

BAYOU AVIATION



LA DOTD Aviation Newsletter Volume VII

June 2017

Sabine's Hart

Tucked away in the heart of Toledo Bend Lake Country lies Hart Airport. Located two miles southwest of Many, Louisiana, Hart Airport serves as a gateway to Sabine Parish and surrounding areas. Through the power of aviation, this airport rapidly moves people and goods in, around, and out of the Parish. According to the Louisiana DOTD Aviation System Plan, Hart Airport is a Level 3 airport. The plan defines Level 3 airports as maintaining a supplemental contributing role for the local economy and community access. These airports make up 31% of the Louisiana System Airports Role Classifications consisting of 21 General Aviation airports.



Many Hart Airport (3R4) pictured above.

The aviation activity generated by the airport provides benefits to the local area in the forms of jobs, payroll, and economic output. The visitor output is over \$140,000 annually, on-airport output is \$24,000 and

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) output is over \$150,000. The on-airport output consist of the airport tenants, which are businesses such as flight schools, Fixed Based Operators (FBOs), governmental agencies, or public airport sponsors. The CIP output comes in the form of projects undertaken by the airport, such as runway rehabilitation or terminal improvements. Businesses and other agencies undertake their own capital improvement projects as well. These projects employ people in jobs such as construction, architecture, engineering, and consulting. Hart airport sees over 5,000 air operations annually with one runway of 4,402 x 75ft. A 600ft extension is in the plans for attracting larger aircraft and better instrument approaches.

The Many Council and Mayor Ken Freeman have realized the growth potential and economic impact that a well-run and well-funded airport provides. The Town has provided support, vision and direction.



Toledo Bend Dam being constructed above.

Continued on page 15...



From the Director's Chair

By: Bradley Brandt

Air Service to the communities in our state is critical to our local and state economies. The state's airports that support commercial airline service are a critical part of Louisiana's transportation network and have a significant impact on the state and local economies. These airports support over 49,000 jobs, with a payroll of nearly \$1.4 billion and produces an economic impact to our state of over \$5.7 billion annually (Louisiana Airports Economic Impact Study, 2015). The impact analysis has shown the importance of our commercial airports and all the airlines that serve them. These airports provide critical links to the national air transportation system by connecting your communities to the world. More importantly, they connect the world to your communities. The benefits, health, welfare and quality of life that airports provide to your residents, businesses, and visitors is extremely important to the future growth of the area in which you live.

So, the next time you find yourself with a need to use air travel to get to your destination, have an important business meeting, or have family or loved ones visit, consider the drive, parking fees, traffic congestion, TSA wait times, wear and tear on your vehicle, fuel costs, and most importantly YOUR TIME in choosing a departure airport. If you calculate that up, now consider the time you will save. Many times it is cheaper, more efficient and closer to home to fly out of your hometown airport in Louisiana instead of traveling to an out-of-state airport. If you would like more information on the airport system or on our commercial airports please visit our website at www.dotd.la.gov/aviation.

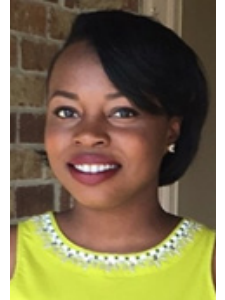


Sincerely,

Welcome

Lakeysha Bullock

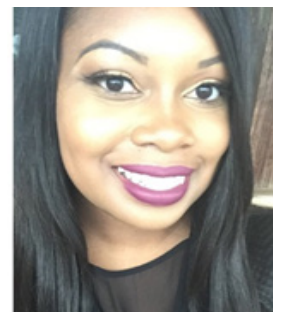
LA DOTD Aviation Intern



Lakeysha Bullock is a Winnsboro, LA native. She is currently working on a Bachelor's Degree in Aviation Management from the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM). Her interest in Aviation developed as a Flight Attendant for Omni Air International, which specializes in transporting military men and women serving in the armed forces. She has visited over forty-six different countries and countless cities. Currently, Lakeysha works as an Operations Specialist for Monroe Regional Airport. She will be joining our Aviation Division to broaden her knowledge in airport planning and government agencies. Upon completion of her internship she will resume classes at ULM and continue her career at Monroe Regional Airport.

Aaliyah Reed

*LA DOTD Aviation
Mass Communications
Intern*



Aaliyah D. Reed is a 22yr old Mass Communications-Public Relations Senior from the small town of Oberlin, Louisiana. She attends Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, LA. She enjoys cooking, playing with her pets, and spending time with her family. Aaliyah plans to attend law school upon her graduation in December 2017. This summer she is interning with the Aviation Department as a mass communications intern. She is writing for various Aviation publications as well as creating content for social media and our website.

New Faces In Louisiana Aviation



John McMullen
*Chennault International
Airport Director of
Maintenance*

John McMullen has joined Chennault International Airport as its Director of Maintenance. A native of Sulphur, McMullen is a McNeese State University alumni, and he has been a state licensed commercial and residential contractor for 27 years.

