



# AIRPORT BEACON

A publication of  Muskegon County Airport

## From the Airport Manager

Submitted by Marty Piette

The snow has finally melted and the Robins are returning. It was a rather harsh winter in terms of snow removal, albeit brief. Our severe winter weather didn't begin until late January, but once it started, it would not quit. Rumor has it February was one of the coldest on record. Thanks to the Maintenance crew and Attendants for keeping up with things over the past few months. It is not an easy task, especially when the primary airfield truck (22' Oshkosh runway broom) breaks down. Time to take a breather before spring flower planting, landscaping and mowing begins.



As a side note, the Airport will conduct the annually required Live Burn on April 28, 2007. The training involves a mock aircraft fuselage that can simulate all types of aircraft fires, from engine fires to cabin fires. All personnel responsible for Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) at a commercial service airport must participate in this FAA mandated training annually in order to remain current in their training. If you would like to observe, please contact the Airport Administration office at 798-4596, x-220 for the best location and times to view the training.

## Runway 14/32 Shift and Extension

Submitted by Marty Piette

The design of the runway extension/shift has been completed, and the project is now in the bidding process. Bids are due on April 6, at which time we should know who the contractor will be for the 2007 construction activities. Technically, two projects are being bid: (1) the runway shift/extension, and; (2) relocation of navigational aids (Instrument Landing System). The FAA is currently reviewing the projects to ensure safety during all phases of construction. Actual construction is expected to take four months with additional fine-tuning of runway systems afterward. We expect the runway to be fully operational by the end of the year.

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The answers are always found at [www.muskegonairport.com](http://www.muskegonairport.com) under the **Specials** tab

- Minimum Stay ?
- Which Airline ?
- Book in Advance ?
- I Can't Find This Fare ?
- Travel on Certain Days ?



Here is an example of what you will find on our website about the fares advertised on the US31/Sternberg sign.

- Each way based on round-trip purchase
- Taxes/Security fees additional
- Midwest and/or Northwest Airlines
- Can change without notice
- Subject to availability
- Number of days advance booking required
- Minimum and Maximum stay requirements
- Travel days and dates
- Book through your travel agent, Midwest or Northwest websites, or another travel website

Questions or help - [hoofmand@verizon.net](mailto:hoofmand@verizon.net)

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## MKG History

*Taken from "Muskegon County Airport a History" compiled by Mildred M. Christiansen, April 1976*

In about 1927, the Greater Muskegon Chamber of Commerce launched a campaign to establish a public airport in Muskegon County. A fund of \$40,000 was raised for improvements, contingent upon the Board of Supervisors acquiring the necessary land. Muskegon County Airport is the product of that campaign. During later years, through the efforts of the Chamber, additional funds were raised to purchase land.

During the depression of the early 1930s, airports were found to be unprofitable. Then the federal government embarked on a large-scale program of public works through the years 1933 to 1940. From 1940, this program was dominated by military requirements, but since then, the federal government has accepted a responsibility for large-scale financing of airports because of public interest in civil aviation.

In January 1929, the Muskegon County Board of Supervisors voted to purchase 242 acres of land in Norton Township as a site for the County Airport. This purchase was financed over a five-year period. Control of the airport was placed with the Muskegon County Road Commission through 1942.

In 1931, the County Board of Commissioners had the first portion of the original Terminal Building constructed at the northeast end of former Runway 7-25 as a WPA Project at a cost to the County of an estimated \$12,000. It is supposed that the Road Commission placed the Terminal Building at the end of the runway for the same reasoning it would have placed a railway station at the end of the track, but the choice of location proved hazardous to landing aircraft over the years. The cornerstone bears the inscription: "1931. Board of County Road Comm., Muskegon Co., Tom J. C. Bolt, Chairman; Wm. J. Barber; and Elmer P. Thomas."



*First Terminal Area*

## Business Profile

*Submitted by Jeff Zaloga, AMG Business Centers*

AMG Business Centers – *Is your office economy, or first class?*

The AMG Business Centers, 800 Ellis Road, located parallel to MKG runway 14/32, offers lakeshore businesses and Muskegon County Airport travelers unique opportunities not found elsewhere in our community. Stunning architecture, a unique waterwall, indirect lighting, an abundance of natural light, and warm, inviting décor are all evident at AMG. AMG features Class A office space for business people who only require a relatively small amount of space. With offices starting at just \$325/mo., AMG can provide professionals with receptionist services, copy and fax, mail sorting, package shipping and receiving, meeting space, an executive conference room and large training room, secretarial services, breakroom, lounge, high speed internet, telephone system, exercise area, and much more. AMG's goal is to enable small business to look and feel like big business.

