

# NEW HORIZONS

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October 2013 Issue 42

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Mary Sharfe will be retiring from the Department of Aviation on October 31, 2013. Mary has provided 27 excellent years of government service in both the county and state government system. She is an amazing advocate of breast cancer awareness and has worked extensively over the years with the First Lady's Celebration of Hope.

After retirement, Mary will be taking some time to herself to spend with family, friends, and her sweet dog Daisy.

Mary can't think of a greater department to be ending her State Government career in than the Department of Aviation and has thoroughly enjoyed her time there. She has stated many times how much of a pleasure it has been to work with so many good people in the Transportation Cabinet and within the aviation industry.

We will all miss her caring personality and loud laughter ringing down the halls.



By Greg Kocher — gkocher1@herald-leader.com

GEORGETOWN — For someone who had just jumped out of an airplane from 10,000 feet, Jacqueline King didn't look worse for wear. In fact, she was exhilarated.

"It was so cool," King said of her tandem jump with an experienced skydiver at Saturday's Airfest at the Georgetown-Scott County Regional Airport.

"At first, I was kind of scared, but everything was going so fast," King said, beaming with an ear-to-ear smile. "And then I was like, free-falling, and it was so awesome. ...I flew through a cloud. It was like a breath of fresh air."

Not everyone at the event chose, as Jimi Hendrix might say, a "'scuse-me-while-I-kiss-the-sky" experience, but they had opportunities to do so.

For \$400, visitors could ride in a restored World War II B-25D bomber that made eight runs over Nazi-held Italy in 1944. The bomber, manufactured 70 years ago, flew to Scott County from the Yankee Air Museum in southeastern Michigan.

What's flying a 70-year-old airplane like?

"Well, when you're 76 years old, it feels pretty damn good," said co-pilot Joe Toth. "It's a piece of history. It's a well-behaved airplane. It has its tricks up its sleeve, but you learn what they are, as you would with any piece of equipment. It's a pleasure and an honor to fly the airplane."

Visitors who didn't want to fork over four C-notes could ride in a Vietnam War-era Huey helicopter for \$60.

Jack Reid of Georgetown treated his 7-year-old daughter, Taylor, to a ride in the helicopter. "I liked when we went down and sideways," she said.

"We went left and right and up and down," Jack Reid said. "It was a real neat experience."

This was the second Airfest, which was last held in 2011. Airport Manager James Toole hopes to hold the event every other year.

"We just want the general public to know that the airport's here," Toole said.

The airport, located off U.S. 460 five miles east of Georgetown, is important in the effort to keep and attract jobs, Toole said, because "corporate America does not come to town by bus. They fly in and drive to locations."

In 2010, the airport beat 600 airports in eight Southern states to be named the Southern Regional Airport of the Year by the Federal Aviation Administration. Federal dollars were used to repave the airport's 5,500-foot-long runway and widen the ends of a parallel taxiway.

Private, general-aviation aircraft were also displayed at Saturday's event, including a rear-engine Cozy Mark IV rebuilt by Matthew Bunch.

"It flies 200 miles per hour," Bunch said. "I can carry 300 pounds of fuel and 700 pounds of people and baggage. I can get from here to Miami non-stop in five hours."

Bunch said he has airplane parts shipped directly to his family's bankruptcy law office in Lexington, where his wife, Caryn, is also an attorney.

"Our deal is, whatever I spend on the airplane, she gets to spend an equal amount on jewelry," Bunch said. "So she'll say, 'What new part are you getting in today, Matt?' And I'll say, 'It's the same money, so I'm not spending any new money. So no more new money for you, honey.' And she'll go, 'I don't believe you.'"

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Read more here: <http://www.kentucky.com/2013/09/14/2822164/airfest-gives-visitors-to-scott.html#storylink=cpy>



The Capital City Airport in Frankfort, Kentucky, hosted an Aviation Day from 9 AM – 2 PM, Saturday, September 21, 2013. The purpose of Aviation Day was to showcase the Capital City Airport by giving folks an opportunity to come out and get an up-close look at the wide variety of aircraft that fly into the airport.

Initially, the weather was not favorable but it ended beautifully with the sun shining and several visitors enjoying the activities. Not to anyone's surprise, people were ready to come in the gates before the official start time. An estimated 2,000 people visited Aviation Day which indicates the loyalty of the community to support this event and their interest in aviation.

