



PALATKA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
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NEWS LETTER

March 15, 2007

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*** **Phase III Airfield Capital Improvement Project (CIP) is in progress** people. It has begun. After various pre-construction meetings, mobilization and staging began at the crack of March with a start date of March 5th BGCO Inc., out of Jacksonville, Florida, did receive the recommendation for the bid and was awarded the contract.

To refresh everyone's memory, Phase III on site construction is projected to include 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.

I urge you to keep abreast of activities and check for NOTAMs daily. Portions of pavement *will be* in and out of closure as this project phases forward. As of this writing, the following related NOTAMs are in place:

*** Taxiway Charley south of Runway 09/27... is **CLOSED**...effective 0800 local, Monday, March 12, 2007...until further notice.
NOTAM issued 3-09-07

*** Effective 0800 local... Wednesday, March 14, 2007...Runway 17/35 is **CLOSED**...until further notice.
NOTAM issued 3-12-07

Be aware of barricades and construction vehicles on or in the vicinity of active pavement. We have a tentative contract time of 150 calendar days plus a 30 day punch-out from the issuance of "Notice to Proceed". That puts us somewhere into August/September 2007 for estimated completion.

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.

*** **Welcome Sun-n-Funners 2007...!** April 17 – April 23 will see the second largest international FLY IN, held annually in Lakeland, Florida. 28J Palatka, perfectly located in northeast Florida, is primed to be your inland pit stop on your way to Lakeland for *Sun-n-Fun 2007*. For those of you already in your trip planning stages, it would be our pleasure to take care of you and your fueling needs and assist with arrangements for your stay here overnight. We are known for our great fuel price...!...available 24/7 by airfield entrance.

We get a little pumped this time of year, excited about and looking forward to seeing you, our special visitors and aircraft that come to us from far and wide. You choose us every year and we want to say thank you. You hit us on your way down and hit us your way back up. *Sun-n-Fun* for us just wouldn't be the same without each of you.

Plan us into your trip. We thank you for stoppin' in and we'll see you in April. "Blue skies to all".

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*** Last month I mentioned our recent efforts of improving the quality of our ground to air communications. To refresh your memory, 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 advised us that we were also experiencing a problem with quality of transmission.

Towards the end of January, I assumed this task and after several days of troubleshooting, the Base Station was shipped to Pennsylvania for repairs/reconditioning. As a pure coincidence, our Radio found its way back to us on the afternoon of the very same day that last month's NewsLetter went out. So here is your update...

After I spent some time tuning and programming, our Base Station Radio went operational the afternoon of Friday, February 16th. The problem does appear to have been isolated within the internal boost pack and its associated circuitry. While under rehabilitation, two service bulletins were also performed on this unit, said bulletins intended to increase range and reduce on freq noise.

The performance ability of our newly rehabilitated Base Station Radio does appear to be enhanced. From the time of install, we began receiving quality feedback from aviators on the clarity and crispness of our transmissions with a noticeable improvement in the quality of our reception.

You have talked to us and we have listened. Our Base Station Radio has been repaired/rehabilitated. Many thanks to Mr. Rick Lord of Erie Avionics in Erie, Pennsylvania for his technical application. And many thanks to our local based pilots who repeatedly went airborne to assist during my efforts to tune this thing in. It would seem that I have the range of ground to air/air to ground communications tuned in to what appears to be its maximum distance for common general aviation altitudes. If you experience a future problem with the quality of our ground to air communications, please advise.

*** Last month we talked about the beginnings of our attention being paid to what will become the new approach to Runway 35. To refresh your memory, this is in preparation of Fiscal Year 2008 scheduled project of recapturing existing pavement runway length on Runway 17/35. The first step was removing vegetation and trees within what will become the new approach and approach slopes of Runway 17.

After joint participation of our neighbor to the north, Georgia Pacific, and the Florida Department of Transportation, all obstruction on approach to Runway 17 has been removed. This clears the way for Runway 17. And as mentioned last month, we now turn our attention to the other end: Runway 35. Part I of Phase I Obstruction Free Zone (OFZ) clearing addressed the trees in the southern portion of the Runway 35 approach area and was completed in early February. Part II of Phase I, the removal of vegetation and undergrowth in that same area, began thereafter and is in progress.

