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AIRMAIL '22



February 1, 2022

Issue 22-03

Get your 2022 Copy of The Advisor TODAY!

The Advisor is a pocket-sized legislative guidebook! It is the best source for the Florida Legislature, providing a list of State Legislators along with contact information, committee assignment, County delegations, districts maps, and more.

To request your copy of *The Advisor* at no cost (**FAC Members only**) please email info@floridaairports.org with the following:

- **Name**
- **Company/Airport & Title**
- **Mailing Address**
- **Phone Number**

*Please note: We have a limited quantity of books, so they will be issued on a first come, first serve basis.

In addition to the guidebook, *The E-Advisor* is available on our website under the Bulletin Board for FAC members. *The E-Advisor* is an Excel database that can be ordered to create mailing labels and is updated as changes are made.



AROUND THE STATE

Sheltair's Girls Achieving Leadership in Aviation GALA hosted at Peter O. Knight Airport set for March 19, 2022

The Inaugural GALA at Peter O. Knight Airport is scheduled for March 19, 2022 and will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the First All-Women Air Show and honor women in aviation, past, present, & future. Proceeds from the event will go towards aviation scholarships for young people in the local community. [Click here](#) for more information and to get tickets for this great event.



SHELTAIR

Bay County's Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport experiences record growth



Parker W. McClellan Jr.

Guest columnist

During one of the most uncertain travel years, Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (ECP) experienced record-breaking traveler numbers in 2021.

The uptick in travel during the calendar year put the airport on track to be ahead of pre-pandemic passenger activity levels. By November 2019, ECP had welcomed a total of 1.2 million passengers. This record was surpassed in November 2021, reporting more than 1.5 million passengers — a 26% increase. Once December passenger numbers are confirmed, we anticipate exceeding a total of 1.6 million passengers. With a significant spike in tourism, Northwest Florida has been

discovered. ECP landed the No. 4 spot on Simple Flying's 2021 list of airports in the U.S. that have grown the most — with a capacity increase of 58.2% over the summer of 2019.

As Northwest Florida continues to grow increasingly popular as a travel destination, the airport has been challenged to expand capabilities throughout every area of operations. More travelers coming through the terminal means more demand. We continue to seek opportunities for new routes and enhanced service among our four airline partners — American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Southwest Airlines, and United Airlines.

Growing passenger traffic is a testament to a growing region. Leaders at the Bay Economic Development Alliance (Bay EDA) have been extremely successful in their efforts to attract new business to the area, creating more quality jobs for individuals. Recent announcements indicate no sign of slowing down as companies across the globe continue to eye Northwest Florida, seeing the value in proximity to the region's many resources, including ECP. New projects include a 251,000-square-foot FedEx Ground facility being built in Panama City and Arkansas-based manufacturer Central Moloney Inc. relocating to the Venture Crossings business center at the airport.

In late 2021, the ECP Board of Directors announced its completion of the facility's Master Plan (MPU). The 20-year roadmap serves as a guidebook to use as the airport grows and strategically prepares for the future. These plans are intended to maximize the existing structure of our facilities before transitioning into new construction and are executed as we reach passenger activity thresholds that warrant the need to do so. With input from the Board of Directors, our regional partners and the public, the plan strategically tackles aviation development, commercial property development, and terminal and ground transportation development concepts. [Keep Reading...](#)

Elite Airways to resume service at Vero Beach Regional Airport in March 2022 (Source: WPTV.com)

Elite Airways will resume service at Vero Beach Regional Airport in March 2022. The airline shifted their service to Melbourne earlier this year due to a capital improvement project at Vero Beach Regional Airport that includes repairs made to the runway that Elite Airways uses. Twice-weekly service to Newark, New Jersey will resume on Friday, March 25, 2022. Flights start at \$199 each way.

CISA Training scheduled for May 3-4, 2022

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has announced a planned training course to be conducted at Orlando Intl. Airport (MCO) May 3-4, 2022.

This two-day course will provide trainees with basic to intermediate concepts for performing cybersecurity assessments of wireless access applications at airports. Participants will learn techniques for identifying Wi-Fi access points within the airport environment, analysis methods for determining wireless security gaps, and recommendations for improving defenses to defeat potential threats.

By the end of this course, trainees will be able to:

1. Recognize wireless technology concepts.
2. Identify potential attack vectors.
3. Illustrate use of radio frequency (RF) capture tools.
4. Perform real-world data collection.
5. Analyze RF packet data.



Who Should Take This Training?

