

# Arkansas Agricultural Aviation Association

March 2010

PO Box 3244 Little Rock, AR 72003-3244 rharrod@sbcglobal.net www.agaviation.net

## Coming Soon To A Region Near You In 2010

### → Monday Evening Educational Programs & Meal 6:00 pm

Arkansas State Plant Board, FAA, Transportation Security Administration & Arkansas Highway Police

#### Meal Sponsors

**March 29 (N) Corning Community Center**

536 East Elm Street

**BASF** John Snyder

**April 5 © Grand Prairie Grill**

706 West Michigan - Stuttgart

Darryl Riddell  
**South Delta Aviation, Inc**

**April 12 (S) Agricultural Building at McGehee** Hwy 65 North of Overpass

Josh Casada  
**Knox Nelson Oil Company Inc.**

### → Tuesday and Wednesday of each fly-in week the "Ag PACE Program"

(PACE – Pilot & Aircraft Courtesy Evaluation) – Maintenance and PACE programs will be coordinated by Mike Wilson – FAA Flight Standard District Office Aviation Safety Inspector. This is a great opportunity to make sure you and your plane records are complete. No repercussion! It is a Time to learn your records are correct. We appreciate the FAA offering this program.

The AAAA received a grant from the Arkansas Department of Aeronautics. The grant is for helping with the Professional Aerial Applicators Support System program in January, the Monday Evening Educational Programs and the following scheduled S.A.F.E. Workshops. The AAAA gave \$5,000 to the county level agricultural programs University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture for their assistance. The host operator(s) will have an AAAA Sign-In Sheet. The operator or pilot must complete the information requested. The rebate will be determined for AAAA members after the fly-ins have been completed.

### → Spring S.A.F.E. Workshops

**March 30 – April 2 North Region Corning Airport**

Host Operator Matt Woolard-  
Corning Farm Supply

870-857-3839 Cell: 870-323-0304 corningfarmsupply@centurytel.net

**April 6 – April 9 Central Region Stuttgart Airport**

Host Operator Donald Dierks  
Farmers Aerial Seeders Corporation

870-673-1821 Cell 870-830-1166 fas\_stuttgart@yahoo.com

**April 13 – 16 South Region McGehee Municipal Airport**

Hosts Operators: David Glover,  
David Glosup, Alan Buford & Matt Rial

Glover 870-222-6407 Cell 870-501-1136 Buford 870-222-4556 Glosup 870-222-6575 Rial 870-866-6151

**Pattern Testing begins at 7:00 a.m. Weather Permitting**

Dry Calibrations Tuesday & Wednesday  
Spray Calibrations Thursday & Friday

**Dennis R. Gardisser, PhD, P.E. - WRK of Arkansas will conduct the S.A.F.E. Workshops.**

dgardisser@wrkofar.com 501 676-1762 Cell 501 676-5959 office

- The current analysis fee for each aircraft will be - **\$300/calendar year, January 1 through December 31 of the year analyzed. This fee will cover 1 to 6 analyses - any combination of wet and dry.** Each analysis includes 3 passes for spray and 1 pass for dry. This fee is subject to change at the beginning of each year – based on out-of-pocket and material costs.
- Each aircraft will be responsible for obtaining spread materials, (fertilizer, seed, other granules, or surfactants), on their own – material costs are not included in this fee schedule.
- WRK will analyze equipment patterns and serve as a technical analyst and advisor only at all workshops – other aspects of the fly-in will be the responsibility of the host(s), participating operators, and pilots.
- WRK will provide certification paperwork for the NAAA S.A.F.E. program for those pilots and operators that meet the requirements.
- Arkansas State Plant Board DP58 certification forms will be included when needed, at no extra cost, for participating aircraft. DP58 certifications are \$25 for non-participating aircraft.
- WRK would like to set up the payment schedule as follows:
  - Payment expected on day of analysis (check or cash, no credit cards).
  - WRK will gladly invoice customers at the completion of the event payable and due upon receipt of that invoice.
  - A 10% handling fee will be added for those aircraft payments that need to be invoiced.
- Dry materials will be available for purchase at each site, or you may bring your own - suggest 400-500 lbs. The dry material needs to be registered and paid for in the office before any will be loaded, be sure to bring check or cash, no credit."
- If possible, bring 100 gallons of clean water for spray testing. Water will be available at each spray test site.

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## Paper or Plastic? Plastic is the correct answer.

Remember the reminder we sent out earlier by email.....

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) would like to remind all pilots that after March 31, 2010 you will not be able to exercise the privileges of your paper pilot certificate. To have your certificate replaced with the new plastic certificate, you can log on to [www.faa.gov](http://www.faa.gov) and click on "Licenses and Certificates" at the top of the screen. Then click on Airmen Certification and scroll down. You will find a link "NEW Paper PILOT Certificates expire March 31, 2010". Click on the link and you will find information about either changing your certificate number and getting a new certificate or just getting a new certificate.

If you have any questions, please call our office at 501-918-4400.

