

The Flight Line

Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field Newsletter

Editor: Pat Mills

June 2011

2011 Spring Issue

The Jackson County Airport Board

Steve Wellman, Chairman
Commissioner David Lutchka, Vice Chair
Thomas Davis, Secretary
Commissioner Jim Shotwell, Jr.
Commissioner Carl Rice, Jr.
Adam Brown, County Administrator – Controller

(517) 782-7261
(517) 522-4596
(517) 782-7163
(517) 787-4106
(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	Aviator Statue Dedication
2	A Half Century in Business – Skyway Aviation
3	JXN Aviation Services Directory
4	The Flying Feldvarys
5	Airport Marketing Plan
5	In Recovery
6	2011 Upcoming Events
7	EAA's Tri-Motor Event
7	Runway 7-25 Safety Project
8	Airport Tours
8	Magnum Recycling
8	Future Flight Line Registration
9	Wiley Gets a New Home
9	Aviation Heritage Park Enhancement
9	Invitation to Join Us

Army Air Corp Aviator Statue Dedication

In 1943 a 13 inch figure of a pilot was sculpted by the late Jack D. LaZebnik. Jack graduated from Jackson High School, attended Jackson Junior College, and was studying at the University of Michigan when he enlisted in the US Army Air Corps.



Lieutenant LaZebnik served as command pilot of a B-24, flying 23 missions from Italy before the war ended. He returned to the University of Michigan and then studied at the Sorbonne in Paris. LaZebnik became a published author, poet, and a teacher at Penn State University and later at Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri.

Continued on page 3

A Half Century in Business - Skyway Aviation

1961 to 2011

In 1961 many important events occurred: John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as President; current President Barak Obama was born; Alan Shepard made the first U.S. space flight; and Skyway Aviation opened for business.

Founder Robert Jordan negotiated his first operating agreement with then Airport Manager Don Weisbaum as a result of the following interaction between the two gentlemen in December of 1960: Bob Jordan was about to give dual instruction to a student in a Cessna 140 here at JXN because of poor field conditions at the Napoleon Airport, where Bob normally gave instruction. Mr. Weisbaum approached Bob and told him that he could not give pilot lessons here unless he had an operating agreement. In Bob's words, "The challenge was on." And he proceeded to meet the requirements of becoming a Fixed Base Operator at the then Jackson City Airport.

By July of 1961, Skyway Aviation had acquired an instructional airplane, a twin engine aircraft for charter service, a Piper dealership, a Piper Colt, and a Cherokee 150 for rental, sales and instruction. The biggest challenge in starting the new business was finding sufficient capital. Local business man Walt Michner came through with financing support until 1963 when Skyway Aviation was financially secure enough to obtain conventional loans. The business soon grew from the original 2 airplanes and 2-employee operation to one of 15 airplanes and 17 employees. The heart of the operation was air taxi service for area businesses plus offering a significant freight service for the automotive industry.



Bob Jordan's move into the aviation business was motivated by his love of flying. Recalling what Reynolds Field looked like "back then", Bob described it as looking like a farm with two runways, two taxiways and a small aircraft ramp located in front of the current Airport Administration building (circa 1934). Bob Jordan also farmed or pastured feeder cattle grazing on the north

Bob Jordan is quick to mention that his early success was due to the help of many others including; George Mitchell, Howard Horning, Jr, Norma Ostrander, Don Wephal, Russ Noble, Bill Purdy, Bill Maher, John Smith, Boyd Vass, Paul Eddy, Paul Johnson, the Sheffels', and many more.

For the past ten years Skyway Aviation has been operated under the watchful eye of current President, Ben Jordan with brother Joe delivering pilot services. The business provides full fueling, ramp, cargo charter and hangar services to the Mid-Michigan area.



Skyway refueling one of the many aircraft based at Jackson County- Reynolds Field



On the far left Ben Jordan in 1979 magazine article.

Thank you for supporting the following aviation related businesses located at The Jackson County – Reynolds Field Airport.



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/>

FAA Flight Physicals

Dr. Greg Fuller
517-784-6663
gfuller@doctor4u.com

The 8.5 ft. tall bronze statue was created from the original 1943 LaZebnik marquette by Kalamazoo sculptor Joshua Diedrich.

Josh Diedrich comes from Trenton, MI and entered the adult program at the Kalamazoo Institute for the Arts at age 14. After attending the University of Michigan, he moved to France to work at the Vaugel Sculpture Academy in the Loire Valley. Josh joined the faculty at the Kalamazoo Institute in 2005. Currently, he spends his time between Kalamazoo and southwest France where he trains students and specializes in figure, portrait and animal sculpture in bronze.

The concrete sidewalk and foundation for the statue were donated by O'Harrow Construction of Jackson.



On May 21st an Armed Forces Day ceremony was held at the Jackson County Airport to honor military veterans and to dedicate the new bronze aviator statue at the Jackson County Airport's Aviation Heritage Park.

The event included several speakers who addressed a crowd of around 200. In addition to several dignitaries who spoke honoring the military, past and present, Jack N. LaZebnik, a West Point cadet and grandson of the original artist, unveiled the statue.

Click on the following link to see a video of the statue's unveiling.
<http://www.co.jackson.mi.us/Agencies/airport/media.asp>



US Sen. Carl Levin and other Armed Forces Day event speakers.

The Flying Feldvarys

The Feldvary legacy of flying started over 80 years ago when Lou Feldvary, a farmer and pilot, acquired a cow pasture airport and slowly grew his aviation business to 16 airplanes, a dozen instructors and 150 students. Six of the 150 students were women, one of which became Mrs. Lou (Eve) Feldvary and they remained married for 63 years. Mr. Feldvary enlisted as a cadet with the Army Air Corps early in WWII. Mr. Feldvary continued his career as a pilot and completed a 35 years career with Eastern Airlines.

LIKE FATHER - LIKE SONS



Lou Feldvary

Later, both of Mr. Feldvary's sons, John and Lou, would follow in Dad's footsteps as pilots, both achieved the rank of Captain for Piedmont Airlines (later U.S. Air). John flew commercially for Consumers Energy (Power) prior to joining Piedmont and is now retired from U.S. Air and his brother Lou is still flying international flights for U.S. Air. John and Lou occasionally flew commercial flights side by side in the same airplane during their careers.



John and Lou Feldvary



John Feldvary's Babe



Lou Feldvary's C-172

Today brothers John and Lou Feldvary are "side by side" again, this time in neighboring hangars that they own located here at JXN. Similarities continue because both own and pilot vintage T-6 aircraft. John has been flying his T-6 for about 12 years and Lou has just recently acquired his T-6. John is a member of the Scream'n Rebels T-6 precision flight formation team that donates their time, talent and aircraft for flyovers at many community events annually.

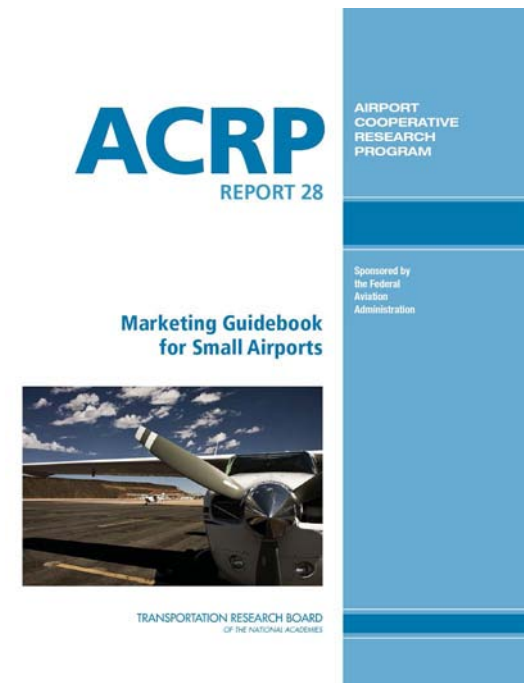
When asked if either ever imagined they would own hangars and similar aircraft at the same airport, John replied: "Never in a million years." Lou's permanent residence is in Roanoke, Virginia. John is married to Joan and they have two children and four grandchildren. Joan quickly points out that she soloed in an airplane before John. Lou is married to Nancy and they have two children.

Airport Marketing Plan

A concerted effort is underway to develop a “marketing plan” for the airport. The Advisory Council has been charged by the Airport Board with developing a marketing plan for the airport this year with the goal of determining cost-effective marketing strategies that will enhance the future of the airport and airport-based businesses.

The first step in this process was to invite representatives of airport based businesses to the table. The other steps include identifying the airport’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; brainstorming marketing strategies; surveying tenants and customers and then distilling all of that information into goals and objectives.

