



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

May 15, 2007

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*** **Thank you Sun-n-Funners 2007...!** April 17 – April 23 saw the second largest international *FLY IN* held annually in Lakeland, Florida. 28J Palatka, perfectly located in northeast Florida, was, as always, primed to be your inland pit stop for your travels to and from Lakeland for *Sun-n-Fun 2007*.

We entertained hundreds of travelers and aircraft throughout this event and it was our pleasure taking care of you and your fueling needs and assisting with arrangements for your stay here overnight. We look forward to seeing you, our special visitors and aircraft that come to us from far and wide. You choose us as your stop along the way every year and we want to say thank you. *Sun-n-Fun* for us just wouldn't be the same without each of you.

We thank you for stoppin' in and we'll see you next year. "Blue skies to all".

*** **Phase III Airfield Capital Improvement Project (CIP) remains in progress** and right on schedule. To refresh everyone's memory, Phase III began on March 5th. 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..

Initial construction targeted the drainage components of this project. We now turn our attention to the airfield lighting.

We 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 open:

*** Runway 17/35 is *CLOSED*...until further notice.
Issued 5/1/07

*** Taxiway Charley south of Runway 09/27...is *CLOSED*...until further notice.
Issued 5/1/07

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.

Palatka28J@hotmail.com

Or visit us at

www.PalatkaKayLarkin.com

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*** As a **Public Service Announcement**...28J Palatka has been engulfed in smoke and the occasional particulate ash from our surrounding wildfires. We recognize the hazards to aviation but would like to take a moment to urge our customers and tenants to recognize the potential hazards to your health during this time of poor air quality. We have had a few moments of improved air quality, here and there, pending which way the wind blows. But please take care to not over expose yourselves to this smoke and most certainly, DO NOT even venture out in it if it is not necessary.

The State of Florida is in a very critical drought. Here at this Airport conditions are drier than now than what they were in the Florida Fire Storm of 1998. We have not experienced an on field fire...yet, as we did in '98. So while we engage in the art of rain dancing, we ask you to please engage caution and common sense during activities that may present additional fire hazards during these extreme conditions. We thank you in advance for your diligence.

*** The *Cheap Shameless Plug*: This month I wave our own humble plugs to plug the CITY OF PALATKA in all her glory. Clear your calendars people...!

Today's *Cheap Shameless Plug* is announcing Palatka's **19th Annual Blue Crab Festival**. You don't know what you are missing if you aren't in downtown Palatka over this Memorial Weekend. That's May 25, 26, 27, and 28. That's right folks: the riverfront...four full days of this special event.

From the Arts & Crafts and Antiques to Ski Shows and Boat Races and other water races to the Lumberjacks and Native Americans to the Midway to the seafood and more seafood and into the "Jello Jump" pool to retrieve a key that has in the past turned the engine to your new free boat or jet ski and into the Entertainment Tent with such past headliners as country music's award winning *LoneStar* and 80's rockers *Starship*...we have a reputation for our string of festivals and this Blue Crab thing...it's our biggest downtown event.

And what better backdrop than our beautiful American Heritage St. Johns River. Crowds have topped over 200,000. That ought to tell you something but...go ahead...ask around...go ahead...we want you to.

Visit www.bluecrabfestival.com for this year's activities and calendar of events and entertainment.

We urge you to arrange ground transportation in advance. This special annual Palatka event draws a visitor capacity that has been known to overwhelm local cab service and deplete rental cars. Our courtesy vehicle *will be available* on a first come, first serve basis only. It would be our pleasure to take care of your aircraft while you spend a few hours downtown.

Put it on your calendar people...**The Blue Crab Festival**...in downtown Palatka, *always* on Memorial Day Weekend.

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

*** **Hangar Maintenance**...*remains in progress people*. As mentioned last month, the pitter patter of little feet upon your roof tops and around your walls and doors can be defined as Jose and David...two men on a mission.

When I first launched our *Preventative Maintenance and Maintenance Program*, various building needs required monthly, quarterly, bi-annual, and annual attention. Through the diligence of Jose, Chief of Maintenance, with assistance from David, these once scheduled tasks have been reduced from maintenance required to preventative maintenance only. Kudos to Jose and David...!

However, from time to time, once a year or so, we still like to inspect all joints, fasteners, nuts and bolts and casters. Things have a way of working loose through the everyday vibrations of every day hangar use. A turn of a bolt here, a quick zap with the impact wrench there, and a squirt of lubricant in between keeps your hangar in top working condition on a continuing basis. This is what we have going on right now and we are more than half way done.

Please consider this your only notice of hangar entry for routine maintenance reasons only. We anticipate to be completely done by the end of May.

Palatka28J@hotmail.com

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*** **New Terminal Building Update:** ...Ok people, let's review the history of events here. To refresh everyone's memory, on January 29th, we held a mandatory Pre-Proposal Meeting. 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. This moved us into the Technical Qualifications portion of the bidding, having received the February 23rd due submittals from multiple design-build firms. On February 27th, during a special "call meeting" of the Airport Advisory Board, which was the *Selection Committee* appointed by the City, all technical qualifications of all submitting firms were reviewed and all firms did qualify to submit a Price Proposal, which was due April 19th.

On April 26th, during another special "call meeting" of the Airport Advisory Board, the *Selection Committee* appointed by the City, all Price Proposals of all submitting firms were reviewed. After very impressive presentations by all firms and a very detailed Question and Answer session by all, using the pre-determined and pre-approved scoring system, a single firm was chosen. Let me say that again...A single firm has been chosen...!

We are very pleased to announce that the City has received a *unanimous recommendation* from the Airport Advisory Board that Ajax Construction Inc. out of Ocala, Florida be selected to construct our new Terminal Building. This recommendation went under consideration during the May 10th, 2007 regular meeting of the City Commission, CITY OF PALATKA, and the City has authorized contract negotiations to begin. This has received its blessing from the Florida Department of Transportation.

"Notice to Proceed" is still tentatively scheduled for May 21st. So folks, you could see us turning dirt before the end of June. Stay tuned people. I do have some additional information to share with you but it is better shared next month, when some of the details have been more finely tuned.

This is our new Terminal Building and it has a preliminary estimated project cost of \$1,000,000.00, joint participation between the Federal Aviation Administration, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the CITY OF PALATKA.

*** Now let us close the May Newsletter with a bang, shall we??? In previous Newsletters you have heard me discuss new t-hangar construction, new bulk hangar construction, and new construction of a fuel farm restroom facility in addition to our New Terminal Building. You may also recall me mentioning, several times, a proposed land sale in our Industrial Park. Well...I have not mentioned any of this lately because as you have also heard me mention, we are very good at sniffing out funding and means of cost efficiency. As such, we have a grand plan and it is beginning to come together as follows:

The Industrial Park Land Sale is moving right along and is projected to provide an estimated \$356,500.00 *Airport exclusive* dollars for these coming Capital Improvement Projects. It is our intent to have all of these new construction projects added into the *Airport New Terminal Building Project*, and the Fuel Farm Restroom *shall be included*. This is the recommendation of Airport Staff and Passero Associates, Airport Engineers, and it has received its blessing from the Florida Department of Transportation. This cost efficient concept recently went under consideration by the City Commission, CITY OF PALATKA and on May 10th, 2007, received their blessing as well.

The final details of this massive combination construction are still coming together but has a preliminary estimated project cost of, \$1,030,000.00 in addition to the New Terminal Building. You may expect joint participation between The Florida Department of Transportation and the CITY OF PALATKA.

*** The *Airport Advisory Board* will next meet on Tuesday, 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 meetings will occur at the Airport.

This concludes the May *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