

The Flight Line

Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field Newsletter

Jackson, Michigan

Editor: Pat Mills

March 2016

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The Jackson County Airport Board

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www.co.jackson.mi.us/airport

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From the Airport Board Chair

It is an honor to offer words of welcome to the 2016 Airport Annual Report. By way of introduction, I have served on the Airport Board since 2012 (Secretary) and prior to that was a member of the Airport Advisory Council. I am a retired U.S. Airways Captain and prior to that was a pilot for Consumers Energy. I currently own a hangar and aircraft here at JXN. It is my love of aviation and desire to see this Airport succeed that motivates my interest in serving on the Airport Board.

As you read this Annual Report you will soon realize that it focuses on the Runway 7-25 Phase I Safety Project. Phase I construction was the first of two phases that will total approximately \$32 million dollars. This project has been called the largest public improvement project by Jackson County government with \$49 million invested in all project

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components since 2005. The importance of this project will be detailed in articles that follow, but suffice it to say that this highly complex project involved years of planning and thought.

The political support at federal, state and local levels has been at a high level and sustained for over 15 years. The efforts of professional administrators, engineers, planners and associated staff are also deeply appreciated.

This is my first year as Airport Board Chairperson and I am filling the office vacated by Steve Wellman. Steve left the Airport Board after serving on the Airport Board for 14 years with the last 13 as the Chairperson. Steve has dedicated countless hours providing strong leadership and vision during his tenure. His “retirement” was due to being relocated for half of the year in Florida and it is an understatement to say that he will be missed. I look forward to serving in my new role on the Airport Board.

*John Felduary, Chair
Airport Board*

A Monumental Discovery

This large piece of concrete was unearthed in 2016 during construction of future Runway 7-25 on the east side of Jackson County – Reynolds Field near the intersection of Airport Road and Argyle Street. A photo of this piece of concrete appears on the right. There were several theories about the original purpose of this concrete object, none of which were correct.

The photo on the left was taken on June 3, 1928 during dedication ceremonies of Jackson’s Reynolds Municipal Field. Annette Reynolds, daughter of Airport land benefactors Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Reynolds, is pictured unveiling the dedication plaques mounted to a large poured concrete monument that also served as a foundation for the flag pole. After closer examination of the concrete slab found in 2016 it was determined that the concrete slab was in fact the original monument and flag pole base from 1928. This historical discovery was made in 2016 by Craig Draper, Engineer Tech for Mead and Hunt.



Airport Board Presents Annual Awards

Each year the Airport Board recognizes individuals, businesses or organizations that have made special contributions to the success of the Airport during the previous year. This year most of the awards presented were related to the Phase I runway 7-25 Construction Project. Steve Wellman, Airport Board Chair and Amy Torres, Advisory Council Chair shared the honor of presenting these awards.

The following individuals received a Reynolds Field Contributor Award for their efforts during Phase I Construction:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Craig Draper	Mead and Hunt
Ben Hoover	Mead and Hunt
Tom Ward	Mead and Hunt
Bob Leisenring	Mead and Hunt
Dan Kehoe	Mead and Hunt
Desmond Kirkland	Commonwealth Associates
James Aiello	Commonwealth Associates
Amanda Hopper	MI Office of Aeronautics
Betsy Steudle	MI Office of Aeronautics
Bob Nash	M & M Excavating

A significant component of the Phase I Construction Project was excavation of a large section of landfill and these companies received the Reynolds Field Contributor Award for their diligent work:

SME (Plymouth, MI)

Envirologic (Kalamazoo, MI)

The **2016 Reynolds Field Contributor Award** was presented to Richmond Brothers, Inc., a company that recently located at the Airport and has demonstrated excellent corporate citizenship during their first full year at JXN by hosting a number of charitable and aviation related events.



The Yankee Airforce B-25 staged outside of the Richmond Brothers Hangar during the Michigan Humanities Council event honoring the Tuskegee Airmen.

JXN Pilots' Lounge Improvements

An important feature for airports is to have a “pilots lounge” that is accessible 24 hours a day. Frequently, corporate pilots need a comfortable place to spend their down time waiting for the next leg of their trip. At other times private pilots can be weathered in or awaiting aircraft repairs at an airport and need a place of refuge.

JXN has had a pilots lounge for about twenty years, but it lacked a very important feature, a restroom. That deficiency was corrected during 2016 when County of Jackson capital improvement funds became available to install a restroom in the pilots' lounge located on the ground floor of the Air Traffic Control Tower building.

Additional amenities were added including new drywall with fresh paint and coffee bar area with a sink and cabinet storage. The architect for this project was Jason Covalle of the Covalle Group, Jackson, MI with O'Harrow Construction of Jackson, MI completing the project.



NOTE: The pilots' lounge at JXN is operated by a joint agreement between Skyway Aviation and the Airport Board. Skyway rents the pilots lounge from the Airport and provides interior furnishings and general janitorial service. The Airport has committed to having this area remain as a 24-hour public pilot's lounge, providing the utilities and any major capital improvements.

Trivia Question: With Runway 6-24 closing on May 1st, 2017, how many years was that runway in service?

