

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



**Providing over
79 Years
of Service**

MERRILL FIELD BULLETIN

Current News About Your Airport

Merrill Field Airport
800 Merrill Field Drive, Anchorage AK 99501

June, 2009
www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed Public Law 111-5. The legislation, referred to as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, provides to the Department of Transportation, among other things, \$48.1 billion for infrastructure development. Of this amount, \$1.1 billion is provided to FAA from the General Fund for airport-related purposes. While the funding is not subject to normal Airport Improvement Program (AIP) authorization, the funding is to be administered under the requirements of AIP discretionary funding. For full details about ARRA, please visit www.Recovery.gov.

2009 Merrill Field AIP Projects funded by ARRA as *certified* by the Municipal Manager are:

Rehabilitate Aircraft Apron (Block 5, Phase 5) - \$766,000

This project includes Phase-5 of a multi-phased apron rehabilitation of Block-5. The apron is bounded by Taxiway Quebec to the south, Taxiway Golf to the east, and Merrill Field Drive to the north. The apron is situated over the closed landfill and has developed four or more feet of differential settlement over the past five to seven years. This has created substantial drainage problems, and rendered most of the apron unusable. This project will repair the apron to a safe and level condition for parking and taxiing aircraft.

Rehabilitate Aircraft Apron (Charlie South) - \$1,100,000

This project involves the reconstruction of the existing gravel aircraft apron located over the closed solid waste landfill. The differential settlement has created substantial drainage problems and rendered most of the apron unusable. This apron is situated east of Runway 16-34 and south of Runway 7-25. This rehabilitation work includes the removal of the gravel surface and placement of a new asphalt pavement surface. The completed project will provide a safe operating surface for taxiing and parking aircraft.

Annual picnic honors Merrill Field Aviation Pioneers

The new access roads to Merrill Field were suitably named to acknowledge Merrill Field pioneers, Richard & Ramona Ardaiz, Oren Hudson, Bob Reeve, Wesley Stoddard, and Joe & Anne Wilbur. We plan to honor these extraordinary contributors to Alaska aviation at the 2009 Merrill Field Picnic. The annual event will fittingly be held on **August 19, National Aviation Day, at 12:00 noon**; a dedication ceremony is planned for 12:30 p.m. Please join us, rain or shine, at the UAA Aviation Technology Center, 2811 Merrill Field Drive, for this special event. The annual picnic is graciously sponsored by the Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission.

What's Happening at Merrill Field

Summer is finally here, and another busy construction season is in full swing. These FAA funded capital improvement projects are underway.

- *Rehabilitate Aircraft Aprons (Phases 4 and 5), Rehabilitate Charlie South Apron, and Replace Taxiway Barrier Gates at Quebec and Golf*– These multiple projects were awarded to Roger Hickel Construction (RHC) last month, and we anticipate the projects will be completed within four months. There may be some inconvenience along the way, but our intent is to keep daily airport operations in the affected areas flowing smoothly. There will be daily access to the operations area through at least one taxiway barrier gate; at no time during construction will both taxiway gates be closed.
- *Sewer Main Rehabilitation (AWWU project)* – About 800 feet of sewer main will be rehabilitated along Merrill Field Drive near Taxiway Golf (from ACE Hangars to Kontor Development). RHC is also the contractor for this project and will schedule this project with their work on the airport capital improvement projects.

Due to these construction activities on the airport, be cognizant of your surroundings. Always watch for personnel and equipment whether you're walking, driving, or taxiing your aircraft.

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 9, Sep 3, Nov 5, Jan 7

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:

June 08 – May 09: 166,535
2009 Based Aircraft: 902

Airport Commission meeting date changed

Please note that the next Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, July 9. The meeting was rescheduled to accommodate those who will be out of town for the July 4th, Independence Day, Holiday.

Promote aviation safety: monitor airport gate access

It is important to monitor the gate you use when entering or exiting the air operations area. When you go through a gate, please wait for it to close before proceeding to your destination. This will help ensure someone unfamiliar with the airport does not "tailgate" and inadvertently cross a taxiway or runway causing a Vehicle Pedestrian Deviation (VPD). Our Driver Training Program mandates that you are liable for the person who accesses the movement area without authorization. This little extra attention could be the few seconds it takes to prevent a tragedy. Thanks for your assistance with keeping Merrill Field a safe place to fly.

TOWER TALK

Summer Time

I am happy to report that the month of May involved no deviations, accidents or incidents on MRI. I owe each of you a big thank you for continued cooperation and vigilance while operating on and around Merrill Field. Warmer temperatures and beautiful days are upon us again, and many of us have decided to take to the skies to make the most of this wonderful weather. This brings us to some friendly reminders.

