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Construction Season Over...Almost

No matter where you turn in Chicagoland, construction season has become a major part of our lives from April through Thanksgiving. At Palwaukee Municipal Airport, the 2004 construction season has been filled with many projects, a number of which have been directly tied to improving overall aviation safety for the thousands of aircraft that visit here each year. And this year, the construction season has been extended slightly in order to complete work on the airport's first set of new T-hangars in 50 years and a number of new taxiways.

If you haven't noticed the airport T-hangars before, they are the tan Quonset huts left over from World War II that sit at the south edge of the field next to Palatine Road. Although airport management had made many valiant attempts to keep the doors in operation and the walls from rusting, these facilities are outdated enough that replacement became the only option.

Ground was broken last summer for the first 20 of the new airport T-hangars to hold airport tenant aircraft. The largest hangar is approximately 68 feet wide and 39 feet deep, nearly twice the size of the old Quonset huts. Construction is expected to be complete by New Year's Day. At press time, all of the new hangars are leased. Plans are being made for the next set of T-hangars to be erected on the northeast side of the field.



Taxiway Upgrades

One of the biggest safety issues at the old Palwaukee Municipal Airport was a lack of taxiways, a problem that forced aircraft to use runways to make their way around the airport. Taxiing on or crossing active runways always opens the option for pilots who might make a wrong turn to find themselves face to face with another aircraft taking off or landing. The solution is more taxiways.

This year, Palwaukee management eliminated two hotspots, another name for intersections where potential conflicts exist. One improvement at the northwest corner of the airport on taxiway "Lima," will also improve the traffic flow to and from the west side of the airport. The other, on taxiway "Kilo," at the south side of the airport, will now allow aircraft to make the trip from the north side of the airport to the south for takeoff on the long runway, without ever crossing runway 16/34.

The final construction element on the calendar for 2004 was the Prospect Heights Fire Protection District access road from the new facility on Wolf just north of Palatine Road. This new pavement will speed emergency egress to the airport for fire and ambulance vehicles should they be needed on the airport. Prior to the new access road, equipment entered the airport after turning out to Wolf Road and then back in another west field entrance gate.





Giving Credit Where it's Due

By now, everyone has probably heard about the airplane accident just before Halloween. A single-engine Piper Comanche departed Palwaukee Municipal Airport about 7 pm headed north when the engine problems began. The pilot, an experienced civil aviator for the past 20 years, radioed back to the Palwaukee control tower that he would be returning to the airport.

As the aircraft banked southward in the darkness, the pilot was already hard at work trying to isolate the problem while also beginning the search for an emergency landing spot just in case.

On the ground, a number of professionals had already swung into action to assist the stricken aircraft and its pilot. Hearing the distress call, air traffic controllers Pete Sutryk, Jason Messina and George Gianakos quickly connected with the Wheeling Police Department on the airport emergency hotline.

Moments later, the control tower relayed the pilot's message that his engine problems were worsening and he did not believe he would be able to reach the airport. Police officers began preparing to block off Milwaukee Avenue near Deerfield Parkway in hopes of offering the pilot a place to put the aircraft down safely. From the air, Deerfield Parkway is lined with high-powered streetlights that look very similar to an airport runway.

When the aircraft engine finally quit, the pilot almost made it down on Milwaukee Avenue, but swooped down on Deerfield Parkway at the last minute and came to rest in the grassy area between the two empty traffic lanes. Although the aircraft struck a tree upon landing, there was no fire. The pilot climbed out of the aircraft with a broken leg and waited for emergency vehicles to arrive, which was not long since the aircraft set down right in front of the Wheeling Fire Department's training facility.

This pilot did an incredible job of landing his airplane at night. Without the quick reactions of the tower controllers and the Wheeling Police and Fire, as well as the Buffalo Grove Fire Departments, this incident could have had much more serious results. My thanks to everyone who helped turn this into a much happier ending.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Rouleau'.

Dennis G. Rouleau, C.M.
Airport Manager

A Great Aviation Museum is Just up the Road



If you've ever traveled around Ireland, you quickly learn that distance seems to have little meaning to most folks there. No matter where you ask directions to, the Irish are famous for pointing while responding, "It's just up the road." Visitors quickly learn the distances in question could be vast.

