

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



**Providing over  
87 years of  
aviation 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, 2017  
[www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm](http://www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm)

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### What's Happening at Merrill Field

Spring is just around the corner and Merrill Field is gearing up for another busy summer construction season with upcoming FAA grant funded capital improvement projects.

- ➔ Rehabilitate Taxiway Quebec, Phase 6 – This anticipated project is a continuation of the on-going multi-phased dynamic compaction construction projects along Taxiway Quebec, east of Taxiway Golf. This summer's project will commence at the east edge of the 2016 dynamic compacted area. Detour routes with signage and barricades will be in place on site. This project is currently in the design phase and will be advertised for construction with anticipated ground breaking around May/June timeframe. As in the past, our office will coordinate closely with the tiedown customers affected with temporary relocation.
- ➔ Security Improvements, Phase 4 – This project is a continuation of our on-going multi-phased security improvement projects. Project scope consists of fiber optic cable installation inside the fence line along Orca Street on the west side of the airport to provide reliable data and video transmission to our security cameras and vehicle gates access system. This project phase will include vehicle access gates upgrade, fencing, and cameras.
- ➔ Install Runway 5/23 Lights and Signage – This project was awarded to Swanson Electric, Inc. late last summer but was deferred to spring/summer 2017. Installation of lights and signage will enhance RWY 5/23 safety particularly during winter months when daylight hours are limited. The runway lights will improve runway illumination and visibility, thereby helping pilots discern the runway from the adjacent taxiway. The additional signage will provide better guidance and visual communication which will help pilots and airport users differentiate the movement area from the non-movement area.

We are looking forward to working with you again on capital projects construction this summer and appreciate your patience and understanding.

Last but not least, signs are posted at each vehicle access gate including “**Ensure the gate is closed before leaving**”. Wait for the few seconds it takes to ensure the gate is closed behind you before leaving; this way no one can piggy-back. Only authorized users are allowed to access through a gate. These signs are installed for a reason – to stop unauthorized entry (piggy-backing) into Airport Operations Area (AOA). You can prevent yourself receiving a citation by **not** giving people who are unfamiliar with the airport clear access to the AOA through an open gate. This is critically important! Let's work together in stopping Vehicle Pedestrian Deviations (VPDs).

## Airport Commission Special Meeting: Proposed Taxiway Segregation Project

In lieu of the April quarterly MRI Users Group meeting, the Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission has scheduled a Special Meeting to discuss a proposed Taxiway Segregation project. The project will add a visual barrier to differentiate apron edges from adjoining taxiways. This proposed project would reduce the existing TWY Alpha and November widths from 75' to 60'. In addition to addressing VPDs on both taxiways, congestion at the November-Golf intersection adjacent to ACE Fuels would be relieved. Repainting of the airfield runways and taxiways would be tied to this project as well.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 5 from 3:00PM to 5:00PM at the Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1140 Airport Heights, Bldg. A, rooms 1&2.

### Corey Hester Appointed to Airport Commission

In February, the Municipal Assembly confirmed the appointment by Mayor Berkowitz of Corey Hester, Alaska Airmen Association Executive Director, to the Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission (MAAAC). At this time one seat remains vacant for an owner of residential real property located within one mile of the boundaries of any municipal airport. If you are interested in serving the Anchorage aviation community, apply online at <http://www.muni.org/Departments/Mayor/Boards/Pages/default.aspx>. Applications are kept on file in the Mayor's office.

#### 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.

#### 2017 Meeting Dates:

May 4, Jul 13, Sep 7, Nov 2

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Term Exp.</u>
Corey Hester	10/14/19
Greg Pearce	10/14/17
Jim Powell, Chair	10/14/17
Sharon Chamard, V Chair	10/14/18
Jamie Patterson-Simes	10/14/18
Terry Pena	10/14/18

#### Statistics

#### Operations:

Feb, 2016 – Jan, 2017: 127,228

2016 Based Aircraft: 826

## Safety Tips

- Signs such as "Ensure the gate is closed before leaving" are posted at each vehicle access gate. These signs have been installed to remind you to help stop unauthorized entry (piggy-backing) into the AOA, thus curtailing VPDs. Remember, **you** are responsible for actions of those to whom you provide airfield access.
- **STAY OFF TAXIWAYS WITHOUT ATCT COORDINATION.** Failure to do so will result in a VPD; offenders will be cited and fined.
- Whether you are walking, driving, flying or just watching the airplanes fly-by, please be mindful of the large number of construction personnel and equipment on the field.
- Be aware of your surroundings and watch for people loitering around the airport. Don't hesitate to ask them their intentions and guide them to their destination away from the operations area. Your assistance will help ensure the airport's safety and security.

## Covers sprout wings

Have your aircraft covers flown away? If so, it is much easier to return them to you if marked them with your N number. When covers are brought to the Manager's Office, we immediately look for an N number; without it, it is difficult to return them to the rightful owner. Doing this simple task can save you time and money. If you are missing covers, please stop by the Airport Manager's Office, we have a "lost and found" box.

## TOWER TRANSMISSIONS



- ATCT staff changes include a newly certified controller, one controller retired (Chuck) and the recruitment process is in the works for a new Front Line Supervisor (as Ryan Gould recently moved to Anchorage Center).
- MRI ATCT and the Airport are planning to have a BBQ later this summer.
- The Runway Safety Action Team meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2017, from 1600 to 1800 at the UAA Aviation Technology Division building in room 234. This is your opportunity to speak up in regards to safety issues, so we hope to see you there!!

