

THE RUNWAY



Kentucky Department of Aviation



BIG DREAMS

Picture of Will Herron from Aviation Day 2020 Photo by: Emily Herron

MEET EMILY HERRON

Dedicated to building aviation at Madisonville Regional Airport and within the family on page 3

BEAR FLIGHTS

Each spring, biologists are flown to check on Kentucky's bears to ensure a sustainable population on page 5



Photo by: T. Curry



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LETTER FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Hello to all of our friends in aviation!

I hope this newsletter finds you well and excited for things to come. We have been busy here at the Department of Aviation with inspecting airports, funding projects, helping educators and legislators, and working with the FAA to get the most significant benefit for the state.

For project funding, we conservatively planned for about 50% of the previous year's revenue. That conservative planning appears to be on target. We expect to receive close to 60% of last year's budget after the final quarter of funds are collected. This report is positive news for all of the projects targeted on our list. We are addressing pavement, lighting, fencing, obstruction clearing, fuel systems, and even some vertical development.

One of the biggest news in aviation was the formation of the Aerospace and Aviation Caucus in the legislature. The Caucus is nonpartisan and contains members from both the House and Senate. Our state's infrastructure must grow to match the need as aviation grows and the Aerospace and Aviation Caucus will be a crucial channel to keep our elected officials educated and informed as we rush into the future of transit and product delivery.

The construction of the new airport in Gallatin County is proceeding on schedule. It is truly amazing to see the transformation of the rolling hills on site during the groundbreaking in the fall of 2019. It is now planned to be a 5,500-foot runway with full parallel and a generous ramp. Paving should begin this fall. We anticipate planes landing by late 2022.

Kentucky has made great strides to address the growing shortage of airline pilots, aircraft mechanics, and other aviation professionals. Here are a few initiatives:

- We worked with the legislators, ECU, and the Airport Board to change a statute to allow ECU to have members on the Central Kentucky Regional Airport Board. This

change will enable the school to make tangible investments in the facilities at the airport. Those investments will benefit all users of the airport.

- Madisonville Community College opened a two-year helicopter training at the airport in Madisonville and fixed-wing pilot training program in at the airport in Muhlenberg.
- Bardstown-Nelson County Airport recently celebrated the first flight of a Carbon Cub kit plane built entirely by local high school students.
- Breckinridge County Airport is starting a high school pilot training program featuring state-of-the-art virtual reality technology.
- The EAA Chapter at the Cynthiana Airport is building an RV-12 with area high school students. After it is completed and deemed airworthy, its sale will fund the next aircraft build.
- Flight Club 502 at Bowman Field celebrated the flight and sale of their RV-12 built by high school students.

As we move to the future, our airports are becoming increasingly valuable to our communities, the Commonwealth, and the nation. As aviation leaders, we must all do our best to make our airports the best they can be. The KDA team is your partner in this endeavor.

Please do not hesitate to include us in your plans or ask for help. We will do whatever we can to help you reach your goals.

**Thank you all
for keeping
aviation rocking
in Kentucky!**

Todd X. Bloch
Commissioner
Kentucky Dept.
of Aviation



AIRPORT NEWS



Emily and her Dad, Bob Jones, flying N6745H this past Aviation Day

a two-month-old sitting on his mother's lap in Montgomery, Alabama. In 1959, Kenzie moved the family back to his home state of Kentucky and settled in Lexington. Bob grew up flying the J-3 out of Marshall Field in Georgetown. In the late '60s, the Jones family moved to Paris, where he flew with his dad using a small grass landing strip on their farm. Bob fulfilled a childhood dream of playing football at UK as starting placekicker from 1968-70. After college, he acquired the J-3 Cub from his father. He married his wife, Laura, then started his career in education and high school Football. The family moved from Kentucky to support Bob as he pursued his coaching career in Florida. They started a family with two wonderful children. He shared the fun and wonder of aviation in the family J-3 Cub.

Emily and her brother Ryan grew up flying with their dad. Emily soloed when she was 17, but unfortunately, she could not complete her private pilot's license before heading off to college. Ryan also liked to fly but could not obtain his pilot's license due to visual impairment. Because Emily's father's roots ran deep in Kentucky and the family loved UK sports, she pursued her college degree at the University of Kentucky. Like her dad, Emily began a career in education in Ohio County after marrying a Kentuckian and established her own roots in the Bluegrass State.

After several years of being a Family Resource Coordinator in Ohio County, Emily was once again bitten by the flying bug and became involved with the Ninety-nines, an international women's flying organization started by Amelia Earhart. She received dual instruction with her instructor in Florida and was able to finally finish her private pilot's license. Her mother and father retired and moved back to Kentucky to reside in Elizabethtown. This relocation allowed Emily to fly with her dad frequently.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

We look to find an airport, a program, an initiative, or a person in our Kentucky aviation family to highlight for each newsletter. We are proud to highlight Emily Herron's story in this issue. Emily serves as the manager of the Madisonville Regional Airport and is Vice-Chair of the Ohio County Airport Board. Her family has a long history in Kentucky aviation.

The story starts with Emily's grandfather, Kenzie Jones, who bought a J-3 Cub in 1949 from Southern Airways. It was used as a trainer for the airline and was previously one of the thousands of WWII Cub trainers that the airline amassed. Emily's father, Bob Jones, took his first ride in that same J-3 as



Photo by Emily Herron and Bob Jones

The Ohio County Airport Board had an opening in 2017. Knowing Emily's passion for aviation, they asked her to join. She gladly accepted the offer. Emily brings endless energy into everything she does, and performing her Airport Board duties is no exception. Within a year, she served as the Board Chair. Her goal was to improve and grow the airport. Emily, the board, and the new FBO manager, David Woosley, made great improvements, increased investments, and brought new life to the Ohio County Airport. In 2020, Emily retired from education and then took aviation passion from a hobby to a livelihood by accepting the offer to be the manager of the Madisonville Regional Airport.

Still active on the Board, Emily decided to step down as Ohio County Airport Board Chair to focus her energies on the new position. She took on the challenges of integrating the new flight school program and expanding the facilities. This dedication involved adding new T-Hangars, fuel system upgrades, and improvements to the facility and pavement. Aviation is now 100% of Emily's life. When she is not working at the airport, she is volunteering for airport board activities.

Between all of those activities, Emily is learning to craft fabric aircraft coverings from her father. Bob owns Ragwings, an aircraft recovering and restoration business based in Elizabethtown. He began passing down his knowledge and expertise in aircraft recovering to his daughter while the two of them recovered the fuselage of their family Cub. Emily and her father have almost completed recovering a J-3, and it is ready for the final coats of the ever-recognizable Cub yellow paint. They hope to be back in the air by late May. Next winter, they plan to recover the wings and flight controls.

Emily continues the family aviation lineage by sharing her passion with Will, her 7-year-old son, and her husband, Seth, who is working on his pilot's license. Will loves to hang around at the airport and fly with his mom and his grandfather. The circle of life and love of aviation continues.

Will is pictured on the cover of this Newsletter from a picture taken on Aviation Day last August. It is a great photo representing how the future of our aviation and aerospace communities so often begins in the eyes and imaginations of our youth.



Fish and Wildlife Private Lands Wildlife Biologist
Merle Hacker with cubs. Photo by: T. Curry

BEAR FLIGHTS

Bear Tracking Missions

KDA is a vital branch of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet supporting the state's transportation network to attract new businesses, provide safe connections, and maintain airport operations. But did you know it assists with bears?

KDA has a flight service assisting other agencies with their flight needs. One example is a partnership with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

KDA pilot Michael Riensche says, "Our aircraft are equipped with special antennas that can pick up the radio signals from radio-collared bears. We can pinpoint within 60 to 100 feet of the den's location, and then a team will go back on foot."

John Hast, Bear Program Coordinator, says, "We have been studying the bear population in Kentucky since 2001. It is important to monitor and manage them to ensure that the population remains a sustainable size."

KDA provides flights for Fish and Wildlife biologists, like Merle Hacker, as they do their springtime bear check.

Female bears are outfitted with a radio frequency collar that emits a signal aiding in the location of a bear's den.

Merle says, "It is so important to get those flights because these bears will travel from where we collar them. Monitoring their movements is critical. The topography of some of these areas is impossible to access with vehicles. Flights give us the ability to cover a lot of ground from the sky."

The spring provides a small window to check in with momma bears and their cubs just as their eyes open. The momma bear is sedated while the family is checked and data is collected.

The momma bear has her collar checked, and the young cubs are chipped to help follow them throughout their lives.

Fish and Wildlife uses KDA's flight service for other missions involving eagles, wild turkeys, waterfowl, and elk monitoring.

Division of Forestry uses KDA's flight service to assist with monitoring wildfires, insect infestation, and ice storm damage. Other agencies use the service to transport personnel across the state.

KDA's fleet of planes and helicopters provides a cost-effective flight service for agencies while providing an income for KDA. Funds go back into the state's aviation system providing a winning partnership for Kentucky's economy.



Fish and Wildlife Black Bear Biologist
Tristan Curry with cubs. Photo by: M. Hacker

ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION



Danville apron reconstruction Photo by: Stantec

Even with the reduction in the Jet Fuel Tax collected during the past year of COVID, Jake Dahl and the KDA team have optimized the tax dollars collected and are getting a sizable number of airport improvement projects designed and/or started across the Commonwealth this construction season. It is refreshing to see all the positive economic activity after the uncertainty of COVID.

With few exceptions, the following projects began with submitting a Pre-Application Form. Getting your potential projects submitted early in the process allows us to plan and prioritize projects across the system.

Forms located [transportation.ky.gov/Organizational-Resources/Pages/Forms-Library-\(TC-56\).aspx](https://transportation.ky.gov/Organizational-Resources/Pages/Forms-Library-(TC-56).aspx).

PAVEMENT PROJECTS:

Taylor County Airport (AAS)

Partial Parallel Taxiway Extension

Gene Snyder Airport (K62)

Runway Overlay

Gallatin County Airport

Runway, Partial Parallel Taxiway, Apron, Access Road

Muhlenberg County Airport (M21)

Apron Expansion for Flight School (Design)

Bowman Field Airport (LOU)

Runway Reconstruction (Design)

Madisonville Regional Airport (2I0)

Apron Expansion & Taxi Lane for Flight School

Owensboro-Daviess County Regional Airport

Reconstruct Concrete Apron Panels

Hopkinsville-Christian County Airport (HVC)

Runway Overlay

Columbia-Adair County Airport (I96)

Taxiway Reconstruction

Mayfield-Graves County Airport (M25)

Apron Expansion

Statewide Aviation Pavement Specification Program



Morehead pavement and lighting Photo by: Garver

AIRFIELD ELECTRICAL PROJECTS:

Central Kentucky Regional Airport (RGA)

LED Airfield Lighting and NavAid Replacement

Gene Snyder Airport (K62)

LED Airfield Lighting and NavAid

Lake Barkley State Park Airport (1M9)

LED Airfield Lighting and NavAid Replacement

Mount Sterling-Montgomery County Airport (10B)

LED NavAid Replacement

Middlesboro-Bell County Airport (1A6)

LED NavAid Replacement

Wendell H. Ford Airport (CPF)

LED NavAid Replacement

Glasgow Municipal Airport (GLW)

Rotating Beacon Replacement

Princeton-Caldwell County Airport (2M0)

Rotating Beacon Replacement

Tompkinsville-Monroe County Airport (TZV)

Replace Beacon Tower



Russellville hangar Photo by: Garver

MARKING PROJECTS*:

Fleming-Mason Airport (FGX)

Airfield Remarking

Lake Barkley State Park Airport (1M9)

Airfield Remarking

Russellville-Logan County Airport (4M7)

Airfield Remarking

Fulton Airport (4M7)

Airfield Remarking

Mayfield-Graves County Airport (M25)

Airfield Remarking

Columbia-Adair County Airport (I96)

Airfield Remarking

Williamsburg-Whitley County Airport (BYL)

Marking Cleaning

Tompkinsville-Monroe County Airport (TZV)

Marking Cleaning

*will be completed by KDA staff with a KYTC Master Agreement



Columbia apron Photo by: Garver

AIRPORT BUILDINGS:

Barkley Regional Airport (PAH)

New Terminal Building

Samuel's Field Airport (BRY)

New Terminal Building

Russellville-Logan County Airport (4M7)

T-Hangar Building Repairs

Fleming-Mason Airport (FGX)

New Box Hangar

Breckinridge County Airport (I93)

New Box Hangar

Addington Field Airport (EKX)

New Box Hangar



Foulmouth slide
Photo by: Stantec

SECURITY, OBSTRUCTIONS, & MISC.:

Gene Snyder Airport (K62)

Runway Obstruction Removal

Bowman Field Airport (LOU)

Obstruction Analysis for Runways 6-24, 15-33

Rough River State Park Airport (2I3)

