

The Flight Line

Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field Newsletter

Jackson, Michigan

Editor: Pat Mills

January 2013

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

The Jackson County Airport Board

Steve Wellman, Chairman
Commissioner James Shotwell, Jr, Vice Chair
Commissioner David Lutchka
John Feldvary, Secretary
Commissioner Carl Rice, Jr.
Mike Overton, County Administrator-Controller

(517) 782-7261
(517) 787-4106
(517) 522-4596
(517) 206-3487
(517) 768-6624
(517) 788-4335

Airport Manager

Kent Maurer (517) 788-4225
Email: kmaurer@co.jackson.mi.us

Josh Clamon, Maintenance Tech
Joe Sanders, Maintenance Worker II
Pat Mills, Administrative Assistant

Visit our Website!

www.co.jackson.mi.us/airport

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	A Note from the Board Chairman
2	Guarding Airport Space
3	A “House” Taxi
3	Tuned In To KJXN
4	2013 Airport Board
4	Going Up!
5	Runway 7-25 Moves Forward
6	Airport Marketing Plan Developed
7	Airport Infrastructure Projects
7	JXN Aviation Services Directory
8	Aviation Heritage Park Additions
9	Master of the Air: Bill Meadowcroft
10	Airport Spotlight: Corinne Cantwell
10	Airport Events Calendar
11-12	2012 in Pictures

From the Airport Board Chair Steve Wellman

When we look at the progress of any organization on a day by day basis, it may appear that little happens when viewed by the casual observer. This may seem to be the case when we look at the daily operations at Reynolds Field. The reality is something quite different. The runway project is far and away the measurement standard that most of the general public tends to focus on. However, it is only one of a multitude of issues the staff, advisory council and airport board dealt with in 2012.

The staff needs to take a lot of credit for keeping the facility in great condition with a continued level of diminished resources and constantly dealing with changing demands. I personally spent time job shadowing the staff this year and was amazed at how diverse and knowledgeable they are in all aspects of airport operations. The credit for the smooth operation of the airport needs to go again to the team of Kent, Josh, Joe and Pat.

Over the past several years, the Airport Board has tasked the Advisory Council with quite a list of issues to be researched and provide recommended actions. This past year was no exception. 2012 began with the finalization of the Airport “Marketing Plan” then continued with recommendations for the Aviation

Continued on next page

Heritage Park, ground lease issues and finally recommendations for awards recognition. None of these tasks were easily undertaken and considerable work went into advising the Airport Board.

The Advisory Council needs to take a great deal of credit for helping the Board in all of these issues. Many of these efforts have begun to see success. The marketing plan has helped to attract several new businesses to the airport and the park has seen several upcoming attractions come to fruition.

Last but not least, the runway project has made major progress in meeting milestones. We have seen the perimeter road around the south end of runway 14/32 completed. Land acquisition was completed in all areas and the removal of the Woodville Rd and Maynard Rd homes was accomplished. The beginning of construction of the new snow removal equipment buildings rounded out 2012.

On behalf of the Airport Board, I would like to personally thank everyone that contributed to the successful 2012 operation of The Jackson County Airport.

*Steve Wellman
Airport Board Chair*

Guarding Airport Space

Guarding airport space creates immediate thoughts of security devices, tall fences and armed guards. In this case, however, the space being guarded is the “air space” and the primary mechanism for accomplishing this task is airport zoning regulations. Airport zoning regulations are contained in the Airport Zoning ordinance and create certain limitations to building height, interference from lights or radio frequencies; and, restrictions on certain types of land uses because of excessive airport noise that may occur. The zoning area is contained with a ten mile radius of the center of the airport.

The primary guardians of airport space are embodied in two separate airport zoning boards. The Joint Airport Zoning Board is comprised of five individuals appointed by various existing boards or commissions. The other zoning board is the Airport Zoning Board of Appeals whose members are appointed by the Joint Airport Zoning Board. Members of the Joint Airport Zoning Board are: Jack Koch, John Worden, Tom Davis, Thomas Schaffner and Lynn Smith (MDOT-Aeronautics). Members of the Airport Zoning Board of Appeals are: Michael Brunk, George Race, Paula Clingerman, Bob Smith and James Bogie. Zoning Administrator duties belong to the Airport Manager by virtue of that position.



