



# AIRPORT BEACON

A publication of  Muskegon County Airport

## From the Airport Manager

Submitted by Marty Piette



Have you ever stood next to Shaquille O'Neal? I did, back when he and his team came through the Milwaukee airport on the team's charter aircraft. He is a tall man. The NBA lists his height at 85". So far this year, Muskegon County Airport has recorded about 102" of snow. If we had not been fortunate enough to have two complete melts during the winter, we would have snow covering the ground nearly two feet more than Shaq stands tall! Imagine what the snow banks would look like. That kind of puts things into perspective. This is the first winter since 1995 that the area has seen in excess of 100" of snow. I know that the U.P. and other snow-prone cities get a lot more than 100" of snow, but for us, it was a challenge, at least in terms of keeping the Airport open. I want to publicly thank the Airport staff, both Maintenance and Attendants, for doing such a great job keeping up with things. It has been a long winter, and I appreciate your hard work. The task of plowing, shoveling, digging out passengers' cars, riding in a plow for hours on end, working 12 hour days 7 days in a row, etc. tends to be underappreciated. You have received many well-deserved compliments from both passengers and pilots, and I wanted to be sure to pass along my appreciation.

## West Michigan Flying Club

West Michigan Flying Club has openings for approximately 10 new members. The West Michigan Flying Club is a non-profit flying club located on the north side of the field at Muskegon County Airport. They have four aircraft available for member rental; a Cessna 150, Cessna 172, Cessna 177 and a Mooney M20. To join the club, you pay a one-time refundable fee. A nominal monthly membership fee is required. Once a member of the flying club, you can rent the aircraft of your choice for prices far cheaper than a normal aircraft rental. The ability to rent at low prices and the flexibility to fly frequently without the headache of being an aircraft owner speaks for itself. Members are asked to pitch in what skills they do have (repairs, cleaning, etc.) to keep club membership dues as low as possible. For more information please visit our website.



[www.wmflyingclub.org](http://www.wmflyingclub.org)

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## Runway 14/32 Shift and Extension Update

It's about time to re-start construction. Please take note of the following dates, particularly the Mid-September entry. As always, these dates are tentative pending weather and grant fund availability.

April 7 - Runway 14/32 closes and Phase II construction re-starts. This is finishing work that was suspended last October.

June 20 - Runway 14/32 re-opens at its new length of 6,100'. It is opening without a published approach, so it will be VFR only. A published instrument approach is expected by the time 14/32 re-opens again at the end of October. Runway 18/36 is permanently closed and has been converted into Taxiway C.

June 20 through early August - Quiet time - no construction planned.

Early August - Runway 14/32 closes and Phase III construction begins. This portion will complete the new full parallel taxiway on the west side of 14/32, a partial parallel taxiway on the north and east side of 14/32, and a mill-and-overlay of the entire length of 14/32.

Mid-September - For a 7 day period, Runway 6/24 will be shortened to about 4,900' by means of a displaced threshold, and Runway 14/32 will remain closed while the intersection is rebuilt.

October 31 - Completion date for all Phase III construction activities and Runway 14/32 re-opens.

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## MKG History

Taken from a "Muskegon Chronicle" article dated August 12, 1938. Article provided by Ken Price, Executive Air Transport and Bill Moore.

### "COL. CHAMBERLIN ARRIVES IN HUGE 27-PASSENGER PLANE FOR WEEK-END AT AIRPORT"

On his first appearance here, Col. Clarence D. Chamberlin, world famous trans-Atlantic flyer, arrived at the Muskegon County Airport from Grand Rapids in his 27 passenger Curtiss biplane, one of the largest land planes in the world. He will be here until Sunday for a series of exhibition and passenger flights.

The Chamberlin plane is the largest ever seen at the local airport. It weighs nine and one-quarter tons, has a wing spread of 96 feet and power is furnished by two 650-horsepower Curtiss Conqueror engines. The craft was rebuilt about two months ago.

On his flights here, Chamberlin will remain in the air 15 minutes, allowing time for an air view of the surrounding district including White Lake, Muskegon Lake, and the Grand River. He plans the first extended night flights here in many years and the first night flight of any kind since spring.

The local airport is equipped with field boundary lights but lacks flood lights needed for night trips so Chamberlin brought a set of floodlights with him. Many passengers who go up with Chamberlin will see Muskegon at night for the first time from the air.

The trans-Atlantic flyer is to continue today's flights until 10 p.m. and resume Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m.

Although he has risked his life numerous times in air experiments, Chamberlin owes his success to his reputation as a "safe" pilot. He stands next to Lindbergh as a flyer familiar at all times with every detail of his ship.



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## Business Profile

Submitted by Kip McCarl, Adventures in Advertising

Adventures in Advertising, located in the Airport Administration Building, is an independently owned and operated promotional marketing franchise, and Promotional Products Association International (PPAI) Bronze award winner for industry excellence. AIA is ranked in the top 1% of promotional products companies in sales and revenue in North America and ranked #6 in Promotional Marketing's 2006 Top 50 Distributors.

