

The Flight Line

Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field Newsletter

Editor: Amy L. Godfrey

2008 ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE

January 2009

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Runway Dedication Ceremony Date

Mark your calendars for the Runway 14-32 Dedication ceremony. The Airport Manager promises that this affair will be unique, fun, and include food. The ceremony will be held on Tuesday, June, 2, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. on the airport grounds. More information about this event will follow as the date draws closer.

Annual Report Introduction

By
Steven Wellman
Airport Board Chair

On behalf of the other members of the Airport Board, let me welcome you to our 2008 Annual Report. I have found very few people who enjoy reading statistical annual reports, so the “story format” for our annual report is utilized in an effort to keep this report both interesting and informative.

The big news of this past year was the completion of the Runway #14-32 safety project. After many years of discussion and planning, this runway became a reality. This reality was possible because of the support of many people and organizations, both past and present, who have worked toward this goal. Suffice it to say that this project makes our airport safer and that is of paramount importance.

While enjoying the success of the new runway project, we must be mindful of the many challenges that we faced in 2008 and lie ahead in 2009 and beyond. The Runway #7-25 project is the next major undertaking and will require support and cooperation from many individuals and organizations. Other challenges center on the generally poor economy and resultant impact upon local governments. The airport does not generate enough revenue to be self-sufficient and relies upon support from the County of Jackson general fund in order to operate. This will remain a major challenge for a few years at least.

We must all keep in mind that this airport is a critical part of

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Introduction Continued...

Jackson's infrastructure and very important to this community's overall economic success. All of the people involved in creating and maintaining a positive business attitude here should be proud of what has been achieved at the airport. It is the small successes that add up over time. I believe it was Sir Winston Churchill that said during the darkest days of WWII, "never quit, never quit, never quit!"

In closing, please enjoy our 2008 Annual Report.

History Unfolds at the Airport

Two notable events occurred at the airport this year that allowed glimpses into past. The first event was a visit and presentation by Colonel Harry T. Stewart, former Tuskegee Airman. This event was sponsored by the JXN Flight Fund Board of Directors as a thank you to past supporters. Interested parties can hear Colonel Stewart's speech at this link to the airport's web site:

<http://www.co.jackson.mi.us/airport/audio/history.htm>.

The second historical event centered on the crew of the T-33 that guards the airport's entrance. After 42 years, Dewaine Howard, former crew chief, and Mark Aragon, son of late Staff Sgt. Jose "Mark" Aragon, crew supervisor, were reunited at the side of the T-33. This aircraft was assigned to Major General Michael Joseph Ingelido, while stationed at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado in 1964 and 1965. This aircraft has the distinction of transporting actor Jackie Cooper from Colorado to a fundraising event in California. The full account of this reunion is available at this link:

<http://www.co.jackson.mi.us/airport/documents/Sep08newsltr.doc>.



**Pictured left to right:
Mark Aragon and Dewaine
Howard standing in front of
T-33 at Jackson County Airport**

Construction Projects at the Airport

There were three significant construction projects completed during 2008 in addition to the Runway 14-32 project. These projects were: replacement of the roof on Hangar #204, installation of a new heating system in the Administration building, and completion of Phase II of Aviation Heritage Park.

The roof on Hangar #204 was replaced this year at a cost of approximately \$40,000. This project was funded by the County of Jackson's Public Improvement Fund. The roof needed replacing due to several roofs being installed one on top of another over the years creating a load-bearing problem for the building if a large volume of snow were to accumulate. The hangar is a 3000 square foot building located next to the Consumers Energy hangar and has now been fully upgraded due to previous projects to install a new hangar door and radiant heating system. This building is currently vacant and the search is on for a new tenant.

A new heating system was installed in the Airport Administration building. The Administration building was originally constructed as the Airport Terminal in 1934. The building has also enjoyed a variety of other uses including: FAA office with airfield weather monitoring and airfield light controls, Jackson City County Credit Union, Consumers Energy Corporate Flight Department Office, and an aviation insurance office. During all of this time, the original boiler was still heating the building. The 1934 boiler was coal-fired until it was converted to oil-fired and finally converted to a natural gas-fired (hot water) system. It was one of the oldest boilers still in service in Michigan. The new system is a high efficiency natural gas system that is expected to cost significantly less to operate. The funding for this project stemmed from the County of Jackson Energy Conservation Project designed to fund such projects through the anticipated annual savings in energy costs. The total cost of this project was \$43,000.