The general rule of airport zoning height restrictions is the closer to the airport the structure is, the more restrictive is the height. The same rule applies to structures that are in-line with current or future runways. There are also State of Michigan laws along with FAA regulations that dictate the limitations of structures near airports. Today the most common types of structures being built today are wind turbines, while years ago it was a flurry of cell tower construction that placed demands on airport zoning administration. More information about airport zoning for Jackson County – Reynolds Field can be found at this link:

<http://www.co.jackson.mi.us/Agencies/airport/zoning.asp>

Airport Board 2013 Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at:

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

January 16, 2013	9:30 a.m.
February 27, 2013	9:30 a.m.*
March 20, 2013	6:00 p.m.**
April 17, 2013	9:30 a.m.
May 15, 2013	9:30 a.m.
June 19, 2013	9:30 a.m.
July 17, 2013	9:30 a.m.
August 21, 2013	9:30 a.m.
September 18, 2013	9:30 a.m.
October 16, 2013	9:30 a.m.
November 20, 2013	6:00 p.m.**
December 18, 2013	9:30 a.m.

*Not the regular day of the month
**Note different start time

A House Taxi



Granted the title of this article is a play on words, but here is a sight you will not see every day. The house is on taxiway F and traveling to the east. This structure was originally located on the Tylutki lot near M-60 and Michigan Avenue. The “move” went from that location, across a field, then down Woodville Road.

A wood fence was temporarily removed to allow the house onto Taxiway F. From there the house entered the main Airport parking lot and that involved taking down chain link fence. The structure rested in the main parking lot for a few days and then continued its journey to a building site on Lansing Avenue north of I-94. The moving company was McCormick and Sons of Albion, MI. The house structure would have otherwise been demolished and taken to a landfill. Baily Excavation was the primary demolition contractor who facilitated this project.

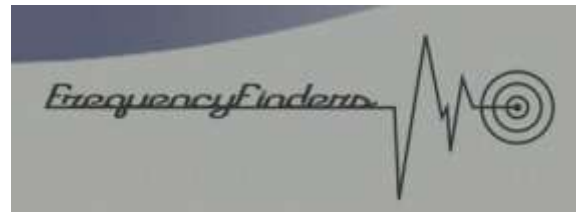
TUNED in to KJXN

A well-established aviation business is now calling Jackson County – Reynolds Field home. Because of substantial growth in its business coupled with a need to consolidate operations, **Frequency Finders, Inc.** <http://thefrequencyfinders.com/index.html> has relocated its administrative and flight operations to JXN. Frequency Finders provides RF interference surveys for cable operators throughout North America and have been in business for seven years utilizing a fleet of 172's, Arrow's and Twin Comanche aircraft and will be basing three of these aircraft here by the end of 2013. Efforts are underway to convert this fleet to all Seneca aircraft supplementing with Arrow's as needed.

President, Travis Stebelton, was asked what attracted Frequency Finders to Reynolds Field and he replied, “As a company, we were looking for a centrally located airport for our current staff. Both owners have a history with JXN had have always had great exper-

iences. The professional and friendly staff of the Air Traffic Control facility (Midwest Air Traffic Services, Inc.) was also a deciding factor. The excellent (aircraft) maintenance provided by Tim Starke at Jackson Aero was a major deciding factor as aircraft reliability is a make-or-break component of our operation”.

Mr. Stebelton added, “We want to see JXN grow while supporting the local community and want to thank the Airport staff and Board members for being so welcoming and open to our choice of JXN. We look forward to many years of growth and success alongside the airport and its tenants.”



2013 Airport Board



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

Going Up!

Many things at the airport can be described in such a manner. However, in this case the “going up” item is the number of landings and take offs that occurred during 2012 when compared to the past two years. The number of operations (either a landing or a take-off) increased by 4% over those levels experienced in 2011. While not a tremendous increase, it is significant when looking at the past ten years of data. There are many variables that impact the number of flights originating or ending at Jackson County Reynolds Field including: the condition of the general economy, weather, the price of aviation fuel and many others too numerous to list.

