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Blowing in the Wind



Although nearly a foot of snow fell during the second week of January, snow plow crews at Palwaukee were able to keep the runways open while other airports in the region shut down.

The snow storm that began late in the afternoon of Friday, January 21st however, evolved into the granddaddy of January storms, dumping over a foot of white powdery snow. Adding to the chaos were winds often gusting to 35 mph that tossed much

of the snow back into the air only a few minutes after crews cleared the concrete. By Saturday night, the snow had created drifts that easily added another foot of snow, especially in confined spaces near hangars and immediately downwind of the runways

Palwaukee snow crews manned the airport's seven pieces of snow equipment all through the night, attempting to keep the long jet runway and a few taxiways open. Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau and his crew conceded only twice during what became a very long weekend. Once the snow ended by late Saturday afternoon however, much work remained. Crews worked an additional 18 hours clearing the other two runways and a host of taxiways and ramps that had been almost completely snowed in during the earlier portion of the weekend.

Joe Wargo, the airport's maintenance lead, kept only a minimum crew at Palwaukee for snow removal by Monday so everyone would have time for a hot meal and the chance to curl up with a nice warm pillow.





An airport like Palwaukee is probably best known for the chariots of industry that reside here. Much of the revenue from an airport like ours, in fact at many large airports, may essentially come from large corporate airplanes, but without small aircraft, there would be no business aviation, nor an airline industry.

The reason is simple. While many people may believe that small airplanes are simply the toys of only the rich, most two and four-place airplanes were developed to train new pilots. Light aircraft are also how pilots gain the experience they need to eventually move up to twin-engine propeller or jet aircraft we take for granted here in the United States.

But the effects of 9/11 and the recent recession have taken a toll on the flight training industry. Many flight schools have failed while others have merged. One flight school at Palwaukee shut its doors last year.

We want to demonstrate our support for Palwaukee's flight training businesses while we also encourage members of our community to learn more about learning to fly. I'm announcing our first ever Discover Flying Day at Palwaukee Municipal Airport this spring. You can read more about it on page three.

In cooperation with the flight training schools at Palwaukee and the EAA's Young Eagles program, this special day will offer the community a chance to learn more about what's involved in becoming a pilot. We'll have opportunities for kids to ride along for a Young Eagles flight, but we'll also be demonstrating flying to grownups who sign up for a Discovery Flight with any of our participating schools.

You'll find more information about Discover Flying Day on our cover story this issue, as well as on our website at www.palwaukee.org. Watch your local newspapers for more information as the date approaches. Join us and learn what really happens at your airport.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Rouleau', is positioned to the left of the printed name.

Dennis G. Rouleau, C.M.
Airport Manager

Airport Says So Long

Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commissioner and Wheeling Village Trustee, Trevor Lehmann, was laid to rest on January 17 after a funeral procession carried his coffin past Palwaukee Municipal Airport one last time. The hearse stopped briefly at the west end of the airport to receive a salute from airport employees who had lined up the facility snow plows and trucks with all lights flashing. A church service at St. Josephs in Wheeling was attended by over 700 people. Lehmann was later interred at St. Mary's cemetery in Buffalo Grove.

Lehmann, 37, succumbed Thursday January 13th to complications from a fatal neurological disorder, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. He died at home with his wife Jen and other family members and friends at his bedside. Jen Lehmann is seven months pregnant with twins.

Lehmann had been a member of the commission since 1997 and served two terms as the organization's treasurer. After learning of his illness, Lehmann became a champion for those stricken with the disease, both locally and in Washington, DC.

Wheeling Village President Greg Klatecki said in a press interview, that the village and its residents will "mourn the passing of a man who truly loved the village. Trevor dedicated his life to making Wheeling a better place to live and he will be missed and remembered."

Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau added, "Our prayers go out to Trevor's wife and children for the future."

Lehmann will also be remembered as the man who built Friendship Park at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

The Chicago Tribune reported that fellow village Trustee Pat Horcher said Lehmann used his own money to pay the architect who designed the facility when politics began to slow the initial construction planning for the park.



Watch the Restoration of a P-51



At least one P-51D is always on hand at Palwaukee's Summer Open House.

