

Illinois Aviation

Volume #72, Issue #2

ILLINOIS AVIATION SYSTEM PLAN UPDATE

By Clayton Stambaugh, James Bildilli and Zach DeVea

As the world continues to adapt and respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Illinois Department of Transportation wanted to take this opportunity to update the readers of Illinois Aviation as to how the Illinois Aviation System Plan and Economic Impact Analysis study are progressing.

As you may recall, we announced in the Q1 2020 Illinois Aviation Newsletter that work had begun in earnest on the studies, and that we would be conducting in-person site visits to collect the data associated with this project. Due to the various restrictions associated with stay-at-home guidelines, however, those in-person visits became impossible. As events unfolded over the last few weeks and months, it became obvious that completing the project as originally intended would require changes to the project schedule and approach. Much like many businesses, the project team had to adapt. The site visits are now being conducted virtually. This change has enabled the continued collection of data and kept the project on schedule. As the project team scrambled to adapt to the new project methodology, Illinois airport personnel proved exceptionally accommodating in providing insight and assistance. Virtual site visits have been completed at approximately 43% of the airports with another 34% to be completed in the near future. It is anticipated that all virtual site visits will be finished by mid-July.

Unfortunately, one of the consequences of virtual site visits is the limited ability to interact with airport tenants, who are crucial for collecting credible data for the economic impact study. Similarly, the ability to collect visitor spending surveys, particularly at general aviation airports, has also been impacted. To help reduce these impacts, the study will be utilizing a well-known survey method – [surveymonkey.com](https://www.surveymonkey.com) – to help obtain the much-needed information.

One survey, [surveymonkey.com/r/ILtenant](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ILtenant) is directed toward Illinois airport tenants to collect employment and payroll data. This information will then be used to determine the “on-airport” economic impacts that the tenants provide. This is one of the most critical elements of the economic analysis. To ensure that contact is made with every business located on or at an Illinois airport, airport tenants are encouraged to use the link shown above to provide data to the project team. To ensure privacy, all data will be aggregated at the airport level and will not be reported on an individual basis.

A second survey, [surveymonkey.com/r/ILGAPilot](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ILGAPilot), is directed toward transient general aviation pilots and passengers. The collected information will help determine contributions to the state economy from visitors utilizing Illinois airports. It is directed at true visitors and should not be used by Illinois residents.

To ensure that the study remains on schedule, the project team is simultaneously working on other elements. Currently, work is underway on a statewide environmental assessment, an intermodal analysis as well as a “needs” forecast that will reflect the efforts needed to better understand various recovery scenarios that the state may experience as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

IDOT and the study team are excited to have the opportunity to complete this project on behalf of Illinois aviation system users and invites input from all stakeholders to ensure that the IASP is developed to meet or exceed its goals. Please be engaged and provide your frontline input through the project website at www.ilaviation.com or by talking with your local airport management or policymakers. As the project proceeds, we will keep you informed through future articles. Hopefully, the next update will include some findings from the inventory portion of the study.

AEROSPACE INDUSTRY MOURNS PASSING OF RUDY FRASCA

Published on Midwest Flyer (midwestflyer.com) website May 2020.



URBANA, ILL. – The international aerospace community is mourning the passing of aviation icon, Rudy Frasca, 89, who created the “Frasca” flight simulator.” Frasca passed away May 11, 2020, of natural causes.

Rudy Frasca was born on April 19, 1931, in Chicago, Illinois. He was one of six children of Anthony and Jenny Frasca. He and his wife, Lucille (Matern), were married in 1955 and moved to Champaign, Illinois, where Frasca started his business and where they raised their eight children.

Frasca began taking flying lessons at the age of 14 and soloed shortly thereafter. In 1949, he joined the U.S. Navy and was stationed at Glenview Naval Air Station, where he worked as a flight instructor teaching pilots on the early Link trainers.

After the Korean War, Frasca left the Navy to attend the University of Illinois, where he did research in aviation psychology and honed his interest in the field of flight simulation. The more he worked with the early generation of pilot training devices, the more he realized there had to be a better way.

In 1958, putting together everything he had learned in the Navy and the university, Rudy Frasca built his first flight simulator at home in his garage and Frasca Aviation was founded. The company was later renamed Frasca International to reflect the emerging character of the business.

Over the years, Frasca collected many unique and vintage aircraft, including a P-40, Spitfire, Wildcat, SNJ, T-34, Fiat and Japanese Zero replica warbird. He loved all airplanes but had a special place in his heart for his Piper J-3 Cub.

Rudy Frasca’s love of grassroots aviation and passion for flying fueled the growth and success of his flight simulator company.

In his flying days, Rudy Frasca was active in many aviation organizations. He has loaned several of his aircraft to the EAA Museum in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, over the years, so that the general public could enjoy them.

Rudy Frasca was a benefactor for many aviation organizations and had a special place in his heart for collegiate aviation (NIFA, SAFECON & UAA). Numerous awards have been bestowed upon him for his personal efforts and the company’s contributions to the simulation industry.

Although Rudy Frasca had a great love for aviation and much success in the industry, his true love was his wife, Lucille, who was always his strongest supporter. Frasca’s greatest pride was his eight children and 18 grandchildren.

Those who knew Rudy Frasca admired his friendly, outgoing personality, his sense of humor, his strong work ethic and his faith. He had a way of always looking for the good in people, and took great interest in getting to know them. Employees knew Rudy Frasca cared about them by the way he would ask them how they were doing at work and at home. He had a quick wit about himself, and he loved to laugh. Rudy Frasca was truly larger than life. His contributions to the aviation industry will not be forgotten.

