

**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, 2015
www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm

What's Happening at Merrill Field

Spring is just around the corner and Merrill Field is gearing up for another busy summer season with the upcoming capital improvement 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. Detour routes, signage and barricades will be in place on site. Anticipated construction will be May/July timeframe.
- *Security Improvements, Phase 3* – This project is a continuation of the on-going multi-phased security improvement projects. The project will install fiber optic cable inside the fence line along 5th Avenue/Glenn Highway to provide the needed reliable data and video transmission to MRI security cameras and vehicle gates access system on the north side of the airport. The improvements also include: vehicle access gate upgrades, apron light upgrades to LED, modification to existing fence along 5th Avenue and Air Operations Area (AOA) signage and modification of the Taxiway Kilo intersection on the north side of Runway 25. Anticipated construction will be May/July timeframe.
- *Merrill Field Airport Master Plan Update, Phase-2 Update* – This project has started, and we encourage you to visit MRI's Airport Master Plan website, <http://www.merrillfieldmasterplan.com/>, for information.

These capital improvement projects are funded by grants administered by FAA. We are looking forward to working with you again on capital projects this summer.

Additionally, AOA insecticide spraying is planned this spring to help address the grasshopper infestation we have experienced the last few years. Taxiway edge lines and other airfield painting will be pursued.

Last but not least, signs are posted at each vehicle access gate such as "*Ensure that gate is closed before leaving*". The signs are installed for a reason – to stop unauthorized entry (piggy-backing) into the AOA, thus curtailing Vehicle Pedestrian Deviations (see separate article related to VPDs). Please coordinate your entry/exit accordingly.



Asphalt repair planned

Airport asphalt crack-sealing program will take place this summer. Typically, the crack sealing process entails cleaning out the crack with a special asphalt router, cleaning the surface area with air pressure and then applying hot rubberized asphalt. The rubberized asphalt cures almost instantly, does not track and will keep the crack sealed for many years.

Sealing cracks under aircraft will require the aircraft to be moved to an empty tiedown space. Typically the cracks in one tie-down row can be routed and sealed in one day. The crack sealing process is weather dependent (rain and wind), making it very difficult to schedule the actual times for the aircraft moves. The Manager's Office will coordinate any aircraft relocations with the owners if needed and aircraft owners will be notified when their tiedown apron is scheduled for sealing, at which time they will be given the opportunity to plan their own aircraft move. For more information, call the Airport Manager's Office at 343-6303.

Seasonal Snippets

Spring Clean-Up: Spring cleanup on Merrill Field will coincide with the Citywide Cleanup Week, May 2 through May 9. The purpose of this event is to remove unwanted trash from around the city's streets, parks, and neighborhoods after the winter snow melts. Everyone loves a clean airport, including our visitors. Notices with more spring cleanup details will be mailed next month.

Check Your Ropes: After the wet, windy days of winter and spring, 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 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 low-pressure aircraft wash facility will be available for your use as soon as the day and nighttime temperatures remain above freezing, which may be sooner than normal this year. 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, and use phosphate-free detergents whenever possible. Please note 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 are generally held the first Thursday of every other month. Please call 343-6303 for additional information.

Meeting Dates:

May 7, Jul 9, Sep 3, Nov 5

Commissioner Term Exp.

Jim Powell, Chair	10/14/17
Sharon Chamard, V Chair	10/14/15
Dick Armstrong	10/14/15
Jim Cieplak	10/14/16
Don DeVoe	10/14/16
Greg Pearce	10/14/17
Terry Pena	10/14/15

Statistics

Operations:

Mar, 2014 – Feb, 2015: 125,283
2014 Based Aircraft: 786

Aircraft Registration Tax

For your convenience, the Municipality offers electronic payment options to pay your Aircraft Registration Tax, through a 3rd party processor, Official Payments Corporation (OPC). A fee of 2.55% is charged for credit card payments and \$1.95 for electronic check payments. Credit card payment can be made on-line or by phone. Electronic check payment is only available on-line. Official Payments Corporation also offers options that will allow you to schedule payments in advance or setup future payment due date reminders.

To pay electronically or to schedule payment or setup payment reminders, go to www.muni.org/treasury and click on Aircraft Registration Tax or call 1-800-272-9829, at the prompt, enter Jurisdiction Code 1201. For additional information regarding the Aircraft Registration Tax please contact the Tax Office at 343-6923.

TOWER TALK

Alaska Supplement: FAA Merrill Field procedures specialist Jim Buggy has been updating the Alaska Supplement to correctly reflect the VFR departure routing and other aspects of Merrill Field. The changes will be to correct the supplement, not to change how we operate. Chart updates are due out April 30, 2015.

RSAT: A Runway Safety Action Team meeting is planned for Tuesday, April 7, 2015, 10:00AM – 1:00PM, at the Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1140 Airport Heights in building A, rooms 1 & 2. Information about the meeting has been sent by email to Merrill Field stakeholders. Please plan to attend as your participation is needed to help keep the airport environment safe and enjoyable for everyone.