If you're an aviation buff, there is an incredible museum "just up the road" from Palwaukee as well. Actually, it's really a few hours by car or less than an hour by airplane. The museum is focused on every aspect of flying, from a full size replica of the famous Ryan Aircraft Spirit of St. Louis that carried Charles Lindbergh across the Atlantic in 1927, to the Pioneer Airport, a replica of what aviation outside the big city looked like in the days of bi-planes and grass runways.

In case you haven't yet guessed this destination, it's Oshkosh Airport, home to the Experimental Aircraft Association's AirVenture museum complex housing over 250 different aircraft. EAA also owns one of the largest single collections of World War II aircraft in the world. Each August, Oshkosh plays host to the EAA's annual AirVenture, the largest air show in the world. For one week each year, Oshkosh airport surpasses O'Hare International as the busiest airport in the world with upwards of 10,000 airplanes during the week.

EAA's AirVenture is also renowned for their devotion to aviation education aimed at kids of all ages. Programs even include an overnight stay at the EAA's AirAcademy Lodge tied to a day of interactive programming for school-aged kids.

Oshkosh Airport is a two and one half hour car trip up route 41 through Milwaukee and Fond du Lac.

Up for the drive? Why not coordinate your visit with some of these activity dates?

January 22, 2005 Annual Ski-Plane Fly-In - Come to Pioneer Airport for some wintertime hangar chat, as well as some delicious chili.

February 13-14, 2005 Flight Simulator Weekend - Try out the amazing flight simulators in the Museum this weekend. The Wright Flyer Simulator, MaxFlight Simulator, and Microsoft Flight Simulator 2004. Don't miss your chance to

Aviation Museum, continued from page 2

fly a hot air balloon, a hang-glider or a remote controlled airplane simulator!

Visit the EAA website at www.eaa.org for more information. EAA members can visit the AirVenture Museum any time at no charge.

Aircraft Spotter's Guide Cirrus - SR 22



Stop by Palwaukee to watch the light aircraft takeoff and the succession of airplanes, many of which are 15 to 20 years old might have you believing not much has changed in small aircraft production in the past few decades.

Nothing however, could be further from the truth.

Consider the Cirrus Design SR-22, a four-place airplane that cruises at over 200 mph for nearly 1000 statute miles. Designed by the Klapmeier brothers in Duluth Minnesota, famous for their kit built airplanes, the SR-22 has become the most daringly innovative small aircraft in 25 years.

Rather than construction focused around sheet metal riveted together in bits and pieces, the Cirrus is built of Fiberglass in just a few smooth sections essentially glued together. The trim sections offer not only additional strength, but also significantly reduces aerodynamic drag. Less drag means more speed for the same horsepower engine.

But inside the cockpit, the Cirrus is also radical with a totally electronic instrument panel that resembles a video game more than an airplane. And rather than a control wheel, the Cirrus uses a control stick installed to the sidewall of the cockpit, much the same as those found on the Airbus line of commercial airplanes. Both Windy City Flyers and American Flyers at Palwaukee operate Cirrus aircraft.

The most unusual part of the SR-22 is built around a concept no one ever wants to really use ... a parachute.

Should the pilot find themselves in a situation where a crash is imminent, like an engine failure – particularly at night – or in poor weather beyond the pilot's abilities, a tug on the emergency handle opens a parachute behind the cockpit that allows the airplane to float gently to Earth. The system has already saved the pilot and passengers on board three different Cirrus aircraft.

As one journalist said in response to the question of how safe an airplane can be that was built by folks who once built airplane kits, he said, "Remember, professionals built the Titanic. Amateurs built the Ark!"

Calling Young Artists... Create an Air Show Poster

Palwaukee Municipal Airport and the FAA are searching for aviation artists between the ages of six and 18 to create the next great air show poster for the 2005 International Aviation Art Contest. The event is designed to motivate and encourage young people to become more familiar with and participate in aeronautics, engineering and science. The contest is also sponsored by the National Aeronautic Association and the National Association of State Aviation Officials in cooperation with the Federation Aeronautics International (FAI).

But artists must act quickly. Entries are due by December 27, 2004.