In 2015, he retired from Phillips 66 after 33 years of service in operations. McMullen is married to Melanie Johnson McMullen, and they have a son, John Cabot II, and a daughter, Laura.



John Michener
*Assistant Manager
LA/NM Airports District
Office*

John Michener is the new Assistant ADO Manager for the Louisiana/New Mexico ADO. John currently serves as a member of the AIP Branch team in Headquarters. Prior to this he was a Program Manager in the Arkansas/Oklahoma Airports Development Office in the Southwest Region. He also worked in the private sector for an engineering firm in Virginia Beach, VA, and in the public sector for the Utah Department of Transportation. He holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Civil Engineering from Brigham Young University with an emphasis in Transportation and Traffic Engineering. John, his three kids and his wife have lived in several different states but are excited to settle back down in a nice mild climate like Texas.



Bryan Ramos
*LA/NM Airports
District Office*

Bryan Ramos is from El Paso, TX. He graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso in August 2015 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.



Alec Fields
*Operations
Specialist Monroe
Regional Airport*

Alec Fields is an Operations Specialist at Monroe Regional Airport. Alec is a recent graduate from the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM), where he received a degree in Aviation Management. Upon graduation, Alec received the award of Outstanding Graduate in the College of Business and Social Sciences and the Outstanding Graduate in Aviation Award. Alec was recognized as the top graduate in Aviation for the year 2016-2017. During his time at ULM, Alec joined Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. and was recognized on the Dean's List five times and the President's list three times. Alec currently lives in Monroe, Louisiana where he intends to earn his Master's Degree in Business Administration while continuing to work at Monroe Regional Airport.



Robert Sliger
*Director of Operations
Monroe Regional
Airport*

Robert Sliger is the Director of Operations at the Monroe Regional Airport. Prior to his current position, Robert spent four years in Airport Operations at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport in south Florida, the number three busiest General Aviation airport in the US, and a year working at the Natchitoches Regional Airport in NW Louisiana. A 2011 graduate of Louisiana Tech in Aviation Management, Robert is currently pursuing a Masters in Aviation Science-Business concentration from Everglades University in Florida. He enjoys aviation photography and plane spotting.

What do you want to see in our next Newsletter?

Do you want to write an article or have news to share?

Email: Heidi.Higginbotham@LA.GOV





Kevin Dolliole

*Director of Aviation
Louis Armstrong New
Orleans International
Airport*

The New Orleans Aviation Board (NOAB) announced the appointment of Kevin Dolliole as the permanent Director of Aviation, effective June 26, 2017. Dolliole will replace Mark Reis, who was appointed as the interim Director of Aviation last December. Dolliole joins the NOAB after serving as Director of Airports at St. Louis Lambert International Airport and Aviation Director at San Antonio International Airport. Dolliole has previously served in several executive positions at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, including Acting Director of Aviation.

The Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport is in the midst of constructing a world-class North Terminal, scheduled to be complete in February 2019. The project is projected to create an estimated 13,000 direct construction jobs and generate a nearly \$1 billion investment in the region. The 972,000 square-foot terminal will feature 35 gates, a 2,190-car parking garage and a ground transportation staging area.

With over 40 years of combined experience in the airline and airport industries, Dolliole brings technical proficiency and innovative approaches to working with airlines, developing new air service and managing capital construction projects to Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. Dolliole is also experienced in planning efforts for operational, organizational and airport development initiatives.

Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) is the primary commercial airport in the State of Louisiana serving over 80 percent of all passengers flying into the state. Armstrong International Airport is owned by the City of New Orleans. The New Orleans Aviation Board (NOAB), an unattached board of the City of New Orleans, oversees the administration, operation, and maintenance of Armstrong International. The Airport has 15 airlines providing service to 57 non-stop destinations, including six international destinations. A new, world-class terminal complex is currently being constructed. The new North Terminal will be complete by February 2019. For more information, please visit www.flymsy.com.



Grab Your Passports



British Airways began flying direct flights from Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) to Heathrow Airport in London on March 27, 2017. The flights are conducted on the new Boeing 787 Dreamliners. Flights will leave London at 3 PM and arrive at MSY at 7:30 PM. Flights will leave MSY at 9:40 AM and arrive in London at 12:00 PM the next day.



Condor Airlines launched its new non-stop flight from Louis Armstrong International Airport (MSY) to Frankfurt, Germany on May 3, 2017. The route is expected to run seasonally from May to early October. The flights will utilize refurbished planes and will offer economy, premium, and business class seating. A hot meal and breakfast will also be included in the 11-hour flight ticket price.





