

St. Mary's County Airport Advisory Board 2019 Annual Report

27 January 2020



James Alexander, Chairman
Robert Lightstone, Vice Chairman
Ted Klapka, Secretary
Albert Babcock
Bryan Barthelme
Carrie Kelly
Robert Zaorski
Gerald Meyerman, Alternate

Appointed Ex-Officio Member:
Allison Swint, Airport Manager

Assigned Technical Advisor and Staff Support:
Gary B. Whipple, P.E.

MESSAGE FROM THE AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD



Airport Rules, Minimum Standards for Businesses, and Standard Operating Procedures, along with significant airport construction, took center stage in 2019. Throughout the year, the Airport Advisory Board (AAB) continued its work addressing public comments and revising the three important but outdated airport documents. Though taking longer than desired or anticipated, the AAB's work is nearly complete. The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) will see final draft versions early in 2020.

As you'll read in the following pages, there was much to report on at the St. Mary's County Regional Airport (2W6) in 2019! In a peninsular county with numerous high-technology businesses but no interstate highways, no railroads, and no scheduled airline service, the lone public airport takes on outsized significance. Our airport is an important economic engine and center of academic excellence in the county, as well as a safe source of recreation for the general aviation community. This is an exciting period of expansion and exceptional growth -- the challenge is balancing responsible economic development with maintaining the friendly general aviation flavor of the local hometown airport. Many airports in the nation are rich with business activity during the week but are lifeless on weekends because general aviation was not considered an equal priority. Collectively as a community, we must guard against that occurring at St. Mary's County Regional. Economic development and growth at the airport can be a significant benefit for business, general aviation, and the public in St. Mary's County and surrounding region! We encourage local citizens to attend scheduled meetings of the Airport Advisory Board and provide their valuable input on the future direction of our county airport.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The St. Mary's County Airport Advisory Board (AAB) submits this 2019 annual report in accordance with Bylaws Article III. The report includes the following highlights:

- ✈ Airport Rules, Minimum Standards, and Standard Operating Procedures – Dating to 1994, these critical but outdated airport documents have been in the update process for over six years. A public release of the current drafts in late 2018, in advance of a scheduled public hearing with the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, caused concern both with the AAB and the airport community. Since that time, the AAB's priority has been updating these documents and addressing public comments. The Board expects new recommended documents will be presented to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County in early 2020, to be followed by a public hearing.
- ✈ Airport construction has included a new electrical vault, West Apron, main taxiway with lighting, and relocation of Airport Road. Taxiway construction and relocation of Airport Road should be complete in 2020. Construction on Lawrence Hayden Road on the west end of the field was completed in 2019.
- ✈ Continued development of airport-related facilities by S. Hunt Aero, LLC.
- ✈ Addition of several new airport businesses, including ABSI Aerospace and Defense, Alion Science and Technology, Atkinson Aeronautics and Technology, Chesapeake Technology International, and PAE.
- ✈ Creation of an Airport Innovation District Master Plan.
- ✈ Planning for a variety of diverse events to celebrate the airport's 50th Anniversary in 2020.
- ✈ Notable airport activities that advance technology, stimulate research and development, promote general aviation and STEM education with local youth, and encourage the general public to visit the airport.
- ✈ Economic Impact – Based upon the State's 2018 report, business revenues exceeded \$35M with 499 direct and indirect jobs producing in excess of \$32M local income and \$6M in tax revenue. These figures are expected to grow in the future. The next report is due in 2021.
- ✈ Annual Budgeting – Capital Budget Improvements remain on track with the 2002 Master Plan with major construction planned for completion within the next few years. In FY2019, the airport operated at a net gain of \$18,040.85 when comparing direct operational expenses and direct revenues. This reverses the trend of operating at a net loss since at least FY2015.
- ✈ Airport Activity and Capacity – The airport supports more than 40,000 operations annually, an increase of 13.1% from previous data. A total of 190 aircraft reside at the airport as of December 2019. The airport is currently at aircraft storage hangar capacity with 31 aircraft on the waiting list for occupancy. Outdoor tie-downs remain available.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose and Goals of the Board

The Bylaws of the St. Mary’s County Airport Advisory Board, adopted January 15th, 2019, govern the purpose, composition, and procedures of the Board. The purpose of the Board is to “advise the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County concerning the development and management of the St. Mary’s County Regional Airport.” This broad purpose encompasses airport operations, planning, economic development, responsible growth, and identification of the needs and best interests of the citizens of St. Mary’s County. Specific goals of the Board are:

- ✈️ Ensure safe and secure facilities for general aviation;
- ✈️ Promote safe ground and flight operations;
- ✈️ Maintain a friendly environment for the aviation community and the general public;
- ✈️ Improve economic development potential and revenue;
- ✈️ Provide a restaurant, observation area, pilot store/gift shop, and courtesy car for the benefit of the airport community and general public (request for courtesy car sent to the CSMC in October 2019 to attract visiting pilots to the airport and local businesses);
- ✈️ Complete the extension of the runway and relocation of the taxiway to meet or exceed Federal Aviation Administration standards for the Airport Reference Code (B-II large, aircraft less than 12,500 lbs.);
- ✈️ Protect and enhance airspace and approaches;
- ✈️ Ensure that commercial, private and public development in and around the airport meets standards with respect to safety and noise;
- ✈️ Promote the sustainment and growth of general aviation through local activities that showcase the airport to the general public, introduce youth to potential aviation careers, and support Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education

The Board currently consists of eight volunteer members appointed by the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County. Board officers are elected by the Board each January or as required. The Board meets on the fourth Monday of each month in the conference room of the Captain Walter F. Duke Terminal Building in California, Maryland unless otherwise indicated on the county website or a special meeting is necessary. The table below details the attendance record of the Board members in 2019.

