



PALATKA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
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NEWS LETTER

August 15, 2006

*** **The FLY IN of August 12th...was an absolute smash...!** Airport staff put efforts together to make this a community event and the public turnout was fantastic. At its peak, the crowd topped 300 people with 46 plus aircraft having "flown in" for the event. Static displayed aircraft included everything from home built experimentals, multi engines, single engines, vintage war birds, aerobatics aircraft, turbo prop jets, and a heaping fleet of radio controlled operated (RCO) model aircraft. Activities of the day included a special skydive exhibition, an RCO exhibition, walking tours of static displays, aircraft tours of the City, hotdog belly buster/hamburger cookout, and best of all...84 youths received their *FIRST FLIGHT* and an 82 years young gentleman received *his* very *FIRST FLIGHT*...ever...!

I want to start by thanking each of you who volunteered and spent the day with us. I put the call out and as usual, you folks responded in fashion. Almost half of our tenants participated in one manner or another, including the tenants who came from local *and* out of state to put their aircraft on display, the slave of the BBQ grill, the vehicle traffic controllers, the aircraft traffic controllers, and the dozen and more pilots and their aircraft that provided the aerial tours and rides. At any given time we had a line of charters backed up down Taxiway Bravo, embarking and disembarking.

And a special thanks to the CITY OF PALATKA Fire Department who remained on site, *all day*, with engines and response equipment ready to roll. Thanks also to the CITY OF PALATKA Police Department who provided a police presence with crowd security and public safety in hand.

Many thanks to all. We appreciate your participation, your time, your efforts, and most of all...the involvement and support shown for *your* Airport. Be looking to www.PalatkaKayLarkin.com for a photo collage of this event. Some dandy Kodak Moments were captured and even with our web site presently under reconstruction, I do intend to share these moments.

This *FLY IN* will be the last until the fall/winter climate rolls in. As with any event in the summer in Florida, two things will force it to wrap up...the weather...and the heat. Mother Nature was very kind to us and even with the heat, a steady summer breeze kept things active until around 3:00 in the afternoon. It was a very good day at Palatka...!

*** Phase III airfield Capital Improvement Project went out for competitive qualified bids in June. Once again, BGCO Contractors, Inc. out of Jacksonville, Florida has received the recommendation for the contract. You may recall that BGCO is the company that executed Phase I in 2004-05 and Phase II in 2005-06.

The construction schedule for this Phase III CIP is beginning to define itself. Although still not yet chiseled in stone, you may expect activity to loosely begin around September/October 2006. Preliminary scheduling is forecasting a project completion date in February 2007.

As to project specs, even when something is chiseled in stone, it is still not is chiseled in stone. Phase III has been redefined to include 100% Runway 35/17 lighting rehabilitation, some 7,000 linear feet; the remaining Taxiway Charley lighting rehabilitation, some 2,700 linear feet; their associated airfield directional signage; associated improvements and drainage improvements to their respective safety areas, some 800 linear feet of drainage pipe replacement, and ditch clearing and grading. Additional Project Description and Justification now also includes the Design Phase for pavement considerations for the new Terminal Building.

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With the wealth of grant funding being allocated throughout the world of Aviation, sometimes such funding constraints dictate a prioritizing of our needs in regard to these projects. Dropped due to funding constraints is additional drainage improvements, clearing and grubbing; the pavement and lighting design considerations for the recapturing of existing pavement runway length; and unfortunately...the AWOS III.

We feel your pain with the loss of the projected AWOS III. Should additional funding re-materialize, it is reasonable to consider that portions of dropped activity may be re-incorporated into this Phase III CIP. The reinsertion of installation of a Federal Automated Weather Observation Station with Thunder & Lightning detection (AWOS III-P/T) will be our primary push.

Phase III is now an estimated \$1,439,085.00 grant funded Capital Improvement Project, joint participation between the Federal Aviation Administration, The Florida Department of Transportation, and the CITY OF PALATKA. That's a 95-2.5-2.5 grant allocation: 95% federal, 2.5% state, and 2.5% local.

*** Phase IV of the www.PalatkaKayLarkin.com reconstruction has been submitted and is anticipated to roll out by August end. This is the big one that will link the community, the CITY OF PALATKA, and Putnam County to the Airport. We invite you to stay tuned for this one.

And we again, shamefully thank you for all of your wonderful comments and compliments on our web site's "new look". If you happened to be captured in one of the photos, well that's the risk you take when you hang out with us. We thank you for your contribution. I also thank you for pointing out the "goofs". It just goes to show you we're human after all. And we can admit that. Most of those "goofs" I was already aware of and *should* be taken care of with this coming Phase IV roll out. If not...I'm sure you'll let me know.