There were civilian, private, state and military aircraft on display. In addition, the Frankfort chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) provided free airplane rides for children ages 8-17. The EAA pilots are to be commended. It was obvious from the onset that the airplane rides were the main attraction. Once the rides began at approximately 10:30 AM, each pilot continued to fly until the last child got to ride at approximately 2:30 PM, which was after the event closed. That's a lot of take offs and landings but the flight experience made a lot of children and their parents very happy. One parent said she waited in line for 2 ½ hours but it was worth it. Fuel vendor Shell/Eastern Aviation is big a supporter of the event and provided fuel for the free rides.

Flights for adults were also be available for a donation to the Kentucky National Guard Memorial Fund.

Representatives from the Kentucky Institute for Aerospace Education (KIAE) were on hand to assist young people interested in aviation by providing a ground school and simulator experience. Personnel from the aviation program at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) also attended. These aviation education programs are part of the many organizations and vendors that participated in this year's Aviation Day.

There were also other things of interest to the public: state and local law enforcement and fire departments, LifeNet Helicopter, local vendors, food, etc. Admission to the event was free.

The continued success of Aviation Day is possible only because of the participation from a multitude of people and organizations that care about the airport, aviation and the community.

Thanks again to each supporter and attendee. Next year's Aviation Day is tentatively planned for September 20, 2014.

<http://www.cca.ky.gov> or call (502) 564-3714.

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The 37th Annual Kentucky Aviation Conference was a success! Attendees were able to network with aviation professionals, attend several educational sessions, and hear prominent speakers, such as Henry Ogrodzinski, President and CEO of the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO). Those in attendance also had the privilege of touring Mammoth Cave and were entertained by Kentucky Native and Country Music Legend, John Conlee.

At its 37th annual conference, the Kentucky Aviation Association, in partnership with the Kentucky Department of Aviation, presented Airport Board Member and Airport Manager of the Year awards for outstanding service at commercial service and general aviation airports. Kentucky Airports: “Unbridled Access to the World”, was the conference theme and KAA brought together a range of aviation professionals and government leaders last week. Featured speakers included Henry Ogrodzinski, President and CEO for the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO).

“Kentucky is fortunate to have 59 airports, as far west as Fulton and as far east at Pikeville” Department of Aviation Commissioner Winn Turney said. “These airports are valuable public economic assets by being the welcome mat of our communities.” A highlight of the conference was presentations of:

**Airport Board Member of the Year Award(s)** The Kentucky Department of Aviation presented the following awards at the conference. Patsy Sloan, Chair Woman of the Bowling Green Warren County Regional Airport Board, was named Airport Board Member of the Year in the commercial service airport category. Jim Johnson, Chairman of the Marion-Crittenden County Airport Board, was named Airport Board Member of the Year in the general aviation airport category.

#### **Airport Manager of the Year Award(s)**

The Kentucky Aviation Association presented the following awards at the conference. C.T. “Skip” Miller, A.A.E., Executive Director of the Louisville Regional Airport Authority, was named Airport Manager of the Year in the commercial service airport category. Jon Foote, Airport Manager of the Tompkinsville-Monroe County Airport, was named Airport Manager of the Year in the general aviation airport category.

#### **Air Medical Services Awards**

A highlight of the conference was the presentation of Kentucky ACE Awards, the highest aviation award presented in the Commonwealth. The Kentucky Aviation Association presented the following awards and accepting for Air Methods was Kim McCarty, Air Evac Lifeteam was Donald Hare, and PHI was Richard Larson who provide air and surface medical transport systems. The mission of the Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS) is to provide a forum for air medical and critical care transport services. AAMS’s goal is to promote the highest level of industry safety and commitment to the delivery of excellence in clinical care during the transport of the critically ill or injured. Through collaborative efforts, they promote education and the exchange of information among programs throughout the Commonwealth and across the country.

These individuals represent an individual or group who has demonstrated excellence in promoting aviation – going above and beyond in accomplishments, dedication and helpfulness in their community and making a positive impact in the Commonwealth,” said Rob Barnett, President of the Kentucky Aviation Association.



## **Boyle airport on its way to becoming self-sufficient Facility handles about 4,000 flights annually By STEPHANIE MOJICA**

Despite a challenged economy, the Danville-Boyle County Airport has experienced significant increases in its profitability over the past four years and hopes to eventually become a truly self sufficient community enterprise.

