



AirWaves



By Greg Gobble, Keokuk Municipal Airport, Airport Manager
President of Iowa Public Airports Association

Greetings IPAA Members and Welcome to 2012

This column may have a bit of a different feel than others I have written as I intend to cover more than just strictly airport issues. As always, bear in mind I'm not a professional writer, but I have read several books.

First, I wish to thank Governor Branstad for issuing a proclamation naming December 2011 as General Aviation Appreciation Month in the state of Iowa. In his proclamation he notes the important and varied role general aviation plays in the state of Iowa. In keeping with the theme of General Aviation in Iowa, I'd like to share some observations.

There are 108 public-owned airports located in the state. Providing service to those airports and the wider aviation community is the role of the fixed base operator (FBO). In most cases the FBO also provides the first contact point for visitors to our state. The number of FBOs in the state currently is around 61, ranging in size from the 36 that provide all services on site to the 20 that provide limited services, and the 5 with fuel only.

The past decade has not been the best environment for the aviation community as a whole, with jobs lost in all sectors as companies downsized. Iowa's FBOs were not immune to the downturn and many locations have closed or curtailed operations. While IPAA represents the interests of the public airports in Iowa, many of our members are affiliated with aviation-related businesses or are business owners themselves. I believe it is in the best interests of all concerned to promote and support a strong aviation business climate in Iowa.

As the flying weather improves, I would suggest taking a trip to an airport to visit the FBO; better yet, fly across the state and visit several. If you used to fly but don't anymore come to enjoy a cup of coffee and do some hangar flying. Visit your airport businesses. We'd love to see you.

The IPAA board held its November meeting at the College of Engineering on the ISU campus, hosted by board member and Associate Dean of the College of Engineering, Jim Kurtenbach. The visit included a tour of the

Virtual Reality Applications Center by Associate Director Stephen Gilbert and a demonstration of litigation animations by Dan Kruger of Demonstratives Inc. The visit to ISU and seeing the future of the human interface with computers was fascinating, to say the least.

There are exciting things happening in our state – groundbreaking research at our universities, innovation and hard work in our communities, with airports playing an important role in welcoming Iowa's visitors. This is in sharp contrast to the distorted picture painted by a few sources portraying our state in less than flattering terms. Some of them make a living in the employ of the very state they so eagerly criticize. Regarding our relevance in the choice of presidential candidates, I say, "Why not Iowa?" Our population is well-educated and hardworking. We actually have all four seasons, though sometimes it seems like the order varies.

With the conclusion of the caucus season, hopefully, two things will occur. The candidates, media and other visitors to our state leave with warm memories and positive images of Iowa, and it will be safe to answer the phone.

At the end of January, the 23rd temporary funding measure for FAA operations expires. Once again, we need to contact our legislators and press for the end of these inefficient temporary funding measures. It also appears the Administration is once again proposing the unpopular user fees affecting corporate aviation. I submit that whatever revenues are generated by this \$100 per flight fee will be more than offset by the new bureaucracy needed to collect it. The existing funding derived from the collection of fuel taxes has proven to be an efficient method of funding, and the mechanism is already in place.

Congress needs to approve a viable long-term FAA funding bill. These temporary measures complicate the grant processes and virtually eliminate the ability of FAA to properly plan and phase projects, due to the uncertainty in the available money.

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IPAA AirWaves

1255 SW Prairie Trail Pkwy.
Ankeny, IA 50023
www.iowaairports.org

AirWaves is published as an informational tool for all public airports in the state of Iowa.

It is directed to all airport decision makers including airport management, state/local government leaders and airport businesses.

We welcome your comments, thoughts and suggestions on how we may serve you better.

Greg Gobble, President (EOK)
Rhonda Chambers, Vice President (FOD)
Gayle Brandt, Secretary (SPW)
Mike Roe, Treasurer (AWG)
Dan Smith, Past President (CBF)

*Annual dues are \$200 for Associate Members,
\$300 for Commercial Service Airports,
\$150 for General Service Airports,
\$150 for Enhanced Service Airports,
\$75 for Local Service Airports and
\$75 for Basic Service Airports.*

*Please send annual dues to the above address.
Anyone interested in advertising in AirWaves
should contact the IPAA office: 515/727-0667.*

Continued from Page 1.

Check the website www.iowaairports.org for IPAA legislative priorities and make plans to join us for IPAA Day on the Hill for opportunities to meet with our state legislators in the Capitol.

The 2012 Iowa Aviation Conference is scheduled for April 25-26, in West Des Moines. I urge all airports and aviation stakeholders to make an effort to attend this conference. Thanks in advance to all who make this conference possible. I can't overstate the benefit of conference attendance. To make things interesting this year IPAA will be giving away an Apple Ipad2, but you can't win if you don't attend!

