

# JACKSON HOLE AIRPORT STAFF UPDATE

May 2020

### In This Issue

- Employee of the Month
- Airport COVID Update
- Park Activity
- Passenger Counts
- Airside Painting
- PFAS Testing
- Bob McLaurin

## **Employee of the Month**



Congratulations to Chris Wells, Security Screening Supervisor, who was selected as our May Employee of the Month. Chris keeps a sharp focus on what his team needs to run smoothly, and when the Screening group needed to promptly change their schedule to a COVID exposure, Chris made a point of being here at 4:30am (after a long commute) to make sure the right team members were present, the check point was fully cleaned, and everyone had what they needed.

Board President Jerry Blann echoed praise for Chris. "Whenever I see him when I'm at the airport he is always in motion and has an eye toward anyone who may need assistance."

Chris Wells, another great example of People Helping People.

## Airport COVID-19 Update



We're back to full staffing levels with a focus on continuing the Saturday and Sunday team concept to help maintain physical distancing between employee groups. The airport has been vigilant in ongoing sanitation and extra cleaning/disinfecting efforts that take place throughout the airport, and all airport staff are required to wear a face covering in public areas.

There is new public signage throughout the airport supporting the recommendation for the public to wear a face covering.

The first 3 of 5 sanitation stations are now present in the terminal where individuals can get a mask if needed. 12,000 disposable masks have arrived and FEMA is providing an additional 63,000 masks in the future. In mid-June 7,000 mini bottles of hand sanitizer will also be available for the public. Soon there will also be unique markings on the floors in ticketing and other areas of the terminal to remind travelers to maintain a 6-foot physical distance. Plexiglass sneeze guards have been installed throughout the terminal to protect staff and stakeholder employees.

The airlines have updated their cleaning protocols and most require passengers wear a face covering during flights. Uber and Lyft are also requiring face coverings for their drivers.

Feedback we have received from the Public Health department is that they are pleased with the leadership and conscientiousness the airport is showing to protect both staff and travelers who pass through our facility. Thank you to each of you for your efforts to help provide a safe traveling experience at JHA.

#### **Opening the Parks**



As the majority of visitors who come through the airport go Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, here is a brief update on the process that National Park Service is employing to slowly fully open the parks to the public.

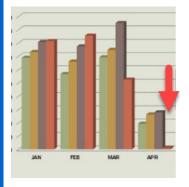
On May 18 the gates were opened to let cars into the parks with access to primary roads. This was

the first of different stages defined by the parks to fully open their facilities. In the first few days, license plates from 41 states were noted entering Yellowstone and GTNP saw a similar widespread visitor group. The parks have added new sanitation stations and plexiglass protective screening. Day use hiking is available along with fishing from riverbanks and lake shores. Aquatic invasive species checkpoints were activated on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Phase 2 involved a gradual reopening of campgrounds, along with cabins opening in the early to mid-June time frame. Initially the South entrance of the Yellowstone was the only way to enter that park but in early June the North and West entrances were added to increase access.

Jenny and Jackson Lake Lodges remain closed for the summer, along with hotels in Yellowstone. Other than camping or cabin overnights, most visitors will be making day trips to the parks. Dining-in options will be limited, but multiple graband-go food areas will be available.

# **Passenger Counts**



April 2020 saw a 97% drop in the number of outgoing passengers at the airport, compared to the same month last year. There were a total of 481 enplanements during April, versus 13,945 last year. Year-to-date traffic totals are down 22%.

We are expecting a reduction in passenger traffic throughout the summer but are starting to see additional flights planned in the system and larger aircraft set to arrive with higher capacity in the coming weeks.

#### A Fresh Coat of Paint



The activity required by our great snowplow team to keep the runway and other airside access points clear during the winter, takes its toll on the painted surface markings used to guide aircraft during take-offs and landings.

During the month of June the runway, taxiways, deicing pad and apron area by the gates will be restriped. The runway is the top priority and will be painted a night so no interference with flight traffic occurs. Next the taxiway areas and deicing pad will be addressed, followed by surface markings at the gate and other airside apron areas.

