Highlights from the Director

The Results are in! In our last newsletter, the airport announced our public opinion survey, asking the question “Where do you want to go?” We invited our readers to log on to our website and complete the Fly2PIE Destination Survey. Next, we promoted the survey to the community at public events, malls, in Chamber of Commerce publications and in the local media.

We received an astounding response of almost 4000 completed surveys! The survey listed 49 domestic and 12 international destinations to choose from and participants could fill in their own favorites. In the next section of the survey, we welcomed comments about your St. Petersburg Clearwater International Airport (PIE) travel experience and offered an opportunity to win 2 round-trip tickets on USA3000 Airlines.

Participants were also invited to join a new email subscription service for air service announcements and over 1200 people signed up! The airport will deliver e-news announcements about new service and specials offered by our airlines – a unique and exciting opportunity. It’s not too late to join. All you have to do is go to our website and click on the word “Subscribe”.

With the destination results in, we have an answer to our question – Where do you want to go? The number one selected destination with almost one out of every three persons requesting service is Las Vegas. Rounding out the top 10, in order of popularity, are New York City, London, San Juan, Indianapolis, Washington, D.C., Gulfport-Biloxi, Chicago, Denver, and Germany.

Out of the 4000 responses received, over 1000 people took their time to write comments and share their impressions about our airport. Some typical responses – “Love it-close to home, no big crowds, easy to get around. Very pleasant.”; “PIE is the most convenient service airport I’ve known in 45 years of air travel – business or pleasure – coast to coast.”; “Clean, friendly, convenient, easy to use.”; “Always a great experience – easy access”; “I love this airport. People are friendly. I like the small town feel and ease of moving thru the airport.”; and “Please add more airlines – we want Indy back!”; “...wish there was more flight service.”; “More airlines needed to serve the people.” Your feedback and kind words are appreciated, particularly as we strive to find ways to better serve you with new air service and facility improvements.

Overall, the consensus of opinion from the survey respondents is they love our Airport and will fly from PIE as new destinations are added. Airlines are interested in the survey results and they will be used as part of our air service marketing program.

We are fortunate to have such loyal customers and friends. Thank you.

Until the next time,
Noah Lagos

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On April 19th, Airport Director Noah Lagos drew the winner of our airline ticket giveaway contest amongst a sea of entries. Bob Gray of Tampa is the lucky traveler who looks forward to flying on USA3000 Airlines again. USA3000 flies from PIE to Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis, Newark, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh.

Congratulations to Bob and Thank You to all who took the time to let us know Where You Want to Go and about your experiences at PIE. We look forward to serving you in the future!
AIRLINE SERVICE NEWS

Runway extension attracts non-stop British flight to PIE

St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport is thrilled to announce that British air carrier, Flywho, will launch its first ever flight from the United Kingdom’s Birmingham International Airport (BIA) in Summer 2006. They will fly exclusively to two destinations in Florida. In conjunction with newly formed specialist tour operator, Go-VisitAmerica.com, the Birmingham based venture will offer non-stop flights to St Petersburg-Clearwater each Thursday.

Airport Director Noah Lagos comments, “The runway extension project is already paying dividends even before construction is fully completed. We have our first success story with the announcement that this summer, “the British are coming” non-stop to Pinellas County. Certainly, this is a milestone event for the Airport, the County, and the Tampa Bay area. It marks the beginning of trans-Atlantic international travel to our airport as a direct result of the runway extension project. This new service shows that our promotion of PIE as “Your Gateway to Tampa Bay” has been well received by the overseas tour operators who know the popularity of St.Pete-Clearwater-Tampa Bay as a destination.”

Founder and CEO of Flywho and GoVisitAmerica, UK entrepreneur, Aden Murcutt explains why his new enterprise is so different, “I’m giving a real commitment to the Midlands (Central England) which, for too long now, has been underserved for long haul travel, particularly to the States. Each year around 1.6 million Britons travel to Florida, with well over 50,000 people owning properties there, yet the Midlands is still extremely underserved for direct flights. However, this will change when I welcome my first customers aboard and launch Flywho.”

AIRPORT PLANNING STUDIES & PROJECTS

The latest updates regarding ongoing planning studies and projects at the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport.

Runway Extension Project

The first phase of the runway extension project is approaching completion. Runway 17L-35R has been extended to the south nine hundred and thirty (930) feet. Taxiway ‘A’ has also been extended and a new four hundred (400) foot long blast pad has been constructed. This phase also included the relocation of three major utility pipelines and the installation of a new stormwater system meeting strict environmental regulations. The runway project has extended the Airport’s primary (north-south) runway to nine thousand six hundred and fifty (9,650) feet.

