



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

June 15, 2007

Page 1 of 3

*** **Phase III Airfield Capital Improvement Project (CIP)**...is, for the most part...complete.

To refresh everyone's memory, Phase III began on March 5th. With a 150 calendar day contract completion term, on site construction was projected to include select new airfield signage, 100% Runway 17/35 lighting rehabilitation, 7,000 linear feet; the remaining Taxiway Charley lighting rehabilitation, 2,700 linear feet; associated grading/grassing and drainage improvements to their respective safety areas; 800 linear feet of drainage pipe replacement; and an estimated 3000 linear feet of ditch clearing and grading.

All construction is now complete...some three (3) months ahead of schedule. All NOTAMs have been canceled. All pavement has been re-opened. Project punch-out is in progress but is not, as of this writing, anticipated to interfere with continued airport operations. However, we would urge you to check for *possible* NOTAMs at least through June while the punch-out process remains in progress.

Phase III was 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 was a 95-2.5-2.5 grant allocation: 95% federal, 2.5% state, and 2.5% local.

*** **Hurricane Preparedness...!** In late April I began the process of this Airport's *Hurricane Preparedness* for the 2007 Hurricane Season. This is a methodical plan, executed every spring, and the entire Airport staff contributes to our pre-hurricane season readiness. Not only does it include a level of preparedness for facility wide readiness, but a coordinated plan for the Airport's pre and post-storm participation with the City, County, and State's overall Storm Emergency Management Plan, pre-planned, pre-staged post-storm recovery and relief, and considerations for evacuation of other aviation facilities to or through this Airport.

As the Airport's staff puts the final touches on our 2007 Preparedness, we urge you to identify any assistance you may be able to render to another aviator in need. This could be a simple gesture of offering your hangar as possible covered storage to a ramped aircraft if you know your aircraft will be elsewhere during the storm, or even compacting hangar items to make space for a long-term parked vehicle to slip in under your wing. We also ask that, in the event of a storm, you advise us *immediately* of any special considerations or assistance that you may be requesting of us.

Although we breathed easy last year, the 2004 and 2005 seasons are fresh in memory and we urge you to *not be complacent* about our good fortune last year. Prepare now...!

*** Speaking of Hurricane Preparedness...**Hangar Maintenance**...is also for the most part, complete. For the past two months you were advised of preventative maintenance being performed on your hangars. And this hangar maintenance was, by the way, shuffled up from the cooler months of winter to the pre-hurricane season of the spring. There's always a method to my madness.

There may still be a tinker here and there to be done but many thanks to the tag team efforts of Jose and David who were able to knock this project out before the heat was really upon us. And we remind you that if you experience any problems with your hangar, please tell us immediately so that we can take care of it immediately.

Palatka28J@hotmail.com

Or visit us at

www.PalatkaKayLarkin.com

www.CityofPalatka.com

*** For the past several months, as we phase through our fiscal budget process for next year's 2008 Fiscal Budget, we the Airport together with the City have been conducting an economic re-evaluation of all lease rates. We have historically been one of the lowest if not *the* lowest in our market for everything we offer from rental rates to fuel to pilot supplies and various other merchandise and services. And we are proud to have been able to serve you with these low rates for so long. As an enterprise funded Airport, one could interpret this as fiscal responsibility at it finest.

In the past five (5) years and more, we have spent literally millions of dollars in various improvements upgrading this Airport...*your* Airport. Yes, most of these construction projects are partially grant funded, but we have a grant match of at least 5% up to 30% or more to contribute as our participation in total project cost and this is on top of elevated operating costs. 30% of a multi-million dollar project adds up.

Now with the rise in operating costs, fuel costs, and construction costs, costs we *did not* pass onto to you, we find ourselves looking for ways to increase our revenue to balance these necessary expenditures. And for those of you unfamiliar with an enterprise operation: if we don't make the money, we don't get to spend the money.