## **Being Proactive**



At the Board meeting last week, Jackson Hole Airport's use of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) was discussed. All airports throughout the country must use AFFF for aircraft firefighting. The FAA requires that the AFFF used on airports contain perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which give the foam stability and allow any fires to be secured for extended periods against reignition. PFAS materials are found in many items such as nonstick cookware, pizza boxes, water resistant fabrics and even some brands of dental floss.

PFAS is not classified as a hazardous or toxic substance, by either the EPA or the Wyoming DEQ. Nonetheless, recent studies have found that prolonged exposure to PFAS could pose health risks, and EPA has adopted a lifetime health advisory limit of 70 parts per trillion for drinking water. The Airport has therefore voluntarily tested 14 wells on the Airport for traces of PFAS. Of these, PFAS was detected in two monitoring wells above the EPA lifetime advisory limit, but no domestic water wells tested were found to have levels above that limit.

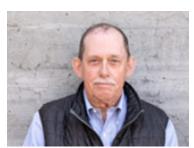
JH Airport has hired environmental consultant Mead & Hunt to initiate a voluntary program of testing domestic water wells within a defined study area adjacent to the Airport. The JH Airport's well testing program would be one of the few in the country. Well testing for PFAS is not required by the EPA or Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, and the Airport is proactively leading this effort. The Airport has consulted with leadership at Wyoming DEQ, and they champion the well testing efforts. The Airport has also consulted with leadership at Grand Teton National Park, and they support the Airport's actions to obtain additional information.

"We take safety for operations, people, and our environment very seriously," says JH Airport Board President Jerry Blann. "This work with Mead & Hunt will allow us to determine the extent to which PFAS may have migrated off airport. The Airport

will continue to be proactive and transparent with our neighbors and government partners as we conduct this investigation."

If you would like additional background and more information on the airport's PFAS investigation plan, a thorough easy-to-understand document can be found on the airport's web site at: <a href="https://228k3g4ee2bb2v3oe82te2b2-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Investigation-Plan-Final.pdf">https://228k3g4ee2bb2v3oe82te2b2-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Investigation-Plan-Final.pdf</a>

## Getting to Know Bob McLaurin



Originally from North Carolina, the adventure of rock climbing in the West is what first drew Bob McLaurin to Jackson Hole during the 70's. Bob is the eldest of 3 siblings in his family, and growing up included great memories of flying in a small airplane with his father.

He is a proud Dad of daughter Molly who resides in Denver, and sons Tim and Duncan who remain in our area. His wife Julie's work with the airlines enables travel opportunities which he regularly enjoys sharing with her. Wilbur, their labradoodle, eagerly awaits Bob's return from each trip.

In addition to rock climbing, ten years ago Bob began paragliding, taking flight from locations including Snow King, the top of the Tram, and Curtis Canyon. He is also an avid skier, whether it be downhill from the Pass or JHMR, or cross country in the parks.

Professionally, Bob is known for his many successful years as Town Manager in Jackson. When he was starting his career, he had a mentor who ignited his interest in how a Town Manager could positively affect the surrounding community, and Bob rose in the ranks from Town Planner to Assistant Town Administrator to Town Manager. He spent a few years in Vail, Colorado as a Town Manager, but his love of Jackson led him to return; and he spent the final 15 years of his professional service in our area working on projects such as the Snow King Center, Kearns Meadow, and Town parking garage. Highlights of his career included effectively meeting challenges of the landslide/Budge Hill reconstruction effort and the 810 West housing development that enabled affordable housing for Town employees.

Bob retired as Town Manager in 2018, and in addition to the public works he managed, he is known for his leadership and impact on those working for him. He focused on creating a value-centered organization that prioritized organizational excellence and leadership development, and is proud of the fact that four members of his team have gone on to become City Managers in other parts of the country.

Bob was attracted to becoming a member of the Jackson Hole Airport Board due to his personal interest in aviation. He sees the airport as an exciting place and a foundation for our local economy. Bob knew Jim Elwood when Jim was the

Eagle Airport Manager, got to know him during his tenure in Jackson, and looked forward to the opportunity of working with him as a Board member. Bob McLaurin has lived a full professional and personal life with nothing remaining on his bucket list. His personal outlook centers are three things: Contribute to your community, be a good person, and have fun along the way.