We design and implement custom, high impact initiatives built around top quality custom imprinted items. As an industry leader, we are able to offer the widest range of product choices at the most competitive prices, allowing our clients more options within their promotional budgets.

We are proud to offer some of the best brands in the industry, such as 3M, Bushnell, Columbia, Swiss Army, Sony, Waterford, Coach, Nautica, Zippo, Cross, Fossil, Cutter & Buck, Nike, and many more.

By combining creative thinking and vast experience, we provide innovative ideas that set our clients apart from their competition, and we work with them to fully understand their objectives, audience, and theme to develop the marketing solution.

We offer imprinted merchandise for virtually any need within an organization:

- Corporate Recognition Programs
- Premium, Incentive & Motivational Programs
- Sales Meetings
- Trade Show Traffic Builders
- Safety Programs
- Service Awards
- Employee Recognition Programs
- Sporting, Golf, and Corporate Events
- Holiday Gifts
- Product Instructions
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- Training & Seminars
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- New Account Generation
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99 Sinclair Drive Suite 2

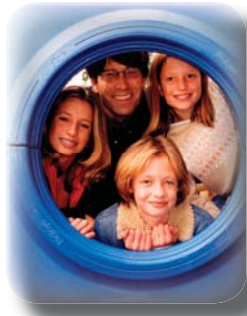
Phone - 231.798.9560, Fax - 231.798.9564

lci@advinadv.com

[www.aiasource.com](http://www.aiasource.com)



## Employee Spotlight



Our airport family is a close one. That's why it's easy for us to support our friend and colleague, Reggie Harper.

You may have seen Reggie behind the Midwest Airlines counter wearing a crazy hat or joking with a passenger. Reg is very handsome with thick, dark hair. He wears dark Elvis Costello glasses and usually sports some funky facial hair of his own design. He looks like a nerd gone punk.

Or a scholar gone mad. Or an ex-school teacher gone bar manager (which he is)! He is also an excellent employee who does a great job for our airport.

Reg loves his 3 daughters, his girlfriend Karen, cooking, reading, feminists, surfing, movies, history, authentic vintage, goodwill shopping and coffee.

He doesn't enjoy stealing, fixing anything, yard work, jealousy, asparagus, being late, cats and cancer.

Reg is currently undergoing treatment at U of M for throat cancer. Please join us at The Brownstone Restaurant on April 20th for his fundraiser. Cancer is hard enough. We are here to make the other things in his life easier.

Good Luck Reg. We all love you.



### Spaghetti Dinner Benefit for Reggie



Brownstone Restaurant

Sunday, April 20, 2008

5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

\$5.00 per person

## Employee of the Month

February 08 ..... Aaron Demmon, Hertz

March 08 ..... Mike Austgen, Airport Maintenance

### 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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## Jet Service Returns

Beginning April 6, Midwest Connect will transition from turboprop aircraft to jet service. Currently, Midwest offers three round trip flights to Milwaukee's General Mitchell International Airport on turboprop Beech 1900D aircraft, each with 19 seats. The new aircraft will be a Canadair Regional Jet (CRJ), seating 50. Although the frequency of flights is being reduced, the number of available seats will increase from 57 to 100. Having more seats means more availability and better fares! But, as always, you need to book as early as possible. Our thanks to Midwest Connect for the service upgrade. (Midwest Connect has been serving Muskegon County Airport since 1989.)

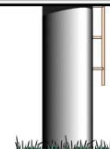


## Have you seen the new billboards?

**2 NEW JETS.  
1 MORE REASON.**

MIDWEST AIRLINES

**Fly Muskegon**  **It's just easier.**



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## Transportation Committee

Bill Gill, Chair  
Roger Wade, Vice Chair  
P. Don Aley  
Charles L. Buzzell  
Lew Collins  
James J. Derezinski  
Marvin R. Engle  
Kenneth Mahoney  
Louis A. McMurray  
Robert Scolnik  
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

## Newsletter WOWs

Here are some comments received from MKG passengers.

*"We always enjoy this airport. And it's so nice to have a restaurant ready to serve fantastic food. Keep up the good work!"*

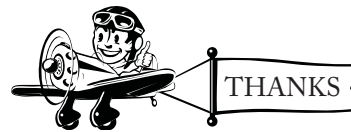
*"I was very satisfied - everyone was great! Especially TSA agents Carl and Todd."*

*"I was stuck in Muskegon due to Milwaukee being closed. The Midwest staff and TSA agents were the best. They made a bad time better!"*

*"I fly through many, many airports - and Muskegon is the best by far! Fast, efficient and friendly. I love you guys! Thanks for making flying fun again!"*

*"What a wonderful, friendly airport!"*

*"TSA agent Ray H. is very informative and courteous. I appreciate employees like him. Thanks! Made it easier on me and I needed the help!"*



## Muskegon County Airport

99 Sinclair Drive  
Muskegon, MI 49441

Phone: 231-798-4596  
Fax: 231-798-7728  
www.muskegonairport.com