Because of a very generous donation from the Sigmund Foundation, Phase II construction of Aviation Heritage Park has been completed. A sidewalk, lawn irrigation system, park benches, additional historical plaques, and a picnic table offer a new, more completed look for the park that graces the front entrance to the Airport. Not wanting to rest on our laurels, planning and fundraising for Phase III additions have started. Phase III is anticipated to focus on a monument to Jackson's WWII aviators with an emphasis on the key role that Jackson Community College played in training pilots through the Civilian Pilot Training Program in the years prior to the start of WWII.



Aviation Heritage Park

Runway 14-32 Safety Area Project Becomes a Reality

The first construction phase of the Runway 14-32 Safety Area Project (RSA) that began on August 20, 2007 focused primarily on moving dirt, clearing trees, and upgrades to the airfield lighting systems. The second, and final, phase of the 14-32 RSA project started on July 28, 2008 and included more tree clearing, actual construction of taxiways and the runway, and additional upgrades to the airfield lighting systems. This project has been in the discussion and planning stages since 1999 when the FAA charged airports with correction of runway safety area deficiencies. As constructed, Runway 14-32 is 4000 feet long, 100 feet wide, and has 300 foot safety areas at each end. Additionally, Precision Approach Path Indicator guidance systems were installed on both runway approaches along with a Runway End Indicator Light on the #32 end. We owe a special thank you to Mr. Carlos Stoetzel and Mr. Gail Reardon who permitted us to cut trees on property that they own located south of Wildwood Avenue. Had these trees not been removed, the approaches to runway #32 would have been restricted.

Here are vital construction statistics for Runway 14-32:

Phase I

Dirt moved	200,000 cubic yards
Trees cleared	45 acres
Culvert installed	500 feet (drainage ditch relocation)
Airfield light system upgrades	Stand-by generator; new regulators; electrical vault facility improvements
Primary Contractor	Hoffman Brothers Excavation of Battle Creek
Engineering Firm	Mead and Hunt of Lansing, Michigan
Planner	Stephanie Ward
Engineers	Bob Leisenring, Rod Nettleton and Al Romero
MDOT-Aero Project Manager	Amanda Hopper
Electrical Contractor	Windemuller Electric of Wayland, Michigan
Tree Removal Contractor	Anderson Tree Service of Casnovia, Michigan

Phase II

Dirt excavated	73,600 cubic yards
Sub-grade dirt hauled	47,470 cubic yards
Trees cleared	28 acres
Pulverized existing pavement	57,755 square yards
6" storm under drain pipe installed	14,900 lineal feet
Concrete storm sewer pipe installed	3,000 lineal feet
New pavement installed	20,300 tons
Underground cable installed	81,000 lineal feet
Fiber optics cable installed	2,000 lineal feet
Airport guidance signs installed	27
Runway/Taxiway lights installed	180
Pavement paint on runway/taxiway	106,200 square feet
Airfield light system upgrades	Touch screen computer control systems for airfield lights Lap top computer control system for maintenance LED Taxiway lights
Primary Contractor	Michigan Paving of Jackson, Michigan
Engineering Firm	Mead and Hunt of Lansing, Michigan
Planner	Stephanie Ward
Engineers	Bob Leisenring, Jeff Thoman and Al Romero
MDOT-Aero Project Manager	Amanda Hopper
Excavation Contractor	Mead Brothers of Springport, Michigan
Electrical Contractor	Airport Lighting of Luther, Michigan
Tree Removal Contractor	Anderson Tree Service of Casnovia, Michigan

Total Cost

\$5,000,000

(Match formula FAA 95%, State 2.5%, Local 2.5%)

First Flight and Landing on Runway 14-32

When new runways are constructed, a tradition exists to honor the first takeoff and landing on that particular runway surface. The first takeoff on newly constructed runway 14-32 occurred on November 28, 2008 at approximately 3:30 p.m. when pilot (and Airport Board Chairperson) Steve Wellman accelerated his four-passenger Cardinal RG at a heading of 320 degrees on runway #32. On board for this special event were Bill Meadowcroft and Steve's son, Captain Ryan Wellman. Bill Meadowcroft is the retired Chief Pilot for Consumers Energy and a former Air Force pilot. Ryan Wellman is a Captain in the United States Air Force serving as Commander on C17A aircraft with the 10th Airlift Squadron currently stationed at McChord AFB in the State of Washington.