When longtime flight instructor and Casey County native J.W. Lynn took over management of the airport four years ago, the site was selling 61,000 gallons of fuel a year. Now, the airport sells about 125,000 gallons of fuel annually. The site, which has a Danville mailing address but also encompasses portions of Junction City and Lincoln County, caters to business travelers and recreational pilots.

Under Lynn's leadership along with the guidance of longtime Airport Board Chairman Stuart Powell, the runways have experienced a 30 percent increase in traffic over the past four years. The airport handles about 4,000 flights annually. Lynn maintains a waiting list of about 60 people who would like to rent hangar space. Powell hopes as profits continue to increase that board members can authorize the construction of at least another hangar for aircraft. Officials also rent a significant amount of space to Air Evac Lifeteam. The Missouri-headquartered business is the largest independently-owned and -operated, membership-supported air ambulance company in the United States. Local officials recently celebrated Air Evac's five-year presence at the Danville-Boyle County Airport. In addition, Kentucky State Police has an office at the airport and keeps one of its helicopters there. Officials use the aircraft for a variety of law enforcement missions, including searching for missing people or looking for illicit drug activity.

Danville City Commissioner Kevin Caudill said the airport's continued growth would be impossible without Powell's dedication. For example, Powell recently garnered a \$405,000 grant from the federal government. "The airport and particularly the importance of the airport has grown significantly over the past several years," Caudill said.

"The new terminal was added, the heli-evac service was added and there's been one or two additional hangars constructed."

In separate interviews, Caudill, Powell and Danville Mayor Bernie Hunstad all referred to the airport as one of the best-kept secrets in the region. Hunstad has visited several airports throughout Kentucky and said Danville's far exceeds the aesthetic appeal, services and traffic that most community airports tend to possess. Danville city government allocated \$28,000 in funding for the Airport Board for fiscal year 2013-14, and Boyle County Fiscal Court funded the airport's efforts to the tune of \$20,000.

Continued on next page....

“That’s a bargain for the kind of service that you get from the airport,” Hunstad said regarding the level of funding local government officials extend to the Airport Board. Hunstad agrees that Powell’s objective of having the airport become self-supporting in the not-so-distant future is an achievable goal. Danville-Boyle County Economic Development Partnership CEO Jody Lassiter, who moved to the area in late 2007, wrote in a recent email that even in his fairly short time in the Danville area he, too, has noticed a lot of growth in the quality and quantity of services offered at the airport.

“Our airport is an important entrance to our community and region, particularly for corporate jet or airplane travel,” Lassiter wrote. “It is heavily used by our local and regional industries as well as their company executives. Our airport also has some key features such as the second, perpendicular, but shorter north-south runway that can be lengthened to allow take-offs and landings in any prevailing wind pattern. It really has the makings of a regional, multipurpose airport that can have an even greater economic impact.”

Caudill also believes the airport’s growth will have a positive impact on attracting new industries to the Danville area.

“I think (the airport) has become increasingly important in our economic development efforts,” Caudill said. “Having such a nice facility with runways that can accommodate virtually any aircraft has to be a positive attribute. We are accessible and accommodating to corporate aircraft/executives, and places like Hitachi use the airport for its just-in-time inventory and production system.”

Powell and Lynn want people to understand that while the runways might be geared toward people who own or rent aircraft, that the complex is truly a community mission. Powell often says, “It’s your airport,” when making presentations at Danville City Commission and Boyle County Fiscal Court meetings.

The recently-expanded meeting room is available to organizations of all types that may need gathering space. Powell and Lynn also hope more people who live in the Danville area will arrange a tour of the facilities.

“I encourage anyone with some time to spare to allow Mr. Powell to take them on a tour of the airport,” Caudill said. “He is synonymous with the airport in my opinion. His passion and enthusiasm are contagious. His ability to find grant money and his pursuit of those funds is unmatched. I’d have to believe without Mr. Powell, our airport would be just another rural airstrip where pilots stopped to stretch their legs. Instead, we have a state-of-the-art facility which is appreciated by all those who stop here and should be equally appreciated by the citizens of Danville and Boyle County.”

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The New Horizons Newsletter is prepared and designed by the Department of Aviation, and printed by the KYTC Division of Property and Supply Services. It is paid for with State Funds under KRS 57.375 and printed as a public service to the Aviation Community.



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