



**PALATKA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT**  
**Lt. Jasper Kennedy "Kay" Larkin Field (28J)**

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**NEWS LETTER**

October 15, 2008

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**"CITY OF PALATKA breaks ground  
on New Terminal Building and other improvements...!"**

*Pardon our dust, we are under construction...!*



\*\*\* On August 27th, in grand fashion, we officially broke ground on the new terminal building, new t-hangars, Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS III-P/T), Taxiway Bravo rehabilitation, and many other improvements directly related and embedded within these projects. Through the collaborative efforts of both City and Airport staff and event sponsors of Seminole Electric and Georgia Pacific, a celebration emerged filled with much fanfare and fortunately, perfect weather. The ceremony

ended with a smoking aerobatic team flyover salute, which added the most appropriate finale.

The audience, estimated to have been at least 75 people, included state and local dignitaries, contracting and engineering representatives, past and present Airport Advisory Board members, Airport tenants, Airport customers, and citizens of Palatka. With Mayor Karl Flagg presiding, the ceremony featured several speakers.

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Keynote speaker The Honorable Congressman John Mica of the U.S. 7th District spoke of improvement projects he had promoted in the past and referenced his working relationship with former City Manager Allen Bush and other local leaders, praising their vision. The Congressman remembered our namesake, Lt. Jasper Kennedy “Kay” Larkin, and with Kay Larkin’s very image resting at the foot at the podium, he continued to explain that through teamwork and effort, changes have materialized to improve the airport, its infrastructure, and promote the local economy.

Recently retired City Manager Allen Bush provided a historical perspective of the airport and compared operations of the past with present day. Andrew Holesko Program Manager/Senior Consultant with Passero Associates, our Airport consultant and engineering firm, detailed each of the projects and explained the tedious planning that precedes the start of their construction.

We would like to express our appreciation to everyone who participated and helped plan and organize this historical event. We would like to express additional thanks and acknowledge all of the speakers: The Honorable Congressman John Mica, 7th U.S Congressional District; Michelle Barth, Regional Director for U.S Senator Bill Nelson; District 2 Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation Charles W.

Baldwin; Michael Stewart, Director of External Affairs for the Jacksonville Aviation Authority; Putnam County Board of Commissioners Vice-Chair Nancy Harris, The Honorable Karl Flagg, Mayor, CITY OF PALATKA; the Reverend Ken Johnson, Palatka Municipal Airport, Airport Advisory Board; and Passero Associates Andrew Holesko.



We encourage you to come out often to note the continuing progress of these various improvements as construction on all projects proceeds. To refresh your memory, here again is the list of projects:

JAX 18 Construction of St. Augustine has begun on the pavement considerations for the new terminal building. This will include the new vehicle parking lot, access road, landscaping, drainage improvements, and the aircraft apron that will adjoin the new terminal building. Then AJAX Construction, Inc., out of Ocala will come in and make their mark with the all inclusive, state-of-the-art, 4,035 square foot new terminal building itself, additional landscaping, the new highway road sign, and a fixed rest room facility at the fuel farm. Hashman Construction of Jacksonville is building the new hangars and Anderson Columbia of Lake City will be here for Taxiway Bravo pavement rehabilitation, which also includes improvements to adjoining specific aprons, various airfield drainage improvements, and the AWOS III with precipitation and thunder detection.



We urge all visitors to keep abreast of activities and check for NOTAMs daily. Portions of pavement will be in and out of closure as construction proceeds.

\*\*\* Several months ago, 28J based commercial tenant Bud Clark, owner/operator of Trickworx Inc., launched an initiative to host a monthly gathering for pilots, Airport tenants, and the community. On the fourth Saturday of every month, you will find some rather impressive goings on in and around Commercial Hangar "A".

Completely sponsored by Bud Clark of Trickworx and a host of many volunteers, these successful events have become known as the *FLY IN Breakfast at Palatka* and in addition to the walk-in visitors, they draw a crowd of more than thirty aircraft consistently.

Bud's recent September 27<sup>th</sup> event was another huge success. However, it quickly turned out to be a bit more challenging when an additional 25-30 airplanes surprised us from Daytona's Spruce Creek fly-in community. The pattern quickly filled up with smoke streaming aircraft and entertained the crowd. The ramp became packed with a nice variety of homebuilt and manufactured aircraft and enthusiastic aviators who generated a nice morning session of "hangar flying." Bud and helper Arlin Brewer and their families somehow found a way to feed the additional attendees and they raised almost \$300.00 dollars in donations for Cub Scout Troop 411. Thank you Bud and Arlin. Job well done!

For more information on the Bud Clark *FLY IN Breakfast*, please contact Trickworx at 904-874-4408. To our knowledge, the next event is scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\* **Skydive Palatka's annual "Hog Flop" is just days away...!** Beginning October 30<sup>th</sup>, Skydive Palatka will host their huge annual event that draws skydivers nationwide. Running October 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, November 1<sup>st</sup>, and November 2<sup>nd</sup>, this family event has grown in magnitude and included such participating aircraft as the historical Douglas DC-3, the military CASA, the Irish Skyvan Shorts, Cessna Caravans, fleets of Beech King Airs, and various assortments of helicopters. This year's "Hog Flop" will feature the Shorts and the Caravan. And as with any other day in their operations, you are always welcome to ride along as observers, for a nominal fee, of course.

You are invited to come be a part of it, as either spectator or participant. This is a family fun day at your Airport, so bring the kids and some lawn chairs and enjoy yourselves. Skydive Palatka has been known to host a smorgasbord of entertaining and dining activities in addition to the Skydive related ones during this event. We anticipate Saturday and Sunday will be the days of days to be here. So clear your calendars and plan to have a good time at the Airport.

We urge all aviators to exercise extreme caution during the days of this event, as there will be an increased number of skydivers in free fall over Palatka. Be aware of increased aircraft activity aloft, taxiway adjacent vehicle and aircraft ground traffic, and ...watch out for the spectators. Blue Skies...!

\*\*\* **Pilot Shop News...**

The new 2009 FAR/AIM has arrived and is available for inclusion into your aviation library. This is the ASA Federal Aviation Regulations & Aeronautical Information Manual and comes with a purchase price of only \$13.83. Additionally, if you haven't replaced your expired VFRs, we also now have the new editions of the Jacksonville, Miami, and Atlanta Sectionals.

We carry a variety of aeronautical charts and publications and you'll find them all priced below their suggested retail. So consider us for all of your charts and publication needs. And remember, if we don't carry the chart you need, we can get it for you, overnight if needed.

The 2009 FAR/AIM...and the new area Sectionals are now available at Palatka Municipal Airport.

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\*\*\* The *Airport Advisory Board* will hold its next **regularly scheduled meeting** on Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, in the terminal building at the Airport. The time has been changed to 2:00 pm and duration expanded to 5:00 pm to accommodate exclusive and lengthy discussion on the Master Plan Update.

As a reminder, the *Board* meets on the first Wednesday of *every month* at 12:00 noon. This is the regular schedule. However, please make a note that the time may change to accommodate continuing discussions as we move forward into the Master Plan planning and review process. All meeting dates and times are posted in the terminal building in advance of every meeting.

All *Airport Advisory Board* meetings are open to the public. We encourage your participation and your attendance is welcomed.

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This concludes the October *NewsLetter*. And as always, if you have any questions or if there is anything we can do for you, please feel free to call.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Donna S. Franklin*  
Airport Business Operations Supervisor