

# The Flight Line

Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field Newsletter

Editor: Amy L. Godfrey

March 2010

## 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

### The Jackson County Airport Board

Steve Wellman, Chairman  
Commissioner Jim Shotwell, Jr.  
Thomas Davis, Secretary  
Commissioner David Lutchka  
Commissioner Earl Poleski, Vice Chair  
Randy Treacher, County Administrator – Controller

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[www.co.jackson.mi.us/airport](http://www.co.jackson.mi.us/airport)

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### A Note from the Chairman

By  
**Steven R. Wellman**  
Chairman, Jackson County Airport Board

As I look back at 2009, it seems like the same old story, too much work and not enough money. I continue to be amazed at what we seem to accomplish on such a shrinking budget. Once again, the airport staff has done an excellent job in meeting the needs of the users and the general public and making the operation of this facility appear to run so effortlessly. I think that most of us realize it does take considerable time and effort to keep things on track. Sincere thank you from the Airport Board, to the staff, for making this happen.

When it comes to the runway project it may seem like nothing has happened over the past year, but that is not the case. Jackson County, Mead & Hunt, and the State of Michigan need to be commended for their perseverance in pushing forward with the next phase of this major project. The funding was allocated in 2009 for land acquisition on both the east and west ends of the airport. Once the purchases have been finalized, the next construction phase can begin. That will be a major and visible step forward in the project.

It is important in these difficult economic times to continue to work toward the goal of maintaining this valuable asset for the Jackson community. Everyone involved with this airport, including users, staff, volunteers, businesses, and organizations, continue to make that end goal possible.

*\*The next Flight Line issue will be released in October 2010*

## 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>

Solo Aviation  
734-323-0031  
<http://www.soloaviation.aero/>

### *Aircraft Fueling and Ramp Services*

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

### *Car Rental*

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

Enterprise  
517-783-3331  
[http://www.enterprise.com/car\\_rental/home.do](http://www.enterprise.com/car_rental/home.do)

### *Pilot Training and Education*

JCC Flight School  
517-787-7012  
<http://www.jccmi.edu/FlightCenter/>

ProFlight Training Academy Inc.  
517-768-9020  
<http://proflightacademy.com/>

### *Aviation Clubs*

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

## Airport Board Members



Back Row L to R: Randall W. Treacher, David F. Lutchka, Earl J. Poleski  
Front Row L to R: Tom Davis, Steve Wellman, James "Steve" Shotwell, Jr.

### *Randall W. Treacher*

Jackson County Administrator-Controller  
Airport Board Ex-Officio Member

### *David F. Lutchka*

2<sup>nd</sup> District County Commissioner  
Chair of the County Affairs Committee  
Co-Owner of Lutchka Angus and Farm Market

### *Earl J. Poleski*

5<sup>th</sup> District County Commissioner  
Vice-Chair of the County Board of Commissioners  
Vice-Chair of the Jackson County Airport Board  
CPA with Lally Group PC

### *Tom Davis*

Secretary of the Jackson County Airport Board  
Co-Owner of Davis Insurance Agency

### *Steve Wellman*

Chairman of the Jackson County Airport Board  
Manager of Laboratory Services at Consumers Energy

### *James "Steve" Shotwell, Jr.*

7<sup>th</sup> District Commissioner  
Chairman of the County Board of Commissioners  
Owner of Miller Shoes

## Aviation Heritage Park to Acquire Original Works of Art

The Airport Board has accepted two very generous offers of original art work for Aviation Heritage Park. One work will be a bronze bust of a WWII aviator. This will be mounted on an engraved granite base and intended to honor two key contributions by the Jackson Community to WWII: the Civilian Pilot Training program operated by Jackson Community (then Junior) College in the late 1930's and early 1940's; plus honoring the WWII pilots who lost their lives during the war. The fund raising efforts have been coordinated by Mr. Bill Maher of Jackson who was trained in the Civilian Pilot Training program and flew DC3's over the "hump" during WWII. The total fund raising to date is in excess of \$26,000 with a goal of \$37,000 which Bill hopes to reach in the very near future. Local artist Brandon Irish has been commissioned to complete this work.

The second piece of art will be a full-sized metal sculpture of a WWII bomber pilot to be donated by Mr. Bob Lazebnik of Jackson. The sculpture will be patterned after a small statute created by Bob's brother, Jack, who piloted B24 aircraft during WWII. This statute will honor military aviators past, present, and future for the important role they have played in maintaining our country's freedom. Both works expect to be completed during 2011.