Have a warm winter! ➔

Iowa Public Airport Association Members Please Join Us For Our Annual

Day on the Hill

Tuesday, February 21, 2012
11:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.
Room 116
State Capitol



Come join with other IPAA members in meetings with your state representative and state senator. We will be sharing our 2012 state legislative issues.

For more details, visit our website at www.iowaairports.org

Iowa Public Airports Association 2012 Legislative Agenda

- 1) Maintain funding levels for aviation programs at a minimum level of:
 - \$1.5 M for Commercial Service Vertical Infrastructure
 - \$750,000 for General Aviation Vertical Infrastructure

These successful programs create jobs and fund the development of air transportation facilities at public-owned airports throughout Iowa that support all categories of air transportation.

- 2) Support wildlife mitigation efforts at airports
 - Encourage the Iowa DNR to work with airports and the Iowa DOT to facilitate efforts to remove wildlife risks involving

aircraft operations. Specifically, public airports should be allowed by Iowa DNR to engage in timely and appropriate depredation efforts on their facilities and not be required to follow all regulations required for hunting.

Deer and other animals continue to be hazards to aviation in our state. Pilots and airport managers report an alarming increase in the number of runway incursions by wild animals.

- 3) Protect airports from incompatible land use and tall structure height intrusion
 - Adopt statewide ordinances and mechanisms to protect airports.

Incompatible land use and tall structure



height intrusion threaten aviation safety, airport infrastructure, and future airport development. Neighboring states have adopted statewide ordinances and mechanisms to protect airports. ➔

IPAA Policy Statements

Strong Commercial Air Service is Good for Iowa!

Iowa's economy depends on regular, dependable and affordable commercial air service. Maintaining convenient commercial air service at all of the state's eight commercial service airports is essential to the economic vitality of the state. IPAA encourages the State to continue support of air service retention efforts.

General Aviation Keeps Iowa Moving!

Businesses, government, and personal travelers rely on a healthy general aviation airport system in Iowa. Airports act as the front door to communities they serve and are important in

supporting economic development. The State, through the Iowa DOT's Office of Aviation, should continue partnering with communities, the FAA, system users, and other stakeholders to promote and maintain a well-planned and well-supported system of general aviation airports throughout Iowa.

Airports support Iowa's Economic Development!

Commercial service and general aviation airports play a significant role in attracting businesses to communities in Iowa. Furthermore, aviation supports a substantial component of Iowa's gross state product:

Economic activity at airports	\$1.5B
Benefits to business users	\$12.8B
Agricultural aviation	\$214M
Emergency helicopter services	\$22M
Aviation related industry	\$3.9B
Total	\$18 Billion

IPAA members are available to assist in statewide economic development efforts and encourage the State to view airports as economic development tools for retaining and attracting business to Iowa. ➔

Governor Branstad Issues Proclamation Naming December 2011 as General Aviation Appreciation Month

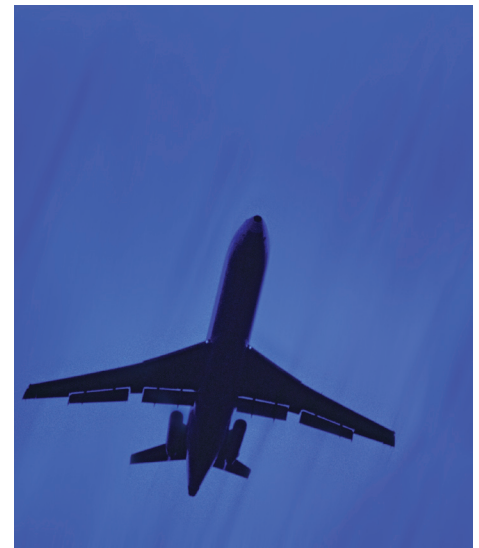
AMES, Iowa – Dec. 21, 2011 – Governor Terry Branstad has issued a proclamation designating December as General Aviation Appreciation Month in Iowa.

In the proclamation, the governor notes that general aviation airports play a critical role for citizens, businesses and travelers to our state. The document continues to state that general aviation activity in Iowa involves business aviation, air medical transport, air cargo, aerial application, law enforcement, search and rescue, specialty aerial services, air charter, personal aviation and recreational opportunities.

Branstad specifically noted general aviation's vital role in the state's response to emergencies and natural disasters, and support of national defense, training exercises and emergency response.

Related to economic development, aviation in Iowa supports more than 47,000 jobs and has an \$18 billion economic impact in the state. Iowa boasts more than 5,600 pilots, 4,000 general aviation aircraft and nearly one million annual aircraft operations. Many communities in Iowa depend heavily on general aviation and local airports for the continued flow of commerce and visitors to our state.

