



September, 2011

Air Service Development Efforts

GNV Executive staff continues to work toward more options and availability for area travelers. This past month, GNV sent updated statistical research to jetBlue Airlines and visited route planners at Delta headquarters in Atlanta. GNV CEO Allan Penksa also discussed our airport with business leaders at the Gainesville Chamber of Commerce retreat.

The presentation to jetBlue outlined a case for a direct route to John F. Kennedy Airport in New York City. GNV is grateful for the letters of support of several area companies, including Grooveshark, SumTotal and the University of Florida. Gainesville Mayor Craig Lowe also added a letter to our request that the jetBlue route managers take the research into careful consideration.

Staff also traveled to Atlanta to review services with Delta route planners. This summer, Delta load factors have been well above 90%. The holiday busy season is just around the corner. One objective of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of larger planes, perhaps with first-class service, a frequent request from our Ultimate Road Warriors. Unfortunately, other than an occasional upgrade during big football games, we are unlikely to see such a change in the near future.

We also spoke to Delta about the unusually high fares GNV passengers see for direct flights into Atlanta. While nothing was promised during our visit, in the following two weeks, we have seen an ATL fare special down to \$299 roundtrip.

At the Gainesville Chamber of Commerce retreat, Penksa discussed the state of the airline industry, what airlines are looking for in a community, GNV's economic impact and more. GNV is one of only 20 commercial airports in the state and it is a



Pardon Our Dust

Several large construction projects have recently gotten underway at GNV. Earth movers are on site preparing the way for a new entrance road and a car rental facility. Crews have been moving fence lines and clearing brush on the west side of the commercial terminal.

Phase I of the entrance road will connect portions of yet to be developed GNV property to Waldo Road. The undeveloped area was recently rezoned for potential general aviation and business uses. Design work for Phase II of the project is under way. The second phase will connect the potential business park area to the commercial terminal drive.

A new consolidated car rental facility and ready return lot will be built near the connection to the new entrance road. The old car wash building will be replaced with a new structure and gas station. The project is made possible through a \$3 Customer Facility Charge established for car rentals at GNV in 2005.

Joining Forces for Economic Development

GACRAA and the Alachua County Commission recently joined forces to develop a joint master plan in developing several properties. The county has been trying to advance plans for the old Alachua County Fairgrounds in order to develop new fairgrounds further north on Waldo Road.

Air Service Development Efforts

GNV Executive staff continues to work toward more options and availability for area travelers. This past month, GNV sent updated statistical research to jetBlue Airlines and visited route planners at Delta headquarters in Atlanta. GNV CEO Allan Penksa also discussed our airport with business leaders at the Gainesville Chamber of Commerce retreat.

The presentation to jetBlue outlined a case for a direct route to John F. Kennedy Airport in New York City. GNV is grateful for the letters of support of several area companies, including Grooveshark, SumTotal and the University of Florida. Gainesville Mayor Craig Lowe also added a letter to our request that the jetBlue route managers take the research into careful consideration.

 **DELTA** Staff also traveled to Atlanta to review services with Delta route planners. This summer, Delta load factors have been well above 90%. The holiday busy season is just around the corner. One objective of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of larger planes, perhaps with first-class service, a frequent request from our Ultimate Road Warriors. Unfortunately, other than an occasional upgrade during big football games, we are unlikely to see such a change in the near future.

We also spoke to Delta about the unusually high fares GNV passengers see for direct flights into Atlanta. While nothing was promised during our visit, in the following two weeks, we have seen an ATL fare special down to \$299 roundtrip.

At the Gainesville Chamber of Commerce retreat, Penksa discussed the state of the airline industry, what airlines are looking for in a community, GNV's economic impact and more. GNV is one of only 20 commercial airports in the state and it is a comparatively smaller metropolitan area.

Our presentation included comparisons of GNV with other airports around the state of Florida, as well as air service in the communities of other SEC Universities and Colleges.



GACRAA has been considering options on developing airport property, often referred to as the "horse show" grounds, adjacent to the old fairgrounds. The two entities believe that a coordinated effort can benefit the community by consolidating the marketing of the properties to potential developers.

With recent changes in zoning, potential development may include general aviation, a business park, hotel accommodation and even a pet boarding facility.

First Class for Football the Fall

Some football fans will be arriving first class this fall while others board special charter flights. Air travel to GNV is expected to increase the weekend of the October 1st Alabama v. Florida game.

Delta Air Lines is upgrading planes for three flights on October 1 and 2 to Canadian Regional Jet 700s. The planes accommodate 65 passengers including nine first class cabin seats. The larger planes are not part of a permanent schedule change, but an opportunity to secure additional passenger volume for the game.

A day trip charter is also planned to arrive at GNV carrying Alabama alumni. The plane will bring charter passengers the morning of the game and leave approximately five hours after kickoff.

Flyovers Planned for Tennessee Game

Crowd-pleasing jets will be making a pass over at least one of this fall's matchups. Four F-16s will do a flyover during the Tennessee game on September 17. Besides bringing excitement to fans, military flyovers mean extra jet fuel sales for University Air Center, GNV's Fixed Base Operator.

Save the Date!

GACRAA Fiannce, Audit & Operating Committee

3:30 p.m., Thursday, September 15
GNV Executive Boardroom

GACRAA Monthly Board Meeting

4 p.m., Thursday, September 22
GNV Executive Boardroom

GNV CEO Achieves A.A.E. Status

CEO Allan Penksa recently achieved Accredited Airport Executive (A.A.E.) status with the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE). Achieving the honor includes a rigorous, three-phase process; an examination, a writing requirement and a final interview.

"This accreditation recognizes Allan's knowledge, comprehension and understanding of aviation management," said Win Phillips, board chairman of the Gainesville Alachua County Regional Airport Authority. "Allan is a valuable leader of our airport's staff as well as an asset to the community."

Since 1954, AAAE has been committed to the advancement of aviation professionals by granting the A.A.E. designation to those who have demonstrated their ability to handle the responsibilities of airport management, regardless of airport size.

UF Professor Named NAFI Editor

The National Association of Flight Instructors (NAFI) named David Hipschman as editor of its print and electronic publications here today at its annual membership breakfast.

Hipschman, a veteran editor and active pilot who teaches journalism at the University of Florida in Gainesville, succeeds Greg Laslo, who has served as NAFI's editor for 15 years.

Hipschman's background includes posts as EAA's Director of Publications, as well as positions at the San Francisco Chronicle and the Casper Star-Tribune in Wyoming.

"David is someone that NAFI knows will keep its publications growing in content, quality and reach," said NAFI Executive Director Jason Blair.

Did You Know...

The airport relies primarily on federal and state grants as well as ticket surcharges (PFC's) for major capital improvements.

Capital improvements have averaged more than \$4 million annually over the last ten years.