

# JACKSON HOLE AIRPORT STAFF UPDATE

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#### In This Issue

- Employee of the Month
- Community Outreach
- Bear Spray
   Rentalew American
   Citizen
- Known Crew Member
- FAA Annual Review
- Jedediah's Update
- JHA Leadership
- Body of Knowledge
- Move-In Loan Program Expanded
- New Parking System
- Summer Heat

# **Employee of the Month**



Congratulations to Security Screening
Officer Alyssa Downey who was chosen as
Employee of the Month. Alyssa was
selected due to her professionalism,
mindset, and outstanding communications
skills. She is always seen with a smile and
that speaks to her overall attitude. Well
done Alyssa!

# **Community Outreach**



In June we had visitors from the Bondurant school come tour the airport. They may have been one of the smaller schools to visit us, but they were one of the biggest when it came to enthusiasm!

#### Touch-A-Truck



The annual Jackson
Touch-A-Truck event took
place last month and the
airport sent 2 vehicles:
ARFF 3 firetruck and the
Oshkosh/Overaasen
combination plow and snow
broom. In addition, JHA had
a booth at the event with
great swag and raffled off a
birthday party at our
Firehouse. A big thank you to
Meg Jenkins, Alton George,
Steve Kerley, and Kody

Jeppson who helped hundreds of kids get an up-close view of our vehicles or staffed our booth. It must have been an interesting sight to see the snow broom heading to Jackson on the main highway – Steve Kerley reported that it's full-out speed was 42 miles per hour ©

## Bear Spray Rental at JHA



We have a new bear spray rental kiosk active in baggage claim near "The Huntress" bear artwork on the south wall. The airport received 8 proposals from businesses explaining how they would plan to operate this concession, and Back Country Sports was awarded the opportunity. The intent of

this rental facility is to help reduce the volume of bear spray cannisters that need to be recycled, while allowing travelers the opportunity for a lower cost rental option instead of having to buy bear spray; while also providing safety education to visitors on the proper way to use bear spray if needed during their stay in Jackson and the parks.

#### **Known Crew Member**



Recently the Security Screening Checkpoint started offering Known Crew Member access to pilots and flight attendants coming through the airport. KCM allows crew members to show their ID to a screening officer where it is checked against a special database to allow prompt movement through the screening area. It also alleviates crew members from going through the pre-check line which helps other pre-check travelers pass through screening more quickly. Aimee Crook commented, "We have had a lot of positive feedback from airline crews about having Known Crew Member

access. It's a little more work for our screening team, but it also better serves passengers using the airport, and that is what we're all about."

## JHA Scores High on FAA Annual Review

Each year the FAA comes to Jackson to conduct a very thorough review of the condition of the airport and our operational metrics against federal regulations. This year Jackson Hole Airport received a clean inspection, which is exceptional and not often awarded. This means that the airport is functioning in line with FAA Part 139 regulations on all levels of operation. Congratulations to the Operations team, those in security, and other departments that contribute to the safety, security and efficient operation of our airport. Bravo!



The inside work on Jedediah's has been completed and there is now an improved traffic flow to improve the customer experience. The upcoming pet relief area and nursing areas will be

finished by the end of this month.

In concert with the customer experience upgrades to Jed's is an important behind-the-scenes change going on as well. Jedediah's is now working with WYOComposting to send any leftover food to Haderlie Farms in Thayne. They will be capturing all compostable materials generated by food prep and from scraping customer plates. This left-over food that would normally go to a landfill is picked up by Haderlie Farms and taken to Star Valley where it is combined with other compostables. This is one of many sustainability efforts happening around the airport.

## Leadership Low-Down

Often those individuals who provide direction to our airport perform much of their work behind the scenes; and although we get to experience the result of their endeavors and support, sometimes we don't get the chance to know much about them as individuals. For the next few issues of the Employee Update we're going to highlight a different Board member or Management Team member, so you can learn a little more about who they are and how they came to be part of the leadership group we have at JHA. This month we're starting with Rick Braun, JHAB President.



