

Florida Flyer

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Fall 2010

INSIDE

3

Flying Physicians Association

A great family of friends who are dedicated to safety, education, and humanitarian projects

4

New Facility for Aerospace Academy at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport

This growing, aviation-oriented high school is now in its third year of operation

5

2010 Florida Aviation Awards

Stephanie Kopelousos, FDOT Secretary, and Aaron Smith, State Aviation Manager, presented the awards at the annual Florida Airports Council conference



Courtesy of Boca Raton Airport

Boca Raton Airport and businesses located on the property provide 1,237 jobs with a total annual payroll of \$35,327,800.

Boca Raton Airport

Boca Raton Airport (BCT) is a publicly owned general aviation airport located on Florida's east coast halfway between West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale.

The 212-acre airport, situated just two miles northwest of downtown Boca Raton, offers convenient access to the city's thriving business and tourist center. Immediately east of the airport lies the beautiful campus of the Florida Atlantic University. The Atlantic coast is approximately two miles east of the airport, and the internationally recognized Boca Raton Resort is two miles southeast.

Airport activities

A variety of activities take place at the airport, including air taxi and general aviation jet services, general aviation flight training, charter aircraft and helicopter flights, transient military operations, and sport aircraft operations.

Two fixed-base operators, Boca Aviation and Avitat, serve the airport 24 hours a day. Boca Raton Airport Authority office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and the air traffic control tower operates from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. daily.

See Boca Raton, page 6

MANAGER'S CORNER



Aaron N. Smith
State Aviation Manager

“The 2010 Legislature appropriated \$129 million for Florida’s aviation program and enacted new provisions addressing aircraft use tax, which will hopefully attract additional general aviation traffic to many of Florida’s great leisure and business destinations.”

It’s hard to imagine that summer is coming to a close, fall is at our doorsteps, and soon winter (or so we call it) will be upon us, and with it, the New Year. Even my nine-year-old daughter pointed out how quickly 2010 has been going by. We started the year off responding to the earthquake in Haiti at the State Emergency Operations Center. The 2010 Legislature appropriated \$129 million for Florida’s aviation program and enacted new provisions addressing aircraft use tax, which will hopefully attract additional general aviation traffic to many of Florida’s great leisure and business destinations.

Speaking of great destinations, Florida opened two new airports: Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport, the first commercial service airport to open in 15 years, and Tavares Seaplane Base in Tavares, “America’s Seaplane City.” Both facilities had to overcome major hurdles with some still to come. However, both have been skillfully established to enable their communities to thrive in the future.

The Department also participated in another successful SUN ’n FUN International Fly-in & Expo at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport, conducted two very successful Airfield Pavement Management Inspection Courses, and put the finishing touches on the Florida Statewide Aviation Economic Impact Study as well as the Statewide Airport Compatible Land Use Study Guidebook. And, thanks to a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), we will soon be kicking off the next series of Statewide Airfield Pavement Inspections.

None of these accomplishments would have been nearly as successful without the dedication of Aviation Office and District Office staff, who continue to move forward regardless of the challenges placed before them.

I would also like to take an opportunity to thank those of you who participated in the Florida Airport Directory survey. Between April 1 and August 20, 2010 the Aviation Office received 2,411 responses out of the 10,000 surveys distributed. Based on these results, 98.6 percent indicated that they found the publication to be a useful document while 95.9 percent indicated that they would like to continue receiving the publication in its current printed format. Only 19.8 percent indicated a preference for an electronic web-based format. Thank you again for participating and for providing comments regarding Florida’s Airport Directory. We hope to continue to produce the airport directory for years to come.

I am pleased to announce that after an eight-year hiatus, Jason Myers has rejoined the Department as the new Airport Inspection and Safety Manager. In his new role, Jason will manage the public airport site approval process, airport inspection and licensing program, Federal Aviation Administration airport master records, and numerous consultant contracts.



Jason Myers

Please join me in welcoming Jason to the FDOT Aviation Office and his new position.

In closing, it is with great trepidation I announce the retirement of Micki Liddell, Private Airport Registration Manager. Everyone in the Aviation Office, as well as the Public Transportation Office, knows she has done so much more than manage the private airport registration program for the past eight years. Micki has been an integral part of the Department for over 30 years, during which time she has seen Secretaries, Managers, and office staff come and go. I have the distinct honor of wishing her and her husband well in their retirement together. Who could ask for more?

