

The Flight Line

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

March 2014

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

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www.co.jackson.mi.us/airport

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From the Airport Board Chair Steve Wellman

The year 2013 proved to be a year of numerous achievements coupled with the on-going challenge of the runway 7-25 safety project. In reflection, the Airport had many things to celebrate in 2013 as you may read further about in this newsletter. Highlights include progress on the runway project, additions to the Aviation Heritage Park, new businesses and a strong commitment by the staff and the airport community.

A major advancement in the runway project was made with the completion of the new snow removal equipment (SRE) building. An important related project is the remediation of the old city landfill. Once a plan is finalized, relocation of the unsuitable materials can begin, making way for construction of the new and safer runway 7-25.

The completion of “The Aviator” monument in the

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Aviation Heritage Park was celebrated with a spectacular dedication event. In addition, the Airport was the recipient of another truly unique piece of aviation art – a replica WWI German Fokker DR-1 Tri-plane.

The year 2013 ended with a well-attended joint Airport Board / Advisory Council Meeting and official open house for the new SRE building.

This summary would not be complete without recognizing the staff of the Airport for all they do. Often much of what it takes to run this airport goes unnoticed to the casual observer. I would like to say, from the Airport Board, a special thank you to Kent, Joe, Josh and Pat for all the hard work you put in every day. Much of what I have outlined in this writing is a direct result of your efforts.

Now, what lies in store for 2014?

Steve Wellman, Airport Board Chair

2014 Airport Events Calendar

<u>MARCH</u>	
Sunday- 23 rd	Dedication of German Fokker Aircraft
<u>APRIL</u>	
Friday- Saturday, 19 th & 20 th	Annual Conservation District Tree Sale
<u>MAY</u>	
Sunday, May 25 th	EAA Pancake Breakfast and Fly In
<u>JUNE</u>	
Thursday-Saturday, 5 th , 6 th & 7 th	Blues Festival
Sunday, 15 th	MIS Race
Friday-Saturday, 27 th & 28 th	Michigan Aerobatics Competition
<u>AUGUST</u>	
Sunday, 17 th	MIS Race

Trivia Question: Who likely holds the record for most years flying from Jackson County – Reynolds Field as a corporate pilot?

Answer Located Somewhere in this Newsletter

2014 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.

Runway 7-25 Safety Project Update

Completion of the new Snow Removal Equipment Facility in December of 2013 was the first concrete evidence of Runway 7-25 Safety Project construction. The beginnings of this project date back to 2001 when the first Airport Layout Plan was approved showing a new and safer runway system for Jackson County Reynolds Field. The new runway will meet FAA safety standards for runways that require 1000 feet of safety area at each end of the runway.

The next sign of construction will occur this fall when tree clearing begins. The primary areas for tree clearing will be to the east and along Maynard Road. Additional tree clearing will occur on airport land on the west side of the airport near Woodville Road. All tree clearing and pruning will be done on airport land, or on private land where the airport has purchased easement rights for the clearing or pruning.

The remaining major construction phases are: landfill relocation and earthwork in 2015; relocating the curve of Airport Road and Argyle Road in 2015; and, final runway construction in 2017.

Runway and Taxiway Incursions

Runway and taxiway safety is important due to the potential risks involved when pedestrians, vehicles and airplanes enter onto these surfaces without authorization from air traffic control officials. In the United States there is an average of three runway incursions each day, all with the potential for disastrous results. 65% of all runway incursions are caused by pilots with 75% of those being general aviation pilots.

There are three categories of incursions. **“Pilot deviations”** occur when a pilot lands, takes off or enters a taxiway or runway without proper clearance from air traffic. An **“operational incident”** occurs when air traffic clears an aircraft to land another is also landing, or when air traffic issues a takeoff clearance while the runway is occupied by another aircraft or vehicle. The last category is called a **“vehicle/driver deviation”** where a vehicle enters a taxiway or runway without proper clearance from air traffic.

