

VAA NEWS

EAAers Urged to Respond to TSA's Ominous Proposal

As reported last month, the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has proposed sweeping security rules for the operation of aircraft that weigh more than 12,500 pounds. The proposed regulation, titled the Large Aircraft Security Program, would require owners of those aircraft to obtain permission from TSA to operate their own personal aircraft every time they carry passengers. Additionally, all flight crews would be required to undergo fingerprinting and a background check, all passengers would have to be vetted against the government's terrorist watch lists, and numerous security requirements would be imposed on airports serving these "large" aircraft. EAA adamantly opposes this regulation and urges all members to respond to TSA.

In early November, TSA did extend the comment period on the proposal, as EAA and other aviation groups had requested. Instead of the original comment deadline of December 29, 2008, TSA extended the comment period until February 27, 2009. EAA had asked for a 90-day extension, but was nonetheless pleased with TSA's prompt action.

"We thank the TSA for agreeing with the many industry group and EAA members' requests for an extension, providing an additional two months to study and react to the proposal," said Doug Macnair, EAA vice president of government relations. "This proposal would be an unprecedented restriction on the freedom of movement for private U.S. citizens. It would also, for the first time, require governmental review and authority before a person could operate his/her own personal transportation conveyance.

"I would think many more people, such as owners of large recreational vehicles, also would share

VAA Volunteers of the Year

Each year the VAA honors a pair of volunteers who have shown exceptional dedication to the division and its membership through their service related to the annual convention. This year we have three honorees: Dave and Wanda Clark and Wheeler North. Our congratulations and thanks to them and to the more than 500 volunteers who dedicate a week or more of their lives each year to the VAA and their fellow members. For more on the volunteers who make it happen, see our article starting on page 6.



Wheeler North of Carlsbad, California, was selected as the Art Morgan Flightline Volunteer of the Year for his dedicated service to the members who fly in and park their airplanes in the Vintage area. Wheeler, a lifelong resident of the San Diego area, has been a regular volunteer for more than two decades. His enthusiasm for aviation is in part thanks to his father, a renowned professor of environmental science, who used the family Cherokee to survey kelp beds in the Pacific Ocean. Wheeler flies an RV-6 in the San Diego area. During the convention Wheeler is recognized for his ability to work well with fellow volunteers and members alike and for his great sense of humor, including a wonderful ability to compose a great limerick!



H. G. FRAUTSCHY PHOTOS

Dave and Wanda Clark of Plainfield, Indiana, the "peanut butter and jelly" couple (you always see them together!) of the Vintage Aircraft Association, are a multi-talented pair. They were chosen as the 2008 Behind the Scenes Volunteers of the Year.

Dave and Wanda are here working for EAA and VAA in Oshkosh almost as soon as the ice is out of the lake, and they're here helping close out the convention site when the leaves are falling from the trees. Dave and Wanda, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at AirVenture this year, are often seen on the convention grounds with a pair of hammers or screwdrivers in their hands. Dave serves as the judging chairman for the VAA, the master of ceremonies for the awards ceremony, and as a judge in the Antique category. Both he and Wanda cook at the Tall Pines Café. If you enjoyed the French toast during this year's convention, thank Wanda.

many of the same concerns aircraft owners have about this proposed regulation.”

How to Submit a Comment

To comment—refer to Docket No. TSA-2008-0021, “Large Aircraft Security Program, Other Aircraft Operator Security Program, and Airport Operator Security Program.”

By Mail, In Person or Fax to the Docket Management Facility, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Ave SE, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington DC 20590-0001. Fax 202-493-2251.

To comment electronically—access the Federal eRulemaking portal at www.Regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

You can review all the public comments to the TSA security proposal at the docket site on www.Regulations.gov.

Another Chance to Sound Off on 51 Percent Rule Policy Changes

Those of you who did not submit comments to the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA’s) proposed changes to interpretation and enforcement of the 51 percent rule have another opportunity to do so from now until December 15, 2008.

According to the FAA, reference materials were inadvertently removed for several days during a previous comment period, so the FAA decided in late October to accept further comments until December 15. The reference materials and other related documents are again posted at www.FAA.gov/aircraft/draft_docs/display_docs/index.cfm?doc_type=pubs

Working to Ensure Current and Future GA Fuel Supply

Announcements made in October by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) could further tighten the nation’s general aviation (GA) fuel supply, making increasingly relevant and urgent EAA’s ongoing advocacy work on

fuel-related issues. The EPA is proposing a broad-sweeping program of air-quality testing and monitoring to enforce newly adopted, and considerably more stringent, standards for allowable levels of lead. The final rule was not yet published in the Federal Register as this issue went to press.

