

***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*

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

*March, 2012  
[www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm](http://www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm)*

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### **Merrill Field Airport Master Plan Update & Noise Study Meeting Planned**

The Municipality of Anchorage Merrill Field Airport (MRI) is updating the Airport Master Plan and Noise Study (AMP) for the airport. The last AMP Update for MRI was completed in July, 2000. The MOA has contracted with HDR Alaska, Inc. (HDR) to provide airport planning and engineering services in developing a master plan update for MRI.

The AMP will serve as a blueprint for airport development over the next 20 years, and participation of airport users is critical in developing a plan that will position the airport to remain vibrant and successful into the future. MRI is planning a public open house to kickoff the planning process, details below:

**Merrill Field Airport Master Plan Update & Noise Study Kickoff Meeting**

**Thursday, May 10 from 6 to 8pm**

**UAA Aviation Technology Division, 2811 Merrill Field Drive, Anchorage, AK 99501**

For more information about the open house and to sign-up for the newsletter, view the schedule, provide feedback and contact the project team, please visit

[www.merrillfieldmasterplan.com](http://www.merrillfieldmasterplan.com).

### **Over \$15,000 in Scholarships Available for Aviation Education**

The Alaska and MatSu Chapters of the Ninety-Nines International Women Pilot's Organization are offering flight scholarships to female student pilots and female pilots seeking an advanced rating. Information and an application form can be found at <http://www.ak99s.org/scholarships.htm>, or call Angie Slingluff at 907-230-0952. Application deadline is Friday, March 19, 2012.

The Alaska Airmen's Association is offering four scholarships in these aviation categories: professional piloting; aviation maintenance; aviation management; and aviation industry in Southeast. For information, please visit [www.alaskaairmen.org](http://www.alaskaairmen.org) or call 907-245-1251. Applications are due March 31, 2012.

The Alaska Aviation Safety Foundation is offering three scholarships for students enrolled in aviation related programs. Please call 907-564-6603 for details; applications are available at <http://www.aasfonline.org/scholarship.html>. Forms must be postmarked by May 31, 2012.

## **Extreme snowfall impacts routine snow removal**

Airport management would like to thank all Merrill Field business owners and pilots for their patience during this unique winter season. Not only has the near record-breaking amount of snowfall made for a difficult season, but heavy equipment breakdowns have also had a significant impact on our snow removal plan. Our Airport Maintenance crew has worked diligently to maintain the runways and taxiways throughout the season and plan to clear stockpiled snow from the lease lots as soon as possible.

We are still having some issues with our vehicle gates due to packed snow and ice in and around the gates. Most of the leaseholders have taken an active roll in the snow and ice removal in and around their vehicle gates. This allows the Airport Maintenance staff the time needed to remove snow from the operational surfaces of the Airport.

We sincerely appreciate your understanding and tolerance. As always, please call the Airport Manager's Office with any snow removal concerns

## **Traffic patterns developed to reduce noise over neighborhoods**

A Traffic Pattern is defined as *the traffic flow that is prescribed for aircraft landing at, taxiing on, or taking off from an airport*. Merrill Field's Traffic Patterns were established to reduce aircraft noise over residential neighborhoods. To accomplish this, the crosswind leg for Runway 25 is over Ingra Street, not over the Fairview residential neighborhood. Likewise, the Chester Creek Departure was established as the Runway 23 departure route to reduce aircraft noise over residences.

- ☺ Follow all established traffic patterns
- ☹ Don't make early crosswind turns on departure
- ☺ Always utilize the entire length of the runway
- ☹ Avoid requesting intersection departures
- ☺ Follow the departure path for RWY 16 over Chester Creek
- ☹ Don't depart straight out on RWY 23 over the residential area

The Alaska Supplement is very clear on these procedures, shows the Traffic Patterns, and states "All Aircraft: Fly traffic pattern as depicted to reduce noise complaints". The Chester Creek Departure states "Runway 23: turn left to Chester Creek. Follow the creek to Westchester Lagoon".

As always, our goal is to be a good neighbor, and we can significantly reduce aircraft noise this summer if pilots follow their basic ground school and flight instructions by flying the pattern and published VFR routes! We appreciate your cooperation.

## **Merrill Field's SWPPP website now available**

Merrill Field Airport (MRI) is happy to announce our new Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) website. The SWPPP website illustrates surface water runoff and the storm drain system linking MRI to Anchorage. It also details the responsibilities of leaseholders, visitors, and staff of MRI, all of which help maintain compliance with the State of Alaska's Multi-Sector General Permit for Industrial Activities. Additionally, leaseholders can now easily submit spill reports and comments online.

Visit [www.merrillfieldak.com](http://www.merrillfieldak.com) to learn what Merrill Field Airport is doing to keep our streams clean.

## What's Happening at Merrill Field

This summer (hopefully we'll get a warm and sunny one!), will be one of our busiest seasons for capital improvements projects. We are currently working with FAA to acquire grant funding for construction of the following projects:

- ➔ Rehabilitate Taxiway Quebec, Phase 3 – This project is the continuation of the on-going multi-phased dynamic construction projects along Taxiway Quebec. This summer's project will encompass an area on Taxiway Q and the intersection with Taxiway G. *See enclosed sketch for the detailed area of project limits.*
- ➔ Security Upgrades, Camera/Signage/Lights, Phase 2 – This project is for the upgrade of our camera system. The system is currently not refreshing and not recording images. Our consultant is working with several manufacturers on product testing and plans to have this design-build project ready for bid this summer. Signage and apron lighting are also included with this project. Planned construction is this coming summer/fall.