Funding participation for the clearing of the approach areas of Runway 35 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 II is anticipated to address the eastern approach area and Phase III will address the western portion. I will keep you posted on continuing activity.

*** Last month's NewsLetter lent a continuing indication of a coming fencing project. To refresh your memory, we were to be erecting approximately 2,340 linear feet of additional 8' high perimeter security fencing and adding one 16' gate for vehicle access. All Rite Fence Company out of Orlando, Florida received award of contract. In consistency with other improvements that have, for one reason or another, occurred on a whirlwind, this project received its Notice to Proceed in mid February and was actually completed *before* the end of February. We draw your attention to the most visible location, the shiny new chain link stretching parallel to Moody Road.

This was 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 is complete.

*** Last month I also mentioned the Florida Department of Transportation's clearing of their westbound Highway 100 southerly right of way. As of this writing, activity along the Airport's Highway 100 property line west is complete. This has made a big impact on the Airport's visibility and is indicative of our continuing re-beautification efforts in whole.

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*** On a related matter, the clearing of vegetation and undergrowth along the Highway 100 westbound southern right of way appears to have scattered its residents and sent them scurrying for new homes. Fear not people. We are aware that these furry little critters may have moved into your nearby t-hangars. As undesirable as this cohabitation may be, it did received our immediate attention.

Be aware of possible hazards that our Pest Control folks have placed or may place within your hangars in efforts to eradicate these undesired co-tenants. The *Material Safety Data Sheet* is available at your request. We caution you to keep your pets on a leash and urge you to dispose of trash timely and remove unnecessary habitat "nesting materials".

If you experience an issue with rodents, please advise us immediately so that we may take care of it immediately. As an additional word of wisdom, we suggest you leave nothing out that you don't want nibbled.

*** Part I of Phase V of www.PalatkaKayLarkin.com reconstruction rolled out live and in living color in mid February, as promised. You may now begin your stroll through www.PalatkaKayLarkin.com's Photo Library. This is some of the best of our best. And we are excited to share them with you. As a hint, the *FLY INs* of 2006 are represented.

And just to show you how fast things can move around here, I had Part II of this Phase V designed and completed by early February. It went in and rolled out live last week. You may now visit the big bang areas of "Events and Related Information" and the highly anticipated "Economical Development, Business Opportunities, Hangars & Real Estate".

Phase VI has already been sent. This is a simple update to existing information. With the moving and shaking of our continuing activities, an update was necessary between phased reconstruction.

Again we thank you for the wonderful comments and compliments on the new look of our website. Many thanks also to the *Controller* and Sandhills 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.

*** The *Cheap Shameless Plug*: Today's *Cheap Shameless Plug* is a simple announcement to remind you that five of your most important Aeronautical Charts are in their expiration window. The popular *Jacksonville* and *Miami Sectionals* became obsolete for use in navigation in February. The *IFR Enroute Low Altitude*, the *Airport Facility Directory* and *Terminal Procedures* shall become obsolete March 15th. The next editions, like all of the aeronautical charts we carry, are usually available several days prior to expiration. You'll find our aeronautical charts priced below their suggested retail.

And as an extra plug within this plug, last month I mentioned the arrival of the second round of the new custom *Wildlife Series* Caps. This was a brand new item designed and introduced in December. The first shipment was so popular right out of the box that we sold out in a matter of days. Their continuing popularity is sparking an idea for the near future. As a hint, don't be surprised if you walk in here one day to see the beginnings of an expanded line of *Wildlife Series* custom apparel. Things that make you go "hmmmm".

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 Wednesday, April 18th, at 5:30 pm. This a special "call" meeting. Only the *Design Bid Proposals*, due April 12 for the new Terminal Building, shall be reviewed and discussed. The next regular scheduled meeting shall be June 5th, 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 *March 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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