

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



**Providing over  
85 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, 2016  
[www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm](http://www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm)

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### What's Happening at Merrill Field

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

→ **Security Improvements, Phase 3** – Improvements include: north side cameras, vehicle access gates upgrade, apron lights upgrade to LED, modification to the existing fence along 5th Avenue, TXY Kilo (north side only) resizing and Air Operations Area (AOA) signage. Project is well underway and should be complete in the next few months. North side TWY Kilo resizing is scheduled for July 18 – 23, which will close RWY 25 for construction Monday through Saturday morning from 2230L to 0700L.

→ **Rehabilitate Taxiway Quebec, Phase 5 Construction** – This project is a continuation of the on-going multi-phased dynamic compaction construction projects along Taxiway Quebec and the adjacent aprons towards the Medevac Apron and Campground parking. The intent of this project is to resolve the differential settling of the underlying former landfill and resultant drainage ponding/icing problem and replace with new asphalt surfaces. Temporary detour routes – signage and barricades with lights and flags - will be placed on site for access. This year's \$7.5M, FAA administered AIP grant funded project is the largest in terms of area thus far compared to any dynamic compaction projects from previous years. Mass X has been awarded the contract; it is anticipated that this project will take four months to complete. Thanks to all the aircraft owners who have cooperated in relocating their aircraft.

→ **Install RWY 5/23 Lights and Signage** – This construction project is currently being advertised for bid. This will enhance RWY 5/23 safety particularly during the limited daylight hours of winter. Installation of runway lights and signage will improve runway visibility and help pilots to discern the runway from the adjacent TWY Whiskey. Additional signage will provide better guidance to pilots and airport users to differentiate the movement area from the non-movement area. Anticipated construction this summer.

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

Last but not least, as summer season is in-full swing we are reminding everyone to spend a few minutes to wait for the vehicle gate to close before leaving the gate area. Your patience to ensure that the gate is closed is critical to the safety of the air operations area to stop any unauthorized entry (piggy-backing) while gate is still open. Also, we encourage everyone to be aware of your surroundings and provide guidance/direction to people who seem lost. Together, we can stop people/vehicles from becoming a VPD statistic. Safety is everyone's business.

## Merrill Field Tenant Improvements Abound

Several private construction projects are in full swing around the field.

- *2150 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue* - Construction of the Chaz Aircraft Painting facility, located between the ATCT and Wings of Freedom hangar is ongoing. The steel structure is up and inside work is ongoing.
- *2600 E 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue* - North Edge will expand the size of their operation more than two-fold with addition of a new hangar facility, construction of which is underway.
- *2425 Merrill Field Drive* - A new hangar facility is underway on the Alaska Aircraft Engines lease lot. The building will contain one commercial hangar and six private hangars.
- *1842 Merrill Field Drive* - Materials for a new hangar to be built on the Jay Hawk lot are on site. Construction is planned to begin this fall.

## Vandals Cut Aircraft Tires on MRI

During early morning checks on Thursday, June 2, Airport Maintenance personnel noticed slack tiedown ropes on several aircraft and discovered that deflated tires were the reason. Further investigation revealed all tires on 87 aircraft parked in the Whiskey and Charlie South tiedown aprons had been punctured. Some vehicle tires were punctured as well.

Airport management reported this to APD, contacted all affected tiedown customers and started reviewing recorded video footage. In addition to the original video recordings that were submitted to APD, additional video recordings are also being reviewed. Additional APD patrols have been requested, contract security and additional cameras, fencing, security updates are all being pursued and ingress/egress modifications on all vehicle gates is underway, with positive controls required for both entry and exit.

Many have asked about FBI involvement; here is information regarding federal investigations.

- The FBI has primary investigative jurisdiction for all *federal* criminal laws (except cases specifically assigned to another federal agency). The *type of event* is the trigger for an investigation, not the dollar amount. FBI responsibility/jurisdiction includes: Terrorism, Counterintelligence, Cyber Crime, Weapons of Mass Destruction, Public Corruption, Civil Rights, Organized Crime, White-Collar Crime, Violent Crime and Major Thefts. FBI investigations of aviation are limited to threats against *commercial* aircraft and foreign aircraft on US soil.
- The NTSB investigates *accidents/incidents involving both military and civil aircraft*.
- Local authorities investigate vandalism.

