

The Flight Line

Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field Newsletter

Editor: Amy L. Godfrey

October 2010

FALL 2010 ISSUE

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An Updated Airport Website

The County of Jackson has been busy updating systems and implementing new technology. One of these updates consists of renovating the County website. We are now using a new system, called Revize, to manage our web pages. This also gives the Airport the opportunity to manage a lot of their own site as opposed to having the County of Jackson IT Department take care everything.

Most of the same information that could be located on our old website is still available on our new website. However, some of the navigation buttons and other materials have been updated, hopefully making it more streamlined and user-friendly for our patrons. You can review airport agendas and minutes, check out business located at the Jackson County Airport, find out about airport employees, look for helpful links and forms, view airport events on the calendar provided, read The Flight Line, and so much more! As always, there is also a section for airport-related sale and rental items. If you have a hangar or aircraft for sale, call the office and we will assist you by listing it on our website so that it will be made available to more potential buyers and/or renters.

The website is under construction, so there will still be some minor additions and changes. However, it is up and running and you should check it out! The website address is the same: www.co.jackson.mi.us/airport.

Thank you. We hope you enjoy it!!

**The next Flight Line issue will be the 2010 Annual Report which will be released in December or January.*

JXN Aviation Services Directory

JXN Airport

3606 Wildwood Avenue
Jackson, Michigan 49202
Ph: (517) 788-4225 Fax: (517) 788-4682
www.co.jackson.mi.us

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

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/>



Ambulance Company Comes to Airport

Soon, the sound of ambulance sirens will join those of helicopters, airplanes, trains, and automobiles at the Jackson County Airport. The Jackson County Airport Board and Jackson Community Ambulance have entered into a 15 year agreement to convert ¼ of the Trybe Building (the east bay) into a 24-hour ambulance office. The agreement calls for immediate improvements to the entire building coupled with construction of an addition that will serve as crew quarters. The total building improvements are in excess of \$100,000 and the ambulance company will pay a monthly lease starting in the fourth year. The special use of this building was approved by MDOT-Aeronautics and the FAA under the Concurrent Use provisions of FAA regulations for non-aeronautical use of land and/or buildings.



West side of Trybe Building



East side of Trybe Building where Jackson Community Ambulance will be housed and construction will take place

Air Traffic Control Services Funding

Air traffic control services are provided by a private contractor, Midwest Air Traffic Control Inc., within the FAA's Contract Tower Cost Share Program. The funding for air traffic control services is shared between the FAA and the County of Jackson on an 85 to 15 percent ratio respectively. In order to receive funding, airports must undergo a benefit-cost analysis by the FAA which studies several criteria including the number and type of landings and takeoffs. The analysis establishes the "benefit" of air traffic control services with reduced aircraft incidents and that figure is then weighed against the actual cost for providing these services. The resultant formula ascertains the amount of funding for which the airport is eligible.

The challenge for the County of Jackson is that in times of extreme economic hardship the local costs have inflated significantly from \$55,000 annually in 2007 to \$63,000 annually in 2010. Recent appeals to the FAA by the Airport for funding assistance have not been fruitful. It is not expected that airport operations (the number of landings and takeoffs) will increase a significant extent which would help to increase funding. While the 2009 operations increased by 10 percent over those in 2008, the current year-to-date data indicates a decrease of approximately 10 percent from last year's improved numbers. The local costs for air traffic control services represent 13 percent of the airport's total operating budget which creates a significant financial challenge for the County of Jackson.



View of Air Traffic Control Tower from Ramp



View of Air Traffic Control Tower from EAA Ramp

Additional Runway Direction Signs

When the Runway 14-32 Safety Area project was completed, it became evident based on the feedback from pilots that some additional runway/taxiway signage was necessary. Additional "hold-short" and "directional" signage would permit the future Runway 7-25 intersection to be opened to aircraft to use as a turn-off when landing on Runway 14-32. This intersection is currently barricaded from aircraft use. Improved signage was also needed at the intersection of Runway 24 and Taxiway "D" as well as at the "C" and "D" Taxiways intersection.

The signs that were ordered have been funded by a grant from the MDOT-Aeronautics Bureau. They have already arrived and have been installed by airport staff.



Josh Clamon on airfield installing new Runway directional signage



Josh, Airport Technician, working on installing more directional signs

Airport Community Profile:

William J. Maher

Aviation has been a large part of Bill Maher's 90 plus years. Born in 1919, this Jackson native has been an icon around Reynolds Field for over 70 years. Bill received his pilot's license in 1940 as part of the Federal Civilian Pilots Training Program (CPT) from what was then the Jackson Junior College and completed his secondary and flight instructor's ratings at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. In 1942, he served as a flight instructor in Janesville, Wisconsin for the U.S. Army Glider Pilot Training Program and the following year was training U.S. Navy officers to become naval flight instructors at Purdue University.