Inspector's Report: "Just Say No to Crack"

By: Robert Sehon & Jason Ball
Aviation Safety & Compliance Officers

We all know that crack is whack, but DOTD's Aviation Division is here to explain why this is the case. We hope by reading this article you gain a better knowledge of the types of cracking common to runway/taxiway pavement and what common causes of that failure can be. Cracks in your pavement can tell you many things about the condition of the surface as well as the condition of the sub base material beneath your runway or taxiway. Some cracking is normal due to common foundation settling so knowing the differences is key to identifying problems early. Common settling cracks are typically small, hairline cracks. One of the first types of cracking we see is Longitudinal Cracking.



Longitudinal Cracking is cracking that runs parallel to the centerline and usually in pavement joints. These longitudinal cracks can be evidence of poor joints, shrinking, etc... and can be repaired by sealing the cracks with a crack sealant material. This crack sealant material prevents water from finding its way below your pavement and further deteriorating the base underneath.

Another type of cracking is called **Block Cracking**. You can identify Block Cracking by the large squares or rectangles that usually are formed when all of the cracks run together. Block cracking usually forms when the pavement mix was incorrect or if a poor asphalt binder was used.

A third type of cracking is referred to as **Edge Cracking**. These are cracks in the pavement right where you would expect them to be, the edge. Edge cracks are between one and two feet from the edge of the pavement and can be caused by a number of variables, such as poor drainage. Keeping the edge of your pavement clear to allow water to freely flow away is ideal. Other causes of Edge Cracking can be dried out soil causing pavement shrinkage and even vegetation.



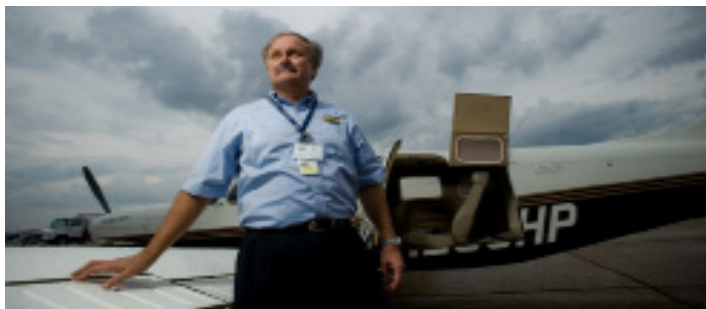
The last type of cracking is **Alligator Cracking**. Alligator Cracks can start out as longitudinal cracks but over time they become a collection of many cracks, enough to break up the pavement into numerous small pieces resembling an alligator's skin. This condition can be the result of overloading the pavement, poor drainage or both.

On the 5010 report, the inspectors do our best to identify which type of cracks we locate on your airfield so you have a better understanding of what may be happening beneath the surface. As always a professional engineer should review the area and determine the exact cause and remedy for your specific situation. During your inspection, we will identify any cracks we locate but it is best for airport personnel to monitor and record any expansion of cracks to ensure the pavement is always safe for use. Any cracks that become too large or large pieces that dislodge will possibly require NOTAMs to be issued and emergency repairs. Our inspectors can help answer as many questions as you may have regarding the findings on your inspections and we encourage everyone to ride along during the inspection so that way the inspector can specifically point out any areas which may be of concern, but not yet a discrepancy.



Catching Up: Pilots for Patients

By: *Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation*



Philip Thomas, President of Pilots for Patients, 2009 Angel Award Honoree

In 2008, The Times-Picayune published a story on a scrappy new group called Pilots for Patients. The paper interviewed Larry Lehmann, a New Orleans attorney, and his client, Philip Thomas of Monroe, about their work for Louisiana's patients.

The "Angel Flight" model connected (and still connects) licensed pilots who own small aircraft – many recreational hobbyists – with patients in need of no-cost travel for out-of-town treatment.

Some patients need urgent transportation for surgery, such as organ transplants when, suddenly, a needed donor organ is available. Others are enduring a chronic disease such as cancer and are receiving treatment far away from home.

Lehmann and Thomas – both pilots – had parted ways with a national organization to focus exclusively on Louisiana patients. The two explained why focusing on home was so important to them:

"A lot of times people can't get the care they need in the city that they live in," Lehmann said.

He and Philip Thomas, a client and friend who lives in Monroe, were active in Angel Flight, a nationwide volunteer pilots' organization. But it seemed to them that the national group was not giving Louisianians sufficient attention, so they started their own organization.

"Louisiana being second from the bottom for healthcare, we felt that there was a need to help people..."

"(Patients) say, 'Well, what's the catch?'" Thomas said. "I'll say, 'There is no catch.' They say, 'How many times can I do this?' 'As many times as you need to.'"

At the time the article was published, Pilots for Patients had flown 120 missions with 5 volunteer pilots. A year later, when the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana

recognized Philip Thomas with The Angel Award® for his work flying children in need of care, the crew had flown 300 missions.

"That was a big moment for us," says Thomas. "The Angel Award was a real moment of momentum for us. It brought us a lot of attention to our cause and helped us push towards where we are now."

