

Executive Director's REPORT



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SAA and City of Sebring hosted the Mayor of Anyang City, Henan Province of the People's Republic of China

Earlier in May, Sebring Airport Authority (SAA) and the City of Sebring were hosts to Chinese Delegates from the Aero Sport Association (ASA) located in Anyang City, in the Henan Province of the People's Republic of China. The purpose of the meeting was to further develop the relationship between the two countries' aviation industries and the cities of Sebring and Anyang. Anyang has established relationships with 28 other cities worldwide.

At the end of the historic event, ASA representative, Shu Dong and SAA Executive Director Mike Willingham signed a Letter of Intent forming a cooperation platform between the two cities and light sport aviation/general aviation. The letter stated the desire to strengthen this relationship in the coming years and included intent for exchange of ideas and economic growth with regards to light sport aviation, general aviation, education, culture, and trade.

Shu Dong stated that he would like to see "strong collaboration" with Sebring in the areas of culture, education, and economic trade as well as a strong working city-to-city relationship that included young adults and teens. He added that he sees the Anyang-Sebring relationship as yet another step towards unity and as a model for relations between China and America.

SAA staff and Executive Director, Mike Willingham; Highlands County Commissioner, Jack Richie; Sebring Mayor, John Shoop; City Councilman/SAA Liaison, Lenard B. Carlisle, Jr.; HCEDC Coordinator, Taylor Benson; and Mark Andrews, SAA Board of Directors Chair were present to greet the Chinese representatives.

Three SAA tenants made presentations about their company, product, and relationship with the Sebring Airport: Justin with Lockwood Aviation (AirCam), Chris Lord with Pictaio/ELA (GyroPlane), and Shannon Yeager with Tecnam.

Wayne Estes, President and General Manager of the Sebring International Raceway, was also present for the Chinese Delegation's arrival. All were treated to lunch following the presentations by the SAA aviation manufacturers. Phil Lockwood with Lockwood Aviation spoke about the sport aviation industry and growth. Mike Willingham spoke about his participation last year at the Aviation Symposium in China as well as on other topics relating to both cities' desire to build on their relationship in the future.

Mayor Shoop invited the Chinese delegates to return anytime to the City of Sebring. Mayor Shoop presented the Mayor of Anyang City the Key to the City. The Mayor of

Anyang City presented Mayor Shoop with an Anyang City traditional embroidered scroll representing honesty, perseverance and good relations, along with a blessing for the City's development.

The Anyang Mayor told his audience that he was "awestruck" by the General Aviation (GA) growth in Sebring, and he was eagerly expecting to codevelop GA growth in Anyang City as well. Currently Anyang City is the "GA capital of China." Last year they were the demonstration city for GA development.

Anyang City has a strong history in the GA industry as it is home to the GA Institute established in the 1950's. The Institute has produced many excellent pilots nationally and internationally. Its three colleges offer career development in many fields of study, and Anyang has educated twelve different entrepreneurs in GA. One graduate was the first to acquire certification for the 6S Helicopter, subsequently obtaining a license to train helicopter pilots. This individual was also one of the first in China to be trained on helicopter maintenance.

At the end of the meeting, the Chinese delegates were given a grand farewell by the SAA staff and invitees and were flown back to Orlando by Jason Ali, FBO GM at Sebring Regional Airport and his father to prepare for their return trip back to Anyang City.

SUN N' FUN 2017



Report from Melissa Finger

Sebring Airport Authority and Sebring Expo took part in the 2017 Sun N' Fun event. It had been a few years since we attended as an exhibitor, vs. an attendee so it was a good time to reengage. In an effort to promote our Sebring tenants, our booth location was in Paradise City, which showcases Sport and Light Sport Aircraft. We reached out to Tecnam,

Lockwood Aviation, and our newest tenant ELA (Gyroplane) to help promote the Sebring Regional Airport and the U.S. Sport Aviation Expo.

Our location was perfect, and our booth was a huge draw for foot traffic with our tenant's products front and center. Expo 2017 received positive feedback, and excitement for the next event was very up beat. The new layout, and the services that the exhibitors received during the

planning and set up were talked about over and over.

