Upcoming Events

• Regular Airport Board Meetings: Mar 14th, & Apr 11th
  The airport Board of Directors meet on the second Thursday of every month. The meetings start at 6:00pm at the Airport Administration Office, 1020 South Plant Road in Wheeling

• Runway Safety Action Team Meeting: Airport Administration Office, Wednesday, March 6th, 10:30am
  Every two months, CEA hosts a local RSAT meeting with airport tenants, FAA Control Tower, and FBO staff to discuss runway safety issues, upcoming construction, and all other aspects of runway safety. Everyone is invited to attend this bimonthly meeting.

• PACE Regular Meetings: Monday, Feb and Mar 25th, 2:00pm
  PACE has changed their meeting schedule in 2013. PACE (Public Awareness for Chicago Executive Airport) is a community group that now meets on the last Monday of every month at 2:00pm at the Airport Administration Office, 1020 South Plant Road. PACE is working on some exciting projects. Contact Mike Haupt for more info on becoming a member, pace@aliquis-llc.com

“Upcoming Airport Administration Office Closures”
February 18th & March 29th

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E. Allan Englehardt retires as board Chairman after six years of dedicated service

Speaking of Englehardt’s time with the board, Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau said, “He was very dedicated to the position. He loves the airport. I would say that he has aviation in his blood.”

As a retired 777 United pilot, FAA flight examiner, and active role in countless professional aviation organizations, Allan Englehardt is truly an ambassador of aviation.

Chairman Englehardt began his leadership as Chairman of the CEA Board of Directors in December of 2007.

His term as Chairman of the Airport Board at Chicago Executive Airport ended with his last Airport Board meeting on January 17th of this year.

We look forward to seeing you around the airport Allan!

CEA Operations and Maintenance crews have been working non-stop to keep the airfield clear of snow and ice since the beginning of February. A quiet January had crews wondering if the snow was ever going to fall this winter season.

Winter Finally Arrives…in February

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Rouleau said that he expects they’ll attend the Schedulers & Dispatchers Conference on a regular basis. In future years, that means they’ll have an even better location for the CEA booth.

Dan Hubbard, a spokesman for the NBAA, said this was the 24th year for the event. There were 425 booths and 2,434 attendees. The event had 2,612 attendees in 2008 but fell off after that year due to the recession. This year’s attendance was the highest since the onset of the recession.

“We’re pleased to see that the event continues to be valued by attendees and exhibitors alike, especially during this economic climate,” Hubbard said.

The event included seminars on a wide range of topics specific to airport schedulers and dispatchers. Among the 36 classes offered there was a heavy emphasis on classes related to improving airport security and safety.
A message from our Airport Manager, Dennis G. Rouleau

While speaking on January 29th at the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce Annual State of the Village and City Addresses luncheon at Tuscany Restaurant in Wheeling, Mayor Nicholas Heimer, of Prospect Heights, and Village President Judy Abruscato, of Wheeling, agreed that they’re optimistic about the future in spite of the sluggish economy.

They shared news about upcoming projects in the community, including a new grocery store planned for Prospect Heights. They also spoke about transportation’s vital role in the area’s future economic success. Chicago Executive Airport plays an essential part in that.

Here at Chicago Executive, we also have some projects planned for this year as well as some recently completed developments, including the recently completed 53,800-square-foot hangar and office built by Atlantic Aviation last year for a new corporate client.

Signature Flight Support also has a new hangar on its books. The 22,000-square-foot hangar, planned for the north side of Tower Road, will include 18,000 square feet of hangar and office and serve the needs of “Tin Goose Garage,” a flight support company joining the CEA family.

Hawthorne Aviation is coming to CEA as our third FBO, and the renovation of the 34 Hold Apron should begin this spring. 2013 should be an exciting year!

From Beijing to CEA – new intern making strides

PAPA update – the general aviation community is a very charitable one...

The general aviation community at Chicago Executive Airport is a very charitable one. Every day, pilots are donating their time and their aircraft for good purpose. You may be well aware of the Annual Santa Toy Drop that benefits local charities.

You may also be aware of the quarterly Young Eagles Flying Program. Chicago Executive Airport (CEA), but you may not be aware of some of the other ways we donate and inspire.

Each year, the Civil Air Patrol hosts a Flight Encampment at Mattoon, Illinois that provides basic instruction to young kids interested in power flight, glider flight and balloon flight. Many youngsters have set their career path based on what they have learned from the CAP and this week long event. Many of the participants – those who donate their time and talent for a week (or even two weeks) every year – come from our airport.

From the Corporate Angel Network to animal rescue and transport with the Pilots and Paws, you can see that pilots at CEA generously donate their time and resources to better the community and educate young and old aviation enthusiasts.

If you would like to add to the aviation generosity, you can contact the pilots or groups at www.napilots.org.