The first landing on runway #32 took place about 10 minutes later and in pilot Steve Wellman's opinion; he "greased it."



**First Takeoff on Rwy 14-32
performed by Steve Wellman**



**Pictured from left to right:
Passengers Bill Meadowcroft and
Ryan Wellman, and Pilot Steve
Wellman before first takeoff**

John Feldvary Wins 2008 Bolender Award

In December of 2007, the Airport Board honored George and Fay Bolender for their many years of dedicated volunteerism on behalf of the Jackson County Airport. Additionally, the



**John Feldvary presented award
by Steve Wellman**

Airport Board created the George and Fay Bolender Award to be given annually to the individual, group, or business who has made a significant contribution to the success of the Airport. The 2008 Bolender Award winner is John Feldvary. The Airport Board resolution presented on December 18, 2008 best describes the many contributions made to the Airport by John Feldvary.

RESOLUTION Of The Airport Board at Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field

WHEREAS, John Feldvary, U.S. Airways Captain (retired) has contributed to the success of Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field by freely giving of his personal resources, administrative talents and aviation expertise; and

WHEREAS, John Feldvary has contributed to the betterment of the Airport through his membership in, and participation with; the Airport Advisory Council, EAA Chapter #304, JXN Flight Fund Board of Directors, the Hot Air Jubilee Site Committee, and as the past Director of the JCC Flight Center; and

WHEREAS, John Feldvary is a pilot, T-6 aircraft owner, and hangar owner based at Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field; and

WHEREAS, John Feldvary has been integral in the success of Airport events including the: Hot Air Jubilee and Hot Air Jubilee Air Show, JXN Flight Fund scholarship fund raising events, EAA Pancake Breakfast and numerous other airport functions; and

WHEREAS, as a Team Member of the "Screaming Rebels" T-6 squadron of vintage WWII aircraft, John has donated his services for formation flyovers at community events including; parades, holiday celebrations, airport functions and military funerals; and

WHEREAS, The Jackson County Airport Board wishes to express sincere appreciation to John Feldvary for his countless contributions to the betterment of Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field; and

NOW; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Jackson County Airport Board does hereby award the 2008 George and Fay Bolender Award to John Feldvary for his significant contributions to the success of Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field.

New Flight School Takes Off

With the start up of ProFlight Training Academy, the Airport is now home to two first rate flight schools. Owners Ron and Sue Jung have a vision of becoming a premier aviation training facility and stress they do not perceive their business to be in competition with the Jackson Community College Flight Center or others who offer flight training at the Jackson County Airport.

ProFlight's marketing plan will target students from across the United States as well as on a global scale with the primary goal of offering proficient, safe, and competent flight training to anyone ranging from the hobby pilot to that of a career pilot, with the emphasis on the latter.

The airport is an excellent training venue with the ILS, friendly air traffic controllers, excellent runways, and strong community support for the airport. On a larger scale, the Jackson area offers a central location, available student housing opportunities, great restaurants, and plenty of recreational opportunities. ProFlight recently acquired a flight training simulator to aid in flight training.



Pictured from left to right: Ron Jung, Sue Jung, and Wendy Slusarski of ProFlight

RUNWAY 7-25 SAFETY AREA PROJECT BEGINS

Even before the books can be officially closed on the Runway 14-32 project, preparation for construction of Runway 7-25 has begun. Preliminary steps are underway to purchase a parcel of land located near the intersection of M-60 and Michigan Avenue. This 30-acre parcel is owned by the Tylutki family and must be acquired in order to construct Runway 7-25. Additionally, an environmental firm, SME, has conducted a preliminary investigation into the former City of Jackson landfill area that will be disturbed by the Runway 7-25 project. The environmental work within the landfill areas included digging test pits with a backhoe and conducting geotechnical and soil contamination tests within these test pits

determine the "footprint" depth and types of contamination present. Soil muck probes were performed in an area east of this location where a large muck deposit exists. This area will also be disturbed by the future runway project.

