

# STATE AVIATION JOURNAL

*Special Edition*

*October 2009*



*Oklahoma's Victor Bird  
and the NASAO  
Executive Committee  
Will Seek to Strengthen  
the Association's  
Position ....Page 9*

*Exclusive Coverage*

*2009 NASAO Annual Meeting & Trade Show*

*Who's in your sight!*

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# STATE AVIATION JOURNAL

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Oro Valley, Arizona

Backdrop for the

2009 National Association of State

Annual Meeting and Trade Show

**On the cover:**

*National Association of State Aviation Officials Executive Committee members, from left, Randall Burdette, Vice Chairman and Director of the Virginia Department of Aviation, Debbie Alke, Secretary and Administrator for the Montana Aeronautics Division, Joe Pestka, Treasurer and Administrator of Aviation for the Missouri Department of Transportation and NASAO Chairman, Victor Bird, Director for the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission.*



**Cover photo by Kim Stevens**

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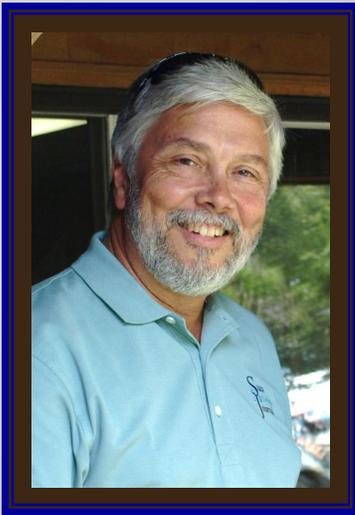
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**Kate Steele**

**Andrea Brennan**

**Beth Flynn**

Arizona  
The  
State Aviation Officials  
Trade Show



# From the Publisher

## Capturing the Memories

*My first National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) annual meeting was in San Antonio in 1992. I had just been appointed Director of the Nebraska Department of Aeronautics and the staff said, "you have to attend NASAO". My first question was "what is a NASAO?" I credit the staff at the time for having an appreciation for what the NASAO brings to the table and for encouraging me to attend. I also appreciate former state directors not only in Nebraska, but nationwide who have instilled the value of NASAO in their staff as well.*

*I don't recall anything about the forums of that first meeting or what the national issues were at the time but I do remember many of the characters that I met and the great time I had. Diane Hofer, the Nebraska State Airport Engineer at the time, introduced me immediately to a number of state directors, a few of which (along with yours truly), became known as the "Bad Boys" of NASAO. (undeserved of course!)*

*The point in all of this is that there have been some incredible times over the years that have taken place at NASAO meetings ranging from my first experience in San Antonio to the most recent in Tucson. There have been lasting friendships built and*

*places visited that have had an impact on my life and I'm sure that's true for many of you as well.*

*I've looked forward to covering the NASAO Annual Meeting and Trade Show in Tucson since we published our premier issue seven months ago. I viewed this as an opportunity to begin capturing those memories and to promote NASAO to those unfamiliar with the role the organization plays. What I didn't anticipate was how much sheer volume the event presented and how to pare it down. I had originally intended to include this coverage as part of the October/November issue, but as the pages started adding up I knew I was faced with a decision to make.*

*Publishing a "Special Edition" seemed to be the answer. In fact, our intention will be to do this each year - dedicating our resources to bringing you better coverage each time. Our scheduled October/November publication will now be published early next month as the November/December issue. It will include articles on former and new directors; a feature on Brian Dubie, Lt. Governor of Vermont as he works tirelessly to promote aviation and aerospace education; and of course our focus on aviation in Arizona. We hope you enjoy this issue and as always we look forward to your comments.*



# New Florida Director Faces the Ultimate

# Challenge

BY BETH FLYNN

After working for the Florida Department of Transportation for 11 years, newly promoted State Aviation Manager, Aaron Smith, is ready for what he calls his ultimate challenge.

This is the time when I need to make the most of my past experiences and inspire those around me, said Smith.

As a junior working towards a degree in Aviation Administration from Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois, Smith began working at Palwaukee Municipal Airport, now called the Chicago Executive Airport, as an intern. Upon receiving his Bachelor's degree, Smith began working full-time at Palwaukee in airport maintenance and operations. He was responsible for mowing, plowing, repairing the airport's electrical systems and coordinating contractual work on the field, among other tasks. During his time at Palwaukee, Smith completed his instrument, commercial and multi-engine training.

My favorite was the lift station, said Smith. But I was around airplanes all day and flew at night.

After five years at Palwaukee, Smith wanted more and started over from scratch. He began working with the state government in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, inspecting private airports and assisting with the management of airport projects for the Florida DOT's district office. A year and a half later, Smith was promoted and moved to Tallahassee, Florida.

Smith moved from Airport Inspection and Safety Manager to the Airspace and Land Use Manager, where he stayed for five years. In 2007, he was promoted to the Aviation Development Administrator, where he was responsible for statewide aviation planning, administering the state airport grant program and implementing state aviation policy.

His most recent promotion came in August 2009, where he is now responsible for both the development and management of the Department's Aviation program and other major functional areas. These areas include: specific aviation safety related regulatory responsibilities, statewide aviation program funding policy implementation, funding allocation for seven districts, airport development work



STATE AVIATION JOURNAL PHOTO

AARON SMITH

program coordination and liaison, and statewide systems planning.

