



3RD QTR – 2025

SERVING ALASKA SINCE 1930



MERRILL FIELD BULLETIN

Fly MRI – Alaska's First and Friendliest Airport

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

For those who might not have noticed, MRI has a new bouncing, baby runway. We named it 8/26. It will soon be adorned with some impressive LED lighting, paint, signage and a new beacon to welcome all travelers. There's nothing like the smell of fresh pavement and paint to go with Jet A and 100LL in the morning! It won't be long, and all the labor pains will be a distant memory and we won't remember the 2-years of effort that went into delivery of our new runway and those who made it possible.

So, I'd like to "give honor to whom honor is due!" A big shout-out to our engineering firm, HDL who designed and managed the project. They also worked with our own MRI ATCT to create a safety plan that kept planes taxiing and flying while allowing the work to continue. Thanks to our general contractor, QAP, their subs, and all those who safely executed the plan daily and gave us a great product.

The most common construction questions I am asked are, "How much did this project cost? And where did the money come from? In round numbers, the engineering and construction cost around \$9M. FAA Grants cover approximately 93% of that cost, and the airport pays the other 7% matching funds. So where does MRI get the 7% (\$630,000) for this project? Good question. I'm glad you asked!

The airport must cover all salaries, operating costs, repairs, replacement costs, and these matching funds through our rates and fees. For those who are curious, MRI's fee schedule hasn't changed since before the pandemic. Our next quarterly newsletter will discuss what measures MRI is taking to become more efficient and how we can provide the services needed and expected at Merrill Field.

SERVING ALASKA SINCE 1930



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SUMMER MAINTENANCE UPDATE:

This summer is starting out to be a great one! Our maintenance crew has been working hard to keep the grounds in tip top condition to ensure that Merrill field remains a safe, beautiful, and enjoyable airport for everyone.

1. MOWING AND LAWN CARE:

The warmer months bring fast-growing grass. But keeping the grass short isn't as easy as it seems. Our crew has also been busy making repairs and regularly maintaining our equipment. We take the time to replace parts and fine-tune the equipment.

2. RUNWAY 5/23 MAINTENANCE:

Safety is always a priority. Early this summer we started leveling and re-grading areas of the strip. Our plan is to return after the 7/25 project is complete and continue work. We will be extending the shoulders past the lights and capping the runway with suitable material.

3. FENCING AND GATE REPAIRS:

Fences and gates are vital to an airport for protecting both property and aircraft movement areas. This summer, our maintenance team has been out assessing areas that need vegetation removal. Gate repairs are ongoing but with your help we have seen far less accidental damages, which helps us focus on beautification of the airport.

4. SPECIAL PROJECT:

A particularly special project this summer was the cleanup at the Air Force Memorial. We first talked to an engineering firm and confirmed that the monument and flag poles were safe. We contracted a local electrician to replace the lighting for the flags and connect power to the monument back to the grid. Our crew took extra care clearing out overgrown trees and general upkeep of the area. The work was rewarding and important, ensuring that this site of remembrance remains clean, serene, and respectful for those who visit. We have more work to do here; stay tuned!

5. OVERDUE MAINTENANCE SHOP REPAIRS:

Behind the scenes, we've also been working on overdue repairs in our maintenance shop. A well-maintained and safe workshop means faster repairs and more effective service, and we're happy to have that in place.

I am incredibly proud of our relatively new maintenance team for their dedication and hard work. From keeping our grounds mowed to ensuring all equipment runs smoothly, their efforts are crucial to maintaining the beauty and safety of our airport.

TOWER TRANSMISSIONS



Construction is in full swing, combined with pilots who have not flown much over the winter season knocking off some rust. Because of this, we would like to give you some tips to help us keep the airspace safe and efficient.

- ✈ Take some time to review the procedures in the Chart Supplement, especially with the non-standard runway configuration. Fly the published procedures unless instructed otherwise by ATC. Don't make an early turn unless instructed or authorized by ATC; We see this too often on departure and it can be extremely dangerous with cutting off downwind traffic. Traffic patterns are charted in the supplement.
- ✈ When we are using runway 16, the "Gate Extension" allows us to use a portion of Elmendorf airspace to allow for an approximately 1 mile final. The boundary is the radio tower on Government Hill. We also have graphics of it in the pilot handbook at <https://mri725rehab.com>
- ✈ Ensure you fly the Campbell Arrival/Departure correctly. Merrill traffic must be at exactly 1200' inbound and outbound because Lake Hood traffic is flying at 900' and 1500'. Because both arrivals and departures are at 1200', lateral alignment is equally important – departures go out over the Bus Barn and arrivals come in over the Safety Building.
- ✈ Pay special attention to the Seward Highway Segment of FAR 93. You must be communicating with ATC the entire time you are in the segment, MRI ATC can approve this at or below 1200' (but it's not automatic). Above 1200' you must be receiving services from Anchorage Approach Control
- ✈ As we get busier and radio congestion increases, you need to plan further ahead. Remember that FAR 91.129 requires you to establish two-way radio communications with the tower prior to entering the airspace. This rule still applies even if you are getting flight following (see AIM 3-2-1). Don't wait until you are close to the boundary to call in, if you haven't established communications with us, you must remain clear of the airspace.
- ✈ A reminder that ADS-B Out is required for all flights northwest of Merrill at 1400' and above (see FAR 91.225 and Letter to Airmen LTA-A11-5).

And remember, if you ever have a question, always ask the controller for clarification

ADMIN MATTERS HELLO MERRILL USERS!