Runway Obstruction Removal

Bowling Green-Warren Co. Regional Airport (BWG)

Sinkhole Repairs

Russellville-Logan County Airport (4M7)

Airfield Fencing Replacement

Williamsburg-Whitley County Airport (BYL)

Paint Fuel Tanks and Beacon Tower

Tucker-Guthrie Memorial Airport (I35)

Environmental Assessment for Runway Extension

Georgetown-Scott County Regional Airport (27K)

Runway Safety Area Improvement Design

PROJECTS (continued)



Morehead fuel Photo by: Garver

FUEL SYSTEM PROJECTS:

Fulton Airport (1M7)
Replace AvGas System

Ohio County Airport (JQD)
New JetA System

Julian Carroll Airport (JKL)
Fuel System Repair



KDA Engineering Branch Manager

Jake Dahl is here to help you get your project from concept to construction. You can reach him at 502-564-0248 or email him at jake.dahl@ky.gov.

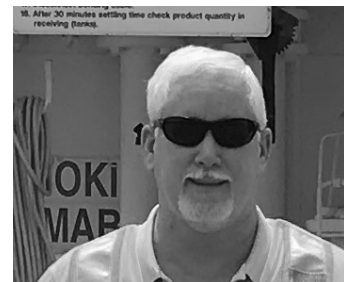
AIRPORT INSPECTIONS

Spring inspections are in full swing. The inspection team of Joe Carter and Terry Hancock identifies opportunities for improvement to keep the airports and approaches safe for the flying public. In May, Joe is transferring to the Engineering Branch. This move will strengthen the department as we work to standardize and develop our internal processes.

View the inspection results at transportation.ky.gov/Aviation/Pages/Inspections-Fall-2020.aspx

Based on the chart below, airports can have an estimate on when our inspectors will show up each year.

2020-2021 INSPECTIONS			
Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8
May	June	July	August
Bardstown	Danville	Cynthiana	Ashland
Campbellsville	Monticello	Falmouth	Hazard
Columbia	Pine Knott	Flemingsburg	Jackson
Glasgow	Richmond	Frankfort	Morehead
Jamestown	Somerset	Georgetown	Pikeville
Springfield	Williamsburg	LOU - Bowman	Prestonsburg
Tompkinsville		Mt. Sterling - Stanton	West Liberty



DYNAMIC INSPECTOR DUO

Joe Carter and Terry Hancock are responsible for the KDA Airport Inspection Branch. If you have any questions, contact Joe at 502-564-4713 and Terry at 502-564-0371.

SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (sUAS)



Glenn Anderson, UAS Engineer

GLENN ANDERSON HAS FLOWN THE COOP

In UAS news, Glenn Anderson, our resident UAS Engineer and Drone expert, retired at the end of April after 32 years of working at the Transportation Cabinet.

Glenn graduated in 1986 from UK with a degree in Electrical Engineering and went to work for the Transportation Cabinet. He worked for 11 years with the Cabinet before leaving the state and becoming a consultant at TEC Engineering, a traffic engineering consulting firm. After two years with TEC, Glenn came back to KYTC and continued his career in Traffic, working on the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), and has been in the Department of Aviation since 2016.

Over his career with the state, Glenn worked on many cutting-edge technological projects, including the development and implementation of the Transportation Cabinet's road weather information system, the statewide traffic signal monitoring software, Bluetooth travel time monitoring system, and various automated diagnostic tools for traffic signal system maintenance. He found Traffic systems was rewarding because he would see dramatic and immediate improvements to traffic flow through signal coordination.

Glenn was an radio control hobbyist in his youth back in 1976 and wanted to incorporate some of that same passion into his work. He operated New Perspective Aerial Photography from 1994 through 2008 using fixed-wing drones and 35mm cameras, assisted KYTC's survey branch with a drone surveying proof of concept in 2015, and drafted the first FAA 333 exemption awarded to a highway department.

Those experiences provided Glenn the opportunity to come to the Department of Aviation in 2016. At KDA, Glenn was instrumental in drafting Kentucky's drone laws, provided policy guidance to many agencies across the state, managed procurement contracts, taught Part 107 classes, and formed a multi-agency UAS user group that continues today.

