

**Merrill Field,
Alaska's First
Official Airport**



**Providing over
78 Years
of Service**

MERRILL FIELD BULLETIN

Current News About Your Airport

Merrill Field Airport
800 Merrill Field Drive, Anchorage AK 99501

December, 2008
www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm

What's Happening at Merrill Field

New tiedown apron equipped with electric service

The end of the construction season marked the completion of a new aircraft tie down apron. This extension to the Golf apron, west of Taxiway Golf and south of Merrill Field Drive, is equipped with electric service.

We are in the process of offering, by letter, these new spaces to pilots who have been on our wait lists for drive-through and tail-in spaces with electric service. The lists are moving quickly, so it might be advantageous for those who have not signed up to consider doing so; there is no fee for this service. Also, you can help us save postage by removing your name if you are no longer interested in these types of spaces. For more details or instructions on how to get your name on or off a wait list, please call the Airport Manager's Office at 343-6303.

Vehicle Parking spaces available on north side

Several new long-term and daily vehicle parking spaces are now available on the north side of Merrill Field near the Air Traffic Control Tower and Alpha Transient. Access to the parking spaces can be gained through the security access gate at Tetlin Circle. Twenty spaces are dedicated for long-term permit parking (\$40./month) and four spaces are available for daily parking (\$5./day). For details about these new parking options, please call 343-6303.

2008 Airport Capital Improvement project updates

- Phase 3 of our Aircraft Apron Reconstruction - This was the third phase of a multi-phased apron project to correct settlement and drainage issues within the existing aircraft aprons located along Taxiway Quebec and Taxiway Golf. Phase 3 is complete.
- Taxiway Barrier Gates at Quebec and Golf - Upgrade of the barrier gate pavement sensors and vehicle gate electronic controls. This upgrade is to ensure reliability of the daily operations. We are working closely with our contractor to complete this project.

A Note of Thanks

As 2008 comes to an end, our construction activities for this year are shut down for the winter season. To all pilots, leaseholders, business owners, and tie-down customers – thank you for bearing with us as we maintain and improve Merrill Field. The State of Alaska 5th Avenue project was especially trying on all airport users, and Airport Management is very appreciative of your patience and understanding.

Think SAFETY when entering Merrill Field

All Airport Vehicle gates are operated through a wireless network system, and a timer is set for each gate to close when it is accessed. Please ensure that the gate is fully closed before leaving the premises so that unauthorized pedestrians or vehicles do not access the movement area.

Year-to-date we have experienced a total of four (4) vehicular/pedestrian deviations. It is in everyone's interest to be vigilant and watch for people or vehicles without authorization that might access the movement area. Your assistance in guiding people to their intended destinations and away from the movement areas contributes to the Airport's safety and security and is greatly appreciated by Airport Management. Also, Anchorage Municipal Code 11.60.070 clearly states that tampering with, adjusting or in any way interfering with the normal operation of an access gate is prohibited. Your safety is our concern.

Air Carriers & Airmen's Associations offer raffle tickets

Do you know how to get a trip to Vegas or a new Husky aircraft stuffed into a Christmas stocking? It can be as easy as supporting your local aviation association by buying raffle tickets!

The Alaska Air Carriers Association has raffle tickets for sale to support the Forrest Jones Memorial Scholarship. Get your chance(s) to win the fabulous 1st prize of two (2) round-trip tickets on Alaska Airlines to Las Vegas with \$2,000. cash, or the super 2nd prize of \$1,000. cash. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. The winning tickets will be drawn at the March 2009 Annual Convention. Call 277-0071 for details on how to purchase those winning tickets!!!

Also, the Alaska Airmen's Association will be selling raffle tickets for a factory-new 2009 Husky!!! The aircraft raffle is a mainstay of the Annual Alaska State Aviation Trade Show & Conference which will be held in May, 2009. For ticket information, call the Airmen's at 245-1251.

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 8, Mar 5, May 14, July 9

Commissioner Term Exp.

Tony Follett, Chair	10/14/09
Rick Davis, V Chair	10/14/11
Don DeVoe	10/14/10
Dick Armstrong	10/14/09
Allen Kemplen	10/14/09
Erin Marston	10/14/10
Jim Powell	10/14/11

Statistics

Operations:

Dec. '07 – Nov. '08: 170,430
2008 Based Aircraft: 892

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 everything from Avionics to Zulu time converters and all sorts of accessories in between.

New Commissioners Appointed

The Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commissioners are dedicated volunteers who donate their time reviewing airport procedures and making recommendations to the Administration and the Assembly on airport operations. In October, the Assembly confirmed Mayor Begich's reappointments of Richard Davis and Jim Powell to the Airport Advisory Commission. Their interest in and dedication to municipal airports are great contributions to the Commission's endeavors.

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

TOWER TALK



It would appear that winter has finally arrived. If you have flown at MRI in the last month you are probably aware of the snow piles and various restrictions on the field. The Alaska Supplement page 31 annotates there are one (1) to eight (8) foot snow berms and piles adjacent to taxiways and runways during winter months. Please bear this in mind as you operate at Merrill Field Airport. If you have specific questions concerning your taxi route, we will be glad to assist you in any way we can.

Please remember there may be snow removal operations in progress and the controller might issue a more lengthy taxi route than normal to accommodate this operation. On that note, we are training lots of new folks here. We are excited about their arrival and are quite pleased with their progress. We are taking precautions to ensure prompt, courteous service is always provided. If you encounter a situation you are uncertain about or would just like to discuss what happened, please do not hesitate to contact our administrative office at (907) 271-2698 during normal business hours for additional information.