T-Hangar Rental Increase...As much as it pains us to do so, as of October 1, 2007, the new rate for t-hangars shall be \$200.00 for each of the thirty-four (34) t-hangars and \$225.00 for each of the ten (10) t-hangar cabins on the end, plus applicable tax. This is the first t-hangar rental rate increase of its kind and here is what you are getting for it:

For our expended capital improvement and budget dollars, you have new pavement on your taxiways, new lighting on your runways, new lighting on your taxiways, new airfield signage, improved airfield drainage, improved approaches, new security fencing, electronic gate access, facility wide re-beautification, and a brand new fuel farm with self serve capabilities. These are improvements you get to enjoy every day. Coming soon, will be new t-hangars, new corporate hangars, a new bulk hangar, an improved access road, and...the new terminal building. Add to the mix how well we maintain your hangar and all of these improvements in an on-going quality manner. And we have done all of this without suggesting rate increases on anything.

This economic re-evaluation of current lease rates was done across the board on real estate only with market and operational increases applied or not applied accordingly. All t-hangar tenants are affected. As for the tenants leasing other premises, some were affected immediately, some were not, and some not at all. Notices have been sent to those affected right now. Notices to others can be expected as your lease approaches its renewal date.

Please consider this early notice of t-hangar rental increase effective October 1, 2007, more than 90 days in advance.

*** Just a quick mention here that we are aware of an operating issue on the main access gate card reader. Select cards appear to be dropping from its memory. I have been on top of this for some time now and have isolated the process of trouble shooting to certain various components that combine to efficiently operate this system. In the mean time...some of you have been experiencing problems with your gate cards, only on this gate. And we know who you are. I have reprogrammed the memory chip with *every* card currently in authorized circulation. If you continue to experience a problem with your gate card, please come see me. You may be required to surrender that card and I will issue you a new card. Your deposit shall be transferred to the new card. I would suggest you call in advance to ensure I will be here on the day you choose to come.

And as an FYI...these gate cards contain an internal battery and antennae that communicates by the battery, which sends an electronic signal through the antennae to the memory board in the card reader as you swipe your card. And as you know, if the light turns green, your card has been recognized as an authorized entry. If the light doesn't turn and the gate doesn't open, your card has not been recognized as an authorized entry, meaning you are no longer authorized or your card did not send the signal. I am leaning towards the card itself. Either with time or by natural defect, these internal components within your card can be damaged or simply wear out. The cards that are dropping are the cards in possession of or once in possession of our most active Airport users.

Again, be advised that we are aware that a problem exists. If you are one of those experiencing a gate card problem, come see me and we'll get you taken care of.

Palatka28J@hotmail.com

Or visit us at

www.PalatkaKayLarkin.com

www.CityofPalatka.com

*** The *Cheap Shameless Plug*: This two-part Plug goes first to Mother Nature herself for having provided beautiful weather and cooler temperatures for Palatka's **19th Annual Blue Crab Festival** this past Memorial Day Weekend. With an estimated crowd of over 200,000 people, this annual downtown event was its usual big hit and we appreciate you being a part of it. Many thanks to all of our visitors who flew in to join us. Put it on your calendar for next year folks: **The Blue Crab Festival**...always on Memorial Day Weekend.

Part two of today's *Cheap Shameless Plug* is a simple invitation to come and browse our wide selection of apparel. With the lazy days of summer and the warmer temperatures upon us, you will find yourselves quite comfortable in any of our custom *Kay Larkin* Polos, tees and tanks, *Larkin* caps, and other aviation specialty shirts and caps. Every color of the rainbow is represented with any size you might want. We receive many compliments on their affordability and level of comfort.

And speaking of the *Larkin* caps, I take a moment to bring your attention in particular to the *Wildlife Series* custom *Larkin* caps. This was a brand new item designed and introduced last year and we could not keep them on the rack. Due to their popularity, a very limited number of all five (5) designs remain available. There are several of you eyeballing these caps every time you walk in. Now is the time to pick out the one you want.

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, August 7th, at 5:30 pm. These meetings are open to the public. We encourage your participation and invite you to come. To my knowledge, the meetings will occur at the Airport.

This concludes the June *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

Palatka28J@hotmail.com

Or visit us at

www.PalatkaKayLarkin.com

www.CityofPalatka.com