Flying Physicians Association

The Flying Physicians Association (FPA) is a close-knit group of physician pilots who are dedicated to safety, education, and humanitarian projects related to medicine and aviation. FPA members enjoy flying for a variety of reasons. Some are involved with Angel Flight or Mercy Flight, some fly to where they work, some fly for personal reasons, and some members fly for all of these reasons.

Safety is a priority for FPA members, whether flying or practicing medicine. When comparing safety practices in medicine and safety practices in flying, “there are a lot of analogies,” says Alice Henderson, FPA’s Executive Vice President. The team approach, for example, is evident in both fields; the counterparts to mechanics and FBO personnel at an airport are the nurses and medical health professionals at a hospital.

Formal organization

The idea for FPA began with a group of physician pilots who were attending the 1954 Jaycee Transcontinental Air Race in Philadelphia. They discussed

FPA in Florida

- A majority of FPA members are in the Dixie chapter which is based in Florida.
- FPA’s 2011 annual meeting will be held on Amelia Island, Florida, July 3–8, 2011.
- The president of FPA is Dr. Felix Tormes of Pensacola, Florida.

the need for a formal organization, and began taking steps to establish it. In October 1955, the Flying Physicians Association was incorporated under the laws of the state of New York as a not-for-profit scientific and educational society.

Today, FPA is based in Montgomery, Texas, 50 miles north of Houston. FPA has approximately 300–350 members including physician pilots across the United States, as well as in Canada, England, Germany, and the Caribbean.

In the United States, members participate in one of five chapters: Northeast, Great Lakes, Dixie, Southwest, and Western. Most chapters meet twice a year; the Northeast Chapter meets only in the fall. Members also attend an annual meeting that is scheduled in a different location in the U.S. every year. FPA has a great deal of family involvement, and members often bring family members to the meetings.

Members of FPA participate in a number of humanitarian projects which recently included providing relief following the earthquake in Haiti in January.



Florida FPA members Doug Johnson, M.D., and Ramon Pabalan, M.D., load emergency supplies for Haiti.

FPA also offers an aviation scholarship every year. The focus in recent years has been in supporting youth aviation camps with scholarships for deserving campers interested in an aviation career.

Membership in FPA

FPA welcomes physician pilots who are interested in joining the association. Applicants for FPA membership must hold a doctorate of medicine or osteopathy and be a licensed physician or be enrolled as a full-time medical doctorate student in an accredited medical college or university, and must hold a valid pilot’s license or otherwise demonstrate a commitment to aviation medicine. An associate membership category is open to non-pilot physicians who support aviation medicine.

Member benefits include an online directory of physician pilots; access to top aviation/medical speakers and articles; a subscription to FPA’s biannual magazine, *The Flying Physician*; and tours arranged for those who enjoy skiing, scuba diving, and fishing. A membership application is available online at FPA’s web site, www.fpadrs.org. ♦

In the Summer 2010 Florida Flyer, we wrote about FPA member Dr. Kevin Ware and his friend Tim White who provided relief in Haiti (see “One Doctor, One Friend, and a Plane” at www.dot.state.fl.us/aviation/newsletters.shtm).

Following the FPA Winter Board Meeting on February 25–27, 2011, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Fort Myers, Florida, FPA President Felix Tormes will lead a second tour to the Dominican Republic with the opportunity to do more volunteer service in Haiti.



Above left: Incoming FPA President Felix R. Tormes, M.D., (right) of Pensacola, Florida, is pinned by outgoing president John Hall.

Left: FPA chapter meeting group visits Bell Helicopter plant in Ft. Worth, Texas.



Photographs courtesy of FPA



Rendering by James Cagle

An artist's rendering of the new CFAA facility, which is now under construction.

New Facility for Aerospace Academy at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport

A new facility for an aviation-oriented high school is under construction on the SUN 'n FUN campus at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport. The new \$7.5 million, 58,000-square-foot facility of the Central Florida Aerospace Academy (CFAA) will open in 2011.

The three-story building, designed by Jonathon Kirk of SCMH Architects of Lakeland, contains 22 classrooms, including several computer labs for avionics and aerospace instruction, a media center, locker rooms, a 4,000-square-foot multi-purpose room/cafeteria with warming kitchen, an outdoor amphitheater-style classroom, an FAA Part 147 airframe and powerplant lab, and complete science, demonstration, and engineering labs.

Target date

"We are targeting a February 28, 2011, date for our Certificate of Occupancy," says Chad Smith, Assistant Principal of Curriculum for CFAA. "We plan to be able to use the new facility

immediately after SUN 'n FUN's International Fly-In & Expo in late March."