While attending his first National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) Annual Meeting and Trade Show in Tucson, Smith discussed issues with other state aviation directors, industry leaders and FAA reps, even resolving a few. He found it to be an excellent opportunity to communicate with others in the industry and was able to share his experience with their Secretary, reinforcing Florida's participation with NASAO.

According to Smith, a few of the challenges he will be facing are the ever decreasing aviation fuel tax revenue, continued development of incompatible land uses around airports and restrictions on travel and aviation training for staff.

Smith says the aviation industry faces many challenges and most of these challenges have a reoccurring theme. He explains that general aviation struggles with misguided perceptions and the local communities do not take full

advantage of what general aviation airports have to offer. The surrounding communities are unaware of the full potential of these airports and there is inadequate protection for both the airport and community in which the airport serves,+ said Smith. He stresses the need for continued efforts for effective grassroots support at each airport. In addition to the surrounding community, Smith believes the aviation industry needs to work with its modal partners. Aviation needs rail, transit and seaports in order to survive in today's global economy,+said Smith.

One of the first of several internal and external goals Smith has set is putting an emphasis on runway safety areas, wildlife hazards and projects addressing any airport deficiencies identified during inspections. Others include developing administrative code to continue efforts to address incompatible land usage

around airports; a new guidebook and outreach program intended for local government planners; and making adjustments with the aviation staff, drawing upon untapped skills and further develop the process of eliminating paper for Florida's aviation data system and reporting.

One of the key elements which prepared me for this position was my diversity and experience within aviation and state government,+said Smith.

Smith started from the bottom and worked his way up, which he views as not only a healthy experience, but a humbling one as well. In addition to his hard work

and career background, Smith gives credit to the people around him who had an influence on him, saying he wouldn't be where he is today if not for them.



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# *Victor Bird:* New NASAO Chair

## Seeks to Advocate, Lobby for Aviation

*National Association of State Aviation Officials*

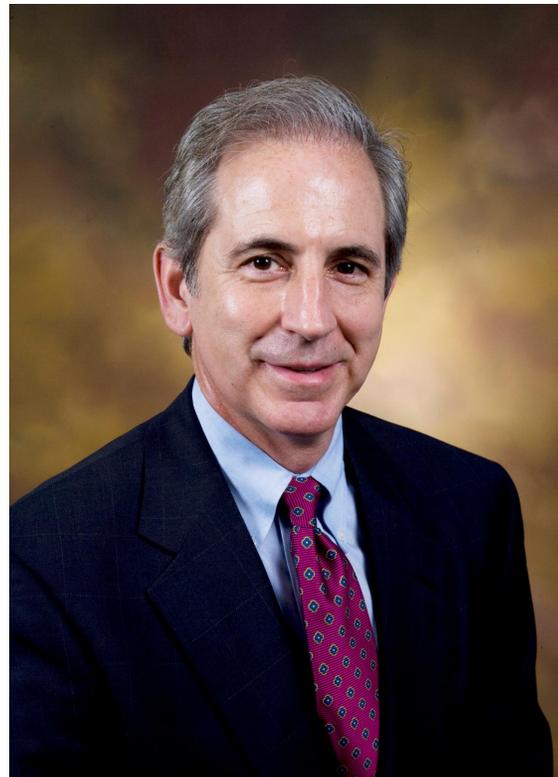
BY ANDREA BRENNAN

Even as Victor Bird accepts the 2009 General Thomas P. Stafford Award that recognizes his past accomplishments to bolster and promote aerospace and aviation in his state, the Director of the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission (OAC) and incoming Chairman of the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) is implementing new programs that will influence the industry and could be a template for other states building a high-tech business community and workforce.

Bird has taken a long step away from a career as a lawyer in the Oklahoma's Attorney General's office; he had no professional involvement with aviation prior to joining the OAC other than taking commercial flights. However, after getting involved with the OAC in 2002 and becoming the director less than a year later, Bird has proven his commitment to aviation in Oklahoma and demonstrated that what is good for the aerospace industry in Oklahoma is also good for Oklahoma.

A major factor in the success of the OAC is Bird's early realization that the aerospace industry has been "a very good story to tell in Oklahoma." Oklahoma is one of seven centers in the world for aircraft maintenance, including the world's largest civilian aircraft repair facility, the American Airlines Maintenance and Engineering Center. The state's largest employer is Tinker Air Force Base, where military aircraft are repaired and maintained. "All 44 counties in Oklahoma have some economic connection to Tinker," said Bird, "and one in eleven have a job attributable to the aviation industry."

The industry was strong, but not well organized when Bird took the helm at OAC. Bird formed a task force for Oklahoma's governor to analyze the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for aeronautics businesses. The analysis showed that the aerospace and aviation business community would benefit from government support and initiatives to educate, attract and retain highly qualified engineers and technicians. The state legislature responded by passing the Aerospace Industry Engineer Workforce Bill in 2008 that provides incentives to keep top



talent in Oklahoma. This bill is the only one of its kind in the United States, Bird noted, although he knows of three other states that are trying to pass similar legislation.