Today, Pilots for Patients has 120 pilots who have volunteered to fly over 3,000 missions. The 3,000th mission was flown by Florence Bethard of Coushatta. In its newsletter, Pilots for Patients publishes its Top 10 pilots for the year. Thomas, still a volunteer and a tireless advocate for the work of his fellow pilots, is on that list. He's proud of the organization's accomplishments – but is quick to point out that recognition isn't the point.

"We've flown the equivalent of 57 times around the equator. Our [pilots] have given almost \$3 million in in-kind services. We challenge each other for friendly motivation, but honestly this is a ministry focused on people. It's an incredible gift to us to have the opportunity to serve people in need and connect them with care, to keep them going."

In 2015, the Foundation awarded Pilots for Patients an Angels of Change grant in recognition of its continued excellence. The organization used the grant fund to successfully recruit more pilots and even further accelerate Pilots of Patients' growth.

Of its total missions flown, Pilots for Patients has flown nearly 300 children for diagnoses, treatment or surgery. The organization is actively partnering with children's hospitals to increase that number. With the organization's pilot retention rate, Thomas isn't worried about the demand.

"I think what keeps the pilots coming back is that sense of relief you create for patients or parents. That they can focus on treatment and getting better, to sit back and let us take care of getting them there – I think that is huge for people."

Philip Thomas is just one of more than 170 individuals who have been recognized with the Angel Award over the last 20 years. The Angel Award, one of the signature programs of the Blue Cross Foundation, recognizes everyday people doing extraordinary good for Louisiana's children.

To learn more about Pilots for Patients, visit their website at www.pilotsforpatients.org. To learn more about the Blue Cross Foundation, the Angel Award and how to nominate an outstanding individual, visit www.BCBSLAFoundation.org. 

Louisiana Flight Schools Ready to Meet Demand

By: Leigh Guidry
lguidry@gannett.com



Photo Courtesy of Louisiana Tech Aviation Department

Louisiana schools have shifted focus to workforce development in recent years to fill gaps left by retirees or quickly growing industries. One unique gap they're looking to fill is in the sky.

The job market for airline pilots, copilots and flight engineers is expected to grow up to 9 percent, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook, and state colleges in New Iberia, Monroe and Ruston are preparing to meet that demand.

"The industry is in need, especially for the oil field," said Andre Perez, director of Primary Partnerships and Special Programs at South Louisiana Community College.

Oil and gas may be the go-to in Acadiana, but Perez said SLCC is preparing for an expected void in the market as pilots in all industries retire.

And it's not the only one.

"Our enrollment is at the highest it's been in 15 years (at 210 students)," said Jordan Lyons, endowed professor and chair of Louisiana Tech University's Department of Professional Aviation. "That's due to several reasons, but primarily due to the industry demand for pilots being so high. Our graduate placement rate the last eight years has been 100 percent."

Growth also is expected in flight-related job sectors like aircraft mechanics and service technicians, a program SLCC already offers at the Lafayette Airport, and aerospace engineering and operations technicians.

Louisiana State University offers a minor in aerospace engineering.

It's an attractive opportunity between the growth and pay. The Handbook puts median pay for airline pilots at \$75,000 or more in 2015.

"It'll provide jobs for the area and attract businesses now that we'll have a source of highly qualified graduates to work for them," Perez said.

Louisiana Tech and the University of Louisiana at Monroe offer aviation degree programs. In Monroe you can get a Bachelor of Science in aviation and a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Management (i.e., drones).



Photo Courtesy of University of Louisiana Monroe Aviation Department

In Ruston you can get a bachelor's in either professional aviation or aviation management. Students also must complete the following aviation certificates and ratings for graduation: private pilot, instrument rating, commercial pilot, and flight instructor-airplane.


If you want to fly helicopters in Acadiana, SLCC has its International School of Aviation Excellence in New Iberia. It has non-credit offerings for four levels of certificates, but administration are working toward offering an Associate of Applied Science in helicopter aviation as early as this fall. 



Photo Courtesy of Leigh Guidry/USA Today Network



2017 Louisiana Art Contest

By: Tonjia Summerell

Our 2017 Aviation Art Contest was a tremendous success this year! We had 900 entries from 48 schools-Our most ever! Our theme for this year was "Beyond the Clouds." Not only did the participants compete in the state competition, they had the opportunity to compete at the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) Art Contest.

