

The Flight Line

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

March 2015

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The Jackson County Airport Board

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From the Airport Board Chair

This year marked the beginning of the Runway 7-25 Safety Construction Project after fifteen years of meticulous planning, engineering and administrative work. The steps that preceded the start of construction were both complex and voluminous requiring political support at Federal, state and local levels coupled with the expertise of numerous consulting and engineering firms. The start of this project was further complicated by the presence of the former city landfill containing soils and materials unsuitable for construction of a runway. This was a major hurdle that was overcome by the commitment of Jackson County to follow through with the funding for this project. Upon completion, Reynolds Field will be well positioned for moving aviation in Jackson County forward for many years to come.

Suffice it to say that this project has started and is scheduled for completion in 2017 resulting in a new primary runway that meets all FAA safety standards.

Continued on next page

It isn't too soon to thank the FAA Airport District Office in Detroit, MDOT Office of Aeronautics, primary planning firm Mead and Hunt, plus our political leaders in Washington, Lansing and the Jackson County Board of Commissioners for their vision and support.

Additionally, this annual report will highlight the many other airport activities and projects that were taking place at the same time as the runway project. I want to say a special thank you to the many volunteers who give freely of their time and talents to enhance the mission of the Airport including people serving on; the Airport Board, Advisory Council, Joint Airport Zoning Board, Joint Airport Zoning Board of Appeals and MIS NASCAR volunteers. I invite you to read the 2015 annual report to learn more about key events and accomplishments of your airport.

*Steve Wellman, Chair
Airport Board*



Compass Rose Project

In June of this year a cadre of volunteers descended upon the Airport with paint brushes and painters tape in hand intent on creating the first-ever compass rose for Jackson County Reynolds Field. The group was headed by Benjamin Zeffler of Ann Arbor, Michigan who was also fulfilling another of his Eagle Scout requirements by virtue of this project. Benjamin was assisted by his mother, Marie Zeffler who coincidentally is a member of the Ninety-Nines, an organization of women pilots with a mission of advancing aviation. The layout and coordinates for the compass rose were laid out by Al Scheppleman of Ripstra and Sheppleman, Jackson, MI who graciously donated his time and expertise.

For the non-pilots who might be reading this, a compass rose is used by pilots to calibrate their aircraft compass by parking their airplane on the compass rose and comparing true north with magnetic north. Approximately 25 volunteers worked through the day to tape, paint and mark the compass rose. Many thanks are in order to the Zeffler's and the volunteers who helped.

Ornathopter Lands at JXN

Jackson County – Reynolds Field has another unique outdoor aviation display. The reproduction of an “ornathopter” designed by Leonardo DaVinci has taken its place among many other unique aviation displays at JXN. This work was possible because of the generosity of Bob LaZebnik and the talents of metal working artisans Bob Riske and Stan Riske supported by many friends. The finish coating was completed by Herb Battenberg of Herb Enterprises and the aluminum was donated by Alro Steel.

The ornathopter is made from aluminum including the rope that binds the wings and other key components together. The rope is the result of many hours of winding small strands of aluminum wire together into a larger diameter to create a better representation of the DaVinci design.

The Airport Board formally thanked Bob LaZebnik for donating the piece at the December Joint Airport Board-Advisory Council. Bob has previously commissioned and donated the bronze WWII Army Air Corp pilot statue along with the German Fokker DR-1 aircraft of similar construction to the ornathopter.



In Memoriam

At the time of publishing this newsletter and annual report, a dear friend and supporter of Jackson County - Reynolds Field passed away. Earl E. Scott passed on March 3, 2016 at the age of 86. Earl was, for many years, the President of the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 304 and an avid airplane builder.



Airport Board Presents Annual Awards

It has become a tradition for the Airport Board to present awards recognizing individuals, organizations and businesses that have contributed to the success of the airport. This year's awards were presented at the Joint Airport Board – Advisory Council meeting in December at the EAA Chapter #304 meeting room. The following awards were presented:

Letters of Appreciation were presented to **Earl Scott** for his leadership of EAA Chapter #304 and **Joan Feldvary** for her volunteer photography work in support of the Airport.

Outstanding Contributor Awards were presented to **Harold Burke, Allan McCardell, Jack Koch** and **David Flynn** for having served on the Airport Advisory Council for ten or more years.

