

What's happening in '09

As we end the first quarter of 2009, Airport Authority staff have been working hard to plan for upcoming 2009 season projects. Here is an update on a few of those projects:

Phase IV Perimeter Fencing

The Airport Authority through the end of 2008 completed three separately phased projects, starting back in 2004, to upgrade and replace all of the perimeter fencing which secures the Greeley-Weld County Airport. The majority of this fencing has been 8 foot tall high tensil woven wire game control fence. The fence is designed to keep animals, both small and large, from entering onto the airfield. Since the start of this project in 2004, over 50,000 linear feet of new fencing has been erected around the airport. Only 4,000 feet now remain to fully complete this project.

In 2009, the remaining 4,000 feet of perimeter will be re-fenced, bringing this multi-year project to a close. The area still remaining to be complete is generally along the airport's eastern boundary, between Weld County Road 47, and Weld County Road 62. While the airport is still experiencing some entry onto the airfield by coyotes and other animals, with the completion of this final phase, such instances are expected to be significantly minimized. This project will be funded primarily through the State of Colorado Aviation Grant Program.

Other Projects

Other annual projects planned for the year include the annual T-hangar inspection and repair program, the re-stripping of taxiways and aprons as necessary, maintenance of the airport storm drain system, and many other projects. Maintenance crews have also been cleaning and burning most of the open storm water ditches on the airport over the past several weeks.

The spring and summer months remain the busiest for the Airport Maintenance staff. Somehow, however, they always seem to get it all done.

Pavement Maintenance Program

The Airport Authority will once again undertake its annual pavement maintenance program in 2009. This will include crack sealing activities, and some removal and replacement of failing pavements throughout the hangar areas.

Crack sealing is one of the most important pavement maintenance projects an airport can undertaken annually. By cleaning out debris and material from the cracks, and then sealing them, water penetration is reduced or eliminated. Water is the worst enemy to pavement, as long term penetration into or beneath the pavement significantly reduces its life cycle. By undertaking the annual crack seal program, pavement life can be substantially extended, thereby reducing long term repair costs.

For those pavements that are beyond crack sealing, the Authority will hire a contractor to cut and remove the failing sections of pavement, re-compact the base material beneath it, and lay and compact new asphalt. Unfortunately, there is much more area needing this type of attention than the airport's budget can handle on an annual basis. For that reason, airport staff conduct a detailed inspection of all these areas, and prioritize which areas require the most immediate attention. In some instances, the volume of aircraft traffic in certain areas takes precedence over the condition of worse pavement in other low traffic areas, meaning that a more deteriorated section of pavement may be ranked lower in priority than another section.

T-Hangar Storage Units Available for Rent

**Contact Kevin Freiberg
(970) 336-3002**

Legislative Issues of Concern

LARGE AIRCRAFT SECURITY PROGRAM

By now, most everyone is probably familiar with the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking introduced late in 2008 by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) concerning large aircraft and the airports that serve them. The "Large Aircraft Security Program (LASP)" would place numerous requirements upon the operators of large aircraft (those over 12,500 lbs.), and the airports which serve them.

Aircraft in this category utilize the Greeley-Weld County Airport each day. If adopted by the TSA, industry experts predict substantial negative impacts on the general aviation industry. Given the economic times of the day, some forecasts call for the downfall of general aviation, and the loss of over one million general aviation jobs across the U.S.

The Greeley-Weld County Airport staff continues to monitor this situation. At the present time, it appears that many leaders in Congress are opposed to the proposed rules. It will likely be some time however before this issue comes to any conclusion.

A copy of the proposed rules can be downloaded at www.tsa.dhs.gov/assets/pdf/nprm_lasp.pdf.

MILITARY BUFFER ZONE BILL

Legislation was introduced in the Colorado House of Representatives shortly after the new year which would have created buffer zones around a handful of named military installations within Colorado. The Colorado Air National Guard Base, located at the Greeley-Weld County Airport, was one of those named military bases.

The legislation as originally written had the potential to limit the airport's ability to develop in the future. Additionally, it also impacted land owner rights in an area within 2 miles of any direction from the base and the airport. Both the City of Greeley and Weld County had serious concerns with the proposed bill, as they felt it violated their rights to control development within their jurisdictional boundaries, and that it constituted a condemnation of landowners rights within two miles of the airport.