#### **Rick Braun**

Rick (short for Frederick) started flying jets when he was 20 and has been a test pilot, flight instructor, chief technical pilot, check airman and pilot in command at different airlines and at Boeing. He has held a pilot certificate for all the following aircraft: 707, 720, 737, 747, 757, 767 and 777 and has experience with both passenger and cargo airplanes. Rick has been involved with aircraft from their initial design all the way to their maiden flight, and his total flight time is over 15,400 hours.

Born in Santa Monica, California, Rick is the oldest of 3 brothers and was

raised in veteran's housing while his mother and father attended UCLA, then lived in Woodland Hills, California. His family moved to Hawaii when he was 15 and within a few years Rick was working for Aloha Airlines and then Boeing after becoming a Captain, as he wanted to move to the manufacturing side of aviation as he liked the variety of opportunities available - he could fly one type of airplane in the morning, and a different model that same afternoon. In 1992 a Boeing customer recruited Rick to be Chief Pilot for a 747-400 operation. Four years later Rick left to start his own airline with some Seattle investors; and although initially successful, 9/11 closed the airline's doors and Rick returned to Boeing in 2001 until his retirement in 2013.

Rick first moved to Jackson Hole in 1981. Although he loves flying, he is also a skier at heart and found himself called to the Tetons. Rick loves to travel, read and bike, and enjoys keeping up with changing political news. He is married and has a stepson in Seattle and a stepdaughter who lives here in Jackson and owns Stone Drug. Rick is a dog lover and has owned several Bernese Mountain dogs, but currently his four-legged family member is a Wirehaired Pointing Griffon.

Rick has been on the Jackson Hole Airport Board since 2015 and currently serves as President. When he is not involved with Board activities he is working as a

consultant to help a new airline get off the ground along with assisting other airlines get new aircraft certified for flight.

When asked how he was going to get all that chicken fried for the upcoming airport employee Chicken Fry on August 24th, Rick told us his secret: His brother-in-law is a retired Wilson volunteer firefighter (need I say Wilson Fire Department Annual Chicken Fry?), so he will have a chicken fry master on hand when he hosts us at his home in Wilson next month. Everyone please RSVP to Kaitlin before the end of this month, as this will be a great event for employees and their families to spend time together while enjoying some great chicken!

# A Growing Body of Knowledge



Once again we get to celebrate the achievement of one of our colleagues as they grow in knowledge and successfully navigate passage of an exam to certify their understanding of an important aspect of airport operations. Congratulations to Steve Jeppson who achieved his AAAE ACE Security certification!

#### Employee Move-In Loan Program Expanded

At the last Board meeting the Board approved some updates to the Move-In Loan Assistance Program. This program provides financial assistance to employees who need help with a mortgage deposit or a down payment on a rental property. The Board recognized that it can be very challenging to find housing in Teton County, and expanded the eligibility rules for this program to include any stable housing situation within commuting distance of the airport. This means that even if you are securing housing outside of Teton County, you may be eligible for assistance through this program.

If you are interested in learning more about this program or would like a copy of the full policy, contact Tony Cross in HR. Thanks to the Board for understanding the housing environment faced by JHA employees and making this assistance available to everyone, no matter if they live in Teton County or beyond.

## **New Parking System in Operation**



Kudo's to Alton George, Chance Grimmett, Andrew Wells and the entire Operations team for getting the new Skidata parking system up and running on schedule and before peak summer traffic began at the airport. This major effort took many months of planning and a lot of effort to execute.

The project is basically completed other than a few refinements like final signage and an occasional badge issue. But all-in-all it is working exactly as planned and will provide those looking for long term parking a more convenient experience along with many additional parking spaces.

Thanks to everyone who was flexible throughout the process as parking arrangements were adjusted to meet construction needs.

If you have any questions or experience the unexpected when using the new parking system, just call the Operations Landside number at 413-1516 and they will be happy to help.

## Things Are Heating Up



Soon the highway roadwork in the vicinity of the airport will be completed and that will ease access for passengers and employees coming to the airport. In addition to rising tempuratures, summer traffic volumes are here in full force. All 4 airlines are in their full summer schedules with more flights and larger aircraft. In May alone traffic grew 56% over the same month last year. Things are not slowing down and we appreciate the efforts of everyone to rise to the challenge in making sure every passenger has a great experience at our airport.