



PALATKA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
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NEWS LETTER

October 15, 2007

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We thank you all for your kind words in mention of our missing August and September's Newsletters. I do apologize for their absence. The close of the 2007 Fiscal Year as well as the hustle and bustle of everyday activity did not lend me much free time to put a few more miles on the extension of our information super highway. But...we're back by popular demand...and here we go...!

*** **Skydive Palatka has set the date for their annual "Hog Flop"**. This is their traditional special event that always fell on Halloween Weekend. Well...it's been pushed forward just a bit. Look for this special event this year on Veteran's Day Weekend, beginning November 9th running on through the 10th, 11th, and 12th. Past years' special event aircraft that have participated in this annual event have included such beauties as the historical Douglas DC-3, the military CASA, the Irish Skyvan Shorts, Cessna Caravans, fleets of Beech King Airs, and various assortments of helicopters. This year's "Hog Flop" will feature the Shorts and the Caravan. And as with any other day in their operations, folks are always welcome to ride along as observers.

The "Hog Flop" is a huge annual event that draws skydivers from nationwide. We invite you to come be a part of it, either as spectator or participant. Bring the kids. And don't forget the eats. Historical groceries have included the all-American "belly buster" hotdog, a pork pig rig roasting over pit, a flock of fried turkeys, etc., etc., etc.

We urge all aviators to exercise particular caution during these days, as there will be an abundance of meat missiles in free fall over Palatka. Blue Skies...!

*** We say welcome back to Carolyn Nicholson of the Airport Advisory Board. During the June 5th, 2007 regular scheduled meeting of the Airport Advisory Board, Mrs. Nicholson tendered her notice of resignation. Carolyn is very active in the local community and her business and she expressed how upcoming and long term engagements may present personal conflicts that may interfere with or render her ineffective as a productive Board member. We admire her position, having put the welfare of the Airport above all else. We thought that the June 5th meeting was her last date of service.

Carolyn Nicholson is an original member of the Airport Advisory Board. Representing local pilots, local business, and community real estate, she was hand picked to serve and received her appointment by the City Commission, CITY OF PALATKA, on March 13th, 2003. This represents over four (4) years of dedicated service.

Well, she wasn't getting out of here that easy. We refused to let her go so we simply did not accept her resignation. Carolyn showed up with bells on at our special called meeting on August 21st and every meeting thereafter. Carolyn, we thank you for your continued service and look forward to your next four years and more.

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*** Welcome October 1, 2007, the start of our new Fiscal Year. It's a brand new day people. And with that brand new day comes our brand new 2007-2008 fiscal budget.

We are what is known as "local government", being owned and operated by the CITY OF PALATKA. Within that, the Airport is classified as a "free enterprise". In the world of finance, that basically means that we are self-supported. We operate on our own revenue. That's right folks. We are not "gifted" by the City's general fund. In short, if we don't make the money...we don't get to spend the money. Period...! That's free enterprise. Expenditure control within that revenue is fiscal responsibility at it finest. And we are proud to lay a claim that this Airport operates in the black.

In reference to our circle of funding and our free enterprise operating budget, be it as we are, a "local government", or whether on the state level or the federal level, our circle of funding begins with you, the aviator, who supports continued development with your purchases and rentals. We wanted to express to you, our tenants, customers, and visitors that we appreciate the support you provide us. Thank you. Every penny you give us goes back into the continued development of this Airport.

*** **Hangar Maintenance...on the way...!** Be looking for us people. The task at hand this time involves select preventative door maintenance. It is that time of year for us to adjust your doors and squirt some lube sauce on your casters. Once again Jose and David shall be two men on a mission until this project can be completed.

I have scheduled this to begin in November into December. Please consider this your only 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.

*** And speaking of maintenance...that eighth wonder of the world of ours...the blue goose aircraft tug...will be back in service shortly. It was parked in August due to a maintenance issue that should be taken care of by the end of this month. Its sister fleet, the mighty blue hen golf cart, has served quite well on the interim.

*** And while I'm on this maintenance and equipment kick, let me give you an early heads up. The Airport shall be surplussing out a Luv Bug aircraft hand tug. Some of you are familiar with this piece of equipment of ours, having seen us use it over the years, or tinkering with it recently. Well, the Airport is getting rid of it. It has served us well but we have no need to keep it. On October 25th it shall go before the City Commission, CITY OF PALATKA, to be declared as surplus. I am already aware of the huge level of interest generating in acquisition of this gem by other parties and I anticipate a bidding war amongst our tenants and Airport users.

Be advised that when it is officially available for bid, I will post notice of the details in the terminal building. Please feel free to inquire, after October 25th.

*** The previously proposed new hangar rates of \$200 and \$225 for T-Hangars, \$800 for the Executive Hangars, and \$1,750 for the Commercial Hangars have been withdrawn in favor of a *Structured Rate Plan* that is based on construction date, construction costs, plus facility amenities.

This new *Structured Rate Plan* provides us a foundation for fair and justified rates across the board, every hangar being assessed the same associated base rate and amenity rate, with you the tenant paying only for what you have and not for what you don't have. We have observed all three hangar construction periods and tiered their base rate accordingly, then added whatever amenities the hangar premises have to offer, with several amenities being provided at no charge.

The proposed *Structured Rate Plan* went under consideration by the Airport Advisory Board in August and was reviewed by the audience members of local tenants, pilots, and Airport users. After polling the audience, it was our understanding that a structured rate was the majority desire of the tenants present at the meetings.

After much discussion and input of all suggestions, all points well taken, the *Plan* was adopted by the City on September 14, 2007 and went into effect October 1. Although notice was sent to all, we again remind our tenants that anyone wishing to relocate to a hangar of lower rental value, please notify me immediately. You will be added to the very short relocation waiting list and you will receive priority consideration as hangars become available.

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*** **Hangar Waiting List Policy...** The July Newsletter made mention of the inclusion of a Hangar Waiting List Deposit Policy. After careful consideration and much discussion, on August 10th the deposit policy was rescinded and the few deposits received were 100% refunded by mid September. The *Hangar Waiting List* was restored to what it was prior to the deposit requirement, without interruption of placement. And as an additional feature, our *Hangar Waiting List* and the *Hangar Waiting List Policy* and the Airport financial statement has been posted on the public bulletin board since August 11th. You can now keep tabs on the evolution of your waiting position as well as thumb through our finance. Please feel free to snoop through it at your leisure.

*** The *Cheap Shameless Plug*...a quickie but a goodie folks...Can you say FAR/AIM? Anything you ever wanted to know about aviation, say it, spell it, or think it...is in this publication. This is the ASA Federal Aviation Regulations & Aeronautical Information Manual, otherwise known as the Bible of Aviation, affectionately known as the FAR/AIM. Be advised that the new 2008 edition has arrived...! The long awaited and requested 2008 is here.

We carry a variety of aeronautical charts and publications and you'll find them all priced below their suggested retail. Come see us for all of your charts and publication needs. And remember folks, if we don't carry the chart you need, I can get it for you, overnight if need be, with a just reasonable day's notice.

The 2008 FAR/AIM...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.

*** The **Airport Advisory Board** will next meet on Tuesday, October 16th, 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 October *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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