

***Merrill Field,
a proud tradition
of serving Alaska***



***Providing
80 Years
of Service***

MERRILL FIELD BULLETIN

Current News About Your Airport

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

*March, 2010
www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm*

What's Happening at Merrill Field

Merrill Field Airport has two major Capital Improvement construction projects planned for this summer, the Rehabilitation of Taxiway Quebec (Phase 1); and the Rehabilitation of Runway 16/34.

Rehabilitate Taxiway Quebec (Phase 1) – Taxiway Quebec is located mostly on the closed solid waste landfill where pavement surface settling over a period of time has impacted aircraft operations. This differential settlement has created substantial drainage problems and an uneven surface. The taxiway rehabilitation would provide for these areas to become fully functional again for aircraft ground movements accessing the runways and for Medevac aircraft accessing Alaska Regional Hospital. Construction work involves dynamic compaction which will compact the subsurface material (landfill). This process densifies the soil strata at a depth to eliminate the landfill voids, thereby improving the taxiway's structural integrity. This is a multi-phase project which will affect several aircraft tiedown spaces. The project area for this summer is located between Merrill Field Drive (to the west) and Taxiway Golf (to the east). Additional details will be sent to tiedown customers and leaseholders affected by this project.

Rehabilitate Runway 16/34 – This project consists of rehabilitation of the existing 2,640-foot by 75-foot paved crosswind runway at Merrill Field Airport. The project includes removal and replacement of existing pavement and leveling course, excavation and fill to repair frost heaves, replacement of the existing Pulse Light Approach Slope Indicator (PLASI) with a new Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI), upgrades to runway and threshold lighting, relocation and widening of taxiway interlinks, drainage improvements and new runway and taxiway pavement markings. Runway 16/34 pavement was constructed in 1985 and is in moderate to poor condition due to pavement age. The pavement was evaluated during the State's ADOT/PF 2004 Pavement Condition Report and recommended for replacement.

These projects are funded by FAA under the Airport Capital Improvement Plan; the contracts for both have been awarded to Granite Construction. Work is scheduled to begin within the May/June timeframe. Access to runways from both projects will be delineated with signs and barricades. Please review the enclosed diagram for visual details. Your patience and cooperation while these projects are in progress are very much appreciated.

Steve Kegler joins the Airport Maintenance team

Airport users will soon become acquainted with Steven Kegler, our new Airport Maintenance Technician. Steve grew up in Alaska on the Kenai Peninsula, and like many active Alaskans, Steve enjoys outdoor activities such as sport fishing and hunting. His work experience in Kenai includes work on the docks, vehicle audio installations, and airport maintenance at Kenai Municipal Airport. After moving to Anchorage, Steve secured a position with CH2M Hill on the North Slope and most recently worked for the Municipal Public Transportation department. Steve, with his broad experience at the Kenai airport, is a great asset to Merrill Field.

Steve's enthusiasm for his job is very obvious, so if you have the opportunity to meet Steve during his routine activities on the field, don't hesitate to take a minute to visit with him. You'll quickly be exposed to his professional attitude and pleasant personality. We are pleased to have Steve on the Merrill Field team.

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 6, Jul 1, Sep 2, Nov 4

Commissioner Term Exp.

Tony Follett, Chair	10/14/12
Rick Davis, V Chair	10/14/11
Dick Armstrong	10/14/12
Don DeVoe	10/14/10
Kimball Forrest	10/14/12
Erin Marston	10/14/10
Jim Powell	10/14/11

Statistics

Operations:

Mar 09 – Feb 10: 164,638
2009 Based Aircraft: 902

AVIATION EVENTS

April 17: Seaplane and Spring Safety Seminar

This annual spring event is sponsored by the Alaskan Aviation Safety Foundation. Call John Steuernagle at 271-5405 for details.

April 17: Alaska Aviation Museum--Free Admission

The Alaska Aviation Museum will be partnering with the "Kids Day" event at the Dena'ina Center. There will be lots of fun activities and free posters for kids. Call 248-5325 for more information.

May 1 & 2: Alaska Airmen's Conference & Trade Show

This outstanding annual aviation event is sponsored by the Alaska Airmen's Association. The event takes place at the FedEx Maintenance Hangar, Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. For more details, call 245-1251 or visit www.alaskaairmen.org.

May 7-9: 2010 Valdez May Day Fly-In & Air Show

Experience the most unique Bush Plane competition in the Western United States. Visit the event web site at www.valdeزالaska.org or call 907-835-2984.

May 15: Flying Companion Seminar

Bring your companion to this great instructional event presented by the 99s, Alaska Chapter. For details, call Angie Slingluff at 337-0253.

June 5: 10th Annual Kenai Peninsula Air Fair

For details about this high-flying, fun event call the Kenai Municipal Airport at 283-7951.

July 31 & August 1: Arctic Thunder

Arctic Thunder is Elmendorf Air Force Base's open house and air show. The U.S. Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron Blue Angels and the Canadian Forces Snowbirds Demonstration Team will perform. For details, visit <http://www.elmendorf.af.mil/library/arcticthunder/index.asp>.

TOWER TALK

Effective March 03, 2010, we have been restricted to no visitors in the facility. We would still appreciate speaking with any pilot who has a question on procedures or service we provide. You can contact the facility at 907-271-2989 or 907-271-2698.

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. Keep transmissions with the tower short and meaningful.

The Elmendorf air show will be July 31 and Aug 1, 2010. This year the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels and Canadian Forces Snowbirds will be the main attractions. The Snowbirds fly a CT-114 Tutor jet. This aircraft has a top speed of 412 knots (470 mph). You can expect a week of practice prior to the air show. You can also expect durations of time that their practice and performance will impact MRI. We will do everything possible to minimize this impact.

Gordon Edmiston, Air Traffic Manager
Merrill Field ATCT



Paper Pilot Certificates Expire March 31, 2010

At midnight on March 31, paper pilot certificates will no longer be valid. Also, if your social security number is your certificate number, it's a good time to get that changed.

Go to www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/airmen_certification/certificate_replacement/ to replace your Airmen Certificate with a plastic one.

Go to www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/airmen_certification/change_certificate_number/ if you'd like to change your certificate number from your SSN and request a replacement.

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. 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.

Seasonal Snippets

✓ *Spring Clean-Up*

Spring cleanup on Merrill Field will coincide with the Municipal Spring Cleanup Week, May 1 through May 8. Solid Waste Services will offer free dumping (for residential pick-up truck size loads only) on both Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 2, from 12:00 noon 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 start 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.

✓ *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.

Electric tail-in spaces available

Several tail-in spaces with electric service are now available on Municipal aprons as the wait-list has been exhausted. For more information you can call the Airport Manager's Office at 343-6303, or come see us at 800 Merrill Field Drive for specific location details.

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