Bob’s Blog

Summer is here again with clear skies and warm temperatures. The Blue Angels will be back this year for Seafair along with the Patriots Jet Team. In addition to the traditional Seafair menu of activities will be the arrival of the United States Marine Corps Air-Ground Demonstration Team and the parade of ships featuring the USS Essex.

The Blue Angels take off from KBFI

2014 is a pivotal year for KBFI as we prepare our 2015-16 Biennial Budget. A refocus on our core business model will require an increase in revenue, cost reductions and containment, and maintaining a robust Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to insure that our assets are managed and maintained to best industry standards.

We will be reviewing 90% design documents for our new Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) station in August. We anticipate soliciting bids for the station construction in the Fall with a construction start date shortly after the first of the year. Our ARFF Unit will relocate to the former Guardian One site during construction. The existing facility will be demolished to make way for the new station. The project is funded by FAA on a 90/10 formula (90% FAA Grant Funds/10% Airport Funds) with total project costs at $7.1 million.

The last phase of the Taxiway “A” rehabilitation project will be complete by August 31st. The phase included the rehabilitation of storm drains in the Runway Safety Area (RSA).

For the first half of 2014, aircraft operations have rebounded somewhat, fuel volumes surpass 2013’s numbers and billable landed weight remains strong. The triennial appraisal for non-Boeing leaseholds, hangar rentals and other facility rentals has begun and we expect the process to be complete in November.

Have a safe, happy and enjoyable Summer and Seafair. Thank you for your support.

Landmark Aviation Welcomes General Manager Rick Wielebski

As Landmark Aviation establishes its new home at KBFI, new General Manager, Rick Wielebski, is excited to lead the transition from Galvin Flying Services. “The Galvin name is iconic, a legend,” he states, referring to the 84 year history since Jim Galvin first leased space at KBFI. “We are going to build on that history to provide the best aviation service possible.”

New to Washington as well, Rick grew up in San Diego and attended Embry Riddle University in Prescott, Arizona with the intent of taking his passion for aviation in to Airport Operations. Instead, he graduated with an Aviation Management degree, began working in the Fixed Based Operator’s (FBO) line of
Too many of us have been affected by heart disease or stroke,” said Patricia Tonsgard of the airport’s Maintenance Division, who served as this year’s co-chair along with Lidia Gonzalez, also from Maintenance. “My mother and grandmother both died of heart disease, and I have set a personal goal to raise funds needed for critical heart disease and stroke research and education,” Tonsgard said.

All told, the airport’s luncheon and the efforts of the six enthusiastic Wing Walkers raised $1,100 for the American Heart Association.

Landmark has big plans at KBFI. In February of 2015, they plan to break ground on a new building, which will sit in the corner of their leasehold approximately where the Aviator Store is currently located. “This will allow us to build without having to disrupt current operations at the current building,” Wielebski stated. The redesign vision is big and may eventually include an MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) facility.

A father to four children, when he isn’t leading the 130 or so people into the future at Landmark, Rick loves being a dad and woodworking furniture for friends and family. He has family in Washington State he looks forward to re-connecting with and he doesn’t seem to mind having moving out of “tornado alley”.

Next time you are around the Landmark FBO, stop in and offer Rick a warm welcome to Seattle and KBFI!

Spills Response Training

Remember to provide Spills Training to your employees!

It is widely known in the airport industry that turnover is a necessary and expected part of any modern airport workforce. As your organization brings on new hires, don’t overlook Spills Response Training as a necessary part of their onboarding.

This training applies to all operators at the airport and must include instructions for proper use and the location of spill response materials and equipment. (Reference “Spills Policy & Procedure on the Tenant page of www.kingcounty.gov/airport)

All appropriate personnel should attend the Spill Response Training classes hosted by the Airport, which you can enroll in by contacting the Airport’s Environmental Engineer, Peter Dumaliang T (206) 296-7597 or Peter.Dumaliang@kingcounty.gov

Airport employees with fueling responsibilities should know how to contain spills and they should have access to adequate clean-up and spill response products and services at all times.

Tenant spill procedure response must be in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws. Provisions must be made to address spills of any liquid, defined in the KBFI Spills Response policy as “the release of any liquid other than clean water to any area not designed for storage or management of that liquid”.

Response time is key! Please make it a priority in new employee training that immediate notification of spills, regardless of the size, should be called into the Airport’s ARFF Unit at (206) 296-7391. Together, we can continue to foster employee education to correct spills and protect the airport environment.

Members of the Century Flight Club from British Columbia visit the Museum of Flight

Canada Century Flight Club

On July 15, 2014, members of Canada’s Century Flight Club flew to KBFI to visit the Museum of Flight (MoF) for the day. The members were participating in the clubs sixth annual fly-out convention in Nanaimo, British Columbia. For many, this was their first venture into U.S. airspace and they were impressed with the friendly service they received from KBFI air traffic controllers. Airport Operations staff arranged parking for the seventeen aircraft involved with marshalling assistance provided by the MoF staff.

The Century Flight Club was formed in 2009 on the 100th anniversary of flight in Canada. The club’s unique mandate was to immerse private pilots in aviation for a solid week with the goal of developing better, safer pilots. Since its establishment in 2009, more than 1,000 pilots and crew members have participated in this annual convention.

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