

The Flight Line

Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field Newsletter
Jackson, Michigan
Editor: Pat Mills

March 2015

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

The Jackson County Airport Board

| | |
|---|----------------|
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| Commissioner James Shotwell, Jr, Vice Chair | (517) 787-4106 |
| Commissioner Rodney Walz | (517) 841-4106 |
| John Feldvary, Secretary | (517) 206-3487 |
| Commissioner Carl Rice, Jr. | (517) 768-6624 |
| Mike Overton, County Administrator-Controller | (517) 788-4335 |

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Visit our Website!

www.co.jackson.mi.us/airport

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From the Airport Board Chair Steve Wellman

The past year was not unlike other past years. Moving the runway project forward was the principal focus of the operation but managing the day to day activities occupied the majority of the staffs' time. Last winter was particularly challenging, due to the extreme weather that we experienced in 2014. Kent, Josh, Joe and Pat, once again did a superb job of keeping things going smoothly.

We made significant progress in the Runway 7-25 Safety Project, although little of that "progress" was visible. The final engineering and design for the 7-25 RSA Project is currently underway nearing completion by our primary engineering firm of Mead and Hunt. Additional assessment and cost estimating for moving landfill material located under the western end of

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future runway 7-25 was also completed. Collectively, it is believed that the best long-term decision is to move these materials off site to an approved landfill facility as opposed to relocating on-site given the potential for future costs associated with monitoring and maintaining the capped landfill materials.

A special thank you goes out to outgoing Airport Board member and County Commissioner David Lutchka for his ten years of service to both boards. For the upcoming year, please join me in welcoming David's replacement to the Airport Board, Rodney Walz. I'm sure Rodney will help to continue the progress of the airport. What lies in store for 2015?

Steven R. Wellman
Chairman
Jackson County Airport Board

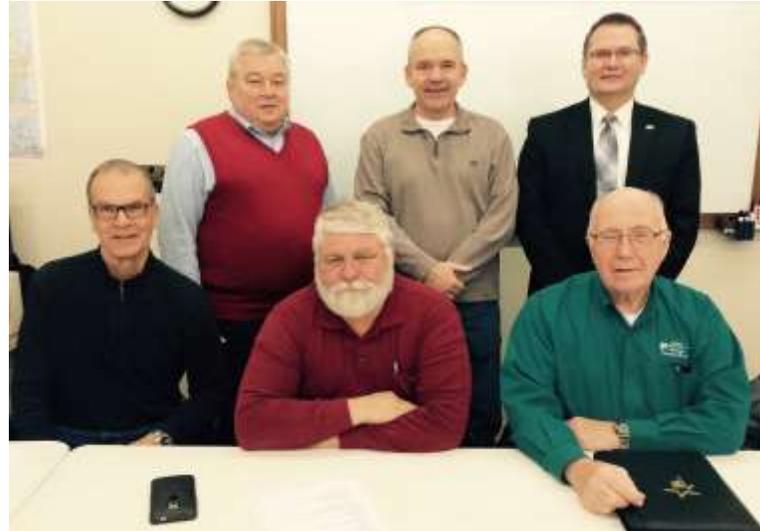
AIRPORT SPOTLIGHT:



Airport Manager of the Year

To say he was surprised would be an enormous understatement when our own Kent Maurer was announced as the recipient of the Michigan Association of Airports Executives annual "Airport Manager of the Year. The award was announced at the annual fall conference held this year at Mackinaw Island. The award was presented by MAAE President Kevin Klein, Airport Manager at Cherry Capital Airport in Traverse City.

2015 Airport Board



Members from left to right: seated are John Feldvary, Rodney Walz and Steve Wellman., standing are James Shotwell, Jr., Carl Rice, Jr. and Mike Overton, County Administrator/Controller.

Runway 7-25 Safety Project Update

There was a lot of positive activity in the Runway Safety Project (RSA) during 2014, but most it was not visible activity. The RSA is in the final engineering phase and that service is provided by our primary airport engineering firm Mead and Hunt. The details involved in constructing a new runway are immense. Engineering requires a significant amount of coordination between and among a variety of agencies including; several funding and technical offices within the FAA, Air Traffic Control, the Michigan Office of Aeronautics, political bodies at the federal, state and local level, and environmental agencies. Given all that, the construction phasing contained within these engineering plans must minimize any negative impacts upon the operation of the airport.

The first tangible signs of construction will occur early in 2015 when tree clearing begins in preparation for the earthwork that will follow.

The Winter of 2013-2014

"Enough is enough" was the cry heard from Airport maintenance staff by the end of February, 2014. The historically harsh winter conditions had placed extreme strain on staff, snow equipment and the airfield equipment. Some of these harsh conditions were: periods of several weeks where the Instrument Landing system was taken out of service by the FAA because of the accumulated snow in the glide slope field; runway lights were obstructed by snow; snow removal took place on most weekdays including seven consecutive weekends; and, the annual overtime budget expended in March that normally would have funds remaining in December.



