

**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

September, 2013
www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm

What's Happening at Merrill Field

Fall is just around the corner and summer is coming to an end. It has been a very busy summer construction season here at the airport.

The Medevac/Helipad Apron construction was completed a few weeks ago. This project improved the drainage issue and eliminated the water ponding.

We are finishing up the Security/Camera project. A total of thirteen (13) new high definition cameras were installed at the airport's entrances (15th/Lake Otis & Airport Heights/Merrill Field Drive). The team of Alcan Electric (contractor), HDL, and Marsh Creek (consultants) is working to provide the airport with an improved system to capture and record images. Leaseholders will be notified when the camera system is operational.

Identifying signs have been installed on all security gates (pedestrian, vehicle and barrier gates). Let's keep an eye on individuals who appear lost or are not authorized to access the air operations area and report any unlawful activity immediately to our office or the FAA Tower. This will ensure safety for everyone and help eliminate potential vehicle/pedestrian deviations or runway incursions.

As always, we appreciate your patience and understanding of the inconvenience during the construction season. Your cooperation demonstrates your commitment in helping us provide a better, safer airport.

We are looking forward to working with you again on capital projects next summer.

MRI Users Group Meetings Proposed

It has been suggested that informal opportunities for pilots and business owners to meet with airport management to cover any topics related to Merrill Field be established.

If you would be interested in attending/participating in such a meeting with other airport users, please call the Airport Manager's Office at 343-6303 or send an email message to merrillinfo@muni.org by **October 31st**. Frequency, day, time and location are to be determined, so please express your meeting day and time preferences: Monday-Friday; morning, noon or evening and/or specific timeframe.

If enough interest is generated, meeting notices will be posted on our website and in future Bulletins. We will respond to specific suggestions.

Master Plan Update

Work continues on the Municipality of Anchorage Merrill Field Airport (MRI)'s Airport Master Plan (AMP) update. When complete, the AMP will serve as a guidebook for airport development over the next 20 years.

In the past few months, the planning team has been identifying alternatives to meet the airport's issues and future needs as well as developing the Part 150 Noise Study. In addition, the aviation forecast was approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in June 2013.

MRI is hosting a public meeting to collect ideas and comments of potential alternatives, to present a draft of the noise analysis, and the results of the FAA-approved aviation forecast on October 22nd at the UAA Aviation Building. The meeting will be from 4 – 7 PM with a presentation at 6 PM.

To sign-up for the Airport Master Plan email list or newsletter, view the project schedule, provide feedback, or contact the project team, please visit www.merrillfieldmasterplan.com.

Be responsible, keep vehicle gates closed

Power outages can cause some electric vehicle gate operators to stop working. If this happens, airport maintenance will set the affected gates to "manual operation" which means that airport users must manually roll the gate open to access their lot. It is very important that each time a gate is opened, it is closed. Even if you plan to be in your apron for "just a few minutes", the gate should always be closed.

Fencing and gates were installed on the airport to increase safety by preventing runway incursions. Merrill Field Airport is situated in the middle of commercial, industrial, and residential districts, and individuals who are not familiar with our operations may take a short-cut by crossing the runways. FAA has provided grant funds to ensure our runways and taxiways are safe, and one of the grant assurances is for the airport to maintain a safe environment. Each time a gate is left open an unsafe situation occurs. In the interest of safety, please take an extra few minutes to make sure the gate is closed when you enter or leave Merrill Field. After all, the life you save could be your own.

Aviation Events

Thursday, September 26: Lake Hood User Group Fall Meeting

Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (ANC) announces the Lake Hood User Group Fall Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 26, 2013 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Alaska Aviation Museum, located at 4721 Aircraft Drive, Anchorage, AK 99502. A light lunch will be provided. Call 266-2410 for details.

Wednesday, October 9: Ninety Nines - Alaska Chapter Monthly Meeting

The 99s meet the second Wednesday of each month at the Denny's Restaurant, 3950 Debarr Road, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. Request more information at flyquilt@mtaonline.net or call Melanie Hancock at 694-4571.

