

# 2012 Florida Aviation Awards

*Richard Biter, FDOT's Assistant Secretary for Intermodal Systems Development, and Aaron Smith, FDOT's State Aviation Manager, announced the winners of the 2012 Florida Aviation Awards at the Florida Airports Council Conference in July in Naples.*

## Aviation Professional

### Chris Rozansky, C.M.

Chris Rozansky, C.M., Airport Administrator, Venice Municipal Airport, began his career in Florida during a very difficult time for the airport and community. His determination and professionalism led to the resolution of many long-standing controversial issues, including the Airport Layout Plan and the airport's capital improvement program.

Chris Rozansky was instrumental in undertaking plans for a complete rehabilitation of the airfield to include many safety and noise mitigation efforts.

He facilitated the approval of an updated fee schedule, establishing rent for new T-hangars, and added two new fees to enhance the airport's ability to be financially self-sufficient.

Through his direction and commitment to the aviation and non-aviation community, Chris Rozansky's many accomplishments have bridged the gap between the airport and residents of the city of Venice. His many accomplishments, commitment to excellence, and relentless contribution of personal time and energy to improving the conditions at Venice Municipal Airport are proof that he is truly an example of an extraordinary aviation professional.

### General Aviation Airport Naples Municipal Airport

Naples Municipal Airport continues to provide the local community and state with an airport that is economically self-sufficient while remaining focused on improving safety and security with an emphasis on maintaining the aesthetics and acoustics that are important to the local residents. The airport manager and staff relentlessly seek opportunities



*Above left: General Aviation Airport: Naples Municipal Airport; Richard Biter, FDOT's Assistant Secretary for Intermodal Systems Development; Ted Soliday, Executive Director, City of Naples Airport Authority; Aaron Smith, FDOT's State Aviation Manager. Above right: Commercial Service Airport: Southwest Florida International Airport; Richard Biter; Bob Ball, A.A.E., Executive Director, Southwest Florida International Airport; Aaron Smith.*



to bring new businesses to the airport, thereby increasing job opportunities and economic growth.

This airport observes the latest security directives and exceeds all Transportation Security Administration requirements for a general aviation airport. The majority of all taxiways have been rehabilitated during the last four years. Runway 5/23 was completely rehabilitated in 2011 under an FAA grant.

The City of Naples Airport Authority provides the venue for community events, such as Fourth of July celebrations and the annual Run for the Paws to benefit the Humane Society.

On December 30, 2010, U.S. Customs and Border Protection began providing services from a new Customs facility, built and paid for by the airport authority as a service to airport tenants and the public. During its first nine months of operation, 310 aircraft, many of them based at the airport, cleared Customs through the new facility. Traffic during the first seven months of 2012 has already surpassed the prior year.

We congratulate the City of Naples Airport Authority; Ted Soliday, Executive Director, City of Naples Airport Authority; and the staff of Naples Municipal Airport.

### Commercial Service Airport Southwest Florida Int'l Airport

Southwest Florida International Airport was certified for operation in May 1983 and has consistently outpaced all growth projections with a state-of-the-art terminal that was constructed and opened in September 2005. The airport is ranked in the top 50 busiest airports in North America and now serves more than eight million passengers annually. The airport generates more than \$2 billion per year and has more than 20 airline partners with nonstop service to 47 destinations including four international destinations. The airport continues to grow in the international market, serving European destinations and extending commercial service throughout South America.

Safety and security are the priority. The airport continues to upgrade equipment with the latest available technology to include thermal imaging cameras to help prevent and detect intruders along the perimeter fence.

The airport also continues to maintain the beautiful surroundings that their customers have come to appreciate.

We congratulate Bob Ball, A.A.E., Executive Director, Lee County Port

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Authority; and the staff of Southwest Florida International Airport and the Lee County Port Authority.

## General Aviation Airport Project

### Taxiway Alpha Construction, Marco Island Airport

Marco Island Airport's construction of Taxiway Alpha is the culmination of more than 15 years of planning, environmental permitting and mitigation, and design and construction, resulting in a safer and more efficient airport.

Prior to the construction of Taxiway Alpha, this airport was the only single runway, public-use, publicly owned airport in the state serving jet aircraft without a full length parallel taxiway. With aircraft taxiing on the sole active runway, no operating air traffic control tower, and a fleet mix of aircraft ranging from small single-engine trainers to the largest business jets, a serious safety situation existed.

The airport had to overcome significant land use and environmental issues including restrictions associated with the Deltona Settlement Agreement of 1982, protected mangrove wetlands, and endangered North American crocodiles.

The construction of Taxiway Alpha, along with an expanded apron, has greatly enhanced safety, capacity, and efficiency at Marco Island Airport.

We congratulate Marco Island Airport's executive director Chris Curry and airport manager Bob Tweedie; URS Corporation Southern, consultant; and DeAngelis Diamond Construction, Inc., contractor.

