

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



**Providing over
80 years of
aviation service**

MERRILL FIELD BULLETIN

Current News About Your Airport

Merrill Field Airport
800 Merrill Field Drive, Anchorage AK 99501

June, 2012
www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm

What's Happening at Merrill Field

Summer is finally here and the airport's construction season is underway.

- **Rehabilitate Taxiway Quebec (Phase-3) Construction** – This project has been awarded to Roger Hickel Contracting, Inc. Dynamic compaction and new storm drain improvements are part of this project to eliminate the existing drainage and ponding problems. This is a continuation of where we left off last year and a portion of Taxiway Golf (from TWY Quebec to TWY November) will be closed during this period. Watch out for traffic detours at the intersection of TWY Golf and TWY Quebec. Anticipated completion date is the third week of September, 2012.

- **Merrill Field Master Plan** – The Municipality of Anchorage Merrill Field Airport (MRI) is updating the Airport Master Plan (AMP). The AMP will serve as a blueprint for airport development over the next 20 years. To kickoff the planning process, a public open house was held on May 10, 2012, and noise workshops were held on June 6 and 7, 2012.

Over the coming months, the planning team will identify existing conditions at the airport, develop an operations forecast, and work with stakeholders to identify issues that should be addressed as part of the AMP. Draft alternatives, based on the noise modeling, land use, and other considerations, will be developed to address these issues as well as meet existing and future airport needs. A public open house will be held in Spring 2013 to present the planning team's findings, including the draft alternatives.

In conjunction with the AMP, a Part 150 Noise Study is currently in progress. The project team is working with MRI's neighbors to measure aircraft noise levels. The Spring 2013 open house will also highlight the Noise Study findings, including current and projected noise exposure maps.

To sign-up for the project email list or newsletter, view the project schedule, provide feedback, or contact the project team, please visit www.merrillfieldmasterplan.com.

- **Other Projects** – We are currently bidding the Security Improvements project. This project is for the security camera and lighting upgrades. Fiber optic cable for the local area network will be installed from 15th Avenue to the Airport Heights entrance. This will increase the reliability of our security camera system. Several high definition security cameras will be installed at the entrances to the airport. Also, several apron lights will be replaced with LED lights and fixtures. Construction is planned this summer with an anticipated completion date of May, 2013.

These projects will be funded by FAA through Airport Improvement Program grants.

Runway Incursion Prevention Tips

It is very important that vehicle drivers and pedestrians know the location of Merrill Field movement areas and be familiar with airport signs and markings. Remember that anyone who drives or walks in a movement area needs to communicate with the Air Traffic Control Tower and is required to have a hand-held or vehicle-mounted VHF transceiver, a rotating beacon on top of the vehicle, an airfield diagram, a ground vehicle guide and a valid driver's license. If you do not meet these criteria, you are not authorized enter a movement area. Please review the Merrill Field Driver Training Program for a refresher on airport operations.

http://www.muni.org/Departments/merrill_field/Pages/DriverTraining.aspx

Do we have your e-mail address?

In this ever changing world of computer technology, it seems most of us rely on email for day-to-day correspondence. If you have an email address that you would like us to use, please let us know by sending a message to the Airport Manager's Office at merrillinfo@muni.org. Be sure you provide the name on your account and your customer account number or aircraft N number. In the event you need to be notified about your aircraft, such as an open door, loose ropes, or other occurrence, an e-mail address is a great way for us to contact you. Also, it is always a good idea to make sure we have your current telephone numbers and mailing address.

SEASONAL SNIPPETS

✓ *Scoop the poop – it's the law*

Dogs and other animals are not permitted on airport property except in transit and shall be on a leash, or confined in such a manner as to be under control. If your pet is allowed to exercise while in transit, please be considerate, and **always** clean up any messes they may leave behind. If you exercise your pet on airport property, please be courteous to others and clean up behind it—it's the law.

✓ *Apron Safety*

Undoubtedly, this is the magnificent "flying" season that many of us have been waiting for. It is so easy to get busy with pre-flight checks and last minute preparations that we forget there may be people in the apron who are unfamiliar with aircraft. Be extra vigilant when starting your engine and taxiing your aircraft; you never know when an unsuspecting pedestrian or bike rider might be coming your way. Blue skies and safe flying!!!

✓ *"Fly Friendly" Reminder*

Please read the enclosed "Help Reduce Aircraft Noise" letter from the Airport Manager. The letter explains Merrill Field's 'Fly Friendly' approach to reducing the number of noise complaints. It also contains a few guidelines that, when followed, can greatly minimize aircraft noise over our adjoining residential neighborhoods. Thanks for your efforts in helping Merrill Field operate as a good neighbor in our community.

Stop means STOP!

Vehicles and aircraft do not mix well on any operating surfaces of the airport, air side or land side; therefore, it is extremely important that all vehicles come to a complete stop at all stop signs. There are added precautions in place where Taxiways Golf and Quebec intersect the roadway; each of these locations is equipped with a taxiway barrier gate. When you are driving up to either of these locations and notice that the barrier gate is closed, remember to look beyond the gate to make sure an aircraft is not approaching the intersection. Vehicles must always yield to aircraft; do not attempt to "beat" the aircraft through the intersection. A pilot cannot stop or maneuver an aircraft nearly as quickly as the driver can control a vehicle. Don't be the cause of a vehicle/aircraft accident—always bring your vehicle to a full and complete stop at all stop signs.