If you are an engineer and want to work in aeronautics in Oklahoma, you are definitely in the right place at the right time. For example, Bird explained, Operation Boomerang is a program that began in January 2009. The program offers tax credit benefits for tuition and home purchases to aerospace and aviation engineers. Even engineers who leave Oklahoma are invited to return and take advantage of these tax credits. Aerospace employers also gain something if they hire an engineer from an Oklahoma university who is not already committed to another Oklahoma company: a ten percent tax credit. "These incentives have made a big difference in tax liability, especially for young engineers," Bird said, "and companies say it is making a difference."

Noting a need to rekindle interest in engineering at the academic level, Bird has championed another program that targets high school seniors and encourages elementary school students to pursue science, technology, engineering,

and math related to aerospace and aviation. One motivating factor, he said, is an aerospace employee's potential average salary in Oklahoma, which at \$55,000 is nearly twice as much as the median Oklahoma salary of \$29,000.

The OAC has also addressed impediments to the cost of doing business for the aerospace and aviation business community. The commission noted that while large maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) businesses such as the American Airlines facility received sales tax exemptions for MRO services, smaller MRO businesses, such as Bizjet in Tulsa, also needed those exemptions to remain competitive. Bird shepherded a bill through the Oklahoma legislature that allowed the MRO sales tax exemptions for any size business, and as a result, he said, there is more MRO work in Oklahoma.

Another OAC business program invests in training to help local contractors get government contracts. Bird points out that Tinker Air Force Base outsources \$5 billion per year, but only \$500 million of those contracts remain in state. The key to getting government contracts, Bird said, is to know the procurement process. By investing \$1 million in the Center for Aerospace Supplier Quality, Bird estimates that Oklahoma businesses have been awarded about \$11.5 million in contracts over the past two-and-a-half years. Many of these businesses had never had contracts with the federal government before, he said.

As a result of OAC efforts, Bird claims, Oklahoma has seen fewer layoffs in this economic recession than in neighboring states. Of course, during current economic challenges many airlines are putting off new purchases and maintaining their current fleet which results in more business for



Oklahoma's MRO centers. But finding new contracts and keeping engineers employed with financial benefits ends up benefiting the state's economy as a whole, because each aviation or aerospace engineering job touches three or four other jobs, Bird explained.

Bird quickly points out that he did not develop these programs on his own; he received information and wise counsel that has helped him over the years. His involvement in NASAO for example, has formed relationships that encourage members to learn from each other. NASAO provides a clearinghouse of ideas, Bird said. You can ask any question; it is farmed out to all 50 states. Bird wants to see newer members get involved in NASAO's governance, similar to his own experience of joining the board six months after joining the association. Being the NASAO chairman, he added, is an exciting and rewarding opportunity to serve: I have no reservation about helping other states.

NASAO has a lot to do, Bird continued: promoting a safe and effective air transportation system and taking responsibility to get young people interested in aviation careers. We are in grave danger of losing our competitive edge because students are falling behind in engineering, math - affecting aerospace and aviation careers, he said. To address the education issue, even though the organization has no formal education budget, NASAO is partnering with and has endorsed the Real World Design Challenge which presents an actual

aircraft design problem to encourage developing a creative and useful solution. Bird believes he can influence directors to challenge their states to get involved in the competition.

Bird hopes that a long-term goal for NASAO will be to communicate more with Washington policy makers. Aviation is undersold, Bird stressed, and he plans to advocate for and lobby on behalf of the industry, literally telling the story of aviation, he said. Getting programs that develop aviation and aerospace engineering will do more than generate jobs; the nation's long-term security is at stake, he stressed. We are not going to have a safe nation if we don't have a superior air force.



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# 2009 NASAO

## Annual Meeting & Trade Show



**Carol Comer, Georgia DOT, watches Steve Callahan of Vaisala make his approach shot in the first ever NASAO golf tournament. See coverage beginning on page 30.**

# Diverse Line-up Fuels 78TH ANNUAL

## NASAO Meeting & Trade Show

A diverse lineup of speakers helped fuel the 78th National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) Annual Meeting and Trade Show, held September 12 - 15, 2009 in Tucson, Arizona. The unwelcome thought that the state of the economy would keep attendance low was high on most people's mind. Only thirty-one states were represented at this year's conference, mostly due to travel restrictions, a result of deficits in many state budgets.

"Unfortunately, with a struggling economy and the travel restrictions faced by many NASAO members, the viability of the conference was tenuous," said Barclay Dick, Director of the Arizona Department of Transportation's Aeronautics Group and host for this year's conference. "Understandably," continued Dick, "sponsorships weren't as forth-coming as they may have been in the past." Registrations were slower than in the past as well. Still, according to Dick, "Within the last few weeks, it all came together," he said.

Based on comments from many attendees, it came together well! "The annual meeting was outstanding," said Debbie Alke, Administrator for the Montana Aeronautics Division. "The facilities, food, social activities, exhibit hall - the entire venue was great!" That sentiment was echoed by Randy Burdette, Director of the Virginia Department of Aviation. He said he enjoyed the forums and the time for information sharing with the other state directors. "There was so much good information that frequently we ran out of time on a speaker and did not get the opportunity to ask questions or get deeper into a subject area," said Burdette.

Speakers included FAA Acting Associate Administrator for Airports, Catherine (Kate) Lang; Manager, Obstruction Evaluation Service for the FAA, Kevin Haggerty; and newly confirmed Transportation Security Administration, General Manager for General Aviation, Brian Delauter.