Proposed Location for Art Work in Aviation Heritage Park



One of the many groups that visit Aviation Heritage Park every year

## EAA Chapter #304 Receives the 2009 Bolender Award

Members of Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 304 were pleasantly surprised at the annual EAA Christmas party when Airport Board representatives Steve Wellman, Earl Poleski, and Tom Davis announced that the Chapter was being honored as the 2009 Bolender Award recipient. The Bolender Award was created in 2007 and named after George and Fay Bolender who have, and continue to, set the standard for volunteerism at JXN. The award is presented annually by the Airport Board to an individual or organization "making a significant contribution" to the success of the Airport. The following excerpt from the Airport Board Resolution identifies the important role that the EAA has played in the success of the airport:



Bolender Award proclamation presented by Steve Wellman to EAA members Chuck Ferguson and John Feldvary during the Airport Board meeting.

*WHEREAS, Chapter #304 EAA members have provided "first" airplane rides to hundreds of young people through the Young Eagles program; staffed more than forty Pancake Breakfast Fly In events; created a fine aviation museum; completed numerous vintage aircraft restorations including the T-33 jet static display at the Airport entrance; provided specific support to airport events and organizations including; the Hot Air Jubilee, Aerobatics Competition, Civil Air Patrol, JXN Flight Fund, and the Airport Board;*

Congratulations to past and present members of the EAA Chapter #304 who have worked so diligently to support aviation and the Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field.



Earl Poleski (left) presents the proclamation to EAA Chapter #304 President, Earl Scott, with participation from Steve Wellman and Tom Davis

## Airport Capital Improvements and Equipment Purchases

In addition to continued progress on the Runway Safety capital project, the airport was able to complete the following capital improvement projects along with new equipment purchases during 2009.

### Air Traffic Control Tower Energy Project

The Air Traffic Control Tower building received an exterior ceramic coating insulating material that also sealed the exterior from air and water infiltration improving the insulating factor to R-16. This project was part of a County of Jackson energy conservation program managed by the Jackson County Building Authority that targeted energy inefficient buildings with cost-effective energy conservation improvements that would realize immediate cost savings.



Ceramic Coating on JXN  
Air Traffic Control Tower



JXN Airport  
Administration Building

### County Administration Building Roof Replacement Project

The Airport Administration building was originally constructed for use as the airport's terminal building. The roof on this building leaked in a number of places and required a tear-off of the existing roofing material and installation of a new membrane roof. The contractor was Stephenson Corporation from Flint and the project management company was Tremco Roofing of Alma, Michigan. Special care was taken to not alter the exterior appearance of this historical building, in particular the half-round quarry tiles that cap the parapet wall at the top of the building. The total cost for the project was approximately \$18,000 and was funded by the County of Jackson Capital Improvement Fund.

### Airfield Maintenance Pick Up and Snow Plow

The 2009 airport equipment budget allowed for the purchase of a new maintenance pickup truck and snow plow for the airport. This truck and plow was purchased from Bill Snethkamp of Lansing, Michigan under the State of Michigan cooperative purchasing program. This new truck replaced a 1997 GMC pickup truck. The total cost for the truck, snow plow, and associated safety equipment was \$28,000.



The Dodge 3.4 ton pick up truck  
on duty during snow removal efforts.

## Airport Special Events Held in 2009

Date	Event
<b>April</b>	Jackson County Conservation District Tree Sale Spring Arbor University Economic Luncheon
<b>May</b>	Airport Community and Business Picnic
<b>June</b>	Runway 14-32 Dedication Ceremony Blue Festival EAA Chapter #304 Pancake Breakfast Fly-In Michigan International Speedway NASCAR Race Aircraft Audubon Society Bird Watching
<b>July</b>	Hot Air Jubilee IAC Aerobatics Competition Yankee Air Museum B-25
<b>August</b>	Michigan International Speedway NASCAR Race Aircraft
<b>October</b>	Jackson County DHEO Monthly Meeting
<b>December</b>	Airport Holiday Open House



**Economic Luncheon Guests Viewing Flagship Private Air "Piaggio" jet on the Patrick Ramp**



**Annual Conservation District Tree Sale**



**LEFT: Aircraft parked on ramp during NASCAR race weekend**



**RIGHT: Dave Folk with the Corsair**

## Airport Volunteers

The airport enjoys the fruits of labor of the many people who volunteer their services each year. This past year volunteers provided crowd control and staffed security details during NASCAR weekends; mowed lawns with a push mower; helped with landscaping; donated time to a board or committee; provided services for painting or cleaning; or worked to improve Aviation Heritage Park. It is safe to say that the airport wouldn't be as safe or look as good as it does without the efforts of our airport volunteers. The

following individuals and organizations provided volunteer services to the benefit of the airport during 2009.