Thursday, November 7: Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission Meeting

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

Saturday, November 23: Fall Safety Seminar "Doing the Right Things to Stay Alive"

The Alaskan Aviation Safety Foundation hosts this informative, annual seminar. The event will be held at the UAA Aviation Technology Center, 2811 Merrill Field Drive, Anchorage, 8:00AM – 4:00PM. For more details, call Harry Kieling 271-4626.

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:

Nov 7, Jan 7, Mar 6, May 1

Commissioner Term Exp.

Dick Armstrong	10/14/15
Sharon Chamard	10/14/15
Jim Cieplak	10/14/13
Don DeVoe, V Chair	10/14/13
Greg Pearce	10/14/14
Terry Pena	10/14/15
Jim Powell, Chair	10/14/14

Statistics

Operations:

Sep, 2012 – Aug, 2013: 131,640
2013 Based Aircraft: 833

Tower Talk



As always, thank you for your continued professionalism. This summer had some challenges associated with it and I thank you for a job well done. Don't forget about safety and if you need something, don't hesitate to call.

SVFR Procedures

The Anchorage Bowl will begin to see an increase in weather below basic VFR. An ATC clearance must be obtained before operating at MRI when the weather is less than that required for VFR flight.

A Special VFR Clearance is required to operate in weather below basic VFR conditions. This clearance must be requested by the pilot and approved by ATC. Controllers **may not** assign a Special VFR Clearance until pilot requested. If a tower or approach controller states, "Merrill is below basic VFR, say intentions" that is your clue that **you** must request a SVFR clearance. That can be accomplished by telling the controller, "Request SVFR Clearance out of/into the Merrill Class D Surface Area." Inbound aircraft to Merrill Field should contact Anchorage Approach Control directly to request a Special VFR Clearance.

Controllers may try to expedite traffic by asking pilots if they can maintain visual separation with either another Special VFR Aircraft or an IFR aircraft. For instance, to get several departures off the airport, tower may ask if you can follow and maintain visual separation with a preceding departure. If you can, then both of you can be departed. If you cannot, then the preceding aircraft will be departed. You will have to wait until the previous departure exits the Class D Surface area. Approach Controllers may also try to bring several planes into the Class D Surface Area using Visual Separation rather than bringing you in one at a time. Don't push safety and don't do anything you are not comfortable with.

Readbacks

Just a reminder that ATC needs a read back of your call sign with the runway number and any hold short requirements all in one transmission or we will ask for it again.

When given an instruction by ATC, we need November, Tango, type aircraft, or your Air Taxi call sign stated with your last three. It is not OK to just say your last 3.

Communicate

Don't forget, tours are available. It is a great way to get questions answered and for controllers and pilots to meet. We can also come to you for a CFI meeting or pilot briefing. If in doubt, ask for clarification. It is really easy to say you don't understand or to call and ask a question. Reduce the risk, be safe!

Brian Ochs, Manager
Merrill Field ATCT
271-2698

Aviation Art Contest

Grab your favorite artist's tools and create a poster for this year's competition, "Flying Saves Lives". All Children and young adults are invited to participate in this international contest. Full contest rules are available at www.nasao.org or contact Linda.Bustamante@alaska.gov or Angie.Slingluff@faa.gov. Entries must be submitted by January 14, 2014.

Lost & Found

If you have misplaced or lost an item on Merrill Field, don't hesitate to stop by the Airport Manager's Office to see if it has been turned in to us. We have a collection of small, miscellaneous items. If you're missing an aircraft cover, call to make arrangements to look through the box of various covers stored in the maintenance shop. Don't forget to mark your aircraft N number on your covers.