New Voices: Former MRI ATCT Facility Operations Supervisor Gary Kingsley has accepted a new job as the tower manager at Champaign, IL and is no longer at the MRI ATCT. Likewise, Scott Eastep has transferred to Anchorage ARTCC as a Quality Control Specialist. Please welcome Delbert Cox and Ryan Gould as the new Facility Operations Supervisors at Merrill Field Tower. Delbert Cox started his ATC career in the US Navy and later worked at Bethel, AK tower and is a recent transfer, with experience in the Anchorage Tower and Approach Control. Ryan Gould began his career in Houston, TX at Houston ARTCC, and is a recent transfer from Anchorage Tower. We also have 3 new controllers in the MRI ATCT facility as well.

We are looking forward to a great year. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns about air traffic services at MRI.

Scotty L. Auton for
Brian Ochs
Air Traffic Manager
271-2698



Matanuska-Susitna Valley Designated CTAF Areas

The designated Common Traffic Advisory Frequencies (CTAF) in the Mat-Su valleys are now depicted in a panel on the Anchorage/Fairbanks Terminal Area Chart (TAC). Pilots are encouraged to use ATC Flight Following and FSS airport advisory services, when available. When not in contact with ATC or flight service, pilots should use the assigned CTAF to make position reports while operating in the depicted areas. Outside these areas, standard CTAF guidelines apply. Additional information and a Mat-Su CTAF Area map are available at www.faa.gov/go/flyalaska.

Be a watchful tiedown neighbor

This winter, the Airport Manager's Office received a report of fuel stolen from an aircraft. The owner of the aircraft was surprised and dismayed that no one in the vicinity of his aircraft noticed fuel being siphoned from the fuel tank. His suggestion is for all pilots to report when they notice fuel being siphoned from an aircraft or - while avoiding confrontation - question the individuals when you see this type of activity. If you're not comfortable with any explanation given, note the time, location, vehicle license plate numbers, etc. and pass that information along to airport management.

As a deterrent to theft, lock your aircraft and vehicles and don't leave "smash and grab" items visible. If you notice items missing or any vandalism at Merrill Field, it is important that you call APD Dispatch at 786-8900 and report the incident. Also, please call the Airport Manager's Office and be prepared to provide your APD Case Number.

Be alert for strangers who are loitering. If concerned, call APD or Airport Management. Fly safe, and always perform a thorough pre-flight inspection.

Your observation and intervention could prevent a VPD

Aircraft and pedestrian activity will soon be increasing on Merrill Field and it is extremely important that all airport users be aware of individuals who might not have authorized access to the airport operations area. You can help by offering assistance to those who appear to be lost and by keeping the airport operation area vehicle and pedestrian access gates closed at all times. Remember that an unauthorized runway crossing is a hazard to the flying public. Safety is everyone's business; your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Remember to "Fly Friendly"

Pilots departing Merrill Field can help reduce noise by maintaining the lowest propeller RPM setting necessary for safe flight, remaining at the recommended pattern altitude as long as possible over residential areas, and following the established traffic pattern until transitioning to the appropriate VFR departure route. For 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. For complete guidelines on how to minimize aircraft noise over our adjoining, residential neighborhoods, click the "Fly Friendly" link on our web page http://www.muni.org/departments/merrill_field/pages/default.aspx. Please be a good neighbor.

Aviation Events

Saturday, March 21: Ted Stevens Anchorage Int'l Airport Job Fair

Over 200 aviation jobs available. There is no cost to attend this event being held at the North Terminal. Parking is also free. Call 266-2119 for more information.

Thursday, March 26: Alaska Aviation Museum Hall of Fame

The Alaska Aviation Museum hosts this event to honor Oren Hudson, George Pappas and Frank Dorbandt and to celebrate Alaska aviation history. The gala begins at 5:30 PM at The Wings of Freedom Hangar, 2400 E 5th Ave. For tickets call 248-5325 or visit www.alaskaairmuseum.org.

Wednesday, April 1: Merrill Field Users Group Meeting

The next quarterly Merrill Field User Group Meeting with the Airport Manager will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 3:00 PM at the Airport Manager's Office, 800 Merrill Field Drive, Anchorage, AK 99501. Call 343-6303 for more details.

Wednesday, April 8: Ninety Nines - Alaska Chapter Meeting

The 99s meet the second Wednesday of each month at the Wings of Freedom Hangar, 2400 E. 5th Avenue, 6:00 – 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>

Saturday, April 25: Alaskan Aviation Spring Seaplane Safety Seminar

Registration begins at 8:00 AM at the Assembly Chambers in the Z. J. Loussac Public Library. 3600 Denali Street Anchorage. For details call 243-7237 or aasfonline@gmail.com

Saturday & Sunday, May 2-3: Great Alaska Aviation Gathering

The largest aviation trade show in Alaska will be held at the FedEx Maintenance Hangar at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport--admission is free. Details for this premier aviation event can be found at <http://alaskaairmen.org>.

Thursday, May 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.

Saturday & Sunday, May 9-10: Valdez Fly-In and Airshow

Plan to attend this premier bush plane competition. Visit <http://valdezalaska.org/events/valdez-fly-and-airshow> for more details.

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