Jarrett McFarlin

FAA Team Manager - Operations

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## Front Auger Permit Information [on the web www.agaviation.net](http://www.agaviation.net)

Arkansas Highway Transportation Department

With the adoption of Act 639 of the 2007 General Session, vehicles of special design, which exceed the length as provided in 27-35-208 and 27-35-106 and are used exclusively for the movement of auger equipment for loading agricultural aircraft, may obtain an annual permit.

For annual movements within a 35-mile radius from the point of origin, the cost of the permit is \$100.00 plus a \$5.00 fax/email transmittal fee. For annual movements that exceed the 35-mile radius, the cost is \$300.00 plus a \$5.00 fax/email transmittal fee.

Payment may be made by cash, credit card or by establishing a bonded account with the AHTD. Applications for permits can be made in person or by calling 501-569-2381 during the normal business hours of 6:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday. Applications can also be made online via the Internet twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week. Applicants are encouraged to take advantage of the online application process for faster service and when requesting multiple permits.

Please contact the below AHP Permit Section telephone numbers for further information regarding the following permit issues:

Online Internet Access..... 501-569-2546

Bonded Accounts..... 501-569-2387

General Permit Information..... 501-569-2351

3-1-2010 Update from Captain Jay Thompson – Commander AHP Permit Section-Arkansas Highway Police  
We have made several enhancements to our permitting software which will soon be released. One of the enhancements is a drop down option for load descriptions. The specialized agriculture aviation auger vehicle will now be one of the options for a load description when ordering oversize permits. Hopefully, this enhancement will make our system more user friendly to members of AAAA.

Someone mentioned that their permit was emailed. They clicked and printed. Now, that is easy as well as you have the email on your computer.

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Do you have an email address but have not received anything from the AAAA by email this year. Please email us your information so that it can be added to the database. With the mail situation changing it would be nice and costs efficient if we could just email the newsletter or you could just go to [www.agaviation.net](http://www.agaviation.net)

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## NAAA/Syngenta Leadership Program 2010 -2011 Session

Tommy Anderson, Tommy's Flying Service, Inc., was select by the Board February 18 to be the AAAA nominee. The program includes training that enables its participants to develop a strong ability to clearly communicate to the public, media and government the important role aerial application plays in our country's agricultural products. The training also involves techniques to more effectively run their ag business and to more effectively serve as a leader.

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## 2010 Convention Re-Cap

There were 489 that participated in the 2010 convention. The convention is about education be it in classroom form, the exhibit hall or exchanging experiences /techniques with your fellow attendees. The AAAA convention offered a variety of educational subject starting Sunday morning. Ron Hollis stated the Covington Aircraft Engines Inc. session had 45 attendees. Sunday afternoon offered a variety of topics.

Mike Peebles had another way of presenting Arkansas Drift Claims resolutions. Those attending the Crop Protection Products Updates found out from John Snyder, BASF; Jonathan C. Bagwel, Dow AgroSciences and Dr. Joseph Reed, FMC what has changed and what stayed the same.

Greg Guyette, Director of Sales & Marketing, Hemisphere GPS discussed the latest innovations: guidance software, mapping, tracking, on-board weather systems, GIS file conversions, Google Earth compatibility, wet and dry flow control & other spray management techniques.

Monday is always a jam packed day. It is an excellent opportunity to hear from our regulatory agencies and visit with them about items of concern as well as getting to know them individually. We appreciate them assisting with the training. You will have another opportunity at the Spring Monday Evening Educational Programs March 29, April 5 or April 12 to ask your questions of the Arkansas State Plant Board, FAA, TSA and AHP.

157	ASPB Drift Mitigation Tuesday
252	NAAA PAASS
240	Pesticide Recertification Updates - Ples Spradley, Associate Professor Department of Plant Pathology University of Arkansas for the ASPB
50	Exhibit Hall Booths

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## The 2010 Award Winners Were:

Randy Mink	Poorboy Flying Service, Inc	Operator of the Year
Bo Nix	Crop Doctor	Pilot of the Year
Jimmy Tidwell	Keo Ag Service, Inc	Safety Awards
Brent Short	Satterfield Aviation Fuels, Inc.	Associate of the Year
Bill Everett	Pickett Equipment Co., Inc.	2010 Outstanding Exhibitor

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## A Special Thanks Goes To:

Jeff Tidwell He took care of all the Computer work.  
David Strohl He did the pictures you see on the web site.  
Jeannie Price & Janet Williams They assisted with registration.

Those preparing the pre-registered packets: George Tidwell, Neal Keahey & his son, Jimmy Tidwell, Mark Hartz, Vicki and Tommy Anderson, Brent Short, Jeff Tidwell, David Glover & the Harrods.

Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau for assisting with on-site registration

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## We appreciate the Convention Sponsors:

Frost Flying Service	Arkansas Department of Aeronautics
Regions Insurance	AgHeritage Farm Credit Services & Farm Credit MidSouth
BASF Corporation	Davidson Solid Rock Insurance
Dow AgroSciences	DuPont Crop Protection
FMC	Kimmel Aviation Insurance Agency

Mid-Continent Aircraft Corporation

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## Emergency Responders Trained in South East Arkansas

Wayne Keahey, Dirty Bird, Inc. Operator, hosted over 70 firefighters, law enforcements officers and EMT's February 25. They received training on emergency rescue procedures when dealing with agricultural aircraft. Keahey and the Grady Fire Chief, Lee Zuehlke developed the course.

