



Aviation Newsletter

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Runway End Identifier Lights (REILS) have been installed at Aiken airport. The strobe lights were funded by a grant from the S.C. Aeronautics Commission. (Aeronautics Commission photo)

S. C. Aviation Safety Week Activities Planned

Aviation safety week, proclaimed annually by the Governor, gives us in the aviation community an opportunity to recognize the fine work done in aviation safety by the many safety conscious pilots, mechanics, and aviation officials and also gives us an opportunity to again focus our attentions on flying safety through seminars and other activities.

Once again this year, accuracy landing contests will be held at Owens Field, Walterboro, Spartanburg, Sumter and Aiken, April 7. Winners of those regional contests will meet in Camden April 14 for the state championship contest. (See story, page 3).

On Thursday, April 12, a safety meeting and listening session will be held at Trident TEC in Charleston. The safety meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and will feature a film on engine starting, followed by two of the popular GAMA tape slide presentations: "Pilot Prerogatives" and "Don't flirt-skirt 'em."

At 8:15 p.m. Phillip M. Swatek, Director of the FAA Southern Region, will conduct the listening session.

"He's there to hear any comments or complaints or anything that anyone with aviation interests would want to bring up," FAA Accident Prevention Specialist Frank Kelley said.

"The chief of the General Aviation District Office (GADO) in South Carolina will be present as well as the chief's of the air traffic facilities in the state to answer questions on air traffic and airway facilities and other FAA functions in the state," Kelley said.

Friday, April 20, the annual awards
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Commission Unanimously Opposes Proposed FAA Airspace Changes

The S.C. Aeronautics Commission unanimously went on record last month opposing a recent FAA notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to increase positive control airspace in the U.S.

The FAA's NPRM would establish 80 new Terminal Radar Service Areas (TRSA's) and 44 new Terminal Control Areas (TCA's). Another NPRM due out this month would require encoding altimeters and transponders in all TRSA's.

The FAA said the sweeping airspace changes are designed to minimize the chances for collisions between air carriers and general aviation aircraft such as the one in San Diego last year. But the

Commission feels as other general aviation groups that the proposed changes would have little, if any, effect on air safety while they would certainly throttle the growth of General Aviation.

Commission chairman Joseph Wilder said he thought the commission should appear at the public hearing to voice opposition in person. Commission vice-chairman Ralph Schmidt agreed saying the FAA plan would "kill general aviation."

Since the plan was announced early this year, the FAA has received more than 20,000 letters from individuals and
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