This course is designed for airport network and security administrators. The following basic skills will be helpful, but are not required to participate:

- Experience in Wi-Fi configurations and basic operations
- Experience in configuring Wi-Fi access points and clients
- Basic understanding of network traffic analysis
- Working knowledge of Linux

GOAA selects preferred candidate for CEO post

The search for the next Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority (GOAA) reached an important milestone. After considering presentations and interviews of the four finalists at a special morning meeting, the GOAA Board voted 6-1 to select **Florida Secretary of Transportation, Kevin Thibault** as the preferred candidate to succeed the retiring Phil Brown. The next step will be for the Authority to negotiate an agreement with Mr. Thibault before officially naming him CEO.



**GREATER ORLANDO
AVIATION AUTHORITY**

"Today we concluded a thorough and deliberate process of selecting a candidate to be our next Chief Executive Officer, who will serve a growing, diverse and energetic community, while leading one of the region's top economic engines," said Carson Good, Chairman of the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority. "We look forward to our next CEO building on success, innovating to create new opportunities, attracting new air service and providing economic growth in which all our citizens can participate."

Barry Brown joins Naples Airport Authority as Director of Operations and Maintenance

The Naples Airport Authority welcomes **Barry Brown** as the new director of Operations and Maintenance. Brown will oversee staff responsible for airport operations, emergency planning, maintenance and security activities.

For the past 10 years, Brown has served in high level operations and maintenance roles at U.S. airports that offer commercial and general aviation services. He most recently served as deputy director of Operations and Maintenance at the Portland International Jetport in Maine and has also held management roles at Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport and Southwest Florida International Airport.



"Barry's background at airports across the U.S. is well suited to support our airport customers and the Naples community," said Justin Lobb, deputy director of Aviation for the Naples Airport Authority. "His expertise will allow us to continue to achieve the airport's goal of providing a safe, modern and efficient airport."

Brown has a bachelor's degree in aviation management from Auburn University. He is an FAA-certified private pilot with an instrument pilot rating and is a certified employee and certified member of AAAE.

Having joined the NAA on Jan. 18, Brown and his family are thrilled to begin the new year in Southwest Florida, where his family originates from. He began his airport management career at Southwest Florida International Airport, and his wife is a native of Naples.

"I'm excited to return to Southwest Florida," Brown commented. "The Naples Airport Authority is a world-class airport with an amazing team. Given their high standards and reputation for service, I am happy to become part of the Naples Airport family."

WELCOME BACK and CONGRATULATIONS, Barry!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Event	Location	Date
Florida Legislative Regular Session	Tallahassee	Jan. 11– March 11, 2022
FAC Federal Fly-In	Washington, D.C.	March 2-4, 2022
CFASPP Round 2022-1	Various Locations	February 15–March 3,
2022 FAC Annual Conference &	Orlando, FL	July 31-Aug. 3, 2022

Please email lisa@floridaairports.org with calendar updates.

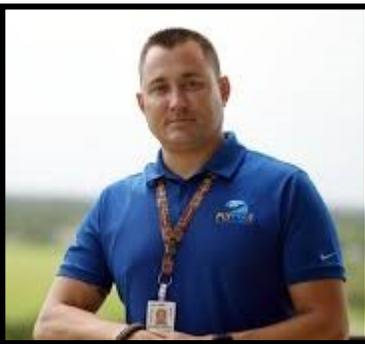
Ron Mallard, CM, ACE, joins Virtower as the Executive Director of Aviation Business Development

Commencing February 2nd, Ron Mallard CM, ACE will officially join Virtower as the Executive Director of Aviation Business Development. Ron recently retired from Punta Gorda (PGD) where he was the Director of Aviation and COO. Over the past 40+ Years Ron has worked in Airline, Air Cargo and Airport Operations senior leadership roles. In his role at Punta Gorda Ron suggested we introduce a Noise Abatement feature to Virtower. Through his advice the Noise Abatement feature is now available to all 85+ Virtower family airports. As a primary focus Ron will represent VirTower's growing market outside Florida, providing both industry experience and insight from being the first Air Carrier Airport to get the system.

The Virtower family of airports has grown to over 85 airports in the last 14 months spread across 18 states. Ron's broad expertise will help with the continued growth of the Virtower family of airports across the United States.



Raymond A. Laroche, A.A.E., Promoted to Director of Operations & Maintenance



The Charlotte County Airport Authority announces that Raymond A. Laroche, A.A.E has been promoted to Director of Operations & Maintenance at Punta Gorda Airport (PGD). He will continue to oversee security, safety, and maintenance and will now oversee the airside and landside operations departments as well.

Raymond, who had served as the Manager of Facilities and Security at PGD for five years, recently earned the distinction of Accredited Airport Executive (A.A.E.) by the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE). Raymond will continue to report to COO Gary Duncan, C.M.