Here are the statistics: Snowfall for the winter of 2013-2014 = 81.5 inches of snow plowed not counting the snow that was blowing around requiring additional plowing or snow blowing. All in all, 523 staff hours were expended in "snow processing" during this winter. By comparison, the previous winter saw 37.5 inches of snow and 175 staff hours to process. Suffice it to say that spring was a very welcomed sight.



2015 Airport Events Calendar

Conservation District Tree Sale

April 17th and 18th

EAA Pancake Breakfast Fly In

Sunday, May 25, 2015

Blues Festival

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Friday, June 5, 2015

Saturday, June 6, 2015

Michigan International Speedway

Sunday, June 14, 2015

Sunday, August 16, 2015

Michigan Aerobatics Competition

TBD

JXN Aviation Services Directory

Food and Catering

Airport Restaurant and Spirits
517-783-3616

Aircraft Maintenance and Repair

Jackson Aero
517-780-0343
<http://www.freewebs.com/jacksonaero/index.htm>

Aircraft Fueling and Ramp Services

Skyway Aviation
517-787-2460
<http://www.skywayjxn.com/>

Car Rental

AVIS/Budget
517-782-8218
<http://www.avis.com/car-ental/avisHome/home.ac>

Pilot Training and Education

JC Flight School – Solo Aviation
517-787-7012
<http://www.jccmi.edu/FlightCenter/>

Aviation Clubs

EAA Chapter #304
<http://eaa304.com/>

Aero Investors Flying Club
<http://www.aeroinvestorslc.com/>

Flight Physicals

Dr. Greg Fuller
517-784-6663

Airport Community Profile: Aero Investors Flying Club

Aero Investors Flying Club was established in 1994 by Jackson resident pilots Harold Burke, Tim Stark and Murd Davis after successful restoration of a 1948 Cessna 140 that started in 1992. This successful restoration of the only tail wheel aircraft available for “tail wheel endorsement” then based at JXN resulted in many requests by local pilots to fly the aircraft to gain their FAA pilot tail wheel endorsement, hence the birth of Aero Investors.

The membership was originally limited to ten members, but the demand soon prompted the purchase of a second aircraft “project”, a 1956 Cessna 172, allowing the club to expand their membership to twenty members. The intent of the club is to “provide inexpensive aircraft availability and operations to a limited number of members.”



Now, twenty years later Aero Investors boasts 38 members and four aircraft. These pilots and aircraft log approximately 600 hours per year offering a valuable asset to flying options at Jackson County – Reynolds Field. Pilot instruction is offered to members by other members of the club at competitive rates. More information can be obtained at the web site: <http://www.aeroinvestorslc.com/>

Outstanding Service Award

The most significant award presented annually by the Airport Board is the Outstanding Service Award. This year’s winner of this prestigious award was Tim Stark, owner and operator of Jackson Aero, an aircraft repair facility based at Jackson County Reynolds Field. The RESOLUTION noted Tim’s past assistance to airport staff at aircraft crashes and incidents, his support of aviation through the flying club Aero Investors plus the high quality repair services that he has provided here for over twenty years.



Tim Stark, owner and operator of Jackson Aero receiving the Service Award. [Commissioner Carl Rice, Jr. photo bombing.]

Trivia Question: The JXN air traffic control tower has operated continuously since what year?

1960 1961 1962 1963

Answer located somewhere in this newsletter.

History Tour Group Visits Jackson County-Reynolds Field

On the 21st of June a tour bus loaded with 54 curious individuals from the Detroit Metro area landed at Jackson County Reynolds Field for the first of its kind History Tour. The visitors were greeted by a team of volunteers from the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter #304 and divided into three groups. One group visited the Air Traffic Control Tower; another group heard a historical presentation in the EAA meeting room while the third group was involved in an interactive history discussion about the T-6 aircraft. The groups then rotated through the remaining presentations. At noon all participants enjoyed a lunch catered by the Airport Restaurant in the EAA hangar area.

This tour was the result of a casual inquiry made by the coordinator for this Mystery History tour Dorothy Davis. The final arrangements unfolded over the ensuing weeks. The EAA volunteers who presented and assisted were; Steve Wellman, John Feldvary, Jim Aiello, Joan Feldvary, Earl Scott and George Race. The feedback was extremely positive. Dorothy Davis wrote the following note of thanks after the tour:

What can I say? Slam Dunk! Grand Slam! Truly, it was a wonderful experience - more than I could have imagined. You have to admit there was a lot left to the imagination. Steve, John, George and everyone else seemed genuinely happy to have us there. Incidentally, those guys were very knowledgeable about the airport. You could tell they love what they do, and are passionate about sharing it. The lunch served by Diane fits right into my earlier description. Outstanding! Compared to other tours we've taken, this rates among the top. Everyone gave it high marks. Thank you for making it happen. My thanks to your Tourism Bureau as well, for their contribution.