Aside from the above mentioned projects, we are also finishing up the remaining work from last year's security improvement project which includes LED replacement of the apron lights on the north side of the airport. Secured vehicle gate access near the intersection of Orca Street & 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, west of RWY 16/34, will also be completed this summer.

For the Airport Master Plan Update and Noise Study, our consultant, HDR, will schedule several community meetings during March, April, and May for the public involvement process. They will attend the Airport Advisory Commission meeting in May to present their schedule and plans. See separate information in this bulletin to access MRI's Airport Master Plan website.

## Seasonal Snippets

### ✓ *Check Your Ropes*

After the wet, windy days of winter, pilots should check their aircraft tie-down ropes for signs of wear and deterioration. Replace any and all ropes that show symptoms of fraying or your aircraft might take off without you.

### ✓ *Report Ravens*

Thanks to all Merrill Field vendors for keeping dumpster lids closed and for not overfilling trash cans--a proactive approach to minimizing raven attractants on the field. USDA Wildlife Specialists continue to assist with reducing the number of ravens; however, it is still very important to promptly report all raven damage to the Airport Manager's Office, 343-6303. We appreciate your assistance.

### ✓ *Aircraft Wash Open Soon*

The aircraft wash facility will be available for your use as soon as the day and nighttime temperatures remain above freezing. When using the facility, please abide by the following guidelines: no dumping of used oil or grease at the washing facility, wash the surface of the facility after each use; use phosphate-free detergents whenever possible. This facility is for aircraft use only.

### 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:

May 3, Jul 12, Sep 6, Nov 1

#### Commissioner    Term Exp.

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:

Mar, 2011 – Feb, 2012: 123,553  
2011 Based Aircraft: 880

## Runway 4/22 is now officially 5/23

Using snow shoes and winter gear, our contractor recently completed the runway sign replacement on the gravel/ski runway. The change in the magnetic declination required re-numbering Runway 4/22 to Runway 5/23.

### *Aviation Events*

#### **Saturday, March 24: Aviation Career and Aviation Job Fair**

Ted Stevens International Airport North Terminal from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Open to the public. For more information, call Margaret Tyler at 266-2694

#### **Saturday, March 24: Lake Hood Pilots Assoc. Pancake Breakfast & Safety Talks**

Meet at Steve Fishback's hangar, 3720 Bellanca Way, Unit B, for breakfast and discussions. Cost: \$5 for non-member, \$2 for aviation students, or \$20 for 2012 membership and breakfast. Contact Scott Christy at [scott512@gci.net](mailto:scott512@gci.net) for details.

#### **Saturday, April 21: Annual Seaplane Seminar**

Plan to attend this informative event at the Aircraft Management Directorate Hangar (OAS Hangar), Lake Hood Seaplane Base, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Call John at 274-2990 for additional details.

#### **Thursday, May 3: Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission Meeting**

Bi-monthly meetings are held at the Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1150 Airport Heights, room 4B, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. For more information, call the Airport Manager's Office, 343-6303.

#### **Friday & Saturday, May 5-6: , 15th Alaska State Aviation Trade Show**

Plan to attend "The GREAT ALASKA AVIATION GATHERING" at the FedEx Hangar, Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. The aircraft raffle will feature a 2012 180hp Wide-body Super Cub by Airframes Alaska, LLC. Visit the Alaska Airmen's Association web site: [www.alaskaairmen.org](http://www.alaskaairmen.org).

#### **Thursday, May 10: Merrill Field Airport Master Plan Update Kickoff Meeting**

This 'open house' style meeting will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the UAA Aviation Technology Center, 2811 Merrill Field Drive. For more information about the open house and the Master Plan Update, please visit [www.merrillfieldmasterplan.com](http://www.merrillfieldmasterplan.com).

#### **Friday – Sunday, May 11, 12, 13: Valdez Fly-In and Air Show**

Experience the most unique bush plane competition in the western United States. Visit the event web site at <http://valdezflyin.com> or call 907-835-2984 for more information.

#### **Saturday, May 19: Flying Companion Seminar**

The 99s are offering this seminar designed for the spouse, friend or frequent passenger who would like to learn more about flying to make them more relaxed and helpful, especially in an emergency. Seating is limited. Details can be found at [www.ak99s.org/flycompseminar.html](http://www.ak99s.org/flycompseminar.html).

#### **Saturday, June 9: 12th Annual Kenai Air Fair**

This annual event is hosted by the Kenai and Soldotna Municipal Airports. Call 907-283-7951 or visit [www.kenaiairport.com](http://www.kenaiairport.com) for details.

#### **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](mailto:arctic.thunder@elmendorf.af.mil) or [JBER.Openhouse@elmendorf.af.mil](mailto:JBER.Openhouse@elmendorf.af.mil).

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

Merrill Field Airport, 800 Merrill Field Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99501-4129  
(907) 343-6303, fax (907) 276-8421  
e-mail: [merrillinfo@muni.org](mailto:merrillinfo@muni.org),  
[www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm](http://www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm)