

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



**Providing over
85 years of
aviation service**

MERRILL FIELD BULLETIN

Current News About Your Airport

Merrill Field Airport
800 Merrill Field Drive, Anchorage AK 99501

December, 2016
www.muni.org/merrill

What's Happening at Merrill Field

As this year comes to an end, our appreciation goes to all airport stakeholders for your patience and cooperation during our 2016 busiest construction season ever. Year-end accomplishment of capital projects are as follows:

Rehabilitate Taxiway Quebec, Phase 5 - This Phase-5 project is the latest in the multi-phased dynamic compaction process of Taxiway Quebec as it progresses toward the Medevac Apron and Campground parking. The construction work is temporarily suspended due to the onset of winter and will resume come spring/summer of 2017. This year's dynamic compaction project is the biggest in terms of area in a single grant from FAA.

Security Improvements, Phase 3 – This project is a continuation of the on-going multi-phased security improvements at MRI to upgrade the security cameras, vehicle gates, apron lights and the modification of perimeter fencing upgrades including existing palisade fence along 5th Avenue.

The Airport Master Plan Update, Phase-2 – Please visit MRI Master Plan website at <http://www.merrillfieldmasterplan.com/> for current information.

Capital projects on the horizon for 2017 construction include:

- ➔ *Security Improvements (Cameras/Lights/Signage/Fencing), Phase 4* – Electrical power and a fiber optic line will be installed on the west side of the airport along Orca Street to provide reliable service to our security camera and vehicle gate access system. This improvement will also include camera installation on the vehicle gates along Orca Street to deter unauthorized pedestrian or vehicle gate access.
- ➔ *Rehabilitate Taxiway Q, PH 6* – Continuation of the multi-phased dynamic compaction projects on Taxiway Q is planned.
- ➔ *Runway Incursion Mitigation Program (TWY Edge Lighting & Marking)* – This project will better segregate existing MRI Taxiways Alpha and November from the apron edge by reducing TWY A and N widths to 60' (from current 75'). This forfeited 15' will accommodate creation of an apron-edge ~10' wide vehicle lane, plus elongated 'islands' w/ grass and blue taxiway lights created on the taxiway side of the vehicle drive lane. Re-painting of all airfield Taxiway and Runway lines, plus apron edge drive lanes (effectively the entire airfield) will be part of this project.

Your cooperation and understanding during these construction projects will help us provide a safer airport. We look forward to working with you again in 2017.

Snow Storage Procedures

The Airport Manager's Office staff is frequently asked, "Where should I put the snow?" To keep the taxi lanes open, please store snow no more than 10 feet in front of or behind your aircraft while keeping it available for Maintenance equipment access to remove it. 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.

Is your aircraft undercover?

Due to seasonal gusty winds, Airport Maintenance will collect wing covers, engine covers, etc. should these items blow free of their assigned post. It is helpful to locate the rightful owners if the aircraft N number is stenciled on the item. So, if you suspect your cover's been blown, or if the wind simply took it away, please make inquiries at the Airport Manager's Office (343-6303). Also, if you pick up a stray cover and don't know what to do with it, we'll be glad to add it to the collection for the owner to retrieve.

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, Runway 05/23 is available only to ski-equipped aircraft (no wheel operations). Likewise, Whiskey taxiway and aircraft apron are also closed to wheel operations. Ruts caused by wheel operations make it nearly impossible for ski-equipped aircraft to maneuver. We recommend you taxi your aircraft to the vehicle parking area to load and unload your aircraft.

Electrical outlet wattage—don't overload

Merrill Field offers 135 tiedown spaces with electrical service. The electrical outlets in the tiedown spaces are protected by a **1500 watt** circuit breaker which allows for a medium size engine heater. If your electrical outlet does not have power, the circuit breaker may have been tripped due to an overload. If your outlet is not working, please contact the Airport Manager's Office at 343-6303 or Airport Maintenance at 343-6313 during the weekends. We'll check the breaker and reset it or determine if there is another problem. Tail-in spaces with electric service are presently available; contact the Airport Manager's Office if interested.

