

***Merrill Field,
a proud tradition
of serving Alaska***



***Providing over
79 Years
of Service***

MERRILL FIELD BULLETIN

Current News About Your Airport

*Merrill Field Airport
800 Merrill Field Drive, Anchorage AK 99501*

*December, 2009
www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm*

H2H: Seward to Glenn Highway Project

The purpose of the Highway-to-Highway (H2H) project is to improve mobility and access for people and goods using the arterial connection between the Seward and Glenn highways. These improvements are necessary for reducing congestion and improving travel efficiency, creating better neighborhood connections, reducing crashes, and enhancing multimodal connections.

The environmental review process takes about four years. It began in spring of 2008, and the environmental review document is scheduled for completion in 2012. The process includes many opportunities for public input. If an alternative is selected that requires design and construction, then construction would be anticipated to start no sooner than 2013.

Alternatives are different options that could meet the project's purpose and need. Included in the full range of Corridor Alternatives are two options that could impact Merrill Field, the Orca and 15th Avenue alternatives. The project team is now screening the full range of alternatives and in early 2010 (February-March), three reasonable alternatives will be selected. The final decision on routes (alternatives) will be made in the Record of Decision (ROD), which is anticipated in 2012.

The H2H team will be making a presentation at the next Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission meeting on January 7, 2010. For more details about this community project, please visit www.highway2highway.com or call the Airport Manager's Office, 343-6303, for Commission meeting information.

Will Luebke plows forward

For over 15 years, Airport Maintenance Technician, Will Luebke, was instrumental in keeping Merrill Field operational; however, you may have noticed his familiar face is no longer seen around the airport. Will had an opportunity to apply his skills in a new environment and recently accepted a position with the State of Alaska. The high quality of grounds and facility maintenance and runway repair work accomplished by Will made a significant impact on the appearance and safety aspects of Merrill Field. We are fortunate to have had Will's expertise and experience, and we hope our tenants join us in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors.

Seasonal Snippets

Ski operations only on snow-groomed surfaces, please

Runway 04/22 is closed to aircraft without skis (no wheel operations) during the snow season. Whiskey taxiway and Whiskey aircraft apron are also closed to wheel operations; wheel aircraft operations can create ruts which make for a rough ride for ski-equipped aircraft. To prevent ruts from developing on the surface, vehicles are also restricted from operating in the Whiskey apron during the snow season. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Raven Reminder

Please remember that leaving dumpster lids open and overfilling trash cans is considered a bird attractant and is a violation of Anchorage Municipal Code. Remember to: 1) be on the alert for raven activity during this winter season, 2) do your part to discourage raven activity, and 3) promptly report damage to the Airport Manager's Office, 343-6303. We appreciate your assistance.

Keep your engine warm

Merrill Field offers approximately 135 tiedown spaces with electrical service. The electrical outlets in the tiedown spaces are protected by a circuit breaker which will allow for a medium size engine heater (maximum 1500 watts). If your electrical outlet does not have power, the circuit breaker may have been tripped due to an overload. Always make sure your engine heater or other equipment does not exceed 1500 watts and that all cords are in good condition. If your outlet is not working, please contact the Airport Manager's office so that we can check the circuit breaker or determine if there is another problem.

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission meetings are open to the public and held the first Thursday of every other month. Please call 343-6303 for additional information.

Meeting Dates:

Jan 7, Mar 4, May 6, Jul 1

Commissioner Term Exp.

Tony Follett, Chair	10/14/12
Rick Davis, V Chair	10/14/11
Dick Armstrong	10/14/12
Don DeVoe	10/14/10
Kimball Forrest	10/14/12
Erin Marston	10/14/10
Jim Powell	10/14/11

Statistics

Operations:
Dec 08 – Nov 09: 162,069
2009 Based Aircraft: 902

*The Airport Manager's Office Staff
and Airport Maintenance Crew
Wish you a Joyful Holiday Season
and a Prosperous New Year*

Airport Commission Seats Filled

The Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commissioners are dedicated volunteers who donate their time reviewing airport procedures and making recommendations to the Administration and the Assembly on airport operations. In October, the Assembly confirmed Mayor Sullivan's reappointments of Dick Armstrong and Tony Follett and the appointment of Kimball Forrest to the Airport Advisory Commission. Their interest in and dedication to municipal airports are great contributions to the Commission's endeavors.

