Zero discrepancies reported by FAA after CMH and LCK inspections

The FAA renewed airport operating certificates for Port Columbus and Rickenbacker following the successful completion of annual Part 139 inspections conducted recently at each airport where no discrepancies were reported.

“Every day dozens of smart, efficient and dedicated Airport Authority staff ensure that we’re meeting FAA safety requirements,” Chief Operating Officer Rod Borden noted. “The FAA inspector was extremely complimentary of the condition of both airfields as well as the professionalism of the CMH and LCK crews who oversee and maintain them. The Airport Authority congratulates Airfield Maintenance, Airport Operations and our Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting teams for the successful completion of this year’s inspection, and we thank them for their service to our aviation partners and the traveling public.”

For more information about CMH and LCK’s Part 139 inspections and Airport Authority safety or security measures, contact Rod Borden at 614-239-4014.

Bolton finishes strong in Ohio Airports Focus Study

Bolton Field Airport fares extremely well in preliminary findings and recommendations of a multi-year study analyzing safety, efficiency and economic impact of Ohio’s 97 publicly-owned general aviation airports. Bolton continues creating strategic opportunities for businesses in our region through annual contributions of 104 jobs, $2.5 million in payroll and $11.1 million in total economic benefit.
Conducted by Ohio Department of Transportation’s Office of Aviation, the focus study will be used to optimize investment in Ohio’s airport system with an eye toward safety, efficiency and economic growth. The study identifies needed system improvements, provides information to decision makers to assist in prioritizing projects, and assesses the economic impact of Ohio’s airports. Findings will assist ODOT and FAA in making decisions on proposed airport development in a period of limited funding.

Details surrounding the Ohio Airports Focus Study, including the recent public meeting presentation, draft findings and recommendations, and draft study reports, are available at ODOT’s Focus Study webpage.

Rickenbacker plans new ATC tower

The WWII-era control tower at Rickenbacker International Airport takes its place in airport history soon. The airport will begin construction in early 2015 on a modern, state-of-the art replacement tower indicative of Rickenbacker’s growing reputation as a world-class logistics hub and global gateway.

Features of the new, ADA-compliant tower include more space for controller utilization, new communication radios and equipment, updated security cameras and access controls, and separate meeting and training offices.

To prevent any disruption in operations, the current tower continues functioning throughout construction of the new ATC, which should be completed in December 2015.

Lane Aviation expedites customs clearance at CMH
The processing of incoming general aviation aircraft and travelers from international locations becomes much easier at Port Columbus when Lane’s new $900,000 General Aviation Facility opens in January 2015. Lane anticipates that the streamlined process will help potential customers around the world consider Columbus as a preferred destination city for doing business.

“The Lane Aviation team looks forward to managing the needs of our corporate and private aviation clients with much greater efficiency,” said Lane Vice President Mark Myers. “We appreciate the collaborative support of the Columbus business community and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection for their assistance in the development of this vital new general aviation inspection unit.”

Currently, Lane Aviation handles about 250 clearances annually. With the new 2,667-square-foot, high-security facility expected to provide time, cost and other logistical savings, Lane’s goal is to nearly double annual clearances when the GAF becomes fully operational.

“Columbus gains another competitive edge in the global business market with Lane’s investment. The Columbus Regional Airport Authority supports their initiative to increase strategic, international opportunities for the airport and the Columbus region,” said President & CEO Elaine Roberts.

For additional information about Lane and the General Aviation Facility, contact Mark Myers at Lane Aviation at 614-237-2747 or mmyers@laneaviation.com.

FlightSafety expands training operations at Port Columbus
The initial phase of FlightSafety International’s new Learning Center is on track for completion December 2014. Located on Bridgeway Avenue near Port Columbus’ north airfield, the 55,000-square-foot-facility features six full flight simulators, 13 advanced-technology pilot and maintenance training classrooms, 12 briefing/debriefing rooms, and facilities for 12 Graphical Flight-Deck Simulators. Eventually, up to 90,000 square feet of additional space and more training equipment will be added during a second phase.

“The Columbus Regional Airport Authority and FlightSafety worked together to position the elite Learning Center on 8.7 acres of Port Columbus property. The location is within close proximity to NetJets, their sister company and biggest customer. We’re extremely pleased that FlightSafety elected to expand their world premier operation here,” said Robin Holderman, the Authority’s Chief Asset and Development Officer.

An airport tenant since 1999, FlightSafety will move its 136 employees from the current Hamilton Road structure when the new Learning Center is ready. FlightSafety and NetJets are subsidiaries of Berkshire Hathaway.

More details about FlightSafety’s new Learning Center can be directed to Steve Phillips, FlightSafety Vice President of Communications, at 718-801-9027.

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**Capital City Jet Center hosts aviation intern**

Cultivating interest in general aviation as a career is the focus of a new community partnership between Columbus Alternative High School and Capital City Jet Center, Bolton Field Airport’s FBO.

“Capital City is privileged to provide a hands-on opportunity for a Columbus high school student to learn about general aviation and all that it has to offer as a career or life pursuit,” said General Manager Ken Riggs.

Riggs coordinates the weekly experience with a highly-motivated 14-year-old, planning activities and learning experiences that incorporate many facets of aviation, including a session on self-marketing with which the Airport Authority assisted.

“CCJC attempts to balance the “romance” of an aviation career with realistic considerations such as cost, risk, safety and the hard work involved. Ultimately, we hope that our knowledge and passion makes a difference in a young person’s career direction.”

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**NetJets enters China as first foreign charter flight operator**
With approval of China’s Civil Aviation Administration, NetJets initiated its charter service through Zhuuhai Jinwan Airport near Hong Kong with two 7-seat Hawker 800 aircraft, a mere fraction of the over 700 jets it owns and operates worldwide. By comparison, the entire fleet of business aircraft based in China is only about a third that size.

NetJets’ Chinese operations are handled by its Executive Jet management brand with initial clients comprised of Chinese-based and international companies. Instead of offering fractional ownership of jets in China, NetJets offers jet cards in 25-hour increments. In the near future they’ll also offer management services for jets owned by others.

Even while considering diverse hurdles it has yet to encounter and surmount, NetJets expects significant growth in the China market.

Through the operation of Port Columbus International Airport (CMH), Rickenbacker International Airport (LCK) and Bolton Field Airport (CMH), the Columbus Regional Airport Authority works to create exceptional travel experiences for passengers, strategic opportunities for businesses, and vital economic growth for the Central Ohio region. General Aviation is a vital component of the Airport Authority’s complete aviation services. The broad range of GA services offered by CMH, LCK and TZR cover private and business aviation including executive and corporate operations; flying club activity; commercial operations by small aircraft such as agricultural work and news reporting; and flight training. Of the three airports, Bolton Field is a dedicated general aviation airport. For more information, visit the Airport Authority’s General Aviation web page.