

***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*

*March, 2013
www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm*

FedEx Donates Boeing 727 to Aviation Technology Division

Did you see it--a large, jet aircraft flying over the city and landing at Merrill Field? Your eyes were not deceiving you; it really happened. On Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013, around 2 p.m., a FedEx Boeing 727 landed at Merrill Field Airport. After its short flight from Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, the pilots of the 727 completed two flyovers before landing on Runway 25. Every vantage point available was occupied by eager, aviation enthusiasts and citizens who wanted to witness history in the making. What a sight it was!

No excitement though, could match that of University of Alaska Anchorage officials, employees and students as the FedEx Boeing 727 airliner was presented to the Aviation Technology Division. Over the past decade, FedEx has made it a corporate practice to assist schools, museums and airport fire departments by donating jets to support their educational missions.

The jet, which took its first flight on Feb. 14, 1979, is located at the UAA Aviation Technology Center at Merrill Field Airport. The plane will no longer fly, but will be used by students in the UAA Community & Technical College's aviation maintenance technology program for hands-on training as they learn transport category aircraft maintenance. The 727, dubbed "Two Bears," is named after the now-grown son of Hugo Yturralde, a FedEx manager in Anchorage for more than 28 years.

This monumental event could not have taken place without an incredible amount of planning and coordination between UAA, the State of Alaska, and the Municipality of Anchorage. Merrill Field management would like to thank everyone involved; your contributions to this great endeavor are sincerely appreciated.

Traffic patterns developed to reduce noise over neighborhoods

Did you know that, among other considerations, 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.

As always, our goal is to be a good neighbor. We can significantly reduce aircraft noise complaints this summer if pilots remember these simple guidelines: fly the pattern and follow the published VFR routes. We appreciate your cooperation.

What's Happening at Merrill Field

We are currently busy preparing for our big summer (hopefully we'll get a warm and sunny one!) capital improvement projects. We are working with FAA to acquire grant funding for construction of the following projects:

- Rehabilitate Taxiway Quebec, Phase 4 – This project is the continuation of the on-going multi-phased dynamic compaction construction projects along Taxiway Quebec. This summer's project will encompass an area on Taxiway Q to the east past Taxiway G intersection. Please be aware of the detour routes--signage and barricades will be in place.
- RWY Lighting Electrical Vault Upgrade – The new runway electrical vault upgrade is for the replacement of the aged (30 plus years) generator, voltage regulators, and distribution panels that service the airport's runways, taxiways, aprons, and lights. It also services the critical NavAids such as the REILS, VASI's, Airport beacon, PAPI and the lighted wind cones.

Aside from the above mentioned projects, we are coordinating with our contractor for the following project:

- Security Upgrades, Lights, Camera and Signage, Phase 2 – This project will upgrade our camera system. The existing system is no longer refreshing or recording images. This project involves installation of 17 new HD cameras with video surveillance systems, 10,600 feet of fiber optic cable from Airport Heights to 15th Avenue along Merrill Field Drive, and 13 new LED apron luminaire lights. Alcan Electrical and Engineering, Inc. is the contractor for this project. Anticipated ground breaking is May, 2013.

For the Airport Master Plan Update and Noise Study, please visit MRI's Airport Master Plan website, <http://www.merrillfieldmasterplan.com/>

Scholarships Available

That there will be a thriving aviation community for generations to come, \$15,000 in Aviation Scholarships is waiting for your application! The Alaska Airmen's Association, the Ninety-Nines and the Alaska Aviation Safety Foundation all have scholarships to award to worthy applicants.

Four scholarships totaling \$8,000 are available from the Alaska Airmen's Association. The application deadline is March 31, 2013. For information on criteria and scholarship application, please visit <http://www.alaskaairmen.org> or call 907-245-1251.

For students enrolled in aviation related programs, the Alaska Aviation Safety Foundation is offering three scholarships totaling \$4,000. Go online to <http://www.aasfonline.org/scholarship.html> for an application which must be postmarked by May 31, 2013. Please call (907) 564-6603 with any questions.

The Alaska Chapter and the Mat-Su Valley Chapter of the Ninety-Nines International Organization of Women Pilots are offering three scholarships, totaling \$3,700, for Alaskan Women. Criteria and information on local scholarships may be found at www.ak99s.org. Application deadline is March 29th. The International Organization also awards numerous scholarships for women, information may be found at www.ninety-nines.org.

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 2, Jul 11, Sep 5, Nov 7

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Term Exp.</u>
Dick Armstrong	10/14/15
Sharon Chamard	10/14/15
Jim Cieplak	10/14/13
Don DeVoe, V Chair	10/14/13
Greg Pearce	10/14/14
Terry Pena	10/14/15
Jim Powell, Chair	10/14/14

Statistics

Operations:

Mar, 2012 – Feb, 2013: 129,330
2012 Based Aircraft: 827

Tower Talk



Winter is almost over, and I want to thank everyone for an outstanding job advancing their communication skills and professionalism. While there is always room for improvement, everyone has made noticeable progress. I look forward to our flight together.

