



Spring 2003

WAMA NEWS

Mission

To improve airports and airport management in Washington state.

Goals

- ➔ Link airport managers in Washington state to achieve their common interests.
- ➔ Identify and address problems and opportunities.
- ➔ Support members locally to benefit aviation.
- ➔ Promote educational opportunities for development of airport managers and staff.
- ➔ Review and refine industry procedures and regulations.

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Olympia Airport Begins Passenger Service to Spokane

A Big Sky Airlines twin-engine turboprop took off November 13, 2002 for the 70-minute flight to Spokane, ushering in new commercial passenger service at the Port of Olympia's Olympia Regional Airport. Big Sky, a 24-year-old regional carrier that serves 23 cities in Montana, North Dakota, Washington, Idaho, Colorado, and Wyoming, began service in response to strong community interest in providing scheduled service between Washington's capital city area and Spokane.

"The community showed it wanted passenger air service and Big Sky put together a package that allows South Sound travelers easy access to Spokane and beyond," said Port Commission President Steve Pottle. Recruiting an air carrier to provide transportation options for Thurston County businesses and residents has been a long-term goal for the Port of Olympia, which owns and operates the Airport. After four months of operation, the daily nonstop service is attracting increasing numbers of travelers from both sides of the Cascades. "What a difference," said Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed, an Olympia-area resident. "Our recent Big Sky flight from Spokane landed at 6 p.m. and we were home by 6:15. Flying Big Sky saved us money, but more importantly we didn't waste a lot of time of traveling by car to Sea-Tac Airport."



A Big Sky flight ready for take off from Olympia Regional Airport.

Big Sky operates three round-trip flights between Olympia and Spokane Monday through Friday and a reduced schedule on the weekends. The schedule allows for convenient travel between the two cities, as well as connections on inbound and outbound flights to cities served by Big Sky Airlines and other carriers. Big Sky has codeshare agreements with Northwest and America West Airlines that provide more competitive connecting fares, simplified ticketing, baggage transfers, and frequent flyer programs.

The new service also provides significant cost and time saving advantages for state employees, who make an estimated 20,000 trips from Western Washington to Spokane each year. The State of Washington has contracted with Big Sky through March 2004 to provide competitive rates for government travelers and has designated the service a state "Best Practice."

"Even though we knew the market between Olympia and Spokane was strong, it still required a tremendous amount of effort on everyone's part to pull it off," said Doug Sandau, Olympia Regional Airport Director. "The Spokane International Airport and the Spokane business community have been very supportive in developing this natural and long overdue connection between Olympia and the Inland Northwest." The advance sale of more than \$90,000 in bulk roundtrip Olympia-Spokane tickets, an effort spearheaded by the Economic Development Council of Thurston County, helped convince Big Sky that Thurston County businesses and residents wanted regular service to Spokane. "Our market research indicated the demand was there, but the advance commitment by the

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Lynae Jacobson

President's Message

It's been an exciting springtime for WAMA and for me personally. Many of our members have been busy with legislative issues, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Aviation Alliance, the NW Aviation Conference and Hall of Fame Banquet and planning for our upcoming spring conference.

In addition to these efforts, I've been busy adjusting to a new position in the aviation industry as Manager of Air Traffic and Airfield Operations for Alaska Airlines. I plan to continue to be an active member of WAMA; however, as an airline employee, I am not eligible to serve as President. At our spring business meeting in May, Jeff Robb, our current Vice President, will assume the role of President until our fall election. At the spring meeting, an election nominating committee will also be selected. The fall election will be held at our fall conference in October and will include the following positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and two of the four Board of Directors.

The WAMA Board met in January and April 2003 to discuss and address several issues, which are summarized below:

Legislative Issues

The 2003 special assessments (to cover WAMA lobbyist cost) were sent to airport members last month. A summary of activities from the legislative session will be provided at the spring conference and mailed to all members at the end of the session. Our lobbyist, Susie Tracy, has been tracking numerous bills, focusing on the following two issues:

Trapping

Substitute Senate Bill 5179 would return a tool to airports for wildlife management that was eliminated by the passage of Initiative 713. As passed out of the Senate, SSB5179 would exempt the USDA Wildlife Services from the provisions of the law, allowing them to again provide trapping services to airport operators. The bill also includes provisions for licensing trappers on an annual basis to manage animal problems. It would eliminate the permit system that is currently in place. WAMA Board members testified at both the Senate and House hearings and several members have contacted their legislators. At press time, the bill is still in the House awaiting a vote.

Airmen & Aircraft Registration Fees/Penalties

SB 5392 and SB 5961 have been consolidated into SB 6056 and was passed out of the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee. SB 6056 increases pilot, airmen, and aircraft registration fees and changes from a variable aircraft fuel tax to a flat 10 cent/gallon tax. It also defines penalties for non-compliance with registration requirements with fines for violations ranging from \$100 to \$400. State law currently requires airports to provide monthly reports of non-registered aircraft to the WSDOT Aviation Division. WAMA has been working with the Aviation Division to propose an amendment to SB6056 that would eliminate the burden of monthly reporting for airports while still providing WSDOT with information to help them increase aircraft registration compliance.

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New Service continued from previous page

community assures that our service gets off to a good start," said Kim Champney, President and CEO of Big Sky. "This service is the culmination of a lot of work with our Olympia and Spokane partners."