Tower Talk

My name is Brian Ochs and I am the new Air Traffic Manager here at MRI. I have been in Alaska for ten years now. I was a controller at MRI in 2003 & 2004 and am excited to be back. I spent the last 8 years across town at Anchorage Tower and Anchorage Approach. While I have met several of you at various functions, I look forward to meeting each of you as we strive to meet the needs of MRI's pilots and neighbors, while maintaining a safe friendly environment.

I would like to start off with updates and changes here at MRI ATCT. One of my primary goals is to improve the customer service and professionalism from MRI Tower. I have received numerous complaints about our service. I can promise you that I take them very seriously and have started making changes from within here at the tower. It will never be perfect, but I can tell you that we have made improvements and will continue to make every effort possible. This does require the help of every pilot. Professionalism goes both ways on the radio. We run into frustrations over and over again with read backs. I completely understand the 2-way communication and the break downs when the tower keeps asking for you to read back the instructions that you know you already read. So here is something to help:

- We need your call sign with every transmission
- When taxied to a runway, we need your call sign and the runway
- When given an instruction to hold short, we need your call sign and where you are holding short of

So unless we are getting these elements in your read back, we will be asking you to read back the instructions until we get them. Please do not get frustrated. If we all work together, we can have a safe environment and a great place to fly and work!

Here is an example:

Pilot: "Ground, Cessna 12345"
Ground: "Cessna 12345, MRI Ground"
Pilot: "Ground, I am at G/N and I need to cross 25 for my hangar"
Ground: "Cessna 345 Taxi via Golf, November, Juliet, Hold short of Runway 25"
Pilot: "Hold short of 25 and contact tower"
Ground: "Cessna 345 I need you to read back hold short of 25 with your call sign"
Pilot: "Uh, I thought I did that, I said hold short of 7/25"
Ground: "Cessna 345 I understand that, I just need you to read back the call sign too"
Pilot: "I thought I said that, if you play back the tape you may find that I said that"
Ground: "Cessna 345 sorry for the inconvenience but can you read back the hold short instructions with your call sign"
Pilot: Raises voice "How many times you want me to do it? November ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE, WILL HOLD SHORT OF 7/25. HOWS THAT ONE?"

This behavior needs to stop! We are working on not chewing out pilots, but educating in a polite way. We need each of you to help us be successful. If you do not understand something or need help with why something is happening, please contact me.

There is no requirement to have the ATIS for maneuvering your airplane around the field. It is a good idea so you know where construction is and what is happening.

If you have a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with us; please review it and comply with all requirements. We have seen a little drift from standards and we need to get back to basics.

If you have questions about this airspace or the procedures for operating within it, please call us at 271-2698.

Brian Ochs, Air Traffic Manager
Merrill Field ATCT



Aviation Youth Activities

Starbase Alaska is offering an ACE (Aviation Career Education) Academy July 9-13 for youth entering grades 5 - 8. Students will learn about history of flight and principles of aeronautics. We will make paper and balsa/tissue airplanes, and learn how to navigate using compasses and GPS. We will go on several field trips throughout the week; admission fees not to exceed \$5 per field trip will be the responsibility of the student. This program must have a minimum of 12 participants and will be limited to 18 participants. Parent drivers to transport students to the afternoon field trips will be needed. For details, visit http://www.starbasealaska.org/html/summer_academies.html.

Real World Design Challenge: Registration is open for coaches and/or teachers to register a team of 3 - 7 high school students and gain access to the software. You do not need to know all of the students' names to register. This will give you time to learn the software and be better prepared when the state challenge is issued in September. For more information visit www.realworlddesignchallenge.org or contact Angie Slingluff by e-mail at Angie.slingluff@faa.gov.

The Challenger Learning Center of Alaska in Kenai is offering 15 summer camps, some of which have a residential option, for youth of various ages. Check it out at <http://www.akchallenger.org/Camps/SummerCamps/tabid/170/Default.aspx>.

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:

Jul 12, Sep 6, Nov 1, Jan 3

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

Statistics

Operations:

Jun, 2011 – May, 2012: 120,149
2012 Based Aircraft: 827

Merrill Mentionables

★ Alaska Dispatch, AK Aircraft Engines, King Career Center-Aviation★

In May, these organizations volunteered to clean up Merrill Field Drive as part of the annual Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Spring Clean-up Week. The enthusiastic groups gathered trash and debris from Airport Heights to 15th Avenue. Merrill Field management is very appreciative of their efforts—thank you!

Aviation Events

Thursday, June 28: MRI Aviation BBQ

Join the MRI Air Traffic Controllers and the Merrill Field Airport Staff from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Alpha Transient Apron (access from 5th Avenue onto Ardaiz Circle, just east of the Control Tower) for hamburgers and hot dogs! Come by and share your comments and suggestions about how we can better serve you.

Thursday, July 12: Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission Meeting

The Airport Advisory Commission will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at the Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1150 Airport Heights in room 4B, 12:00PM - 1:30PM. For information regarding the agenda, call the Merrill Field Airport Manager's Office at 343-6303 or send a message to merrillinfo@muni.org.

Saturday & Sunday, July 28-29: Arctic Thunder

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) hosts Arctic Thunder to demonstrate its appreciation to the Alaska community. Currently, the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and F-22 Demonstration Team will highlight this year's show. For details, email arctic.thunder@elmendorf.af.mil or JBER.Openhouse@elmendorf.af.mil.

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