Pilots, hangar owners and others associated with our airport need to be mindful not to enter into air traffic controlled areas of the airport without proper authorization. Also, please do not allow vendors or visitors onto airport grounds unless you are certain they belong. When in doubt call someone from the airport to assist. Last December an AT&T service technician arrived to do work for the FAA at the VOR transmitter station. He was allowed entry by someone who was also entering the airport and shortly thereafter crossed Taxiway Bravo without proper clearance. This incident required formal reporting to the FAA as a vehicle deviation.



Standard “Hold Short” Runway Markings



AIRPORT SPOTLIGHT: Carl Boylan Helicopter Pilot Extraordinaire

Carl Boylan was trained as a helicopter pilot in the U.S. Army after being drafted in 1967 and served as a medevac pilot with two tours of duty in Vietnam flying a Huey UH-1. Prior to his military flight training at Fort Walters, Texas and Fort Rucker, Alabama, Carl had never flown. Carl’s selection as a candidate for flight training was based on aptitude testing coupled with “volunteering” for the training. Carl left the Army in 1971 and was immediately hired by the Asplundh Company to fly power line patrol and for spraying herbicides in power line right-of-ways in a Bell 47 helicopter based in Columbus, Ohio for the next nine years.

Carl’s connections with Asplundh would soon lead him back to Michigan when Asplundh contracted with Jackson-based Consumers Energy for power line patrols. In 1979 Consumers decided to add two Bell Helicopters and then Chief Pilot Bill Meadowcroft hired Carl away from Asplundh. Carl spent the first ten years assigned to flight duties in Traverse City and then returned to be based in Jackson in 1989.

Carl Boylan’s total flight hours number 28,000 and he recently was recognized by Bell Helicopter for his number of hours and safety record while flying Bell helicopters. One of Carl’s most memorable moments was on January 24, 2006 when he and spotter Randy Kuliwhick located

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aircraft wreckage and an injured pilot in the Waterloo Recreation Area during extreme winter conditions. The pilot survived the incident and Carl and Randy were recognized by the American Red Cross for their role in this life saving incident.



Consumers Energy Helicopter Pilot Carl Boylan executing another skillful landing on the copter cart

Carl is a Jackson native and alumnus of Jackson High School. Carl is married to Julie and their blended family has five children; Chris, Geoffrey, Patrick, Jackie and Nick. Carl describes his experience with Consumers Energy as very positive because of the great people he worked with coupled with the emphasis on safety and providing good equipment.

Carl's retired from Consumers June 1st, 2013 but his retirement from flying helicopters did not last very long. He is now employed by TC Helicopters, a company that provides power transmission line patrols and services. Carl will be based here in Jackson.

Airport Board **2014 Meeting Schedule**

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at:

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

January 15, 2014	9:30 a.m.
February 26, 2014	9:30 a.m.*
March 19, 2014	6:00 p.m.**
April 16, 2014	9:30 a.m.
May 21, 2014	9:30 a.m.
June 18, 2014	9:30 a.m.
July 16, 2014	9:30 a.m.
August 20, 2014	9:30 a.m.
September 17, 2014	9:30 a.m.
October 8, 2014	9:30 a.m.
November 19, 2014	6:00 p.m.**
December 17, 2014	9:30 a.m.

*Not the regular day of the month

**Note different start time

Trivia Answer: Carl Boylan who recently retired from his position as a helicopter and Chief Pilot with Consumers Energy after 34 years with the last 24 of those years based here at JXN.

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

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

Aviation Club

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

Flight Physicals

Dr. Greg Fuller
517-784-6663

Runway Safety Areas Needed

The pilot and co-pilot of the Dassault Falcon 20 jet were landing on Runway #6 at JXN with intentions of picking up a small cargo shipment destined for Kansas City. Upon touchdown, the pilots realized the aircraft brakes were not fully functional and began to employ emergency measures designed to stop the aircraft within the paved area of the runway. Runway #6 is 5350 feet in length with a displaced threshold resulting in a net 4909 feet of useful length when landing. Runway #6 does not have a safety overrun area, ending quite abruptly with a 20' drop onto Airport Road.



