 million annually.
- If you put all the conveyor belts together and stretched them out end-to-end, they would extend eight miles.

Secretary Stutler supports all Florida airports in their efforts to install in-line baggage systems because they are efficient. These systems are more thorough than manual checks at detecting explosives hidden in baggage, and they



FDOT Secretary Denver Stutler (above, left) tours Tampa International Airport's in-line baggage system with Al Illustrato, Senior Director of Maintenance for the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority.

substantially improve passenger flow through terminals. These issues are critical for Florida's visitor and business travel viability. ♦

Secretary Meets with Florida Airports Council

The Florida Secretary of Transportation, Denver Stutler, recently met with the Florida Airports Council Board of Directors to learn about challenges facing airports. They discussed several issues related to the upcoming 2007 congressional reauthorization of the federal aviation program, the strain that hurricanes have placed on airports over the last two years, issues with airport security, and the new Florida Strategic

Intermodal System (SIS) that is providing improved surface access to airports.

The Secretary recognizes the importance of Florida's system of airports to statewide and interstate transportation and the vital role they play in supporting the state's economy. Florida's airports are key to Secretary Stutler's goals as Secretary of Transportation:

- To expedite the movement of people and bring goods to market,
 - To identify and eliminate market barriers,
 - To link transportation improvements to economic development.

Secretary Stutler pledged to continue a progressive state program for airports and will work with the Florida Airports Council on its state and federal agendas. ♦



FDOT Secretary Denver Stutler (center, wearing red tie) meets with the Florida Airports Council.

Calendar

May 20-21

AirFest 2006, Tallahassee Regional Airport, general aviation fly-in and aviation expo; call Ed Copes at (850) 558-0606 or see www.airfest2006.com

June 7-9

Florida Airports Council Facilities and Information Technology Conference, Sheraton Sand Key, Clearwater Beach; call FAC at (850) 224-2964 or see www.floridaairports.org

July 22-26

Florida Airports Council Annual Conference and Exposition, Hyatt Regency Coconut Point, Bonita Springs; call FAC at (850) 224-2964 or see www.floridaairports.org

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

Bill Ashbaker Recognized

At their December meeting, the Board of Directors of the Florida Airports Council presented a resolution to Bill Ashbaker, State Aviation Manager, recognizing his long service and support for Florida airports. Under his leadership, the Florida airport improvement grant program has grown to well over \$100 million per year. ♦



Bill Ashbaker (center), State Aviation Manager, receives recognition. Standing with him are Jerry Allen (left), President of the Florida Airports Council, and Florida Secretary of Transportation Denver Stutler.

Call for Award Nominations

The Florida Department of Transportation will present award certificates to an outstanding aviation professional, commercial service airport, general aviation airport, and airport project at the Florida Airports Council's annual conference in July.

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 bj.ashbaker@dot.state.fl.us. Nomination requirements may be found on the Internet by clicking on "hot link" on the Aviation Office home page at www.dot.state.fl.us/aviation. Nominations must be received by June 1. ♦

2006 Airport Directory and Chart Now Available

The 2006 Florida Airport Directory and Aeronautical Chart are now available. If you would like to receive a copy of the directory and chart, please call the FDOT Aviation Office at (850) 414-4500 or send an e-mail message to fred.karuga@dot.state.fl.us (remember to include your complete mailing

address). In most cases, your order can be mailed within two weeks.

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

Florida Flyer

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To subscribe to the *Florida Flyer*, please contact Fred Karuga, Editor, FDOT Aviation Office, 605 Suwannee Street, MS-46, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450, phone (850) 414-4512, fax (850) 414-4508, e-mail fred.karuga@dot.state.fl.us.

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