



PALATKA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
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NEWS LETTER

April 15, 2006

*** **Airport Security:** Regulations set forth by the United States Department of Homeland Security following the terrorist events of September 11th, 2001 directed us to "...re-secure all interior buildings' entries and perimeter access entries by general means of redesign" and to "... maintain continued security on an 'on going' basis...". Additional measures recently adopted by the Florida Department of Transportation led to additional requirements that every Airport must comply with to ensure continued licensing and grant funding. We met these requirements some time ago and are proud to have led the charge.

Regardless of our size or level of operation, our continued security is something we take very seriously and there is no room for negotiations on our choice of preventative methods, security control, and countermeasures.

We do not need mandates or directives from government entities to recognize an obligation to provide continued security and to protect our tenants and facility users from a known situation or a potential compromise. We call this pro-active countermeasures.

Having said that, an area we recently looked at is continued building security and continued security of our t-hangars. After careful consideration of various application, including the turnover of past Airport Staff and past hangar tenants since 2001, I recommended to the Airport Manager and to the City Manager that we revisit the directives from 2001 and take an initiative to "...re-secure all interior buildings' entries by general means of redesign". This suggestion was readily adopted with very little conversation. The consensus was that it would be a miscarriage of security not to.

As such, many on field buildings have been re-keyed. And...in an unprecedented sweeping upgrade...*our entire line of t-hangar security locks is being replaced.* To ensure continued on site security, the existing locks will not float. It would be a greater miscarriage of security to remove them from one operational area just to locate them to another. The existing t-hangar locks will be removed from the Airport in whole, all of them.

Since our previous choice of t-hangar security counter measures proved sufficient and very secure, the profile of these new t-hangar locks shall remain consistent. As with the existing line, the new line shall provide means to "track" individual security assignment. The lock provided is the only lock authorized to be on your hangar. Passage shall be independent, meaning one key will open its corresponding lock and no other. A single master key shall remain on file within our present key control measures.

These new specially designed t-hangar security locks were ordered mid March end and are projected to take several weeks to be built and shipped. A future announcement will inform you of their arrival and implementation.

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Glenn and I applaud the City for recognizing only the highest levels of continued Airport security. This drastic upgrade to the security of our building entries may come as a surprise to you but perhaps it is better interpreted as an indication of our commitment to *your* security on this Airport.

*** Reminder folks... the first **FLY-IN** of hopefully a string of many to come.... **April 22, 2006**...that's next Saturday, here, at *your* Airport. In co-sponsorship with Palatka Downtown Main Street Inc., Palatka Municipal Airport invites you to come one...come all...fly in or drive in. We welcome your participation and invite you to lounge around and swap tall tales and hangar stories. Greet old friends... meet new friends. As I mentioned last month, the time is 9:00 until around 2:00. But as with any event, the activity often dictates the end time. I have been told that Sonny's BBQ will be catering the event. To RSVP or for more information, contact Glenn at 386-329-0149.

*** The *Cheap Shameless Plug*: Today's *Cheap Shameless Plug* is announcing the arrival of a cute and colorful little addition to our line of availables. The **Plane Babies** have landed! These huggable loveable plush toys flew in here under the radar and have become so popular that they are pretty much departing the same way.

The **Plane Babies** came to us as a request of a seasoned, veteran pilot looking for something for her little co-pilot...her grandson. It didn't take long to discover these little darlings and one can't help but become attracted to their adoring appeal. In fact, the first fleet of **Plane Babies** made it no farther than out of the box and onto the desk. They're departure was rather abrupt.

The **Plane Babies** are ideal for your little ones, the next generation of aviators and next generation of aviation enthusiasts. Even adults are finding them the perfect "just because" gift as they are a perfect reminder of you. We warn you now though, this is a one-time offering. When they are all gone, that's it.

You'll find the **Plane Babies** residing in our case and priced below their suggested market retail, making it that much easier to pick one up for the co-pilot in your life.

This concludes the *Cheap Shameless Plug* and it didn't hurt as much as you thought it would, huh.

*** I lied. We're not done. Clear your calendars again folks...! Today's second *Cheap Shameless Plug* is announcing Palatka's **18th Annual Blue Crab Festival**. You don't know what you are missing if you aren't in downtown Palatka over this Memorial Weekend. That's May 26, 27, 28, and 29. That's right folks: the riverfront...four full days of this special event. I could spill the beans and tell you newbies what it's all about. But I won't. I will say this though: From Arts & Crafts to Ski Shows to the Midway to the seafood and more seafood and into the late night Entertainment Tent with such past headliners as country music's award winning *LoneStar* and 80's rockers *Starship*...we have a reputation for our string of festivals and this Blue Crab thing...it's the biggest and the best. And what better backdrop than our beautiful American Heritage St. Johns River. Crowds top over 200,000. That ought to tell you something but...go ahead...ask around...go ahead...we want you to.