Falcon 20 being towed back to the ramp

The pilots of this aircraft were very familiar with the runway designs at Jackson and were able to “leave” the runway just short of Airport Road by maneuvering the aircraft to the right (South) and onto Taxiway A. The aircraft then traveled off of the taxiway into the adjacent grassy area eventually ending up 180 degrees from the original landing orientation and back onto Taxiway A approximately 400 feet from the runway centerline. The pilots were not injured and the only noticeable damage was to four lights from the taxiway. This incident demonstrates the need for runway safety overrun areas like those designed into future Runway 7-25 that will be constructed to meet FAA safety design standards.



Falcon 20 on the ramp the morning after the incident

2014 Airport Advisory Council

James Aiello	Jim Bogie	Harold Burke
Tom Davis	David Flynn	Scott Hands
Jack Koch	Alan McCardell	Christopher Monk
George Race	Robert W. Smith	Amy Torres

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. In recent years, they have investigated the CPI adjustments to airport leases, created an Airport Marketing Plan, and assisted with completion of the Aviation Heritage Park project.

Airport Operations

Jackson County – Reynolds Field

2013	- 46,902
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

“The Aviator” Monument Dedication

“The Aviator” seems to look intently upon the U.S. Flag as it moved gently in the breeze. Bracketed by two descriptive granite monuments strategically placed in the masonry plaza all were ready for the anticipated event to begin. On Friday, May 13, 2013 the weather was perfect, the band was playing and there was a sense of excitement in the air. After four years of planning, fundraising and construction, it was time to dedicate the WWII monument commemorating the aviation students of the Civilian Pilots Training Program at then Jackson Junior College in 1939 and 1940.

An array of speakers presented their unique perspective about the importance of the monument both past and future. Airport Board members Steven Wellman and James Shotwell, Jr. bracketed the array of scheduled speakers expressing their perspectives on the monument and its impact upon the airport.

The artist and sculptor of “The Aviator” bust, Brandon Irish, described the efforts he put into trying to capture the youthfulness of the pilots who were being trained prior to WWII. The life-like bronze bust of a WWII aviator needs to be seen in person to be appreciated for its intricate detail and intensity.

Jason Valente represented Jackson College and shared his remembrances of William J. Maher and his impact upon the College Foundation and the aviation training scholarships he had financed through JCC. Future pilot Cole Dillon recited the period “High Flight” poem* that adorns one of the two granite slabs as part of the monument.

Peggy Maher, daughter of the late William “Bill” Maher, spoke of the influence on her father’s life after receiving aviation training through the Civilian Pilot Training Program and why he was so dedicated to the task of fund raising for this monument. Peggy also described what it was like to be a “pilot’s kid” and the hours and hours spent at Reynolds Municipal Field. Peggy added that pilots always seem to have more fun.

The standing-room-only crowd enjoyed a classic American lunch and then lingered long after the program ended to greet old friends, share stories, get a closer look at the additions to the Aviation Heritage Park and just enjoy the beautiful weather.

A powerful moment was created for many attendees during this dedication program when the Scream’n Rebel T6 formation passed over the ceremony area on their second pass in a “missing man” formation (*photo to the right*) while the Jackson French Quarter Band played taps.