One of the most common questions I receive, given the approximately 3,600,000 square feet of land leased at Merrill Field Airport, is regarding the steps involved in selling a hangar. I hope the information below is helpful and informative. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me or catch me when I'm out for a walk.

If you are considering subleasing your hangar that you currently own, please be advised that prior approval from both the Merrill Field Airport Managers Office and the leaseholder is required to ensure compliance with the master lease terms. This approval must be obtained before proceeding with any sublease transaction.

You should submit the relevant documentation (MOA requires a clear title report) to the leasing specialist at Merrill Field. Once approval is granted, our office will prepare the following documents:

- ✈ 1. Termination of Sublease
- ✈ 2. Consent to New Sublease
- ✈ 3. New Sublease Agreement

If the transaction involves financing, a Consent to Assignment of Lease (MOA document) will also need to be prepared, supported by the assignment documentation(Deed of Trust, Assignment of lease for Security, and The Acceptance of Assignment Sublease for Security Purposes, typically prepared by the lending institution) from the new sublessee. This transaction would then be submitted to MOA Legal for review and approval.

Please contact Julie Hixenbaugh at 343-6309 or via email at Julie.hixenbaugh@anchorageak.gov to request approval from the Merrill Field Manager's Office.

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT LAND AND SEA



Land and Sea Aviation Alaska, LLC has been providing quality flight instruction services at Merrill Field since 2003. Its original location was a Quonset hut on the south side of Merrill Field at the intersection of Taxiways G and N.

The current owner, Key Ma, purchased the business out of bankruptcy in 2012. Key Ma has since expanded the business to include 13 aircraft, 20 instructors, and 100-150 active students at any one time.

Land and Sea moved to its current location in 2014, conveniently located at 2400 E 5th Avenue. This past spring, Land and Sea expanded and purchased a maintenance hangar on the south side of the airfield.

Foremost, Land and Sea specializes in training career pilots. To help customers achieve their career-building goals, Land and Sea is partnered with Purdue Global for online aviation degrees. The partnership allows students to combine the flexibility of an online degree with their flight training.

Land and Sea is a full-service flight school offering private, instrument, commercial, multi-engine, and all flight instructor certificates. In addition, they offer float ratings, tailwheel endorsements, PSI testing, flight reviews, air tours, aircraft rentals, and 135 charter services. Land and Sea also has a G1000 and CR-12 simulator available for customer use.

Land and Sea loves having visitors! Stop by their office to tour their facilities and have a cup of coffee. As the company motto goes, "Fly Safe!"





MARK YOUR CALENDAR UPCOMING EVENTS

Let us know of your aviation related event in time to list it here next quarter! Don't forget to give us the date, time, location, and contact info.

First come, first served.

Email us at: merrillinfo@ci.anchorage.ak.us

RUNWAY 7/25 REHABILITATION: Stakeholder and community outreach meetings for the Runway 7/25 Rehab project began in February and continue until the project is complete. Dates & times will be posted on our website and Facebook page. Follow MRI's Facebook page for updates.

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE!

Would your Community, Airport, or Business like a personal ad in this bulletin? Your message can be seen by the over 1,000 individuals who receive this bulletin quarterly!

**Call our office and let us help you
get your name out there!**

NO ONE LIKES WAITING IN LONG LINES...when one runway is closed for plowing, for example, or this summer during the runway rehab project. A suggestion pilots could consider is doing their runup prior to arriving at the hold short line in order to help expedite departures.

EXCITING NEWS! Merrill Field will be giving you an additional way to pay transient parking fees for your aircraft or vehicle. We will be implementing ParkMobile contactless parking soon.

Be on the lookout for new green ParkMobile signage in our transient lots. This will make it easier for you to pay for parking fees with a quick scan of the QR code on the sign and just follow the prompts.

More information to come.



MAAAC Board Meetings:

Are held monthly on the first Thursday of each month, from 12:00 to 1:00 at the Anchorage Fire Department Training Center Building C room 9 (subject to change) and on TEAMS.

AUG 07	MAAAC Board Meeting
SEPT 04	MAAAC Board Meeting
OCT 02	MAAAC Board Meeting

Upcoming User Group Meetings for the year:

Held quarterly on the 1st Wednesday of the month at the Manager's Office conference room @ 12:00 noon.

OCT 01	User Group Meeting
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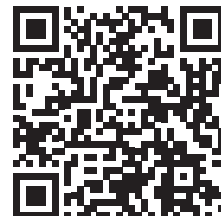
SECURE FLOAT STORAGE AT MRI

If you are interested in storing floats at MRI, please contact our Customer Service Specialist at: Merrillinfo@ci.anchorage.ak.us or come by the Manager's Office.

Are you following MRI on social media?

Let's see how fast we can go
from 400 to 1000 followers!

Be notified of the special events
and exciting news!



FALL CLEAN-UP IS HERE! Remember to:

- ✈ Cleanup and removal of trash and potential flying debris (FOD).
- ✈ Remove flammable materials from around fueling operations.
- ✈ Comply with Municipal Code requirements for storage, handling, and dispensing of fuel.
- ✈ Remove all motorhomes, buses, boats, vehicles and/or trailers parked in aircraft aprons.
- ✈ Removal of vehicles from the airside of the airport.
- ✈ FAA mandated MRI to conduct a fire Marshall Inspection for any leasehold that does not comply.

Just a reminder that the 4th quarter of 2025 begins on October 1st.

Automated payments will be processed at that time, so please ensure everything is set up accordingly. Keep the office apprised of any changes to your credit card, payment account, or billing info to ensure your payments are processed smoothly.

Merrill Field Airport is celebrating "Serving Alaska for 95 years!"