This tour was so successful that the EAA Chapter #304 has agreed to host future such tours during 2015. The tours will be offered, booked and coordinated by Judy Gail Krasnow, Founder/Director Jackson Historic Prison Tours.



John Feldvary conducting the T6 portion of the tour.



Steve Wellman conducting a "class" at the EAA.

Airport Board Honors Special Contributors

The Airport Board honored several special and important individuals at the joint meeting of the Airport Board and Airport Advisory Council on December 17, 2014. The Airport Awards Policy is designed to bring recognition to those individuals, businesses and organizations who add value to accomplishment of the airport mission. Recommendations for the various awards are made by the Awards Committee made up of representatives of the Advisory Council and Airport Board.

Earlier this year the Airport Service Award was presented to Kevin Kunde of Madison, Wisconsin for his exemplary work as designer and project manager for the new Snow Removal Equipment maintenance building located on Airport Road.

The following people received the Airport Contributor award for their work as long term volunteers during the Michigan International Speedway NASCAR race security detail: Zachary French, Ray Strong, Jack Koch, Tom Cubberly, Earl Scott and Charlie Moore.



Amy Torres and Steve Wellman presenting to Tom Cubberly.

A Letter of Appreciation was presented to the air traffic controllers from Midwest Air Traffic Control Inc. This is the company that provides vital air traffic control services for this airport. Air Traffic Manager David Flynn accepted the award.



Charlie Moore receiving award from Steve Wellman.



Earl Scott receiving award from Amy Torres and Steve Wellman.

Trivia Answer: 1961

Airport Board 2015 Meeting Schedule

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at:

**Jackson County Airport, EAA Hangar Meeting Room
3606 Wildwood Avenue, Jackson, MI 49202**

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| January 21, 2015 | 9:00 a.m. |
| February 25, 2015 | 9:00 a.m.* |
| March 25, 2015 | 9:00 a.m.* |
| April 15, 2015 | 6:00 p.m.** |
| May 20, 2015 | 9:00 a.m. |
| June 17, 2015 | 9:00 a.m. |
| July 15, 2015 | 9:00 a.m. |
| August 19, 2015 | 9:00 a.m. |
| September 9, 2015 | 9:00 a.m.* |
| October 21, 2015 | 9:00 a.m. |
| November 18 2015 | 9:00 a.m. |
| December 16, 2015 | 9:00 a.m.*** |

- * Not the regular day of the month
- ** Note different start time
- *** Joint meeting with Advisory Council

Appreciation and Farewell to Outgoing Board Member Dave Lutchka



David Lutchka, outgoing Airport Board member and County Commissioner, received a RESOLUTION honoring his ten years of service on the Airport Board along with a gift of appreciation for his service.

Airport Trash Talk

For approximately ten years there has been trash talk occurring at the Airport. All of this trash talk is related to the former City of Jackson landfill, part of which must be crossed by future Runway 7-25. The need to construct this new runway relates entirely to a large project designed to meet FAA safety standards. The existing main runway 6-24 does not meet the safety requirements for at least 1000 feet of safety run-off areas at each end. During 2014 additional analysis of the landfill occurred along with obtaining estimates for the off-site move that is programmed to occur during 2015.



A significant portion of the landfill needs to be removed because the soil and trash within it is not suitable to support or construct the new runway. A significant amount of discussion with experts has occurred on how best to handle the approximately 70,000 cubic yards of materials that must be removed. Initially the thought was to keep the materials on site by placing this debris over other areas of the former landfill that will not require excavation. After further analysis it was decided the best course would be to truck the materials to a certified landfill off site.

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2015 Airport Advisory Council

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As you might expect, this type of project is quite expensive with estimates as high as five million dollars (\$5,000,000) just for the trucking and tipping fees. The costs for on-site relocation were approximately the same, but off-site relocation does not involve long term monitoring as the on-site relocation would.

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| James Aiello | Jim Bogie | Harold Burke |
| Tom Davis | David Flynn | Carl Boylan |
| George Race | Amy Torres | Jack Koch |
| Alan McCardell | Robert W. Smith | |
| Tom Cubberly | | |

The Council members serve the Airport Board and represent the interests of the Jackson community, its businesses, local pilots and hangar owners, air traffic control, and the flight training school.

MISC PHOTOS FROM 2014



Boeing 737 was a big visitor at Jackson County



View of Aviation Heritage Park from the tower.



Snowy historic marker in front of the administration building.



Rolling out the Feldvay T6 in preparation for the history tour group.