"The lineup of speakers were very informative and very timely with current issues," said Joe Pestka, Administrator of Aviation for the Missouri Department of Transportation. Topics covered included the "State of Airports" by Jim Bennett, President and Chief Executive Officer for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority



**BRIAN DELAUTER, TSA**



**CHRISTINA CASSOTIS, SH&E**



and the "State of Commercial Airlines" by Edward Beauvais, founder of America West Airlines. "The variety of speakers was excellent," added Alke.

NASAO has long advocated for aviation. NASAO members organize, promote and fund a wide variety of aviation programs across the nation. All states develop statewide aviation system plans and airport capital improvement plans. According to NASAO, states invest about \$450 million annually in planning, operations, infrastructure development, maintenance and navigational aids at 5,000 airports across the country. Many states also build, own and operate their own airports. Each year, state aviation officials conduct safety inspections at thousands of public-use airports. Countless aviation activities including statewide meetings, airport symposiums, pilot safety seminars and aviation education forums are also organized annually by the states.

"NASAO is extremely important to all the states," said Burdette, "as we together, provide a much more powerful and focused collective voice on key issues that impact aviation in our States." According to Burdette, "we have the potential to provide the balance between federal and state views as they pertain to a healthy aviation and aerospace system for our states and the nation." "NASAO is critical in representing the needs of civil aviation and will play a significant role in developing reauthorization legislation," said Pestka.



**KEVIN HAGGERTY , FAA**



**President Henry Ogrodzinski welcomes attendees to the 2009 Annual Meeting and Trade Show in Tucson, Arizona.**

Alke said that NASAO, which was founded in 1931, is important for her in her position with the State of Montana. "It provides timely industry information, creates unity amongst the states, and performs work at the national level on behalf of all states on issues affecting all states." Alke continued saying that the organization is a leader in serving the public interest and ensuring the transportation system, airports and infrastructure are the best they can be.

Even though the states deal with serious aviation issues and events like the NASAO Annual Meeting are important for us to stay focused, according to Alke, it's more than that. "The camaraderie and relationships formed through membership to NASAO are valued," said Alke, "from both a personal and professional perspective."



**BRITNEY MICULKA, AOPA**



**BARRY BRAYER, FAA**



**MONICA TAYLOR,  
GREAT LAKES AIRLINES**



**DAN BURKHART, NBAA**



**EDWARD BEAUVAIS**



**BRIAN BRUSA ,  
MAVERICK HELICOPTERS**

**PHOTOS BY KENN POTTS**

# Manairco:

## *Core Values Keep Long Time*

### *NASAO Exhibitor Strong*

BY ANDREA BRENNAN

Over fifty years ago, two ex-military pilots started a business supplying refurbished U.S. Army lighting equipment for small airfields. The low-intensity landing strip light sold by Manairco of Mansfield, Ohio, called a "flying farmer light," used a 15-watt appliance bulb and ran on a 20-volt battery. Since then, said Joel Beinbrech, Vice President of Sales, most general aviation airfields have upgraded to medium-intensity lighting, but over fifty years things haven't changed a lot. The personal service and close relationships between Manairco and the company's customers remain as important now as they were in 1955.

We used to have a map of the United States and put a colored pushpin to represent each Manairco customer, Beinbrech recalled. Over the years as the company grew, he said, hundreds of pins decorated the map, yet even now Manairco President Gayle Gorman Freeman flies to deliver parts to customers at their airports and keeps extra company brochures in her plane. However, the company is not just dedicated

to its customers in the GA market; lighting designer Leroy Blizzard has been known to accompany repair parts to Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta, the busiest airport in the United States, from his office in North Carolina.

Manairco can attribute its longevity in part to being a reliable provider of necessary components of airport lighting systems such as the rotating beacon. This standard product is used at facilities all over the world, and parts distributors in the U.S. and overseas are steady purchasers.

Beinbrech also touts Manairco product quality that draws and keeps loyal customers. We build and test to the FAA specification, he said. We pride ourselves on quality, Beinbrech continued, pointing out constant current

regulators that rarely break down and are the only ones used at Hartsfield. We're not selling repair parts [for the constant current regulators] because the quality is that good, he added. Even lighting equipment that is not FAA certified, such as the 6000 Series, is purchased by GA airports; although the equipment is durable, it is less expensive than certified parts.

Delivery has been another high priority over the years for Manairco. Because faulty lighting or current regulator equipment has a large impact on airport operations, Manairco ships parts overnight, said Beinbrech, and might

suggest to airfield owners that they keep a spare part on hand to make immediate maintenance repairs.

While some things haven't changed, Manairco has adapted to some of the new realities of procurement. Years ago, airports ordered parts by phone; now, Beinbrech noted, airports include the sale as part of a bid that must be certified by the FAA. It is a lot of work to prepare the submittals, Beinbrech admitted.

The Buy America Program also has requirements they must meet. Technology is slowly changing, too. Some airports are starting to lean toward LED lighting, said Beinbrech, and Manairco now offers LED taxiway lights in colors including red, green, yellow and blue; and they are perfecting a white LED light.

Have Manairco products made a positive contribution to aviation? Beinbrech believes so because lighting and current regulators allow airports, especially GA airfields, to safely welcome landing aircraft. As products mature and evolve, and as purchasing and procurement requirements expand, the company will continue to rely on its core values of customer service, quality and delivery to maintain its important relationships and keep the business strong for at least another 54 years.



