



**QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER**
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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

NEW OFFICERS FOR AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Welcome new officers and Board members of the Gainesville-Alachua County Regional Airport Authority (GACRAA) for 2003-04:

Chairman, Jon Morris

Vice-Chairman, Jim Stringfellow

Secretary/Treasurer, James Gallagher



Jon Morris (left), Pat Bainter (right)

Incoming GACRAA Chairman Jon Morris presented outgoing Chair Pat Bainter with a gavel expressing the board's appreciation for his serving as Chairman.

NEW WIRELESS INTERNET

Gainesville Regional Airport is pleased to announce that a new Internet service will be provided as an amenity at no cost to the user.

"The airport is pleased to offer this new service to our valued passengers," said Rick Crider, CEO of the airport. A company called "HotzSpotz," powered by Cox Cable, will provide both wired and wireless access to the Internet.

There will be several stations located in the main terminal area, the courtyard area, and the secure holding area. The Link below is what users will see first when they log on the Internet at the airport:

www.hotzspotz.com/airport

WHEN WILL IT BE READY TO USE?

First Quarter of this year. Signs will be posted inside the airport when it's up and running!

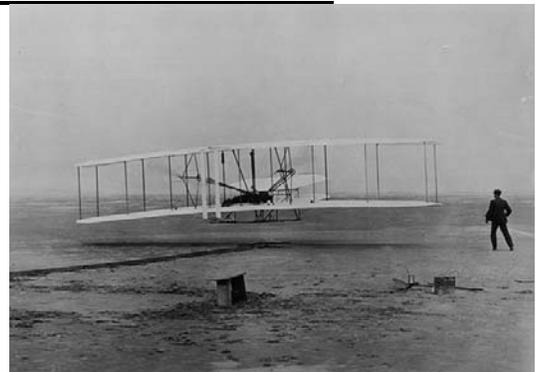
HAVE YOU NOTICED?



The Airport has added new landscaping in front of the terminal parking lot. James Townsend, new airport landscape employee, created it. James also received help from fellow employees.

Congratulations on a job well done!

CELEBRATION OF FLIGHT



Orville Wright's first flight from Kitty Hawk, NC, on December 17, 1903

On December 17th, the Gainesville Regional Airport joined other airports in the nation by celebrating the Centennial of Flight. On December 17, 1903, the world witnessed at 10:35 A.M. the first successful flight as Orville Wright piloted the Wright Brothers plane for a 12-second, 120-foot journey. On this day a new industry was born.

The airport held a special program at the airline passenger terminal to pay tribute to the Wright Brothers and General John R. Alison, after whom the airport was originally named. General Alison grew up in Gainesville and graduated from Gainesville High School and the University of Florida. He was recognized for his accomplishments during and after World War II as a pilot and an aviation/aerospace industry leader.

Gainesville's historic Matheson Museum was also involved by providing an exhibit of model airplanes. The models were built by the Gator Modeler chapter of the International Plastic Modelers' Society. They include significant aircraft from the past 100 years of powered flight, many of which passed through the Gainesville Regional Airport and its World War II predecessor, the Alachua Army Air Field. The exhibit will be on display at the airport from December 14 through February 8, 2004.



General John R. Alison & Chase Lucas

HOSPITALITY COUNCIL AT GRA

The airport was host to the Hospitality Council's December 3rd meeting and served its members a delicious holiday meal. In addition, officers ("elves") handed out a box of chocolates to each member. Then to top it off, the UF Saxophone Quartet from the School of Music played holiday music to get everyone into the spirit of Christmas. Following the program, members joined together for a group photograph to be used for the organization's new website:

www.hospitalitycouncil.com



Members of the Hospitality Council

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEE:



Anthony Manibusan

Please welcome Anthony "Tony" Manibusan, our new Airport Operations Officer. Tony said he is very happy to have the opportunity to work for GRA, and he looks forward to getting to know everyone. Tony and his wife, Jocita, and their two children Aubrey (6) and Anthony John (4) have just moved to Gainesville from Guam. Welcome Tony!