Lost, but not always found

The Airport Manager's Office has a collection of items that have been left in our lobby or found in the airport common areas. If you think you might have just misplaced that special pair of sunglasses or one-of-a-kind cap, check with us. It might not be lost after all.

Two Airport Commission Seats Vacant

In October, the terms of two Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission seats expired. If you are either 1) an owner of residential real property located within one mile of the boundaries of any municipal airport, or 2) a member of the Alaska Airmen Association and are interested in filling one of these two seats, send a brief letter of interest and résumé with your application to the Mayor's office.

For application details, you can contact the Mayor's Deputy Chief of Staff, Ona Brause at 343-7103 or by email to BrauseO@muni.org. An application form and additional information is available online at the Municipal Boards and Commissions page at www.muni.org. Applications are kept on hand for openings that may become available throughout the year. Such Mayor appointed, three-year terms are subject to approval by the Anchorage Assembly.

Shop at Merrill Field for all occasions

Don't panic about picking up that last minute gift for the aviator on your list. Many Merrill Field vendors offer gift certificates for lots of aviation items and services such as aircraft parts, pilot supplies, and training.

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

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

2017 Meeting Dates:

Jan 5, Mar 2, May 4, July 13

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Term Exp.</u>
Greg Pearce	10/14/17
Jim Powell, Chair	10/14/17
Sharon Chamard, V Chair	10/14/18
Jamie Patterson-Simes	10/14/18
Terry Pena	10/14/18

Statistics

Operations:

Nov, 2015 – Oct, 2016: 127,553

2016 Based Aircraft: 826

Don't create a VPD statistic -- know taxiway boundaries

Taxiway Edge Line Awareness is critical. MRI has incurred 12 Vehicle Pedestrian Deviations in 2016! This is 12 more than we need and this number demonstrates a safety concern that needs to be addressed. It is incumbent on every operator on MRI to keep both vehicle and pedestrian gates closed when not in active use and to await gate closure when entering or exiting the field to ensure no piggy-back trespassers go through a gate you have just vacated. Particular attention is needed to not inadvertently drive on to ATCT controlled surfaces (runway or taxiways) without ATCT clearance. Also, if you're doing snow removal in proximity to any controlled taxiway, call the Tower at 271-3121 to so advise!

New development planned at former Quonset hut site

Alaska Air Transit (AAT) has submitted the winning proposal for Lot 7, Block 3 Merrill Field Replat (aka 2113 Merrill Field Drive). AAT is an existing Part 135 operator on MRI, operating two Pilatus PC-12 aircraft and two Grand Caravan aircraft. AAT's proposal includes construction of two hangars capable of housing these aircraft as well as providing additional space to accommodate their expanded business needs. Specific construction time to be determined, anticipated in 2017.

The Merrill Field Airport staff extends to you our Warmest Wishes.
May you have a Blessed Christmas Season and may
the New Year be filled with Spectacular Successes.

AVIATION EVENTS

Wednesday, January 4: Merrill Field Users Group Meeting

Quarterly Merrill Field User Group open forum meetings with the Airport Manager are held at 3:00 p.m. at the Airport Manager's Office, 800 Merrill Field Drive. Call 343-6303 for more details.

Thursday, January 5: Airport Advisory Commission Meeting

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

Saturday & Sunday, May 6 – May 7: Great Alaska Aviation Gathering

The largest aviation trade show in Alaska will be held at the FedEx Maintenance Hangar at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport--admission is free. Details for this premier aviation event and Super Cub raffle can be found at <http://alaskaairmen.org>.



Be a good tiedown neighbor

Many pilots use cones to quickly identify the location of their tiedown anchors. Please take note of where these cones are and do not drive over them. Replacing the cones time and time again is costly. Also, anytime you see something amiss in your neighboring pilot's tiedown space, do not hesitate to call the Airport Manager's Office. We will gladly alert our customers to any situation that needs their attention. Thank you for being a good neighbor; our customers are great!



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