The winners from the state were as follows:

Class I (Ages 6-7)

1st Place: Kelly Jia	BRCVPA
2nd Place: Ella Gisclair	St. John Primary
3rd Place: Nya Laiche	St. Joseph

Class II (Ages 8-9)

1st Place: Lola Avery	St. Theresa
2nd Place: Evan Tramonte	St. Theresa
3rd Place: Taylor Richard	St. John Primary

Class III (Ages 10-11)

1st Place: Gaeun Van	Riverdale Middle
2nd Place: Macie Campbell	Bayou Chicot
3rd Place: Rylie Cavalier	Einstein Charter

Class IV (Ages 12-13)

1st Place: Mackenzie Stewart	St. Joseph
2nd Place: Gabby Bordelon	St. Joseph
3rd Place: Marcela Aguirre	T.H. Harris Middle

Class V (Ages 14-15)

1st Place: Jason Dixon	Central Middle School
2nd Place: Megan Lee	Central Middle School
3rd Place: Kennedy Pedeaux	Central Middle School

Class VI (Ages 16-17)

1st Place: Carrie Dinh	Eleanor McMain
2nd Place: Ahava Lewis	Claiborne Christian
3rd Place: Sarah Phillips	Riverfield Academy



The winners from each class were then grouped and judged for the opportunity to compete in the NASAO Art Contest. The Louisiana NASAO entries were as follows:

Category I (Ages 6-9)

1st Place: Kelly Jia	BRCVPA
2nd Place: Lola Avery	St. Theresa
3rd Place: Evan Tramonte	St. Theresa

Category II (Ages 10-13)

1st Place: Marcela Aguirre	T.H. Harris Middle
2nd Place: Gabby Bordelon	St. Joseph School
3rd Place: Gaeun Van	Riverdale Middle

Category III (Ages 14-17)

1st Place: Jason Dixon	Central Middle School
2nd Place: Megan Lee	Central Middle School
3rd Place: Carrie Din	Eleanor McMain





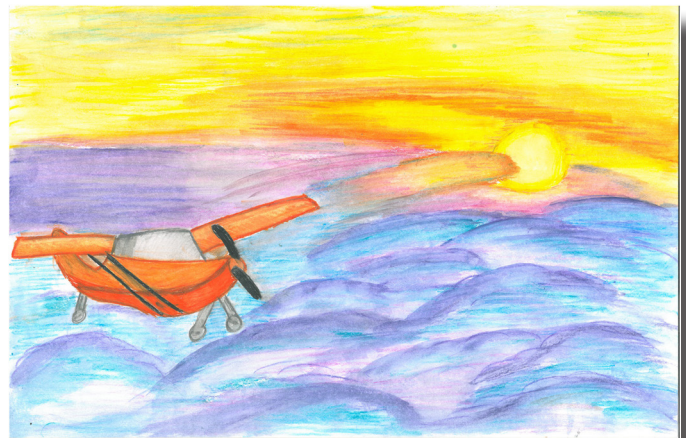
1st Place: Age 6-7
Kelly Jia
BRCVPA



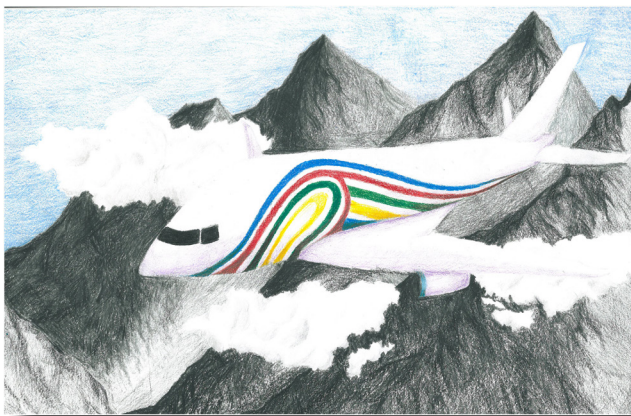
1st Place: Age 8-9
Lola Avery
St. Theresa



1st Place: Ages 10-11
Gaeun Van
Riverdale Middle



1st Place: Ages 12-13
Mackenzie Stewart
St. Joseph



1st Place: Ages 14-15
Jason Dixon
Central Middle



1st Place: Ages 16-17
Carrie Dinh
Elanor McMain



2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 15 – 18, 2017

Natchitoches Events Center & Chateau Saint Denis Hotel

Natchitoches, LA



DRAFT

Sunday – October 15

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Exhibitor Setup	Events Center (EC)
3:00 p.m. – 7:00 PM	<u>Registration</u>	Events Center Lobby
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.	<u>FAA Wildlife Hazardous Training</u> <i>Cody Basciuska, Loomacres Inc.</i>	Magnolia Room - EC
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	<u>Welcome Reception</u>	Chateau Saint Denis Hotel
7:00 p.m. – midnight	<u>Hospitality Suite</u>	Magnolia Room – EC

Monday, October 16

7:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Registration & Exhibit Hall Open	Events Center & Lobby
8:30 AM – 4:00 PM	Spouse's Tour	Meet Saint Denis lobby
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Breakfast and Exhibitors	Events Center
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	<u>WELCOME</u> <i>Presentation of Colors: Natchitoches Fire Department Honor Guard</i> <i>National Anthem:</i> <i>Lee Posey, Mayor, City of Natchitoches</i> <i>Rick Nowlin, President, Parish of Natchitoches</i> <i>Janet Gonzales, President - LAMA</i> <i>Conference Hosts' Comments</i>	McCullen Hall A - EC
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	<u>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</u> <u>Don't Let Your Human Factor Bite You</u> <i>By: Catherine Fish</i> (Moderator: Edd Lee)	McCullen Hall A - EC
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	Break with Exhibitors	Events Center
10:45 AM – 11:45 AM	<u>FAA LA/NM AIRPORTS DISTRICT OFFICE:</u> <i>Kelvin Solco, Regional Director, FAA</i> <i>Ignacio Flores - Airports Division Manager, FAA Southwest Region - FAA Update</i> <i>Lacey Spriggs - Manager, LA/NM Airports District Office</i> <i>John Michener - Assistant Division Manager, FAA Southwest Region</i> <i>Andy Velazos - Aviation Program Manager, FAA Southwest Region</i> <i>Gary Loftus -</i> (Moderator: Scott Gammel)	McCullen Hall A - EC
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	<u>LUNCH</u> <u>How to Fail Your Way to Success in Aviation</u> <i>Dr. Jerry Cockrell - Guest Speaker</i> (Moderator: Larry Cooper)	McCullen Halls B & C
1:45 PM – 2:30 PM	<u>AOPA Update 2017</u> <i>Tom Chandler, Regional Manager, Central Southwest</i> (Moderator: Yvonne Chenevert)	McCullen Hall A
2:30 PM – 2:45 PM	Break with Exhibitors	Events Center
2:45 PM – 3:30 PM	<u>Wildlife</u> <i>Kurt Ryder, Alexandria International Airport</i> (Moderator: Edd Lee)	McCullen Hall A

DRAFT

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM **Safety & NOTAMS** McCullen Hall A
Gary Loftus, FAA
(Moderator: Kurt Ryder)

4:30 PM – 5:00 PM **Visit with Exhibitors** **Events Center**

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM **SPECIAL EVENT**
Sports Hall of Fame Museum
(located one block from Events Center)

9:00 PM – MIDNIGHT **Hospitality Room** **Magnolia Room - EC**

Tuesday, October 17

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM **Breakfast with Exhibitors** **Events Center**

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM **Spouses: Downtown Walking Tour** **Meet Saint Denis lobby**
Logan Schlatre, Tour Guide

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM **Washington Update** **McCullen Hall A**
Mark Kimberling, President, NASA
(Moderator: Yvonne Chenevert)

10:00 AM – 10:45 AM **Airport Security** **McCullen Hall A**
Lorena de Rodriguez,
(Moderator: Scott Gammel)

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM **Break with Exhibitors** **Events Center**

11:00 AM. – Noon **Airport Construction & Development Program** **McCullen Hall A**
& State Aviation Update
Brad Brandt, Director of Aviation, LaDOTD Aviation Division
Michael Burrows, Assistant Director, LaDOTD Aviation Division
(Moderator: Larry Cooper)

NOON – 1:30 PM **Awards Luncheon** **McCullen Halls B & C**

Presentation of Scholarships – Louis Busby, Education Committee Chair
Presentation of Corporate Award - Janet Gonzales, President, LAMA
Presentation of Presidents Award - Janet Gonzales, President, LAMA

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM **Aviation Electrical Jeopardy** **McCullen Hall A**
Eric C. Farmer, Aviation Electrical Director, Garver USA
Mike Massey, Senior Electrical Specialist, Garver USA
(Moderator: Yvonne Chenevert)

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM **Break between Sessions** **McCullen Hall A**

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM **General Membership Meeting** **McCullen Hall A**

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM **Maglieaux's Riverfront Restaurant with Fireworks Show at 8 p.m.**
(located on Cane River across from Sports Hall of Fame)

9:00 PM – midnight **Hospitality Suite** **Events Center**

Wednesday, October 18

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM **Breakfast** **Lasoyne's Meat Pie Restaurant 622 Second Street**
(one block south of Chateau Saint Denis Hotel)



Local Airport Raises Awareness for Women Pilots

By: Brandie Richardson
Gonzales Weekly Citizen



Despite the nasty weather over the weekend, the Louisiana Regional Airport in Gonzales was able to host the annual Fly it Forward aviation event on Saturday, a fun and educational ending to Women of Aviation Week. More than 140 girls were registered for the event, where they were able to experience the thrill of flying in a small aircraft for the first time.

The event was put on by the NOLA Ninety-Nines, a chapter within the Southeast Section of the International Organization of Women Pilots. The organization aims to promote aviation, education, safety and careers through various activities such as Fly it Forward.

Thirteen pilots from the NOLA Ninety-Nines and other areas such as Ascension, Baton Rouge, New Orleans and the Northshore volunteered their planes and time to educate women of all ages about the benefits of flying and the basics of how to operate a plane.

“I had so much fun, I didn’t even cry,” exclaimed one of the many young girls in attendance as she finished her flight.

Baton Rouge pilot Julie Jones was among the women pilots flying on Saturday. Jones has been flying for 16 years and has almost 1,200 hours of flying logged. She was introduced to flying in her 30’s, but wishes she would have knew about it when she was young, as she would have made a career out of it.