“Whether it was greeting pilots at Frasca Field or at the Frasca booth at EAA AirVenture, watching his sons perform in airshows, or giving people personal tours of his factory, Rudy was everything aviation and more,” said Dave Weiman, editor and publisher of Midwest Flyer Magazine. “He will be missed, but his contributions to aviation will live on.”

IDA SADDENED BY LOSS OF STEVE LONG

By Al Mlacnik



In 1994, Steve Long left his job as a water distribution engineer in Chicago and relocated his wife and family to Springfield to accept a position at Aeronautics as the chief airport design engineer. He and his wife Isabel had grown weary of all the traveling Steve had to do for his job, and they wanted to raise their four children – with another on the way – in a smaller community.

Steven Jr. was born just a month later. Steve liked to tell the story of how he had to write a letter to the Secretary of Transportation at the time requesting permission to have a day off for the delivery since he was still in his six-month probationary period. How times have changed since.

Steve knew little of airport design and construction at the time he started, but he was a pilot, professional engineer and a man who could learn anything if you put a book in front of him (which he attributed to his Michigan Tech University degree). It would be another four years before I would join Steve at Aeronautics and, by that time, Steve was writing Excel programs to

design airfield pavement structures. Steve was my supervisor for the next 23 years. He enjoyed the Cubs and Packers, while I rooted for the Cardinals and Bears. He liked hockey, and I golf. We both enjoyed talking politics, but he was not political. Steve had a way to put differences aside and find commonality and good where differences might normally strain a relationship. He was always fair and a calming influence in the office and in life, which made him well respected by coworkers and those in the aviation community with whom he worked.

Steve was an avid amateur astronomer. There wasn't an astrophysical event worth noting that Steve didn't tell us about with wide-eyed fascination. He took many courses on the subject, and often spoke of teaching a course after he retired. Steve loved teaching, whether it be the nuances of airport design to a new young design engineer or interpreting passages of the Bible for anyone with a question.

Steve peacefully passed away May 30 at his home with his family at his side after losing his battle with brain cancer. He is remembered as a generous, kind and devoted family man who was a friend to all who knew him.

WELCOME NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AERONAUTICS, CLAYTON STAMBAUGH



IDA welcomes Clayton Stambaugh as the new deputy director of Aeronautics. Clayton holds a Master of Public Administration with a focus on Aviation Administration from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, where he served as a lecturer. Clayton's primary research was focused on using digital technologies, such as social media, at airports to enhance communication and marketing strategies. He previously held the position of airport manager at Pekin Municipal Airport (C15) in Pekin, Illinois. Clayton serves as a volunteer contributor and emeritus ambassador for the Airport Cooperative Research Program of the Transportation Research Board - National Academy of Sciences as well as chair of the TRB Committee on Aviation Administration and Policy.

FAA PRIVATE AIRPORT SURVEY

Illinois Division of Aeronautics is encouraging ALL private airport owners in the state of Illinois to respond to a data verification request (Private Airport Survey) they should have received in the mail from the FAA. The survey asks owners to verify airport records by June 30, 2020, or risk being listed as "closed" in the FAA's online database and removed from aeronautical charts. If the owner of a private airport has not verified the information since January 2018, the airport could be listed as "closed indefinitely" in the FAA's airport database starting in July and would be removed from charts during the next charting cycle. If airport information on file has been provided to the FAA since January 1, 2018, no action is required. Please visit adip.faa.gov/agis/public/#/public for more information.

NAME THAT AIRPORT

Do you know the name of the airport shown in this picture and the approximate timeframe taken? If so, please send an email to DOT.aero@illinois.gov. Those who provide the correct answer will have their names published (with permission), along with the correct answer, in the summer 2020 edition of *Illinois Aviation*.



The answer from the last newsletter was Taylorville Airport circa 1970.

Well done to those who answered correctly!

Jim Fassino
Randy Seiler
David Miller
Clyde Zellers
Don Kroenlein
James Binder
Brian Anderson
Gerry Flaughter

ILLINOIS AVIATION NEWSLETTER TO GO DIGITAL

Every quarter we mail over 8,000 Illinois Aviation newsletters to professional aviation supporters across the state. In today's environment, we can provide much more useful content and detailed information by moving to a digital version of the newsletter. Please go to ilaviation.com/safety to update your email address.

COVID-19 AND YOU!

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all aviation communities. Please use the links below to stay up to date:

FAA Novel Coronavirus Update
faa.gov/news/updates

AOPA Latest News
aopa.org/training-and-safety

AOPA Rusty Pilots Online
www.aopa.org/training-and-safety/lapsed-pilots/rusty-pilots/rusty-pilots-online

Sporty's Free online Flight Instructor Refresher Course
www.sportys.com/pilotshop/pirep/sportys-free-flight-instructor-refresher-course

FAA Safety Briefing Archives
www.faa.gov/news/safety_briefing

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 29, 11 a.m. - CANCELED

Airshow '20 – Coles County Airport

432 Airport Road, Mattoon, IL

Andrew Fearn

217-234-7120 • andrewfearn@colescountyairport.com

September 10-12, 2020, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Midwest LSA EXPO

Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. Mt. Vernon, IL

Chris Collins

618-242-7016 • managemvaa@mvn.net

VIEW COMPLETE CALENDAR OF EVENTS: www.idot.illinois.gov/about-idot/stay-connected/multimedia/index



BE THE FIRST TO KNOW – USE AIRMAIL

If you wish to receive the news even sooner, sign up for AirMail at www.idot.illinois.gov/about-idot/stay-connected/subscription-services/index#3. AirMail is sent about two weeks before the hardcopy is mailed.