This concludes the *Cheap Shameless Plug* and this time I really mean it.

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*** **Thank you Sun-n-Funners...!** Hear tell the second largest international fly-in held annually in Lakeland last week was its usual big drawing hit. I get a little pumped this time of year. I know for eight to nine days every April, we are going to get slammed and we love every minute of it.

Half of our tenants fly down (usually all at once and on the same day), but besides the constant parade of every make of aircraft, the constant ground traffic jams on every ramp and intersection, including the fuel farm (another *Cheap Shameless Plug*), and of course, the unexpected colorful character that always shows up, a special thing for me is to greet and give a hug to all you folks who keep coming back to us and have been coming for all of my years out here. We must be doing something right. You choose us and we want to say thank you. It's great to see all of you that come to us this once a year from far and wide. You hit us on your way down and hit us on your way back. It is our pleasure to be your pit stop every year. And I gotta tell you...Sun-n-Fun for us just wouldn't be the same with out each of you. And welcome to the numerous new comers as well. Our Sun-n-Fun traffic is on the rise and I for one, certainly hope to give you a greeting and hug ten years from now as well.

We thank all of you for stoppin' in and we'll see you next year. "Blue skies to all".

*** The removal of trees from the FDOT's Highway 100 west southern right of way and the removal of select timber from various scattered spot locations continues. To refresh your memory, this was step number one in recapturing 1000' of existing pavement surface length on Runway 17/35.

*** On behalf of the CITY OF PALATKA and the Airport Staff, we would like to draw your attention to the 2006 April edition of the *Southern Aviator*. Your Airport, Palatka 28J, is very nicely featured in this national publication. For those of you not on their mailing list, we do carry this magazine in the terminal building and are encouraging our own *Cheap Shameless Plug* as we invite you to share in our pride.

*** **New Terminal Building update:** Thank you Mr. Boyd Thompson, Director of Operations for *Ride Solution*, City of Palatka Public Bus Transportation. This may seem irrelevant but it very much goes in hand here. Part of the City's vision for this Airport being an inland hub of transportation would be to consider multiple ports of various transportation elements.

As I mentioned last month, to achieve our new terminal building as it presently stands designed, we must secure unprecedented funding. The good news is that the funding is available...if you know what you are looking for and how to sniff it out.

Mr. Boyd Thompson recently drafted a formal letter announcing his intention to provide an Airport to Palatka bus connection, three times daily. What this does is integrate the Airport terminal into the CITY OF PALATKA's multimodal transportation hub and...and...it provides instant available funding to the tune of several million dollars for transportation infrastructure development.

Our relationships are strong and we had little doubt that multi funding participation would define itself. The multimodal is another one of those funding sources we were sniffing out. For all appearances, it would seem that our efforts are coming together nicely as we just might have managed to secure all of the funding required to build the new terminal as it presently stands designed, pavement considerations included. Scaling down may no longer be necessary.

As I've said, the "new look" of *your* Airport is coming. The City is looking forward to this new terminal building, a facility that will greatly enhance the Airport's business presence while providing multiple services to the community. It is our intention to include as many features as funding allows. We will chase every penny we can sniff out because this is it. This is our one chance to define who we are and stand ourselves out from the crowd. Again, I invite you to join us in the excitement of every planning detail because you won't have this opportunity for another forty years.

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*** Phase II of the field rehabilitation Capital Improvement Project (CIP) is *still* in progress. As we have discussed in the past few NewsLetters, the project was delayed by the revelation of structural deficiencies in the subsurface drainage system underneath Taxiway Alpha. The Change Orders for this inclusion have been adopted by all agencies as follows:

Order#1 will replace 1,550 feet of drainage conveyances and pipes, joint funding participation between the Federal Aviation Administration, The Florida Department of Transportation, and the CITY OF PALATKA. That's 95% federal, 2.5% state, and 2.5% local.

Order #2 will replace 435 feet of drainage conveyances and pipes, joint funding participation between The Florida Department of Transportation and the CITY OF PALATKA. That's 80% state and 20% local.

Although active progression was stalled, we ask you to renew your awareness of "go again" construction. Be aware of barricades and construction vehicles on or in the vicinity of active pavement. I urge you to keep abreast of activities and check for NOTAMs daily. Portions of pavement *will be* in and out of closure.

The above change order totals represent a price tag of \$ \$226,950.00 for Airport drainage improvements, now included in this Phase II CIP. This quarter of a million dollars additional upgrade brings Phase II to a \$ 1.6 million dollar capital improvement, joint participation between the Federal Aviation Administration, The Florida Department of Transportation, and the CITY OF PALATKA.

*** The ***Airport Advisory Board*** will next meet on Tuesday, April 25th, 5:30 pm. These meetings are open to the public. We encourage your participation and invite you to come. To my knowledge, the meeting will occur at the Airport.

This concludes the April 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

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