

**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, 2011
www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm

What's Happening at Merrill Field

The proposals for Architectural and Engineering Professional services contract were received by MOA Purchasing on February 25, 2011. This proposal is for the annual engineering design and construction management for the airport's capital improvement projects. We plan to enter into a new contract with the consultant in the next few weeks in time to assist us with this year's projects. Identified projects for 2011 are Rehabilitate Taxiway Quebec, Phase 2; Security Upgrades, and the Acquisition of Snow Removal Equipment (sweeper truck).

Phase 2 of the ongoing Taxiway Quebec Rehabilitation project is a continuation of the dynamic compaction process. The Security Upgrades project includes analyzing and upgrading our existing airport lighting, security cameras, vehicle gates, and operation signage. The sweeper/vac truck acquisition is to replace the aging 1988 truck. Funding for these projects is through a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration Airport Capital Improvement Plan.

We might be looking at a late project construction start this season. Additional details will be sent to tiedown customers and leaseholders affected by any of these projects. Your patience and cooperation while these projects are in progress are very much appreciated.

Apply for aviation scholarships now

Several aviation scholarships are available to help students pay for tuition or instruction. If you are pursuing an education in aviation, you should consider submitting applications to the organizations listed below. All application forms are available in the lobby at the Airport Manager's Office, 800 Merrill Field Drive.

Ninety-Nines: Alaska and Mat-Su Chapters --apply now, applications due March 18. For details contact Helen Jones, 230-0683 or hjones@gco.net or visit www.ak99s.org

Alaskan Aviation Safety Foundation--applications due May 30. For information call 564-6603 or go to <http://aasfonline.weebly.com/>

Alaska Airmen's Association—applications due May 31. Call 907-245-1251 or visit www.alaskaairmen.org for details.

Do you know what it means to “Fly the Pattern”?

A Traffic Pattern is defined as the traffic flow that is prescribed for aircraft landing at, taxiing on, or taking off from an airport. 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 22 departure route to reduce aircraft noise over residences.

- ☺ **Do:** follow all established traffic patterns
- ☹ **Do not:** make an early crosswind turn on departure

- ☺ **Do:** Utilize the entire length of the runway
- ☹ **Do not:** request intersection departures

- ☺ **Do:** follow the departure path for RWY 16
- ☹ **Do not:** depart straight out on RWY 22

The Alaska Supplement is very clear on these procedures. Page 369 of the current edition shows the Traffic Patterns and states “All Aircraft: Fly traffic pattern as depicted to reduce noise complaints”. The Chester Creek Departure, on page 375, states “Runway 22: turn left to Chester Creek. Follow the creek to Westchester Lagoon”. It can’t get much clearer than that!

As always, our goal is to be a good neighbor. We can significantly reduce aircraft noise this summer if pilots follow their basic ground school and flight instructions by flying the pattern and published VFR routes! We appreciate your cooperation.

SEASONAL SNIPPETS

✓ *Spring Clean-Up*

Spring cleanup on Merrill Field will coincide with the Municipal Spring Cleanup Week, April 30 through May 7. Solid Waste Services will offer free dumping (for residential pick-up truck size loads only) on both Saturdays, April 30 and May 7, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 1, 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 night-time 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.

TOWER TALK

I recently did a short nine minute interview for “Hangar Flying”. This is a public television broadcast funded by the Alaska Aviation Safety Foundation. Not knowing anything about this foundation I started to do a little research. What I found was the AASF has the same interest as we do and that is “To promote aviation safety through education and advocacy”. They are partnered with Public Television (KAKM) and the National Weather Service to produce a TV show that is shown each week in conjunction with the Alaska Weather program.

On their web site (<http://aasfonline.weebly.com/>) you can find two pages that assist with pilot education “Hangar Flying” and “Pilot Briefings” and a page about the AASF aviation scholarship.

On the “Hangar Flying” page there are video links of past episodes that aired on KAKM. The time and station may vary throughout Alaska but here in the Anchorage area “Hangar Flying” is found on Channel 7 at 5:40pm every Friday. Two of the upcoming episodes and guests are airing on March 11, 2011 – Dave Lundeby, Merrill Field Airport Manager and on March 18, 2011 – Gordon Edmiston, Merrill Field Air Traffic Manager.

To view the most recent episodes, just click and play (you can adjust them to full screen)! You can also see past “Hangar Flying” episodes by clicking on the month in which it aired below. This will take you to the page where you can click and play any of the videos for that month.

On the “Pilot Briefings” page there is a link about the Anchorage – Palmer Corridor which contains a 23 page power point presentation on VFR procedures and recommendations.

On the “Scholarship” page you can find information about the AASF aviation scholarship. This scholarship was established with funds received from families and friends of Alaskan aviators who have gone to new horizons. Eligibility criteria:

- Is enrolled in an aviation related program in an accredited college, university, trade school or approved training center
- Intends to make aviation their career
- Has spent at least two of the past three years in continuous official residency in Alaska
- Has completed at least two semesters, or 30% of the work towards his/her professional goal and has at least a Private Pilot Certificate

So if you know someone who may benefit from the AASF Scholarship please point them in the right direction.

Gordon Edmiston, Air Traffic Manager
Merrill Field ATCT



Aviation Events

March 17

Anchorage Air Cargo Association Membership Appreciation Event and Membership Drive

Enjoy great food, drink and music at the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum, 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Call 248-5325 for more details.

April 16

26th Annual Spring Seaplane Seminar

This educational event, sponsored by the Alaskan Aviation Safety Foundation, will be held at the AMD Building on Lake Hood from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For additional information, call Dan Eichholz at 907-262-3872 or 907-398-6228 or visit <http://aasfonline.weebly.com/>.

April 23

Open House~~~Christian Pilots Association, Group 3 Aviation, and Davidson Aviation

Come by 2600 E. 5th Ave. between 10:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m. for free hot dogs, aircraft rides and live music. Call Danny at 441-5969 or Bob at 227-7076 for more details.

April 30 - May 1

2011 Alaska State Aviation Trade Show & Conference

This premiere, annual aviation show 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 5

Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission Meeting

Bi-monthly meetings are held at the Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1140 Airport Heights, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. For more information, call the Airport Manager's Office, 343-6303.

May 6 - 8

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.valdezalaska.org or call 907-835-2984 for more information.

June 4:

11th Annual Kenai Peninsula Air Fair

This fun, flying event is hosted by the Kenai and Soldotna Municipal Airports. Call 907-283-7951 or visit www.kenaiairport.com for details.

July 7:

Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission Meeting

Bi-monthly meetings are held at the Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1140 Airport Heights, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. For more information, call the Airport Manager's Office, 343-6303.

August 6:

Palmer Air Fair & Rendezvous

For details about this educational and fun annual event call 907-746-2290 or send an email to ccole@palmerak.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 5, Jul 7, Sep 1, Nov 3

Commissioner Term Exp.

Kimball Forrest, Chair	10/14/12
Don DeVoe, V Chair	10/14/13
Jim Powell	10/14/11
Rick Davis	10/14/11
Dick Armstrong	10/14/12
Tony Follett	10/14/12
Jim Cieplak	10/14/13

Statistics

Operations:

Mar 10 – Feb 11: 139,444
2010 Based Aircraft: 877

Merrill Field Airport Bulletin, Published Quarterly -- *David A. Lundebj, Airport Manager*

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