"Given the airline industry's fiscal environment, introducing service into Olympia at this time should be considered a feat in itself," commented Craig Denney, Big Sky's Executive Vice President. To accommodate the service, modifications were made to the airport terminal, including the installation of new security systems, upgrading of terminal furnishings, and construction of additional free parking. A shuttle service providing transportation to the Capitol Campus and local hotels meets every flight, and rental cars are available on-site.

Since the start of service, Big Sky has made some minor adjustments to better coordinate aircraft and pilot schedules and has worked to smoothly implement new federal baggage screening requirements. "As with any startup of service, there have been challenges along the way," said Champney. "But we're pleased with the community response to our service thus far, and we're confident we've built the foundation for a long-term relationship with our Olympia and Spokane business and government customers."

For further information, please contact Olympia Airport at (360) 528-8079.

Stay informed.....



Visit our Web site

www.portolympia.com/wama

King County Hires New Airport Director

The King County Department of Transportation hired Bob Burke to be the new airport director for King County International Airport (KCIA), commonly known as Boeing Field. He began his duties on April 1, 2003.

A 20-year veteran of the aviation industry, Mr. Burke's broad range of management experience includes airport development, finance, strategic planning, operations, security, maintenance, property management, lease administration, construction management, and marketing. This experience has been earned at commercial airports, military facilities, and general aviation airports such as KCIA. A former flight instructor and charter pilot, Mr. Burke brings an insider's knowledge to KCIA with an understanding of both technical issues and tenant concerns. He also served 20 years in the United States Marine Corps and another 10 years in the reserves.



Bob Burke

Mr. Burke holds a master's degree in global business management and a bachelor of business administration. He also holds an aviation safety certificate and two accreditations from the American Association of Airport Executives.

President's Message continued from previous page

Conference Planning

The Ports of Benton, Kennewick, and Pasco will host our spring conference in the Tri-Cities from May 7-9, 2003. The draft conference agenda and registration materials have been mailed to all members and are available on the WAMA Web site at www.portolympia.com/wama. Special thanks to Kelly Thompson, Port of Benton and Sherrie Bowers, Port of Kennewick for all their efforts in planning the conference.

WSDOT Aviation Alliance

Last year, the WSDOT Aviation Division created the Aviation Alliance to advise their Director of Aviation on policies, planning and initiatives affecting aviation transportation in Washington State. The group is comprised of 15 members from local, state and federal aviation agencies and associations. At our January meeting, John Sibold, Aviation Director, gave a briefing on the status of airports in the state, their funding needs, the Division's finances and budget, and legislative efforts to increase funding for the Division.

NW Aviation Conference/Aviation Hall of Fame Banquet

WAMA continued its support of the Aviation Hall of Fame, contributing \$500 to the event. WSDOT's Aviation Division coordinated the awards for Airport of the Year, Airport Manager of the Year, and Airport Volunteer of the Year. WAMA also hosted an informational booth at the two-day conference. More than 100 visitors participated in our popular "airport recognition" game, and many more folks just stopped by to say hello and find out more about our organization.

Thanks to Larry and Karen Adams, Denise Forney, Doug Sandau, Colin English and Dave Waggoner for staffing our booth. I'd also like to thank Reid Middleton for providing the photos for our display and HMS Host for donating gifts and prizes including toy airplanes, key chains and luggage.

We welcome your input. Please contact any of the WAMA Board members if you have suggestions on airport issues we should address or have feedback on Board actions and initiatives.

WAMA NEWS

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for future issues to
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Mark your calendars for the

WAMA Fall Conference

October 2-3, 2003

Astoria, Oregon

This will be a joint conference
with the Oregon Airport
Management Association.

Volunteers are needed to assist
with conference planning.
Please contact Lynae Jacobson
at (206) 433-6874 if you can help.



Terminal Modifications at Tri-Cities Airport

Recent changes in airport security requirements have called for significant alterations to the Tri-Cities Airport. These alterations focus on the terminal in both

the passenger waiting area and the airline ticketing lobby. While the addition of a second passenger screening lane has enhanced security processing wait times, it unfortunately substantially cut into passenger waiting areas. The new security measures have also negatively impacted restroom access for passengers in the waiting area who must leave a secured area and pass through security again to return to the waiting area. To increase customer service and better handle security requirements the terminal will be expanded adding restrooms, a snack bar and seating areas to the secured area. The project was awarded in January and is scheduled for completion in May 2003. The estimated \$750,000 cost will be financed by passenger facility charges.

A second major expansion project will add 1,500 square feet to the airline ticket lobby. The front of the building will be extended approximately 12 feet and airline ticket counters will be relocated to accommodate the federally required Electronic Trace Detection (ETD) equipment used for inspecting all checked baggage for explosives. Currently, passengers must wait in two separate lines to complete ticketing and checked-baggage screening processes. After the expansion is completed, checked baggage will be screened during the ticketing check-in process. One vehicle traffic lane in front of the terminal building will be eliminated with the expansion, reducing the front curb from four lanes to three lanes. The project is scheduled for completion in early summer 2003 and is estimated to cost \$1 million. Funding will come from the Airport Improvement Program, which draws federal dollars from the Aviation Trust Fund.

Most of the work on both projects will be done at night to reduce the impact on airport passengers, employees and airline service.

The Tri-Cities Airport is located in Pasco, Washington and is a Port of Pasco facility.

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Seattle-Tacoma International Airport

c/o Lida Nestorenko, Aviation Planning