

The Flight Line

Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field Newsletter

Jackson, Michigan

Editor: Pat Mills

March 2011

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

The Jackson County Airport Board

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www.co.jackson.mi.us/airport

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From the Airport Board Chair

It is my pleasure to again introduce the 2010 Annual Report for Jackson County – Reynolds Field. This past year has witnessed many challenges and many successes for the airport. The challenges for the airport are primarily economic. Continued stresses from a poor national economy and high fuel prices are felt through out the airport community based businesses and by the County of Jackson. The local costs for air traffic control tower services continue to increase with little relief in sight.

The Airport Board has commissioned the Airport Advisory Council to develop a marketing plan to perhaps identify ways to combat these trends. Although challenging, this plan should give the airport a better understanding of where we stand relative to the region and where we may find new opportunity.

Continued progress on the Runway 7-25 Safety Project occurred primarily in acquisition of required property and easements for that project. Demolition of acquired houses took place, plus we successfully

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***The next Flight Line issue will be released in April 2011**

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acquired all four Woodville Road houses resulting in significant overall project savings as Woodville Road can now be closed without the need to construct a new connector road.

One positive is that Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field still receives strong support from the greater Jackson community because of an understanding of the importance of the airport to economic viability. A recent economic impact study by the Michigan Department of Transportation revealed the annual economic impact of our airport to be just over 8 million dollars. That, plus the pending runway construction project, means that the airport is an economic generator in a very positive sense.

The airport staff continues to perform admirably and keeps the airport looking good and keeps it in safe condition for aircraft that come and go. We look forward to another positive year of providing excellent service to our flying community.

Steve Wellman,
Airport Board Chair

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

Pilot Training and Education

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

Aviation Clubs

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

Airport Board Changes

The December meeting of the Airport Board was the final one for Earl Poleski, Jr. who had served on the Board for the past four years. Earl has left this position along with his position as a member of the Board of Commissioners in December due to his successful bid for election as Representative for the 64th District of the State House of Representatives. A proclamation and token of appreciation were presented to Earl by the Airport Board with the proclamation reading in part: “. . . WHEREAS, Earl Poleski Jr. has served with distinction as an Airport Board member, keeping his critical eye trained on all airport matters, posing many pertinent questions, keeping the Airport staff “on their toes”; and WHEREAS, it is evident that a modicum of Earl’s recent election success was likely due to the positive influence of the airport community at Reynolds Field; and. . . “

Earl was replaced by newly elected member of the Board of Commissioners, Carl Rice Jr. representing District #3 (Leoni Township). Carl is the founder of “Voices from Heaven” a ministry dedicated to parents and loved ones who have a child die. Carl has a Doctorate degree from Andersonville Theological Seminary and is author of the book A Voice from Heaven about the tragic loss of his son Ryan. Carl also has experience as a mental health therapist and has taught at Jackson Community College and Jackson Christian Schools. Carl and his wife Penny are members of Grace Church and they have another son BJ.



Steve Wellman presenting proclamation to Earl Poleski, Jr.



Left to right, front to back: Tom Davis, Steve Wellman, Dave Lutchka, Carl Rice Jr, and Adam Brown

Airport Board Presents the 2010 George and Fay Bolender Award

Each year the Airport Board recognizes an individual or organization that makes a significant contribution to Jackson County – Reynolds Field and the recipient for 2010 was Dianne Weems, owner of the Airport Restaurant and Spirits. The initial announcement and presentation was made during the EAA Chapter #304 annual Christmas banquet that was held, of all places, at the Airport Restaurant. Airport Board members Steve Wellman and Dave Lutchka made the presentation along with Fay Bolender. The official Resolution was presented during the Airport Board December meeting. The resolution stated:

WHEREAS, Dianne Weems has contributed to the success of Jackson County – Reynolds Field in many important ways; and

WHEREAS, The Airport Restaurant and Spirits has been owned by Dianne Weems since 1995 and is a very popular destination for pilots from Michigan, Ohio and Indiana seeking the “\$100.00 hamburger”; and

WHEREAS, Dianne Weems has worked tirelessly to establish a premier aviation restaurant drawing thousands of aircraft, pilots and land lubbers to Reynolds Field; and

WHEREAS, Dianne Weems has created the perfect recipe for a successful restaurant with key ingredients of good food, a great staff and a passion to please her customers; and

WHEREAS, Dianne Weems’ time and talent has supported airport events including: the Hot Air Jubilee, Jackson Blues Festival; EAA Chapter #304 Pancake Breakfast; Planes, Trains and Automobiles; Flight Fund Open House; Aerobatics Competition; and Michigan NASCAR Speedway weekends; and

WHEREAS, Diane has contributed to the cause of charity by sponsoring Christmas dinners for the needy; canned food drives; and “Diane’s Quarter Collection Bowl for Charity”; and

WHEREAS, The Jackson County Airport Board wishes to express sincere appreciation to Diane Weems for 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 2010 “George and Fay Bolender Award” to Dianne Weems for significant contributions to the success of Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field.



Board members Steve Wellman and Dave Lutchka along with Fay Bolender made the presentation to Dianne Weems.



Past recipients of the George and Fay Bolender Award:

2007 – George and Fay Bolender
2008 – Chapter #304 Experimental Aircraft Association
2009 – John Feldvarv

Dirt Cheap

It is no secret that construction of future runway 7-25 will require a lot of fill dirt, and that is an understatement. Preliminary estimates range in the 500,000 cubic yards of dirt range, with final numbers to be determined later this year after preliminary engineering soil borings are completed.