Last Name	First Name	JAN 1/28	FEB 2/25	MAR 3/25	APR 4/22	MAY no mtg	JUN 6/24	JUL no mtg	AUG 8/26	SEP 9/23	OCT 10/28	NOV no mtg	DEC 12/2
Officers:													
Pratson	Eric	P	A	A	P	R	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====
Alexander	James	X	X	X	X		P		P	A	P		P
Lightstone	Robert	P	P	P	P		A		P	P	A		P
Klapka	Ted	P	P	A	P		P		P	P	P		P
Members:													
Adair	Terry	P	P	A	P	R	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====
Alexander	James	P	A	P	P		X		X	X	X		X
Babcock	Albert	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====		P	P	P		A
Barthelme	Bryan	P	P	A	A		P		P	A	A		A
Kelly	Carrie	X	X	X	X		X		P	P	P		A
Swygert	Andre	P	A	A	A		R	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====
Schroeder	Brian	A	P	P	A		P	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====
Zaorski	Bob	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====		P	P	P		P
Alternates:													
Nixon	Craig	P	P	P	A	R	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====
Kelly	Carrie	P	P	A	P		P		X	X	X		X
Meyerman	Gerald	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====	'=====		P	P	A		P
P Present						By-Laws Article IV, Section 6: If any appointed member fails to attend three (3) consecutive regular meetings, with or without reasonable cause, or is absent from 50% of the regularly scheduled meetings during any calendar year, the Chairperson shall notify the County Administrator of the absences for appropriate action.							
A Absent													
R Resigned													
X Place holder, new Board position													
'===== Not on Board													

The Airport Operations Division of the Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) provides administrative staff support and valuable technical input to the Airport Advisory Board. The Airport Manager, Allison Swint, serves as an ex-officio member of the Board. The St. Mary's County Building Services Division assists the Airport Manager by providing facilities maintenance services. A Private-Public relationship for airfield operations was established via the 2005 Operating Agreement with the primary Fixed Base Operator (referenced below as AIRtec, Inc.), who provides daily operational support. Some services provided by the FBO have been or will be transitioned to the County.

Hail, Farewell, and Thank You

The Board would like to recognize Mr. John Deatrick, Director of Public Works and Transportation, for his continued support of the airport. Mr. Deatrick is assisted by outstanding staff support which he directs through his deputy, Mr. Gary Whipple. Day-to-day airport operations are managed by Allison Swint. The Board wishes to extend its recognition of the County Highways & Building Services Divisions of the DPW&T, Department of Recreation & Parks, Department of Economic Development (DED), Department of Land Use & Growth Management (LUGM), Department of Finance, Civil Air Patrol (CAP), Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), and fixed-based tenants on the airfield for their continued assistance over the past year. The Board also recognizes the service of those members who departed in the past year: Terry Adair, Craig Nixon, Eric Pratson, Brian Schroeder, and Andre Swygart. Finally, we wish to recognize the outstanding leadership provided by Mr. Eric Pratson (January – April 2019), and Mr. James Alexander (May – December 2019) as Board Chairman.

MISSION STATEMENT

“To satisfy aviation demand and promote airport development that both integrates with the community and serves the region's general aviation needs.”



HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2019

Airport Rules, Minimum Standards for Businesses, and Standard Operating Procedures

The current Rules and Minimum Standards were adopted in 1994 as a county ordinance and have been undergoing a review and update for several years to better align with the growth and future of the airport. The County, Airport Advisory Board, and local aviation community have been committed to creation of a compliant, workable, and amenable set of documents for all airport stakeholders. Since 2013, this process has included lively debate, discussion, and some contention; however, the best interests of the airport have stood paramount throughout the entirety of this effort.

The Airport Advisory Board, with public input, initially developed a final draft of the proposed Airport Rules and Minimum Standards in 2017. These documents were reviewed by the FAA and MAA without comment, then forwarded to the County Attorney for review as a county ordinance. Following that review, the newly revised documents were posted for the public in late 2018 in advance of a scheduled public hearing with the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on January 8th, 2019. The documents included some significant changes which caused concern with both the Airport Advisory Board and the airport community. More work was needed, so the public hearing was deferred. A public forum was hosted by the AAB to get public comment and perspective on the latest draft documents, with about 70 citizens attending. Revising the airport documents and addressing public comments has been the top priority and focus of the Board from late 2018 and throughout 2019. There was both progress and setback during the year, and the Board was not able to complete its work in summer/fall as desired and anticipated. As a positive indicator of progress though, the August drafts of the documents were reviewed by Government Advocacy Specialists at the Experimental Aircraft Association. EAA is the world leader in recreational aviation with more than 220,000 members in over 100 nations, and they stated "EAA believes the draft airport rules have been successfully modified to satisfy the interests of both St. Mary's County as well as the airport's general aviation users, including our members." The November 2019 issue of *EAA Sport Aviation* magazine highlighted this success, noting that "the county and the airport advisory board were highly receptive to the feedback they received in the comments from both the chapter and EAA headquarters."