As the world continues to evolve digitally, here is yet another reason to consider a broadband access account if you're an aviation enthusiast ... the opportunity to watch the work of the Flying Heritage Collection in Seattle. Click on www.flyingheritage.com and you'll see not only the results of a few years of hard work by some dedicated volunteer restoration mechanics as they rebuild a North American P-51D fighter plane, but you'll also be able to see an interview with the pilot who flew the exact aircraft over Europe in 1945.

The Flying Heritage Collection is the aircraft collection of computer gazillionaire and Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen. He operates a Bombardier Global Express as his personal airplane.

Discover Flying Day at Palwaukee

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things ...*

John Magee, Jr.

This is the beginning of a poem almost everyone who flies has read. It was written by a young Royal Canadian Air Force Spitfire pilot in the early days of World War II and speaks to that pilot's sense of awe and wonderment at the differences between the world aloft and life on terra firma.

Many people have watched airplanes pass overhead and imagined what it might be like to fly, quickly dismissing that possibility as unsound or too expensive.

This spring, Palwaukee Municipal Airport will offer an opportunity that might just change your life forever. Discover Flying Day might just have visitors climbing aboard a light aircraft for a Discovery Flight, a short journey aloft to see not only what the world looks like from Magee's perspective, but a look at how much fun learning to fly could be for anyone. Our target date for Discover Flying Day is Saturday, April 30th from 10 am to 2 pm.

Palwaukee's flight schools will be on hand during Discover Flying Day armed with all the information you'll need to decide if a flight aloft, or perhaps even a career, is for you. We'll also be raffling off Discover Flying certificates good for a free first flight. While you're waiting for a chance to view some of the flight training aircraft in the hangar, or take a quick spin around the Chicago area with a MS Flight Simulator aircraft, you might just be able to squeeze in a ground school session the EAA Young Eagles group will be running.

Watch your newspapers or visit the airport website for more information and registration details as the day draws closer.

By the way, the rest of Magee's poem can be found under the Community Relations button at www.palwaukee.org

FAA Calls for New Pilot Certificates

The FAA is developing a rule that would require all pilots to obtain a plastic pilot certificate within two years. The plastic certificate, which the FAA is already issuing for new and replacement certificates, include a hologram making them tamper and counterfeit-resistant.

"AOPA has supported the idea of a more durable and attractive pilot certificate for years," said Andy Cebula, AOPA senior vice president of Government and Technical Affairs. "The new certificate is an important step toward issuing a pilot license that will have the airman's photo as mandated by Congress last year."

As an interim measure requested by AOPA, the FAA issued a rule in October 2002, requiring

pilots to carry a government
-issued photo
ID as well as a
pilot certificate.
This latest action
further augments
that requirement.



RSAT Evaluates Palwaukee

The FAA-organized RSAT spent the better part of a week here in mid-January. The Runway Safety Action Team is comprised of both airport users and government officials who comb the airport from boundary to boundary in search of solutions to problems that have not yet occurred, like near collisions on airport runways.

The team interviews pilots, managers and business employees asking questions that might point to airport areas of risk while identifying the action items needed to alleviate those threats.

The RSAT is expected to issue its written risk assessment of Palwaukee by spring.



Monica Johnson, a Maine South High School junior, is the local winner of the 2004 Palwaukee/FAA Art contest in the 14-17 year old age category.



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



Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau is shown addressing the Wheeling Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce in January. He was elected to serve a one-year term as the organization's President.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PMAC (Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission) All meetings are held at the Airport Manager's office on Plant Road, just west of Milwaukee Ave.

February 16, 2005 - The Committee of the Whole begins at 6:30 pm, and the regular meeting at 8 pm.

Meeting Dates for 2005, 8:00 pm
March 16, 2005 May 18, 2005
April 20, 2005

PACE (Palwaukee Municipal Airport Community Engagement Council) Meeting

All meetings are held at the Airport Manager's office on Plant Road, just west of Milwaukee Avenue and begin at 7 pm.

Meeting Dates for 2005, 7:00 pm
February 3, 2005 April 7, 2005
March 3, 2005 May 5, 2005

The Palwaukee Municipal Airport Hangar is published in February, April, June, August, October and December by
The Palwaukee Municipal Airport
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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.