Coinciding with the runway extension project, new precision electronic landing aids (Instrument Landing Systems - ILS), will be installed on both the north and south ends of the runway providing increased safety and reliability. As a result, the efficiency of approach and landing procedures is improved, especially in low visibility conditions. The runway extension project should be finished by late fall with the completion of new safety areas at the runway’s north end.

Security Improvements

The Airport is now in the testing and approval phase of the new security system. New access systems have been installed at all security doors in the terminal and vehicle gates, along with a variety of new measures for enhanced security.

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

The latest on projects at the Airport and surrounding Airport-owned real estate.

The Airport is in lease negotiations with Brookline Development, Crestwood Suites Hotel, and PODS to develop the remaining 22.35-acre commercial site adjacent to the new Cracker Barrel Restaurant on Ulmerton Road. All three companies were selected from their submittals to the recently advertised public request for negotiations. With the successful completion of negotiations, the site will be home to PODS corporate headquarters, Crestwood Suites extended stay hotel and a multi-story corporate office facility.
FLY2PIE NEWS

NOISE AFFAIRS UPDATE

For questions about PIE’s Noise Abatement and Mitigation Program, contact the Office of Noise Affairs, (727) 453-7880 or airportnoise@pinellascounty.org

NOISE AFFAIRS OFFICE - Jason Schwartz recently resigned as Supervisor of Noise Affairs to accept a new position as Noise Program Manager for the Port of Portland, Oregon. During his tenure, he provided a great deal of support to the Aircraft Noise Abatement Task Force and became a helpful resource for surrounding residents impacted by aircraft noise. The Airport is conducting a nationwide search to fill the vacancy. In the interim, duties and responsibilities of the Supervisor of Noise Affairs position are being fulfilled by the Airport Operations Division.

NOISE STUDY – The Airport’s ongoing Noise Study received national recognition in a trade journal (Airport Noise Report, Volume 18, Number 11). It was cited as the most extensive noise study ever undertaken at a U.S. airport in terms of conducting supplemental noise analysis for geographic areas that reach far beyond the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) defined 65 dB DNL noise contour. Bill Albee, director of Special Projects for Wyle, was quoted as saying, “Never before has noise exposure been presented in such detail over such a large geographical area. That is what is groundbreaking.”

Airport Rescue Firefighters Live Fire Training Exercise

The St Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport firefighters participated in live training fires in March to meet FAA requirements. The exercise was conducted at a training facility located at the Tampa International Airport.

AIRPORT OPERATIONS

Noise Abatement Task Force Schedule

All meetings are held bimonthly on Wednesdays at 3:00 P.M. in Airport Conference Room 234 and are open to the public. For updates and information on Noise Affairs, including meeting minutes for the Noise Abatement Task Force, visit www.fly2pie.com/noise.

Upcoming 2006 Meetings

May 24th
July 26th
September 27th
November 29th

New ARFF Fire Truck

The airport put in service their new ARFF vehicle. The vehicle was made by E-One and was paid for with FAA funding.

The new E-One hosts its first visitors with a tour by the MOMS Club of Clearwater.
PIE’S FEATURED TENANT-
UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE

The Army Reserve Station, one of our newer tenants, opened in 2004. The Aviation Support Facility is a training base for about 40 reservists in a Combat Search and Rescue aviation unit. The Army Reservists recently returned home after a two year deployment, including one year in Iraq.

U.S. Congressman C.W. Bill Young and Lieutenant General James Helmly honor the returning reservists at a Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Ceremony on March 11, 2006. All reservists in the unit returned home safely.

Website – New Airport Statistics Feature

Interested in PIE’s passenger history or market share of our airlines? Visit our newest section on the www.fly2pie.com website – just click on the “About PIE” tab and select “Airport Statistics”. Reports will be posted as PDF files. Please let us know if there are reports you’d like us to post for your convenience.

John McCoy - 2006 Airport Employee of the Year

John was selected as the Airport Employee of the Year for his teamwork, efficiency and problem-solving in managing the airport’s computer systems. Congratulations John!

PIE Budget & Statistics

The St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport presented its fiscal year 2007 budget to the Board of County Commissioners on May 9, 2006. As an enterprise fund, the airport is entirely self sufficient and earns its revenue through fees, charges, leases, grants, etc. which enables the Airport to meet its daily operating expenses. In fact, no Pinellas County tax dollars are used to support the Airport.

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