The Outstanding Service Award was presented to **Experience Jackson** for many years of support to the airport in various forms. Experience Jackson has provided welcome wagon services to arriving Michigan International Speedway passengers, provided expert staff to assist in development of the Airport Marketing Plan and provided grant support for illumination of several outdoor airport display pieces.

Executive Director **Mindy Bradish-Orta** and Marketing Director **Jennifer Chronkhite** were present to receive the award from Airport Board Chairperson Steven Wellman and Advisory Council Chairperson Amy Torres. The award is presented in the form of a framed resolution and plaque with an additional permanent plaque on display in the awards area of the Airport Terminal Building.

Earl opened the EAA Chapter building almost every morning to work on his airplane along with assisting on the projects of other members. Earl was an enthusiastic supporter of the Jackson County Airport and recently received Airport Board recognition for his many contributions. Earl was well liked by everyone and will be missed by all.

Deer Culling

After two aircraft-deer collisions in August of 2014 it became evident that additional measures were necessary to minimize the hazard that deer were presenting. The deer herd inside of the airport fences had slowly increased over the past three years along with their feeding and movement habits, moving close to the runway system.

Five years ago it was unusual to see deer out in the open during the day and certainly not in the numbers that were being observed during 2014. Fortunately, the two deer-airplane incidents resulted in minimal aircraft damage and no injuries. The Airport Board and Board of Commissioners approved additional funding to hire a professional deer culling firm to remove the herd.

The tally was 29 deer killed during January of 2015. The deer culling firm was Aaron's Wildlife Management and the Beef Barn processed all of the deer for donation to area food banks. The cost of the processing was paid for by a grant from Hunters for Hunger.

Airport Business Profile

Richmond Brothers, Inc.

The newest business to land at Jackson County – Reynolds Field is Richmond Brothers, Inc., an independent Registered Investment Adviser. Formerly located in the outskirts of Napoleon, Michigan, Richmond Brothers purchased the former Consumers Energy hangar/office building and spearheaded an extensive renovation. The resulting modern office space enhances the performance, health and wellness of its team and in turn helps the firm provide better service to its family of clients. Richmond Brothers was founded by brothers Dave and John Richmond in 1994 in order to make a difference in the lives of others. Today, the company continues to serve under the guidance of President Dave Richmond with co-owner and Senior Vice President, Matt Curfman, by providing peace of mind and inspiration to over 700 clients throughout the U.S. through wealth management and financial planning services.

Dave Richmond, MSFS, CAP®, ChFC®, CLU®, President, is married to Stephanie and they have two children, Taylor and Hunter. Dave serves on the Board of Directors for The Lingap Children’s Foundation and is also on the Siena Heights Board of Trustees. Dave’s thoughts have been highlighted in many national publications including, but not limited to: The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, MarketWatch, Fox Business, and CNN Money. He enjoys reading, sports and anything competitive. Dave is a licensed general aviation pilot. He believes that being located at the airport and eventually acquiring a business aircraft will help their company grow in unique ways.

Matt Curfman, CFP®, Senior Vice President, serves on the board for the Jackson YMCA and is Group Leader of Jackson County Connections, a quickly growing networking group for Jackson area business professionals. He enjoys being active, whether playing tennis, working out at the Y or running/biking outdoors as well as spending time with his fiancé, Jason, and their dogs, Parker and Cooper. Matt was featured in Jackson Magazine’s “30 And Under” Class of 2009 and has contributed to articles in USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, and MarketWatch, among others. Profiles of the rest of the Richmond Brothers team can be seen at www.richmondbrothers.com.



Dave Richmond



The newly renovated hangar #205, now home to Richmond Brothers, Inc.

Trivia Answer: All are true.

Runway 7-25 Safety Area Project Begins

After 1.5 decades of discussion, planning, informing, investigating and hoping; Phase I of the Runway 7-25 Safety Area Project (RSA) started on October 28, 2015. The sole purpose of this project is to correct the runway safety deficiencies in current primary runway 6-24. Starting in 2000 a number of options and alternatives for correcting the absence of 1000' of safety area at the runway ends were explored by committee appointed by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners. The best alternative presented during that process was to construct a new primary runway, runway 7-25 and decommission the current primary runway 6-24.

There have been many instrumental partners in the 7-25 RSA construction project at the Federal, State and Local levels of government coupled with the expertise of many consulting and engineering companies. Suffice it to say it has been a long journey accentuated finally by the sound of heavy equipment beginning to move mountains of earth and materials.