With a current enrollment of 150 high school students in grades 9 through 12, CFAA is beginning its third year in a cluster of buildings that has a maximum capacity of 175 students. Given the growing interest in the school's aviation and aerospace programs, the Polk County School Board estimates enrollment will grow to 400–500 students within five years. CFAA's new facility will accommodate this anticipated increase, providing space for up to 500 students.

Funding for the facility

Funding for the new facility was provided by a \$7.5 million grant to SUN 'n FUN from the Aviation Education Foundation, a Naples-based not-for-profit organization founded by James C. Ray. The Aviation Education Foundation is also donating up to \$500,000 to the Polk County School Board toward

See New Facility, page 8

Student Life at CFAA

CFAA students attend high school every day at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport, but they have access to all the benefits of their Kathleen High School affiliation, including sports and clubs.

All programs at the academy provide students with a high school diploma, and students have the opportunity to earn college credits toward an associate's degree from Polk State College at no charge.

CFAA students have several special benefits:

- They are taught information needed to pass the FAA Private Pilot written exam, which is one part of earning an FAA Private Pilot license;
- They can earn on-site volunteer hours toward Bright Futures scholarships during the SUN 'n FUN's International Fly-In & Expo; and
- They can participate in the Restoration Club and the SUN 'n FUN Future Eagles Aviation Club, as well as the soon-to-be launched Lakeland Aero Club that offers support for students in flight training.

CFAA students may choose from several career or specialty tracks:

- The **pre-engineering** track provides a foundation in aerospace engineering.
- The **avionics** track prepares students for careers as avionics technicians and radio mechanics.
- The **aerospace technologies** track focuses on flight, navigation, aircraft systems, and design.
- The **Air Force Junior ROTC** track prepares students for careers in aerospace or the armed forces.

2010 Florida Aviation Awards

Stephanie Kopelousos, FDOT Secretary, and Aaron Smith, State Aviation Manager, announced the winners of the 2010 Florida Aviation Awards at the Florida Airports Council Conference in August.

Aviation Professional

Larry Dale

Larry Dale, President and CEO of Orlando Sanford International Airport, was instrumental in the passage of legislation to provide immunity from prosecution for airport managers in the execution of wildlife mitigation on airport property. He is now pursuing similar legislation at the federal level.

In early 2010, Orlando Sanford became a primary receiver airport for evacuees from Haiti following a devastating earthquake. Dale brought together personnel and resources to provide an efficient and effective response.

Distinguished Service Award

Ana Sotorrio

Ana Sotorrio joined the Miami-Dade Aviation Department in 1988 and rose through the ranks to her position as Associate Director of Governmental Affairs. She retired July 31, 2010.

Sotorrio was a key voice in the formulation of policies on local, state, national, and international aviation issues and strategic planning for the improvement of Miami-Dade County airports.

Sotorrio is known for her integrity and knowledge of aviation issues, and as a champion of causes advancing the interests of Miami and Florida aviation.

General Aviation Airport

Fort Lauderdale Executive

Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport serves as a public, non-commercial, general aviation facility and is designated as a reliever airport for Fort Lauderdale Hollywood International Airport. For many years it has ranked as one of the busiest GA airports in the country.



Stephanie Kopelousos, FDOT Secretary (right, in above photos), and Aaron Smith, State Aviation Manager (left), present the 2010 Florida Aviation Awards. Clockwise from top left: **Aviation Professional**, Larry Dale; **Distinguished Service**, Ana Sotorrio; **GA Airport Project**, Roy Sieger, Flagler County Airport; **Commercial Service Airport Project**, Ernestine Moody-Robinson, Jacksonville International Airport; **GA Airport**, Clara Bennett, Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport; **Commercial Service Airport**, Noah Lagos, St. Petersburg–Clearwater International Airport.

Fort Lauderdale Executive is home to 700 aircraft, six fixed-base operators, a 24-hour air traffic control tower, U.S. Customs Service, 24-hour aircraft rescue and firefighting services, 24-hour security, and a large industrial park.

We congratulate Airport Manager Clara Bennett, the staff of Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, and the city of Fort Lauderdale.

Commercial Service Airport

St. Petersburg–Clearwater Int'l

St. Petersburg–Clearwater International Airport modernized the terminal facility using responsible and resourceful financial management, and continues to have an exceptional safety record.

The airport has improved airfield safety by installing redundant vehicle gate systems to prevent potential vehicle and pedestrian incursions.

We congratulate Airport Director Noah Lagos, the staff of St. Petersburg–Clearwater International Airport, and Pinellas County.

