



Thor Solberg III visiting Kjeller airport:

## NO GOOD REASON TO CLOSE IT

### ► «There is no good reason to close

Kjeller as an airport. It is vital, historic valuable and seems to be very popular», says Thor Solberg III, third generation of Solberg-family and impressed while visiting Kjeller Airport for the first time.

**He is the grandson of Thor Solberg**, a well known Norwegian-born aviation pioneer who made

the first successful flight from USA to Norway in 1935. In 1939, Solberg established the Solberg-Hunterdon Airport in New Jersey.

**The facilities were used for training** during World War II when more than 5 000 aviators were educated and trained at Solberg Airport.

**The Solberg-family recently won** a longtime



battle to preserve ownership of their airport and huge landfield in New Jersey. Now they finally have time for future plans.

**Their first goal is to extend the runway** up to 5 000 feet, 1 500 meters, almost the same length as Kjeller Airport.

«**There is no good reason** to close Kjeller as an airport, or even shorten the runway. 5 000 feet or more is recognized as a golden runway length. It is perfect for flight school activities and smaller jetmachines. Most airport users appreciate longer

runways, important in security issues», explains Thor Solberg III.

**He thinks Kjeller has the right** infrastructure nearby Lillestrøm and Oslo to attract the increased future air traffic, with tourist and business flights from inside and outside the land borders.

**The Solberg-Hunterdon Airport** is well known for its balloon festivals. The QuickChek New Jersey Festival of Ballooning is «an annual 3-day event with up to 100 hot air balloons, concerts, crafters, vendors and non-stop family entertainment».