

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



**Providing over  
75 Years  
of Service**

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## **MERRILL FIELD BULLETIN**

*Current News About Your Airport*

[www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm](http://www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm)

*March, 2008*

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### **Glenn Highway: Gambell Street to Airport Heights Reconstruction**

The State of Alaska, DOT&PF is currently in the bidding and contract award process for this project and hope to begin construction early this spring.

This federally funded project rehabilitates the Glenn Highway from Gambell to Airport Heights, includes removing the barrier wall between the Glenn Highway and Merrill Field frontage road, and reconfigures the Glenn from a four-lane road with a shared left turn lane to a six lane road with a raised median. Additionally, cul-de-sacs will be added for access to Merrill Field businesses, new signals will be installed at Concrete St., Reeve Blvd., and Airport Heights, a retaining wall and security fencing will be constructed along the south side of the roadway, and new lighting and signage will be installed along the project corridor.

The project will cause some inconvenience and require Merrill Field users, motorists and pedestrians to periodically change their traffic patterns. Typically during construction, traffic will be maintained in both directions. Roadway closures will be posted and motorists should watch for signs along the corridor. Read the Navigator in the Anchorage Daily News or let the Project Engineer know if you want to be added to an email/fax notification list.

For more information please contact Kenneth Thomas, Project Engineer, Alaska DOT, at 907-269-0450 or [kenneth.thomas@alaska.gov](mailto:kenneth.thomas@alaska.gov).

### **Tiedown Permits under review**

Merrill Field Management is undergoing a "file review" project that entails issuing new Revocable Aircraft Tie-Down Permits to several Municipal customers. Over the years, many customers have changed tiedown spaces, purchased aircraft, or sold aircraft. Although our customer account database has been updated to reflect these changes, we need to ensure that each aircraft is permitted to be in the assigned space.

Soon, our customers will receive a new permit in the mail. The new permit will show current customer information (address and phone numbers), current tiedown location, and current aircraft identification. Keep in mind that the permit holder must own the aircraft identified on the permit. If the FAA Aircraft Registry website does not show the permit holder as the aircraft owner, be prepared to present proof-of-ownership in the form of a bill of sale or aircraft registration.

When you receive this important mailing, please review the information on the permit, sign it, and promptly return it to the Airport Manager's Office (an information correction form and return envelope will be provided). If you have questions about this project or your tiedown permit information, please call Kimber at 343-6303—she'll be happy to assist you.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MERRILL FIELD

Spring is just around the corner and Merrill Field is gearing up for another busy construction summer season with these capital improvement projects:

## *Rehabilitate Aircraft Aprons – Phase 3*

- Block 5, Lot 2-5 (located adjacent to Taxiways Quebec and Golf) apron rehabilitation to include aircraft apron surface grading, drainage improvements and apron & taxiway lighting.

## *Security Improvements -*

- This project provides upgrades to the existing public address system. Two new speakers will be located on airport property, west of RWY 16-34. This upgrade will assist the Air Traffic Control Tower personnel (in partnership with the airport management) in conveying an early warning to drivers or pedestrians if they inadvertently approach the movement area.

## *Environmental NPDES – See separate article*

- Merrill Field Airport is authorized to discharge storm water associated with multi-sector activity under the terms and conditions imposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This project includes providing compliance assistance to Airport leaseholders.

## *Pavement Maintenance – Airport wide*

- This program will continue this summer with the southwest apron areas. Crack sealing involves application of high-quality rubberized asphalt material that results in long lasting repairs to extend the life of paved apron surfaces at the airport.

## **Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan Update**

Merrill Field Airport is required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure that the airport is in compliance with the permit conditions for storm water discharges. EPA issues the required “permit” (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP)).

This MSGP program allows for storm water discharges from municipal and industrial activities with the best management practices through a developed Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). SWPPPs require airport authorities to identify and implement schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to eliminate, prevent, or reduce pollutants in storm water runoff from the leasehold’s site.

Cooperative practices with the leaseholders will ensure the airport’s compliance with the permit. Airport management will be scheduling visits to each leasehold sometime in April or May, 2008. Educational materials and program information will be handed out and discussed with the airport tenants during the visit.

If you have any questions or inquiries regarding this program, please contact Alex Jumao-as, Assistant Airport Manager at (907) 343-6303 or Terri Mitchell, Airport Consultant at (907) 564-2107.

### **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 1, Jul 10, Sep 4, Nov 6

#### **Commissioner    Term Exp.**

Rick Davis	10/14/08
Dick Armstrong	10/14/09
Anthony Follett	10/14/09
Allen Kemplen	10/14/09
Erin Marston	10/14/10

#### **Statistics**

Operations:

Mar. '07 – Feb. '08: 166,230  
2007 Based Aircraft: 910

## TOWER TALK

It has been an extremely slow winter. The traffic count is down over 20,000 operations from this time last year. There has been a fair amount of discussion over the "WHY". Was it the weather, the price of fuel, or a combination? I guess we need to hear your thoughts, since many of you account for the reduced activity. If you have the time, please call the airport manager or myself and give us your thoughts.

