



AIRPORT BEACON

A publication of  Muskegon County Airport

From the Airport Manager

Submitted by Marty Piette

Every year, commercial service airports must go through a Federal Aviation Regulation Part 139 Certification Inspection. The inspection is conducted by the Federal Aviation Administration, and its purpose is to ensure that the Airport is being operated in accordance with Federal regulations. It is an exhaustive inspection, lasting two days, covering everything from fire fighter training to runway pavement condition. Muskegon's inspection was conducted on June 1 and 2. Just like last year, the inspector could not say enough positive things about the Airport's operation, specifically the great amount of progress over the past few years in overall safety. The inspector was impressed with the condition of the airfield, the record keeping and documentation of operations, and equally important, the great amount of pride that everyone has in being a part of the Airport's daily operation. Keep it up, and together we can ensure that the Airport remains a safe, first-class facility, not only for commercial aircraft, but for general aviation and corporate travelers alike.



I wish everyone a safe and happy summer.

2006 Muskegon Air Fair



The Muskegon Air Fair will be held on July 22 & 23 with music and a sneak preview of the show at the *Friday Night Runway Bash* on July 21.

Some of the feature acts include the U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team, Sky Soldiers ... A Tribute to Patriots, War Bird Bomber Display, U.S. Air Force F16 Fighting Falcon Demonstration, Static Aircraft Displays, and the Cellular One Music Tent.

There are various seating options - Flight Line Club, Box Seats, or Famous Dave's Flying Pig Chalet.

The Meijer Kids Hangar will be back again this year with fun activities for children.

For more information about the show, please go to their website at www.muskegonairfair.com.

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Business Profile

Submitted by Laura Holmes, FineLine Creative

FineLine Creative opened its doors for business in February of 2003 positioned as a marketing and creative services boutique, and as the company expanded services, they took up residence in an office suite in Hangar 2 at the Airport that same fall. The company is currently co-owned by Laura Holmes and Yvonne Moody, and they also employ several part-time graphic designers as well. Laura handles FineLine's sales and marketing efforts and Yvonne serves as creative director and designer. Both Moody and Holmes have worked in the advertising/marketing industry for over 10 years and were both excited to work in a smaller environment with a focus on creative solutions for their customers.

FineLine's customer base is quite diverse, but core services continue to be strategic marketing & planning, logo & identity work, complete creative services including upscale graphic design, website development, campaign/event advertising, print buying and other media manage-

ment. FineLine typically works with small to medium sized businesses to develop marketing partnerships... the ultimate goal is to achieve an increased return on marketing investments and to strengthen identity and competitive positioning.

FineLine continues to work to create and produce distinct and sophisticated ideas and visual solutions for a range of customers. This spring, FineLine was pleased to unveil a new brand and logo for the Muskegon County Convention and Visitors Bureau's tourism efforts. Other customers include Stillwater Springs Condominiums, Rycenga Building Center, Galloway Homes, Norton Pines Athletic Club, Salon 297, and Common Sense Dental Products, to name a few. For more information, please visit their website at

FINELINE *Creative*

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MKG History

Submitted by Ken Price, Executive Air Transport



The above pictures are from the 1946 Dawn Patrol held at the Airport. The ribbon on the right is from the event.

The picture to the right was sent to us by Barbara Johnson of Muskegon. Ms. Johnson's uncle was Harry Pedler, who was the Airport Manager at the time. This picture was taken September 10, 1931, when Amelia Earhart flew into Muskegon. Ms. Earhart and her husband are standing on the left in the photo. Harry Pedler is second from the right.



These pictures were also taken during the 1946 Dawn Patrol. The two pictures are of the old runway, which is now Taxiway Delta. Taxiway Delta is where the Muskegon Air Fair event is now held.



This photo shows the aircraft that flew in for the 1946 Dawn Patrol. In the foreground is a DC-3 with the polished exterior. The DC-3's were well known for flying the "Hump" in the China-Burma-India Theater of World War II.

Fun Tidbits

- In 1904, George and Edward Mecher built and flew the first airplane in Muskegon.
- On July 12, 1913, Glen L. Martin, whose firm later made the famous Martin Bomber, landed on Muskegon Lake. The next day he thrilled local residents by making flights from the fairways at the Muskegon County Club.
- The Muskegon County Airport was established in 1928. The first airfield in Muskegon was established in 1926 by Continental Motors on Getty Street. A hangar from the airfield was relocated and still exists at the present airport.



