

***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*

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

*June, 2014*

[www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm](http://www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm)

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### **Merrill Field Web Camera Images Now Available**

The Merrill Field web cameras are now operational and views can be accessed through the Merrill Field home page or by visiting <http://merrillwebcam.org/>. The images are refreshed every five minutes and are not meant to replace or supplement official weather information.

Views from the public cameras can be accessed by clicking on the green camera icon; however, a username and password are required to access private camera images, red camera icons. Tenants will need to contact their leaseholder for access information to view private camera images.

The system is being monitored to ensure proper operation, but if you have any questions or notice any problems with the cameras, please call the Airport Manager's Office at 343-6303.

### **SkyTrek Alaska comes to Merrill Field**

The newest Merrill Field tenant is SkyTrek Alaska Flight Training, a fixed-wing flight training operation on the west side of Runway 16-34. SkyTrek is located at 1570 East 12th Avenue (off Orca Street) and is starting with a small fleet of Cessnas to accommodate Private Pilot and Instrument Flight training. Owner/Operator Jamie Patterson-Simes is in the process of becoming the first Certified Cessna Pilot Center (CPC) at MRI in recent memory. SkyTrek Alaska Flight Training is also planning to offer Light Sport Aircraft training for those interested in gaining an LSA license.

The company's phone number is 907-274-4359 (IFLY). SkyTrek is fully insured and has hired experienced flight instructors. SkyTrek's hours are Monday - Saturday from 8:30am-5:30pm, and Sunday from 1:00pm-5:00pm, as well as by appointment. All forms of payment are accepted. Learn more about SkyTrek online at [www.skytrekalaska.com](http://www.skytrekalaska.com) (launching soon) or call to set up an appointment for a consult visit or tour.

## Seasonal Snippets

**Scoop the poo -- 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 after it—it's the law.

**Watch for Bicyclists:** As these summer days seem to invite young people for a fun bicycle ride through Merrill Field, we are concerned about the safety of all Airport users--pilots and passengers alike. We are asking that all bicyclists stay on the roadway, follow all traffic rules, and not ride through the aircraft tie-down aprons or any air operations area. A bicyclist can quickly maneuver into the path of a taxiing aircraft or too near an aircraft that is just starting up.

**"Fly Friendly" Reminder:** Pilots departing Merrill Field can help reduce aircraft noise over residential areas by maintaining the lowest propeller RPM setting necessary for safe flight, remaining at the recommended pattern altitude as long as possible, and following the established traffic pattern until transitioning to the appropriate VFR departure route. For pilots/aircraft needing to use high power settings for operational purposes, please request Runway 7 or 25. Also, pilots should plan training flights in higher performance aircraft during midday if possible.

## Apron Safety

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

## Airport Commission meeting date changed

Please note that the next Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, July 10. The meeting was rescheduled to accommodate those who will be out of town for the July 4<sup>th</sup>, Independence Day, Holiday. Meeting location and time remain the same--Fire Training Center, 1150 Airport Heights at 12:00 noon.

## Security Awareness

When entering or exiting your apron, please remember to remain in the entry/egress area until the gate has completely closed behind you--do not allow tailgating. Also, Merrill Field Management and your fellow aviators thank you for being watchful of any suspicious individuals or activities on the airport. Any type of abnormal behavior should be reported immediately to the Anchorage Police Department and the Airport Manager's Office. These items are of particular concern as the busy summer season approaches; your assistance is an important step toward airport security and the elimination of vehicle/pedestrian deviations.

### 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:

July 10, Sep 4, Nov 6, Jan 8

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Term Exp.</u>
Dick Armstrong	10/14/15
Sharon Chamard	10/14/15
Jim Cieplak	10/14/16
Don DeVoe, V Chair	10/14/16
Greg Pearce	10/14/14
Terry Pena	10/14/15
Jim Powell, Chair	10/14/14

#### Statistics

Operations:

Jun, 2013 – May, 2014: 127,727  
2013 Based Aircraft: 833

## Tower Talk

As always, thank you for your continued professionalism. Continue to be cognizant of your surroundings and airport markings. NOTAMS and Letters to Airmen can be found at <http://notams.aim.faa.gov/notamSearch/>. Don't forget about safety and if you need something, don't hesitate to call.