- | The declining trend for airport operations since the year 2000 for the 15 airports in Michigan with air traffic control towers has been significant. The number of landings and take offs for all airports in Michigan with air traffic control towers has declined by 44% (2,190,830 to 1,219,327). In the year 2000 there were 13 airports with more operations than Jackson County – Reynolds Field, that is, we were the least busy airport of all towered airports. Total operations for Jackson County from 2000 to 2012 declined 17% while airport operations for all towered airports declined 44%. Some airports in this group have experienced declines of over 50%. In 2012 Jackson County ranks 9th busiest out of the 15 Michigan airports with air traffic control towers.



Airport Operations Jackson County – Reynolds Field

2012	- 51,292
2011	- 49,301
2010	- 49,221
2009	- 52,145
2008	- 49,154
2007	- 48,198
2006	- 48,858
2005	- 48,873
2004	- 53,392
2003	- 61,591
2002	- 65,034
2001	- 64,247
2000	- 62,086

Runway 7-25 Safety Project

The first tangible signs of Runway 7-25 Safety Project related construction occurred in 2012. The “service road” and “SRE Maintenance Building” construction projects are necessary precursors to the eventual building of runway 7-25. The new service road will connect the east and west sides of the airport and eliminates the necessity of crossing runway 14-32 with fuel and maintenance vehicles. The site work for the SRE (Snow Removal Equipment) maintenance building was also part of the service road project.

The SRE building is under construction now and will be completed mid-2013. The general contractor for this project is Garrison, Inc. of Farmington, Michigan. This 12,500 sq. ft. building will provide shelter and maintenance area for the airport’s snow removal equipment. The current building on Woodville Road will be displaced by the new runway. The schedule and funding levels for future airport projects can be found in the Ten Year Plan

http://www.co.jackson.mi.us/Agencies/airport/docs/ACIP_JXN_2013_2022_combined_final.pdf

The progress in this critical safety project is owed to the dedicated staff at the FAA Airport District Office in Detroit and the MDOT Office of Aeronautics in Lansing coupled with the excellent consultants and contractors who have worked on this project.



Excavating for SRE footings.



Construction near the airfield electrical



Demolition of structures on Woodville Road.
Kent Maurer in the driver’s seat.



Footing for the SRE building.

Flying Jackson Forward

Airport Marketing Plan Developed

The Airport Advisory Council, with the assistance of area business representatives along with staff from the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce developed a marketing plan for the airport. During 2012 the plan was finalized resulting in five goal areas:

- Encourage and enhance partnerships and collaboration efforts for airport events and with other existing community events e.g. the Rose Festival with the EAA Pancake Breakfast Fly-In. Enhance airport business collaboration and cooperation. Increase airport business collaboration with community events. Encourage young people to get involved with airport events and aviation in general. Many of these partnerships exist and the goal is to enhance and increase those partnerships.
- Market the airport as a venue for new special events and as a location for community meetings and gatherings. The airport could be advertised as a regional meeting place for business. The EAA meeting room, Airport Restaurant and Terminal Building Lobby have potential to facilitate small special events.
- Initiate a “branding” study to create an airport brand. The branding committee recommended, and the Airport Board adopted the brand of “Flying Jackson Forward”. This new theme will be incorporated into the airport’s letterhead, web site and business cards.
- Research the feasibility of a modern electronic sign for the main airport entrance. This sign would benefit airport businesses like the restaurant and JCC Flight Center in addition to the various special events held at the airport each year. The cost for this sign is approximately \$10,000. There currently is no funding source for this sign. Creative methods of funding this project are being researched.

The following individuals participated in the Marketing Plan development:

Name	Representing
Jim Bogie	Advisory Council & pilot
Harold Burke	Advisory Council & pilot/local business owner
John Feldvary	Advisory Council & pilot/EAA #304 representative
Linda Ferguson	Airport Business - AVIS
Jeff Fisher	Advisory Council & pilot Airport Business – JCC Flight Center
David Flynn	Advisory Council Airport Business – Midwest Air Traffic
Ben Jordan	Airport Business - Skyway Aviation
Chris Kilmer	Advisory Council & pilot
Jack Koch	Advisory Council
Kent Maurer	Airport Manager
Alan McCardell	Advisory Council & pilot
Pat Mills	Airport Administration
Amy Torres	Advisory Council – Enterprise Group
Dianne Weems	Airport Business – Airport Restaurant
Steve Wellman	Airport Board & pilot



This is what an electronic sign might look like.