* “High Flight” composed by Pilot Officer John Gillespie Magee, Jr., an American serving with the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Robert LaZebnik Receives Airport Board Recognition

Robert LaZebnik was honored as the 2013 recipient of the Reynolds Field Outstanding Service Award at the December 2013 joint meeting of the Airport Board and Advisory Council. An abbreviated version of the Airport Board Resolution follows:

WHEREAS, each year accomplishment of the Airport's mission is enhanced through the labors and contributions of its many volunteers and benefactors; and

WHEREAS, recently, one such benefactor has enriched the historical and art infrastructure of the Airport with two significant and noteworthy contributions; and

WHEREAS, as a lifelong community advocate, supporter of countless charitable fundraising efforts, preserver of the Jackson Automobile Company Plant, patron of the arts, and Friend of the Airport, Robert LaZebnik has significantly improved Jackson County-Reynolds Field by his generosity; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 Robert LaZebnik commissioned the creation of a large bronze statue of a World War II bomber pilot modeled after a small sculpture created in 1942 by his brother and Army Air Corps pilot, Captain Jack D. LaZebnik; and

WHEREAS, Robert LaZebnik's donation of the Bronze Statue and Fokker Aircraft have added immense value to the Airport that will remain for many decades to come, and stand as an enduring tribute to aviation's role in world history; and

WHEREAS, this World War II aviator monument now anchors Aviation Heritage Park that is visited by hundreds of people each year; and

WHEREAS, Robert LaZebnik sponsored a public WWII statue dedication ceremony on Armed Forces Day in 2011 that also honored Black Civil War soldiers bringing positive attention to the Airport; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 Robert LaZebnik commissioned and donated an original and unique representation of a World War I era Fokker aircraft now on permanent display at the entrance to the Airport Terminal Building with the goal of creating an art destination in support of airport based businesses; and

WHEREAS, Robert LaZebnik's donation of the Bronze Statue and Fokker Aircraft have added immense value to the Airport that will remain for many decades to come, and stand as an enduring tribute to aviation's role in world history; and

NOW; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Jackson County Airport Board does hereby award the 2013 "Reynolds Field Outstanding Service Award" to Robert LaZebnik for his significant contributions to the success of Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field.



Robert LaZebnik receives award from Steve Wellman, Board Chair.

The 2013 Joint Meeting of the Airport Board and Airport Advisory Council was held at the new Airport Maintenance Facility and combined the Airport's annual holiday gathering with the maintenance building's open-house that was very well attended. (Photo to the right)



Snow Removal Equipment Facility Completed

The project started almost four years ago with initial design meetings between airport staff and design experts from Mead and Hunt (Madison, WI and Lansing, MI). The design meetings were preceded by many discussions with FAA and MDOT – Aeronautics funding authorities about facility eligibility, structure size and budgetary targets. In late 2013 all of the preparatory, design and construction steps had been achieved, the Jackson County Airport maintenance facility was completed.



View from Airport Road looking West

The 12,500 sq. ft. Snow Removal Equipment (SRE) Facility replaces a similar sized facility located on Woodville Road on the west side of the airport. The old facility will be demolished or moved to accommodate construction of new runway 7-25. The new SRE facility is built to be both functional and energy efficient. The key features of this building include a smooth traffic flow for snow removal trucks; heated sand room for drying runway sand and also keeping it warm prior to application. An automatic emergency backup generator stands ready to power the facility during power outages. There was extra care taken to make the appearance of this building “fit” into its new neighborhood adjacent to retail and professional office

A special thank-you is in order to the general contracting company Garrison from Farmington, Michigan. The sub-contractors who worked on this project, many of them being from the Jackson area, also did a tremendous job of adding their expertise and talent during construction. This maintenance facility will serve the needs of JXN for many decades to come.



Interior view looking East



Wide view looking East. The high bay windows provide natural light and reduce energy usage.

(Photos by Joan Feldvary)

SRE Building Pictures



Snow Removal Equipment Building Construction



Airport view through one of the SRE overhead door windows (looking West)



Airport Road view

View from the mezzanine looking Northwest



Dedication Event in Aviation Heritage Park 2013



Lunch Served to Attendees



Period music and song presented by Phil Bickel & the Jackson French Quarter Dixieland Band

