



PALATKA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
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NEWS LETTER

February 15, 2007

Page 1 of 3

*** It was brought to our attention by you, our aviators, that there may be a performance problem with our Base Station Radio. We suspected one might be developing due to a reduction in the quality of reception. You have advised us that we are also experiencing a problem with quality of transmission. We certainly thank you. Sometimes we are unaware a problem may exist until you tell us.

Towards the end of January, I assumed the task of improving the quality of our ground to air communications. After several days of troubleshooting involving both the Base Station and the roof top antenna, the problem appears to be loss of boost within the internal battery pack of the radio. On January 29th, the Base Station was shipped to Pennsylvania for repairs/reconditioning. On the interim, we are communicating ground to air on a reserve portable transceiver that I installed in its place. To increase its range, I connected the roof top antenna.

You have talked to us and we have listened. Many thanks to Mr. Rick Lord of Erie Avionics in Erie, Pennsylvania for his technical assistance. Our Base Station Radio has yet to return. I will keep you posted of continuing developments.

*** **New Terminal Building Update:** We are out to bid people...! The mandatory Pre-Proposal Meeting was held on January 29th. Besides City officials, myself, Airport Manager Glenn, Gene Lamp of the Florida Department of Transportation, and Passero Associates, Airport Engineers, some 26 potential construction firms were in attendance.

Here are some of the construction details that I promised you in earlier NewsLetters. We are proposing to build a two-story masonry General Aviation Terminal Building designed to withstand a Category 5 hurricane. It shall reflect a "rustic lodge" theme and provide an approximate 6,700 square feet of space. We have a tentative contract time of 210 calendar days plus a 30 day punch-out from the issuance of "Notice to Proceed". "Notice to Proceed" is still loosely scheduled for mid April. That puts us somewhere in the December 2007/January 2008 window for estimated completion. This is just the building and it has an estimated project cost of \$1,000,000.00, joint participation between The Florida Department of Transportation, and the CITY OF PALATKA.

Pavement considerations are projected to go out to bid within the next few months. This is anticipated to include the public vehicular parking lot, the access road, and the new terminal building's adjacent aircraft embarking/disembarking ramp area. The estimated project cost for this has yet to be determined. But you may expect joint participation between the Federal Aviation Administration, The Florida Department of Transportation, and the CITY OF PALATKA.

The final schematics for the New Terminal Building *are* on display in the current terminal. These do include architecture renditions of the exterior, the interior first floor, the interior second floor, and the designs for pavement considerations. We invite you to review at your leisure.

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*** For consecutive NewsLetters over the past year and more, we have been discussing the JACIP (Joint Action Capital Improvement Plan) Fiscal Year 2008 scheduled project of recapturing existing pavement runway length on Runway 17/35. To refresh your memory, the first step was removing vegetation and trees within what will become the new approach and approach slopes.

Our neighbor to the north, Georgia Pacific, made good on their commitment to clear all trees on their property north of Highway 100. Through the efforts of the Florida Department of Transportation, all trees south of Highway 100 have also been removed. This clears the way for Runway 17. We now turn our attention to the other end: Runway 35.

In mid January, the CITY OF PALATKA approved a special capital monies expenditure to remove select trees and vegetation in what will become the new approach of Runway 35. Funding participation in this project is projected to be 100% local, the CITY OF PALATKA only.

To meet this operating budget expenditure, this project has been broken into phased activity. Phase I began in late January. It addressed that portion in the southern Runway 35 approach area and was completed in early February. Phase II is anticipated to address the eastern approach area and Phase III will address the western portion. Phase II has not yet begun. I will keep you posted of this coming activity.

*** In December I mentioned that we were accepting applications for a seat on our Airport Advisory Board, a seat that was vacated by Gene Caputo of the St. Johns River Water Management District. To refresh your memory, the District felt a perception of conflict of interest might develop in regard to our future permitting. As such, they withdrew their seat on the Board. Gene officially resigned at the June 27th, 2006 Airport Advisory Board Meeting. This seat on the Airport Advisory Board went under consideration by the City and following our recent December 5th Board Meeting, was officially declared OPEN and AT LARGE by the City Commission, CITY OF PALATKA.

After review of applications, a choice could not be made between two of the applicants. The potential for their individual contributions simply could not be ignored. With careful consideration, the recommendation to the City was to appoint both. Taking a bold initiative, at the January 25th, 2007 regular meeting of the City Commission, CITY OF PALATKA, the Airport Advisory Board of Palatka Municipal Airport was expanded by one seat, both applicants having received appointment.