Employee Spotlight



Lieutenant Bob Gagnon is this quarter's *Employee Spotlight*. Bob is a fire fighter with the Norton Shores Fire Department and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting station (ARFF). Bob started out as a part-time fire fighter in February 1992, and received a promotion to Lieutenant in September 2002. Now responsible for the overall operations of the ARFF station, Bob acts as the Norton Shores Fire Department Training Officer, organizing curriculum for the department's training program, and assuring all Norton Shores Fire Fighters and County Maintenance personnel receive the mandatory training elements as required by Federal Aviation Regulation Part 139. Bob holds fire department certifications and training in Firefighter I & II, Hazmat Operations, Medical First Response, Fire Inspector I, Fire Investigator, Technical Rescue Team, and Dive Team. Bob is also working towards his degree in Business Management through Baker College. Bob is married, has nine-year-old twins, and enjoys hunting and spending time with his family.

Runway 14/32 Shift and Extension

The Muskegon County Airport is on the verge of moving dirt for the planned shift and extension of Runway 14/32. Work is set to begin on July 17. All major construction of this phase is expected to be completed by the end of October, with the exception of some public and private utility relocation. Following is a tentative schedule of work:

July 17 - July 31

Tree clearing and general excavation

July 31 - August 11

Intersection work at Sternberg Road and Robert Hunter Drive, and at Martin and Ellis Roads

August 12 - September 16

Additional excavation and aggregate base for roads

September 17 - September 19

Road paving

September 20 - October 3

Complete connections Grand Haven and Porter Roads

October 4 - October 12

Complete connections Ellis Road and Grand Avenue to new Grand Haven Road

October 13 - October 16

Complete perimeter animal control fence

October 17 - October 22

Restoration and clean up

If you have any questions regarding the process of the construction, please feel free to contact the Airport Administration office at 231-798-4596, x-220.

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Newsletter WOWs

Below are a couple excerpts from emails sent to the Airport.

"Our airport looks so beautiful with all the flowers and plantings. I returned last night from a particularly grueling trip to Philadelphia. The flowers were a wonderful sight to come home to. I felt proud that visitors to our airport would also see them and enjoy their beauty. Definitely and important boost to Muskegon's image. Please extend a thanks and sincere appreciation to the people that planted the flowers. They did a terrific job making our airport look so great!"

Art Jacobs

"Muskegon makes you feel like you're part of their family and when you travel as much as I do, you really appreciate this."

Steve Deckard

Congratulations!

Jeff Simmons, TSA, received an award for 20 years of Federal Service. Todd Workman, also with TSA, received an award for 15 years of Federal service.

Employee of the Month

April Anita Seewald, Mesaba
May Missy Steinhauer, Brownstone
June Reggie Harper, Skyway

Can this be ...
Dianne Hoofman?



Dianne was selected as the Summer Celebration Steve Miller Band "Super Fan"

Airport Contact Info

Airport Administration

231-798-4596, x-220

Airport Maintenance

231-798-4596, x-227

Air Travel Marketing Consultant

231-798-4596, x-262

Northwest Airlines

800-225-2525

Midwest Airlines

800-452-2022

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Transportation Committee

Bill Gill, Chair
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Marvin R. Engle
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Nancy A. Waters
Stephen R. Wisniewski

Questions, Comments, Suggestions?

Submit to:

Muskegon County Airport
99 Sinclair Drive
Muskegon, MI 49441
Phone: 231-798-4596, Fax: 231-798-7728
homanpa@co.muskegon.mi.us

Interesting Facts

Misconceptions

Muskegon has higher fares.

Fact: Fare reviews have consistently proven Muskegon fares are competitive with Grand Rapids, particularly for the business traveler. Seat availability at published low fares is often a problem for pleasure travelers from Muskegon.

Muskegon carriers are less safe.

Fact: Muskegon carriers operate under the same Federal Aviation Administration regulations as larger jet airlines. Muskegon County Airport has operated since 1931 without a single scheduled airline fatality. This record speaks for itself.

Muskegon's airlines are not reliable.

Fact: Once true on some airlines. Muskegon now operates with a flight reliability of 98-99%. In other words, 98-99% of scheduled flights are flown.



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