Airport staff, along with representatives from both the City of Greeley and Weld County, attended a number of meetings, and had

numerous discussions with military and state representatives concerning this matter. The City and County ultimately took up formal positions of opposition to the legislation. Mike Reisman, Airport Manager, testified twice in committee hearings on this matter at the State Capitol. Ultimately, the proposed bill was defeated. However, the bill was not permanently killed by the committee, and could potentially come back again in the next legislative session.

Other communities, including Aurora and Colorado Springs which were also impacted by this proposed bill, along with Greeley and Weld County, continue to voice their support for the military installations and activities that take place in their communities. The military is an active member of each of these communities, and all the communities recognize the protection each of those installations needs to continue to succeed in their missions. However, the communities also feel that this legislation was the wrong manner in which to try and accomplish that.

Efforts will be made over the summer months to work with military and legislative leaders to ensure that any similar legislation introduced in the next session has taken these issues into consideration.

SECURITY BADGING FOR GA PILOTS

The TSA has issued a Security Directive (SD 1542-04-08), which concerns the ID badging of general aviation pilots operating at commercial service airports. This action would have no direct impact on the Greeley-Weld County Airport. However, any GA pilot who lands at a commercial service airport, such as Grand Junction, Aspen, or Colorado Springs, would be required to either have been issued an ID badge by that airport for unescorted access on the airport, or will be required to be under the direct escort of someone who has. In order to receive a badge under the security directive, GA pilots will have to be vetted under the TSA rules, which includes a criminal history background check.

This TSA directive has the ability to overwhelmingly restrict the access of general aviation and GA pilots to commercial service airports of all sizes, and is one to watch very closely, as there has not been much publicized about this new security directive. The directive is currently scheduled to go into effect in June.

Vehicle Operations on the Airport... your assistance needed!

As part of the Airport Security Plan, and for the general safety of aircraft operating at the Greeley-Weld County Airport, private vehicles are not permitted on, or to travel across, the terminal building aircraft parking apron. Persons who have authorized access through the airport's gate system are reminded that if you need to travel from one side of the airport to the other, to please exit through the nearest gate, and then use the airport roadways to travel to the gate nearest your destination. If the location you are going to is accessible from outside the fence, please access it from outside the fence. There has been a notable increase as of late in the number of vehicles driving across the terminal apron, which has resulted in a number of close proximity passages between aircraft and vehicles which are not necessary. Airport staff will be making a concerted effort to stop vehicles driving across the apron to remind them of this procedure over the next few weeks. Your efforts to assist us in making the Greeley-Weld County Airport as safe as possible are appreciated.

NEED A PLACE FOR YOUR MEETING?

The conference room in the airport terminal building is available for meetings for all types of organizations.



For more information, contact Mandy Longstreth at (970) 336-3003.

ASAC Committee

Several years ago, the Airport Security Advisory Committee (ASAC) was formed, which included tenant representatives from each of the diverse types of tenants and users of the Greeley-Weld County Airport. The committee generally assists airport staff with reviews and needed changes to the Airport Security Plan, and has been instrumental in a number of changes that have been made to the plan over the past few years.

Staff will be contacting the prior ASAC committee members shortly to plan a meeting of the committee in the near future. While the need to review and update the Airport Security Plan exists, several other security related issues which have evolved over the past year also need to be discussed with the committee.

Environmental Reminders

As spring creeps closer, and the temperatures begin to rise, hangar doors begin to open, and people begin to spend just a bit more time working outside of their hangars. That means its time to remind everyone of all that environmental stuff the Airport Authority has to contend with each year. Under federal environmental regulations, the airport is officially designated as an industrial waste facility. This means specifically, that storm water discharges, and spills of potential pollutants, must be managed properly.

The Greeley-Weld County Airport is required to maintain a Storm Water Management Plan, and a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan. It is a requirement that certain tenants and their employees be trained annually in order for the airport to remain compliant. Generally speaking, if its petroleum or chemical related, it does not belong on the ground at the airport. Small leaks of oil from aircraft, vehicles or other equipment must be controlled so that the pollutants do not enter the airport's storm drainage system. Additionally, measures and equipment must be in place to control a spill of any such product before it reaches the storm drain system. Even the washing of oil off of an aircraft onto the ground is a problem.