With spring upon us in only a few weeks, it's time to start thinking about how to keep our transmissions with the tower short and meaningful. The first thing to do is know exactly what to say and do it all in one transmission if at all possible.

Examples:

- "Merrill Tower, Cessna 18205, Rogers Park, information Bravo, requesting Ship Creek, with radar services."
- "Merrill Tower, Piper 1821Z, five miles north of Sleeper Strip, information November, requesting Touch & Go's."
- "Merrill Tower, Champ 3358D, would like to tow from northeast parking to ACE fuel."

Remember when told to hold short of a runway, to read back hold short and the runway number. Example: "Cessna 21Z, Roger, Holding Short of Runway 7". If an intersection is being used, read back the intersection also. Example: "Cessna 21Z, Holding Short of Runway 7 at Charlie."

Inbound aircraft should call in at least 5 miles from the airspace boundary to ensure the controller can respond before you enter the segment. If it is busy, you may even want to call sooner. Everyone flying in the Seward Segment must be in contact with the tower if you are below 1200 feet MSL and approach control if above 1200 feet MSL.

One issue that has caused a little confusion on the field is movement and non-movement areas. If you took the driver training test it says that if you're in a non-movement area you don't need to contact ground control until you're ready to enter a movement area. However, if you look in the Remarks section of the Alaska Supplement for Merrill Field, it tells all aircraft in non-movement areas to contact ground control prior to taxi. Which is correct? The driver training video and test are being changed to reflect what the Supplement says. So, the bottom line is that all aircraft, regardless of location on the field, must contact ground control prior to taxiing. Airport management and the tower believe this will help ensure a higher level of safety for our flying customers, maintenance crews and construction crews. Additionally, this will better prepare the tower for our customers at Whiskey apron.

As always, if you have questions or issues with operations or procedures at Merrill Field, please see the airport manager or myself at your earliest convenience. We'll make sure the issue is addressed quickly and by the right person(s).

Jack Schommer, Air Traffic Manager  
Merrill Tower, 271-2698



### Public Notice – Merrill Field Graphics Update

The Alaska Enroute Supplement and the web site have both been updated to reflect new Merrill Field Operations graphics. See the February 14<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Supplement or view the graphics on the web site. Click on the Public Notices link at <http://www.alaska.faa.gov/at/>.

## Seasonal Snippets

### ✓ *Spring Clean-Up*

Spring cleanup on Merrill Field will coincide with the Municipal Spring Cleanup Week, May 3 through May 10. Free 'dump days' at Solid Waste Services are scheduled for Saturday, May 3, 8:00 am to 5:00 p.m., Sunday May 4, 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 10, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Notices with more Merrill Field Cleanup details will be mailed next month; however, it's never too early to begin sprucing up for the summer season.

### ✓ *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 minimizing overfilled trash cans. USDA Wildlife Specialists report that our concerted efforts have helped discourage raven activity on the field. Please remember to promptly report all raven damage to the Airport Manager's Office, 343-6303. We appreciate your assistance.

### ✓ *Noise Sensitivity Reminder*

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. 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.

## Aviation Events

### **April 12: Girls Aviation Career Symposium**

UAA Aviation Tech Center, 2811 Merrill Field Dr. For information call Terry Gryting, Susitna Council Girl Scouts, 248-2250.

### **April 12: Seaplane Pilot Seminar**

OAS Hangar, Lake Hood. Call John Pratt at 274-2990 for details.

### **May 3 & 4: AK State Aviation Trade Show**

FedEx Maintenance Hangar, Ted Stevens International Airport. Sponsored by the Alaska Airmen's Association, 245-1251, [info@alaskaairmen.com](mailto:info@alaskaairmen.com)

### **June 13 & 14: Palmer Airport Open House**

Coincides with Palmer Colony Days. Contact Jane Dale, Palmer Airport Manager, at 761-1311 for information.

### **June 14: Short Field Clinic**

Palmer Airport. Sponsored by Alaska 99s. For information, call Angie Slingluff at 271-5228.

### **June 14: Youth Aviation Adventure**

Palmer Airport. Sponsored by Alaska Air Carriers Association and the FAA. For information, call Angie Slingluff at 907-271-5228.

### **June 28 & 29: Elmendorf Air Show**

Arctic Thunder is Elmendorf Air Force Base's open house and air show. Details are posted at [www.elmendorf.af.mil/library/articthunder/index.asp](http://www.elmendorf.af.mil/library/articthunder/index.asp).

### **August 6 – 9: 99s International Conference**

The 99s International Organization of Women Pilots will hold their International Conference in Anchorage. Information is available on the Conference website: [www.ak99aviationfun.org](http://www.ak99aviationfun.org).

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

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