From 1944 to 1946, Bill served with the China National Aviation Corporation (CNAC). CNAC is the airline that pioneered flying the "hump," a route through the Himalayans from India to China, to supply equipment and fuel to the Flying Tigers, the 14th Air Force, and the Chinese Army. He flew 70 missions in C-47 and C-46 transport aircraft. Bill recalls that there was little advanced planning for these 500 mile trips from Dinjan, India to Kunming, China. Frequently, his notice of a new mission was to be awakened in the middle of the night by the Chinese Commander. The most common cargo carried was 8 drums of gasoline and 12 boxes of black powder. The trip over the Himalayans required flight elevations of 14 thousand feet to clear the first ridge and 16 thousand feet over the second ridge. The return trip required an elevation of 18 thousand feet for clearance of the mountain range.

Here at JXN, Bill Maher has supported general aviation for many decades. Bill is a longstanding member of the Jackson Community College Flight Program Advisory Board and recently spearheaded a successful fundraising campaign for a monument to honor that program. Bill sponsors a flight training scholarship for three JCC Flight program students annually.

Bill has also piloted for Zantop Airways (1946 – 1955); started Air Package Corporation (1959); was the corporate pilot for Midway Supply Company (1959 – 1985); and, piloted several personally owned aircraft including a Beech Twin Baron, Twin Comanche, Pitts S2A, and Cessna T-210. He recalls his only "close call" in an aircraft happened during his time with CNAC when, due to weather, he became trapped in the Himalayan valleys. He survived by flying the C-47 through the narrow valleys until reaching safety.

We are pleased that JXN is home to Bill Maher and are extremely grateful for all of his support over the years. For more information regarding Bill, visit <http://www.cnac.org/maher01.htm>.



Bill Maher (1943)



Bill Maher (2001)

Runway 7-25 Safety Area Project

The Runway 7-25 project is moving along at a steady pace and according to plan. Significant progress is evident in land and easement funding and acquisitions, preliminary design of the Airport/Argyle Roads corner, preliminary design of a relocated snow removal equipment building, and environmental assessment of the landfill.

An additional 1.5 million dollars of funding for property acquisition was awarded by MDOT-Aeronautics (FAA State Block Grant funds) in May of this year. This latest grant award completes the funding needed to acquire all easements and land purchases needed for Runway 7-25. The total funding for this component of the project is approximately 3.5 million dollars.

The Jackson County Road Commission has approved a preliminary new road design for the Airport and Argyle Roads intersection. This corner is currently a 90 degree curve and will be greatly improved with the redesign. The airport now owns all of the land that will be required to complete this project. Construction should occur within 18 months.

Within the next year, architects will design a new snow removal equipment (SRE) building because the current facility located on Woodville Road is situated on the future taxiway for Runway 7-25. The size of the replacement building is determined by FAA guidelines that factor in runway type and length, average amount of annual snow fall, area of critical pavement that requires clearing, type and size of snow removal equipment needed to clear the snow from critical areas, and the size of building required to store that equipment. Non-snow removal equipment such as lawn mowers, tractors, etc. is not eligible for storage building funding from the FAA. The replacement SRE building will be approximately the same size as the current one and will be located on Airport Road north of Wildwood Avenue on the airport's east side.

The runway 7-25 project faces an environmental challenge because it will be constructed across a former landfill area. Some of this challenge was met recently when the Jackson County Brownfield Authority awarded a \$48,000 grant for environmental assessment of the landfill area impacted by runway construction. The investigating company is Envirollogic Technologies of Kalamazoo, Michigan. They will perform soil borings and test pits to determine types and quantities of landfill materials impacted by the project. This work will be completed during 2010.

Conclusion of Airport Special Events

The end of the airport's special event and activity season was signaled when the last Michigan International Speedway NASCAR team jet aircraft departed on August 15, 2010 from Jackson County – Reynolds Field. This past season featured the usual events including: the Blues Festival; EAA Pancake Breakfast; IAC International Aerobatics Competition; Hot Air Jubilee; and, two MIS NASCAR racing events. A new event was added this year by the Airport Restaurant and Spirits called the "Pilot's Picnic" on the first Friday of each month from June through September. Picnic-type cuisine was offered starting at 4:00 p.m. and a special discount was given to the pilot of any aircraft flying in for the event. Next year, the Hot Air Jubilee will not be held at the Jackson County Airport. This has been a wonderful airport event and we wish them the best of luck at their new venue!



Hot Air Jubilee



Individuals getting ready for a ride in the B-25

B-25 in flight



Aircraft parked during MIS NASCAR race weekend