Airport Infrastructure Projects

The Airport engaged in a number of infra-structure improvement and maintenance projects funded with Public Improvement funds this past year. These funds are allocated annually through the County Board of Commissioners during the regular budgeting process.

The following list includes some of the projects accomplished during 2012:

- ✓ The Administration Building was improved with brick tuck pointing/sealing (Building Systems), installation of new windows and a new entrance door (Aluminum Supply)



- ✓ The County Hangar #201 (brick hangar) required restoration of the brick façade and tuck pointing because the brick was falling off of the building (Boss Construction).
- ✓ The Terminal building lobby had new carpeting installed (Braun's) and the restrooms had new toilet partition installed (Shively-Bouma).
- ✓ The Restaurant area of the Terminal building saw replacement of the 60 year old light fluorescent light fixtures with modern high efficiency pendant light fixtures plus ceiling fans were installed in increase energy efficiency (Hirst Electric).

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-ental/avisHome/home.ac>

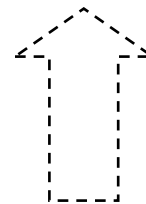
Pilot Training and Education

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

Aviation Clubs

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

**AIRPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETINGS ARE HELD THE FIRST
WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 9:00
A.M. IN THE AIRPORT ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING UNLESS OTHERWISE
SCHEDULED.**



Aviation Heritage Park Additions

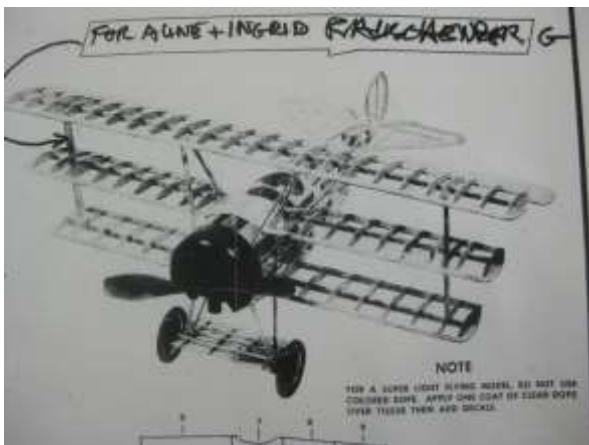
Construction of Aviation Heritage Park located, at Jackson County Reynolds Field, began in 2007 with a new flag pole, placement of two historic airport monuments from 1928 along with installation of the old airport beacon. These additions complimented the T-33 airplane that had been in place since 2001 when EAA Chapter 304 relocated it from Grayling, MI. In 2008 new sidewalks, landscaping and an irrigation system were constructed plus benches and a picnic table was installed. In 2011 a bronze statue of a WWII bomber pilot was placed on permanent display. All of these additions were possible due to the generosity of the Jackson community individuals and foundations. These efforts continued during 2012.



This past year the concrete flat work was completed for a WWII monument to be installed and dedicated in 2013. The concrete was donated by Kirk Mercer of R.W. Mercer with the assistance of Darby and Dysert Concrete. This monument will feature a bronze bust called "The Aviator", sculpted by Brandon Irish, mounted on granite. This monument commemorates the men and women who were trained as pilots in the **Civilian Pilots Training** program coordinated by Jackson Junior College in 1939 and 1940. All of the money for this latest addition is donated through the efforts of the late William Maher, one of the CPT students

New Airport Art Piece

Another significant addition to the airport's growing number of original art pieces will be installed in front of the airport terminal building in 2013. A replica of a German WWI Fokker DR1 tri-wing airplane will be installed in the spring of 2013. This is being donated by Bob Lazebnik. The concrete work and mounting post for this project was installed late in 2012.



Drawing of Fokker replica.



Installing mounting pole in front of the terminal building.

Master of the Air

On December 18, 2012 William J. Meadowcroft received an honor that few pilots ever earn. Federal Aviation Administration representatives presented Bill with the Wright Brothers “Master Pilot Award” in recognition of over 50 years of aviation flying experience. The award cites Bill’s record of professionalism, skill, expertise and safety record.

Bill Meadowcroft has an impressive resume as a military, corporate and private pilot plus a long time association with Jackson County Reynolds Field. Bill received his pilot’s license in December of 1946. Since Bill was only 14 years old when he started his pilot training, he needed permission from his father, George Meadowcroft. In a letter granting permission for dual instruction, George wrote: “In regards to Bill Meadowcroft, age 14, I as his father give my consent to his taking dual instruction...Also note that I would like him to have some sort of constructive work while there, in other words keep him busy.”