This Commission meets the first Thursday of each odd-numbered month. If you want to learn about current issues at your airport, please plan to attend. For meeting location and agenda information, call the Airport Manager's Office at 343-6303.

What's Happening at Merrill Field

This year (2009) Merrill Field Projects:

- Completed Phase 4 and Phase 5 of our Aircraft Apron Reconstruction project. This multi-phased apron project corrected settlement and drainage issues within existing aircraft aprons located along Taxiway Quebec.
- Completed reconstruction of the Charlie South Aircraft Apron. This project corrected settlement and drainage issues within the existing aircraft apron located along Taxiway Charlie.
- Completed replacement of two Taxiway Barrier Gates. This project installed two new barrier gates at the intersections of Taxiway Golf and Merrill Field Drive and at Taxiway Quebec and Merrill Field Drive.
- Completed upgrades to the existing public address (P.A.) system. This project upgraded and expanded coverage of the existing system which is utilized to convey warning notification from MRI ATCT to vehicles and/or pedestrians when they inadvertently approach the movement area.

Other 2009 projects in and around the Airport:

- *State of Alaska 5th Avenue/Glenn Highway expansion project* – Completed
- *AWWU 800 feet of Sewer Main Rehabilitation project* – Completed
- *Chugach Hangar Addition (Leaseholder Owned)* – Completed
- *Stoddard's New Retail/Hangar Facility (Leaseholder Owned)* – Completed
- *ML&P Main Conductor Replacement* – Completed
- *AFD Fire Training Facility Upgrade* – In Progress
- *UAA Building Demolition & Remodel (Leaseholder Owned)* – In Progress

Planned 2010 Airport Capital Improvement Projects:

- Rehabilitate Runway 16/34. This project includes new pavement, lighting, navigational aids, striping, safety area improvements, storm drain and taxiway repairs. Runway 16/34 will be closed for 3 to 4 months.
- Rehabilitate Taxiway Quebec. This project includes dynamic compaction, gravel fill, storm drain, new pavement and edge lighting from Merrill Field Drive to Taxiway Golf. The taxiway will be closed for 3 to 4 months and will require numerous aircraft moves on both the north and south sides of the taxiway. A temporary taxiway parallel to Taxiway Quebec will be provided within the aircraft apron during construction.
- Acquire Snow Removal Equipment. This project includes the replacement of two wheel loaders and a sweeper/vac truck.

A Note of Thanks

As 2009 comes to an end, our construction activities for this year are shut down for the winter season. To all pilots, leaseholders, business owners, and tie-down customers – thank you for bearing with us as we maintain and improve Merrill Field. We are very appreciative of your patience and understanding.