# Reception with Exhibitors Sets Tone for Conference



Barclay Dick, Aeronautics Director, Arizona (left) and Victor Bird, NASAIO Chair, cut the ribbon officially opening the 2009 NASAIO Conference.



NASAIO President, Henry Ogrodzinski displays a ceramic airplane presented as a thank you to this year's speakers. The airplane was crafted by Barclay Dick, Arizona Aeronautics Group Director.



Marilyn Wulfekuhler, anyAWOS and Randy Burdette, Virginia



Geoff Bing, Vaisala and Nel Stubbs, Conklin & de Decker.



Kate Lang, FAA



Fred Sington, Chairman Gadsden Airport Authority (left) and William Hutto, Airport Director, Auburn-Opelika Robert G. Pitts Airport.



Vaisala team members from left, Michael Trosclair, Jerry Kirkpatrick, and Nancy Thomsen.



Joyce Piacun, GCR



Steve Glander, All Weather, Inc.



Jose Arze, All About Pavements.



Brian Aho, Applied Research Associates



From  
P  
KIM



Susan Chernen

NASAO Chairman Victor Bird, Oklahoma (left) and Barclay Dick, Arizona, watch as Randy Burdette, Virginia Department of Aeronautics, opens his birthday card!

## Host Committee Reception Welcomes NASAO

The Arizona Host Committee welcomed early arrivals to the NASAO 2009 Annual Meeting and Trade Show held in Tucson with a Saturday night reception on the grounds of the Hilton El Conquistador Hotel. It was also a chance to help celebrate the birthday of NASAO's incoming Vice President Randy Burdette of Virginia.

The Host Committee was made up of many NASAO veterans and included former State Aviation Director from Arizona, Gary Adams; Pam Keidel-Adams, Wilbur Smith Associates; Maggie Covalt, Applied Pavement Technology; Mike Covalt, Arizona Airports Association; Barclay Dick, Director of the Aeronautics Group, Arizona Department of Transportation and his wife Susan Dick, who was instrumental in planning many of the Arizona activities; Nel Sanders-Stubbs, Conklin & de Decker; Kim Stevens and Carole Glenn, Arizona Aeronautics Group; Stacy Howard, Regional Representative for AOPA; Dan Burkhardt, Regional Representative for NBAA; Steve Callahan, Vaisala; and Kevin Carlson, Mead & Hunt.





From left are Carol Comer, Georgia DOT, Kathryn Solee, NASAO, Ed Young, Kansas DOT and Joe Pestka, Missouri DOT.

**PHOTOS BY  
M STEVENS**



...ko, left and Ellen Ogrodzinski.



Lorena de Rodriguez (left) President of AviaEd, Roxie Harris and Jim Harris, Coffman & Associates.



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**Gary Chernenko, West Virginia and Bob Woods, Director Aeronautics Division, Tennessee DOT.**

**Tom Thatcher (left) Kimball Co., Kenn Potts, Arizona Aeronautics Group and David Wartofsky, Potomac Aviation.**



## Host Committee Reception

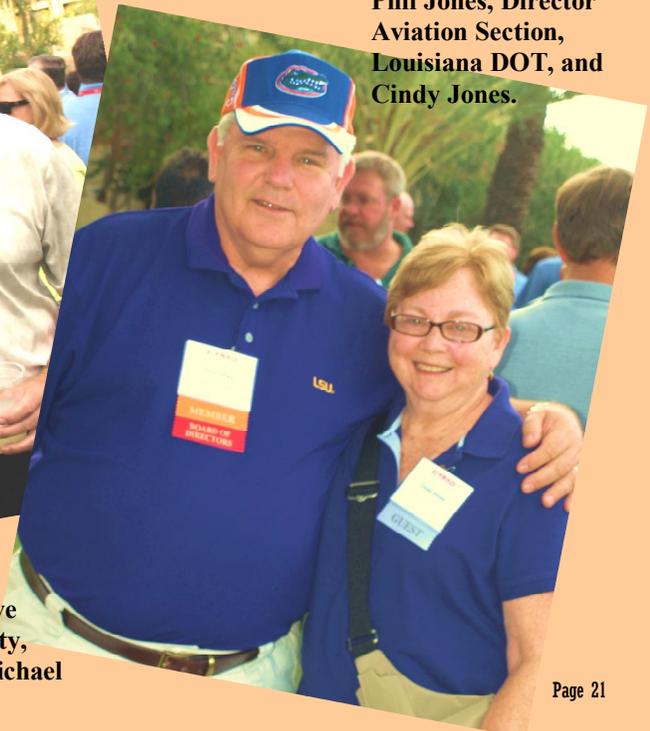


**Arizona Department of Transportation Aeronautics Group staff helped make the NASAO event in Tucson a success! Pictured from left are Holly Hawkins, State Airport Engineer, Nancy Faron, Project Manager, Jamie Brown, Admin Secretary, Louis Hudgin, pilot, Laural Hudgin, Rick Crosby, pilot, and Michael Klein, Airport Development Manager.**



**From left, Jim Bennett, President and Chief Executive Officer, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Barclay Dick, Aeronautics Director, Arizona and Michael Covalt, Arizona Airports Association.**

**Phil Jones, Director Aviation Section, Louisiana DOT, and Cindy Jones.**



# NASAO 2009 Award Winners

. . . HONORED AT BANQUET



Dave Fulton (left) Director of the Aviation Division of the Texas Department of Transportation receives the Kenneth A. Rowe Ambassador of Aviation Award. It is the highest honor NASAO can bestow on a state director. Pictured with Mr. Fulton is his wife Charlotte and NASAO Chairman Victor Bird of Oklahoma.

