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FEBRUARY MID-HONTH

Minneapolis Center in Farmington has agreed to give Chapter 54 members a tour of the facility on February 16 at 7:00 pm. Anyone interested in attending should meet in front of the administration building at Downtown St. Paul Airport. From there we can form car pools to drive down to Farmington. With the new rules, and the increased traffic around the MSP TCA, it is important that we all become more knowledgable about the airspace we fly in. For these reasons all members are urged to attend.

CHAPTER BANQUET

Norm Peterson from Headquarters has agreed to be the speaker at our chapter banquet. The banquet is February 18 at Awada's, 199 East Plato Boulevard in St. Paul. Cocktail hour is from 6 pm to 7 pm wilth dinner at 7 pm. Dinner choices are Prime Rib, Walleye Pike, or Chicken Kiev. The cost is \$20.00 per person and reservations can be made by calling Rosemary at 451-8187 at home or 228-5246 at work.

NEW PROJECT FOR FRANKS

Gene Frank reports that he has decided to begin building an RV-6. He has put in an order for plans and a partial kit. He was also able to get some January time in on his Breezy, during the unseasonably warm weather we had. He says he didn't stay up too long, though.

UNDER SECRETARY FOR AVIATION

DOT Secretary Jim Burnley said aviation regulatory activities, including those managed by PAA should be consolidated in a newly formed office of under secretary for aviation. Burnley said his proposed reorganization for the department contemplates that current DOT oversight of consumer protection, computer reservation



systems and other economic activities in aviation also would be placed under control of the under secretary. A separate office of international aviation would continue to exist within a newly created office of assistant secretary for international affairs. Under secretaries would be appointed for the surface and maritime modes, while the Coast Guard would remain as is. New assistant secretaries also would be created for external affairs and management and programs. Under secretary for external affairs would be in charge of intergovernmental, congressional and public affairs. The proposal would reduce the number of offices reporting directly to the secretary from 20 to 14. The under secretary for aviation would be in charge of up to six offices - policy, plans and resource management; regulatory standards and compliance; general counsel; system operations; National Airspace System Plan and research, and airports. Portions of the latter three offices would be eliminated if air traffic control function and/or airport grants were removed from DOT jurisdiction.

FATALITIES DOWN / HOURS FLOWN DOWN

The number of people killed in small, private plane accidents has decreased over the past decade, down from 1,556 in 1978 to 782 in 1988. During the same period, flying hours have decreased about 20%.

FAA indicates that the number of hours flown by general aviation operators declined in 1987 over the previous year. The FAA report said that 217,183 active general aviation aircraft in the U.S. logged an estimated 33.4 million flight hours during 1987. This compares with 34.44 million the previous year.

NEXT MEETING

Next Chapter 54 meeting is Honday, February 13, 7:30 pm at Lake Elmo Airport. See you there.