



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

4015 Reid Street, Highway 100
Palatka, Florida 32177

386-329-0148 office
386-329-0106 fax

NEWS LETTER

December 15, 2007

Page 1 of 3

*** We say good bye to long time City Manager, Allen R. Bush. As of January 1, 2008, Mr. Bush will retire after thirty years of dedicated service to the CITY OF PALATKA. His guidance, his wisdom...his leadership...has brought this Airport into a new age, into the new millennium...as a well developed integrated multimodal port of transportation.

I would be remiss if I didn't take just a few lines here to cement the achievements. After the City resumed Airport operations following a long term with a private FBO, there was no stopping what Mr. Bush had in store for us. He had a dream for this little gem of ours, a vision of unbridled improvements that would put us on a path to our future.

And here we are today, grown over the course of a generation, with a productive adjacent Industrial Park; the initial installation of NAVAIDS and airfield lighting, then the later and recent rehabilitation thereof with 100% new airfield lighting; extended runways; extended airfield lighting; runway overlays; taxiway pavement rehabilitation; the initial construction of a fuel farm, then the recent 100% rehabilitation thereof with a brand new fuel farm of 100% new equipment with self-serve capabilities; the initial construction of the aircraft general ramp, then the later ramp pavement rehabilitation; airfield drainage improvement and new storm water conveyance systems; land acquisition; access roads; perimeter fencing; infrastructure improvements such as fiber optics and other utilities; multi modal integration; the construction of out buildings; the construction of 44 t-hangars, 3 commercial hangars, and 2 bulk hangars with new hangar construction currently pending; our new terminal building currently pending; apron and ramp improvements currently pending; drainage improvements currently pending; fencing improvements currently pending; and access road improvements currently pending. Our aircraft operations have increased from under 15,000 to over 70,000 annually. All of this together with an on going Master Plan and Airport Layout Plan that has our continued development mapped out for the next ten years. And this is just the short list of what has been accomplished under the hand and oversight of Allen Bush. His impact will be felt for years to come. Of that we have no doubt.

Mr. Bush shall be considered a founding Father of this Airport. We would not want to see it any other way. As we hand the reigns over to our new City Manager, Allen...we thank you for your service and wish you well in your retirement. What you have started today will be carried forward into our tomorrow.

*** **Hangar Maintenance...** The task of select preventative door maintenance *remains in progress...*! As previously mentioned, it is that time of year for us to adjust your doors and squirt some lube sauce on your casters. This project will be on-going until it can be completed.

Please consider this repeat notice of hangar entry for maintenance reasons only. And as always, if you ever experience a problem with your hangars, please tells us immediately so that we can take care of it for you.

*** **SURPLUS EQUIPMENT:** Last month I told you about a LUG BUG aircraft hand tug that I had recently identified as eligible for surplus. On October 25th it went before the City Commission, CITY OF PALATKA, to be declared as surplus and was approved as such. After thoughtful notice, on Friday, November 16, this aviation specific ground support equipment went for auction on www.govdeals.com. Airport staff showed the Hand Tug to dozens and dozens of prospective bidders. And on Friday, November 30, when the bids closed, it drew a high bid of \$985...!

Knowing this ready to use aircraft equipment would draw a crowd, I predicted a bidding war and we got just that. I must tell that the last twenty minutes of the bidding was particularly fierce.

We thank all interested parties and congratulate the high bid winner. Our loss is your gain. Thank you for the revenue.

*** The *Cheap Shameless Plug*... Jingle bells, Jingle Bells,...Jingle All the Way...! Who among you are last minute shoppers??? Oh, do we have a surprise for you...! Just in time for Christmas, we have a brand new item. Today's *Cheap Shameless Plug* is announcing the launch of the CESSNA line of graphic tees. We are talking graphics of various Cessna aircraft in flight set behind various images of instrument panels. These shirts are too sweet...! And what makes them all the sweeter is that these are officially licensed products of CESSNA.

But not stopping with this new item as your only choice for that Christmas gift, since you have exactly ten (10) days, we welcome you to our entire "*Pilot Shop*", where that special Christmas gift may be waiting.

Targeting the non-aviator first...the ladies in the crowd who have yet to pick up that gag gift, the stocking stuffer, the "trinket", or that really special thing for your really special someone...your pilot husband...and for the gentlemen...perhaps your pilot wife.

We have a smorgasbord of apparel and headgear that will grab your eye as soon you walk in our doors. Our custom line, the *Larkin* apparel, includes a fall/winter selection of various sweatshirts, hoodies, and headgear and Mock long-sleeve turtle neck tees. The spring/summer *Larkin* line includes executive and casual polos, graphic tees, and an extended selection of headgear. Within that headgear is the very popular *Larkin Wild Life* series caps. If that person in your life is an outdoors enthusiast with fishing and hunting...this may very well be your final stop. And the entire *Larkin* line, everything, is available in multiple designs, colors and sizes...so you would have a choice.

But...if you don't want something with our name on it, we can provide you with something that does not. Our Aviation "Fun Stuff" merchandise is a line of specialty items, straight from the Aviation industry, with common and popular industry phrases, logos, and insignias. We're talking everything from clothing and head gear to license plates and key chains to aircraft lapel pins, flight tags, mouse pads, playing cards and *HotWings*, our collection of die-cast model airplanes with seventeen different models from which to choose, just to name a few.

If it's the little co-pilot you're shopping for, we have a choice of seven different stuffed, fluffy toys, including cute little teddy bears of various sizes dressed as pilots, bigger plush bears with industry insignia, and of course, the ever so scarce...*Plane Beanie Babies*, of which only two colors remain available with very limited quantities.