GA Airport Project

Flagler County Airport Air Traffic Control Tower

Flagler County Airport recognized the need for a new air traffic control tower in order to attract corporate traffic. With the construction of the ATCT, the airport can assist the overflow of corporate and business traffic at Daytona Beach International Airport.

We congratulate Airport Director Roy Sieger, the staff of Flagler County Airport; Wilbur Smith Associates, consultant; and D.J. Haycock, contractor.

Commercial Service Airport Project

Jacksonville International Airport New Concourses A and C

The Jacksonville Aviation Authority updated 40-year old concourses to reflect the economic, cultural, and community life of northeast Florida. Careful planning helped to minimize the disruption to operations during construction.

We congratulate Ismael Bonilla and the staff of Jacksonville International Airport; Steve Grossman and the staff of Jacksonville Airport Authority; Reynolds, Smith & Hills, Inc., consultant; and Balfour Beatty/ACI, contractor. ♦

Boca Raton Airport

Continued from page 1



Photographs courtesy of Boca Raton Airport

Above: Aircraft in a hangar at Boca Raton Airport.

Top right: The airport's air traffic control tower.



Points of Interest

- The airport has 125 T-hangars
- Average annual operations: 78,000
- Average number of based aircraft: 295

Boca Raton Airport's runway, 5/23, is 6,276 feet long and 150 feet wide, with safety overruns. Taxiways are 40 feet wide.

Founded in the 1930s

The airport was founded in the 1930s and served as a small general aviation airport (see "75 Years of Airport History," page 7). The Army Air Corps took over the airport in the early 1940s, using it primarily as a radar training facility. Then, the city of Boca Raton acquired the airport in the late 1940s and operated it for many years.

Today, the Boca Raton Airport Authority operates the airport and leases it from the Florida Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund. The airport authority is a seven-member board with five members appointed by the city and two by the county. The airport authority directs Airport Manager Ken Day who employs a staff of five.

Economic impact

Total annual economic activity generated by the airport is \$154,474,100.

This figure includes the direct economic impacts of tenants and businesses located at the airport and construction projects that are undertaken by the airport or by on-site businesses, and the indirect impacts associated with spending from visitors who arrive in the area by way of general aviation aircraft. The airport and businesses located on the property provide 1,237 jobs with a total annual payroll of \$35,327,800.

Businesses that frequently use the airport include Office Depot, Home Depot, and Bank of America.

Recent projects

Earlier this year, the airport completed pavement overlays to the runway and taxiways. The main pavement overlays included the runway taxiways and a new taxiway connector E at mid-field. The airport security system was updated with an additional electronic gate, a second paved access road to the control tower, and additional memory capacity for the security camera.

The airport offices recently relocated to the Florida Atlantic University

Research Park on the eastern perimeter of the airport. Soon the airport will be building a blast fence on the ends of the runway.

A City Furniture/Ashley Furniture showroom is under construction on Airport Road with an estimated completion date in December 2010.

Airport's mission

Boca Raton Airport serves the corporate, recreational, and flight training needs of the community. The airport's mission is "to provide a safe and secure environment to the users of the airport, sub-tenants and throughout all of our general aviation facilities."

As a community service, Boca Raton Airport partially subsidizes the Civil Air Patrol located at the airport. The Civil Air Patrol assists in search-and-rescue operations, trains youth in aviation, and volunteers in the community.

For more information about Boca Raton Airport, see the airport's web site at www.bocairport.com. ♦

75 Years of Airport History

In 1936, Boca Raton Airport was a small city airport. With America entering into World War II, the Army Air Corp suddenly underwent rapid expansion. The mild winter climate and the flat terrain of South Florida marked the area as ideal for flying and aviation training. Thus, three major air bases, Homestead, Morrison Field in West Palm Beach, and Boca Raton were developed in the first years of the war.

The decision to locate the base at Boca Raton was made because of the already existing city airfield and the land which was available for its expansion. Much of the land belonged to Japanese-American farmers who had settled in the area after the Yamato Colony* had been abandoned. The land was acquired from the farmers through the process of condemnation.

Construction of the base began in June 1942 and continued to expand during the war. Its boundaries included 5,860 acres and stretched from Dixie Highway on the east to Military Trail on the west, and from the current Spanish River Boulevard on the north to Palmetto Park Road at some point on the south. Areas like Old Floresta [now a historic Boca Raton community] remained in private hands and many of the houses in the subdivision were rented to air force officers and their families.