Many Expo exhibitors raved about the amount of exposure the new premier spaces received at this past January Sebring Expo. They too want to be front and center in 2018. Bristell is the first signed exhibitor for the 2018 Expo and CubCrafters plans to sign up and is requesting a sponsorship that includes outdoor event signage.

SEBRING INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY UPDATE



Reporting from Wayne Estes

In the wake of a successful 65th running of the Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring Fueled by Fresh From Florida, Sebring Raceway staffers have been hard at work cleaning out and refurbishing the former home of the Skip Barber Racing School, which is now available to be rented by a new tenant.

Also, to address a recent Life Safety report, SIR staffers have stripped the wood out of two of our pedestrian bridges, preparing to

replace the old flooring and steps with much more durable (and less expanding) aluminum planking. Work on replacing the planking and installing new handrails should start shortly. Additional items on the Life Safety report are to be addressed soon.

Starting soon will be construction on a new restroom/shower facility in Green Park near the hairpin. The old restroom was demolished shortly after the 12 Hours, and now

that bids are in, permitting and construction should start soon.

Just one more drag race remains before the summer break, and the season has been a rousing success. Crowds have averaged 1,000 per event, and this year we picked up sponsorship from Air and Electrical Services, and its Comfortmakers brand. This is the first season-long sponsorship acquired for the Sebring Drag Racing Series.

OTHER NEWS AND INFO.

Apron Rehabilitation Project

Staff is in the process of finalizing an RFQ for this project in anticipation of an FAA/

FDOT grant to cover the complete design and permitting of the project together with the first construction phase.

Rail Project

RFQ for the selection of a design consultant has been advertised and the proposals are due June 8th, 2017.

Master Plan

Contract on agenda for the Board's consideration. Concurrence by funding agencies have been received.



Spring IAC (International Aerobatic Club) Competition at SRA

Reporting from Jason Ali

The International Aerobatic Club Spring 2017 Competition was held at Sebring Regional Airport recently. The Competitors began their week by practicing in, and getting used to, what is known as "The Box". "The Box" is the controlled space for aircraft aerobatic performance routines. Each performance is judged by a panel of their peers. For some of the competitors, this was a chance to polish up and get critical feedback on their flights; for the newer attendees, these practice flights would also serve as a valuable tool for the pilots to become familiar with the new environment.

The competition flying began on Thursday May 4th. The categories of Unlimited, Advanced, and Intermediate flew their initial flights on this day. The Sportsmen and Primary Competitors would have to wait until the following day for their turn in "The Box". All categories had their chances to impress the judges

with each of their three separate flights.

For the more advanced categories, pilots would fly three different routines; these routines were the Known, Free, and Unknown. The Known flight is the published aerobatic routine for each specific category. The Free aerobatic routine is made up by each pilot and is basically a compilation of the different catalog maneuvers combined into an arrangement which best displays the individual's strengths. Finally, the third aerobatic routine flown is the Unknown, given to each competitor 12 hours before they have to perform the aerial display. What makes this third flight so very difficult is that none of the pilots are able to actually practice the Unknown in their aircraft; they are only able to work it out in their heads. The first time this routine will be flown by each competitor will be in front of the judges.

For me, most of this information was learned by participating in and becoming



more involved over these last two years. This event was my very first aerobatic competition where I actually was a competitor. With the encouragement of the many IAC members and the training of Joe Brinker, President of Sebring's IAC Chapter 23, I was not only able to just be a part of the event but I was also able to take home first place in the Primary Segment for myself and for Sebring.

About Jason Ali

Jason is the FBO General Manager of the Sebring Flight Center and he can now say that he is an IAC Aerobatic Pilot.



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With strategic access to major markets by land, sea and air—Sebring Regional Airport and Commerce Park offers a wide range of business advantages and incentives to support your company’s future. In the heart of Central Florida, the 2,000-acre park is conveniently situated within a 150-mile radius of 85 percent of the state’s population. Already home to Sebring International Raceway, a premier sports car racing facility, the park is uniquely positioned to accelerate your business.

SITE MAP

- Future Development
- Existing Industrial Park
- Catalyst Site
- Airport
- Future Commerce Park
- Sebring International Raceway



ACCELERATE YOUR BUSINESS'S POTENTIAL