**T**he National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) presented the association's 2009 awards at their annual convention and tradeshow in Tucson, Arizona in September.

The Kenneth A. Rowe Ambassador of Aviation Award, the highest award NASAO members may present to a fellow aviation agency director was presented to Dr. David S. Fulton, a former NASAO president and current Aviation Director for the Texas Department of Transportation.

"I was very honored for two reasons," said Fulton. "I respect Ken Rowe, not only for his contributions to aviation, but for his military service to our country." Fulton continued by saying he was also honored to be associated with the past recipients.

Prior to his stint in Texas, which began in 1992, Fulton served as the Director of the Tennessee Department of Transportation Office of Aeronautics. This award was established in 1994, in honor of the now-retired Aviation Director of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Ken Rowe and is only presented to a NASAO member who embodies Ken Rowe's strong spirit . his sense of optimism and fierce pride in the capabilities of state aviation agencies. "It's always rewarding to be honored by your peers," said Fulton.

The 2009 Most Innovative State Program Award was given to the Colorado Division of Aeronautics recognized this year for their Non-Federal Sensor Data Collection System. This award salutes a single state for finding a solution to a challenging problem of the past year. The Colorado project allows state collected weather information to be shared throughout the national weather system thus enhancing aviation safety and advancing technology of NextGen. (See a detailed story in the Aug/Sept 2009 issue of the State Aviation Journal.)

In what was referred to by NASAO as an extremely rare tie, the 2009 Distinguished Service Award, the highest recognition that can be presented to state aviation agency employees, was awarded to two recipients for excellence in service and dedication to aviation progress and development in their states. Cynthia Kever, Missouri Department of Transportation Aviation Section and Karon Wiedemann, Texas Department of Transportation Division of Aviation were both honored for their service.

"You go along each day doing your job and don't ever expect to receive such a recognition," said Wiedemann. "It's an honor to say the least." Wiedemann, who plans on retiring fairly soon, said receiving this honor definitely makes all the work feel that much more worthwhile. "It's an honor to be recognized by those outside of my immediate work circle," continued Wiedemann and "gives me pause to reflect on how I got here."

"Karon is the true director for aviation in Texas," said Dave Fulton. "She is my right hand in moving this



**Karon Wiedemann, Grant Manager for Texas Division of Aviation accepts her 2009 Distinguished Service Award from Victor Bird, NASAO Chairman.**

organization. Totally committed to what we do," said Fulton. "An amazing person!"

"Anything that I have been able to accomplish is attributable to all of those who have worked with me," said Wiedemann. "I certainly did not accomplish anything on my own - it was all through partnership with others that allowed me to have any success."

Joe Pestka, Administrator of Aviation in Missouri shared this about Ms. Kever. "Cindy has a tremendous work ethic and continues to challenge herself in new areas every day. She takes on increased responsibilities and plays a vital role in the day-to-day operation of the aviation section. She also has a very good working relationship with our aviation partners and is committed to providing quality customer service.+

"I was floored when I received the call from Henry O," said Kever, referring to Henry Ogrodzinski, President of NASAO. "I really didn't know what to think--it was so unexpected." Kever went on to say that when you enjoy what you do and the people you work with, it just makes coming to work so much easier and you don't give it a second thought. "I've worked in state government for 31 years," said Kever, "with seven of those in



**Joe Pestka, left, Missouri Administrator for Aviation poses with Cynthia Kever, Missouri Department of Transportation Aviation Section, as she accepts her 2009 Distinguished Service Award from Victor Bird, NASAO Chairman.**

aviation." She said there has always been something new and challenging in the aviation industry to keep your interest. "It's a wonderful feeling to know that your co-workers and supervisors appreciate all that you do," said Kever, "and go the extra mile to recognize you for your efforts."

Receiving the 2009 Center Aviation Education Program Award was the Aeronautics Division of the Arizona Department of Transportation. According to NASAO, this award recognizes the efforts of the state aviation agencies to educate and motivate the public with aviation-related education programs. Arizona received the award for their Aerospace Badge Workshop. Barclay Dick, Director, and Kim Stevens, Deputy Director, accepted the award on behalf of the agency and Carol Glenn, Aviation and Aerospace Education and Outreach Coordinator.



Receiving the Center Aviation Education Program Award from Victor Bird (right) are Barclay Dick (left) Director and Kim Stevens, Deputy Director, Arizona Aeronautics Group.

## Luncheon Speakers Spark Interest in Lightning, Mars

The lineup of luncheon speakers for this year's NASAO Conference sparked an interest for attendees. Nick Demetriades, Applications Manager for Vaisala Group's Meteorology Business Area, gave a presentation on Lightning Phenomena and Dr. Peter Smith, Principal Investigator and Project Lead with the University of Arizona took us on a journey to the Red Planet as he presented the highlights of the recent Phoenix Mission to Mars.