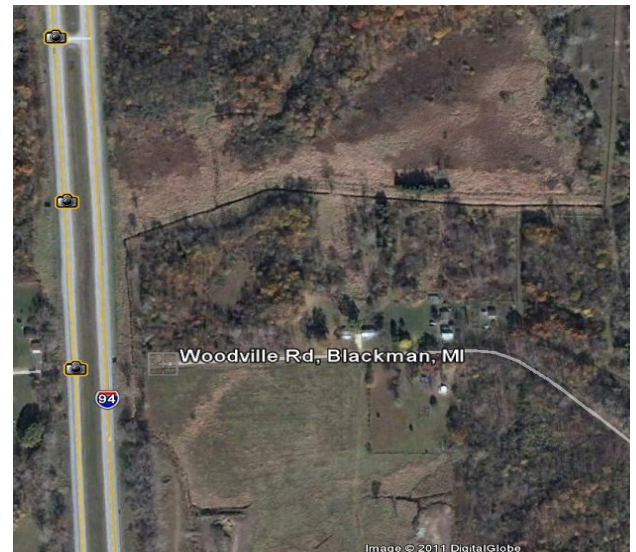
As such, the airport looks for any opportunity to increase our supply of dirt. The MDOT-Highway Department will be reconstructing the Business Loop I-94 (Michigan Avenue) from M-60 east into the City of Jackson. This project required construction of a detention pond near M-60 and approximately 40,000 yards of dirt needed to be removed.



John Bailey of Bailey Excavation approached the airport about receiving this dirt at no cost. Over a matter of several weeks during late fall, the dirt was moved and stored on airport property. This dirt will be used for some aspect of the runway 7-25 project with the most likely use related to the landfill excavation that must take place.

Woodville Road House Purchases

Over the past ten years the decision to purchase or not purchase the four private homes on Woodville Road has vacillated. If the houses remained, a new connector road would be required since the current Woodville Road will be cut off by future runway 7-25. If the houses were purchased, cost savings would be realized and the owners would not find themselves located in the middle of a tree-barren airport. Three of the four home owners have been the same during all of this time and all have been very patient and understanding while the airport figured out which course to take. In the final analysis, the decision was made to purchase the four houses and close Woodville Road altogether. This became a reality in late 2010 when all four home owners agreed to sell their houses to the airport. These houses will be demolished in late 2011 and Woodville Road will be abandoned.



Arial view of airport property showing Woodville Road with I-94 to its left.

The Jackson County Airport on YouTube

Click on the links below and experience a landing and takeoff from Jackson County –Reynolds Field

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWr0R6IBtmY> and http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_e6SGfBXDo



Snow Removal Equipment Building to be Replaced

The current SRE Building (Snow Removal Equipment Building) is located on Woodville Road north of Michigan Avenue on the west side of the airport. This building must be moved because it is situated on the future taxiway for Runway 7-25.

The airport received grant funding from Federal, State and local sources for architectural design of a replacement building that will be located on the east side of the airport on Airport Road. This \$270,000 grant is also for design of a new perimeter road system leading from the new building to the taxiway system near the corporate ramp. This will permit airport maintenance and fueling vehicles to cross from the main ramp to the east side of the airport without crossing an active runway or taxiways.

The design is scheduled to be completed by early fall with construction being planned for 2012.



Current Snow Removal Equipment Building located on Woodville Road near the Runway #6 approach

Airport Special Events Held in 2010

| Date | Event |
|-----------------|--|
| April | Jackson County Conservation District Tree Sale Spring Arbor University Economic Luncheon |
| June | Blues Festival EAA Chapter #304 Pancake Breakfast Fly-In Michigan International Speedway NASCAR Race |
| July | Hot Air Jubilee IAC Aerobatics Competition |
| August | Michigan International Speedway NASCAR Race Aircraft |
| October | Jackson County Department Heads and Elected Officials (DHEO) Monthly Meeting |
| December | Airport Holiday Open House |



New SRE site is pictured above. The road on the south side is Wildwood Avenue and the road on the east side is Airport Road.

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> |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| 2005 | 48,873 |
| 2006 | 48,858 |
| 2007 | 48,198 |
| 2008 | 49,154 |
| 2009 | 52,145 |
| 2010 | 49,221 |

The following compares Jackson County with the 13 other airports in Michigan with 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>

| Airport | Total Operations-2010 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Detroit Metro (DTW) | 454,497 |
| Pontiac-Oakland (PTK) | 121,733 |
| Battle Creek (BTL) | 88,370 |
| Detroit City (DET) | 88,370 |
| Grand Rapids (GRR) | 88,202 |
| Traverse City (TVC) | 81,993 |
| Ypsilanti (YIP) | 72,321 |
| Ann Arbor (ARB) | 69,058 |
| Jackson (JXN) | 49,221 |
| Flint (FNT) | 48,180 |
| Muskegon (MKG) | 46,202 |
| Lansing (LAN) | 45,975 |
| Saginaw (MBS) | 29,626 |
| Marquette (SAW) | 21,294 |
| Total | 1,305,073 |

Note: Kalamazoo-Battle Creek (AZO) data not available

Additional Photos from 2010



A night photo of some of the many aircraft parked at the airport during Michigan International Speedway NASCAR race weekend taken by an airport "airport watch" volunteer.



Through the green thumb efforts of Airport Restaurant owner Dianne Weems and volunteer Fay Bolender, the front of the terminal is looking good.



Military helicopters frequently stop at JXN for food and fuel



University of Michigan helicopter being refueled by Skyway Aviation



A new hangar located on the east side of the airport owned and constructed by Ed Gorzen



John and Joan Feldvary busy polishing the T-6 propellers that John donated to Aviation Heritage Park