

The State of Kansas Aviation Newsletter

Where the skies are not cloudy all day!



Late Winter Edition

Published March 2015

Kansas Aviation Day at the Capitol Big success for first-time event

On Tuesday, February 3, 2015, KDOT Aviation partnered with the Kansas Commission on Aerospace Education to bring industry representatives together with elected state officials. The event drew 130 total industry representatives, with 22 companies having formal exhibits; that all interacted with roughly 100 legislators that passed through the rotunda.

Feedback received on the event was all positive with several requests to make this an annual event. With that said, we plan to blend in our previous event, the Kansas Aviation Expo, into next year's Kansas Aviation Day at the Capitol.

"This year's event was designed for networking, to provide industry leaders and our elected officials an op-

portunity to discuss issues and new initiatives," said Jesse Romo, KDOT Aviation Director.

For more information on the event, please visit our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/KDOTAviation to watch a summary video and visit our Facebook page for more pictures at www.facebook.com/KDOTAviation.



Kansas Airport Improvement Program Phase I of projects announced

Twenty-one projects have been selected to receive funding to enhance safety and service at public-use airports in the state through the Kansas Airport Improvement Program.

The Kansas Department of Transportation's Division of Aviation, which manages the program, received 118 applications for projects totaling more than \$42 million.

Recognizing the needs of continued investment in aviation infrastructure,

the 2010 Kansas Legislature passed the T-WORKS transportation program and gave the Kansas Airport Improvement Program (KAIP) a funding level of \$5 million a year.

"The project selection process remains highly competitive," said Jesse R. Romo, KDOT Director of Aviation. "One of the challenges is to balance the needs of local growth while maintaining the existing system at a high level; and the selected projects help us do just that."

Under guidelines of the program, project sponsors are required to pay a minimum of five percent of the total project costs up to a maximum of 50 percent, depending on project category. The awarded projects represent approximately \$1.4 million in total state contributions. The remaining projects will be announced at a later date under Phase II of the program.

"We are excited to announce these projects that demonstrate our commitment as a state to the airport system,"

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Unmanned Aerial Systems in Kansas

Workshops will lead to state summit

Agriculture is the topic of the first in a series of discussions about the use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) by public and private interest groups in Kansas. The working sessions will culminate at the Kansas UAS Summit in Wichita this fall.

The agriculture discussion is scheduled for 2 p.m. March 11 at the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) headquarters, 1320 Research Park Drive in Manhattan. Subsequent meetings will be hosted by the Kansas Department of Transportation's Aviation Division at various locations around the state.

"We continue to field inquiries about the use of UAS, or drones, in production agriculture," said Billy Brown, Agribusiness Development Coordinator for KDA. "Research efforts by KDA recognize that inherent obstacles exist, regulatory and otherwise, that are preventing further beneficial use of UAS in agricultural production systems," he said.

The discussion will focus on four areas:

What are specific applications of UAS in production agriculture?

What barriers exist preventing the use of UAS in production agriculture (technology, privacy, etc.)?

What will the proposed Federal Aviation Administration regulations and policies allow and prohibit?

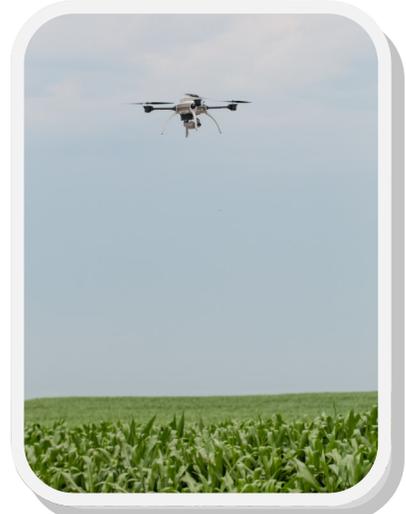
In what ways can the state of Kansas assist in eliminating these barriers?

This meeting will focus solely on the use of UAS in the agriculture sector. Subsequent meetings, which will be scheduled later for spring and summer, will focus on:

Emergency management and law enforcement, Hutchinson.

Research and survey, Salina.

Small business interests, Wichita
UAS policies and regulations, Topeka.