The Board expects new recommended documents will be presented to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County in early 2020, to be followed by a public hearing. The county will issue a new Airport Rules ordinance after the public hearing and comment process is complete.



S. Hunt Aero, LLC

S. Hunt Aero, LLC is a private entrepreneur development company with a vested market-driven approach to excellence in developing aviation-related facilities at St. Mary's County airport. 2019 airport activity included the following.

On Airport:

- Completing Hangar X, a 6,300 SF commercial hangar to be occupied by Atkinson Aviation. Atkinson Aviation is now open and providing maintenance and avionics services.
- Started Hangar Y, an 11,000 SF storage/commercial hangar. Should complete in early 2020 and be occupied by AIRtec's DC-3.
- Completed the first 1,800 feet of Airport Loop Road pavement.
- Completed upgrades to the Airport Pump Station and extended sewer and water lines to the west end.
- Extended three-phase electric, natural gas, and fiber optic conduit to midfield hangars. Once completed, the west end will have easy access to three-phase electric, fiber optics, natural gas, water, and sewer.

Adjacent Airport:

Completing four office/flex/high bay buildings for:

- Chesapeake Technologies Inc. – 5,000 SF
- AIRtec and S Hunt Aero, LLC – 2,500 SF
- PAE – 2,500 SF
- ABSI – 3,860 SF
- Alion – 20,000 SF and 5,000 SF
- To be Determined – 12,000 SF



University of Maryland Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Test Site



UAS TEST SITE

The UMD UAS Test Site made history on April 19th, 2019 with the first-ever delivery by drone of a human organ for transplantation. The 2.8-mile flight occurred at 1:00 am over downtown Baltimore, and four hours after landing at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) Shock Trauma Center, the kidney was successfully transplanted into a patient who'd been on dialysis for eight years. The flight required extensive preparation and coordination with the FAA, City of Baltimore, Living Legacy Foundation, and UMMC, and quickly received substantial international media attention.

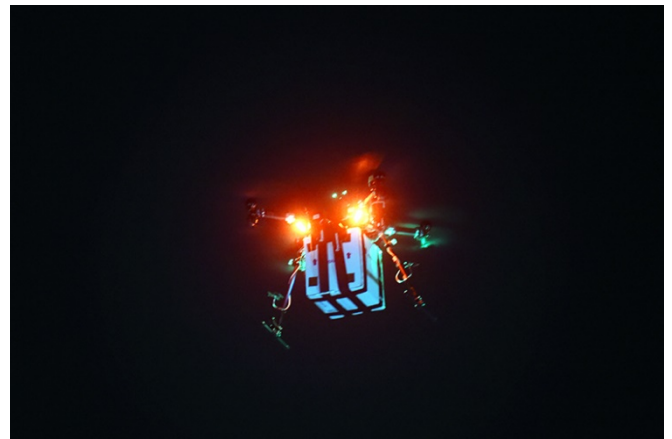
A brand new, custom-designed Mobile Operations Center (MOC) arrived in January to support TigerShark flight operations, thanks to a grant from the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance. The MOC has proved invaluable as a mobile base for storing, transporting, and flying 350 lb TigerShark UAS from Crisfield, MD and Webster Field in support of several US Navy projects.

With the continuing development of the TigerShark program, the large fixed-wing Talon 240G UAS was retired and donated to St. Mary's County in honor of the airport's 50th Anniversary in 2020. Plans are to hang the aircraft from the airport terminal ceiling as a visitor display, showcasing the role unmanned aircraft play alongside manned aircraft in St. Mary's County.

Along those lines, the Test Site hosted two major events in November in conjunction with the first National Drone Safety Awareness Week, sponsored by the FAA. The first was a visit by the CEO and 20 staff of the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI), the world's largest non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of unmanned systems and robotics. The visit included briefings, discussion, flight demonstrations, and hands-on flying experience to inform and energize AUVSI's advocacy efforts. The following evening, a public drone safety event was held at the Test Site featuring a flight demonstration and presentations on drone safety from UMD staff as well as the Academy of Model Aeronautics (recreational/hobby use), St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office (public safety use), and AlarisPro (training/airworthiness/fleet management). Approximately 60 people attended, including two FAA representatives.

Summer interns and many other projects, including support to the NASA Search and Rescue Mission Office, development/test of a Puma solar wing, and testing of two unique UAS, rounded out the Test Site's fifth anniversary year. A noteworthy project was supporting humanitarian relief efforts in the Bahamas following Hurricane Dorian. Working with Global Medic, a humanitarian aid organization, Test Site pilot/engineer Josh Gaus mapped critical sections of Grand Bahama island over one week in October to document the devastation and help focus resources where needed. 2019 also included the milestone achievement of our 1,000th UAS flight.

The University of Maryland continues to be a catalyst for economic growth and development at the airport and in the region. The Southern Maryland Higher Education Center merged with the University System of Maryland on March 1st, 2019 to become the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM). It is USM's third regional education center and the only one with a dedicated research component. Groundbreaking for an 84,000 square foot third building, which will focus on autonomous technology in all domains, is planned for early 2020. The University Research and Business Park is expected to be complete by Spring 2022.