Several vendors and pilots have been very helpful by offering used tires, discounts on new tires and general support to those victims of this unprecedented act of vandalism. To communicate with your fellow pilots re same, you may wish to join Facebook group Alaska Aviator's Resource. A GoFundMe page has also been established for those who want to donate money to assist those pilots in need. We applaud the quick response and compassion the general aviation community has demonstrated during this frustrating time for many. APD case number, 16-22850, should be referenced when victims file their individual vandalism reports.

Anchorage Crime Stoppers: 571-7867

Alaskan Bushwheels, 20% discount: 907-331-4489

Delcourt Aviation, Fairbanks, used but still airworthy, free tires w/free shipping to Anchorage: 907-687-8276

AVEMCO Insurance Company has waived the deductible for claims filed as a result of this incident

# TOWER TRANSMISSIONS



## Upcoming events:

- Arctic Thunder Airshow will be July 29<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>. TFRs will occur. NOTAMs will be available in the near future, please be sure to check them.
- CARTEE Airspace will be active August 2<sup>nd</sup> through October 1<sup>st</sup>, while RWY 6 and 24 at EDF are under construction.

Due to increased Military operations, the tower will be unable to approve FAR Part 93 deviations. For questions/comments/concerns, please contact Dave Chilson at 271-2703.

Please read back your runway assignment, call sign, and hold short instructions (if given).

We MUST have these and if we do not receive them, we will continue to ask until they are received. This is a requirement for us.

Safety Outreach - we can provide a briefing to your group, if you'd like. Please contact me for more details. We'd enjoy the opportunity to speak to you and build a positive relationship.

Thank you to all of the pilots who fly into and out of MRI. We enjoy working with you. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 907-271-2698.

Clarissa Conley, Manager  
MRI ATCT

## *Seasonal Snippets*

- ✓ ***Curb your pet-- 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 messes they may leave behind. Likewise, if you exercise your pet on airport property, please be courteous to others and clean up after it—it's the law, in addition to common courtesy!
- ✓ ***Watch for Bicyclists and Children:*** 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. Keep in mind, Alaska residents are exempt from the 14CFR Part 61 'within 90 day' nighttime currency requirement for summer operations.

## AVIATION EVENTS

### **Wednesday, July 6: Merrill Field Users Group Meeting**

The next quarterly Merrill Field User Group Meeting with the Airport Manager will be held on Wednesday, July 6, 3:00 PM at the Airport Manager's Office, 800 Merrill Field Drive, Anchorage, AK 99501. A discussion of MRI ATCT processes is anticipated. Call 343-6303 for more details.

### **Thursday, July 7: Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission Meeting**

Bi-monthly meetings are held at the Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1140 Airport Heights, Bldg. A, 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m. For information, call the Airport Manager's Office, 343-6303.

### **Wednesday, July 13: Ninety Nines - Alaska Chapter Meeting**

The 99s meet the second Wednesday of each month at the Wings of Freedom Hangar, 2400 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 6:00PM – 8:30 PM. For more details, please call Erika Bennett, Chapter Chair, at 345-1037 or visit the 99s website, <http://www.ak99s.org/index.html>

### **Sunday, July 17: Alaska Aviation Festival**

Hosted by the Alaskan Aviation Heritage Museum, this event will run from 10AM to 4PM and will feature food, fun, vintage aircraft fly-bys and great music by the Carhartt Brothers Band. For more details go to [www.aviationfestival.net](http://www.aviationfestival.net) or call 248-5325.

### **Saturday & Sunday, July 30 - 31: 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.

### **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.

#### **2016 Meeting Dates:**

**Jul 7, Sep 1, Nov 3**

<b><u>Commissioner</u></b>	<b><u>Term Exp.</u></b>
Jim Cieplak	10/14/16
Don DeVoe	10/14/16
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:**

**June, 2015 – May, 2016: 119,306**

**2016 Based Aircraft: 826**

## Pet Waste Stations Installed at MRI

Uncollected pet waste around the airport is unsightly and unhealthy, and statistics show that when pet waste management systems are not available, less than 30% of pet owners will pick up pet waste. To help remedy this problem, seven pet waste stations that include waste collection bags and trash containers have been placed around Merrill Field.

If you or someone you know walks their pet on the field, please use the stations located at or near the following areas: Campground Transient apron, ACE Hangars, Airport Manager's Office, southwest side of Quebec tiedown apron, vehicle turnaround area on south Merrill Field Drive and the vehicle turnoff area at the Lake Otis entrance. These locations were chosen because of apparent high pet usage, but the units can be relocated if necessary. We appreciate your help in reducing the amount of pet waste on MRI.

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

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Paul Bowers, AAE, Airport Manager