Glenn's vast engineering experience and UAS knowledge will be sorely missed at KDA. We wish him the very best in his next phase of life. While Glenn does plan to work part-time at AerialRobotics.com, he is most looking forward to more leisure time for sailing, fishing, gardening, drone racing, and other hobbies yet to be picked up. Thank you, Glenn, for all your years of service to the Commonwealth.

AIRPORT UPDATE



Picture provided by KDA

GALLATIN COUNTY AIRPORT

Gallatin County Airport (Sparta, KY) construction is moving along as planned. We should be landing planes in November of this year if the weather cooperates. The paving phase is out for bid as of this printing, and we are awaiting the award results.

Phase I of the paving project consists of a 5500' x 75' asphalt runway with a 1400' x 35' parallel taxiway, apron connector, a 300' x 250' apron, a 3200' access road with a connection to Exit 55 on I-71. Phase II of paving and vertical construction is scheduled to start in the spring of 2022 and will include the completion of a full parallel taxiway, lighting, apron, terminal building, fuel services, and T-Hangars.

This airport will fill the gap between Louisville and Covington along the I-71 corridor and serve the many industrial businesses, including several Fortune 500 companies, in the Warsaw/Carrollton area and along the Ohio River.

CALENDAR & EVENTS



Aviation events are coming back! If you hear of a GA event here in KY or are involved with one, please let me know so we can help get the word out. You can email me at michael.riensche@ky.gov

I would love to hear your voice over the radio when I'm up flying. Keep the blue side up.

Michael Riensche - KDA Fixed Wing Pilot

MAY 22 10am-2pm

Madisonville Regional Airport (2I0)

SPRING OPEN HOUSE AND FLY-IN

There will be local food trucks, local vendors, giveaways, simulator experience, vintage airplanes, and kid's area.

MAY 28-30

Rogers Field

FOURTH ANNUAL FLY-IN CAMP OUT

Airfield opens Friday noon, with supper served that evening. Breakfast and supper served on Saturday. Breakfast and fly-out on Sunday. Bring your own tent and sleeping arrangements. Briefing and Waiver required for all who fly-In. No drive up spots available at this time. Contact group through Facebook page if interested in attending. <https://www.facebook.com/events/221474566385988>

JUNE 12 11AM-2PM EDT

Breckinridge (I93)

FRIED CHICKEN FLY-IN LUNCH

Free to the public

JULY 10 11AM-2PM EDT

Breckinridge (I93)

FRIED CHICKEN FLY-IN LUNCH

Free to the public

AUG 14 11AM-2PM EDT

Breckinridge (I93)

FRIED CHICKEN FLY-IN LUNCH

Free to the public

JULY 13-14 & 15-16

Bowling Green-Warren Co. Regional Airport (KBWG)

AVIATION SUMMER CAMPS

The Jim & Jan Bohannon Aviation Summer Camp will take place July 13-14 for ages 10-17 and the Bob & Cara Pitchford Aviation Summer Camp will take place July 15-16 for ages 10-adult! Held at the Bowling Green-Warren County Regional Airport and conducted by the Aviation Museum of Kentucky, this camp gives students the opportunity to learn about aviation related topics such as aircraft instruments, aircraft design, aeronautical maps, aviation careers, flight simulators, NASA space, and even gives students a chance to fly a real airplane with an FAA Certified Flight Instructor!

To register and pay online, go to www.aviationky.org/CAMP/home.asp?page=CampDates

More information available via website.
<http://bit.ly/BG-Summer-Camp>

AUG 19

NATIONAL AVIATION DAY

OCT 2 7am-4pm

Mount Sterling/Montgomery County Airport

FLY-IN DRIVE-IN BREAKFAST and AVIATION DAY

Mount Sterling/Montgomery County Airport will host annual Aviation Day. Pilots flying in will receive free breakfast. Breakfast starts at 7am and ends at 11am. Main activities start at 9am and end at 4pm. Airplane rides \$30 per adult, \$20 per child. Candy drop for the kids. Food and various vendors and many fun activities for the whole family. Bring lawn chairs. Free Parking.



**Keep current with
upcoming events at**

**[Transportation.ky.gov/Aviation/
Pages/news.aspx](http://Transportation.ky.gov/Aviation/Pages/news.aspx)**

**GOT ANY AVIATION
NEWS OR EVENTS?**

We want to help you get the word out! Keep us informed on any aviation news and events across the state. Send submissions to Michael Riensche at Michael.Riensche@ky.gov.



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Front and back cover feature photos by
Emily Herron and Bob Jones



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