1. Upcoming Events

Airport Advisory Committee Meeting
March 13th, 2018 at 8:00am North Hangars @ 167 Airport Road Suite C. More info is posted on the City’s website soon.

The University of Maine at Augusta (UMA), through the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) pilot training center, will host a daylong conference, Drone Applications for Business: Navigating Your Airspace, on Saturday, February 17, 2018 at Jewett Auditorium on UMA’s Augusta campus. (Snow date reserved for February 24, 2018.) This conference will showcase cutting edge drone applications for businesses. uma.edu/uascon links to the information/registration page.

The goal of the conference is to provide organizations and business owners with a better understanding of how drones can bring their businesses to a new level. Leading aviation experts will provide information on drone equipment, how they operate, and potential business applications.

The conference sessions will include the following speakers:

- **Scott Pitta**, President and CEO of the Association of Professional Drone Pilots, will speak about drones in the public sector,
- **Chris Huebner**, Aviation Safety Inspector, FAA HQ, will provide information on FAA rules and expected changes, and
- **Sam Knight**, Geophysicist at Blue Marble Geographics, Hallowell, Maine and **Jesse Gibbon**, UAS Project Manager from Coutts Brothers in Randolph, Maine will discuss starting their drone specialty.
- For a complete list of session topics and speakers visit www.uma.edu/uascon. Anyone interested in finding out how unmanned aircraft vehicles might be integrated into their business is encouraged to attend. Registration is now open.

Business applications include using UAVs to conduct engineering inspections, monitoring power transmission lines and pipelines, and examining the crop health of Maine’s forests and farms in conjunction with infrared technology. Drones can also be utilized in search and rescue operations, aerial photography for land surveys and environmental assessments, advertising, video and film production, and real estate development.

For additional information, please contact Tom Abbott at tabbott@maine.edu (207.621.3342)
2. Benefit for the Alton Bay Ice Runway a Success!

On January 20th, Southern Maine Aviation hosted its first Safety Seminar of 2018. The topic was Operations at the Alton Bay Ice Runway and was presented by FAA FAASTeam Managers John Wood and Steve Brown. We had over one hundred pilots in attendance and another 400 watched the seminar live as an Internet Webinar.

The Seminar was followed by our annual Chili Cook-Off. Donations totaling $350 were collected. The money was donated to York County Community Action Corporation for use in their Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Southern Maine Aviation also hosted its 4th annual Raffle to Benefit the Alton Bay Ice Runway. The runway is maintained by a group of volunteers from the Alton Bay community who plow and monitor the ice runway for the benefit of all pilots. Prizes this year were donated by Sky Dive New England of Lebanon, Maine, Cross Insurance of Portland, Maine, Shrager Hampson Aviation Insurance of Bedford, Ma, and Southern Maine Aviation. This year's raffle raised $629, which will go to defray the cost of fuel needed to keep the runway plowed.

There are four Safety Seminars a year at Southern Maine Aviation, each one paired with a lunch that is used as a fund raiser. The other seminars this year - topics tbd - are scheduled for April 7th, July 14th and October 6th. Beneficiaries of our fund raising will be the Sanford Food Pantry, Honor Flight and Americares.

3. Sanford's 250th!

The City of Sanford and the Sanford/Springvale Chamber of Commerce have joined forces to celebrate the City of Sanford's 250th Anniversary of Incorporation. Throughout 2018 we will have special events to commemorate this special occasion. On February 27th we will kick off this year-long celebration beginning at 5:00pm in Central Park with Ice Skating, Hot Chocolate and Music as well as the Mayor reading the incorporation of Sanford. We will end the night with fireworks –winter fireworks, how cool! Hope you will join us.
Find the City of Sanford on Facebook or at www.sanfordmaine.org in the events calendar for more throughout the year!

4. Back to the Basics: Airfield Communications

There’s always room for a quick refresher for pilots and airport employees. The following link will take you to a very nicely done set of information on airfield communications.

**BACK TO BASICS: AIRFIELD COMMUNICATION**

One addressed here that also personally irks me: “Taking the active” at a non-towered airport like ours. As the article puts it: it may sound cool, but it is not accurate and is 100% not helpful. Always state the runway number you are using – other pilots, ground vehicles and personnel have no idea which runway you think the “active” is and this could lead to miscommunication or worse.

The article is definitely worth a read!
5. **NOTAM Reminder**
Just a reminder: anyone who would like to receive notifications for SFM’s NOTAMs can do so by sending me a request via email. NOTAM Manager will automatically let you know when NOTAMs are issued or cancelled. Handy during the winter when conditions change rapidly.

6. **Advisory Circular Update: 00-45H - Aviation Weather Services**
Although most of the traditional weather products, which rolled off the teletype and facsimile machines decades ago, are still available, some are being phased out by the National Weather Service (NWS) in favor of new, Web-based weather information. It is the objective of AC 00-45H to bring the pilot and operator up to date on new and evolving weather information and capabilities to help plan a safe and efficient flight, while also describing the traditional weather products that remain. Online aviation weather information is easy to access, and so are references explaining the information. That is why AC 00-45H contains fewer illustrations and less detail for products available online. This AC will give an overview and direct the pilot where to find more weather information and explanatory details. Product examples and explanations are taken primarily from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) NWS Aviation Weather Center’s (AWC) Web site (http://www.aviationweather.gov) and other pertinent NWS Web sites. Due to the fluid nature of Web addresses, this AC minimizes the inclusion of Web site links. Instead, it provides the name of the Web site which can be easily found using Internet search tools.
Check it out here: [https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/advisory_circulars](https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/advisory_circulars)

7. **Belfast NDB: Decommissioning**
The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is currently engaged in the transformation of its National Airspace System (NAS) from a ground-based navigational system to a satellite system. In support of these efforts, FAA is looking to decommission the NBD near Belfast, Maine. I have attached the letter with more information and details for the opportunity to comment.

8. **Out to Bid: Airport Snow Removal Equipment Building**
The City has gone out to bid for the airport’s snow removal equipment storage, maintenance, and administration building. The project also includes a new security gate and about 2,800 linear feet of new security fencing that will follow the airport’s property line. The building will be constructed on the west side of the airfield this year.

We shall see what that groundhog thinks on Friday about how much more winter we can expect!
Your airport manager, [Signature]