Wayne, FAASTeam Safety Counselor Leader, said "ag pilots are some of the safest pilots in the air. The type of flying we do and the amount of flying done each year accidents involving ag pilots are rare. He also noted that there were no Arkansas ag pilots' deaths during 2009."

Through their work the training has been certified for 4 hours of credit through the Fire Academy at Camden. Wayne said he would willingly share the program outline. He said those participating in the course learned about the aircraft structure, cockpit configuration, how to get to the cockpit and extraction of a pilot. Also discussed were hopper location and purpose, materials on board and firefighting procedures with the aircraft fuel.

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## 2011 January 9, 10 & 11 *AAAA* 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

Wyndham Riverfront Hotel # 2 Riverfront Place  
North Little Rock, AR 501-371-9000

An easy way to remember the dates; it has started the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in January for over 15 years.

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## Arkansas Agricultural Aviation Association Board

David Glover	President
Brenda Watts	Vice President
Jeff Tidwell	Treasurer
Tommy Anderson	Secretary
Barry Joe Wilson	Past President
George Tidwell	Arkansas State Plant Board Representative
Brenda Watts	NAAA Representative
Doug Davidson	Associate Representative
Rusty Johnson	Pilot Representative

Randy Mink & Michael L. Wallin	North Regional Directors
David Strohl & Michael Hutchins	Central Regional Directors
David Moss & Al Patrick	South Regional Directors

Neal Keahey	Accountant
Ron Harrod	Executive Director/Lobbyist

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## Research Proposal for Aerial Application Industry

Mark Hartz - Operator  
Grand Prairie Dusters, Inc.

Recently a research proposal has been submitted to the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service for a research project to address problems with dry fertilizer applications to Rice and other crops. Over time the cultural practices associated with growing Rice has changed considerably throughout the years. For example, the growing season being shortened considerably, along with changes in herbicide and fungicide practices. But more importantly of all are the fertilization practices for Rice, not only in Arkansas but nationwide.

In previous years a common practice was to apply an early application of ammonium sulfate and perhaps later an application of urea pre-flood. Heavy applications of urea then were applied during mid-season fertilization, usually in two applications. Research and yield data has shown that higher yields can be achieved with heavy fertilizer applications early in the growing season and reduced amounts during mid-season. Current practices now are to apply different blends of fertilizer usually consisting of urea, ammonium sulfate, and diammonium phosphate. These fertilizers are blended with a myriad of differing ratios depending on soil type, fertility and the needs of whatever particular variety of rice is being grown. The problem with applying these blends of fertilizer is that each type has a different specific gravity per measure of volume. Urea generally weighs around 48lbs./cubic ft., ammonium sulfate can weigh between 65lbs. to 70lbs./cubic ft., diammonium phosphate weighing approximately 60 lbs./cubic ft..

Now in many cases now very heavy rates of the above mentioned fertilizers are being applied to the rice crop. It is not uncommon for rates to exceed 300 lbs/acre., sometimes in a single application. The end result of this practice seems to be that in many cases uneven application of fertilizer across the field occurs. Prominent height differences in the rice are evident across the field and with the advent of yield monitors on combines the resulting difference in yield is quite evident to our farmer customers. Several factors are believed to be influencing this problem. One is the different weights per cubic ft. of the different fertilizers in the blend. It is believed that to some degree that segregation of the materials is occurring after the fertilizer is blended. The blended fertilizer is relocated no less than three times by the time it finds its way into the aircraft. That plus possible segregating of the blend during transport probably also occurs, along with the actual application from the aircraft. So in effect the blend that came from the fertilizer company is not the blend discharged from the aircraft or deposited into the rice field.

To investigate these suspected problems and identify any others, a request for research has been made to the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. It is hoped that an in-depth study in how we apply fertilizer to rice in particular and perhaps other crops can be examined and better methods developed to allow our applications to be made with better uniformity and consistently high yields for our customers. It was proposed that soil studies, tissue studies, collection studies to be done to actually see what is occurring in real world situations. While we have pattern tested our spreaders for years, that has been one pass across a collection system with a homogenous fertilizer usually urea. Computer modeling then calculated successive passes and swath width was then determined from that data. With the vast majority of early fertilizer applications being blends, it is felt that it is time to study how we apply fertilizer on many fronts. Starting with the quality of the fertilizer, to how it's blended and transported to the aircraft. Soil and tissue studies of the rice plant itself should be conducted throughout the growing season.

Actual fertilizer collections across numerous swaths will help determine if segregation of the blended fertilizer is occurring with the actual application itself.

In many instances it seems that many of the problems we are seeing in our application of fertilizer to rice are problems that cannot be solved by adjusting our spreaders or changing our swath width. Hopefully a full and comprehensive study into this area of aerial application will yield dividends not only to our industry but to our farmer customers as well.