“50 feet off the ground I knew I was hooked,” Jones said. “I looked down and I said oh yea I gotta do this. I think back, if I would have known something like this when I was their [attendees] age I probably would have made aviation a career. It’s great to see these faces, most of them are nervous, but when they get up they start grinning and I know they are having fun.”

Former pilot, and husband of a NOLA Ninety-Nine pilot, John Weldon said he thinks it is important for women to become involved with aviation because there is no safer pilot to ride with.


“I think women should get into aviation because they are safe, they are very well organized,” Weldon added. “I haven’t seen any women pilots yet that I would be afraid to fly with. They pay attention to detail. There’s really no limitations to women.”

Sherry Saloon traveled from Lafayette to bring her two daughters, ages six and seven, to fly for the first time, but also because they have been learning about clouds in school and they wanted to see what it was like to be in the clouds. Her seven year old daughter Catherine said she was scared but had a lot of fun.



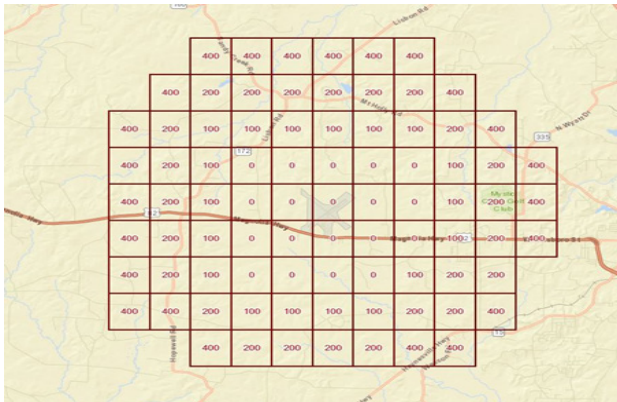
Meanwhile, nine year-old Madison said she had so much fun flying that she can’t wait to do it again and she said even wants to be a pilot when she grows up.

In addition to flying, participants learned about the many flight training scholarships available, learned the mechanics behind planes, was introduced to a flight simulator and saw a checklist of what needs to be done before pilots can take off. The girls were also treated to a fish fry and ice cream bar.

“Aviation is so rewarding and challenging. You challenge yourself and you challenge your brain,” said Louisiana Regional Airport Manager Janet Gonzales. “Only six percent of the pilot population is female, even after a 100 years. It’s important for girls to know that they have the opportunity to fly, whether its for a career or for a hobby.” 



UAS Maps Are Rolling Out



The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has begun to publish unmanned aerial system (UAS) maps which inform operators of altitude restrictions in and around an airport. The maps will streamline the airspace authorization process, but FAA authorization is still a must for now. It is important to understand that the maps do not give operators permission to fly in the areas depicted; pilots must submit an online airspace authorization application. The airport vicinity is divided into one square mile grids. The numbers inside the grids indicate what the “preauthorize” ceiling. For instance, the immediate area over and around the airport depicts a “0”. This means that the ceiling is zero feet above ground level (AGL). Further FAA approval is required to operate in these zones. On the outskirts of the grid, “400” is printed inside the grids which means that operations are preauthorized up to four hundred feet AGL. The maps are online at faa.maps.arcgis.com. More maps will be published as time goes on during the 56-day data updates.

UAS Program Announcement



The Aviation Section is pleased to announce its new unmanned aerial system (UAS) program. In the not-so-distant future, the section will be coordinating with airport communities around the state to conduct aerial surveys of the airport and airspace environment using a fully autonomous drone (above). The drone will be used to acquire highly precise data on all airport pavements, approaches, obstacles, etc. The data will then be analyzed to determine where problem areas exist or will exist.



Visit our website or request a brochure from heidi.higginbotham@la.gov.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

DRONE



Is My Airport the Only One That Experiences This?

By: Danielle Gaylor

Have you ever wondered whether your airport is the only one that experiences certain issues or where do you start to fix something? There is help! A gentleman by the name of Glen Barentine created an aviation website, My Airport Operations, in 2009 for just that reason. The website started off as his way of seeking help for 139 issues he was experiencing in Hot Springs, Arkansas. He originally tried to find help from other sources but they either wanted a membership fee or for you to attend a conference. His free website has grown into a professional networking site for airport personnel, general aviation, and part 139 airports from around the world asking questions and sharing experiences. Glen does send out a monthly newsletter to display posts from the site in an effort to encourage others to share. If you are tired of trying to figure things out on your own then go to www.myairportoperations.com and gain access to how airports around the world work.



Allen Taylor, LA DOTD Aviation Division, Wins Dunbar Award

Pictured Left to Right: James Taylor, Nancy Taylor, Allen Taylor and DOTD Secretary Dr. Shawn Wilson

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development would like to congratulate employees who recently received the highest honor classified state employees can obtain for their service to Louisiana.

