

Opening Comments for Summer FPAW 2014

Welcome to Friends and Partners in Aviation Weather, or as we fondly call it, FPAW. For any of you who do not know, this series of meetings started in 1997 at the Annual Fall Meeting of the National Business Aviation Association in Dallas. From the beginning, these meetings have been the result of a grass roots effort among those in the aviation weather community to engage in discussion and dialogue to identify issues and opportunities to improve safety and system performance in the face of weather. From the beginning, NBAA adopted this activity and gave it a home as part of their Air Traffic Committee. We have continued this tradition each fall since 1997.

In 2005, as NextGen started to surface as an important activity for the aviation community, many of us who had been participating in FPAW and were also participating on the JPDO Weather Working Group decided that it would be useful to establish a parallel set of meetings that we called FPAW Vision, which were held in the Summer. Where the Fall Meetings had a focus on near-term issues and actions, the Vision Meetings were looking at the NextGen time horizon. Over time, as NextGen proceeded, these differences became blurred, so that now we simply have two annual meetings, a Summer Meeting in Washington, hosted by NTSB, and a Fall Meeting hosted by NBAA at their Annual Meeting.

These meetings are truly grass-roots derived and executed. Each spring, an invitation goes out to the community to participate in the planning process. In a half day open meeting at NBAA, everyone who is interested in the process gathers to construct a plan for our two annual meetings. As a part of this process, leaders volunteer to assemble each individual session for the meetings. Without these leaders, we would have no meetings, so my thanks to each of you.

We sincerely thank NBAA for their sponsorship and support since 1997, and we thank NTSB for their generous hosting of our Summer Meetings.

Now it is my pleasure to introduce Ed Bolen, President of NBAA, to make a few remarks and to introduce our keynote speaker for today.