The Airport Authority will be scheduling its annual training program shortly, and will be contacting tenants who need to attend. Private tenants are also welcome, and can contact Kevin Freiberg at 336-3002 to attend a 90 minute training class.

REMEMBER...The Greeley-Weld County Airport Authority is able to charge your credit card for monthly rent. Contact Mandy Longstreth at (970) 336-3003 during normal business hours.

Airport to Support Area Fire Fighting Needs

The Greeley-Weld County Airport began its Aircraft Rescue Firefighting program in 2001, with the acquisition of a small surplus rescue vehicle from Denver International Airport. That vehicle was in service for barely one year, when an aircraft accident occurred on the airport which resulted in a substantial post-crash fire. Although one person perished in that accident, another was rescued by airport staff, but only because of the presence of the rescue vehicle acquired only a year earlier.

In 2003, the airport became the semi-permanent home of a larger aircraft rescue vehicle with substantially more firefighting capabilities. This vehicle is owned by the Colorado Aeronautics Division, and is used for several weeks each year at Denver International Airport to support annual Colorado airport firefighter re-certification training. During the remainder of the year, it has been stationed at GXY, where it has served as a primary rescue vehicle.

In 2009, the Colorado Aeronautics Division is purchasing a replacement for this vehicle, which will be permanently stationed at DIA. As a result, ownership of the vehicle already at GXY will be transferred over to the Greeley-Weld County Airport Authority. The Union Colony Fire Rescue Authority has shown interest in this vehicle since the start, as it has unique capabilities which exceed that of any fire apparatus within the City of Greeley. Specifically, the truck carries more water, and has more foam production capability than any other fire truck in the area. This makes it an ideal vehicle to fight large scale fuel, rubber, chemical, or other fires, which require high volume foam production to bring under control. The Airport Authority has been unable to allow the use of the truck off the airport for such purposes, due to the limitations placed on its use by the Colorado Aeronautics Division. Once ownership of the truck transfers to the Airport Authority, expected by July, the Authority will be able to offer the vehicle back to the community as an additional firefighting resource.



The Airport Authority is presently working with the Union Colony Fire Rescue Authority to draft an Intergovernmental Agreement for Mutual Aid. This agreement will formalize the services which the Fire Authority has always provided to the airport, concerning mutual aid and training of airport staff. Additionally, it will also formalize the ability of the Fire Authority to call upon the airports fire apparatus in the event of one of those unique emergencies, where the airport's equipment can assist local firefighters with the important job they perform in our community.

The Greeley-Weld County Airport Authority has five employees who are fully certified Aircraft Rescue Firefighters. Each has attended the Federal Aviation Administration's airport firefighter certification course, which included live burn training on actual fires. Each also attends an annual re-certification course at DIA, which includes classroom training, and time inside the aircraft live burn simulator. The live burn simulator allows employees to train in an actual fire, inside a full scale mock-up of an aircraft which is similar in size to a large corporate aircraft. Airport employees are also trained and certified in basic life saving skills, and maintain CPR certifications, as well as training in the use of the airports Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Additionally, two firefighters from the Union Colony Fire Rescue Authority are also fully certified aircraft firefighters, and serve as liaisons between the Airport Authority and the Fire Authority on numerous matters.

Who's New at the Airport?

Aliza Wilson-Wheeler



Aliza Wilson-Wheeler joined the staff of the Greeley-Weld County Airport Authority on January 5th, as the airport management/operations intern for 2009. Aliza replaces Monique Widener who completed her internship program and is now employed at the Aspen-Pitkin County Airport. Aliza is a senior at Metropolitan State College of Denver, and is working towards her degree in Aviation Management. Aliza will be performing many different job functions at the airport over the course of the year, including airfield inspections, maintenance activities, snow removal, and administrative functions. The airport management/operations intern position is funded through a Colorado State aviation intern grant program.

The 2009
Greeley-Weld
County Airport
Calendar is
still
available!

Download
yours at
www.gxy.net



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Greeley City Council



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Citizen Appointee



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Citizen Appointee

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