



Friday, July 30, 2004

THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The National Transportation Safety Board's recent hearing on cockpit imaging recorders successfully supported our mission by opening new avenues and access to information and technologies that can ultimately support our overall safety goals. Special thanks to Member **Carol Carmody** for her work in chairing this important issue and to the many parties who participated: the Air Line Pilots Association, the Air Transport Association, the Allied Pilots Association, the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Air Transportation Association and the Regional Airline Association.

Board hearings and safety symposia are excellent venues to continue discussion and debate on safety issues. We are encouraged by the response of industry

and the media in these issues. Safety isn't "sexy," but it is terribly important. With over 43,000 highway deaths each year, with increased reliance on passenger and light rail for commuters, with more families involved in recreational boating and with increased air travel, safety matters - in all modes.

Our next safety symposium will address the use of personal flotation devices (PFDs) in recreational boating. This topic will be presented at the NTSB Academy in Ashburn, Virginia on August 25th. It will also be web cast. Please see the NTSB website at <http://www.nts.gov/> for more information.

Ellen Engleman Conners

Recorder Hearing Draws International Interest



The Board of Inquiry hears testimony on the subject of cockpit imaging recorders.

of major investigations, the Board recommended to the Federal Aviation Administration that transport category aircraft be equipped with cockpit image recorders to capture information on crew performance and on conditions in the cockpit. Also in 2000, the Board recommended that the FAA require video recorders, in lieu of flight data recorders, in the smaller turbine-powered aircraft frequently employed in scheduled and nonscheduled Part 135 passenger operations. Examples of aircraft that had no recorders but would be covered by the recommendation were the Cessna Caravan that crashed in Montrose, Colorado in 1997, killing all 10 persons aboard, and the Raytheon King Air that crashed in Minnesota in 2000, killing Senator Paul Wellstone and six others. Installation of CIRs is on the Board's Most Wanted List of Safety Recommendations.

The National Transportation Safety Board held a two-day public hearing July 27th and 28th in the Board Room at our Washington, DC Headquarters to discuss the feasibility and benefits of cockpit imaging recorders (CIRs.) Member **Carol Carmody** chaired the hearing with the Board of Inquiry consisting of NTSB staff members **Jim Cash, Vern Ellingstad, Ron Battocchi, and Bob MacIntosh**. They heard testimony from the federal government, aircraft and recorder manufacturers and commercial pilot groups, as well as technical experts from the NTSB.

In 2000, following problems retrieving data from cockpit voice recorders and flight data recorders in a series

NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



The quarterly transit subsidy distribution will begin on Tuesday, August 3rd and again on Thursday, August 12th and Thursday, August 19th. Each participant is responsible for picking up his or her own SmarTrip card or Metrochecks by presenting a valid NTSB photo identification badge to the distribution agent at the designated site located on the 4th floor in the central hallway outside of room 4921. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Miriam Boston** x6220 or **Barbara Bush** x6221.

On the Hill...

Congress is in recess until after the Labor Day Holiday, at which time the Senate will likely mark-up the FY 2005 Appropriations bill. In the meantime, the Office of Government and Industry Affairs continues to work with Members of Congress and their staff to provide information on accident investigations in their states, and on the NTSB's safety recommendations status.



NTSB Promotes GA Safety at Oshkosh Air Show

Chairman Ellen Engleman Conners met with **Tom Poberezny**, President of the Experimental Aircraft Association, at the Oshkosh Air Venture 2004 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The Chairman and Mr. Poberezny discussed NTSB's lead in general aviation accident investigations, and ways in which the NTSB and EAA can partner in safety to reduce the more than 2,000 general aviation accidents each year.



Chairman Engleman Conners with EAA President Tom Poberezny.

The next NTSB Board Meeting is scheduled for August 3rd at 9:30am in the Board Room of the NTSB's Washington, DC Headquarters. The issues to be discussed include the July 16, 2003 accident in Santa Monica, CA in which a driver drove through a California farmers' market, striking pedestrians and vendors displays. The accident killed 11 and injured 63. The second item on the agenda will discuss the classification of a recommendation to the FAA that all infants and small children on commercial aircraft be restrained in a manner appropriate to their size. This issue is on the NTSB's Most Wanted List.



Member Debbie Hersman with Senator John Breau

Member Hersman Sworn In

Louisiana Senator **John Breau** administered the oath of office to Member **Debbie Hersman** during her formal swearing in recently. West Virginia Governor and former U.S Representative **Bob Wise** also spoke during the ceremony, which was held in the Board Room at the NTSB's Washington, DC Headquarters. Participating in the event were Chairman Engleman Conners, Vice Chairman **Rosenker**, Member **Carmody** and Member **Healing**. Guests at the ceremony included Member Hersman's family and representatives from government, industry and the media