TechPort Business Incubator



In 2019, TechPort secured the critical validation of a foundational client base. An exciting cornerstone client, TSI, was also secured who sought TechPort advisement as well as opportunities to hire and invest in startups. We also developed a unique invention-entrepreneur network which engaged the Navy, local businesses, and area high schools.

2019 also saw the completion of facility advancements to offices and newly equipped workshops tuned to the client and strategic objectives, including 3D printing. A successful 3D Printing Fair was held, along with a Holiday Hangar Party to celebrate the end of a successful year with a bright future.

In November, TechPort hired a new Director, Tommy Luginbill. Tommy has an extensive background in business, innovation, and entrepreneurship. When asked about his new position, Tommy shared that he is “excited to be working at the TechPort and can't wait to engage with the other great leaders throughout the St. Mary’s County Airport community.”

St. Mary's Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol



The St. Mary's Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) has met weekly at the Walter Duke terminal building at St. Mary's County Regional Airport since 2002. The CAP Mission Statement is: Supporting America's communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promotion of air, space, and cyber power. CAP is a federally chartered corporation that is also the official Auxiliary of the United States Air Force. It is mainly made up of volunteers who dedicate their time to helping others and improving the community. Nationally, there are more than 26,000 cadet members and more than 36,000 adult members. Cadet members range in age from 10 to 21 years old but mainly consist of middle and high school students between the ages of 12 and 18. Senior Members (adults) conduct the supervisory and execution roles of the organization. Aircraft and automobiles are provided to CAP units for their use in training and providing services in emergency conditions and are funded by the United States Air Force.

Cadets are beneficiaries of many unique and valuable opportunities presented through CAP. The Cadet Program is an outstanding leadership opportunity, with many of the cadet leaders moving on to graduate from college and continue to be a positive influence in their community. There is no military commitment incurred by participating in the Civil Air Patrol, however, it does allow youth to see how a military-like organization is structured and offers education and leadership activities to benefit the whole community, both here locally and elsewhere in the state and country.

St. Mary's Composite Squadron has an association with the Esperanza Middle School Flight and the two organizations operate together as one large unit. The membership consists of 149 members made up of 87 Cadets and 62 Senior Members. Of the more than 400 events St. Mary's Composite Squadron conducted during 2019, nearly 200 of them were held at the Walter Duke terminal building, hosting over 2,500 members plus parents and visitors. The squadron meets weekly on Wednesday nights at the terminal building where they conduct training in aerospace, leadership, core values, character development, and physical fitness. St. Mary's members participated in disaster relief operations and contributed to the 117 lives saved by CAP in 2019 alone! The squadron operates a corporate aircraft from the St. Mary's Airport to perform Search missions and can use the aircraft and ground vehicles to locate Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs). St. Mary's Members also supported the Fertile Keynote mission in support of Air National Guard training events.

Other activities in 2019 included Search and Rescue exercise (SAREX) events, Search and Rescue Training, First Aid Classes, Flight Operations, Pilot training, Color Guard practice, UAS competition training, STEM events, leadership training, parent orientation meetings, regional aerospace education training, Emergency Services training, and tutoring events. Specifically, in the Summer of 2019 CAP hosted two week-long youth Cyber Defense Camps at the terminal building educating 25 middle and high school students from Southern Maryland. St. Mary's Squadron hosts a top-ranked CyberPatriot cyber defense competition team and has made a podium finish in the UAS4STEM national UAS competition for the past four years running.

The Walter Duke terminal building is absolutely essential to the continued success of the St. Mary's Composite Squadron and the outstanding positive influence provided to our local youth.



Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 478

EAA Chapter 478 holds a Young Eagles rally each summer at the St. Mary's County Regional Airport, giving a free airplane ride to youth aged 8 to 17 and perhaps inspiring them to a future career in aviation. This year's event was held June 15th, 2019 and 71 Young Eagles were flown by 13 volunteer pilots. Other opportunities throughout the year raised the chapter's annual total to 112 Young Eagles flown by 19 volunteer pilots. Since 1992, the chapter has flown a total of 3,188 Young Eagles, and nationwide EAA has flown more than two million total Young Eagles! Each of those flights may have created a special memory and been the start of a lifelong passion for aviation.

In May, the chapter hosted its first VMC Club meeting. VMC Club is a free pilot safety and proficiency forum open to all pilots. It meets the third Saturday of each month in the airport terminal building.

In August, the chapter also arranged a tour of NAS Patuxent River's control tower and radar facility for the benefit of local pilots.



Airport Innovation District

An Airport Innovation District Master Plan took shape in 2019, created by the St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development and consultant Torti Gallas + Partners, with input from key airport stakeholders and the general public. The purpose of the Master Plan is to build upon the recent growth at the airport and foster continued research, technology development, and new businesses in the area. While not considered a key airport stakeholder in the process, the Airport Advisory Board was able to present a statement of support with comments at the public meeting held on June 25th, 2019. Main points were keep the airport an airport, balance economic development with general aviation needs, provide for an airport restaurant and observation area, allow for a walking campus, connect to the county public transportation system, and incorporate STEM education and other opportunities to promote the sustainment and growth of general aviation. All of these points, and many other great ideas, were incorporated into the final plan. This plan was presented to the public on September 30th and to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on November 5th as a vision for what the future could look like at the airport and surrounding community.