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KAIP, continued from page 1

said Kansas Transportation Secretary Mike King. "These are great projects to kick off the 2016 KAIP program."

The following is a list of the FY 2016 airport improvement projects and the funding requested:

Benton, Stearman Field – pavement maintenance and repair, \$7,850

Colby – pavement maintenance and repair, \$5,175

Dodge City – planning, airspace protection, \$38,000

Ellsworth – pavement maintenance and repair, \$123,750

Fredonia – safety/mitigation, tree removal, \$31,500

Jetmore – modernization, remark runway, \$22,500

Kinsley – self-service fuel system, \$93,500

La Crosse – pavement maintenance and repair, \$22,500

Moundridge – pavement maintenance and repair, \$88,881

Neodesha – self-service fuel system, \$100,000

Oakley – self-service fuel system, \$100,000

Oberlin – design/safety enhancement, runway intersection, \$67,500

Oberlin – land acquisition, \$135,000

Ottawa – on-site weather reporting

system, \$108,000

Pittsburg – design runway and taxiway, \$100,000

Pratt – on-site weather reporting system, \$108,000

Rose Hill, Cook Airfield – pavement maintenance and repair, \$5,400

St. Francis – pavement maintenance and repair, \$27,000

Sublette – pavement maintenance and repair, \$36,000

Sublette – on-site weather reporting system, \$108,000

Washington – pavement maintenance and repair, \$59,130



UAS, continued from page 2

"The full integration of unmanned aerial systems is expected to make Kansas a leading state for total economic impact and jobs," said Jesse R. Romo, Director of Aviation at KDOT. "It's prudent for us to be on the leading edge of this budding industry, to understand the needs of industry, and to try and figure out how we safely and efficiently get from here to there."

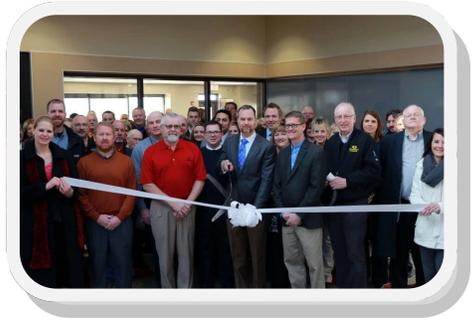
The public is invited to listen to all the discussions provided by the roundtable participant invitees. More event details will be announced at the first workshop. +

2015, The Year of the Terminal

2015 may be known as the year of the new terminal in Kansas. After years of planning and tremendous cooperative efforts between airports, their local partners and others, Hays, Manhattan and Wichita will all have new terminals.

Hays Regional Airport had a ribbon cutting ceremony on February 26, 2015 that KDOT Aviation was able to attend. Next up, the Manhattan Regional Airport will be cutting ribbon on Friday, March 6 for their new terminal. And Wichita Eisenhower National Airport is expected

to start celebrating their new terminal in April and May. We wish to congratulate all of you and wish you continued success with your air service. Fly Kansas!



Air Race Classic 2015 Kansas pilots look to inspire

March is Women's History Month so Honeywell Aerospace recently shared some historical moments for women in aviation. From their graphic below you can see Kansas' own, Amelia Earhart, is listed. Amelia, along with other well known avia-

trixes of that time, such as Louise Thaden and Ruth Elder, also used to participate in women's air races.

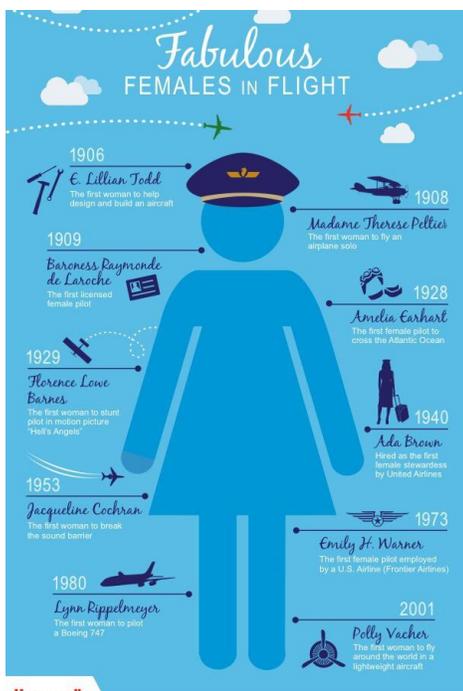
Before being allowed to fly and compete with men, female pilots had to create their own competitions. Although the Powder Puff Derby no longer exists, the spirit of competition between female pilots continues.