**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Merrill Field Community Outreach BBQ:** Come join the MRI Air Traffic Controller and the Merrill Field Airport Staff for hamburgers and hot dogs! Thursday June 19<sup>th</sup> from 1100-1300 @ Alpha Transient Apron. Access from 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue onto Ardaiz Circle, just east of the Control Tower.

**Changes:** Due to planned changes in ATC procedures, beginning July 9, our runways will be considered intersecting. You will see some adjustments to flight patterns by the controllers as they begin utilizing the new separation requirements.

When flying IFR off Runway 7/25 you will either depart via the Obstacle Departure Procedure or tower may ask you if you can maintain your own terrain and obstruction clearance. If you hear something you are not familiar with, ask for clarification.

**Flying Friendly:** We all need to be good neighbors. Fly the routes established in the Alaska Supplement. We have seen an increase in cutting corners and flying over houses instead of staying over green belts, roads, and less populated areas. Please keep in mind noise complaints beget noise related restrictions.

THE DOs	THE DO NOTs
Ask for clarification	Don't turn base until receiving clearance
Fly friendly	Don't turn base until traffic to follow is in sight
Utilize active listening	Don't cut corners
Inform ATC if you are doing a student solo	Don't fly a procedure/pattern you are unsure of without asking for clarification
Read back hold short with call sign, runway, and holding instructions	Don't proceed on a movement area without a clearance
Communicate your needs	Don't be afraid to let us know you are a student

Communicate! Communicate! Communicate!

Brian Ochs, Manager  
Merrill Field ATCT  
271-2698

## Noise exposure maps available soon

Pursuant to Title 49, United States Code, Section 47506(a) and (b) of the Aviation Safety and Noise Abatement Act of 1979, as amended and recodified, on June 3, 2014, the Federal Aviation Administration completed its evaluation of, and formally accepted the Noise Exposure Maps for Merrill Field Airport, Anchorage, Alaska, that were prepared pursuant to Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 150 (14 CFR Part 150). These maps and supporting documentation will soon be available for public review on the Merrill Field website, under the [Noise Exposure Maps](#) tab.

## Practice good driving on Merrill Field Airport

Please follow these important rules from our Driver Training Program (DTP):

- An authorized driver who provides movement area access to a visitor is responsible for ensuring the visitor knows and complies with Merrill Field's policies and regulations. "If you let them on, they're your responsibility"!
- The maximum driving speed on Merrill Field is 15 mph on ramps or aprons and 25 mph on roadways.
- Drivers must yield right of way to all aircraft. Compared to vehicles, aircraft move faster, are less maneuverable and generally have poorer visibility.
- Aircraft can show up where you least expect them. Exercise the same caution when entering the runway or taxiway as you would when entering a highway. Even when cleared into the area, look left, right and all around you before entering.

For a complete review of our Driver Training Program, visit the Merrill Field web site, [http://www.muni.org/departments/merrill\\_field/pages/default.aspx](http://www.muni.org/departments/merrill_field/pages/default.aspx). You'll find a link to the DTP on the left sidebar.

## Aviation Events

### **Thursday, June 19: 3rd Annual Merrill Field Community Outreach BBQ**

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

### **Wednesday, July 2: Merrill Field Users Group Meeting**

Our quarterly Merrill Field User Group Meeting with the Airport Manager will be held on Wednesday, July 2, 3:00 p.m. at the Airport Manager's Office, 800 Merrill Field Drive, Anchorage, AK 99501. Call 343-6303 for more details.

### **Thursday, July 10: Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission Meeting**

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

### **Sunday, July 20: Salmon Bake and Fly By**

Hosted by the Alaskan Aviation Heritage Museum, this top-flight annual event will feature a fly-by including their very own, newly restored 1931 Fairchild Pilgrim—only one in the country still flying! Rob Stapleton will be signing his book, "Images of Aviation, Alaska's Bush Pilots"; music performed by Carhartt Brothers Band, great food catered by Smokehouse BBQ, and a non-hosted beer and wine garden. For more details go to <http://www.alaskaairmuseum.org/> or call 248-5325.

### **Saturday & Sunday, July 26 - 27: Arctic Thunder**

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) hosts Arctic Thunder to show appreciation to the Alaska community for its support of the military. For details, visit JBER Arctic Thunder Open House web site at <http://www.jber.af.mil/arcticthunder/> Note and FYI, there will be TFRs in effect during flight demonstrations.

#### **Merrill Field Airport Bulletin Published Quarterly**

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Paul Bowers, AAE, Airport Manager