As part of this effort, the EPA will direct state governments to examine whether general-aviation activity at certain airports contributes to unacceptable levels of lead in the air. The new standards lower the allowable amount of lead to 1/10 of previously accepted levels.

“We’re encountering increased



JIM KOEPNICK

Member Suggestions Drive AirVenture Site Enhancement Program

The comprehensive, multiyear program to expand and enhance the EAA AirVenture Oshkosh convention grounds is well underway, and many of the changes are a result of feedback provided by EAA members at last summer’s convention.

“We’ve extensively polled, surveyed, and listened to members since the site-planning process began,” said EAA Executive Vice President Brian Wierzbinski, a member of the AirVenture Site Task Force. “The feedback was very supportive and provided some valuable and constructive suggestions. Our members recognized the need for improvements and the benefits of modernizing and upgrading while retaining the event’s unique culture and heritage.”

As a result of the members’ input, the implementation schedule includes even more attention to improving site transportation and creating more shade and rest areas for members. Other priorities specifically driven by members’ comments include:

- Refurbishing campground showers with restroom facilities
- Improved way-finding aids
- Expanded tram service
- Better management of ground and road dust in the campground during exceptionally dry conditions
- Preserving some campground areas that have loyal return visitors year after year
- Establishing a restricted-vehicle zone
- Creating a bicycle path connecting the North 40 with Camp Scholler within the next few years.

We’ll have an announcement next month concerning exciting changes in store for the Vintage Aircraft Association area in next month’s *Vintage Airplane*.

pressure on the availability of fuel for piston-powered aircraft on two fronts," said Earl Lawrence, EAA vice president of industry and regulatory affairs. "For those whose aircraft may operate on unleaded avgas, we've had to fight on a state-by-state basis to try to preserve a supply that does not contain ethanol or other additives not approved for aviation use. Now, with this EPA announcement, we're also seeing the potential for restrictions on aircraft running on leaded fuel in a given area."

The EPA indicates that testing and monitoring must first reveal whether any such restrictions will become necessary. In cases where monitoring confirms that an airport region's air exceeds allowable lead limits, the respective state government will be required to resolve the issue...which could mean restrictions on aircraft operations using 100LL avgas.

"There isn't enough data to predict whether aircraft burning 100LL in any airport region will cause lead levels to exceed the new limits there. That's why the EPA must do all this testing and monitoring first," Lawrence said.

Meanwhile, EAA continues its work not only to address immediate fuel concerns, such as promoting the availability of usable unleaded fuel and advocating against undue restrictions on leaded fuel, but also to help develop alternatives for the future.

"Innovative spirit, creativity, and industriousness are hallmarks of the EAA community. As pressure on the use of traditional aircraft fuels continues to mount, this community of dedicated enthusiasts who understand the value of general aviation will surely contribute to solutions," Lawrence said.

Old Oshkosh Control Tower

EAA has received several calls since the end of AirVenture 2008 about the fate of the old Oshkosh control tower and wondering if souvenirs might be available. The tower was originally scheduled

Stocking Stuffer

Give the Gift of Oshkosh This Year

EAA is again offering advance ticket purchasing for EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2009—and just in time for the holiday season. EAA members and non-members may prepurchase daily and weekly AirVenture admission tickets via a secure website and get a \$2 daily or \$5 weekly discount. This system was created by ClicknPrint Tickets and is made possible through support from Jeppesen.



"The response to the availability of online advance tickets for Oshkosh 2008 was overwhelming," said Rick Larsen, EAA's vice president of marketing. "It was an easy decision to bring back that system for Oshkosh 2009, and we're focused on making the admissions process even more convenient so you can get to the fun even faster!"

To access the advance ticketing, visit www.AirVenture.org and click on "Buy Tickets Online Now." Full

instructions and answers to frequently asked questions are available at that site.

Advance EAA AirVenture tickets also make great Christmas and holiday gifts and allow recipients to enjoy many months of anticipation prior to their own Oshkosh experience. "We wanted the advance ticket option to be available prior to the holidays to satisfy the many requests we received to make AirVenture admissions an easy-to-give holiday gift," Larsen said.

Steps to simplify the admission structure will also be enacted for next year's event. Youth and student admissions have been merged into a single admission category, while children 5 years old and younger continue to be welcomed to the event free of charge. In addition, EAA members are encouraged to bring guests, with a guest weekly admission now including a one-year EAA membership.

for demolition this fall, but Wittman Regional Airport Director Peter Moll recently said an actual demolition date was never established. "The best guess right now is that it won't happen until late winter or early spring." Some remaining equipment in the building belongs to the FAA, and the agency needs to remove it before it can be demolished.

