

**Merrill Field,  
a proud tradition  
of serving Alaska**



**Providing over  
80 years of  
aviation service**

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## MERRILL FIELD BULLETIN

*Current News About Your Airport*

*Merrill Field Airport  
800 Merrill Field Drive, Anchorage AK 99501*

*December, 2012  
[www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm](http://www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm)*

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### **Merrill Field Airport Master Plan Update and Noise Study Project News**

The Merrill Field Airport Master Plan (AMP) Update and Noise Study project team has been busy this summer and fall. The project team has drafted the first three chapters of the AMP which are available for review and comment until December 31, 2012 on the web site [www.merrillfieldmasterplan.com](http://www.merrillfieldmasterplan.com). The first three chapters consist of an introductory chapter, an airport inventory and description of existing conditions at Merrill, and an aviation forecast (this provides the anticipated picture of what type of activity is anticipated for the Merrill Field airport in the future such as an increase or decrease in airport operations). We want to hear your comments and feedback to make sure these draft chapters are complete before they are submitted to the FAA for review after the first of the year.

The project team also completed the first round of noise monitoring this summer. The second round of noise monitoring will be collected this winter and the results will be published in a Noise Exposure Plan this spring. If you are interested in how the noise model is being developed, please take a look at the Merrill Field Airport Noise Modeling Inputs Memo available on the Documents Page on the web site at [www.merrillfieldmasterplan.com](http://www.merrillfieldmasterplan.com).

Lastly, the Merrill Field Airport Advisory Group (AAG) is a volunteer group that reviews project documents and advises the project team in the development of the AMP. The AAG met for the second time on November 29<sup>th</sup> and the comments from this meeting are available on the web site.

~~ Submitted by RaeShaun Schmidt, Planner, HDR

### **Airport Management in transition**

With over 22 years of service to the Municipality of Anchorage and Merrill Field Airport, David Lundeby retired on November 30, 2012. At the time of this printing and until a new Airport Manager is appointed by the Mayor, Alex Jumao-as has accepted the responsibility of Acting Airport Manager. Our goal is to make this transition as seamless as possible to all Merrill Field tenants, customers and users. Your support and patience during this adjustment period is greatly appreciated.

## *Airport Manager, Dave Lundeby, says farewell*

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of my “Airport Friends” for the support you have shown me throughout my time at Merrill Field. I feel very fortunate to have served as Airport Manager. The positive improvements/changes to Merrill Field over the years is a result of government and private enterprise working together for a common goal – to ensure Merrill Field retains its status as the airport you want to call home.

## **What's Happening at Merrill Field**

As 2012 comes to an end, this is the time that we express our appreciation to our leaseholders and airport users for your patience while construction was in progress this past summer. The following capital projects were funded by FAA grants this year:

- Rehabilitate Taxiway Quebec, Phase 3 – Roger Hickel Contracting was the contractor and the project is complete. This is part of the multi-phased Taxiway Quebec project.
- Security Improvements (Lights/Signage/Fencing), Phase 1 – Hotwire, Inc. was the contractor and the project is complete. This project constitutes the replacement of the old programmable logic controller (PLC) that controls the airfield lighting system; replacement of some high pressure sodium light fixtures with the new light-emitting diode (LED) light fixtures; several new signage replacements at RWY 4/22 (now 5/23); and installation of new security fencing and gate west of RWY 16/34 at Orca Street.
- Airport Master Plan Update, Phase 1 – HDR Alaska, Inc. is the consultant. Work is currently in progress, and status updates of this project can be accessed at the MOA website at [www.merrillfieldmasterplan.com](http://www.merrillfieldmasterplan.com).

## **Mayor appoints new Airport Commissioners**

The Municipal Assembly has confirmed Mayor Sullivan’s appointments to the Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission. Sharon Chamard fills the seat of an owner of residential real property located within one mile of the boundaries of any municipal airport. Dick Armstrong was reappointed as a business person who has a place of business on land leased from the municipality at a municipal airport. The Mayor has also recommended Terry Pena’s appointment to the seat of a business person with a place of business in the municipality; it is anticipated the Assembly will approve this appointment by the end of December.

We would like to thank retiring members, Tony Follett and Kimball Forest for their years of service on the Commission. Their time and expertise were a great contribution to the Commission’s endeavors.

This Commission meets the first Thursday of each odd-numbered month. If you want to learn about current issues at your municipal airport, please plan to attend. For meeting location and agenda information, please call the Airport Manager’s Office, 343-6303.

### **MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**

The Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission meetings are open to the public and held the first Thursday of every other month. Please call 343-6303 for additional information.