Raymond has an Associates in Counter Terrorism Studies as well as a Bachelor's in Emergency and Disaster Management, both from American Public University where he is currently working towards a Masters in Legal Studies. Raymond is a Veteran of the United States Army, where he volunteered for the Army Airborne program and was assigned the 82nd Airborne Division 3rd Brigade 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment. After his service in the Army, Raymond joined the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in 2003 during the initial roll-out and found himself drawn to security in aviation.

Raymond became a screening manager with TSA for the first decade of the agency's existence, and worked at Burlington International Airport, Southwest Florida International Airport and Punta Gorda Airport. Raymond was honored as one of Airport Business Magazine's Top 40 Under 40 in 2014. Raymond is celebrating his eighth year of employment at PGD and is active in the local community through Leadership Charlotte and various aviation-industry groups such as AAAE, ACI-NA and Florida Airports Council.

AROUND THE NATION

From our Partners at NATA...

EPA to evaluate piston-engine aircraft lead emissions

Last week, the EPA announced plans to issue a proposed endangerment finding for piston-engine aircraft that run on leaded fuel for public review and comment. After evaluating comments on the proposal, the EPA intends to issue any final endangerment finding in 2023. NATA continues to work with the agencies and other industry stakeholders on a safe and viable unleaded fuel solution for the entire general aviation piston fleet. We will keep the membership apprised throughout the endangerment finding process.

[Keep Reading...](#)



The Voice of Aviation Business

Updates on 5G aviation

The FAA is working with avionics manufacturers and wireless companies to determine which altimeters are reliable and accurate with 5G deployed in the United States. The FAA expects to provide updates soon about ongoing altimeter testing and an estimated percentage of commercial aircraft with altimeters proven safe. With that work underway, the agency issued Notices to Air Missions (NOTAMs). These will alert you, your flight crews, and dispatchers to limitations that may be placed on low-visibility landings requiring the use of a radio altimeter where 5G is deployed starting January 19, 2022. Pilots are encouraged to check the latest **5G NOTAMs** for all airports and heliports that you use for your missions. In addition, the FAA provided a **guide** that explains the different types of NOTAMs and what those limitations mean for operators at various airports.

**FAC 53rd Annual Conference & Exposition**

Hosted by the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, Orlando Sanford Int'l Airport, Kissimmee Gateway Airport and Daytona Beach Int'l Airport

Registration/Sponsorship/Exhibitor information coming soon; April 2022



**July 31st thru
August 3rd, 2022**

*At the Hyatt Regency
Grand Cypress in
Orlando, FL*



Facing pilot shortage, smaller airlines start giving big raises to pilots

(Source: aviationpros.com)

Pilots at four U.S. airlines are now seeing significantly larger paychecks as the industry faces a pilot shortage.

Avelo Airlines on Thursday announced a significant raise for its pilots, becoming the fourth U.S. carrier in just two months to take action in an effort to attract more pilots.

Pilots at the Houston-headquartered ultra-low-cost carrier startup will now earn more than pilots at the established national ULCCs: Spirit Airlines, Frontier Airlines and Allegiant Air. The move comes two weeks after Avelo announced it had raised \$42 million in a Series B funding round. The airline plans to hire 120 pilots in 2022.

First-year first officers will now earn \$90 an hour, up from \$70 an hour. First-year captains will now earn \$200 an hour, up from \$135 an hour. The new scale tops off with fifth-year first officers earning \$140 and fifth-year captains earning \$220.

While airline pilots are paid hourly, they are offered a monthly minimum number of hours, usually somewhere between 70 and 75 hours. Avelo's minimum is 70 hours, meaning that a first-year first officer will earn at least \$75,600 a year, before sign-on bonuses, while a first-year captain will earn at least \$168,000 a year, before sign-on bonuses.

"We're committed to attracting and retaining the industry's best pilots," Avelo CEO Andrew Levy said in a statement. "In addition to our enhanced pay scale, Avelo supports quality of life initiatives such as an additional \$1,800 per month to help offset the cost of commuting. And, if a pilot chooses to live in base, they'll keep the \$1,800 per month."

Avelo's announcement follows moves by fellow ULCC startup Breeze Airways, as well as Minnesota-based Sun Country and United Express carrier GoJet, which have all announced pilot pay increases since the beginning of December.

Breeze, which has faced criticism over low pay and a scheme to recruit pilots from Australia, raised its starting Embraer 190/195 first officer rate to \$61 an hour, with first-year captains now making \$129 an hour. Pilots on the carrier's Airbus A220, currently set for a May 4 entry into service, will start at \$68 an hour as first officers and \$131 an hour as captains.

"There's a limited supply of highly qualified pilots and a huge demand for highly qualified pilots," Chris Owens, Breeze's vice president of flight operations, said in an interview with TPG this month.