Once the FAA has taken everything out, the building becomes (per the tower construction contract) property of Miron Construction Company, which will raze the structure. Moll said that, according to Miron, it would not be economically feasible to demolish the building in such a way as to

save any "souvenirs" that could be made available to the public. The old tower will definitely be torn down well before EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2009.



Homebuilders Videos Have Large Following

EAA's new Hints for Homebuilders videos have become among the most popular destinations on



@EAA.org

New Photo Galleries

View several new photo galleries recently posted to the EAA website, including:

- U2 at AirVenture
- Copperstate 2008
- AirVenture Museum 25th anniversary
- SERFI 2008
- EAA Hall of Fame ceremonies

Visit www.EAA.org/photos to see all these galleries and more.

the EAA website. The brief how-to hints demonstrate helpful, timesaving tips for aircraft homebuilders and restorers.

More than 325,000 video downloads have occurred since the Hints debuted in March 2008, and EAA recently added the 50th installment. "We couldn't be more pleased with how our members have embraced this series," said Charlie Becker, EAA's director of member programs. "Hints for Homebuilders captures what EAA is all about: members helping each other, passing along their knowledge and skills to others; inventing better, simpler, and less expensive ways to do things; and sharing with anyone who wants to learn."

EAA welcomes your ideas for future Hints for Homebuilders. If you wish to contribute an idea, send an e-mail to info@eaa.org, and please put "Hints" in the subject line.

First EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2009 Highlights Announced

It's only December, but it's not too soon to start making plans for EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2009, scheduled for July 27 to August 2. EAA staff and volunteers are preparing for the annual aviation homecoming, as several highlights have already been announced.

Visitors next year can expect a visit from WhiteKnightTwo, the carrier ship for the new SpaceShipTwo space tourism vehicle; a reunion of participants from the five visits of British Airways' Concorde to Oshkosh in the 1980s and 1990s; special recognition of aviation's humanitarian role around the world; and programs saluting international aviation anniversaries and homebuilt aircraft.

In addition, comedian/ventriloquist Jeff Dunham, one of the nation's hottest comedy concert draws and an experienced helicopter builder and pilot, has confirmed his return for an appearance on Saturday, August 1, presented once again by RotorWay International. Dunham's appearance at Oshkosh in 2008 drew an estimated 10,000 people.

All that plus thousands of showplanes, more than 800 exhibitors, and of course, "EAA University" with 1,000 forums, workshops, and seminars. Look for regular updates on next year's World's Greatest Aviation Celebration, along with everything you need to plan your 2009 visit, on www.AirVenture.org in the coming months.

EAA Seeks GA Relief From Proposed Canada ELT Rule

EAA is asking Transport Canada
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Upcoming Major Fly-Ins

U.S. Sport Aviation Expo

Sebring Regional Airport (SEF)
Sebring, Florida
January 22-25, 2009
www.Sport-Aviation-Expo.com

Aero Friedrichshafen

Messe Friedrichshafen, Friedrichshafen, Germany
April 2-5, 2009
www.Aero-Friedrichshafen.com/html/en

Sun 'n Fun Fly-In at Lakeland

Lakeland Linder Regional Airport (LAL)
Lakeland, Florida
April 21-26, 2009
www.Sun-N-Fun.org

Golden West Regional Fly-In

Yuba County Airport (MYV)
Marysville, California
June 12-14, 2009
www.GoldenWestFlyIn.org

Virginia Regional Festival of Flight

Suffolk Executive Airport (SFQ)
Suffolk, Virginia
May 30-31, 2009
www.VirginiaFlyIn.org

Rocky Mountain Regional Fly-In

Front Range Airport (FTG)
Watkins, Colorado
TBD
www.RMRFI.org

Arlington Fly-In

Arlington Municipal Airport (AWO)
Arlington, Washington
July 8-12, 2009
www.NWEAA.org

EAA AirVenture Oshkosh

Wittman Regional Airport (OSH)
Oshkosh, Wisconsin
July 27-August 2, 2009
www.AirVenture.org

Mid-Eastern Regional Fly-In

Grimes Field (I74)
Urbana, Ohio
September 12-13, 2009
www.MERFI.info

Southeast Regional Fly-In

Middleton Field Airport (GZH)
Evergreen, Alabama
October 23-25, 2009
www.SERFI.org

Copperstate Regional Fly-In

Casa Grande Municipal Airport (CGZ)
Casa Grande, Arizona
October 22-25, 2009
www.Copperstate.org

For details on EAA chapter fly-ins and other local aviation events, visit www.EAA.org/events.