While the Boca Raton field served as a base for air-sea patrol on the lookout for enemy submarines, and a weigh station for planes being ferried to Europe by the Southern American-African route, its principal mission was as a radar training facility.

As the Army Air Force's only radar training station during World War II, the Boca Raton base grew to eight hundred buildings with a troop strength of more than 16,000. More than \$9 million was spent constructing the facility, and an average of 1,200 civilians worked on the base. Instruction courses for airborne radar operators, mechanics, and electronic officers meant an ever increasing need for flight training and for aircraft.

By 1945, one hundred planes were regularly assigned to the field. Although most were medium bombers like the B-17, in the last year of the war the B-29 was brought in for training procedures in radar bombing. B-29s carried the atomic bombs which were dropped on Japan.

Life at the Boca Raton base was almost completely self-contained. In fact, the citizens of Boca Raton soon came to be dependent upon the base's recreational, entertainment, and medical facilities.

Once the war ended, the radar training for both American and allied troops continued at Boca Raton but the numbers in the program constantly declined. In 1947, the decision was made to transfer operations of the training facility. The move was hastened by a hurricane that hit the base and caused an estimated \$3 million in damage.

In 1948, control of the Boca Raton Airport was transferred to the city of Boca Raton. In the 1950s the federal government released 1,000 acres of the property for educational use (Florida Atlantic University) and transferred control of all the land to the state of Florida. Only 212 acres were left for airport use. Control of the airport then passed through five government agencies before the Boca Raton Airport Authority was developed to take control of the airport.

—summarized from *Boca Raton Airport's web site, www.bocaaairport.com*

*To learn more about the Yamato Colony, see www.ghosttowns.com/states/fl/yamatocolony.html.

Calendar

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

November 3–5, 2010

2010 FAC Environmental, Noise Abatement & Community Affairs Conference, Lake Buena Vista, Florida; for information, see www.floridaairports.org or call the Florida Airports Council at (850) 224-2964.

November 5–7, 2010

Third Annual Astronaut Autograph & Memorabilia Show Weekend, Kennedy Space Center. A family-friendly weekend with autograph sessions, astronaut photo opportunities, lectures and more; for information about tickets, see www.astronautscholarship.org.

November 20, 2010

Third Annual Open Hangar Day and Military Vehicle Show (a free event hosted by Timeless Wings and Wheels), New Smyrna Beach Airport, 10–4. For information, contact Carole Norville at (386) 314-4499 and see www.timelesswingsandwheels.com.

February 5, 2011

Southernmost Openhouse & Aviation Review, Key West International Airport, 9–4. See the new terminal; enjoy displays, airplane rides, and more. For information, contact Neal Carbaugh at (305) 879-9306.

March 29 – April 3, 2011

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

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

New Facility for Aerospace Academy

from page 4



Courtesy of CFAA

The academy's new facility under construction.

purchasing furniture, fixtures, and equipment for the new CFAA building.

The three-story building will be located on land at the entrance to the SUN 'n FUN campus. SUN 'n FUN will lease the building to the school board for 25 years, and the building will then become the property of the Polk County School Board.

Ninety percent of the lease fees from the Polk County School Board to SUN 'n FUN will support a separate not-for-profit student flying club, the Lakeland Aero Club, with a goal of offering CFAA students opportunities for ground school instruction, flight training, and the experience of solo flight.

The academy's impact

CFAA has already had a significant impact on Lakeland Linder Regional Airport, attracting new aviation business to the airport. The students, the airport, and local businesses benefit from the academy's presence on the airfield.

As a Workforce Education Career Academy, CFAA maintains partnerships with local businesses. The partner businesses, and other businesses on airport property, employ CFAA students. The students receive hands-on experience while still in high school, and the businesses have the benefit of motivated, interested student-employees focused on a lifetime career in aviation and aerospace.

CFAA's programs will also benefit aviation education throughout the U.S. Last year CFAA was one of nine schools in the country to receive a grant from NASA to write an aviation/aerospace curriculum for middle school to high school level students. Of the nine institutions receiving the grant, Polk County received the largest sum, \$1.4 million. The Polk County school system and the University of South Florida have now

published the curriculum, which will be tested during the current (2010/2011) school year.

To learn more about the Central Florida Aerospace Academy and the progress on the new facility, see www.polkacademies.com/CFAA. ♦

Portions of this article were summarized from the web site of the Central Florida Aerospace Academy, www.polkacademies.com/CFAA, and from a press release "SUN 'n FUN Receives \$7.5 Million Grant for New CFAA Building," available at www.sun-n-fun.org.

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