As previously mentioned, there will be some continued "tweaking" and "adjustments" as I stroll through these newly designed navigation buttons and revise the existing ones. Spare time for this has not lent itself frequently. But one by one, two by two, I'm knocking them out and am striving towards completion. So stay tuned folks...Phase IV and Phase V are coming. I've mentioned before that I have an impact configuration in mind that is anticipated to not only enhance the Airport and stimulate interest but promote the City and County as well. There's always a method to our madness around here.

Many thanks to the *Controller* and Sandshills Publishing Company for providing our web site. Their geniuses designed an *awesome* site and when www.PalatkaKayLarkin.com first rolled out in 2004, it was and still is one of a kind. I personally thank Tim Washburn of the *Controller* for his assistance during the original construction and this on-going reconstruction.

*** In last month's NewsLetter I flashed a warning about an abundance of spiders cohabiting in your hangars: the Black Widow and the Brown Recluse. This population explosion is largely due to recent weather and climate conditions.

We remind you of our message: the bite of these two spiders is venomous and can be toxic and can be lethal, painful at the very least. We don't want to scare you out of your t-hangars but we strongly urge you be aware of this presence and strongly urge you not stick your hands in some dark hole or enclosed area. We caution you to look up and take our advisement here with due diligence. Should you suffer a spider bite...seek medical treatment immediately.

Last month I mentioned that I put this out for competitive bid. I have entertained all proposals received and awarded the contract to *Florida Pest Control*. Last month you received notice that we would be entering every structure on this field for the sole purpose of professional pest extermination. Being consistent with our "no grass grow" policy, pest eradication and spider control treatment *has* occurred, on August 3rd and 4th. Quarterly follow up will occur as needed.

We urge you to keep abreast of a spider presence and please inform us of any continuing population.

*** Speaking of t-hangars...exchange of the new t-hangar security locks is complete. This went smoother and quicker than anticipated and that is a compliment you, our people. We thank you for your cooperation. If you requested additional key copy, please come get them if you have not already done so.

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*** A quick line here to let everyone know that both card readers on the electronic access gates are back in functional order. All cards should operate...on both gates. I remind you that if you ever experience a problem with your gate card, we're not gonna know unless you tell us. So please tell us immediately so that I can look into it immediately.

Oh, and if anybody happens to be in possession of the gate card that has changed in molecular structure to resemble a screwdriver, we would appreciate its immediate discontinuation of use. It didn't serve your purpose anyway. All that particular gate card did was destroy everybody else's access, including yours. So we take this opportunity to remind everybody that the only official access our gates will recognize is the official card we issue to legitimate Airport users. You can throw your kitchen sink at that card reader and I guarantee it still won't open the gate. But nice try.

*** The *Cheap Shameless Plug*: Last but not least and I don't know if I dare. June's *Cheap Shameless Plug* on our custom merchandise and apparel brought forth a stampede we'd most certainly like to thank you for. But we love a good challenge so here we go...after being preempted last month, the *Cheap Shameless Plug* is back and we're yanking our own chain one more time folks...!

Today's *Cheap Shameless Plug* is announcing the arrival of Palatka Municipal Airport's brand new design T-shirt and the brand new Casual Polo shirt...! You knew they were coming... You have been asking about them... You have been waiting patiently for them... Well wait no more people. Come on in. They are here.

For those yet unfamiliar, please allow me to educate you. We're not talking about just any T-shirt or Polo Shirt here and they are far from all the same. I stacked up quite the variety so *you* would have a choice. The Executive Polo has become so popular that there for a while, we couldn't keep it on the rack. This is a very high-end, quality shirt and is the *only* shirt that will carry our color logo. If you haven't seen this Polo shirt yet...oh it is sharp. It's brother...the Casual Polo is available in three different styles. And we can't forget the caps, which, by the way, are available in two different styles and do coordinate with every style shirt. Imagine that...!

The tees are also multi stylish. If you don't want a pocket, you don't have to have one. If you don't like a full back design, you don't have to have that either. If you want a tank top, we have that too. And I even thought of your little co-pilot and created their very own youth shirt. You'll find those in John Deer Green and Baby Doll Pink, of course. And here's an advance tip...some of these tees...possess our airfield layout and runway configuration.

I took special care in designing this line of custom merchandise. I selected and designed our apparel with your comfort and classy appearance in mind. You are a part of our image and we want you looking good. This is our Spring/Summer line of Palatka Municipal Airport custom apparel and it resides on the racks.

And once again, the greatest part of our invitation for you to come take a peek is that not only does everything have our logo and namesake very strategically planted within or thereon, and not only is everything available in a rainbow of colors and sizes, but you will also enjoy the ridiculous low retail pricing, something else I had in mind during this evolution: consumer affordability.

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

*** The *Airport Advisory Board* will next meet on Tuesday, September 12th, at 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 August 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
Business Operations Supervisor

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