There have been some issues over the last couple of months involving noise. Several citizens have voiced concerns over the noise levels, and we are asking for pilot assistance in maintaining our aviation friendly presence. The Alaska Supplement dated 7 May 2009 – 2 Jul 2009, page 359, depicts a suggested traffic pattern routing to be flown. The original publication indicated the traffic pattern for Runway 25 crosswind should be avoided until passing West of Ingra if practical. At some point since that publication, the suggested pattern was moved. We do not know when this happened but we have submitted a request to change it back.

The VFR pattern depicted for Runway 04/22 suggests that the pilot enter the traffic pattern for the appropriate paved runway and transition to the gravel runway on final. For instance, when inbound from the northwest and landing Runway 04 the pilot would enter traffic for Runway 34 (usually a left base entry via West High School) and then transition over to Runway 04 from final approach on Runway 34. This procedure is depicted on page 360 of the Alaska Supplement dated 7 May 2009 – 2 Jul 2009. VFR pattern work is not allowed on Runway 04/22.

When departing Runway 22 West/Northwest bound the assigned departure will be via the Chester Creek VFR Departure Procedure. This departure is depicted on page 365 of the Alaska Supplement dated 7 May 2009 – 2 Jul 2009. Notice that on the described departure the pilot should turn south to intercept Chester Creek. We ask that you DO NOT fly straight out to intercept.

These requests are being made to you as a pilot to avoid noise sensitive areas immediately surrounding the Merrill Field airport. We are in no way implying that safety ever be compromised. If the situation dictates actions other than those suggested are requisite, by all means please put safety first. There may be instances where an air traffic controller will request an early turn out or other non standard operation. If you are capable and willing to comply, we greatly appreciate it. As a general rule though we at MRI are asking for your continued support and assistance in maintaining the freedoms we enjoy here as pilots, passengers and general aviation enthusiasts.

Again, we appreciate each of you and want to help you enjoy the time spent flying around Merrill Field. If I may be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me during normal business hours at (907) 271-2698.

Scotty L. Auton
Acting Air Traffic Manager
MRI ATCT



Aircraft registration requirements

The Municipality of Anchorage requires that all persons owning any interest in an aircraft located in or operated within the Municipality register such aircraft in accordance with Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) 12.08.010. For additional information, please contact the aircraft tax office at 343-6923.

Seasonal Snippets

✓ *Asphalt Repair on Taxiways and Runways*

The annual crack-sealing program will soon be in full swing for the 2009 summer season. This year, the crew will be doing asphalt repair work on taxiways and runways. We urge you to be aware of this activity and to exercise caution as you taxi your aircraft around the airport.

✓ *Scoop the Poo –it's the law*

If you exercise your pet on airport property, please be courteous to others and clean up behind it. People who enjoy walking and exercising on Merrill Field have been finding unwanted piles; please do your part by picking up your dog's droppings.

✓ *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.

We also encourage all business owners to watch out for our youth, and if you see anyone cycling through an air operations area or tie-down apron, advise them where they can ride safely. We are encouraged to see today's youth interested in aircraft and general aviation, but cannot allow any activity that compromises the safety of Merrill Field users. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

Aviation Events

June 19: Northern Solstice BBQ

This event, hosted by the Alaska Airmen's Association, will be held at Fairbanks International Airport: Airport Airpark, east ramp off of University Avenue. For information call the Northern Regional Office at 800-926-2499.

June 27 & 28: Dawson City Memorial Fly-In

Several festivities are planned at this Alaska Airmen's Association event. For information call Keith at 907-244-6231, km@gci.net

July 4: Annual Salmon Bake & Fly By

This yummy event is hosted by the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum. You can purchase tickets (\$25.00/adults, \$15/children) by phone at 907-248-5325, by internet at www.alaskaairmuseum.org, or come by the Museum at 2721 Aircraft Drive, Anchorage.

July 18 & 19: Wasilla Fly-In

Hosted by the Veterans Aviation Outreach (VAO), you can try your luck at the poker run and flour bombing at the Wasilla Airport. For details or general information, contact David Young at 907-982-2466 or veteransaviationoutreach@gmail.com

Air Force Military Exercises

June 15 – 26: Northern Edge

July 27 – August 7: Red Flag

For information, visit <http://www.elmendorf.af.mil/11af/611thairoperationssquadron/index.asp> and click on Special Use Airspace Information System (SUAIS).

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Merrill Field Airport, 800 Merrill Field Drive
Anchorage, AK 99501-4129

(907) 343-6303 -- e-mail: merrillinfo@muni.org

David A. Lundeby, Airport Manager