Representing law and education, we welcome Ms. Melissa Miller to the Airport Advisory Board. Ms. Miller is the Executive Vice President and General Council for the St. Johns River Community College. She is a serving Board Member of the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce and is the representative of the Putnam County Development Authority.

Representing Community Relations and active aviation, we welcome Mr. Ken Johnson to the Airport Advisory Board. Mr. Johnson is a long time Airport user, being a veteran licensed pilot and aircraft owner/operator. He is the Executive Director of the Rodeheavers Boys Ranch and an instructor for Merit Badge of Aviation for the Boy Scouts of America.

These two individuals will serve at the pleasure of the City Commission, CITY OF PALATKA. You may expect introductions at the coming March 13th Airport Advisory Board Meeting.

*** Previous NewsLetters made mention of a coming fencing project. We shall be erecting approximately 2,340 linear feet of additional 8' high perimeter security fencing and adding one 16' gate for equipment and emergency vehicle access. This went out for competitive bid in early December. All Rite Fence Company out of Orlando, Florida received the recommendation based on their low bid. During the January 25, 2007 regular meeting of the City Commission, CITY OF PALATKA, All Rite Fence Co. was approved and received award of contract.

This will be a \$25, 080.00 Capital Improvement Project, joint participation between the Florida Department of Transportation and the CITY OF PALATKA. That's 80% state and 20% local. Construction has not yet begun.

*** In previous NewsLetters, we also talked about our continuing re-beautification efforts. Last year we cleared our eastbound Highway 100 property frontage and relocated the fence line approximately 280 feet deep set back. In late January, the Florida Department of Transportation began to clear their westbound Highway 100 southerly right of way.

Activity thus far has already impacted the Airport's visibility and completion of this portion shall to serve to not only improve upon our storm water drainage but shall also provide a more anesthetically pleasing appearance in whole.

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*** As mentioned in the November NewsLetter, **Phase III Airfield Capital Improvement Project** had a February/March project commencement window. We have entered that window and the details of this improvement have become more clearly defined. To refresh everyone's memory, Phase III is projected to include 100% Runway 35/17 lighting rehabilitation, some 7,000 linear feet; the remaining Taxiway Charley lighting rehabilitation, some 2,700 linear feet; associated grading/grassing and drainage improvements to their respective safety areas; some 800 linear feet of drainage pipe replacement; and some ditch clearing and grading, an estimated 3000 linear feet.

To my knowledge, this is the complete on site construction project description, chiseled in stone. We have a tentative contract time of 150 calendar days plus a 30 day punch-out from the issuance of "Notice to Proceed". Phase III Airfield Capital Improvement is scheduled to begin on March 5th, 2007. That puts us somewhere into August/September 2007 for estimated completion.

I urge you to keep abreast of coming activities and check for NOTAMs daily. Be aware of barricades and construction vehicles on or in the vicinity of active pavement.

On the subject of NOTAMs, I again take a liberty to extend a higher education to those who may be unaware as follows: I urge you when flight planning to ask your briefer to provide you with a *complete* briefing on 28J, including both "Class D" and "Local" NOTAMs. As with previous improvement projects, portions of airfield pavement *will be* in and out of closure as this project phases forward. And a standard flight briefing *may not* provide you with "Local" NOTAMs unless you specifically request them. For those who are unaware, not all pavement closures fall under the eligibility of a "Class D" NOTAM. Taxiway closures, for example, are what's called a "Local" NOTAM. You may not receive these "Locals" if you don't specifically ask for them. Going into an Airport that is under construction and not having knowledge of all pavement closure NOTAMs will more than likely cause you ground confusion during taxiing. I share this tip on "Local" NOTAMs to assist with the efficiency of your landings and departures.

Phase III is 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.

*** The *Cheap Shameless Plug*: I'm yanking our own chain again this month to announce the continuation of the **SALE** on the entire Spring/Summer line of Palatka Municipal Airport's custom apparel, excluding headwear...! So many took advantage that by popular demand I decided to extend the sale through the end of February. And I'll go you one better. I am also increasing the value of your savings. That's right folks, through February 28th only, every flavor, style, and size of every *Larkin* Polo Shirt and Tee...is now **15% off present retail**. So for those of you still eyeballing that shirt every time you walk in, and you know who are just like we do, now is really the time to pick it up.

And the second round of the new custom *Wildlife Series* Caps have arrived. This was a brand new item designed and introduced in December. The very first shipment was so popular right out of the box that we sold out in a matter of days. So those who have been asking for them and those who have been waiting for them, come on in. They are here.

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

*** The *Airport Advisory Board* will next meet on Tuesday, March 13th, 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 February *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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