For travelers flying into Muskegon, AMG can provide these services on a short term basis, by the hour, day, or week. The building's meeting areas are free to AMG tenants and AMG also will rent out the executive conference room, meeting rooms, and training room to non-tenants who desire meeting space. Conference and training rooms are equipped for video presentation, and high speed wireless internet is available throughout the building.

If you're looking for a professional lakeshore presence without actually paying for office space, a Virtual Office is available for \$150/mo. A Virtual Office entitles you to a professional mailing address, package shipping and receiving, a local phone number, voicemail (including remote message retrieval), call forwarding, a receptionist to greet your clients, and use of AMG's executive conference, meeting, or training rooms.

As your business grows, AMG is uniquely qualified to grow with you. You can easily transition from a single suite to a double, triple or larger space at AMG. And since all technology, utilities, and services are already in place, startup and/or moving is a breeze. For more details, please visit [www.amgbusinesscenters.com](http://www.amgbusinesscenters.com) or call (231) 799-1230 and ask for Jeff.



**AMG**  
BUSINESS CENTERS

## Employee Spotlight

Submitted by Dianne Hoofman



"Appreciation of America's freedoms" is the best thing I learned while on active duty in Iraq. The worst, "getting shot at!" This month's employee spotlight is on our own hero, Jeff Simmons, TSA Screening Supervisor.

Having just retired from the military, Jeff has had quite a run. Jeff joined the U.S. Navy after graduation from Reeths Puffer in 1973. During his 16 years of active duty, he traveled all over the world...the Mediterranean, Europe, the Far East. This all after an 18 month tour in Vietnam.

Jeff went off active duty in 1989 and lived several years in Tacoma, Washington. He moved to Northern Indiana where he married his wife, Sue. They have 2 children, David and Michaela. Spending time with his family is tops on his list.

His military career didn't end there. He rejoined the Army National Guard in 2000 and was called to active duty to work for security as a result of 9/11. He has been a screener in Muskegon since the inception of TSA. Muskegon was one of the first 20 airports to federalize security screeners in July 2002.

Once again, the call to serve his country came in 2004 when the 1436th Engineering Company from Montague, MI was deployed to Iraq. Jeff spent a year in LSA Anaconda, 42 miles North of Baghdad.

When Jeff is not working with the "great bunch of people at the Muskegon Airport," as he puts it, he likes to fly stunt kites, hunt, and play with computers.

We are proud to have Jeff on our team.

### Passengers carried in 2006

Midwest Airlines - 20,330  
Northwest Airlines - 45,952

## Newsletter WOWs

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

*"I think some of the TSA employees and Mesaba personnel are the nicest I've encountered anywhere."*

Douglas Platt

*"This has been the best overall service I've ever had! Your employees were very friendly and helpful. Thank you so much!"*

Laura Herr

# AIRPORT BEACON



*Looking for first-class, no-hassle travel? Check out the current offers from Executive Air Transport, offering on-demand charter services to any destination you can imagine.*

*Call Executive Air Transport at 231-798-2126 for further details.*

### Charter Prices to Popular Midwest Cities

Muskegon - Green Bay - Muskegon  
As low as \$189.00 per passenger  
\$945.00/5 passengers = \$189.00

Muskegon - Cleveland - Muskegon  
As low as \$318.50 per passenger  
\$1,592.50/5 passengers = \$318.50

### Charter Prices to Popular Resort Cities

Muskegon - Gaylord - Muskegon  
As low as \$210.00 per passenger  
\$1,050.00/5 passengers = \$210.00

Muskegon - Mt. Pleasant - Muskegon  
As low as \$140.00 per passenger  
\$700.00/5 passengers = \$140.00

## Employee of the Month

January 07 ..... John Bowler, Airport  
February 07 ..... Pam Homan, Airport  
March 07 ..... Ray Hilderbrandt, TSA

### 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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Lew Collins  
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I. John Snider II

## 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

*Is your business dependent on the Airport?*

*Is the Airport dependent on your business?*

*Are you a tenant on Airport property?*

If so, we want to hear from you! The **Business Profile** section is reserved to highlight businesses operating in the Airport environment, and we are looking for your submissions. Look at this as an opportunity to showcase your employees, your function, or just inform the public of what you do. We have highlighted Airport tenants like Executive Air Transport, The Brownstone, Fineline Creative, U.S. Coast Guard, and AMG Business Centers. Just send us a 250-300 word summary of your business activities and history, and we will see that you make it in a future issue. Business pictures and/or logos are also a plus.



**Muskegon County Airport**

99 Sinclair Drive  
Muskegon, MI 49441

Phone: 231-798-4596  
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