#### **Meeting Dates:**

Jan 3, Mar 7, May 2, Jul 11

<b><u>Commissioner</u></b>	<b><u>Term Exp.</u></b>
Dick Armstrong	10/14/15
Jim Cieplak	10/14/13
Don DeVoe, V Chair	10/14/13
Tony Follett	10/14/12
Sharon Chamard	10/14/15
Greg Pearce	10/14/14
Jim Powell, Chair	10/14/14

#### **Statistics**

##### **Operations:**

Dec, 2011 – Nov, 2012: 124,980  
2012 Based Aircraft: 827

# Tower Talk

## Winter is here!



**Happy Holidays:** The personnel at Merrill Tower wish all of you a joyous Holiday Season and look forward to serving you in 2013.

- Please give a little extra room when you turn to follow an aircraft into MRI.
- Runway exiting takes a bit longer and after a snowfall we generally have a few taxiways not available for exiting.
- Use extra caution for snow removal equipment on taxiways and aprons.
- Giving breaking action reports are always appreciated so we can provide timely and up to date information to the next arrival or departure.
- Communication is key. If you are on downwind and have not been issued a landing clearance, ask the tower for your sequence or to call your base. Don't assume that you are next and turn your base without being told to do so.
- I want to thank everyone for their efforts in reading back runway and hold short assignments. We all still have room for improvement, but we are making progress. If in doubt, ask again.
- If you have a concern, please call.

Brian Ochs, Air Traffic Manager  
271-2698

## Airport Security Camera Update

We are experiencing technical difficulties with our camera system. The images on the website are not refreshing. We are currently working with MOA Purchasing on an Invitation to Bid for this project and plan construction during the summer of 2013.

## Shop at Merrill Field for any occasion

Don't panic about picking up that last minute gift for the aviator on your list. Many Merrill Field businesses offer gift certificates for many items and services such as aircraft parts, pilot supplies, and training. Also, if your pilot is tired of punching the keypad code to access an aircraft apron, one of our proximity "Smart Cards" would make a great stocking stuffer!

## Scholarship Opportunity

The Alaska and Mat Su Chapters of the Ninety-Nines International Organization of Women Pilots are offering scholarships for a student pilot working towards their private pilot certificate and for a licensed pilot seeking an advanced rating. Applications must be received no later than March 6, 2013. Information and an application form can be found on the Alaska Chapter website, [www.ak99s.org](http://www.ak99s.org).

## Lake Hood Strip (Z41) re-designated RWY 14/32

The Lake Hood Strip re-designation, reflecting an updated magnetic variation, occurred November 15, 2012. Since that date, the ATC began referring to "RWY 14/32." Updated runway signs will be put in place as soon as practical, and the Z41 NOTAMs indicate the change.

## Seasonal Snippets

### Raven Reminder

Leaving dumpster lids open and overfilling trash cans is considered a bird attractant and is a violation of Anchorage Municipal Code. We ask you to do your part to discourage raven activity and promptly report raven damage to the Airport Manager's Office, 343-6303. We appreciate your assistance.

### Ski operations only on snow surfaces, please

During the snow season, aircraft without skis should not operate on Runway 04/22 (no wheel operations); likewise, Whiskey taxiway and aircraft apron are not recommended for wheel operations. Ruts, caused by wheel operations, make it nearly impossible for ski-equipped aircraft to maneuver. To load and unload your aircraft we recommend you either taxi your aircraft to the vehicle parking area or transport your items by sled from your vehicle to your aircraft.

### It's easy to pre-heat

Merrill Field offers approximately 135 tiedown spaces with electrical service. The outlets in the tiedown spaces are protected by a circuit breaker which allows for a medium size engine heater (maximum 1500 watts). If your electrical outlet does not have power, the circuit breaker may have been tripped due to an overload. If this happens, contact the Airport Manager's Office; we'll reset the breaker or determine if there is another problem. Tail-in spaces with electric outlets are available now.

### Snow Removal Priorities

The objective of our Snow Removal Plan is to have the Airport runways open and functional as soon as possible after a new snowfall; taxiways, roadways, tiedown aprons and vehicle parking areas are cleared of snow next. Keep in mind that each time a snowfall event occurs the priority reverts to runways and taxiways even if the other areas have not been cleared of a prior snowfall. If you have specific snow removal concerns, please call the Airport Manager's Office.

## **Aviation Events**

### **Thursday, January 3: Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission Meeting**

Bi-monthly meetings are held at the Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1150 Airport Heights, Room 4C, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. For more information, call the Airport Manager's Office, 343-6303.

### **Tuesday, February 12 – Friday, February 15: AACAA 2013 Annual Convention**

The Alaska Air Carriers Association will host their annual Convention and Tradeshow at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage, Alaska. Details can be found online at

<http://www.alaskaaircarriers.org/>

### **Saturday and Sunday, May 4 – May 5: Aviation Trade Show and Conference**

The Alaska Airmen's Association will again host the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Aviation Trade Show and Conference. Details for this premier aviation event can be found at <http://alaskaairmen.org>

*As this year rapidly comes to a close, the  
Airport Manager's Office Staff and Airport  
Maintenance Crew Wish You a Very Merry  
Christmas and a Happy New Year!  
Fly Safe in 2013*

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Alex B. Jumao-as, Acting Airport Manager