The year's contest theme is "Create an Air Show Poster." Anything that communicates the idea of an air show is appropriate ... airplanes, airports, people looking skyward? Artwork will be judged, in part, for its creative use of this year's theme in relation to the aviation world.

Entries in each of three age categories – 6 to 9, 10 to 13 and 14 to 17 – will be judged and local winners and runners up selected. Winners will receive a \$25 gift certificate, a winner's certificate and recognition in an upcoming airport news release distributed to the media. Additional local recognition may also evolve from an art show at Palwaukee Municipal Airport to be scheduled after January 1, 2005 to choose a new poster for the airport's 2005 open house.

The top three local entries in each age group will be forwarded to the statewide competition where winners will be selected to go on to Washington, DC and the national contest. All national winners will receive certificates, ribbons and a framed photograph of their artwork. The first place national winners will also receive a professional work of art, compliments of the American Society of Aviation Artists. The national winners and runners up in each age group will be forwarded to FAI headquarters for international judging.

Young Artists, continues on page 4

The basic contest rules are simple. Artwork should be drawn on a single sheet of 11 x 17 paper only. Original entries must be delivered to the airport manager's office, 1020 S. Plant Rd., unframed and unmounted, not later than December 27,, 2004. Judging will take place on December 31 and winners forwarded to the state competition by January 10, 2005.

All work must be hand drawn in watercolor, acrylic or oil paints, indelible markers, colored pencils, felt-tip pens, soft ball-point pens, indelible ink, Crayola or similar indelible mediums. Standard black lead pencils, charcoal or other non-permanent medium, computer generated, or collage work involving the use of photocopies are NOT eligible.

An official entry form must accompany each entry and is available at the Palwaukee Municipal Airport website www.palwaukee.org, by calling 847-537-2580, ext. 159 or via e-mail from the airport's community relations consultant, rmark@palwaukee.org. Remember, ALL entries must be delivered to the Palwaukee Municipal Airport manager's office not later than December 27th. Entries received after that date will not be considered. Questions may be directed to Rob Mark at 847-537-2580, ext. 159.

Winter Young Eagles

Where do snow birds go in the winter? Well, nowhere, of course. They happily stay right here. The air is cool and clear, the flying superb. So start your snow bird and the New Year off right with PAPA's Winter Young Eagles rally Saturday, January 15th, 2005.

Kids from 7 to 17 are invited to join the PAPA Young Eagles crew for the time of their life. Kids can go on their first ride in a small airplane and it's all free!

The fun begins at 10:00AM at North American Jet's Palwaukee corporate terminal, 1005 south Wolf Road, Wheeling. A pilots briefing will be held at 9:30 and kids begin to fly at 10:00.

Individuals and groups can be scheduled by calling the PAPA Young Eagles hotline at 847-883-8388. After 7:30 the morning of the rally, pilots, volunteers and parents can call the hotline for a rally status. If the rally is weathered out, the new date will be Sunday, January 23, 2005. Call Richard at 847-579-1225 for more information.

And for those of you who don't know, yes, airplanes have heaters.



**Palwaukee Municipal Airport
Noise Hotline**
847-537-2580, then press 7
Help reduce airport noise
24 hours a day / 7 days a week

Students Offer Soaring Announcements

Remember back to your high school days and you'll probably recall how classes began each day ... announcements. Those boring rundowns of school clubs, sports events and activities were enough to put most of us to sleep.



Recently though, a few student TV producers from Highland Park High School decided to pump up their morning news by video taping the announcements at unique places around the campus area.

In November, they stopped by at Palwaukee to shoot a session in North American Jet's south Hangar. The creative energy the students and their instructor used to frame their work would have made the networks envious.

Why not bring some of your students out to the airport for a tour? E-mail our community relations consultant, Rob Mark at rmark@palwaukee.org for more details.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission Meeting Dates for 2005, 8:00 pm

January 19, 2005 March 16, 2005
February 16, 2005

Palwaukee Municipal Airport Community Engagement Council (PACE) Meeting Dates for 2005

January 6, 2005 March 3, 2005
February 3, 2005

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Also available online at www.palwaukee.org and at the Village of Wheeling and City of Prospect Heights Village Halls, and both municipal libraries.