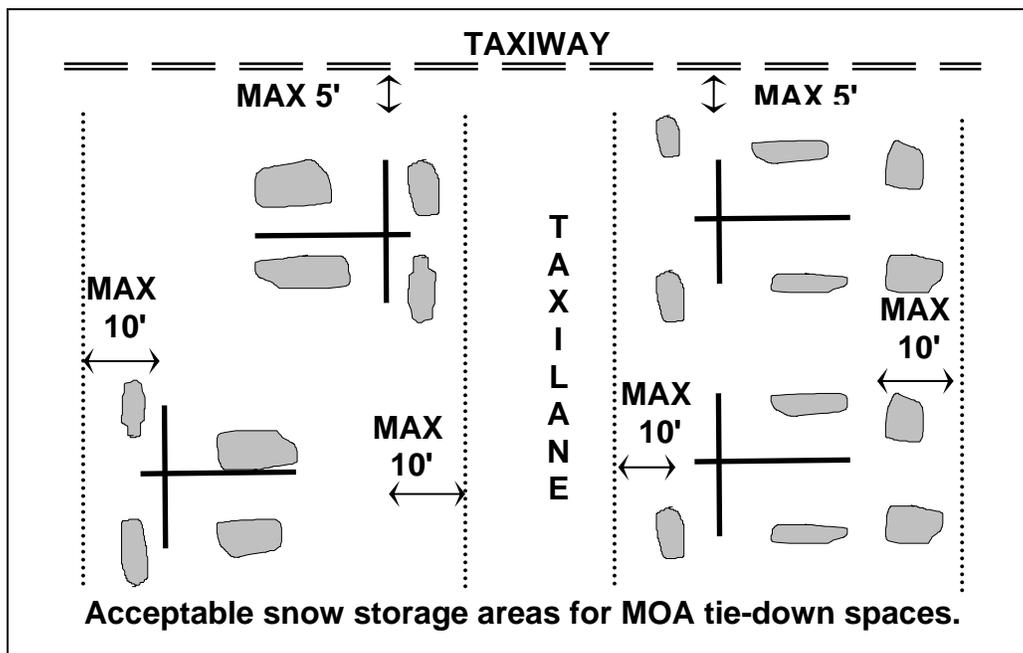
Seasonal Snippets

Number of Chemical Toilets Reduced: On October 1, the chemical, portable toilets located at Campground Transient, Quebec Transient and Charlie South will be removed for the winter season. Portable toilets will remain at Alpha Transient (by the tower) and Whiskey Transient (ski strip).

Wash Rack Reminder: If you have been putting off cleaning your aircraft, you may not want to wait much longer. When the temperature dips below freezing, the wash system will be shut down for the season.

Seasonal Waterfowl Activity: The fall waterfowl migratory season is here, and again this year we are working with Wildlife Specialists from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to reduce the possibility of aircraft conflict with birds on Merrill Field. An airport vehicle is being used "after hours" for waterfowl hazing activities. The effect of our combined efforts with USDA should discourage migratory waterfowl from returning to roost on Merrill Field.

Snow Storage Procedures: Each year the Airport Manager's Office staff is frequently asked, "Where should I put the snow?" To keep the taxi lanes open, please store snow in the designated areas of your tiedown space as shown below. Snow stored in front of or behind your aircraft will be removed when the taxilanes are cleared. **Municipal Code prohibits the dumping or relocating of snow onto or across taxilanes, taxiways, runways, or airport roads by any persons except Municipal employees.** As always, the objective of our Snow Removal Plan is to have the Airport runways open and functional as soon as possible after a new snowfall.



Winter preparation

The Airport maintenance staff is busy gearing up for the first snowfall of the season. Each aircraft owner can help by removing all items and/or debris from your tie-down area that could potentially be pushed away with a pile of snow. Not only can items of value be lost or damaged--these items can also cause **substantial** damage to snow removal equipment.

All unsecured items (blocks, boards, shovels, ladders, gas and oil cans, etc.) found in your tiedown after October 15, 2013 will be removed by Airport Maintenance. Your cooperation and attention to this important request is greatly appreciated.

Merrill Field Airport Bulletin, Published Quarterly

Merrill Field Airport, 800 Merrill Field Drive, Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone (907) 343-6303, Fax (907) 276-8421
Paul Bowers A.A.E., Airport Manager, e-mail: merrillinfo@muni.org, online: www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm