

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



**Providing over  
79 Years  
of Service**

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## MERRILL FIELD BULLETIN

*Current News About Your Airport*

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Merrill Field Airport  
800 Merrill Field Drive, Anchorage AK 99501

March, 2009  
[www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm](http://www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm)

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### **Glenn Highway: Gambell Street to McCarrey Street Reconstruction Project Update**

We Alaskans know that the earliest hints of spring will soon be followed by the rumble of construction equipment as summer (aka "construction season") fast approaches. Merrill Field users will soon note this rite of spring with the re-start of the \$13.6 million GLENN HIGHWAY: Gambell Street to McCarrey Street Reconstruction Project.

As I reported last fall, the project was functionally complete for use in October, 2008, and we have all since enjoyed the increased capacity and quicker, smoother passage the project delivered. However, some remaining work has carried-over into the 2009 construction season, including final lift paving, landscaping, and some grading and drainage work along the Merrill Field side of the project.

We are currently scheduling for a May 1<sup>st</sup> project re-start, but the weather always has the final word. We intend to re-start the project as early as weather allows, and finish the more disruptive portions of the remaining work as early in the season as possible. This work will require some traffic restrictions during the early part of the season. While the contracted completion deadline for the project is October 2009, we expect an earlier completion of the major remaining work tasks.

DOT&PF thanks you for your continued patience, understanding, and cooperation while we complete this important highway improvement. For updates and further project information, please contact Project Manager Sean Holland (269-0670) or Project Engineer Ken Thomas (269-0453).

*Rick Feller, Central Region Director's Office  
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities*

### **'Fly Friendly' Reminder**

Please read the enclosed "Help Reduce Aircraft Noise" letter from the Airport Manager. The letter explains Merrill Field's 'Fly Friendly' approach to reducing the number of noise complaints. It also contains a few guidelines that, when followed, can greatly minimize aircraft noise over our adjoining residential neighborhoods. Thanks for your efforts in helping Merrill Field be a good neighbor.

# 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 FAA funded capital improvement projects:

- Rehabilitate Aircraft Aprons (Phases 4 and 5) - This multi-phased apron project is located between Taxiway Golf, Taxiway Quebec and Merrill Field Drive. This project corrects pavement distress due to the differential settlement of the sub-strata (landfill debris) under the existing pavement. Completion of this project involves dynamically compacting the substrata to densify loose soil deposits and compressing the landfill debris to eliminate the voids under the pavement.
- Rehabilitate Aircraft Aprons (Charlie South) - This project involves the reconstruction of an existing gravel surface aircraft apron located over the closed solid waste landfill east of runway 16-34. Differential settlement has created drainage problems, and rendered portions of the apron unusable. Work includes: surface grading, drainage improvements, and new asphalt pavement.
- Taxiway Barrier Gates at Quebec and Golf - Upgrade of the barrier gates include replacement of the existing scissor-type gates with the cantilever type gates similar to the existing barrier gates at the Golf south entry point to runway 4-22. This upgrade will provide a visual separation of the movement and non-movement areas. Cantilever gates are more secure and have more visual impact which helps to prevent would-be pedestrian and vehicle deviations (VPD).

## 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 14, July 9, Sep 3, Nov 5

### 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:

March 08 – Feb 09: 166,662  
2008 Based Aircraft: 892

## Aircraft wash facility guidelines

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 environmentally friendlier products whenever practical
- Use phosphate-free detergents whenever possible

These guidelines are meant to ease the work of the sanitary treatment system in treating wastewater, as well as to help ensure fewer potential pollutants come into contact with storm water. Also, we ask that you help Merrill Field support the health of our wetlands and streams by not using any storm drain for wash-water discharge. Thank you!

~~AMC 11.60.34, Washing of Aircraft

## VANDALISM ALERT

Recently, an individual broke into several aircraft and stole miscellaneous items. The random incidents occurred late at night as the individual traveled through the Quebec and Golf aprons. Fortunately the individual was caught in the act and arrested.

If you have recently noticed items missing from your aircraft or vandalism at Merrill Field, it is important that you call APD Dispatch at 786-8900 and report the incident. Please call the Airport Manager's Office and be prepared to provide your APD Case Number.

As a deterrent to this sort of crime, lock your aircraft and vehicles and don't leave "smash and grab" items visible. Be alert for strangers who are loitering but avoid confrontation (call APD). Fly safe, and always perform a thorough pre-flight inspection.

## A safety reminder for all airport users

Spring is a great time to start flying again. The Airport Management reminds each airport user that when accessing the movement areas through a vehicle gate to stop for a minute to ensure that the gate is fully closed before leaving the gate area. This will minimize people tailgating and accessing the movement area without authorization. Remember, you are responsible for any person for whom you provide access to the movement area.

It is in everyone's best interest to be aware of people or vehicles not unauthorized to access the movement area. Your assistance in guiding people to their intended destination(s) and away from the movement area contributes to the Airport's safety and security. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by the Airport Management and FAA.

## Seasonal Snippets

### ✓ *Spring Clean-Up*

Spring cleanup on Merrill Field will coincide with the Municipal Spring Cleanup Week, May 2 through May 9. Free 'dump days' at Solid Waste Services are scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday May 3, 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 9, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Notices with more Merrill Field Airport 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 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.

## Airport Manager's Office lobby gets a face lift

With over 40 years of constant use, the Airport Manager's Office lobby area and restrooms have been slowly showing signs of age, and a face-lift is in order. When completed, the project will bring the access areas into compliance with ADA regulations.

Our customers and transient pilots will be able to utilize the refurbished areas before the busy flying season begins. During construction however, the indoor restrooms will not be available; a portable toilet is located near the lobby entrance for our customers' use. We ask that transient pilots come into the Manager's Office to register their aircraft and pay fees. Thank you for your patience and understanding while we make improvements.

## Aviation Events

### ***April 18: Seaplane Safety Seminar***

8:00 a.m., Tom Wardleigh Hangar, Lake Hood, 4405 Lear Court

Safety information on seaplane flying, human factors, float conformation, maintenance and more. Meet fellow pilots, brush up your flying skills and learn those things that will keep you out of trouble. Great food, door prizes and informative booths are planned. Lunch available; donations are greatly appreciated. For more information, contact Imke Maring at: (907) 243-7237 or [aasf@alaska.net](mailto:aasf@alaska.net)

### ***April 18: 2009 Anchorage Kids' Day***

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Dena'ina Convention Center

This special day honors being young with free, interactive activities and events that take place throughout Anchorage. Transportation is provided by motor-coach to the Alaska Aviation Museum, the Alaska Zoo, and the Museum of Natural History. Admission to the Aviation Museum is free. For Aviation Museum details, call 248-5325.

### ***May 2 - 3: 2009 Alaska State Aviation Trade Show & Conference***

FedEx Maintenance Hangar, Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport

This premiere annual aviation event is sponsored by the Alaska Airmen's Association. Get more details at [www.alaskaairmen.org](http://www.alaskaairmen.org) or call 245-1251.

### ***May 8 – 10: 2009 Valdez May Day Fly-In & Airshow***

Experience the most unique Bush Plane competition in the Western United States. It's truly the only one of its kind, and it's waiting for you!!!! Send inquiries to [flyin@valdezalaska.org](mailto:flyin@valdezalaska.org), or visit <http://www.valdezalaska.org/events/flyIn/flyIn.html>

### ***May 10: Kenai Peninsula Air Fair & Poker Run***

8:00 a.m., Soldotna and Kenai Municipal Airports

Pancake breakfast, aviation swap meet and static displays, BBQ with live music. For more information and a schedule of events, call 907-283-7951 or visit [www.kenaiairport.com](http://www.kenaiairport.com)

### ***June 6: 19th Annual FAA Pancake Breakfast***

7:30 a.m., New Horizons Telecom Hangar, 901 Cope Industrial Way, Palmer, AK

This is a chance for the public to meet and talk with some of Alaska's senior FAA managers. Sponsored by FAA Alaskan Region Flight Standards Division. For Information contact Ernest Walker, 907-271-5908, [ernest.walker@faa.gov](mailto:ernest.walker@faa.gov)

### ***Air Force Military Exercises***

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

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

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