"I thought both of the lunch presentations were a welcome and upbeat feature to the conference," said Debbie Alke, Administrator for the Montana Aeronautics Division.

Smith started his association with the Red Planet in 1993 after his Imager for Mars Pathfinder Camera proposal was accepted by NASA for the Pathfinder Mission. In the Fall of 2003, Smith's Phoenix Project was selected as the first Scout Mission to Mars after a competitive NASA selection process. The Phoenix Mission is



Nick Demetriades, Vaisala Group

valued at \$420 million with Smith responsible for all aspects of the mission.

Barclay Dick, Aeronautics Group Director for the Arizona DOT, attended the same high school in Tucson as Smith. Dick injected a little humor in his introduction by noting that Smith had spent \$420 million on his doctoral thesis.

The spacecraft launched August 4, 2007 and landed in the northern polar region of Mars in May of 2008. Smith showed slides of the mission and talked about the results. His team is waiting to see if the craft will "wake up" after the extreme cold of the Martian winter so they may continue to reap additional data.

Demetriades, joined Vaisala in 1999 as a Research Scientist and spent five years in that position. In 2004, he became a Thunderstorm Applications Specialist for Vaisala's Thunderstorm Systems and Thunderstorm Data Business Units. Demetriades talked about lightning characteristics and associated hazards and debunked many myths surrounding the phenomena.



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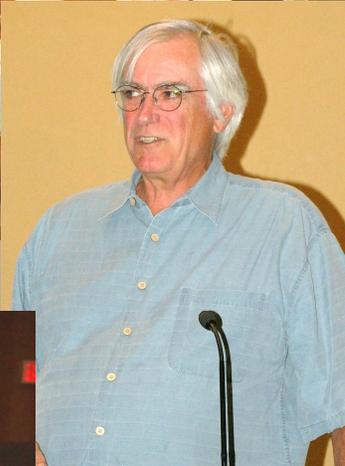


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Luncheon speaker Peter Smith, University of Arizona Principal Investigator and Project Lead for Phoenix Mission to Mars.



Peter Smith



Bob Quinn, NBAA



NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, right, hands out a door prize to Harry Houckes, NBAA Representative for the Southeast U.S.

# NASAO KICKS UP ITS

# BOOTS

# WITH CESSNA



PHIL JONES

The Last Territory was the scene of Monday night's "Kick Up Your Boots" outing sponsored by Cessna. The venue, preserving Arizona's Old West spirit, offered a unique setting complete with good food, a country western band and plenty of "hootin' and hollerin'!" There was even a "Best Boots" contest won by Debbie Alke of Montana.



BRITNEY MICULKA, AOPA



CHRISTINA CASSOTIS, SH&E AND STEVE KENT, CESSNA.

THE MARNIE CHASTAIN BAND



PHOTOS BY  
KENN POTTS



COURTNEY BEAMON, DELTA AIRPORT CONSULTANTS,  
BARCLAY DICK AND JIM BENNETT.

