

NJAA Meeting 04/28/08
“Meet and Greet”
10am to 11:15am

Attendees: Arlene Feldman (NJAA), Justin Edwards (NJAA and Trenton-Mercer), Maria Renner (NJAA and Morristown), Bert Albert (Lakewood), Emil Wrocke (Lakewood guest), Paul Boudreau (NJAA), Paul Van Gelder (NJAA), Robert Checchio (NJAA), Jack Elliott (NJAA), Tom Gomez (Essex County), Bill Leavens (NJAA) and Suzy Nagle (NJAA and Solberg)

Arlene Feldman thanked Tom Gomez for his hospitality and everyone else for venturing out in such miserable weather.

Arlene gave an update on NJAA and aviation issues in NJ:

- Second newsletter will be out soon
- NJAA has been reaching out to President Bush and Governor Corzine regarding the eminent domain issue with Solberg Airport. The FAA responded by stating the FAA now purchases development rights of privately owned public use airports.
- Twin Pines Airport will be closing due to high real estate taxes.
- NJAA will have tables set up promoting aviation during Advocacy Week May 19 through May 22 in Trenton. Both NBAA and AOPA have funded NJAA's efforts with \$1200 and \$150 respectively. Paul Boudreau encouraged all airport owners and operators to participate with NJAA in educating and meeting the legislators this week.
- NJAA is requesting NJDOT elevate the Office of Aviation to a Division level and permanently assign a new Director.
- MAAC is hosting Aviation Day May 2nd at Newark Airport
- Chief of Economic Growth Gary Rose only thought NJ needed two airports.. Newark-Liberty and Atlantic City. Arlene has been educating him on the value of the core system of airports left.
- NJAA has been working with NJDEP to streamline the permitting process in order for airports to exercise federal grants expeditiously.

The group discussed how to get more people involved. Ideas suggested were to not have meetings on Mondays, invite all airport tenants including flying clubs, hold a safety seminar, host a fund raising dinner and hold a day long forum.

Bert Albert expressed concern about the duplication of efforts of NJAA and other groups such as AOPA and MAAC. NJAA's goal is to be the voice of aviation and to focus on preserving airports and protecting aviation in the future for business and pleasure flying. The focus and membership of both AOPA and MAAC is primarily pilots. Tom Gomez expressed concern about the 25% cutback in federal funding Essex County Airport is experiencing. To compensate the airport is doing the engineering and permits this year and hoping to receive the additional 25% next year to complete the actual construction work of the project..