The [Air Race Classic, Inc.](#) hosts an annual race with the mission to encourage and educate current and future women pilots; increase public awareness of general aviation; demonstrate women's roles in aviation; and to preserve and promote the tradition of pioneering women in aviation.

This year's race will feature a pair of Kansas pilots: KDOT Aviation's own Tiffany Brown will be flying alongside Taylor Humphrey, a newly minted private pilot that received her training from [Compass Rose Aviation](#) at Cook Field, K50. Tiffany and

Taylor, or [Team TNT](#) as they call themselves, have their own Facebook page and are raising money through a website called [GoFundMe](#).

Following in the footsteps of other great Kansas aviatrixes, we wish Tiffany and Taylor blue skies. "After completing the race this summer we hope to reach out to kids through various pilot groups to talk about our experience preparing and flying the air race. We want to promote aviation to the younger generation and task kids to challenge and believe in themselves," said Tiffany Brown. This is the first air race for both pilots. +



Fly Kansas Air Tour 2015

September 29 through October 2

The 2014 Fly Kansas Air Tour was such a great success that planning is underway for another air tour later this year. Nearly 1,000 kids participated in last year's event hearing the message that aviation is for everyone.

This year we intend to not only have local kids come to the airports, but we are also inviting local leaders. "We want to make sure that the local community know the importance of their airport," said Jesse Romo, KDOT Aviation Director.

"I can't think of a better backdrop for local leaders than to have them hear about the role their airport plays and then see the smiles on the kids' faces as they interact with the pilots and climb in and out of airplanes," Romo continued.

KDOT Aviation is happy to partner once again with the Kansas Commission on Aerospace Education to make this event possible. The air tour stops have been selected and the airports are ready to host. If anyone would like to volunteer and become a local champion to help coordinate events, please contact our office.

Pilot survey responses from last year asked for more stops and to reach further southwest and north of I-70. Stops were also selected based on their runways and facilities.

There will be ten stops in three days, and then two bonus locations were added for pilots only. On day four, pilots are welcome to fly as a group to the Beaumont Hotel for brunch. Later that evening there will be a

hangar dance party at Stearman Field airport. The party will likely be themed so start looking for your WWII era attire.

Final details are still taking shape but here is a list of the stops, which will begin on September 29. So grab your goldfish crackers and follow us on [Facebook](#) for all the latest information, or visit flykansas.org. We hope to see you be a part of the action! [Click here](#) to register.