## Commercial Service Airport Project

### Runway Safety Area Project, Key West International Airport

For many years, the Runway Safety Area at Key West International Airport did not meet FAA design standards. Several studies had concluded that construction of a standard RSA was not possible



**Top: General Aviation Airport Project Award;** Aaron Smith, FDOT's State Aviation Manager; Lloyd Byerhoff, Chairman of Collier County Airport Authority Advisory Board; Bob Tweedie, Airport Manager, Marco Island Airport; Richard Biter, FDOT's Assistant Secretary for Intermodal Systems Development; Chris Curry, Executive Director, Marco Island Airport. **Above: Commercial Service Airport Project Award;** Richard Biter; Peter Horton, Monroe County Director of Airports; Aaron Smith.

due to the potential environmental impacts, strong opposition by environmental groups, reluctance of permitting agencies, and mitigation costs.

Through close coordination with the FAA, FDOT, other agencies, and local environmental groups, the county was able to identify a modified RSA that would greatly improve safety while also satisfying environmental requirements. The Runway Safety Area Project incorporated the use of an approved non-standard RSA configuration and an Engineered Material Arresting System to reduce the footprint of the RSA which minimized environmental impacts.

The completion of the RSA project proved itself twice this year. One event was captured on video by a ramp security

camera. All passengers and flight crew safely exited the aircraft. The safety area paid for itself that day, by saving lives, minimizing damage, and averting environmental impacts.

Key West International Airport successfully resolved all impediments that occurred during the 10 years of planning, permitting, and construction of the Runway Safety Area.

We congratulate Peter Horton, Director of Airports, and the staff of Key West International Airport; URS, consultant; and Quality Enterprises, Inc., contractor. ♦

*For more information about the 2012 Florida Aviation Awards, see "Distinguished Aviation Service" on page 5.*

# Distinguished Aviation Service



Wayne Catlett



Ed Cooley



Brian Cooper



Dean Stringer

*Distinguished Aviation Service Award winners are flanked by Richard Biter on the left and Aaron Smith on the right.*

*Four outstanding individuals received 2012 Florida Distinguished Aviation Service Awards: Wayne Catlett, Ed Cooley, Brian Cooper, and Dean Stringer.*

## Wayne Catlett

Wayne Catlett's involvement with aviation is rich with experience and diversity. His career has included 30 years as an operations agent with Page Field Airport.

Wayne was involved in the Civil Air Patrol looking for boaters in distress. He joined the Air Force in 1964 and was a military policeman at several Strategic Air Command bases. After the Air Force, Wayne worked for National Airlines and the Air Kaman fixed base operator at the new Jacksonville airport while he attended college.

Wayne relocated to Page Field in 1979. In 1987, after his transfer from Page Field to Southwest Florida International Airport, he was promoted to Operations Agent II and two years later to Airside Manager. Wayne currently serves as the

## Operations Terminal Manager.

His abundant aviation experience has helped develop Page Field and Southwest Florida International into the airports that we enjoy today.

## Ed Cooley

Ed Cooley's professionalism, expertise, and leadership are deeply appreciated by his peers, government agencies, and civic and trade organizations.

After graduation from college in the early 1970s, Ed started his aviation career as an operations and maintenance manager at Savannah Municipal Airport and was soon promoted to assistant airport manager. He was hired in 1974 by the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority as an assistant director of operations. Ed has held the titles of manager of special projects, director of general aviation, senior director of operations, and vice president of operations.

Ed Cooley has influenced and provided insight for many improvements at the aviation authority's airports. After 36 years of providing leadership, Ed

Cooley retired from the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority in March of 2012. His contribution has created many airport policies and practices that will carry his signature of professional excellence for years to come.

## Bryan Cooper

Bryan Cooper has been involved with aviation for more than 34 years in one capacity or another. He became a pilot in 1978 and flew for 15 years as a corporate pilot while managing the Flagler County Airport. While at Flagler, he opened an additional runway, created a seaplane base, started a flying club, and developed and expanded the airport from six hangars and one business to more than 50 hangars and 10 businesses. Bryan spearheaded an agreement in the development of GPS approaches.

In 1996, Bryan came to Northeast Florida Regional Airport as the Assistant Airport Manager. Bryan championed many aviation and aviation environmental related projects.

Bryan has been a mentor to many professionals, students, and others who had the pleasure of working and meeting with him. He is a teacher by nature who imparts wisdom with his experiences and leadership.

## Dean Stringer

Dean Stringer has served as manager of the Orlando Airports District Office since 1998. He began his career with the FAA in June 1982 working for the Air Traffic Division as an Air Traffic Control Specialist. In May 1983 he was assigned to the position of Civil Engineer with the FAA Airway Facilities Division. Dean Stringer was promoted to the Assistant Manager position in 1989. He was promoted again to the Orlando ADO Manager position in October 1998. He remained the Manager of the FAA Orlando ADO until his retirement in June 2012.

Under Dean Stringer's tenure and leadership, the ADO was able to construct new airports in Palm Beach County and Bay County, and new runways at several international airports.

Dean Stringer successfully led the Orlando ADO to issue grants for projects on time even during the last four years with no AIP reauthorization and 23 continuing resolutions. ♦