George Bolender, Fay Bolender, John Feldvary, Jack Koch, Alan McCardell, Harold Burke, Mike Bartholomew, Jim Bogie, Jeff Fisher, Dave Flynn, Amy Torres, Steve Wellman, Bob Laskovich, John Worden, John Polaczyk, Brenda Mashburn, Charlie Moore, Brian Mashburn, Mike Boley, Don Tripp, Brenda Tripp, Jeff Weems, Earl Scott, Jim Muma, Michael Moore, Ken Millard, Don Stanton, Ray Strong, Matt Williams, Rich Collard, Lisa Cujar, Terry



**Volunteers George and Fay Bolender with Dave Frazier (right) and Steve Wellman (left)**

McCardell, Kathy Stanton, Mike Slattery, Mike Slattery, Phil Berkemeier, Chuck Furgason, Dale Moretz, Earl Poleski Jr. Gary Hess, Laura Maurer, Tom Davis, James Shotwell Jr., Dave Lutchka, Linda

Furgason, Ben Jordan, Diane Weems, Tim Stark, Bill Maher, Bob Lazebnik, Tom Cubberly, John Willis, David Frazier, Dave Folk, Randy Hunt, Ralph Lutes, Bill Meadowcroft, Randy Collier, JTV, Hot Air Jubilee Committee, JXN Flight Fund Committee, Scream'n Rebels T6 Pilots, Blackman Township Department of Public Safety, and EAA Chapter #304.

Jackson County Airport made greater strides during 2009 because of these individuals and organizations. On behalf of the airport, thank you!



**Volunteer Brenda Tripp (far right) with NASCAR Fans**

## Runway 7-25 Safety Area Project

The Runway 7-25 Safety Area project made progress in the property and easement acquisition phase during 2009. FAA/MDOT-Aeronautics/Local grants totaling approximately \$2,000,000 were awarded with an additional \$1.5 million grant being programmed for 2010. In 2009, one Maynard Street house and a Maynard Street easement were purchased. A purchase agreement was completed on a second Maynard Street house with a January 2010 closing expected. The acquisition of property or easements is controlled by Federal and State laws requiring a very specific procedure to be followed including: property appraisal by a certified appraiser; an independent review of that appraisal by a second certified appraiser; conferences and negotiations with the property owner; a determination of eligibility for relocation, moving, and other expenses; and, mutual agreement on the sale. If the property owner does not agree with the terms of the purchase offer, then the matter will be decided by a judge of the Circuit Court.

Approximately 21 additional properties require either an easement acquisition or fee purchase. This phase of the project must be completed prior to any runway construction beginning and is anticipated to be completed with 12 to 18 months.

Other key phases of the Runway 7-25 Safety Project include: relocation of the current Snow Removal Equipment building; purchasing four private homes on Woodville Road; and, reconstruction of the Airport and Argyle Street 90 degree corner into a sweeping curve.



**An unidentified engineer from Mead and Hunt surveying the airspace at JXN**

## Airport Operations and Air Traffic Control Services

Airports around Michigan have experienced a steady decline in the number of landings and take offs (operations) during the past nine years due to the aftermath of the 2001 terrorist attacks coupled with struggling statewide economic conditions. The number of operations counted at an airport can determine if and to what degree certain Federal projects and services are funded. The chart below indicates an increase in the number of operations for this airport has increased for the past two years after showing steady declines for the past several years.

### JXN Operations 6-Year Count

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Operations</u>
2004	53,392
2005	48,873
2006	48,858
2007	48,198
2008	49,154*
2009	52,145*

The following chart compares Jackson County with the 14 other airports in Michigan that have air traffic control towers. It is important to remember that many variables exist between and among these airports in how air traffic control services are delivered: hours of operation; types of aircraft; if the airport has passenger service; whether staffed by FAA or private contractors; funding, etc. Further analysis can be performed at this web site: <http://aspm.faa.gov/opsnet/sys/Tower.asp>

<b>Airport</b>	<b>Total Operations-2009</b>
Detroit Metro (DTW)	432,735
Pontiac-Oakland (PTK)	145,931
Battle Creek (BTL)	93,350
Grand Rapids (GRR)	91,930
Detroit City (DET)	88,053
Traverse City (TVC)	74,807
Ypsilanti (YIP)	70,662
Ann Arbor (ARB)	61,446
Flint (FNT)	60,810
Muskegon (MKG)	53,826
Jackson (JXN)	52,145
Kalamazoo-Battle Creek (AZO)	51,913
Lansing (LAN)	46,005
Saginaw (MBS)	39,331
Marquette (SAW)	21,294
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,384,238</b>

\*Includes over flights serviced by air traffic control. This data was not included in 2004 through 2007 data.

## Additional Photos from 2009



Grooving Runway 14-32



Grooving Runway 14-32



Airport Board Chairman, Steve Wellman, speaking at the Runway 14-32 Dedication Ceremony on June 2, 2009



A group of visitors enjoying Aviation Heritage Park



Aviation Heritage Park viewed from the Air Traffic Control Tower