FAI Welcomes 2022!

Happy New year! As we enter 2022, we begin by looking how far we have come since the start of the pandemic. We look forward to continuing the increased numbers of passengers and not only maintaining but surpassing our incredible standard of excellence that Fairbanks International Airport (FAI) provides for all travelers. The FAI team has appreciated the support and patience of our traveling public through the pandemic, as well as the things that come with living in a subarctic climate for Six or more months of the year.

New Kids on the Block

We welcomed the completion and celebration of two major operations to FAI property over the past few months.

Life Med Alaska

Omni Logistics

We appreciate our new additions, and the confidence in FAI during these somewhat uncertain times.

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As the dark and cold weather approached, we were reminded once again the beauty of the dark nights and dark mornings, and to never forget to look up!

Welcome Back Antonov!
Welcome Back Antonov! Summer, Winter, Spring or Fall, we never tire of seeing this big one on our airfield!

The Antonov An-124 Ruslan (Ukrainian: Антонов Ан-124 Руслан, lit. ‘Ruslan’; NATO reporting name: Condor) is a large, strategic airlift, four-engined aircraft that was designed in the 1980s by the Antonov design bureau in the Ukrainian SSR, then part of the Soviet Union (USSR).

- First flight: 24 December 1982
- Built by: Aviastar-SP; Antonov Serial Production
- Number built: 55

Snow, Snow, Rain, More Snow and lots of Wind
It was a recipe for destruction, but the crews at FAI battled and won the fight! For more than a week, operators worked around the clock to keep runways open and airplanes safe for take off and landings. The weather on the entire west coast of the united states added to the issues, a true perfect storm and domino effect was taking place. Once again, we are grateful for the patience and consideration that was given with minimal disruption to operations as we literally dug and chiseled our way out!
Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program Launched

It’s easy for airport employees to lend a hand to travelers with visible cues of a disability like a passenger in a wheelchair. But there are other “hidden disabilities” that are less apparent such as autism, Crohn’s disease, dementia, hearing impairment, multiple sclerosis, PTSD, and many more! According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), 26 percent of American adults have some type of disability, many of them not visually apparent.

In order to better meet the needs of all travelers with disabilities, Fairbanks International Airport (FAI) has launched the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program which began December 15, 2021. Travelers with hidden disabilities may voluntarily request a sunflower lanyard or wristband to let airport staff know that they may need a little help or extra patience. Passengers may request free Sunflower lanyards or wristbands at participating partner locations: Alaska Airlines ticket counter, AVIS Car Rental desk, Delta Air Lines ticket counter, or at the FAI Administration Office during normal business hours. FAI Administration Offices are open Monday- Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding holidays. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) security checkpoint is a non-distribution point participating partner recognizing the Sunflower Lanyard Program as well.

DOT&PF Employee Recognition Program

Giving credit to outstanding employees with the Alaska Department of Transportation department-wide annual “Employee Recognition Program”.

We have a great team at Fairbanks International, we were able to highlight a few with the Alaska Department of Transportation department-wide annual “Employee Recognition Program” which awards employees for distinguished accomplishments and contributions that advance the department’s mission and objectives. We were lucky enough to have DOT Commissioner Ryan Anderson here to personally recognize and thank members of the FAI team.

• Airport Operations Team, Team Achievement Award
• Airport Manager, Angie Spear, Leadership & Employee of the Year Award
• Building Maintenance, Craig Borba, Outstanding Employee Award

2022 Interior Tourism Conference

Angie Spear, Airport Manager took part in a panel entitled “Planes, Trains and Automobiles” the panel discussion also included Dale Wade with the Alaska Railroad, and Tabitha Taylor with Avis rent a Car, Fairbanks.

The many conference topics and discussions highlighted some of the most important topics facing the tourism industry today, as we continue along the road to recovery. Explore Fairbanks has designated 2022 as the “Year of Community” and with that are looking to expand on the ways of engagement in the Interior.