Concerning Special VFR operations, we addressed this to a point in the last letter. Since that time we have met with the folks at the Anchorage TRACON and talked more in depth about MRI operations. Essentially as a VFR tower we have to coordinate with the TRACON before we are allowed to release you for takeoff. This is due to separation standards they must maintain. We must also advise the TRACON of the intended routing and altitudes if other than a published route. The only current published Special VFR route we have is the "NONAME SVFR ARRIVAL / DEPARTURE". There is additional information published on this routing in the Alaska Supplement page 363. You may hear this routing assigned to you if you are departing to the Northwest. If you require something other than this routing please ask. We are happy to assist you once we know what you need. If you have specific questions about this or other issues, I encourage you to call the administrative office. As always we look forward to serving you. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Scotty Auton,
Interim Air Traffic Manager

Aviation Events

Alaska Air Carriers Association 43rd Conference and Trade Show

March 2 -7, 2009, Hotel Captain Cook

This event will be packed with education, training, networking opportunities, and industry & legislative updates. More details can be found on the web at www.alaskaaircarriers.org or call 277-0071.

Aviation Pioneer Hall of Fame

March 12, 5:30 p.m., Anchorage Sheraton Hotel

This event which includes dinner, silent auction and video presentation will be honoring the lives of Ruth and Jack Jefford. Please call the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum at 248-5325 for tickets or more information.

2009 Alaska State Aviation Trade Show & Conference

May 2-3, 2009, FedEx Maintenance Hangar, Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport.

This premiere annual aviation event is sponsored by the Alaska Airmen's Association. Get more details at www.alaskaairmen.org or call 245-1251.

Seasonal Snippets

✓ Raven Reminder

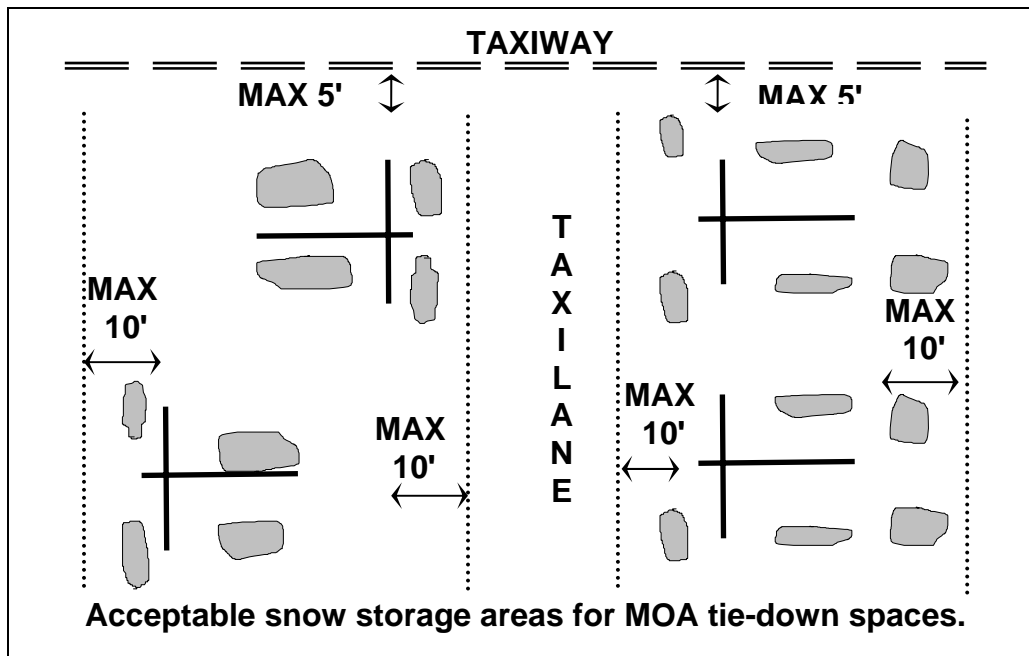
Please remember that leaving dumpster lids open and overfilling trash cans is considered a bird attractant and is a violation of Anchorage Municipal Code. Remember to: 1) be on the alert for raven activity during this winter season, 2) do your part to discourage raven activity, and 3) promptly report damage to the Airport Manager's Office, 343-6303. We appreciate your assistance.

✓ Ski operations only on snow-groomed surfaces, please

The Whiskey taxiway and aircraft apron snow surfaces are typically groomed for ski operations throughout the winter months. To prevent ruts from developing on the surface, vehicles are restricted from operating in the Whiskey apron during the snow season. Likewise, wheel aircraft operations can create ruts which make for a rough ride for ski-equipped aircraft. We recommend you taxi your aircraft to the vehicle parking area to load and unload your aircraft. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

✓ Snow Storage Procedures

Each year the Airport Manager's Office staff is frequently asked, "Where should I put the snow?" To keep the taxi lanes open, please store snow in the designated areas of your tie-down space as shown below. Snow stored in front of or behind your aircraft will be removed when the taxilanes are cleared. **Municipal Code prohibits the dumping or relocating of snow onto or across taxilanes, taxiways, runways, or airport roads by any persons except Municipal employees.** As always, the objective of our Snow Removal Plan is to have the Airport runways open and functional as soon as possible after a new snowfall.



*The Airport Manager's Office Staff
and Airport Maintenance Crew
Wish you a Joyful Holiday Season
and a Prosperous New Year*

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