AIRPORT SUPPORTS WALKAMERICA!

Get ready, get set, GO! Yes, it's that time again for the 2004 WalkAmerica to be held on Saturday, March 27, 2004, starting at 8:00 A.M. In fact, it's our third year and our co-captains are ready to get started. Kim Ridings, manager of Hertz Car Rentals, has agreed to be a co-captain along with Hertz employee Julie Marcheschi. Folks have been asking them if we plan on having another Chili Cook-Off. Yes, indeed, said Kim and Julie. "We are busy making plans and the date is set for February 26th". Anyone interested in helping, please stop by and see either Kim or Julie at Hertz, or give them a call at 374-2965. It's not too late!"

We are pleased to announce this year's Airport Ambassador for WalkAmerica. His name is Chase Lucas, and he just had a birthday on December 27th. He is 5 years old. You may have seen him with his mother, Debbie, at the airport waiting for planes to land. He loves airplanes!!!

Airport Ambassador for WalkAmerica



Chase Lucas, Airport Ambassador

RUNWAY 10-28 REHABILITATION

It's finally going to happen! Airport officials found out in September that we received a \$5 million grant to renovate our main runway.

Runway 10-28 is the only runway capable of handling charter flights and jets used for scheduled air service. U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown, D-Jacksonville, was instrumental in supporting this project and obtaining the grant money.

"Runways over time begin to wear just like any pavement. You get cracks and you get rocks and stuff moving," said Pat Bainter, Air Service Development Liaison and board member. "We want to get it done before it becomes a problem." Tentative date is April 2004!

AIRPORT AWARDED AIR SERVICE DEVELOPMENT GRANT

The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded the Gainesville Regional Airport a \$660,000 grant under the USDOT Small Community Air Service Development Pilot Program. The Florida delegation has consistently supported this request, citing air service as a significant factor in economic development. Gainesville was one of 170 applications requesting \$104 million in federal assistance. CEO Rick Crider states that "this grant award will accelerate some very positive discussions with airlines interested in serving the Gainesville Regional Airport." This is the second year such a pilot program was implemented and Gainesville was the only Florida community to receive it in 2003.

AIRPORT TO WELCOME NEW FBO



Gainesville Regional Airports welcomes University Air Center, the airport's new "Fixed Base Operation" (FBO), which signed a 20-year agreement in April of 2003. The new FBO is, in fact, no stranger to those who fly their own planes at the Gainesville Regional Airport. UAC is owned by Dr. Michael Lukowski and his wife Judy, both of whom are also no strangers to Gainesville. Dr. Lukowski, a physician, has been delivering babies for the last twenty-two years and has a real passion for flying. He and Judy are both certified pilots.

University Air Center is managed by Jay Curtis and his staff, who offer maintenance and other services to private, corporate and military pilots. The center is open 24 hours a day, and can arrange for car rentals or use of a courtesy van or limousine, both of which are available for UAC customers.

Since the grand opening in April 2003, the staff has been busy adding new signs, painting, landscaping and refueling aircraft. General Manager, Jay Curtis says his goal "is to be the best FBO in North Central Florida and to provide friendly customer service."

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 26th – Second Annual Chili Cook-Off to benefit the March of Dimes. Judging at 11:00 AM. Cook-Off from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Come join us for lunch inside the main airport terminal.

March 7th – US Airways Express begins All-Jet Service to and from Gainesville. Flights will leave Gainesville at 6:15 AM, 2:10 PM and 5:55 PM. Flights will arrive in Gainesville at 12:46 PM, 5:24 PM and 9:28 PM.

March 27th – Annual WalkAmerica for the March of Dimes. Please join us! **For more information**, please call the PR Office, 373-0249 Ext. 15, or visit our website: www.flygainesville.com.