Iowa has 108 public-owned airports serving as the on-ramp to the national air transportation system and front door to the communities they serve. The state is also home to 69 fixed-based operators, which provide support services to general aviation operators at public-use airports; 24 charter flight companies; and 35 certified repair stations. ✈



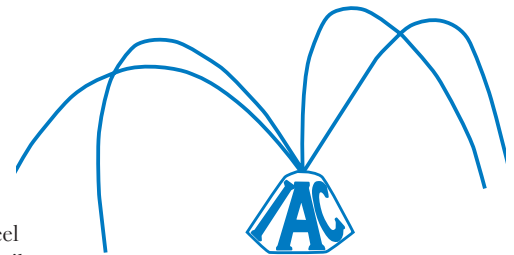
Make plans now to attend the 2012 Iowa Aviation Conference

The Iowa DOT Office of Aviation and IPAA host the annual aviation conference for the benefit of public airports and aviation businesses throughout the state.

The conference is the year's premier opportunity to learn about current aviation issues, airport operations, and funding opportunities through informative presentations and interaction with peer airport representatives, aviation business representatives, knowledgeable government officials, aviation consultants, and airport-related vendors.

The 2012 Iowa Aviation Conference will be April 25 & 26 in West Des Moines. Registration forms and other conference materials are available on IPAA's website at www.iowaairports.org.

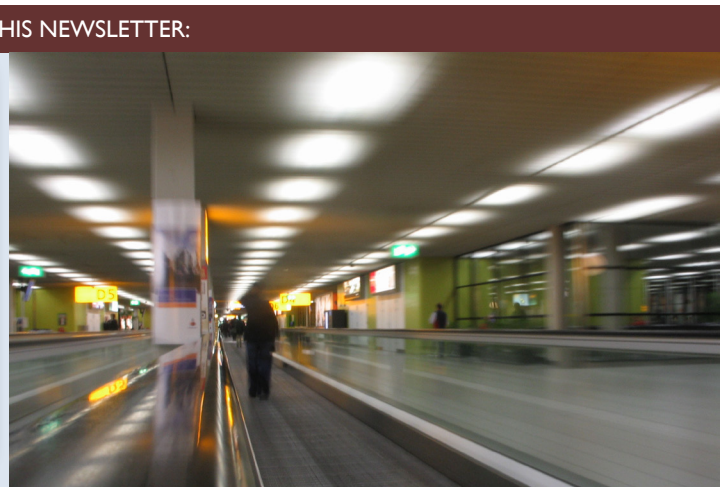
We hope to see all of you at the conference. If you have any questions about programming or attending the conference, feel free to contact me at 515-239-1689 or by email at tim.mcclung@dot.iowa.gov. ✈



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Concrete: The Solution ...for out-of-control asphalt prices

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

IOWA AIRPORTS' DAY ON THE HILL

February, 21, 2012

IOWA AVIATION CONFERENCE

April 25-26, 2012

NOTE

If there is an event you would like listed here in our next publication, please contact Sue Heath at sheath@associationinsight.com.

by Rhonda Chambers, Director of Aviation, Fort Dodge Regional Airport
IPAA Membership Chair

Membership Update-Each Airport Counts!

By now all airports should have received a letter regarding their 2012 membership renewal. Membership to IPAA is how our association is able to take an active role in shaping aviation issues that impact Iowa's airports. IPAA realigned the structure of dues to mirror the airport roles as identified in the Iowa DOT Aviation System Plan update. This realignment has changed some dues categories for airports and reduces the amount of dues for many airports. Instead of raising dues, IPAA has decided to "hold the line" and not increase your IPAA membership dues. Now, more than ever, the Iowa Public Airport Association needs the membership of all airports to offset this reduction.

IPAA has a strategic plan with a vision, mission and guiding principles focused on serving the interest of Iowa's public use airport. With your support, IPAA can continue to make a difference in decisions that affect the future of aviation in Iowa.

IPAA has several events and services that are of value to our members. Some of these include:

- 1) Iowa Airports' Day at the Capitol – Tuesday, Feb 21st - This annual event allows IPAA members to talk to our state legislators and to showcase our industry. Visit www.iowaairports.org for more information. Please join us.
- 2) Iowa Aviation Conference – This year's event is scheduled for April 25-26, 2012 at the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines. Please mark your calendar.
- 3) On-Site Lobbyist- IPAA utilizes an on-site lobbyist to monitor IPAA priorities during the legislative session.

I thank those airports who have already returned their membership dues and encourage all airports to support IPAA.