This Edition’s Q&A with our Maintenance Lead, Joe

Q: We know that you are concentrating on snow right now, but when do you start to think about getting equipment ready to mow the airfield in the spring?
A: We actually like to think about warmer weather and cutting the grass in the spring. We start about this time each year to get our mowing equipment ready for the long grass cutting and airfield maintenance season. We have been fortunate in the past year to purchase some new mowing equipment, which really helps. We will bring those mowers into the shop and start the servicing: changing fluids and filters, sharpening and replacing blades, and making sure we are stocked up on parts. We also plan our recurrent airport/safety training with the control tower and our maintenance crew.

Wind City Flyers Flight School

An entry into the world of aviation...

Chicago Executive Airport has a rich tradition of offering internships that help students launch aviation careers. Many of the interns come from the Midwest. This year’s intern definitely had a little further to travel.

Miaozi Guo, a Chinese national from Beijing, has a bachelor’s degree in aviation administration and is pursuing a graduate degree at Lewis University’s in Romeoville. She’s working on a master’s degree in science of aviation and transportation.

Jamie Abbott, Assistant Airport Manager at Chicago Executive, said Guo works alongside others in various departments with the airport administration.

“She’s been working with Keelan Noonan, the Operations Coordinator, to get more experience with airport operations,” Abbott said. “She’s been out with the snow removal team as well.”

Guo said she was at a Chicago Area Business Aviation Association (CABAA) luncheon when she met Abbott. “He said they had an opening for an intern and I applied.”

Guo said student pilots can bring a friend along in the backseat while they train. In other cases, they’ve had teams of friends and family members learning together – husbands and wives, mothers and daughters, brothers.

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Since starting the internship January 2, Guo has helped with everything from filing financial records to inspecting the airfield.

“I do airfield inspections with the maintenance crew once a week,” she said. “We look at all the lights and signs to see if anything is broken, if so, it is fixed right away.”

She said that, through the experience, she’s receiving a well-rounded understanding of how the airport works.

Welcome to CEA Miaozi!

Windy City Flyers Flight School

An entry into the world of aviation...

Windy City currently has 13 aircraft and 10 FAA Certified Flight Instructors on full-time status.

"We have people of all ages come in for pilot training," said Dave Nichols, the Director of Sales and Marketing for the company.

He said that some take pilot training for recreation and others to pursue a career in aviation. Some want to earn their pilot’s license before going on to attend an aviation program at a college or university. Having their pilot’s license beforehand gives them a leg up in school.

Many of the pilots in training at Windy City Flyers are in high school. Liz Ganz, a liaison with the company, promotes interest in aviation at local high schools. She said pilot training helps to develop young minds.

“Taking flying lessons is just a great way to develop discipline along with being a pilot — that no-excuse attitude.”

Some student pilots are even younger, such as Nakita Gordon, a 10-year-old Wheeling boy. A flight instructor is always on hand with someone that young. Gordon’s flight instructor Charlie Hillbrant said Gordon did a great job handling the plane.

Chicago Executive Airport Manager, Dennis Rouleau, said flight schools play an essential role in the aviation world, particularly where a shortage of qualified pilots is currently anticipated.

“They (flight schools) provide entry points for people seeking careers in aviation,” he said. “Learning fly is a good way to evaluate business needs. We need more pilots. The schools are part of the process of filling that need.”

Ganz said student pilots can bring a friend along in the backseat while they train. In other cases, they’ve had teams of friends and family members learning together – husbands and wives, mothers and daughters, brothers.

Nichols said some have even used the opportunity to propose marriage. One young man had spelled out “Will you marry me” in the snow near the airport. But, when they went up, he discovered the snow had melted. He had to propose the old-fashioned way, but at several thousand feet, it was still a great experience.
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Rouleau said the Schedulers & Dispatchers Conference, while not as big as the annual meeting, offers the benefit of a more level playing field which also translates to savings in the cost of a booth.

“It doesn’t matter if you are a small business, or a major aircraft manufacturer, you’re only allowed a 10-foot by 10-foot booth,” he said. The airport recently purchased a new booth which has an aerial photograph of the airport in the background.

The previous booth, which was older and larger, had a significant initial investment, as well as higher costs for setup and renting space. The airport was able to sell that booth for a further financial benefit. Additionally, the new booth fits a shift in the airport’s marketing strategy – a reallocation of funds to give the airport better exposure.

“This was our first time attending the Schedulers & Dispatchers Conference,” Rouleau said. “If you’re a loyal exhibitor, you’re given a higher priority – you’re given a better location. Still, we still had a good spot – not too far from the main door to the concessions. And we had a lot of traffic stop by.”

Rouleau said that he expects they’ll attend the Schedulers & Dispatchers Conference on a regular basis. In future years, that means they’ll have an even better location for the CEA booth.

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