I also want to recognize everyone that has flown MRI. Our noise complaints, incursions, deviations, and flight errors are all down. Keep up the good flying and remember that summer is coming. Start reviewing procedures and call beforehand if you need clarification. The controllers are here to help. If you have questions, please call us at 271-2698.

Brian Ochs, Air Traffic Manager

Municipality Completes Airborne Lead Monitoring Study at Merrill Field Airport

The Anchorage Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has completed a one-year monitoring study of airborne lead levels at the Merrill Field Airport. Merrill Field was one of 15 airports nationwide selected by the EPA for lead monitoring. This monitoring will help determine whether airports serving large numbers of piston aircraft meet new, more stringent air quality standards for airborne lead set by the EPA in 2008.

DHHS found that airborne lead levels at Merrill Field were well below the allowable standard. The three-month rolling average concentration was 0.07 micrograms per cubic meter, which is about half the 0.15 microgram per cubic meter standard.

The EPA estimates that piston aircraft are responsible for about half of all lead emissions nationwide. Unlike cars and trucks, many piston aircraft still run on fuel containing lead additive. The EPA will use the results of monitoring conducted at Merrill Field and other airports around the country to determine whether lead emissions from aircraft need to be regulated to protect public health.

A fact sheet and final report on the Merrill Field monitoring can be found at:

<http://www.muni.org/healthesd/air.cfm>

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Alex B. Jumao-as, Acting Airport Manager

Merrill Field Airport Master Plan News

Work continues on the Municipality of Anchorage Merrill Field Airport (MRI)'s Airport Master Plan (AMP) update. When complete, the AMP will serve as a blueprint for airport development over the next 20 years.

Over the past few months, the planning team completed the inventory of airport facilities, developed an inventory of issues and concerns, and finished collecting winter noise measurements. This information served as the basis for a draft aviation forecast, which has been submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for review.

Later this spring or early summer, MRI will host a public open house to present the FAA-approved aviation forecast; share a draft of the noise analysis; and provide an opportunity to share their comments and ideas on potential alternatives to resolve the issues and future needs identified to date.

To sign up for the Airport Master Plan electronic mailing list or to learn more about the plan's progress and draft materials, please visit

www.merrillfieldmasterplan.com

~~ Submitted by John McPherson, HDR

Identify your covers

Just a reminder to mark all covers and gust locks with your aircraft N number. If an item is found, we will have the ability to find out who owns the associated aircraft. This is a lot more economical than purchasing new covers or locks for your aircraft. Remember, March comes in like a lion!

Seasonal Snippets

- ✓ *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.
- ✓ *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. It is still very important to promptly report all raven damage to the Airport Manager's Office, 343-6303. We appreciate your assistance.
- ✓ *Spring Clean-Up:* Spring cleanup on Merrill Field will coincide with the Municipal Spring Cleanup Week, April 27 through May 4. Solid Waste Services currently plans to offer free dumping for residential pick-up truck size loads at the Regional Landfill only on both Saturdays, April 27 and May 4. Notices with more Merrill Field Airport cleanup details will be mailed next month.

Aviation Events

Saturday, March 23: Aviation Career & Job Fair : Approximately 300 seasonal, full-time and part-time jobs will be showcased at this event. This event will be held from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the North Terminal of Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (ANC), 4600 Postmark Road, Anchorage. Visit http://www.dot.state.ak.us/comm/pressbox/arch_2013/PR13-2511.shtml for details.

Saturday, March 23: Lake Hood Pilots Assoc. Pancake Breakfast & Safety Talks: Meet at Steve Fishback's hangar, 3720 Bellanca Way, Unit B, for breakfast and discussions.

Thursday, March 28: Lake Hood User Group Spring Meeting: The meeting will be held at the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum, 4721 Aircraft Drive, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Call 266-2741 for details.

Monday, April 1: Local Runway Safety Action Team (RSAT) Meeting: Airport users will meet to discuss operational safety procedures at Merrill Field. UAA Aviation Technology Center, 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Call Brian Ochs at 271-2698 for information.

Saturday, April 20: Annual Seaplane Seminar: Plan to attend this informative event at the OAS Hangar, 4405 Lear Court, Lake Hood Seaplane Base, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, call 262-3872 or 398-6228.

Saturday & Sunday, May 4 & 5: Great Alaska Aviation Gathering - Trade Show & Conference: The Alaska Airmen's Association is proud to host the 16th Annual Aviation Trade Show and Conference. Details for this premier aviation event can be found at <http://alaskaairmen.org>.

Friday and Saturday, May 10 -11: Valdez Air Show: Come to Valdez to experience the most distinctive bush plane competition in the Western United States! More details are available online at <http://www.valdezalaska.org/events/valdez-fly-in-and-air-show>.

Saturday, May 18: Prepared Passenger Workshop The Alaska 99s will present their annual Prepared Passenger Workshop (formerly Flying Companion Seminar) at the UAA Aviation Technology Center from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For details go to <http://www.ak99s.org/flycompseminar.html>.

Saturday, June 8: 13th Annual Kenai Air Fair This annual event is hosted by the Kenai and Soldotna Municipal Airports. Call 907-283-7951 or go to www.kenaiairport.com for details.