Airport 50th Anniversary Planning

A small 50th Anniversary Planning Committee was established in April 2019, consisting of representatives from the Airport Advisory Board and local aviation businesses and organizations. Numerous events are planned throughout 2020 to celebrate this milestone with the community! A Fly-In Farmer's Market was held on Saturday, December 21st, 2019 as the kickoff event and attracted about 500 guests, many of them to see Santa arrive in his red helicopter!



Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of St. Mary's County Regional Airport!

Something for everyone!

December 21, 2019

January 11, 2020

January 18, 2020

January 29, 2020

February 8, 2020

February 15, 2020

March 6, 2020

March 14, 2020

March 21, 2020

April 18, 2020

May 9, 2020

May 16, 2020

May 19, 2020

May 30, 2020

June 16, 2020

June 17-19, 2020

July 18, 2020

July 28, 2020

August 2020

August 8, 2020

August 15, 2020

September 19, 2020

September 2020

September 19, 2020

September 26, 2020

October 17, 2020

October 17, 2020

November 2020

November 21, 2020

December 19, 2020

December 19, 2020

Holiday Farmer's Market / See Santa Fly In!

Indoor Radio-Controlled Aircraft Display/Demos/Sims

VMC Club (monthly pilot safety/proficiency forum)*

Civil Air Patrol Open House

*AOPA Rusty Pilots**/ Flying Clubs / WINGS Event*

Fly-In Farmers Market

Movie Night – 1970 Oscar winner "Airport"

VMC Club / FAA Pilot Forum / WINGS Event*

Fly-In Farmers Market

VMC Club (monthly pilot safety/proficiency forum)*

Vintage Aircraft / Vintage Cars / EAA Young Eagles

"World's Fastest Bourbon" with Harrier (ticketed event)

Airport 50th Anniversary Proclamation

EAA Young Eagles (free flights for youths age 8-17)

Open Hangar Night (invitation only)

Maryland Airport Managers Assoc (invitation only)

VMC Club (monthly pilot safety/proficiency forum)*

National Aviation Day Event (Leonardtown)

Fly-In and Shuttle to Pax River Naval Air Museum

Taxiway 5K Run

VMC Club (monthly pilot safety/proficiency forum)*

Fly-In Breakfast and WINGS Event

UAS (drone) Airshow (invitation only)

VMC Club (monthly pilot safety/proficiency forum)*

International Girls in Aviation Day Event

Airport Open House

VMC Club (monthly pilot safety/proficiency forum)*

Civil Air Patrol Open House

VMC Club (monthly pilot safety/proficiency forum)*

Holiday Farmer's Market / See Santa Fly In!

VMC Club (monthly pilot safety/proficiency forum)*



* VMC Club meets the third Saturday of each month; not all meetings are listed here due to space. Other dates 2/15, 5/16, 6/20.

** Free for AOPA members, and a good review for all pilots.

Dates and events subject to change. All events are free and located at St. Mary's County Regional Airport, 44200 Airport Rd, California, MD 20619 unless noted otherwise. For more info see <https://www.stmarysmc.com/dpw/airport-operations/anniversary> or contact Airport Manager Allison Swint at 301-475-4200 x73511 or Allison.swint@stmarysmc.com.

AIRPORT DATA

Safety & Security

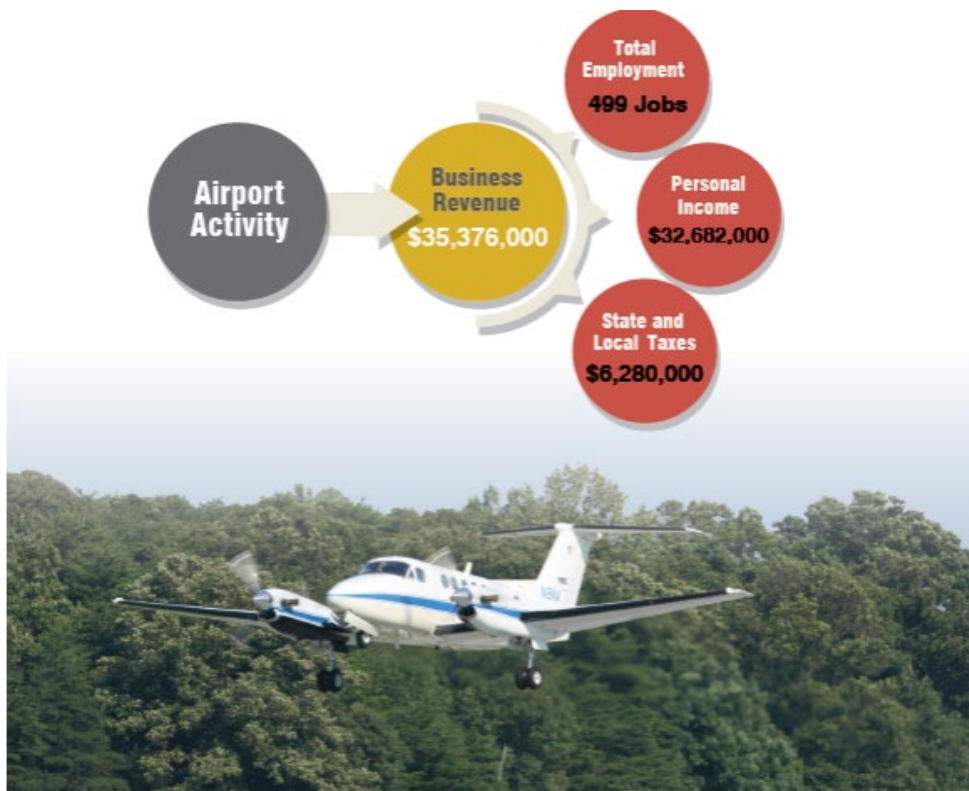
The Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) conducted their annual licensing inspection on April 12th, 2019 without any significant issues noted.