Allen Taylor received the 58th annual Charles E. Dunbar, Jr., Career Service Award, presented by the Louisiana Civil Service League. The award, named for the founder of the League and co-author of the original Civil Service Law in Louisiana, is presented to employees in a classified merit system who have distinguished themselves by service over and above the call of duty.

“I have received awards from DOTD and the 2012 IES/ALC Award of Excellence for the LED solar test program at the False River Regional Airport. However, the Dunbar Award is the highlight of my career,” Taylor said.

Allen began his DOTD Aviation career in 1994. He is responsible for airport obstructions analysis, instrument approaches, navigational aids, lighting, developing standards, inspections, final acceptance for Federal Aviation Administrations (FAA) and State funded projects. Allen’s extensive experience and integrity insures a degree of credibility with our investors. What he does, better than anyone else is to simply make flying safer.

Allen is married to his wife Nancy of 41 years and they have one son, James, who is 27 years old. Allen has been employed with the State of Louisiana for over 23 years.

Congratulations Allen on a well deserved award. We appreciate your dedication to Aviation and Safety in Louisiana! 

DOTD went #OrangeforSafety to support National Work Zone Awareness Week. Remember: Work zone safety is in your hands. #NWZAW #WorkZoneSafetyLA April 5, 2017

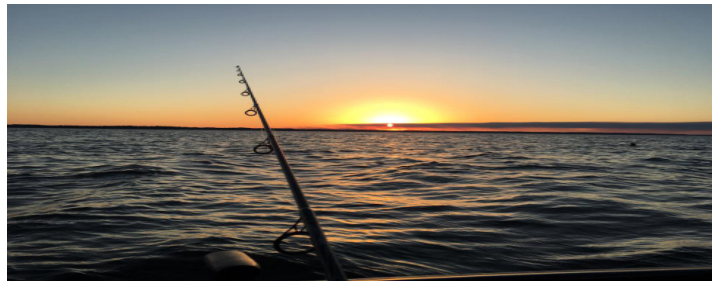


Continuation of Sabine's Hart


Hart Airport is an attractant for many tourists and vacationers due to the proximity to the man-built wonder, Toledo Bend. For 20 years the Toledo Bend reservoir was being studied, planned and built. The Toledo Bend dam and reservoir was a two state boundary project between Louisiana and Texas. Scores of vacationers and tourists travel to Toledo Bend to experience a trip of relaxation and recreation, many of them flying into Hart Airport. Toledo Bend is the #1 Bass Fishing Lake in the nation and a perfect getaway for summer vacations, family reunions, and holidays. The lake sees over 100 fishing tournaments annually. There are three state parks within close proximity to Hart Airport, including Hodges Gardens, and numerous other marinas and resorts. In 2019 there will be celebrations for the 50th anniversary of Toledo Bend Reservoir.



Aviation Director Brad Brandt and Kenneth Ammons



Ammons Airport (5LS9)

Another hidden treasure in Sabine Parish is the Ammons Airport (5LS9). This private airstrip is the center of the “Fly In Villa” subdivision. The subdivision became the home or camp for many pilots over the years including the late Louisiana Governor Jimmy Davis. Cliff Ammons was heavily involved with the design and development of Ammons airstrip, which is located eight miles southwest of Zwolle, LA. Clifton “Cliff” R. Ammons was an educator and businessman of Many who also served in the Louisiana House of Representatives representing Sabine Parish. Cliff is principally remembered as “the Father of Toledo Bend Reservoir”. Cliff’s son, Kenneth Ammons, is the Executive Director for Sabine Parish Chamber of Commerce and has the same love for Toledo Bend and Sabine Parish that his father did. Kenneth is actively seeking improvements for Hart Airport and is heavily involved in the economic growth of Sabine Parish. 

Bulldog Engineers

A group of students from Baton Rouge Magnet High School, known as the “Bulldog Engineers” competed April 21-23, 2017 in Washington, D.C. at the International Real World Design Challenge. They placed in the top ten nationally and were awarded “Best First Year Team”. They created a 3D Model aeronautical drone and were the first to ever compete from the state of Louisiana.

The Real World Design Challenge (RWDC) is an annual high school competition run by a public-private partnership with the goal of sustainability increasing the Science, Technology Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) workforce. The Challenge focus on the aerospace industry, but as the RWDC grows, other areas of concentration will be included.

Are you interested in a career in aviation? Louisiana has wonderful colleges with great aviation programs to kick start your career!



Louisiana Tech University:

B.S. in Professional Aviation &
B.S. in Aviation Management



University of Louisiana at Monroe:

B.S. in Aviation &
Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in UAS
Management



Southern University Shreveport Louisiana:

Certificate in Airframe and Powerplant
Maintenance



SOWELA Technical Community College:

FAA-Certificated AMTS Associate of
Applied Science in Aviation Maintenance
Technology



Baton Rouge Community College:

Associate of Applied Science in Helicopter
Pilot Operations