The primary companies working on Phase I are: M & M Excavating – Gaylord, Terra Contracting Services – Kalamazoo, Mead and Hunt – Lansing (Madison, WI), Envirollogic – Kalamazoo, SME – Plymouth and Somat Engineering – Taylor along with many excellent sub-contractors.

The current construction project will go well into 2016 and the final phase of construction is programmed for 2017 when new runway 7-25 will be open for business. By that time contractors will have moved, trucked, compacted and graded approximately 1,000,000 cubic yards of earth and material plus installed several miles of new fence; relocated a road corner; and paved a new runway and taxiway. The new runway will meet all FAA standards and will meet the needs of the greater Jackson area for decades to come. [See photos on page 8.]

Illumination of Outdoor Displays

Thanks entirely to a very generous grant from Experience Jackson three outdoor displays at the airport are now illuminated with modern LED lighting systems. The displays included in this project are: The Aviator and WWII Army Air Corp Pilot in Aviation Heritage Park and the German Fokker located in front of the Terminal. The contractor for this project was YES Electric, Jackson, MI.



*Photos by
Joan Feldvary*





Airport Business Plan Being Developed

At the request of the Airport Board, the Airport Advisory Council has initiated the first steps of creating a business plan for the Airport. The Advisory Council has previously created an Airport Marketing Plan that will serve as a guide to the business plan.

The first task is to interview several key airport based businesses about the nature of their businesses and how the airport might assist in their future success. The businesses queried in this process so far were; Skyway Aviation, Airport Restaurant and Spirits, AVIS, Jackson College Flight Center/Solo Aviation, Jackson Aero and Richmond Brothers Inc.

The document establishes the current state of the airport from a financial standpoint; makes recommendations for future economic and capital improvement strategies; and will serve as a transitional guide for future organizational changes. The draft document will be presented to the Airport Board for review and eventual adoption and then be presented to the Board of Commissioners.

Trivia Question: Which of the following statements about the T-33 aircraft that is on display at the front entrance to the airport are true?

- A. This T-33 was manufactured 60 years ago in 1956
- B. This T-33 was based at Peterson Airforce Base in Colorado and assigned to Major General Michael Joseph Ingelido.
- C. The actor Jackie Cooper took a ride in this aircraft from Colorado to California.
- D. This T-33 was moved here by EAA Chapter 304 from Grayling in 2001.

(The Answer is located somewhere in this newsletter.)

2016 Airport Events Calendar

APRIL

Friday, April 15th
& Saturday, April 16th

Jackson County
Annual Tree Sale

MAY

Sunday, May 29th

EAA Pancake Breakfast

JUNE

Thursday, June 2nd
Friday, June 3rd
Saturday, June 4th
Sunday, June 12th

Blues Festival
“
“
MIS Race

AUGUST

Sunday, August 28th

MIS Race

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-Budget
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/>



Lights, Camera, Action....

Perhaps for the first time, Jackson County Reynolds Field was the primary location for a commercial film shoot. Last June we welcomed a film crew for the production of the movie *Lifestone Velocity*.

Crystal Creek Media www.crystalcreekmedia.com entered into a special use agreement with the Airport Board to use several locations at the airport to shoot the movie *Lifestone Velocity*. The scene above was shot in the terminal lobby.

Lifestone Velocity is an upcoming family movie that is a coming of age story about a young aviator. The Airport plays a key location as a fictional airport in the film's story. Producer Kristina Kaylen said, "The airport was beautiful, especially at sunset. We couldn't have done this project without Reynolds Field!"

The movie is currently in post-production and more information can be obtained at these links:

<http://www.lifestonevelocity.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/lifestonevelocity>

2016 Airport Board

Airport Rules, Standards and Board Policies Updated



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

It is not exciting work, but nonetheless a necessary task. Utilizing the collective talents of the Airport Advisory Council, three existing documents were reviewed and updated this year including: Airport Minimum Standards for aviation related businesses located at the airport; Airport Rules and regulations that apply to anyone located at, or using the airport grounds; and the Airport Board Policies that provide decision guidance in a broader sense.

Many thanks are in order for the diligence of the Advisory Council in completing the task of first-reviewer of these documents. The Airport Board approved final drafts.

Moving the Landfill



Pre-construction meeting with representatives from the airport, the FAA, the various contractors, DEQ and more.

One scoop at a time...



Nearly half way at 90,000 tons removed.