- A. Less than 35 years.
- B. 97 years.
- C. 75 years.

(The Answer is located somewhere in this newsletter.)

2017 Airport Events Calendar

APRIL

Friday, April 14th
& Saturday, April 15th

Jackson County
Annual Tree Sale

MAY

Sunday, May 28th

EAA Pancake Breakfast

JUNE

Thursday, June 1nd
Friday, June 2nd
Saturday, June 3th

Blues Festival
“
“

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/>

Aero Investors Flying Club
<http://www.aeroinvestorslc.com/>

Airport Profile – Josh Clamon, Airport Maintenance Technician

Josh started with Jackson County Airport in 1999 and was hired full time in 2000. He was promoted to Maintenance Technician in 2003. But there is much more to Josh than just his impressive skills at keeping equipment, machinery and airport buildings in top shape. He can be found at the airport any time day or night when there's a problem or if there's snow to be plowed.

Josh has two beautiful daughters who keep him on his toes. And he is an avid hunter and also enjoys snowmobiling and ice fishing. This year he's added a Great Dane puppy to his family – joining a cat and a tiny poodle. [Never a dull moment at the Clamon house.]

Josh is a vital part of a team that keeps dozens of buildings, miles of runway, acres of mowing and plowing under control at the Jackson County Airport.



2017 Airport Board



Members from left to right: seated are John Feldvary, Carl Rice, Jr. and standing are James Shotwell, Jr., Tom Davis and Rodney Walz. Not pictured: Mike Overton, County Administrator.

Josh repairing one of the 400 lights and signs that make up the runway and taxi way light and sign system.

The Landfill Project

In 2001 the first official Airport Layout Plan was approved and all parties were aware that new runway 7-25 would cross a large section of a former landfill area located along Woodville Road on the west side of the Airport. The landfill became the proverbial elephant in the room. Initial environmental investigations and delineations began in 2007 with the goal of identifying the scope and type of materials that were buried and ultimately relocated to a certified landfill site.

Starting in November of 2015, the excavation and hauling away of the landfill materials began and as one might expect, there were surprises both positive and negative during excavation and hauling. The positive surprises including managing all of the leachate (any ground water having contact with landfill materials) on site through the creative use of leachate ponds aided by evaporation and seepage into landfill areas that were not to be excavated. Another positive was encountering a minimal number of hazardous materials that required assessment and special handling. Given the 20 plus acre site excavated from six to sixteen feet below grade, the costs for hazardous materials had the potential of being much more substantial.

The negative surprises were minimal. Excavation and environmental crews did encounter hundreds of old water heaters containing asbestos requiring special disposal techniques. A trio of barrels was encountered that contained a very hazardous industrial liquid that warranted special disposal along with incineration of the surrounding soils costing in excess of \$60,000 in disposal costs. The weight of the materials per ton were a little higher than anticipated with the 200,000 in-place cubic yards of landfill materials excavated weighing in at 260,000 tons for an average of 1.3 tons per yard.

Many thanks are owed to the firms of Envirologic, SME, Mead and Hunt, and M & M Excavating for their creative and cooperative efforts to remove the elephant from the room.



Gravel haulers lined up waiting to be loaded



Loading the trucks

[Trivia Answer: C. 75 years]

DIRT HAULING

Suitable fill dirt for this project was located by the contractor just 2 miles away in the northwest corner of Glasgow Road and Michigan Avenue. It was fortuitous to find dirt at this nearby location considering the number of trucks and drivers that would be required if the dirt was located farther away.

The primary focus of the Runway 7-25 Phase I project was to bring the ground west of Runway 14-32 up to the proper grade. The first task was to fill the void left by excavation of the landfill and that amounted to approximately 200,000 cubic yards of fill dirt dumped and compacted. The next task was to excavate the wetland and muck areas down to solid ground and fill those areas up to grade. Lastly, the future runway, taxiway and service roads needed to be established along with the correct drainage systems.



The total yards of dirt hauled in from the borrow site was 560,000 cubic yards, all hauled by single bottom gravel haulers.

Approximately 27,000 loads of dirt were hauled into the airport from Glasgow Road. With a round trip of 4 miles, the trucks traveled well in excess of 100,000 total miles in order to complete the task.

In this photo trucks are loaded at the borrow site.

Steve Wellman Receives Reynolds Field Outstanding Service Award

Airport Board Vice Chair and Board of Commissioners Chair James Shotwell Jr. had the honor of presenting the 2016 Reynolds Field Outstanding Service Award to Steve Wellman. Steve has served on the Airport Board for fourteen years and as Airport Board Chair for the past 13 of those years. Steve has been active in the EAA Chapter 304, volunteered to give over 100 children their first “Young Eagles” airplane ride and served on the Jackson College Advisory and Flight Fund Committees. In short, Steve Wellman has dedicated his time, talent and leadership skills to the betterment of the Jackson County Airport for many years. Because of that dedication, he is this year’s recipient of this prestigious award. Mr. Shotwell presented Steve with an Airport Board Resolution and award memento. Steven has decided to retire from the Airport Board due to relocating half of the year in a warmer climate.