Day 1

Wellington, Pratt, Dodge, Liberal

Day 2

Garden City, Colby, Hays

Day 3

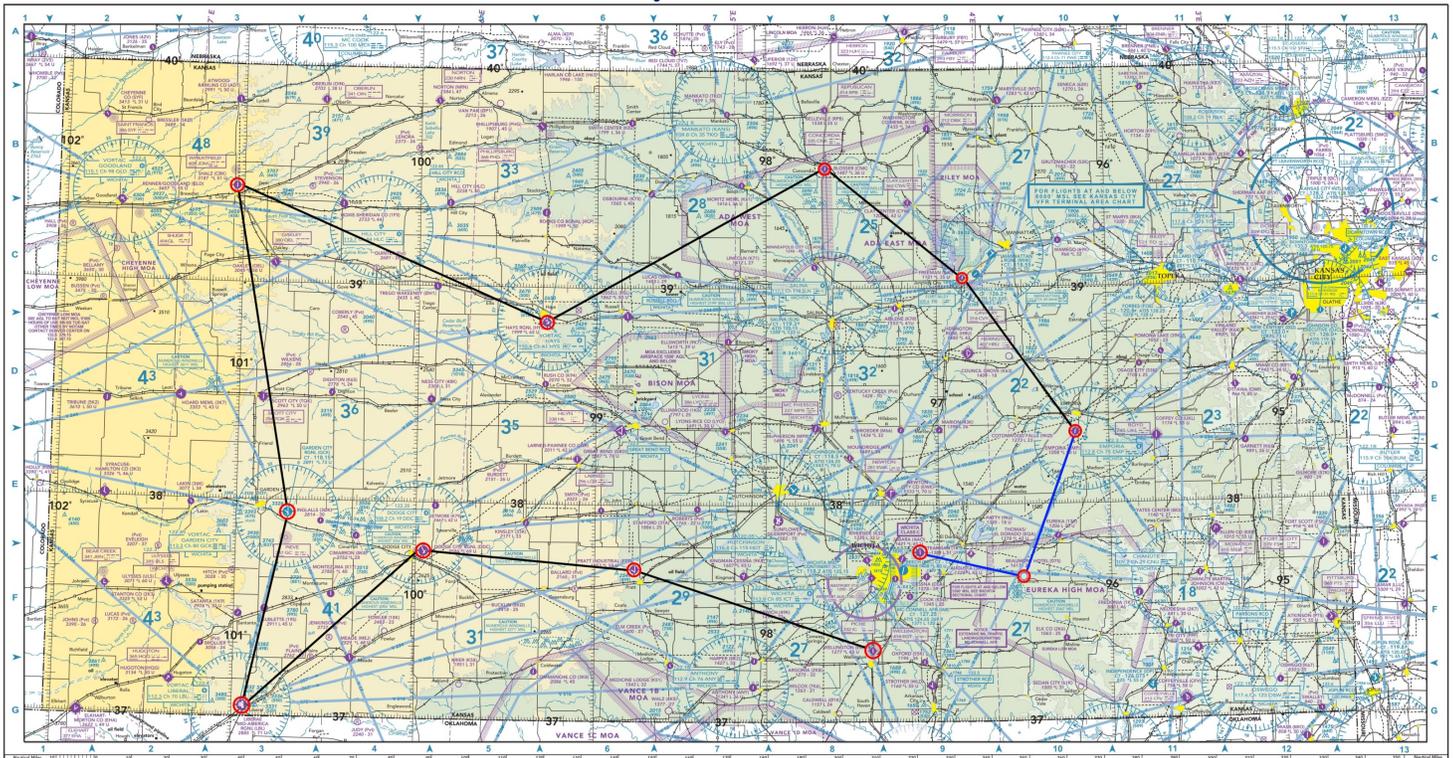
Concordia, Junction, Emporia

Bonus stops

Beaumont and Stearman Field



2015 Fly Kansas Air Tour



BonVoyage, George!

KDOT Aviation icon retires and begins a new chapter

September, 2001. The nation had just been attacked. Service members that were about to be discharged were retained. General aviation was shut down. Everyone took a moment to pause. Folks reflected on their lives and made decisions to either serve or to dedicate themselves to following their passion and making a difference. It was a time of great turmoil and opportunity, a crossroads for some and a fork for others.

This is also when George A. Laliberte joined the KDOT Division of Aviation. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, and commanding the Rosecrans Air National Guard Base, he submitted his retirement paperwork and accepted the KDOT posi-

tion in Topeka, KS. He was nearly called back to active duty but an act of Congress would allow him to fully retire and keep his new job serving the citizens of the state of Kansas.

Since that time George had been a staple in this office, wherever it may be. From the Docking building to the Eisenhower, from the 2nd floor to the 9th, George has seen many changes in KDOT Aviation. He has led many changes and was even the Interim Director for nearly a year and a half after Mike Armour retired.

When George first began, the Kansas Airport Improvement Program was still in its infancy; now it's a well oiled machine. To see the way airports looked in Kansas prior to the

KAIP, and to how they look now, is a reflection on George's hard work and dedication.

"George will be greatly missed in our office, not just for of his technical knowledge but for his positive outlook and unwavering support that he gave to everyone here," said Jesse R. Romo, KDOT Aviation Director. "He's definitely one of those guys you wish you had on every team — a true mentor and a friend."

George will continue to support Kansas airports, just in a different capacity. You can now find George consulting part-time for Olsson and Associates. We wish him well in his new endeavor!



With Appreciation

George A. Laliberte

For 14 years of dedicated and exceptional service to the citizens of the State of Kansas. Best wishes for a long and joyful retirement from all your friends at KDOT Aviation.

2001 – 2015



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