As we approach the spring, please be more vigilant of hold short instructions, and don't hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns about MRI air traffic services.

Clarissa Conley  
MRI ATC Manager  
271-2698

### **Alaska Air Transit (AAT) is the new lessee of former Quonset hut site**

On March 1, 2017, MRI entered into a new lease with **AAT** for Lot 7, Block 3, (former Quonset hut site) to develop a new hangar facility for its growing Merrill Field based FAR Part 135 air taxi business. AAT provides year-round service in support of economic activities throughout Alaska, including direct oil patch service to the North Slope. They have a diverse customer base that includes businesses, government agencies, school districts, health agencies, rural communities, and more. AAT plans construction of two hangar type facilities to accommodate their existing business expansion. Construction is planned for late 2017, possibly 2018.

### **Aircraft paint facility Chaz Aero scheduled to open April 2017**

Chaz Ltd is in the final construction phase of a state-of-the-art aircraft paint facility on MRI with a target opening date in April 2017. The hangar is 115' x 142', 16,400sf (at a cost in excess of \$2M). Chaz Aero is located at 2150 E. 5th Avenue, between the ATCT and Wings of Freedom hangar. The facility can accommodate aircraft as large as a Dash 8, Saab 340 or DC-3 in the south (TWY A) side hangar and reskinning of fabric covered aircraft is planned for the north (5<sup>th</sup> Avenue) side. This will be the only EPA/DEC approved aircraft paint hangar in Alaska!

### **Alaska Aircraft Innovation sets up shop on Merrill Field**

On February 1, 2017, MRI entered into a new lease with **Alaska Aircraft Innovation, LLC (AAI)**, to develop the former City Electric site at 819 Orca Street. AAI's stated intent is to manufacture carbon fiber aircraft parts and, in a few years, carbon fiber aircraft. AAI will manufacture and assemble parts and aircraft and test them on Merrill Field. AAI has a National Industrial Classification as an aircraft parts and materials manufacturer, and they will likely partner with other aviation businesses to include and/or provide Airframe and Power plant mechanics (A&P), and/or A&P with inspection authorization (IA), FAR Part 135 operator, and other aircraft manufacturers. Hangar and tiedown rentals are available.

### **MERRILL MENTIONABLES**

**Alaska Aircraft Engines:** Completion of a 14,500sf hangar building with one commercial hangar on the north end and six adjoining stacked hangars on the south.

**Dan's Aircraft Repair:** New siding and door rebuild on Dan's AC Repair building.

**North Edge Airpark:** Addition of two 6000sf hangar units to the original building. Siding was applied to the existing structure as well, giving the appearance of one building.

All are attractive and well-designed additions to Merrill Field. Congratulations!

## Seasonal Snippets

**Spring Clean-Up** MRI's annual clean-up campaign will coincide with the Municipal Spring Cleanup Week, April 29 through May 6. Solid Waste Services will offer free dumping at the Anchorage Regional Landfill (for residential pick-up truck size loads only) on Saturday, April 29 and Saturday, May 6. More details will be sent soon.

**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.

**Aircraft Wash** 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, and absolutely no vehicles – aircraft only! \$1.00 will get you 5 minutes of low-pressure wash.

## **AVIATION EVENTS**

### **Saturday, March 25: Alaska Aviation Hall of Fame Gala**

The Alaska Aviation Museum hosts this 18<sup>th</sup> annual event to honor men and women who shaped Alaska's aviation history. The Gala begins at 5:00 PM at the Eagan Center in downtown Anchorage. For tickets visit [www.alaskaairmuseum.org](http://www.alaskaairmuseum.org).

### **Wednesday, April 12: Ninety Nines - Alaska Chapter Meeting**

**The 99s meet the second Wednesday of each month at the Wings of Freedom hangar, 2400 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 6:00 – 8:30 PM.** For more details, please call Kathy Tranum, Chapter Chair, at (907) 529-8585 or visit the 99s website, <http://www.ak99s.org/index.html>

### **Saturday, April 22: Alaskan Aviation Spring Seaplane Safety Seminar**

This annual event will be held at the UAA Aviation Technology Center, 2811 Merrill Field Drive. Registration at 8:00AM, Program: 8:30AM to 3:30PM. For details call John Pratt at 274-2990.

### **Thursday, May 4: Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission Meeting**

Bi-monthly MAAAC 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 6 & May 7: 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 <https://www.greatalaskaaviationgathering.org/>.

### **Friday - Sunday, May 12, 13 & 14: Valdez Fly-In and Airshow**

Plan to attend this prominent aviation event. Visit <http://valdezalaska.org/events/valdez-fly-and-airshow> for more details.

### **Saturday & Sunday, May 20 – 21: Hudson Talkeetna Memorial Fly-In**

Plan a flight to Talkeetna to participate in several events including the Hudson Fly-In Poker Run. For details go to the Above Alaska Aviation website [www.abovealaska.com](http://www.abovealaska.com)

### **Saturday, June 17: 17th Annual Kenai Peninsula Air Fair and Poker Run**

The cities of Kenai and Soldotna host this annual event. Fun begins at the Soldotna Airport with Poker Run registration and breakfast from 8am-11am, then moves at 12 noon to the Kenai Airport with live music, barbeque, static displays, Military Appreciation event and Poker Run prize presentation. Any questions, call (907) 283-7951.

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