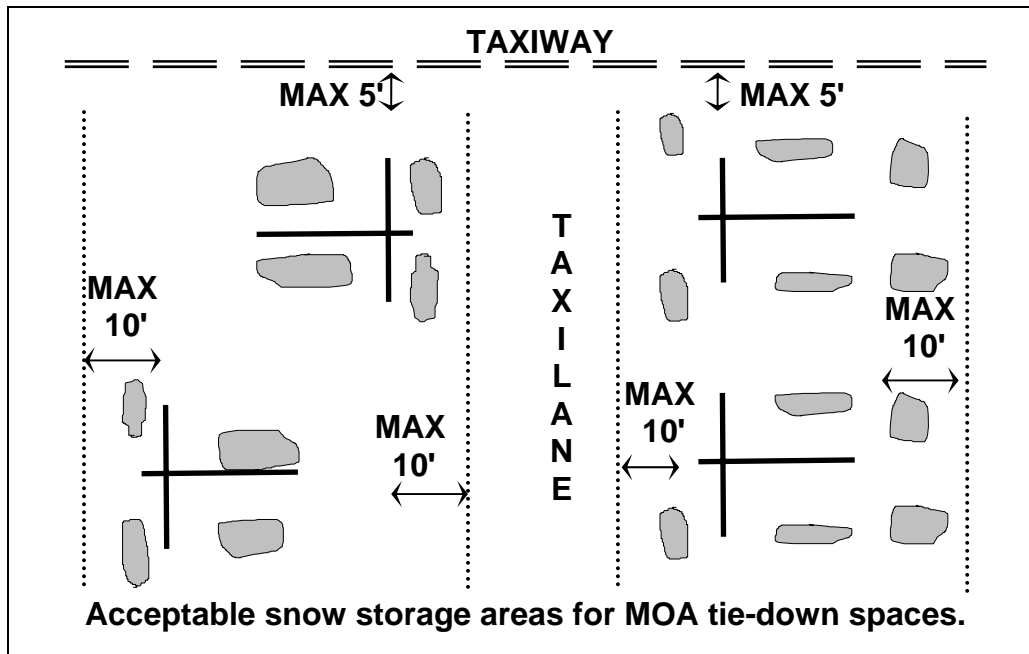
New Taxiway Barrier Gates help reduce incursions

The new cantilever style barrier gates at Taxiways Golf and Quebec are designed to reduce the number of Vehicle/Pedestrian Deviations (VPD). So far this year, the number of VPDs has been held to four (4). That's still four too many, but this is an improvement over the numbers recorded in previous years.

Please continue your efforts to monitor the gate you use when entering or exiting the air operations area. This will help ensure someone unfamiliar with the airport does not "tailgate" and inadvertently cross a taxiway or runway causing a VPD. Thank you for your continued assistance with our efforts to prevent unauthorized runway crossings--safety is our priority.

Snow Storage Procedures

Each year the Airport Manager's Office staff is frequently asked, "Where should I put the snow?" To keep the taxi lanes open, please store snow in the designated areas of your tiedown space as shown below. Snow stored in front of or behind your aircraft will be removed when the taxilanes are cleared. **Municipal Code prohibits the dumping or relocating of snow onto or across taxilanes, taxiways, runways, or airport roads by any persons except Municipal employees.** As always, the objective of our Snow Removal Plan is to have the Airport runways open and functional as soon as possible after a new snowfall.



"Roy Dickson, 1930s Alaska Bush Pilot"

"Roy Dickson 1930s Alaska Bush Pilot" is the title of a book recently released by Dorothy Dickson McLaren and Roy Dickson, Jr. Fortunately, Roy's wife, Ethel, recorded these first-person stories during his lifetime. Dickson - based at Merrill Field from 1934 to 1941 - was a prominent pioneer who flew for McGee Airways, Woodley Airways, Star Air Lines and founded Bering Sea Airways. The book is a 250-page overview of characters and happenings in the far reaching outposts of Alaska with 60 unique photos and illustrations. A companion DVD of Roy's Alaska movies is also available. For information, visit www.alaskabushpilot.org or phone 770-719-4349. Books may be purchased locally at Alaska Aviation Museum, Once in a Blue Moose Gift Shops and Mosquito Books.

Shop at Merrill Field for all occasions

Don't panic about picking up that last minute gift for the aviator on your list. Many Merrill Field businesses offer gift certificates for everything from Avionics to Zulu time converters and all sorts of accessories in between. Thanks for supporting Merrill Field vendors.

Merrill Field Airport Bulletin, Published Quarterly
Merrill Field Airport, 800 Merrill Field Drive
Anchorage, AK 99501-4129
(907) 343-6303, fax (907) 276-8421
e-mail: merrillinfo@muni.org,
website: www.muni.org/merrill1/merrill1.cfm
David A. Lundeby, Airport Manager