The FAA Safety Team (FAASTeam) mission is to “lower the Nation’s aviation accident rate by conveying safety principles and practices through training, outreach, and education; while establishing partnerships and encouraging the continual growth of a positive safety culture within the aviation community.” The FAASTeam Program Manager at the Washington Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) provides national policy and guidance for the southern Maryland region. Local FAASTeam Representatives are James Alexander, Jacque La Valle, and Bill Posnett.

The voluntary Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Airport Watch Program continues to enhance safety, security, and a sense of ownership among airport tenants as evidenced by no reported Office of the Sheriff responses to the airport for security-related matters this year. The program features a centralized nationwide toll-free hotline (1-866-GA-SECURE) for reporting and responding to information provided by the airport community.

Economic Impact

The MAA issues an economic impact report every three years. Below is a graphical depiction of the economic impact at St. Mary’s County Regional Airport as of December 2018.



The following commercial services are provided at the airport:

- ✈️ AIRtec Inc. (FBO Services): Since 1987, AIRtec provides aircraft maintenance, line service, transient aircraft support, and aircraft fueling. AIRtec is also an aviation and technology integration company that specializes in maritime radar surveillance, range safety, airborne telemetry flight operations, priority air transport; Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR); maintenance, training, equipment integration and sensor operation. AIRtec continues to experience significant growth.
- ✈️ Aviation Systems Engineering Company (ASEC): Systems engineering, test and evaluation, logistics, flight operations, and training. ASEC has a North American Navion, Beech Super King Air 300, and a Basler BT-67 (Douglas DC-3 converted to turboprops) based at 2W6.
- ✈️ Navy Annapolis Flight Center (NAFC): Part 141 and Part 61 flight training programs.
- ✈️ Pax Aero Solutions: Aircraft engineering, fabrication, modification, integration, and repair.
- ✈️ Piedmont Flight Center: Aircraft rental, Part 61 flight training, and a Part 107 UAS (drone) license course.
- ✈️ S. Hunt Aero, LLC: The company continues in developing/leasing general aviation hangars, commercial hangars, office/R&D buildings and production facilities. The rapid growth of St. Mary's County Airport would not be possible without this substantial corporate involvement.
- ✈️ St. Mary's Hangar Association, Inc.: Hangar Leasing.

New additions in 2019 include:

- ✈️ ABSI Aerospace and Defense: Expertise in Unmanned Systems Training and Curriculum Development, Acquisition and Program Management Support, Manned/Unmanned Test and Evaluation, and SecondSky Live, Virtual, Constructive (LVC) Training Environment.
- ✈️ Alion Science and Technology: An engineering, science, and technology firm with expertise in Artificial Intelligence; Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance (ISR); LVC Training; Modernization & Sustainment, Networks & Software, Systems Engineering & Integration, and Weapons Platforms.
- ✈️ Atkinson Aeronautics and Technology, Inc.: A dedicated full-service general aviation maintenance facility offering maintenance, repair, overhaul, interior refresh, and modification for all reciprocating engine and light turbine powered aircraft. Also offering 14 CFR Part 91.411 and 91.413 IFR aircraft certification services under a 14 CFR Part 145 Repair Station certificate.
- ✈️ Chesapeake Technology International: Offering advanced technology engineering including systems work on Electronic Warfare, Tactical/Unmanned, and Training/Simulation.
- ✈️ PAE: Training, Logistics, Operations, and Maintenance services.

Annual Budgeting

Since 1978, the Federal and State Aviation Administrations have funded 29 grants at the St. Mary's County Regional Airport in excess of \$29 million. FAA funding is 90% with the State and County providing 5% each. However, beginning in FY2021, the State of Maryland will only provide the 5% match for construction costs due to significant State budget constraints. Planning, design and construction management will not be funded by the State.

The draft FY2021 Capital Budget Master Plan Improvements include:

- a. \$3M in FY2021 and 2022 for the Hangar Access Road extension (Local funding).
- b. \$8.7M in FY2021 for airfield construction, with \$5.2M for Phase 3 (FAA Airport Improvement Program) and \$3.5M for runway overlay (FAA supplemental).
- c. \$5.7M in FY2022 for Aircraft Apron expansion (FAA AIP).
- d. \$1.075M in FY2021 and 2023 for perimeter fence replacement and airfield and ramp pavement repairs (Local funding).

The table below presents the costs and revenue associated with maintaining and operating the airport. Expenses are grouped by type. Revenues include tie-down and hangar rentals, office space rent, and fuel sales.

Facility Expenses	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Facility Maint/Utility	\$ 51,726.00	\$ 92,861.00	\$ 43,363.34	\$ 36,186.17	\$ 25,359.22
Electric (incl. Nav Aids & Lighting)	\$ 19,706.00	\$ 18,388.00	\$ 24,479.82	\$ 31,139.32	\$ 20,724.16
Airport Lighting	*-0-*	*-0-*	\$ 320.69	\$ 180.88	\$ 833.56
Liability Insurance	\$ 6,160.00	\$ 6,160.00	\$ 6,160.00	\$ 6,160.00	\$ 6,160.00
Property Insurance (structure)	**_0-**	**_0-**	\$ 3,116.00	\$ 3,116.00	\$ 3,479.00
Grounds	\$ 22,965.00	\$ 18,700.00	\$ 12,949.00	\$ 11,366.00	\$ 11,762.00
Runway/Taxiway Maint.	**_0-**	**_0-**	\$ 82,862.40	\$ 93,324.22	\$ 0.00
Total expenses	\$100,557.00	\$136,109.00	\$173,251.25	\$181,472.59	\$ 66,317.94
Income					
Direct Revenue	\$ 74,192.00	\$ 96,205.00	\$111,996.22	\$ 88,812.80	\$ 84,358.79
Gain/Loss					
Asset / (Liability)	\$ (26,365.00)	\$ (39,904.00)	\$ (61,255.03)	\$ (92,659.79)	\$ 18,040.85

Notes / Comments

-0- Runway lighting was included in terminal utility cost

_0- Was not provided in the previous years

Airspace Protection and Encroachment

The Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Chapter 43 provisions with respect to Airport Environment and Tower installations implemented by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County has served the airport well by preventing penetrations to 14 CFR Part 77 surfaces and preserving airport approach minimums.

Airport Capacity

The FAA's National Based Aircraft Inventory was updated in 2019 to assist the FAA in administering its various national airspace planning programs. The data update ensures that all planes are accounted for by location and tail number and is a requirement for receiving continued Federal and State funding. As of December 20th, 2019, **190** total aircraft are recorded in the inventory; 184 fixed wing (including 160 single-engine, 13 multi-engine, seven gliders, three jets, and one ultralight) and six rotary wing.

Total airport capacity is 74 tie-down spaces, 122 general aviation hangar spaces, and ten commercial hangars (including the county hangar). The waiting list, as of December 26th, 2019, contains 31 requests for T-hangar space and two corporate hangar requests. While outdoor tie-downs are available, there continues to be a shortage of hangar facilities for indoor aircraft storage which is unlikely to change.

There is also a shortage of maintenance providers to support the general aviation aircraft based at the airport, as well as transient aircraft. Atkinson Aeronautics and Technology, based at Tappahannock-Essex County Airport, Virginia, is an FAA-certified Part 145 repair station that has recently expanded their operations to St. Mary’s County Regional. We welcome this great addition to the airport community!



Airport Operations

Each take-off and landing is considered a separate aviation-related operation. The Maryland Aviation Administration conducts a study every three years for aircraft operations at all Maryland airports. A new study was just conducted in 2019 and St. Mary’s County Regional Airport had 40,263 operations in 2019, and increase of 13.1% over the previous report. The next study will be conducted in 2022.

Annual Aircraft Operations

Local GA	24,311
Transient GA	14,692
Air Taxi	1,059
Military	201
Total Operations	40,263

Maryland State Police Trooper 7: The Maryland State Police Aviation Command continues to provide critical community services through Trooper 7 located at the airport. According to the Aviation Command, Trooper 7 flew 398 medevac, 30 search and rescue, and 23 law enforcement missions out of the airport in calendar year 2019 for a total of 451 missions. Trooper 7 continues to enhance airport security by providing a continuous law enforcement presence.



MedSTAR Transport: MedSTAR Transport, a non-profit service based out of MedStar Washington Hospital Center, provides enhanced response times to better assist critical care patients in the Southern Maryland region. MedSTAR's aircraft and crews are single-pilot IFR and night vision goggle qualified to ensure immediate response 24/7 in a wide variety of conditions. MedSTAR flew 597 patient transport flights out of the airport in 2019.



Nalls Aviation: Nalls Aviation is an especially noteworthy aerobatic team based at St. Mary's County Regional Airport. Art Nalls, a retired Marine, holds the distinct honor of owning and operating the world's only civilian AV-8A Sea Harrier (SHAR) jet and has been recognized by the Washington Post, Classic Aircraft magazine, Aeroplane Monthly, and Jets Monthly publications. The Harrier team includes local county residents who maintain the aircraft during the busy national airshow season. Nalls Aviation obtained a second Harrier in 2015, and also has an L-39 Albatross jet trainer and a BD-5 microjet.



Operations Equipment and Navigation Aids:

- ✦ The Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) passed a thorough FAA field inspection on October 4, 2017. The MAA continues to fund the AWOS connectivity to the national FAA weather database. An AWOS repair was completed in early 2019.
- ✦ For Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) operations, the airport is serviced by non-precision RNAV GPS approaches for both runways 11 and 29.
- ✦ While a GPS WAAS signal is available via Channel 70502 W11A, the GPS approaches have not been developed for CAT II approach minimums and are currently restricted to a decision height of 298 feet Above Ground Level (AGL).
- ✦ On October 17, 2016, the County signed a support letter to MAA for an Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) demonstration project to test a ground station at 2W6 for coverage from approach altitude to the airport surface. The results of this project were briefed by the University Research Foundation on June 25th, 2018. Future plans are undetermined. ADS-B Out is required as of January 1st, 2020 on all aircraft that operate in airspace requiring a Mode C transponder.