Pilots for Sun Country, which operates ultra-low-cost scheduled flights primarily out of its base at Minneapolis-St. Paul (MSP), as well as flying cargo for Amazon, also saw an increase. First-year first officers now earn \$78.50 an hour, while first-year captains earn \$195.89 an hour. Like Avelo, Sun Country operates flights using the Boeing 737 exclusively.

At regional airlines like GoJet, the pilot shortage is perhaps most acute. GoJet operates the CRJ-550 for United Express, a 50-seat version of the CRJ-700. Pilots there went from being among the worst paid of the regional airlines to among the best. First-year first officers went from being paid \$38 an hour to \$50 an hour, while first-year captains went from \$71 an hour to \$83.34 an hour. The best-paying regional, Endeavor Air, pays its first officers a starting wage of \$52.19 an hour.

As the pilot shortage continues, it seems likely other airlines will follow suit this year and also increase pilot pay.

From our partners at the Florida Ports Council...

FedEx to Build Regional HQ at Port Panama City

FedEx plans to build a new distribution center in Panama City to service the region from Pensacola to Tallahassee. The new 251,000-square-foot FedEx Ground facility will support 208 jobs and will be built in the Port Panama City-owned Intermodal Distribution Center.

Alex King, executive director of Port Panama City, played a key role in the progression of this project. "The Panama City Port Authority is excited that FedEx Ground has chosen to invest in a state-of-the-art facility at our Intermodal Distribution Center," King said. "I want to thank our Port Authority Board of Directors, the Bay Economic Development Alliance, the city of Panama City, Bay County, the Bay County Chamber of Commerce and Gulf Power for their hard work and enthusiastic support of this project. The investment by FedEx Ground will further strengthen Panama City's role as a domestic and international distribution hub for the Northwest Florida region."

FedEx Ground is investing \$55 million into the project. The facility is set to open in the fall.

As the pilot shortage continues, it seems likely other airlines will follow suit this year and also increase pilot pay.



Siemens Smart Infrastructure

John Kasuda, Head of Aviation Vertical Mkt
3007 Oak Creek Drive N
Clearwater, FL 33761

Phone: (228) 233-6819

Email: john.kasuda@siemens.com

Mary Maher, Associate Member

Phone: (407) 222-7812

Email: Maryemaher@gmail.com

Gallo Herbert Architects

William Gallo
1311 West Newport Center Drive, Suite A
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442

Phone: (954) 794-0300

Email: wgallo@galloherbert.com

Business & Employment Opportunities



Request for Offers 21-63

Purchase & Implementation of Software for GASB-87 Compliance: *Lee County Port Authority*

For additional details click [HERE](#)

Request for Bids 22-26

Legal Notice- Rehabilitation of Roads-Project 1: *Lee County Port Authority*

For additional details click [HERE](#)

Request for Bids 22-28

Legal Notice- Lift Station Pump Replacement and Rehabilitation: *Lee County Port Authority*

For additional details click [HERE](#)

Request for Qualifications

Professional General Planning & Engineering Consulting Services Airport Improvements: *Keystone Heights Airport*

For additional details click [HERE](#)



Employment Opportunity

Airside Operations Technician: *Charlotte County Airport Authority-Punta Gorda Airport*

For additional details, click [HERE](#)



Employment Opportunity

FBO Operations Supervisor: *Charlotte County Airport Authority-Punta Gorda Airport*

For additional details, click [HERE](#)

Employment Opportunity

Project Coordinator: *Charlotte County Airport Authority-Punta Gorda Airport*

For additional details, click [HERE](#)

CONTACT US!

www.floridaairports.org

Business Office

5802 Hoffner Ave., Suite 708
Orlando, FL 32822
Phone: (407) 745-4161
admin@floridaairports.org

Governmental Affairs Office

2713 Blair Stone Lane
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Phone: 850-765-2122
Fax: (850) 224-7704

Business & Employment Opportunities

Employment Opportunity

Airport Operations Agent II: *Gainesville Regional Airport*

For additional details click [HERE](#)



Request for Qualifications

South Quadrant Hangar Development Project: *Naples Airport Authority*

For additional details click [HERE](#)



Attention FAC Members:

If you have business and/or employment opportunities that you would like to see advertised in the Airmail Newsletter & the FAC Classifieds webpage, send PDF, opening & closing date, and logo to admin@floridaairports.org.

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CONTACT US!

www.floridaairports.org

Business Office

5802 Hoffner Ave., Suite 708
Orlando, FL 32822
Phone: (407) 745-4161
admin@floridaairports.org

Governmental Affairs Office

2713 Blair Stone Lane
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Phone: 850-765-2122
Fax: (850) 224-7704