



Spring 2002

# WAMA NEWS

Washington Airport Management Association

## 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 define industry procedures and regulations.

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## Spring Conference May 1-3 at Sun Mountain Lodge

The Washington Airport Management Association (WAMA) Spring Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1st through Friday, May 3rd at the Sun Mountain Lodge in Winthrop, Washington. Sun Mountain Lodge is an ideal conference setting located in the spectacular Methow Valley. While the lodge has a rustic northwest feel, it provides all the modern amenities that make it a great place for WAMA members to meet. The focus of the conference will be airport security. Other relevant topics will be addressed, including environmental issues, aviation insurance and new navigational technology.



Photo: Sun Mountain Lodge

In addition to offering timely and valuable information, the conference will also provide an excellent opportunity for networking with airport counterparts and aviation colleagues from across the state. Our schedule includes the opportunity to share what's going on at Washington's airports, as well as get advice and feedback on current aviation issues.

The conference begins on Wednesday afternoon with recreational activities that allow everyone to get outdoors and enjoy the beautiful scenery. A golf tournament is scheduled for Bear Creek Golf

Course in Winthrop. A group mountain biking excursion is being led by WAMA member Rob Millar; all experiences are welcome and rentals are available at the lodge. Other activities available at the lodge include hiking, horseback riding and tennis.



Photo: Sun Mountain Lodge

On Thursday, the day will begin with the "Sun Mountain Morning" breakfast buffet, followed by the WAMA business meeting and updates from the Washington Dept. of Transportation Aviation Division and the FAA. During lunch, there will be a slideshow presentation given by the North Cascades Smoke Jumper Base. Following lunch, there will be a series of presentations related to security. These sessions will questions on the minds of many airport managers today: "what level of protection do I need" and "what level of security can I afford"? Sessions on Friday

morning will cover the variety of other topics mentioned above, as well as furthering the discussion about stormwater management that took place at the Fall 2001 WAMA conference.

Thursday night's banquet will be a Cowboy Camp Dinner. Sun Mountain Lodge head Wrangler, Kit McClain, will round up the group for a horse-drawn wagon ride to an old homestead. There, group will be treated to a western BBQ dinner of steak, chicken, salads, potatoes, with homemade cobbler for dessert. After dinner, we'll gather around a camp fire for music and storytelling by Hank Cramer. Be sure to pack warm clothes for this outdoor event.

Guests of conference participants can enjoy relaxing in the lodge's tranquil grounds, experiencing one of many spa services and exploring over 100 miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding.

For additional information on our Spring Conference, please visit the WAMA website at [www.portolympia.com/wama](http://www.portolympia.com/wama).



## President's Message

Since taking on the role of WAMA President in January, I've enjoyed learning more about issues affecting Washington airports and working closely with the Board to address them. Below are highlights of the hot issues we've been working in the past few months. I look forward to representing WAMA over the next two years and hope to see you all at our Spring Conference at Sun Mountain Lodge in May.

### Legislative Issues

Susie Tracy, WAMA lobbyist, followed the status of airport related bills throughout the legislative session that ended March 14th. Regular updates were posted on the WAMA webpage throughout the session, along with a list of all bills tracked and their status.

The two that were of greatest concern to WAMA were the Airport Security/Workforce Stability bill and SB 5831. WAMA opposed the Airport/Security Workforce bill which died. WAMA members provided considerable support for SB 5831, which would have repealed the provisions of Initiative 713 related to trapping. This bill didn't make it to a vote prior to the end of the session.

Several members also voiced concern over SB 6262, which would've made flying closer than 1,000 feet to the Washington state legislative building or the governor's mansion a class C felony. Since this was more directly related to pilots than airports, WAMA did not formally weigh-in on this bill. All of the bills can be accessed at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov).

### Spring Conference

The Conference Planning Committee has been working hard to pull together the Spring Conference. More info is available in this issue of *WAMA News* and on our webpage.

### Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee (JLARC) Study

In 2001, the Legislature mandated a study to evaluate if the Aviation Division of the Washington State Dept. of Transportation should be turned into a new Washington state department of aviation. In February, WAMA Board members met with Robert Krell, Principal Management Auditor for the JLARC, to discuss our experience working with the Aviation Division. Larry Adams, Penni Loomis, Jeff Robb and I indicated that WAMA has been satisfied with the level of service received from the Aviation Division, however, we expressed concerns about funding and staffing levels, aviation revenues not being used for aviation purposes, and lack of priorities for state funding.

## Paine Field ATCT Rises High

A new FAA Airport Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) is under construction at Paine Field. The new tower will be nearly 200 feet to the antenna tops. When complete, this tower will greatly improve the air traffic controllers' view of aircraft under their control, provide more space in the tower cab for equipment and allow more controllers to be on duty at one time.

This project is interesting because the structure is a steel plate shear wall system instead of a conventional lateral load-resisting system. In this system, shear walls are brought to the site where they are bolted at the mid-height of each floor instead of welded together, thereby increasing strength, simplifying construction and reducing costs.

Construction of the tower is expected to be complete by Fall 2002, with installation, testing and equipment certification complete by Summer 2003.

Visit our webpage at  
[www.portolympia.com/wama](http://www.portolympia.com/wama)

It's a great resource where you can find:

- A list of members along with their contact information
- News and information concerning WAMA, including legislative issues
- Details on WAMA meetings and events, including conference registration materials
- Links to numerous aviation related websites
- Job listings

For more information, contact webmaster  
Tim Lael at [timl@portolympia.com](mailto:timl@portolympia.com)



*The Paine Field ATCT under construction.*

## Did You Hear...?

**Jim Morasch, Director of the Tri-Cities Airport, was recently honored** with the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) Distinguished Service Award. Jim Koslosky, Chairman of AAAE, presented the award to Jim at a dinner hosted by AAAE on March 5th in Pasco. Several airport directors from around the state attended the event. Congratulations to Jim on the recognition of his achievements.

The Community Airports Association (CAA) will hold its **Spring Conference on April 6, 2002** at the Courtyard by Marriott in Seattle. The conference will focus on general aviation airport security and will hold a discussion panel on airport governance. Speakers include John Sibold, Washington State Director of Aviation and Stan Allison, Manager Airport Aid Program. The CAA is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the state's smaller community airports through networking and education. Please contact Penni Loomis at (509) 276-8663 for additional information.

## WAMA NEWS

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## Military Presence is a Boom for Yakima

Several years ago, the Washington State Department of the Army (National Guard) was forced to demolish its armory located in downtown Yakima. The old brick building was experiencing some serious structural problems. The National Guard approached Yakima Air Terminal staff about relocating the armory to a site on the airport. At first, giving away 10 acres of land, cost free, for 50 years did not sound like a good idea; however, once the negotiations began, the idea started to sound a lot better to airport staff.



*The armory under construction.*

On its north side, the Yakima airport is landlocked and all available property was leased. But the south side, the land was vacant with the exception of one old dilapidated FBO building. This was due to the area's lack of basic infrastructure, including water, sewer, and gas. The only profitable use of the land was grazing cattle. The National Guard was granted land in this southern area in exchange for bringing water, sewer, natural gas and fiber optics to it. The airport did not have the resources to fund the \$5,000,000 needed to add water and sewer to the area. If not for the armory project, this land probably would not have been developed.

The water/sewer project was completed in Fall 2000. A new roadway into the armory was completed in Spring 2001, and construction of the \$7,000,000 facility was initiated. The facility is scheduled to be complete by this spring.

Before the infrastructure was put in, the land was leased for \$30 per acre per year, and is now valued at \$6,534 per acre per year. The new infrastructure also added over 30 acres of leasable property, not including the armory site. When fully developed that would equate to additional revenue of \$196,020 per year (in today's dollars).

There is the possibility that a helicopter squadron may be co-located with the new armory facility. The airport is less than five miles from the Army's Yakima Training Center and Multi Purpose Range Complex. This close proximity would allow troops to maximize their training efforts.

In the end, airport staff decided that "giving away" 50 acres of land to the National Guard was a pretty good idea.

## Thank You!

*WAMA would like to thank the sponsors of our Fall Conference for their generous contributions.*

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