If you 'd rather have something more practical...perhaps you should consider those items used by the aviator every single day...the pilot supplies. We have most everything you would find in a flight bag, such as aeronautical charts, publications, log books, plotters, fuel testers, mini mag lights, ear plugs, sic sacs, oil, specialty window cleaner, batteries...and the list goes on.

But if you really want a suggestion as to one of the best gifts to give to the aviation enthusiast, a most practical gift, the absolute gift that *will not* collect dust, the gift that just might be most appreciated...well folks...that would be the FAR/AIM. Anything you ever wanted to know about aviation, say it, spell it, or think it...is in this publication. It's the ASA Federal Aviation Regulations & Aeronautical Information Manual, otherwise known as the Bible of Aviation, affectionately known as the FAR/AIM. It's over one thousand pages of the U.S. Department of Transportation and the FAA. And we have the 2008 edition. My, my, my, what a gift...! People if you don't get it from us get it from somewhere. I'm telling you. Every pilot should have one.

So there you have it...a peek into our little store. Come see us for your last minute Christmas shopping needs. You just might be surprised. We carry a variety and you'll find it affordably priced below the suggested retail. And remember...the new line of CESSNA graphic tees...is now available at Palatka Municipal Airport.

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

*** **Christmas and New Year's Holiday Hours:** In observance of the coming Christmas and New Year Holidays, we will be adjusting our business hours as follows:

The terminal building and business offices of *PALATKA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT, Kay Larkin Field* will be closing at 1700 hours local on Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24th, and shall be **CLOSED** on Christmas Day, December 25th. We will be closing at 1700 hours local on New Year's Eve, Monday, December 31st, and shall be **CLOSED** on New Year's Day, Tuesday, January 1st, 2008.

Should any services be required during these closures, such requests should be made in advance. The airfield will remain open and of course, the availability of self-serve fuel by airfield entrance will not be affected.

From our families to yours... We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a very safe and joyous New Year...!

*** On a sorrowful note, I ask you to join us for a moment of silent pause as we remember and pay tribute to sitting City Commissioner George Sanders who passed away on December 4th. I will remember him as a fine southern gentleman, a true statesman, and a very pro-active Airport supporter, having served for several years as our Airport Advisory Board Commissioner Liaison for the CITY OF PALATKA City Commission, having served as the Airport Commissioner Liaison for CFASPP, (the Continuing Florida Aviation System Planning Process) in years past. It was not uncommon for Mr. Sanders to visit the Airport, he and I sitting down many, many times to discuss Airport operations and our continuing direction and future growth.

He will be missed by many. Our flags fly at half mast in his honor.

*** The **Airport Advisory Board** will hold its next regular scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 8th, 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 in the terminal building at the Airport.

This concludes the December *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

Please page down for a special Christmas Greeting...



...CHRISTMAS GREETING...

Airport Line Crew's Unexpected... Christmas Traffic

*Twas the night before Christmas, and out on the ramp,
Not an aircraft was stirring, not even a Champ.
The aircraft were fastened to tie-downs with care,
In hopes that come morning, they still would be there.*

*The fuel trucks were nestled, all snug in their spots,
While peak gusts from three-two reached 39 knots.
I sank behind the fuel desk, now finally caught up,
And settled down comfortably upon my warm butt.*

*When over the radio, there arose such a clatter,
I turned up the scanner to see what was the matter.
A voice clearly heard over static and snow,
Asked for clearance to land at the airport below.*

*He barked out his transmission so lively and quick,
I could have sworn that the call sign he used was St. Nick.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Sure that it was only Horizon's late dash.*

*Then he called his position, and there could be no denial,
"THIS IS ST. NICHOLAS ONE AND I'M TURNING ON FINAL."
When what to my wondering eyes should appear?
But a Kitfox sleigh behind a Rotax reindeer.*

*He landed like silk, with the sled runners sparking,
Then I heard "EXIT AT CHARLEY," and "TAXI TO PARKING".
He slowed to a taxi and exited One-Two,
As he came down the taxiway, the sleigh bells' jingle grew.*

*He stepped out of the sleigh, but before he could talk,
I had to run out to him with my best set of chocks.
He was dressed all in fur, which was covered with frost, And his
beard was all blackened From the Rotax Reindeer exhaust.*



*His breath smelled like peppermint gone slightly stale,
And he puffed on a pipe, but he didn't inhale.
His cheeks were rosy and jiggled like jelly,
His boots were as black as a crop-duster's belly.*

*He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old fool,
And he kindly informed me that he needed some fuel.
A wink of his eyes and a twist of his toes,
Led me to know he was desperate to powder his nose.*

*I spoke not a word, but went straight to my work,
And I filled up the sleigh, but I spilled like a jerk.
He came out of the restroom with a sigh of relief,
Then he picked up the phone for a flight service brief.*

*And I thought as he silently scribed in his log,
That with Rudolph, he could land in eight-mile fog.
Next, he completed his pre-flight, from the front to the rear,
Then he put on his headset, and I heard him yell, "CLEAR!"*

*And laying a finger on his push-to-talk,
He called up the tower for his clearance and squawk.
"After departure fly heading three-two-zero," the tower called
forth, "And watch for a Luscomb inbound from the north."
Then I heard him exclaim, as he climbed into the night,
"MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL...I HAVE TRAFFIC IN SIGHT!"*



From our families to yours...
Palatka Municipal Airport, Kay Larkin Field 28J would like to wish you...
A very safe and joyous Holiday Season.
From *Your* Airport Staff:
Donna, David, and Jose
The Airport Advisory Board
Airport Engineers: Passero Associates
...together with the CITY OF PALATKA

Merry Christmas

AND...

Happy New Year