Even though one of the two runways has been constructed, the second runway project will be much more complex and costly. Here are some of the components involved in the forthcoming Runway 7-25



Compaction Testing

project that were *not* part of the Runway 14-32 project: purchasing up to 12 parcels of commercial and residential property; acquisition of aviation easements over several privately owned parcels; closing Woodville Road; reconstruction of the corner of Airport and Argyle Roads; construction of a new road to replace Woodville Road; moving a number of utility poles; building a runway and taxiway system over a former municipal landfill; and, relocation of the airport's snow equipment maintenance building. The cost for Runway 14-32 was approximately \$5,000,000 and the estimated cost for Runway 7-25 now stands at just over \$30,000,000.

Airport Faces Budget Challenges

The airport, along with the other County of Jackson departments and agencies, has faced unprecedented budget challenges during 2008 with more significant hurdles expected to persist in the immediate future. This perfect economic storm exists in four parts. First, the economics of general aviation changed for the worse in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Second, a combination of Michigan's declining economy and the high price of aviation fuel has compounded the problem resulting in less corporate and recreational flying; hence, less revenue from fuel sales, landing fees, and hangar rentals. Third, last year the airport had significant additional expenses for diesel fuel and gasoline because of the harsh winter and high prices, plus we experienced major repairs to both snow plows and the John Deere tractor. Last, Jackson County government derives the bulk of its revenue from property taxes. Declining home values and foreclosures have resulted in less property tax revenue to support funding of government services, including the airport.

The budgetary impacts on the airport for 2009 include a staffing reduction of the full-time Assistant Airport Manager position to a half-time Administrative Assistant position. Additionally, newsletters after this 2008 annual report will no longer be mailed out and instead will be delivered via email and the web site only. The airport "business appreciation luncheon" that has been held over the past four years will be combined with the annual airport picnic. However, the 2009 airport budget will support the purchase of a new maintenance pick up truck and snow plow to replace a 1997 GMC pickup truck, installation of a new roof on the Airport Administration building, and continued contribution toward the runway safety local match fund.

Assistant Airport Manager Retires

Jane Zomer, Assistant Airport Manager, retired from her position at the Jackson County Airport after 13 years of dedicated service. Jane was hired as an Administrative Assistant by then Airport Manager, Cynthia Godfrey, in 1995. During her time at the airport, Jane served as the interim airport manager and was promoted to her current position in 2003. Jane will coincidentally be replaced by Amy Godfrey, Cynthia's daughter. Due to budget restraints, the Assistant Airport Manager position is once again an administrative assistant position and has been reduced to 20 hours per week. Jane was honored at the November board meeting by the Airport Board for her many years of service. The text of the Airport Board proclamation listed below which was presented to Jane by Chairperson Steve Wellman sums up the many contributions that Jane has made to the airport.

RESOLUTION Of The Airport Board at Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field

WHEREAS, many years of dedicated work by Jane Zomer at Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field deserves recognition and;

WHEREAS, Jane was hired on October 16, 1995 as an Administrative Assistant by then Airport Manager, Cynthia Godfrey; and

WHEREAS, Jane brought a positive and professional attitude to that position; and

WHEREAS, Jane was instrumental in the success of several significant Airport projects including: special events; runway and taxiway construction; marketing and promoting the airport to the community; and resolution of an on going dispute about hangar leases; and

WHEREAS, Jane Zomer served as the Interim Airport Manager during several time periods and provided stability and continuity to airport operations and trained many airport managers; and

WHEREAS, Jane Zomer was promoted to Assistant Airport Manager on January 1, 2003 and will be retiring from that position on November 26th, 2008; and

NOW; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Jackson County Airport Board hereby acknowledges that Jane Zomer has served the County of Jackson “with distinction” and further, we commend the many contributions that Jane has made to Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field; and

FURTHER LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Jackson County Airport Board extends our sincere appreciation to Jane Zomer for her efforts and our best wishes for a long and fruitful retirement.

May Jane experience favorable winds and happy landings in her retirement.

Future Airport Newsletters

Future copies of the Flight Line newsletter will only be available via the airport web site starting with the April 2009 issue. We will continue to send an email notification with the newsletter link to those individuals who have provided their email addresses to us. Please advise us if you wish to be added to our airport email group and remember to let us know if your email address should change.

5-Year Operations Chart

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Operations</u>
2004	53,392
2005	48,873
2006	48,858
2007	48,198
2008	48,490



**Jane Zomer recognized
for years of dedicated service**