Bill joined the United States Air Force in 1950 where he flew a variety of combat aircraft until 1962. During his Air Force career, Bill flew the F94C, T-28, T-33 and T-34 along with the F89D, F94C at various bases including; Oxnard (California), Spence (Georgia), Tyndall, (FL), Malmstrom (Montana), Sondrestrom (Greenland) and Bird Field in Virginia.

Bill left the Air Force to pursue a civilian career and was hired by Consumers (Power) where he started the flight department, eventually building the fleet to four jets plus two helicopters. While at Consumers, Bill created a corporate flight department that valued safety and customer service. Bill’s love of flying was so great that it extended past his work hours during which he worked on building a Piper J Cub with a few modifications for aerobatic flying. Bill completed his project and continued to fly that airplane until 2011.

Bill Meadowcroft has been a longtime advocate for Jackson County - Reynolds Field playing a direct role in runway improvements, runway safety matters, and seeing that flight training continued to be offered on this field.



Bill Meadowcroft receiving his Master Pilot award at the EAA Chapter 304 Christmas party with his wife Marilyn. To Bill’s right is FAA representative Carol Callan and next to Carol is Randy Coller from the Michigan Office of Aeronautics.

AIRPORT SPOTLIGHT:

Corinne Cantwell

Diminutive Corinne Cantwell is synonymous with the Jackson County Airport Restaurant. She is married to Bob with one daughter and an energetic six-year-old granddaughter. She loves to travel and has seen thirty of the 48 states. Sometimes she vacations with her daughter's family. She also spends much of her free time with her granddaughter doing things like crafts, baking cookies, plus watching her in recitals and gymnastics.

Corinne was born in Cheboygan, MI. She started working at the Airport Restaurant in June of 1970 and has been here ever since. When asked what has kept her working here so long, she said she loves the environment at the restaurant and says her boss (Dianne Weems) has created a real family atmosphere for employees and customers alike. Her coworkers add to the sense of family and make it a comfortable place to work (with a little play thrown in).



New customers are always warmly welcomed and regular customers are greeted like old friends. In fact, in addition to a smile and “welcome”, you might get a very sincere “how are you?” from Corinne. She credits Pat Patrick and Bob Jordan as her “oldest” customers; she has served them for the entire 42 years she has worked here.

Corinne said she has seen lots of positive changes at the airport in four decades, and credited the current airport manager, Kent Maurer, with some of the more dramatic changes like Aviation Heritage Park and improvements in the terminal. One constant, however, is the customers, many of whom she describes as “characters”. (And you know who you are!)

In fact, many pilots fly into Jackson Airport just to eat at the restaurant. When restaurant patrons were surveyed last year, one of the most common comments was about the warm, family-like atmosphere and friendly service they get from staff. So the next time you're in the Airport Restaurant to enjoy the good food be sure to congratulate Corinne on nearly 43 years working in a place that feels like home.

2013 Airport Events Calendar

APRIL

Fri, April 19th to Saturday, April 20th

Annual Conservation District Tree Sale

MAY

Friday, May 17th (noon)

WWII Monument Dedication

JUNE

Thursday, 6th, 7th & 8th
Sunday, 16th

Blues Festival
MIS Race

JULY

Thursday, 11th thru 14th

Michigan Aerobatics Competition

AUGUST

Sunday, 18th

MIS Race

Additional Airport Events with dates still to be determined:

EAA Pancake Breakfast and Fly In(s) Dedication of German Fokker Aircraft
Dedication of new Airport Snow Removal Equipment Building

2012 in Pictures



Dawn on MIS racing team plane



Barn moving made the newspaper too.



Extensive pre-move preparations.



Moving the giant rock from the SRE construction site to its new home at the Dahlem Conservancy was quite an undertaking.



Installing the mounting pole in front of the terminal building in anticipation of the WWI replica airplane.



John Eiler presents keys to Gary Hess for the Pacer airplane project the EAA has completed.



Safety meeting had a great turnout.



Short Brothers Cargo plane.



Air Crane helicopter



Another great Airport tour group.



The next generation of pilots takes the wheel