, LOUISIANA



MONICA TAYLOR, GREAT LAKES





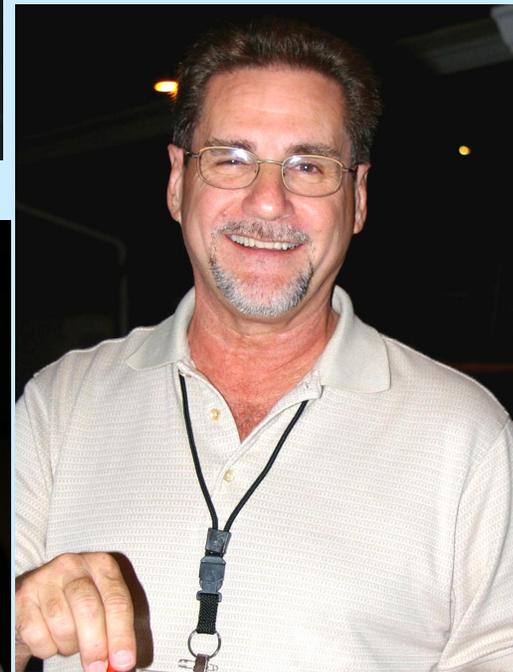
**DALE WILLIAMS, OKLAHOMA**



**ERIC GLICK, AVIATION PROGRAM  
MANAGER, NEVADA DOT**



**STACY HOWARD, AOPA**



**MIKE KLEIN, ARIZONA**



**JANE LUCERO, NEW MEXICO**



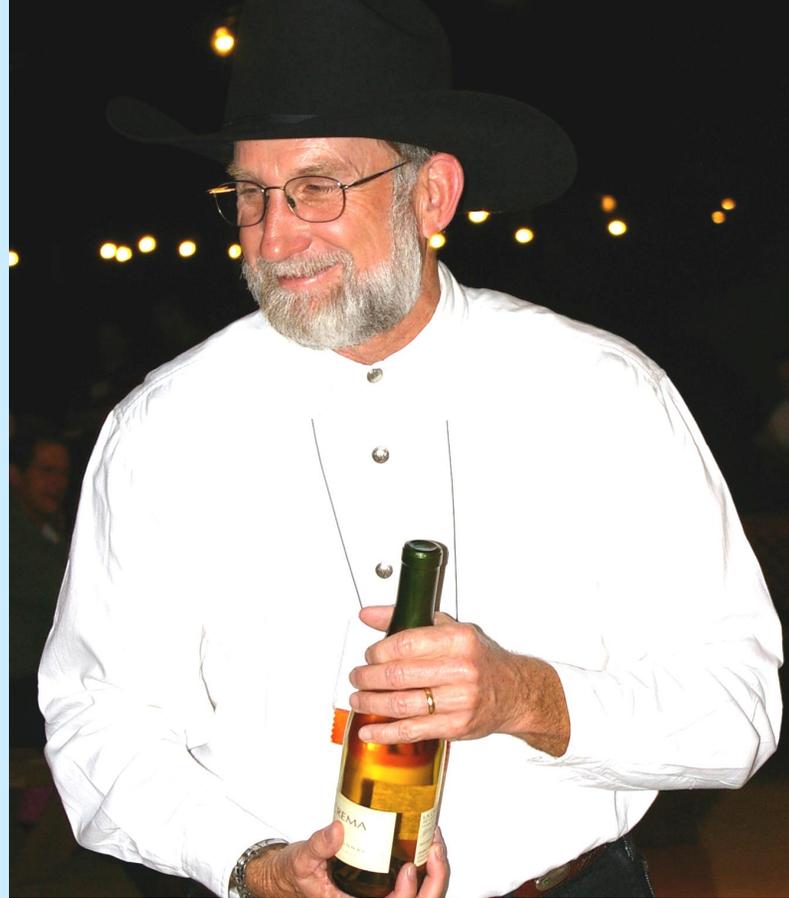
**SCOTT SANDERS,  
WILBUR SMITH ASSOCIATES**



**DEBBIE ALKE OF MONTANA WON THE  
"BEST BOOTS" CONTEST!**



ASHISH SOLANKI, MARYLAND



JOHN EAGERTON, ALABAMA

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# NASAO Holds First Ever Golf Tournament



Greg Yarbrough shows good form on his drive.



SNAKE PATROL



**E**arly Sunday morning, September 12, 2009, marked the start of what many would like to see as an annual occurrence - the first ever NASAO Golf Tournament. The first, at least as far as anyone could remember. Eighteen golfers participated in the tourney held in conjunction with the 2009 National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) Annual Meeting and Trade Show.

The event was held on the Canada Course of the El Conquistador Country Club in Oro Valley, Arizona, just down the road from the site of the 78th Annual Meeting.

"It was a nice course," said Mike Covalt, event organizer and member of the Arizona Host Committee. "The staff at the Country Club were great to work with and very flexible, which according to Covalt, is always a good thing when you're planning your first tournament.

Sponsors included Mead & Hunt, Applied Pavement Technology, AviaEd and the State Aviation Journal. Mead & Hunt furnished balls and tees to each participant and provided a hand held GPS as a door prize. "What better way to experience Arizona than on the golf course," said Kevin Carlson, Senior Project Manager with Mead & Hunt. "We were honored to help plan and sponsor the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual NASAO Golf Outing," said Carlson. "We weren't sure what the response and attendance would be for this first time event, but we're thrilled with the level of participation."

The winning foursome included Kyle Potvin, Applied Pavement Technology, Inc.; Steve Callahan, Vaisala; Carol Comer, Aviation Program Manager for the Georgia DOT; and Nancy Thomsen, Vaisala.

Ed Young, Director of Aviation for the Kansas DOT, was the winner of the drawing for the GPS, which seemed appropriate since next year's conference will be held in Wichita where there has already been talk of holding the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament. "It turned out to be a great networking event and an all-around good time," said Carlson. "We look forward to being a part of this event as it evolves throughout the coming years."



**How many mulligans?  
Barclay Dick and Mike Covalt count 'em up!**





From left, Chris Willenborg, Massachusetts; Richard Gossen, GCR; and Charlotte Fulton, watch as Dave Fulton, Texas, sets up for an approach shot.



From left, Ed Young, Kansas; Greg Yarbrough, Wilbur Smith & Associates; and Mike Covalt, Arizona Airports Association.



From left to right are, Kevin Carlson, Mead & Hunt; Jonathon Moore, Ameriseal of Ohio; and Lou Dirkes, Hali-Brite.

Kevin Carlson, Mead & Hunt,  
shows off his golf spurs.



Chris Willenborg, Massachusetts



From left, the foursome of Richard Gossen, GCR; Chris Willenborg, Massachusetts; and Charlotte and Dave Fulton, Texas.

*Enjoying the 19th hole are from left Ed Young, Kansas, Greg Yarbrough, Wilbur Smith & Associates, and Chris Willenborg, Massachusetts.*



*Carol Comer, Georgia and Kyle Potvin.*



*The Canada Course offered beauty and challenge.*

*Winning foursome from left are, Kyle Potvin, Applied Pavement Technology, Steven Callahan, Vaisala, Carol Comer, Georgia and Nancy Thomsen, Vaisala.*



*Teamed up from left are Steve Kent, Cessna, Barclay Dick, Arizona, Jim Harris, Coffman & Associates and Adam Dick.*



# *Congratulations* on a Great 2009 Annual



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Air Force Thunderbird F-16  
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Photo by Andrew Stevens

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