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED OR EXPECTED

- ✦ The AAB recognizes the challenges faced by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the DPW&T Director, especially with only limited financial resources and staffing available. The Board will continue to search for ways to increase a revenue stream and enhance the economic value of the airport. The ultimate goal is for the airport to be self-sustaining financially.
- ✦ As the airport and surrounding area continues to grow and expand, it must be top priority to ensure the airport remains an airport. While there's no reason to believe that may be in jeopardy here, there are examples of general aviation airports in other communities that were closed or restricted to accommodate other priorities. Notable examples include Santa Monica Airport, CA and Chicago's Meigs Field.
- ✦ The AAB recognizes the unique operational demographics of the airport when attempting to write and maintain appropriate Rules, Minimum Standards, and Standard Operating Procedures. The Board will continue to engage the airport and surrounding community in order to provide sound recommendations to the County regarding these important documents.
- ✦ The AAB recognizes the dramatic nationwide decrease in pilots and mechanics over the past few decades and the implications for national defense, commercial air transportation, business aviation, and our local airport. FAA data indicates there were 827,071 active pilots in 1980 and only 584,362 in 2016. It's evident that a shortage of pilots is detrimental to the future of general aviation and general aviation airports such as St. Mary's County Regional. While there is some good news (active pilots increased to 609,306 in 2017 and 633,317 in 2018), it's estimated the shortage of professional pilots will grow to 5,000 by 2021. We should do all we can to generate interest in aviation and inspire people to fly or fix airplanes.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- ✦ First and foremost is the need to complete and implement the update to the Airport Rules, Minimum Standards, and Standard Operating Procedures. The AAB will provide recommended draft documents to the County in early 2020.
- ✦ Execute planned events to celebrate the airport's 50th Anniversary throughout 2020!
- ✦ The Board continues to fully support the goals and objectives of the 2002 Airport Master Plan and is pleased to see some projects completed, with additional projects now underway. The Board is eager to see continued strong effort and evidence of progress to bring the major projects, the taxiway relocation and runway extension, to completion within the next few years. It has been 18 years since the Airport Master Plan has been updated. The Board recommends that the Master Plan be reviewed and revised to account for growth in the southern Maryland region and at NAS Patuxent River.
- ✦ Work with the Department of Economic Development and airport stakeholders to further develop and market the airport and surrounding area as a regional asset for all of Southern Maryland. A primary goal is establishment of a restaurant, observation area, and pilot store/gift shop to increase utilization of the airport terminal building, attract transient pilots and the general public to the airport, and increase revenue. By providing a convenient airport with attractive amenities, St. Mary's can lure pilots looking for an excuse to go flying and the local community looking for an excuse to enjoy a good meal while watching an operating airfield. A courtesy car for visiting pilots would also increase the attractiveness of St. Mary's County Regional as a destination. The AAB made a request for a courtesy car (often a former County vehicle) to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on October 29th, 2019.

- ✦ Continue to provide and support activities that promote interest in general aviation, flight/maintenance training, and STEM education. To this end, AAB members have met with the Forrest Career and Technical Center, College of Southern Maryland (CSM), and the State of Maryland's Tech Jobs Rule personnel to find ways to link existing programs with the resources available at the airport. The ultimate goal is to potentially create an aviation training center, improve the course of study at both the Forrest Center and CSM, and locally grow a qualified workforce to meet the demands of the airport, the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, and the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum.
- ✦ Continued monitoring of development within the Airport Environs and in the vicinity of the airport property to provide sound technical recommendations to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County in order to protect the County's and the FAA's substantial investment in this important public asset.
- ✦ Update airport website to be more current and better organized.
- ✦ Create a master email contact list of airport tenants, airport businesses, and other interested parties so airport information and events can be quickly and easily shared.
- ✦ The Board concurs with the Airport Operations action items that have been integrated with the DPW&T's 2006 Transportation Plan. The Board will continue to monitor and address these issues as presented for recommendation and/or action. Specific Action Items of particular interest to the Board are as follows:
 - Develop an Airport Business/Finance Plan that is integrated with the Airport Master Plan and in conjunction with the DED. As the County deals with growth, budget challenges, and FAA requirements, it is essential the County has a vision on how to manage this essential resource.
 - Once the runway is extended, "open up" the southwestern portion of the airport for development by extending water and sewer with County funding resources as shown in the capital improvement plan, and providing a second entrance to the airport via Lawrence Hayden Road connection to the planned Airport Loop Road.
 - Work with the Emergency Services Director to provide annual updates of the disaster preparedness plan.
- ✦ Ensure increased safety for pilots, aircraft, persons and properties through the review and update of existing safety processes, and encouraging participation in FAA Safety Team events (WINGS pilot proficiency program), VMC Club, and other pilot forums.
- ✦ Pursue and obtain all required navigation and obstruction removal easements.
- ✦ Track, monitor, and assist new activities on the airfield to ensure they are conducted with all notifications, permits, and notice. Streamline and facilitate the process of allowing new businesses to operate on the airfield in a timely manner.
- ✦ The Board will continue to work with the County and the FBO to evaluate and provide recommendations on the Airport Layout Plan, identify additional areas for tie-down spaces, and consolidate parking areas where available in order to meet current and future demand.
- ✦ Seek FAA funding for the installation of an Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast (ADS-B) antenna so as to facilitate 978 MHz ADS-B broadcast to aircraft during ground operations. This will serve to increase safety in flight operations by providing pilots with weather, traffic, airspace, and other critical information prior to takeoff and during air traffic pattern operations.