The draft marketing plan is scheduled to be completed no later than October of 2011 with implementation during 2012. The Advisory Council is utilizing a recent publication by the Transportation Research Board as a blue print in this self-guided process.



In Recovery

On Sunday, May 8, 2011, this Cessna 210 with the pilot and one passenger on board landed “gear up” on runway #24. Neither occupant of this aircraft reported any physical injuries and the pilot explained that he forgot to put his landing gear down. This was a pleasure flight originating at Willow Run Airport to JXN for breakfast.



The photo below shows the recovery effort using the airport’s front end loader with a special boom apparatus. The effort is guided under the watchful eye of Tim Stark of Jackson Aero.



After the aircraft is hoisted into the air, Tim enters the cockpit to cycle the gear down. The aircraft is then towed to Jackson Aero awaiting inspection by the FAA and coordination with the insurance company and owners regarding repairs.



Upcoming Airport Events

Blues Festival

(Front lawn of the Airport.)

<http://jazzthug.tripod.com/SDP/JBFest.html>

Thursday, June 2, 2011

6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Friday, June 3, 2011

5:30 p.m. to midnight

Saturday, June 4, 2011

3:00 p.m. to midnight



EAA All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast Fly In, Car Show and JCC Flight Center Open House (EAA/JCC Hangar)

<http://www.eaa304.com/>



EAA Ford Tri Motor Display and Rides (Terminal and Main Ramp)

<http://www.airventuremuseum.org/fordtrimotor/>



EAA Aerobatics Henry Hague Competition (EAA Hangar and Over the Airport)

<http://www.iac88.org/>



EAA Chapter #304 Sponsors Ford Tri-Motor Visit



Members of the public can purchase a ride on this airplane on July 5th or 6th by coming to the Terminal Building at Jackson County Reynolds Field. The tickets cost \$60.00 each. Also consider purchasing a ride for that special aviation enthusiast in your life.

On July 5th and 6th Jackson area residents will get a rare opportunity to see or ride in a Ford Tri-Motor aircraft. This vintage aircraft was developed by Henry Ford after WWI because Mr. Ford recognized the potential for the emerging market of traveling by air. The airplane was designed with three engines to overcome concerns of engine reliability.

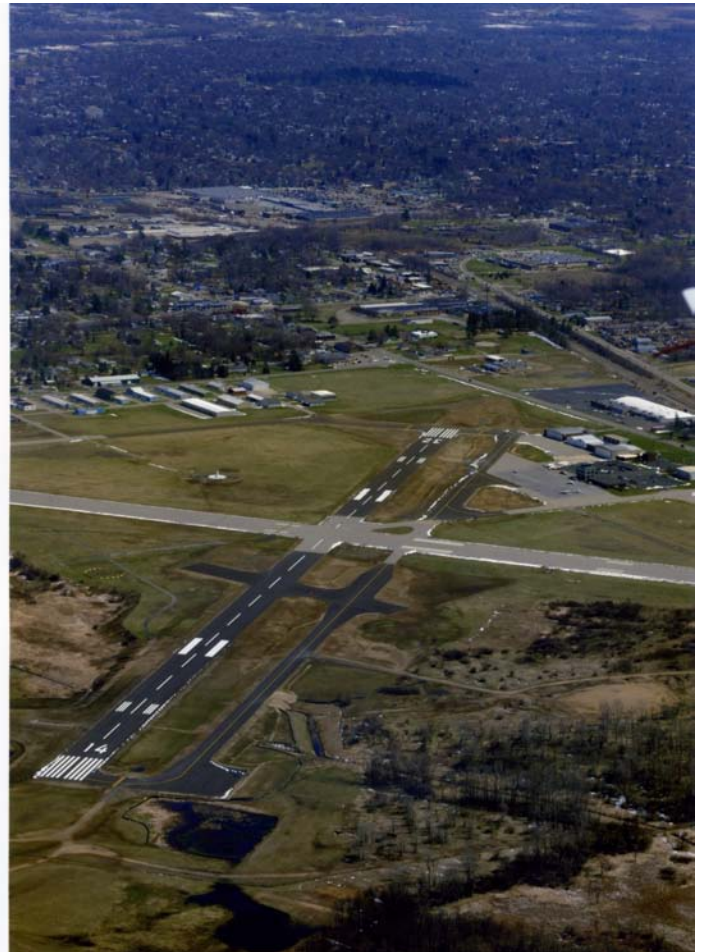
Ford built 199 Tri-Motors from 1926 to 1933 and the EAA Tri-Motor that will be on display at JXN was number 146, rolling off of the assembly line on August 21, 1929. A full history of this particular aircraft can be viewed at the following link:

<http://www.airventuremuseum.org/fordtrimotor/>

Runway 7-25 Safety Project on Course

The Runway 7-25 Safety Project is methodically inching toward the construction phase, the first signs of which will be the new Snow Removal Equipment building in about one year. The list of property and easement acquisitions left to be settled is very short and could be completed during 2011. A delineation of the landfill area impacted by this project was completed and that data will be considered with preliminary engineering soil borings later this year.

The Runway 7-25 intersection has already been constructed and is pictured in the photo to the right.



Airport Tours

Each year hundreds of individuals, mostly children, tour the airport grounds and facilities. This is only possible because of the cooperation of the Air Traffic Control Tower staff, Airport Restaurant, EAA Chapter #304, JCC Flight Center and airport administration. The following article was written by Brooklyn Elementary School after a recent "reward" tour of the JCC Flight Center.

Brooklyn Students' Excitement Soars With Visit to Airport

Children from Columbia's Brooklyn Elementary earned a special reward for their accomplishments during March, Reading Month, a visit to Jackson Community College's Flight Center at the Jackson County Airport.

"The whole school participated in Reading Month in March," said Debra Powell, Brooklyn Elementary principal. "We wanted to do something special for the winners, so the top two from each class are getting this special trip to tour the airport flight center."

The theme for Reading Month was superheroes, so learning about flight seemed a perfect fit, she said. The students were eager for a chance to visit the airport, and that spurred many on to build up points during reading month.

Jeff Fisher, Director of Aviation Technology for JCC, treated the 25 top readers in kindergarten through fifth grade to a tour of JCC's airplane hangar and let each one take a turn sitting inside one of the college's Cessna airplanes. They also had the chance to go up into the airport tower and look out over the airport and horizon. "We think this was a really great way to get the youngsters involved in reading," Powell said.



Mike Bartholomew telling students about JCC's airplanes.

Magnum Recycling

The runway 7-25 safety project has necessitated acquisition of easements and houses. Three of the houses acquired for this project were located on Maynard Street near Boardman Road. Two of the three houses were moved to new locations.

The house (and garage) pictured below were moved to a location near the Lowe's store and required relocation of power and utility wires.



Future Flight Line Issues Registration

If you want to be notified when future issues of this newsletter are published, follow the link provided below which will take you to the County of Jackson home webpage. Enter your email address, click the search button, check the boxes next to the newsletters you wish to receive, then click save.

http://www.mygovhelp.org/JACKSONCOUNTYMI/_cs/MCOptInOut.aspx?sSessionID

If you don't wish to have the newsletter sent to you via email, you can also periodically check the Airport web site at www.co.jackson.mi.us/airport to view our quarterly newsletter. The airport is no longer able to mail the newsletter in printed form or maintain a separate email list for newsletter distribution.



New Home for Wiley

The statue “Wiley” has been on duty in Aviation Heritage Park since 2007. Unfortunately, the constant exposure to the elements will eventually cause Wiley to lose his youthful appearance. Therefore, Wiley was recently moved from his former location (pictured to the left) to make way for the WWII statue donated by Bob LaZebnik. Wiley will be refurbished by original artist Carol Kent and placed on display inside the Airport Terminal Building for all to enjoy.

Aviation Heritage Park Enhancement

A second WWII monument sculpture has been commissioned to artist Brandon Irish and will be completed later this year. This original piece of art will combine a bronze bust of a WWII pilot mounted atop a granite pedestal surrounded by a large circular display area. The monument commemorates the role the “Jackson Junior College” played in training future WWII pilots in the Civilian Pilot Training Program in 1929 and 1940 and honors the students, many of whom fought in WWII and died.

A concept for three dimensional landscaping has been presented by the artist, Brandon Irish that would enhance the area surrounding the display area. The three dimensional “phase II” of this concept is not yet funded and is being offered for discussion and feedback. The photo to the right is of the diorama that Brandon created to communicate his concept.



Please join us in celebration of Skyway Aviation's 50th anniversary on Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at 9:30 A.M. at the EAA hangar at the Jackson County - Reynolds Field airport.

